

YOUTH DETENTION — INQUIRY

**715. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Is the Premier dismissing calls for an inquiry because he knows it will show that he and his government have failed the children, our community and custodial officers, or does he simply not care?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The answer is clearly no. It is a silly question—a very silly question. Obviously, we have put enormous effort into youth justice issues and prevention issues over the years. It was this government that brought forward the Target 120 program, which tries to intervene in families with support measures so that children do not go into the youth justice system—actual prevention measures. Those were not in place when the last government was in office. It sent 70 kids to Hakea adult prison. There are currently 10 detainees in unit 18. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to do a direct mathematical comparison, the former government had seven times as many youths in adult prison.