

UNION ENTRY PERMITS, MR WILL TRACEY

539. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer to the union entry permits issued by the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission and ask: -

- (a) is the Minister aware that a State entry permit has been issued to a Mr Will Tracey;
- (b) is this the same Mr Will Tracey whose Federal entry permit was revoked by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission;
- (c) is this the same Mr Will Tracey who, several years ago, was convicted of making threats against a small housing roofing sub-contractor while acting in his capacity as a CFMEU official;
- (d) does the Minister believe that there should be any form of screening for the approval of such entry permits; and
- (e) if not, why not?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes. Mr Tracey's permit was revoked on 7 June 2001 for 6 months.
- (c) Yes
- (d)-(e) The Industrial Relations Act 1979 does not require the Commission to screen new applications prior to the issuance of an authority other than to ensure that the application was properly made. This Government's reforms ensure that authorised representatives can have their authority suspended or revoked by the Commission should they act improperly in the exercise of their powers in line with Commonwealth and other State jurisdictions. Once revoked, an authority cannot be reissued other than by order of the Commission in Court Session. No such provisions existed prior to the reforms.