

REGISTERED PAEDOPHILES - NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

810. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Community Development:

I refer the minister to the fact that under the provisions of the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 police officers are not permitted to advise DCD of the appearance of known paedophiles on the Australian National Child Offender Register.

- (1) Is it true that a number of medium and high-risk offenders in the community are forming relationships with mothers of young children who may be unaware that their partner is a registered paedophile?
- (2) Will the minister support, where appropriate, DCD officers being given access to ANCOR or allowing police to inform DCD that certain individuals are on the register when they believe that a child or children may be at risk?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank Leader of the Opposition for the question. I assure him and all members that my primary concern, which will always be my primary concern, is the safety and welfare of the children of Western Australia. That is what I and the government are committed to. We have demonstrated during our time in government that we are absolutely committed to ensuring that we will protect the children of Western Australia, and we are doing that with the resourcing -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the members for Murray and Hillarys to order for the first time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will make sure that the Department for Community Development continues to do everything it must do under its statutory obligations to ensure the protection of children in this state. I will make sure that that department is accountable.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the members for Murray and Hillarys to order for the second time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: If there is information about paedophiles in the community who are known to the department and who are having a relationship with a family, I will ensure that the department responds appropriately. What I am committed to, as the Minister for Community Development who has responsibility for overseeing the department's role, is to make sure that we act. That is why when I was informed on Friday afternoon about allegations that were made against a childcare centre in Huntingdale, I was concerned enough to ensure that we had the statutory responsibility and statutory need to intervene and close that centre. That is why I did it. That is why I spoke to the appropriate officers and said that legally we needed to respond and make sure that that centre was closed. Its licence remains suspended. Those sorts of actions by me will continue because I will continually respond to the needs of and protect children in this state.