

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

Question without Notice 66 — Answer Advice

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [5.04 pm]: I would like to provide an answer to Hon Nick Goiran's question without notice 66 asked yesterday, which I seek leave to have incorporated into *Hansard*.

Hon Nick Goiran: Can you read it? It's not long.

Hon SUE ELLERY: How come you know what the answer is?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, do you want to seek leave to incorporate or do you want to provide it now?

Hon SUE ELLERY: I have sought leave to incorporate the answer into *Hansard*.

The PRESIDENT: The minister seeks leave to incorporate the answer into *Hansard*.

[Leave denied.]

The PRESIDENT: Minister, I think you need to read that into *Hansard*. Leave is not granted.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes, I will, Madam President, and question time might end at five o'clock next time.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! If you want to hear the answer, I suggest you listen.

Hon SUE ELLERY: The honourable member, really, some days is unreasonable.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Please listen to the response and then we can move on.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thanks, Madam President. The answer is as follows.

- (1) As has been detailed previously in responses to questions asked on 28 November 2018, 5 December 2018 and 12 February 2019, in instances when a young person charged or convicted with a sexual offence attends a public school, every case is monitored, assessed and managed between the Department of Education, the Western Australia Police Force and the Department of Communities. These assessments are based on what is best for the school community and the individual young people. This responsibility is not taken lightly. The number of young people with charges attending school is small. We must be mindful that providing detailed comment about individual cases could lead to them being identified. The important response is to create safety by developing trust, increasing the networks around the child and protective behaviours education.
- (2) The Western Australia Police Force notifies the Department of Education when a young person is charged or convicted with a sexual offence and attends school. Through this protocol, Catholic Education and independent non-government schools are notified by the Department of Education. If further detail is required, it is suggested that this question be referred to the Department of Education.