

NORTH PERTH OUT OF SCHOOL CARE CENTRE

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR A.J. SIMPSON (Darling Range — Minister for Local Government) [2.03 pm]: I wish to advise that the application for disciplinary action by the Department of Local Government and Communities commenced in the State Administrative Tribunal on 22 June 2016 against the North Perth Out of School Care Centre Inc has concluded with the tribunal reprimanding the service for five breaches of the Education and Care Services National Law and ordering the service to pay a \$36 700 penalty and \$3 000 towards my department's legal costs. The action followed my department's investigation into the circumstances of how, on 19 April 2016, two children, aged four and five, in the care of the service, left the service unnoticed and unsupervised and were found by a member of the public at Hyde Park. While unsupervised by the service, the children were allegedly sexually abused. Western Australia Police charged Vincenzo Mule with various charges relating to the abduction and abuse of the two children. Mr Mule remains remanded in custody pending trial of the charges.

Within 24 hours of being advised of the incident, my department suspended the service's approval and commenced its investigation. The service's suspension expired on 20 June 2016. However, on 17 June 2016, my department imposed conditions on the service, requiring that the association give at least 14 days' notice of when it intends to reopen its service and that it does not operate until officers from my department have conducted a final inspection of regulatory requirements.

Point of Order

Ms S.F. McGURK: This is quite an important issue, but I cannot hear a word the minister is saying. Perhaps he could speak up.

The SPEAKER: Speak up please, minister. I am also battling to hear you.

Debate Resumed

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: Within 24 hours of being advised of the incident, my department suspended the service's approval and commenced its investigation. The service's suspension expired on 20 June 2016. However, on 17 June 2016, my department imposed conditions on the service, requiring that the association give at least 14 days' notice of when it intends to reopen its service and that it does not operate until officers from my department have conducted a final inspection of regulatory requirements. The service is not currently operating and my department has not received any notice of an intention to reopen.