

ATTORNEY GENERAL — PERFORMANCE

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

I refer to the Premier's Attorney General's multiple gaffes, including his failure to report a luxury helicopter ride with a casino bigwig; the violation of his own government's mask mandate, for which he was fined; and his recent blunder in the Federal Court, which led to the Premier's own lawyer ridiculing the Attorney General as bordering on silly. Does the Attorney General still retain the Premier's confidence, given his numerous improprieties and trip ups; and, if so, why?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am not at all averse to saying that he is the finest Attorney General I have seen in my time in Parliament. I think that people with a lot longer memories than me will say exactly the same thing. In terms of his record of achievement, it is as long as your arm. This Attorney General has brought in laws for increased penalties for meth traffickers. He brought in the no body, no parole legislation. He has strengthened the powers of the Corruption and Crime Commission to investigate unexplained wealth; toughened the laws against dangerous sex offenders; removed the statute of limitations for the victims of child sexual abuse; passed legislation for the expungement of convictions for historical LGBTI homosexual sex offences; introduced a custody notification scheme for Indigenous people; joined the National Redress Scheme; criminalised revenge porn; brought in tougher legislation for persons linked to terrorism; passed legislation implementing new offences and tougher penalties for family and domestic violence; reformed the outdated fines enforcement regime, ending imprisonment for fine default; increased the capacity of Magistrates Courts in the regions; reappointed John McKechnie, QC, as the Corruption and Crime Commissioner; commissioned Western Australia's first strategy to address sexual violence in Western Australia; and passed historic legislation bringing equality to Western Australia's Legislative Council. He has introduced legislation to enhance Western Australia's anti-consorting laws against bikies; established elder rights in WA; allowed de facto couples to fairly split their superannuation; put in place the most comprehensive charitable trust laws in the nation; and also had a major role in this house and more broadly in the voluntary assisted dying laws. In my memory, there is not an Attorney General in the country who has such a record of achievement—not one. No-one else can point to something of that magnitude, and that is only a snapshot of the sorts of things this Attorney General has achieved in his time as Attorney General—five years—and obviously he has some years to go with some more achievements to come.

Contrast that: isn't the shadow Attorney General Hon Nick Goiran? Hon Nick Goiran is someone who brings the Liberal Party into disrepute, amongst others, I might add, in the parliamentary Liberal Party. He is a member of "The Clan" grouping, out there attacking women and making sexist and derogatory comments and destroying the brand of the Liberal Party all over the place.

Member, I realise in your parliamentary career you have not achieved anything and I realise you have not passed a single bill, but that does not mean that your envy should be so great as to come up with these ridiculous questions against someone who has an extensive record of outstanding achievement serving the people of Western Australia.