

Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal
Leader of the House

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Ms Laura Ross
Clerk of the House
House of Assembly
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

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Dear Ms Ross,

Please find below a response to a constituent question asked by the Member for Lyons, Mr Brian Mitchell MP, in the House on 11 September 2025 regarding some comments of mine in Question Time.

For the benefit of the honourable member and Mary of Dunalley, the Oxford Dictionary defines 'hapless' as 'unfortunate'.

I interjected this definition on the day and it is recorded in the Hansard. I also encouraged the member to get a sense of humour.

I trust he has obtained one in the interim.

Mary from Dunalley can also be advised that the reaction from the community has been one of appreciation for the injection of humour into Parliamentary proceedings.

There was only one 'negative' message received via text followed by a laughing emoji and that was from a close family member.

Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Laughter protects the heart. Mirthful laughter improve the function of blood vessels, lowers blood pressure and increases blood flow. For the member of the honourable member's overall wellbeing—and that of Mary from Dunalley—it is recommended that they engage in laughter every day, even if not during Question Time.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz MP
Leader of the House

PS - Christmas 'tis the season to be jolly.