

ARMADALE RAIL LINE — ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

**132. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to the Save the Children Australia report released in September 2013 which called for a change in the way Aboriginal children on public transport at night are treated. Has the minister kept her promise to travel on the Armadale line at night? If so, what did she observe and what changes has she recommended to the Public Transport Authority and the Minister for Transport?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for asking that question. I have not actually travelled on the train but I have met with young people.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** You said you travelled on the train.

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** I am explaining why that did not happen.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** But you said that you did.

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** Just wait; the reason that it did not happen is that young people said that they did not want me to.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** They are clever.

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** Yes; and the reason they did not want me to was that for me to contact and be engaged with those young people I needed the assistance of the Save the Children Fund. When I talked with them, they said that it would actually make it difficult for the children to come out at night in those circumstances and that they would not want to be involved in that kind of exercise.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** You just had to get on the train.

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** My purpose of going on the train was to talk to the children and understand why they did not want to be at home and why they particularly wanted to be on the railway line. I found another way to do that. I had that art exhibition of theirs moved to Gosnells. I managed to talk to the children there in conjunction with some other people. I actually achieved what I set out to achieve but in a slightly different way.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** You could have caught the train to Gosnells.

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** I could have done lots of things during the daytime—it was during the daytime as well. My purpose was to speak with the children and understand their issues. Nothing could give a better understanding of those issues than their photo exhibition, talking to the children, understanding them and respecting the children's wishes with that response.