

CORONAVIRUS — RESPONSE REVIEW

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

I have a supplementary question. My question was very straightforward. Will the Premier undertake an independent and transparent review of the state's response to the COVID pandemic?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am not exactly sure that the Auditor General recommended that. I think there might have been some commentary that these things should be analysed. As I said, I am not afraid of or averse at all to any sort of inquiry into these matters at some point in time—I would not trust the Leader of the Liberal Party to undertake the inquiry or his friend Clive Palmer—perhaps when this matter is resolved. Bear in mind that we had 12 000 cases today, we have about 280 people in hospital and we still have some light touch restrictions in place. It would be inappropriate to hold an inquiry while it is still going on. Would the member not understand that? I would have thought that is obvious to people. I get the feeling from my understanding of what the Auditor General had to say that the member is verballing her. I do not have anything to hide in relation to this. The member seems to think that we do. He thinks that we have somehow handled things badly. His Tory party acolyte in Britain wanders around the streets with his hair everywhere with little dogs. His management of the pandemic resulted in hundreds of thousands of people dying. Is that the approach that the member wished we had adopted? If we look at America and some of his acolytes and fellow travellers over there, we see that some of those states, because of their approach to this, had tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of cases, and I think over a million people have died in the United States. In other parts of the world that do not have our health system and do not have our wealth, millions of people have died. In Western Australia, all of that has been avoided and we have had the most stunningly successful outcomes. If you want to keep criticising, that can be your approach to this matter. I am happy to keep defending because I am proud of what we have achieved.