

SCHOOLS — KNIFE CRIME

132. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

As a result of that, I ask my question to the Premier.

It has been revealed that a year 2 student in a southern suburbs primary school was caught with a knife. This follows another stabbing incident at Carine Senior High School late last year. These shocking situations starkly illustrate the scary reality confronting teachers in WA schools. Teachers and students in WA should be able to teach and learn in a safe environment. Where is the education minister when our schools are in crisis?

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Obviously, we have all been distressed by the reports of knives being used as part of criminal activity in any part of Western Australia. As a dad from Kwinana, I see that anxiety on a daily basis. People are concerned about these things. It is threatening and is obviously an important part of our overall community safety activities. The idea of young people bringing knives into schools and knives being used in major entertainment precincts is simply not good enough and it has to stop. That is one of the reasons that our school environments have such harsh rules at the moment, which are that any student responsible for violent behaviour is automatically suspended, any student who assists in that violent behaviour is automatically suspended, and any student who films and, in particular, posts a video of violent behaviour is automatically suspended. They are the toughest rules we have ever had in WA, and we make no apologies for that. It is an important part of making sure that our schools and workplaces are places of safety, which is the reason that we work closely with the State School Teachers' Union of WA and the Principals Federation of Western Australia to make sure that we have in place the appropriate rules that are necessary. My government will consider every option available to keep Western Australians safe, including laws that are already in place in other parts of the country. We will continue to monitor the situation and ensure that we keep people safe in our schools.