

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - INTERNAL REVIEW

553. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

Given that the government's internal review of the Department for Community Development will be conducted under the Public Sector Management Act and as a result will not be able to provide adequate protection for public servants who come forward as witnesses, will not be able investigate the role of the minister and will lack the power of a royal commission to compel witnesses to give evidence and present documents, I ask -

- (1) Will the Premier concede that only a royal commission into child deaths and the department will have the power to thoroughly and properly investigate and make recommendations without fear or favour?
- (2) Is this a cynical attempt to try to hide the role that the former Minister for Community Development played in the neglect of vulnerable children in Western Australia?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

- (1)-(2) No. I understand that the minister has made it quite clear that if she is required to speak, give evidence, make a submission or be questioned by the reviewer, she will be happy to do it.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Are staff to be called?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C.J. Barnett: I do not think so!

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Cottesloe for the first time.