

ATTORNEY GENERAL — MASK WEARING

**55. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

Noting reports on the under siege Attorney General disregarding the government's own public health mandate by failing to wear a mask in Broome Cathedral earlier this month, I ask: how is it excusable for the highest law officer in Western Australia to flout his own government's measures?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I will explain the situation to the house so that people understand what occurred. The Attorney General went to Broome and whilst he was there he attended the funeral of a relative, someone that he had known throughout most of his life or at least the last 45 years. It was a sad event. When he was outside the church, he was mixing with mourners, as you do, and was not wearing a mask because it is not required outside a church because it is outside. At the last moment, he was invited to be a pallbearer. He had a mask in his pocket but when he took the handle of the coffin, he inadvertently did not put the mask on. He walked through the church and sat down. He was advised at some point that he had not put a mask on. He does not recall it exactly, but he forgot to put his mask on. He is not perfect; I am not perfect; you are not perfect: people do make mistakes, particularly in a situation in which they might be teary and quite upset by the circumstances. People out there do make mistakes. I know that lots of people will do this. I suspect that if I walk around Parliament at some point in time, I will see people who have forgotten to put a mask on. Does that mean that there should be a royal commission into it? I do not think so. What I do think is that we need to do our best to comply with the rules and the laws. The Attorney General knows that and we all know that. The Attorney General volunteered to pay a fine, which he has done, to atone for the mistake he made.