

EASTERN STATES' PAEDOPHILE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

409. Mr M.J. BIRNEY to the Minister for Justice:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister explain to the house why it is in the best interests of Western Australians to have an eastern states' paedophile reside in Western Australia on parole?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

Protocols -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Members, this is a very serious issue and I expect members to give it the attention that it deserves. It is a very difficult area and we all need to deal with this issue carefully. The protocols have been put in place by the states by agreement because this is a very difficult area.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Why isn't it reflected in legislation then, my friend?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: It is reflected in legislation.

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, it isn't.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: There is a formal process. The arrangement that was put in place by the states by agreement provided for transfers to be agreed to by departmental people to ensure the best possible chance of rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. The decision for a person to be allowed into the community on parole is for the Parole Board of WA. It is independent of politics and it is important that we, as members of Parliament, allow the members of the Parole Board to make those decisions. The decisions are made always on the basis of the best possible potential for a parolee to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into the community. We, as members of Parliament, should be very careful not to politicise this issue, as that is in no-one's interests.