

TAXIS — PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY — SAFETY

**915. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the recent sentencing of a Perth taxidriver to 10 years' imprisonment for the rape and assault of five women.

- (1) What will the Department of Transport do to ensure the safety of people with disability who use public transport?
- (2) Has the Department of Transport liaised with disability organisations or advocates to listen to their concerns around this issue?
- (3) What assistance has the Department of Transport offered the victims, one of whom is so traumatised that she cannot attend work due to her post-traumatic stress disorder?
- (4) What is the status of further investigations of other cases of abuse against people with disability who use taxi services?

**Hon JIM CHOWN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Transport is working on mechanisms for improving the detection of criminal activity in taxis involving people with a disability. The DOT is also reviewing the entry requirements for multipurpose taxidrivens as part of the Taxi Drivers Licensing Act 2014.
- (2) Yes. The DOT is participating in and sponsoring a forum organised by Women With Disabilities WA Inc on 24 August 2014 on this issue.
- (3) The DOT made arrangements for alternative transport for one of the victims.
- (4) The DOT is not aware of any other open investigations at this point.