

ELECTORAL COMMISSION REPORT, PAYMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

418. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I refer to the 2003-04 Electoral Commission report on political donation payments, which stated that the Australian Labor Party received \$310 155.19 from the Department of Treasury and Finance. Can the Premier explain the apparent payment by the Department of Treasury and Finance to his political party?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Members of the state Parliamentary Labor Party make monthly payments of a specified sum to SPLP funds for transmission to the Western Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party. Put simply, it is a payroll deduction for ongoing membership of the ALP. I am advised that the state secretary of the ALP has argued with the Australian Electoral Commission that this disclosure ought to be made by individual members and not by the payer. The AEC has held to the contrary. Previously, each member's contributions had been individually disclosed. This method ensures that the ALP complies with a new ruling from the AEC.