

SCHOOLS — SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM PREVENTION GUIDELINES

205. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. Further to that response, the last review of the guidelines was in 2021. Is the new minister considering reviewing those guidelines and amending the language, which could actually improve the implementation of the guidelines across all WA schools?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

Just to clarify, when I said “independent schools”, I did not mean independent public schools, as they are within my authority; I meant independent schools. The member would know what I mean—the Anglicans and so forth and the Catholic system.

The year 2021 was not that long ago. The previous minister spent a lot of time considering the policies and guidelines. I have been in the role now for about three months and I have also considered the policies very, very carefully. This campaign is being driven by one individual—I think the member knows who that individual is—who is trying to whip up anger in this area, which he should not be doing. It is a very, very sensitive area. Shame on him! As members know, he lauded this great protest or mass demonstration that was going to happen at the footsteps of Parliament, and there were about five or six families. I felt sorry for those five or six families, because he gave them false hope. He is no expert in the area. We consider this matter very carefully. The Minister for Health; Mental Health and I have spoken about this matter. We take it very seriously and we decide what we think is the best way forward. We do not take lessons or advice from one individual who is hell-bent on causing fear, alarm and false hope for families who are suffering.