

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING - CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION  
INVESTIGATION

**791. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

Before I ask my question I extend my condolences, in his absence, to the member for Collie-Wellington on the passing of his father. I wish his family well.

I refer to the comments made by the Minister for Education and Training yesterday that -

At no point was I ever briefed by the director general of the department about the specific work of the CCC in the department. At no point was I briefed by the director general about any case of a sexual nature.

I also refer to the comments made by the former Director General of the Department of Education and Training, Paul Albert, during a media conference on 16 October when he said -

I personally told her -

That is, the minister -

that the commission was investigating a number of cases concerning inappropriate sexual behaviour between teachers and students.

- (1) Who is telling the truth: Mr Albert or the minister?
- (2) Will the Premier allow Mr Albert to answer questions on how much he told the minister about the Corruption and Crime Commission investigation?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

I thank the Leader of Opposition for the question. I also thank him for passing on condolences from his side of the house to the member for Collie-Wellington. I am sure that everybody on this side of the house, and everybody else, extends their condolences to the member on the passing of his father.

- (1) I do not believe that there are inconsistencies. The minister has told me, and Paul Albert has also told me, that he did not give the minister a briefing on the individual cases that the CCC was looking at.

**Mr T. Buswell:** He said it on Channel Seven news in an interview last week.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Who said that?

**Mr T. Buswell:** Paul Albert.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I ask the Leader of the Opposition to read out again what he just said.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** He stated -

I personally told her that the commission was investigating a number of cases concerning inappropriate sexual behaviour between teachers and students.

That was on 16 October.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Both the director general - to me personally - and the minister have said that Mr Albert did not give her a briefing about the individual cases. There is no inconsistency with that - none whatsoever.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** This is the fourteenth or fifteenth time that this matter has been raised. If this is the best the opposition can do, it might as well give up and try something else.

- (2) I apologise, Leader of the Opposition. There was a second part to the question.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Will the Premier allow Mr Albert to answer questions on how much he told the minister about the Corruption and Crime Commission investigation?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** As I understand it, Mr Albert, held a press conference on the Monday of last week. That was exhaustive on the very issues the Leader of the Opposition is talking about. I imagine that the transcripts are available.

There has been some commentary about management-initiated retirements and the clauses therein.

**Mr T. Buswell:** The golden gag!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** They are being called the golden gags. When were management-initiated retirements put in place? Members opposite should do a bit of research.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Maybe the member for Vasse is feeling a bit nervous today. He is a bit talkative when he is nervous.

**Mr T. Buswell:** Have you been studying me?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Yes, I have. I have studied the member. It only takes about two minutes to sum him up - empty shell. It only takes two words. He is a vacuous, noisy fellow. Apart from that, he is very likeable, as he knows.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Just answer the question.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I have answered the question. Mr Albert gave a complete and thorough press conference well in advance of my meeting with him, at which meeting he agreed with me that the best interests of the state would be served by his departure. That happened under a standard management-initiated redundancy, which, as I understand it, was put in place by the last government of members opposite. All the qualifications attached go with that government. That is the situation under which Mr Albert left. Trying to change that retrospectively would not be appropriate.