

SUPERVISED RELEASE REVIEW BOARD, APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Statement by Minister for Justice

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura - Minister for Justice) [2.19 pm]: I am pleased to announce that today executive council has approved the appointment of Mr Lawrence Alton Jackson, QC, as Chair of the Supervised Release Review Board. Mr Jackson will commence his tenure on 1 July 2005 following the retirement of the current chair, Mr George Sadleir. The Supervised Release Review Board decides on the suitability of juvenile offenders for early release from detention centres. The board also sets conditions for their release and can take action if those conditions are not met.

Mr Jackson is a retired District Court judge whose legal career commenced in 1966. He has acted for both plaintiffs and defendants and has wide experience in most areas of the law. Mr Jackson became a Queen's Counsel in 1989 and a commissioner of the Supreme Court in December 1990. Mr Jackson remains an active community member who is involved with various school committees, the Western Australian Hockey Association, Surf Life Saving Western Australia, Wearne Hostel for the Aged and the Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia.

The role of the Supervised Release Review Board is a difficult one. The board is required to make judgment calls on whether an offender, if released, will re-offend or make a positive contribution to the community. I have every confidence that Mr Jackson will guide the board in the best interests of both the community and juvenile offenders.

I also take this opportunity to thank the retiring chair, Mr Sadleir, for his tireless efforts in serving as Chair of the Supervised Release Review Board for the past six years. Finally, I acknowledge the efforts of Mr Ross Oliver as the community member on the Supervised Release Review Board. Mr Oliver is retiring after 10 years in this position and I thank him for his outstanding efforts.