

RACING INDUSTRY — HORSE DEATHS

97. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I have a supplementary question. Given that these two horses dropped dead on the course within just a few months of each other prior to major races in Perth and given today's assertion in *The West Australian* that not all is well in WA racing, is the minister willing to instigate an independent investigation into the reasons behind the deaths of those horses?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

No, because I have the utmost confidence that RWWA's integrity assurance unit, together with the stewards, is a proven system.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Member, it is a fair question.

The SPEAKER: Minister, can you address the Chair?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: RWWA regularly refers allegations as a matter of course to the Corruption and Crime Commission if it has strong allegations. I am not sure whether RWWA has done that in this case but I will check and advise the member. One of the worries that I have, wearing my other hat as Minister for Sport and Recreation, is that we are probably behind the game in that area, whereas racing is right out in front of the game. As I said, RWWA refers matters to the CCC when allegations regarding inappropriate behaviour such as that are made. I will check to see whether RWWA has done that and advise the member.