

POLICE VIDEOTAPES, POSSESSION BY CONVICTED MURDERER

Statement by Minister for Justice

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura - Minister for Justice) [12.11 pm]: Yesterday in response to a question from the member for Hillarys, I gave an undertaking to provide further information regarding the contents of all videotapes found in the possession of prisoner Macartney.

I can advise the house that a thorough check has been completed of all tapes in the possession of Mr Macartney. Of the tapes found in Macartney's possession, 10 were official Western Australia Police Service-issue tapes obtained by Macartney under section 100 of the Justices Act for the purposes of legal proceedings. The contents of the Western Australia Police Service-issue tapes are as follows: officially recorded police interviews with Macartney, and search of property and official police footage of the crime scene. Two further standard videotapes were also found to contain copies of police interviews, searches and footage of the crime scene. A further four tapes were tapes of movies and programs recorded from normal television channels. All the tapes had been censored by prison staff and were approved. I am further advised by the Acting Executive Director of Prisons, Mr Ian Johnson, that no unauthorised material was found on any of the tapes in the possession of Macartney. I can also advise the house that no photographs of the crime scene or victims were found in Mr Macartney's possession.

I reiterate that a thorough process is now under way to vet all tapes within the prison system to ensure that they contain suitable material and do not cause distress to victims of crime.

Only videotapes that are deemed to be appropriate for recreational or educational purposes will be returned to prisoners. Any legal tapes prisoners may have in their possession, including crime scene videos, will be secured and access will be granted only for legal purposes and under strict supervision.

In his inquiry into the prisons system, Mr Mahoney will also look at such issues of prison security and management to ensure that such problems do not occur in the future.