

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING - CORRUPTION  
AND CRIME COMMISSION INQUIRY

**734. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that approximately five weeks ago the Director General of the Department of Education and Training told the Minister for Education and Training that the Corruption and Crime Commission was working with the department about the handling of complaints of sexual misconduct?
- (2) Can he confirm that after receiving this information the minister took no further action to determine -
  - (a) the nature of the CCC involvement with the department;
  - (b) the reason why the CCC was involved in examining the education department's complaints processes;
  - (c) whether failures in the existing system had compromised child safety in our schools; and
  - (d) what recommendations were being made to address any problems?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

- (1)-(2) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I hesitate to give answers that might prove to be incorrect. It would have been good if the Leader of the Opposition had given me a little notice. I have a huge amount of material on this issue that I have been trying to get my head around in the last 24 hours. My understanding of the first question is, yes, there was some sort of indication, I think it was earlier this year, about the general dialogue, so to speak, that was going on between the CCC and the department, but no specific information was provided to the minister. The minister had no reason to have concern -

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Oh, come on!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** The minister was given -  
Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** It is hard getting a word in here. This is what happens in Parliament.

No reason was flagged that the minister should have concern. I want to refer to a letter that I understand Paul Albert quoted from in his press conference the other day. Mr Albert was seeking advice from the Commissioner of the Corruption and Crime Commission about passing on the information that was in his possession.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** When was that - 7 August?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** This letter was 30 June. It is from Kevin Hammond, the commissioner, to Mr Albert, under the heading -

SEXUAL CONTACT WITH CHILDREN BY PERSONS IN AUTHORITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The last paragraph of that letter, which I will table, says -

The draft report contains official information. Pursuant to sections 152 and 153 of the Act, aside from  
the purposes of obtaining legal advice and formulating your response, -

That is, Mr Albert's response -

you and your Department are not at liberty to disclose the contents or substance of the draft report.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Not even to the minister.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Mr Albert took that advice and, as I have said before, and I said it outside today, there is a great issue that confronts people with the activities of the CCC when they are part of those activities, because the view is that if one passes on that information, one is in breach of the law.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Did he breach it by giving it to the State Solicitor?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I do not know.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** By his own admission he did.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Shall I read the whole letter?

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** This does not wash.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** That is the explanation. The member's point is really to Mr Albert and not to the minister. The end result was that Mr Albert took the decision that the particular cases that were being looked at as case studies by the CCC should not be provided in detail to the minister, and they were not. The minister has already explained over and over again that the first time that she had any detailed knowledge of what the CCC was looking at was when she was alerted to the report last Thursday and read it for herself on Friday, whereupon, on receipt of that somewhat disturbing information, she contacted Mr Albert, who was on the other side of the world, and suggested that he return to Perth so that they could discuss what was about to be tabled here in the Parliament. That is the answer to that question, as has been explained to the member before.