

CHILDREN IN CARE — GAMING CONSOLES

827. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to reports that the department is supplying gaming consoles to young people in care to help them adhere to bail conditions.

- (1) Can the minister please confirm whether this is true?
- (2) If yes to (1), how many consoles have been supplied to groups or individuals for this purpose?
- (3) What is the value of the gaming consoles and associated equipment provided for this purpose?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Child Protection.

- (1)–(3) The Department of Communities advises that its priority is always the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. As part of case support costs for any child in the care of the CEO, Department of Communities child protection caseworkers can purchase personal items, including for recreational and leisure activities. These items may include sports equipment such as footballs, basketballs or netballs, or gaming consoles. A manual review and considerable time would be required to collate information about purchases for children in care’s recreational and leisure activities, which would divert staff from their normal duties. This is not considered to be a reasonable use of government resources.