

VIOLENT OFFENDERS — BAIL AND SUPERVISION ORDER RELEASE — PREMIER'S COMMENTS

681. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Police:

I refer to Danny Hodgson's attacker, who allegedly assaulted another Western Australian while out on parole, and Western Australia Police Force failing to oppose bail when that accused person was brought before the Geraldton Magistrates Court.

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing on WAPOL's handling of this incident, including how it led to the Premier and Attorney General misleading Parliament and the public?
- (2) Was it appropriate for WAPOL not to explicitly oppose bail for someone with such a history of violence?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. I am advised that we were initially informed that police opposed bail, but what actually happened is that they did not explicitly oppose bail. I understand it was a little confusing in the court, to the extent that the journalist who was sitting at the back of the court assumed that the police had opposed bail, having witnessed what took place in the court. It was not particularly clear, as is possibly quite often the case with these matters as there is a lot of discussion. Clearly, the history of the individual as an adult was raised, but his original offence to which the member referred took place as a juvenile, so it could not be referred to then. It was a little confusing. Police informed us that they had opposed bail initially and that is what led to the statements by the Premier, but they did not explicitly oppose bail.