

BLAXELL INQUIRY — RECOMMENDATIONS

**691. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General:**

I refer to the Attorney General's statement to Parliament on 20 August 2014 on the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, and in particular the recommendation contained in the statutory review of the act about what amendments to the act are necessary to enable the commissioner to perform a child abuse complaints support function, as recommended by the Blaxell report of the St Andrew's Hostel special inquiry.

- (1) Did the government give in-principle support to the review's recommendations that the commissioner's role should consist of developing education and outreach programs for children and young people about how to disclose child abuse; receiving complaints from children and young people or adults acting in good faith on their behalf about alleged child abuse and referring such complaints to the relevant investigative authority or authorities; providing information and referrals to children and young people in relation to the support services available for victims of child abuse and their families; and monitoring the way government agencies deal with complaints of child abuse?
- (2) Does the Premier's statement last week that, on further examination within government, "we believe that that would not be an improvement in the reporting of child abuse" mean that the government has walked away from this in-principle support of the Blaxell recommendation?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN** replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The government gave in-principle support to the Commissioner for Children and Young People having a role in the provision of a child abuse complaints support role, as recommended by the review of the Commissioner of Children and Young People Act 2006. The exact nature of that role will be determined following any findings or recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.