

FOSTER CARE — ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

622. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the revelations in *The Australian* last month that in Newman a 13-year-old girl in foster care had disclosed serious allegations of child abuse by a man in whose care she had been placed by the Department of Communities.

- (1) Is the minister familiar with this case?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) were the allegations investigated; and
 - (b) has the child been moved to a new foster family?
- (3) Is the man currently approved by the department as a foster carer?
- (4) If yes to (3), is the department aware that the man has been served with a restraining order?
- (5) If yes to (4), is the department reviewing the man's status as a foster carer?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) Yes, including by specialist police and child protection officers.
 - (b) Yes. The child is with different carers.
- (3)–(5) Yes.