

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

**224. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Minister for Child Protection commit to provide a ministerial statement before the house rises tomorrow, outlining the basis upon which she considers the 184 child victims in Roebourne to be safe?

**Ms S.F. McGURK replied:**

We will have a debate on this issue after question time today, so we will have an opportunity to go through in detail the government's response in Roebourne and in the west Pilbara and what we are doing throughout the community as a whole to maximise child safety. As I said before, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to say that no child is at risk in this state ever. However, my job is to make sure that my agency works with other government agencies, community organisations and the community to properly understand when children are at risk and to put in place protections whenever risk is involved. That is our job. We will do it in communities and institutions such as churches and schools. We will ensure that it is done wherever it is needed, but we will not demonise a particular community. We will not turn unfair attention on a community and ignore the responsibility that we all have throughout this whole state. We will work positively with any community affected to build it up and ensure that the community, the families and children are safe.