

OOMBULGURRI COMMUNITY — SAFETY OF CHILDREN

320. Hon SHELLEY EATON to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to children living in the Oombulgurri community.

- (1) Has the Department for Child Protection conducted an audit of all children in that community to determine whether any are without a responsible adult carer; and, if not, why not?
- (2) If yes, when was the audit completed and by whom, and what were the findings?
- (3) What action has the department taken to ensure the safety of children at risk in that community?
- (4) What ongoing monitoring and services has the Department for Child Protection put in place in Oombulgurri to ensure the safety of children in that community?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An audit was completed in October 2008. The audit was undertaken by the remote child protection worker based in Oombulgurri. Two children were identified as not having appropriate adult supervision, and arrangements have been made to rectify this.
- (3) The Department for Child Protection has ensured that all children have a responsible adult caring for them. Comprehensive protective behaviours programs are being delivered, aimed at children in school and young people not attending school. Learning groups are being conducted, aimed at more responsible parenting. The remote child protection worker is co-located with police at Oombulgurri.
- (4) Ongoing monitoring is being undertaken by the remote child protection worker. The department is a partner in the local response, with strong and extensive collaboration with the school principal, health clinic and police. There are regular visits to the Oombulgurri community by specialists and support staff from Kununurra.