

MEMBER FOR WARREN-BLACKWOOD

Personal Explanation - Speaker's Request regarding People in the Gallery

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [8.21 pm] - by leave: During the debate on these amendments, and while the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development was on his feet, I had intended to raise an issue in relation to the involvement of local governments. I will not go into that now. However, at that point the Speaker sought my attention behind the chair so that I could explain why there were people in the gallery. As members would know, I had sought to protect the people in the gallery from comments made by the member for Yokine, who said that those people were calling out in the gallery. This is not the first time the member for Yokine has done this. A couple of weeks ago he did the same thing. Therefore, I raised that issue during the debate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member needs to make a personal explanation. This is not an opportunity to attack another member in this place.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I seek clarification, Madam Deputy Speaker, as to how I should deal with these matters in the future, because I found it quite perplexing that the Speaker should draw my attention to the fact that these people were in the gallery. The people who were in the gallery were known to me. They were not there on my invitation. However, I found myself in a position in which the Speaker was asking me to be the intermediary between him and the people in the gallery, and in which he said that if they had not sought the right permission, he would exclude them from the gallery. Although the Speaker is not in the chair, I raise this issue now, because it will be three months or so before I will have the opportunity to raise this issue again. I do not feel comfortable being used as an intermediary between the Speaker and people who are in the gallery.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, I do not know that that comes within the parameters of a personal explanation. It may be more within the terms of a point of order. However, I will take up the points that the member has raised and refer them to the Speaker.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.