

WA INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION WEB SITE, ENTRY LIST OF AUTHORISED UNION REPRESENTATIVES

**149. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection:**

I refer the minister to the right of entry list of authorised union representatives published on the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission web site.

- (1) Does the minister support the accreditation of union officials who have criminal convictions for actions on building and construction sites?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If not, what action will the minister take on this clear failure of his industrial relations legislation?

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:**

- (1)-(3) For the first time in Western Australian statutes, the changes the Government made to industrial laws meant that an authorisation was required. Although the previous Government talked tough, it did absolutely nothing about requiring union officials to be authorised if they exercised right of entry under the Industrial Relations Act. That is a big improvement in ensuring there are standards.

The issue then is whether someone who has a criminal record should be registered. A criminal record in someone's distant past does not mean that the person should be excluded from ever playing certain roles. Therefore, the difficult issue is making a judgment on individual cases. I do not think people should be prevented from being members of our community because they have been prosecuted at some point in the past. Legislation now provides - it did not under the previous Government - that the right of entry will be withdrawn from people who disrupt a workplace and abuse the right of entry. That is a very new provision that will ensure there are better standards in the building and other industries in this State than were in place under the previous Government.