

ABUSE OF CHILDREN AT CHILDCARE CENTRE IN COLLIE

1583. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister for Community Development

I refer to the case where several children were abused while attending a child care centre in Collie in June this year and ask -

- (a) has an investigation of the family situation of the children who committed the abuse been conducted and can you table relevant documents;
- (b) what action has the Department taken against the child care centre where the abuse was committed;
- (c) will you confirm that abuse against the children was confirmed by the evidentiary unit at Princess Margaret Hospital, but this was not accepted by DCD;
- (d) if substantiated, would this abuse at this centre leave the DCD open for prosecution; and
- (e) have refurbishment works on the childcare centre been undertaken yet?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a) Yes, however relevant documents are confidential.
- (b) The allegations were not substantiated however the Department has supported the Management Committee to develop and implement a Safety Plan which included protective behaviours training for all staff and children attending the centre.
- (c) No. Princess Margaret Hospital examinations were inconclusive.
- (d) Abuse at the Centre was not substantiated.
- (e) The management committee, along with the local DCD office have identified areas where structural improvements are required. The DCD understands the Committee are yet to receive final quotes before submitting their application to the Department.