

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — ADULT OFFENDERS

**334. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I have a supplementary question. If, as the Premier says, the 18-year-olds are part of the problem in Banksia Hill, why has not one application been made by the minister's department to the Children's Court in the last 12 months to remove a detainee of this age?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

If the member wants to vote against the legislation, that is up to her. If she does not agree with the policy position of the government, she should vote against the legislation. If she agrees with the policy position of the government, she should vote in favour of the legislation. I understand that there is a separate issue about the discretion, not of the government or the Crown, but of the President of the Children's Court. That is not what we are discussing in our legislation. Our legislation is unrelated to the current arrangements.

It is the born-to-rule attitude of this failed member. She failed as a minister, she failed as Leader of the Opposition, and she is failing in her thinking. The failure of her thinking here is that this is not a question of discretion: children and adults should not be housed in the same correctional facility. If the member thinks —

**Ms M.J. Davies:** You haven't even asked. It's just another opportunity for the Premier to stand up and make a big tough-on-crime announcement.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No, I am sorry; there is clearly confusion in that interjection. This has nothing to do with being tough on crime. The point here is that we are discussing people who the court has said should be detained. We are not asking for more people to be detained. That is why the number of young offenders detained today is half that of what it was when the member was a minister. She believes that there are too many young offenders in detention, yet when she had a chance to do anything about it, there were twice as many young offenders in detention.

As I keep saying: if the member thinks that adults should be housed in a youth offending facility, she should vote against the legislation. If she agrees with the government that young offenders should be housed in the prison estate, she should vote in favour of the legislation.