

MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES — PERFORMANCE

468. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Noting that there are 39 ambitious members sitting latent on his back bench, why will the Premier not give someone else the opportunity to manage this major portfolio?

The SPEAKER: Just a little bit of advice, there should be no preamble to the question, so you do not say “noting this”, “will you not that”. You just ask the question, rather than give the preamble. The member for Vasse can laugh if she likes, but she is probably the first person who will get a supplementary question ruled out of order.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It is true that we have a significant number of members on the government’s back bench—around 39 times as many as the opposition or something like that. In fact, I do not know whether there can be 39 times zero. I think my maths might be a bit out there, but I am only the Treasurer!

It is the case that we have a very talented group of people in Parliament. That is not something the Leader of the Liberal Party can say. It is not a problem he has. A very talented group of people were elected at the last election, the election before and elections before that, all of whom are making an important contribution to Western Australia. It is not a problem the member faces. I realise it is not one of his issues that he has to deal with, but it is obviously one of the crosses I have to bear.