

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING STAFF, ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

877. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

That is Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich with a couple of j's. I was just getting into the spirit of phonetic spelling!

I refer to the minister's acknowledgment that 99 examples of alleged misconduct by Department of Education and Training staff are under investigation, and that 83 of these staff are still in schools.

- (1) Are any of the 83 alleged to have committed misconduct of a sexual nature, whether it be paedophilia, sourcing paedophilia information from the Internet, or other sexual misconduct?
- (2) If so, what steps is the minister taking to ensure the education department does not put children at risk by allowing people facing serious allegations to remain at schools and within close range of Western Australian school children?
- (3) Are any of the other 16 - who on the minister's admission are employed at district and the central education offices - alleged to have committed offences involving sexual abuse of children or sourcing of child pornography?
- (4) If so, what steps is the minister taking to ensure that the education department does not continue to employ these people, or quickly resolves the charges to clear their names?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Before I answer the question, I must say the member opposite is hardly one to comment on phonetic, or any other, spelling.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Could the minister just answer the question, please.

Hon Barry House interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Well, I have to say -

The PRESIDENT: Order! If Hon Barry House wants the question answered, he will stop interjecting.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I have to say to the member that it was not a very funny joke. If Hon Barry House wants to use my name, he should at least have the courtesy to spell it properly.

Several members interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The answer is as follows -

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The matters are being investigated according to the disciplinary provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1994, or equivalent for wages staff. Pending the outcome of these investigations, individual employees will remain in locations without contact with students.