

CAMP AUSTRALIA — LICENCE BREACHES

905. Mrs A.K. HAYDEN to the Minister for Child Protection:

I have a supplementary question. Considering the national review is not until next year—some time away—what measures has the minister put in place to strengthen the policing of these centres, considering they have ignored all the previous warnings and disciplinary action?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I am not sure whether the member was not listening but it was actually the regulatory unit that was proactive in uncovering these breaches by Camp Australia in all cases.

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, do not ask the question and give the answer!

Ms S.F. McGURK: I also said in my answer that I have asked the Department of Communities to meet with Camp Australia management to ensure that there can be some comfort for the users of those services as well as the general public that it will be careful in the way that it manages those centres. I think there are 60 or 61 services across the state.

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member!

Ms S.F. McGURK: Let me be clear that we are talking about the previous breaches by Camp Australia, and the member gave some specifics —

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Actually, those breaches occurred under the watch of the previous government. The prosecutions occurred while we have been in government but a number of the breaches occurred while members opposite were in government.

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, I call you to order for the third time.

Ms S.F. McGURK: I would not get too overconfident about the previous government's record on these issues. The regulatory unit within the Department of Communities is very proactive, and it needs to be. These services look after children in out-of-school-hours care, holiday care and early childhood education, and there are some very vulnerable children, usually under six years old. It is important that we have a strong regulatory unit. I think that these prosecutions show that we have a proactive and strong cop on the beat when it comes to early childhood education.