

WA INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION, SUSPENSION OF RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMITS OF  
CFMEU OFFICIALS

3058. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the decision of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) to suspend the right of entry permits of CFMEU officials Joe McDonald and Mick Buchan for three months and ask -

- (a) will the Minister investigate who was responsible for supplying information of any prior convictions of either Mr McDonald or Mr Buchan in the building industry, to the WAIRC;
- (b) if not, why not;
- (c) does the Minister concede that the WAIRC considered this lack of information serious enough to make mention of it in the reasons for decision by the Commission;
- (d) what action will the Minister take to ensure that the WARIC is fully informed of all prior convictions of defendants in the future; and
- (e) is this an indication that the Minister's office is controlled by the unions?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) It is not clear what the question means by "investigate". The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) brought the application to suspend the right of entry permits and was represented by the State Solicitor's Office. I am advised that the application related specifically to one incident and evidence was consequently restricted to that substantive matter.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) The overall conduct of the case is a matter of judgement for DOCEP. The State Solicitor's Office provided advice in this regard.
- (d) As Minister I am not involved nor do I interfere in any investigation or prosecution matters undertaken by DOCEP.
- (e) No. As the Minister I am not involved in inquiries or prosecutions regardless of whether they relate to unions, employees or others.