

REGIONAL SERVICES REFORM UNIT —
“RESILIENT FAMILIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES” ROADMAP

53. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Community Services:

I am the member for Warren–Blackwood, Mr Speaker, thank you.

The SPEAKER: You are one of the new guys—I forgot!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Given that Grahame Searle has been appointed at least acting director general of the newly created Department of Community Services, can the minister please advise —

- (1) What is the status of the Regional Services Reform Unit that was headed by Grahame Searle?
- (2) Will the minister commit to implementing the “Resilient Families, Strong Communities” road map for regional and remote communities?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

- (1)–(2) I am sorry I cannot answer that question, because the member for Warren–Blackwood has addressed it to the wrong minister. This is not within my responsibility as Minister for Community Services; it is the responsibility of regional development. I suggest that the member for Warren–Blackwood do more research before he asks this question.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Standing order 75 states —

Questions may be asked of —

- (1) Ministers regarding matters under the Minister’s administrative responsibility;

The minister’s portfolio page on the website of the Premier, under “Premier of Western Australia and Cabinet Ministers”, expressly lists the Regional Services Reform Unit under “Departments, Agencies and Offices under the responsibility of the Hon Simone McGurk MLA”.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms S.F. McGURK: Mr Speaker —

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, I call you to order for the first time because I was standing on my feet.

Ms S.F. McGURK: There is no doubt that regional reform is an important issue. Many important issues are being taken into consideration in that reform, particularly around child protection and the issues being addressed in Aboriginal communities and the like. My first and only regional visit as a minister was to Broome and Kununurra, where I spent time talking to the community about the issues relating to child protection and family violence. They are significant issues facing the regional communities, particularly in the Kimberley and the Pilbara. I certainly acknowledge that. I also acknowledge that some work has been done under that reform that we will not undo if it is starting to do some good work in bringing various providers together to provide a concerted effort across government departments and the community sector to try to tackle some very deep-rooted and difficult social problems. I acknowledge all that. I will not acknowledge that I have ministerial responsibility for the whole Regional Services Reform Unit, as I do not. I again suggest that the member for Warren–Blackwood do his research and put a question on notice because responsibility for the reform unit lies with the Minister for Regional Development.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I have a supplementary question, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Member, you cannot ask a supplementary because the question you asked was not a question for the minister.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The minister answered the question.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member’s ministerial site expressly puts the Regional Services Reform Unit under —

The SPEAKER: Member, it is not a point of order.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Can I finish my point of order?

The SPEAKER: No. It is not a point of order.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The member is asking for a supplementary question to the minister who answered the question. She addressed the question.

The SPEAKER: I have already answered that. It is not a point of order. The minister explained why she does not have that in her portfolio. It comes under the Treasurer's portfolio. You can work it out between the two sides. If you want to continue to query my answers, you will be in strife.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: What a joke!

The SPEAKER: I beg your pardon? I call you to order for the first time. I do not know who you think you are. If the Speaker makes a decision, that is it. If you want to go home, I am quite willing to send you home.