

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, MANDATORY PROVISIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF PAEDOPHILIA

**311. Hon CHRISTINE SHARP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Does the minister intend to draft regulations under the forthcoming School Education Act that will establish a framework of mandatory provisions for the prevention of paedophilia in independent schools?
- (2) If not, why not?

**Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) This criminal behaviour is the subject of other laws. The Association of Independent Schools has informed all its member schools of the need to implement employee screening policies and other strategies in accordance with the national strategy in schooling to prevent paedophilia and other forms of child abuse, adopted by the ministerial council on education, employment, training and youth affairs. The Catholic Education Office of WA requires schools under its jurisdiction to adopt the procedures recommended in the MCEETYA report.