

**EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE**

*Membership Change — Motion*

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Leader of the House)** [4.37 pm]: I move —

That the member for Eyre be co-opted to the Education and Health Standing Committee until 30 June 2011.

I move the motion because the member for Eyre has a very particular specialist knowledge of and recognition for the particular area that the Education and Health Standing Committee is looking into. This is done at the request, not necessarily of the member for Eyre, but of the members of the committee.

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham)** [4.37 pm]: Perhaps it has been remiss of me, but this has not been front and centre of my frontal lobe.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Even if it was, it would not make much difference!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I thank the Premier for his kind remarks. At least I look after my electorate.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** I hate being in Cottesloe!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** If only they knew you in Cottesloe like we know you.

The member for Eyre, no doubt, has some considerable medical expertise and has a little more time on his hands these days than he once did. I am interested in the reasoning behind co-opting him to the committee. Perhaps he can explain that to the house. I am interested to know also whether he will have voting rights. I assume that he will not. If those two questions can be answered, it would allow us to decide which way we will vote on this important issue. I am interested to know why the member is being co-opted onto this committee because often we will ask whether an opposition member can be co-opted onto a committee. I have asked that question before and have received a fairly negative response. I am interested to hear from the member for Eyre about the purpose of his co-option before we decide our position on this matter.

**DR G.G. JACOBS (Eyre)** [4.38 pm]: I am flattered that, essentially, I have been asked to be co-opted onto this committee. Without putting too fine a point on it, my experience in the health part of the Education and Health Standing Committee is seen to be positive. I believe that I have a contribution to make, particularly because of my previous role. The member for Rockingham made reference to the fact that I now have more time. My previous role as Minister for Mental Health encompassed drugs and alcohol as part of my portfolio responsibilities. It is obviously one area that I had a lot to do with, and I would therefore welcome the privilege and the opportunity to be co-opted and to contribute in any way that I can to this very important committee and the very important issues that are presented to it.

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah)** [4.40 pm]: I am sure that the opposition, now having had an explanation, will be supportive of this motion. I think it is important that this house consider co-option of members, especially if a particular inquiry is being carried out by a standing committee. If a member has expertise and/or the inquiry relates to a particular interest and/or a particular concern within an electorate or a region, we should be supportive of that member's co-option. We have to be careful that we do not co-opt every Tom, Dick and/or Harry to these committees. However, I was co-opted to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee for an inquiry into caravan parks and camping grounds, and I enjoyed that experience.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** You're very good on camping grounds.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is not very often that the member for Albany can stop me!

I think it is important, if there is a particular area of expertise, that the house consider the co-option of members. This motion determines a period of time that is relevant to a particular inquiry. Maybe the chair will take the opportunity, very briefly, to outline what the current inquiry —

**Mr P.B. Watson:** It's nothing to do with it.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is nothing to do with it. It is probably very good to co-opt anyone to a committee if there is absolutely no reason to do so!

I think it is important that we give members who wish to make a contribution the opportunity to be co-opted. As I said, I enjoyed the co-option that was offered to me for the caravan inquiry. There will be business of committees in the future that could certainly do with the support and the expertise that particular members may be able to bring to such inquiries, because, at the end of the day, we want inquiries, and the outcomes of inquiries, to certainly be comprehensive, and hopefully the recommendations will result in actions by

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Dr Graham Jacobs; Mr David Templeman; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Dr Janet Woollard

---

government. Therefore, I think that my good friend the member for Eyre will make a very good contribution to that committee in the form of a co-opted member.

**MR P.B. WATSON (Albany)** [4.43 pm]: I wish my colleagues had come and asked me what was happening. The member for Eyre is not being co-opted; he is replacing someone who is going to another committee. However, I would like to thank the member for Geraldton for the great work that he has done on the committee and wish him all the best of luck on another committee. He will never get one as colourful as our committee. I would also like to welcome the member for Eyre. I believe that on a health and education committee, someone like the member for Eyre will be a great acquisition, and I look forward to working with him.

**MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands)** [4.44 pm]: Very quickly, I thank very much the member for Geraldton. It has been a pleasure sitting on the committee with him, and I have really appreciated his support as we have worked through some quite complex issues.

**DR J.M. WOOLLARD (Alfred Cove)** [4.44 pm]: I believe that the member for Eyre will be an asset to the committee. I am very pleased that he has offered his assistance to the committee. He has a lot of knowledge and expertise in areas that relate not just to health, but also to education. I look forward to working with him on the alcohol inquiry that we are conducting now—we are hoping to table three reports before the winter recess—and also on future inquiries. As the member for Albany has let the cat out of the bag, I also thank the member for Geraldton for the work that he has done on the Education and Health Standing Committee.

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Leader of the House)** [4.45 pm] — in reply: I have the right of reply to the motion that I have put before the house. I would like to thank members for their valuable contributions to this very important debate that we have had here today. I should point out that the motion is to have the member for Eyre co-opted to the committee, because we do not know what is going to happen in the future. At this stage he will simply be a co-opted member. He will not have a voting right on that committee. If a member of the committee decides to resign from the committee at a later stage, he may well then wish to take up the opportunity and be nominated as a full voting member of that committee. Whatever committee the member for Eyre wished to sit on, he would make a very valuable contribution, particularly in the areas of mental health, alcohol abuse and anything to do with drugs. He has enormous expertise in these medical areas, and I think he will make a very valuable contribution to the committee. I thank members for their contributions today.

Question put and passed.