

HALLS CREEK - HOUSING

**72. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:**

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge the presence of St Joseph's Primary School students in the public gallery - welcome.

I refer the minister to her brief ministerial statement this morning, in which she stated that housing is clearly the Halls Creek community's major concern and that it is not acceptable to the government that 20 or 30 adults and children share the same home. Is it true that when the minister arrived at dinner camp yesterday, she did not get off her airconditioned bus to see first-hand the living conditions of the people in the community?

**Ms S.M. McHALE replied:**

The Leader of the Opposition is stooping far below the status of a Leader of the Opposition. The structure of yesterday's visit allowed me to spend about four hours talking with and listening to community members, Aboriginal leaders, and shire councillors and presidents, all of whom gave me considerable insight. The shire invited me to look at some of the hot spots and some of the changes in Halls Creek.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I will respond this way: I will not stoop to the pathetic and mean-spirited questioning of the opposition. That is all I will say.

The shire invited me, the delegation, the police, drug and alcohol people and other representatives to look at the hot spots. There were about 20 of us. We had a very short time, because we had spent a lot of time with the shire and the community. They are the people I went there to listen to. I did not want to curtail the essential part of my day, which was to talk with and listen to those people, in order to -

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** That was the important point. I had had a very fruitful, valuable session with the community members in the morning, and that gave me great insight.

Several members interjected.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** No, I was not going to get off a bus of 20 people and gawk at somebody's house. We are working at a different level. The day was very valuable, and the outcomes will be followed up.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call to order the members for Capel and Cottesloe.