

KALBARRI DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL — COMPLAINTS

727. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to the article in *The Sunday Times* headed “70 complaints against school” concerning Kalbarri District High School.

- (1) Why did the minister refuse to even comment on the allegations, citing legal reasons, and what were those legal reasons?
- (2) Are any of the complaints made by parents of concern to the minister; and, if so, which ones?
- (3) Given that there has been a plethora of serious complaints by Kalbarri parents, will the minister commit to an inquiry, independent of the department, so that parents can be assured that the complaints have been independently investigated and not just swept under the carpet; and, if not, why not?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) The Acting State Solicitor has advised that it is inappropriate to make any public statement that would identify a child who has allegedly been the victim of a crime or the circumstances particular to that child, including identifying the school that child attends.
- (2) I am advised by the Department of Education that the complaints have all been considered in accordance with departmental procedures.
- (3) No. Although there have been in excess of 70 communications between a small number of families in the Kalbarri region and the department, it is not correct to say that there have been a plethora of complaints concerning Kalbarri District High School.