

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

894. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the answer the minister gave yesterday to question without notice 877, in which she confirmed that some teachers moved out of schools are facing serious allegations involving sexual abuse of children or procurement of child pornography.

- (1) Have all the allegations against the 16 staff removed from schools been referred to the police?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If the matters have not been referred to the police, will the minister assure the house that her department will be directed to call in the police immediately and refer all 16 serious allegations to the police?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I am a bit surprised that this question has been asked without any notice. However, having said that, I will endeavour to answer it to the best of my ability.

- (1)-(4) I cannot advise whether one or all of the matters have been put to the police, but I can advise that the matters have been, and will be, dealt with in accordance with the normal procedures in dealing with such matters. If that means a referral to the police, obviously the department will do whatever is required in terms of the legal obligations of the department to deal with matters such as the ones the member has outlined.