

CHILDCARE CENTRE — ABUSE

**815. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the minister's comments on 6PR this morning that the allegations of sexual abuse of toddlers at a metropolitan childcare centre have been referred to police by his office and were being investigated.

If the minister has referred the claims, why has the Western Australia Police Force advised the childcare centre that there is no criminal investigation underway and no event or incident is being examined?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Actually, I was not on 6PR, member. It was a grab from a press conference I was doing about psychiatric assistance dogs for veterans. I was asked by a journalist about that particular matter. I was asked whether I had responded to a letter I had received. It was regarding an operational matter—the one the member is referring to is an operational matter. I said, in response, that my office had passed the letter to the police, as is the normal practice for operational matters. That is what I said. I said it is being investigated, by which I mean the matter is being investigated because we have passed it to police. I understand police are looking at the situation. Whether it is a criminal investigation, I am not sure. It is an operational matter. I know they have responded to receipt of advice on that matter.