

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDER — MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**402. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to the minister's previous answer regarding the dangerous sex offender TJD and his admission that he failed to warn TJD's victims of the impending media interview. Why did the minister not even bother to try to warn those victims?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I do not know what part of this the member does not get. As I said, there are two units in the Department of Corrective Services. There is the victim notification register, which is required to be kept under the Victims of Crime Act 1994, and there is the victim-offender mediation unit. I am advised that all of the victims have opted out of being notified; in other words, they have made a decision and we respect their decision.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** They are the victims; we actually put their priorities higher than those of the offenders.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, answer the question.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We respect their right to privacy. They chose to opt out of being a part of that process and that is their right under the law in Western Australia.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I do not know what the member for Warnbro's other issue is here; is he trying to suggest that we should have sent the police into the Channel Nine studios and pulled the video as well? I do not know whether the member believes in censorship of the media; I do not know what he expected the government to do.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** There are two things here. We checked the victim notification register and the victims have all opted out of being on it.

**Mr M. McGowan:** When?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We did it when this first came to light months ago. We know that they have opted out. That is regularly checked and updated.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** They have chosen not to be part of that; that is their decision and we respect their right to privacy. Secondly, we sought legal advice to explore all avenues as to whether or not this particular person could do an interview, and now he has done an interview, we are looking at whether he has contravened any of his conditions. The simple answer is that there is a legislative requirement for the Department of Corrective Services to maintain a victim notification register and all those victims through their own choice, the privacy of which we respect, have opted out.