

SEX OFFENDERS ON PAROLE

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

I refer to the Premier's commitment to provide full details of all sex offenders who have been convicted in other states and who are currently on parole in Western Australia. I pause to say that I have provided the minister with significant notice of this question.

- (1) Will the minister provide the names and details of each of these sex offenders, including the nature and number of their crimes; the length of the sentences that were imposed; the length of parole time to be served in Western Australia; details on how long they have been located in Western Australia; and their current location?
- (2) Which of these sex offenders from other states who are on parole in Western Australia committed crimes against children?
- (3) Are all of these sex offenders currently listed on the national sex offender registry; and, if not, why not?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of this question. I am advised by the Department of Justice that currently there are 25 parolees in Western Australia who have been transferred from another state. Twenty are supervised on an informal basis, and five of the parolees who have been formally transferred to Western Australia are under the control of the Western Australian parole system. Of the 25 interstate parolees, three are sex offenders. One of these has committed sex offences against children. This person was released on parole on 14 October 2003 and reported to the Western Australian authorities on 17 October 2003. He was formally transferred to the Western Australian parole system on 16 November 2004, and is complying fully with his parole order.

As the minister responsible for community justice, I will not jeopardise the operational requirements of the offender management division by revealing personal or specific details of an individual offender. Also, under section 119 of the Sentence Administration Act, I am not prepared to disclose information regarding a particular offender that may contravene a law of this Parliament. According to the national sex offender register, only one of the offenders was required to be considered for registration, and that person is listed as a person of interest under that register. The processes for informal transfer have been in place for many years. Protocols were agreed to in 1998 for the informal transfer of a parole order to another state or territory. In fact, preliminary records indicate that in 1999-2000, under the former Liberal government, 34 informal or formal transfers were made. Four of those transfers were of sex offenders, one of which was a paedophile. Our policy is simple: when the Parole Board of WA considers the transfer of any offender, we expect community safety to come first.