

YOUTH DETENTION — UNIT 18, CASUARINA PRISON

**799. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I have a supplementary question. The Labor Party has been in government for nearly seven years. What will it take for it to illustrate that it takes this issue seriously, given that we are dealing with a death in custody?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Is the Leader of the Liberal Party telling me that I should shut unit 18 today?

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Liberal Party and Deputy Premier!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Leader of the Liberal Party, it is easy to be an armchair general and criticise without solutions—that is what you and your party do. The Liberal Party of Western Australia has said a range of things with respect to unit 18 in recent times. The Liberal Party shadow spokesperson said, “Shut unit 18 today.” He said that we should house the detainees who are in unit 18 today in demountables at Banksia Hill. That is what the Liberal Party spokesperson said. He also said that I view the juvenile detainees in unit 18 as roadkill.

Several members interjected

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am glad that the Leader of the Liberal Party has broken cover and said that we should shut unit 18 today. Today, there are two alternatives to unit 18. If we shut unit 18 today, one of the options, which I assume the Liberal Party wants, is that juveniles who are deemed too dangerous to be in the community by the courts be released into the community to hurt people and continue to harm people. The Leader of the Liberal Party is saying that. That is one option. The only other option is to put them into Banksia Hill and compromise the 66 or 70 or so other juveniles who are out of their cells going to school, exercising and having good intervention and improved conditions. The Leader of the Liberal Party is saying one of those two options. The Liberal Party of Western Australia would release into the community people whom the courts have deemed too dangerous to be in the community. That is a fact. That is what the Leader of the Liberal Party is saying. The member has broken cover and given her position. I looked forward to the MPI this afternoon.