

DANGEROUS SEXUAL OFFENDERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

433. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Attorney General:

Can the Attorney General provide an update on this government's approach to dealing with dangerous sex offenders?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

I thank the member for Armadale. Mr Speaker, as you know, we have introduced to Parliament a bill with amendments to the dangerous sex offender legislation, which was second read in last week. Because of the developments with DAL, who was to be released, it is the government's intention to seek to suspend standing orders and deal with the bill as a matter of urgency. We intend to do that tomorrow. We treat the danger presented to the community by dangerous sex offenders very seriously, and I accept that members of the opposition do. It is regrettable that their amendments to the dangerous sex offender legislation were not passed last year, but that is history. We intend to present those amendments again tomorrow and we look forward to some cooperation by members of the opposition to get this bill through.

As to DAL himself, he was to be released into the township of Geraldton. A suppression order was made on his exact residence in Geraldton. Somehow that got out. I do not know how it got out, but someone did not obey the Supreme Court suppression order on that address, and many media attended at that address and it became impossible to manage the offender at that address. I am advised by the Department of Justice that he will be released to an address in the metropolitan area on a temporary basis, which address has been submitted to the court for approval. There will be a continuing suppression order on the exact address and whereabouts of that offender. Suffice to say, the director general of the Department of Justice has been in close consultation with the police department, the department responsible for child protection and, he also tells me, the Department of Education so that all steps will be taken to protect children.

I note from the judgement that all the offences were what are called *intra familia*—that is, they were with known relatives. I am not making any excuses; we are assessing risk here. He did not go to a park or a bus stop to prey on someone he did not know; he formed a relationship with a relative and repeatedly sexually assaulted relatives. That is something that I mentioned the last time I spoke on this matter. The order prohibits him from entering the suburbs of Midland, Middle Swan, Viveash, Leederville and Mt Helena; and Boyanup, Bunbury and Busselton. That is published in the judgement itself. The Department of Justice will respect the suppression order and will continue to liaise with the education department so that no placement will affect a school.

Finally, 47 conditions have been imposed on this offender, including 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week GPS monitoring, which will be monitored very closely by the Department of Justice and the police department. As I said, the government will take this very seriously. We accept that all members take these situations very seriously, and we hope that the amendments we bring forward to this Parliament tomorrow to further secure community safety will be the toughest laws in Australia, because they reverse the onus of proof on an offender to prove that he will not offend again before he can be released. We are hopeful, and looking forward to reaching out to members on the other side of the chamber. We hope to see support from members on the other side of the chamber for the imposition of the toughest serious, dangerous sex offender laws in Australia.