

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

724. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Premier:

Can the Premier inform the House of the latest employment statistics released today?

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call to order the member for Warren-Blackwood.

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

I rise with great pride today because I can report to the people of Western Australia, through the Parliament, that for the first time in the history of our State more than one million people are employed - that is, 80 000 extra people since we came to government in 2001. There is no doubt that Western Australia's unemployment rate is well below the national average, and the reason for that is the strong private investment that is going on in Western Australia, backed up by strong public investment in infrastructure to create new jobs for Western Australians. We take a positive view of the future of Western Australia, and anything we can do to create new jobs and opportunities for Western Australians we will do. The Opposition, of course, has a promise for every Western Australian, but it does not have a plan for the future of Western Australia.

On our side of the House, since we were elected in 2001, we have created new infrastructure and we have marketed Western Australia effectively. Private investment is responding to the strategy and we are creating jobs. All we get from the opposition is knock, knock, knock. The Opposition is displaying a negative syndrome. I remind members of what the Leader of the Opposition said. It is one of his "better" predictions. In 2001 he stated -

My Nostradamus-like attempt at prediction is that, unfortunately, the economic growth of Western Australia will slow. Equally unfortunately, unemployment will continue to rise in this State . . .

Growth has been on an upward path since this Government was elected. Unemployment has been on a downward path since this Government was elected. We are positive about the future of Western Australia. That is one of the reasons we are achieving the results we are. We are positive, as reflected in infrastructure investment. We are positive, as reflected in our marketing of Western Australia. We are positive in another sense. We support and encourage our community in Western Australia because it is a strong community that underpins strong economic growth. We understand that but the Opposition does not. It is very clear how the next election will be fought and what will be the issues. It is quite simple: the Opposition makes promises to everyone but has no plans for the future.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the members for Nedlands and Kalgoorlie to order for the first time.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have got the runs on the board.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the member for Nedlands to order for the second time.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have produced balanced budgets, reduction in debt, strong economic growth and rising employment. That is the Labor record for Western Australia and we have the plan to ensure it carries on into the future.