

Division 32: Commissioner for Children and Young People, \$3 045 000 —

Mr A.P. O’Gorman, Chairman.

Mr C.C. Porter, Attorney General.

Ms M.S. Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People.

[Witness introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Armadale.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to the dot point at the top of page 374, which states —

The Commissioner undertook an independent inquiry into the mental health needs of children and young people, and their families in 2010–11. The report from the inquiry has been tabled in Parliament and made 54 recommendations on how to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Would it be contrary to the report and its recommendations to propose that legislation come before Parliament to allow teenagers and I think children as young as 12 years old to consent to psychosurgery?

Mr C.C. PORTER: I think the member is making a reference to —

Dr A.D. BUTI: The proposed mental health bill.

Mr C.C. PORTER: Reports of agencies of government, including the Commissioner for Children and Young People, do not supplant executive government, nor do they supplant Parliament. Therefore, if the member is asking whether all legislative agendas would be managed or drafted to be perfectly in accord with every single recommendation that came from a coroner or the Commissioner for Children and Young People or the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, the answer is no, and to do so would be plainly undemocratic. I am not perfectly familiar, I have to say, with the actual legislative provision that the member is talking about. I have heard some of the debate about it and there are various views of what that provision may or may not empower or allow. I am not certain of the final form of that provision; I think that there may well be amendments to it, but I do not know. However, that is probably a legislative question for the Minister for Mental Health.

The appropriation was recommended.