

EVIL 8 — DAVID VOLMER

**529. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to today's revelation in the national media that yet another Evil 8 gang member, David Volmer, was also bailed and allowed to live across the road from a school.

- (1) Did the Barnett government oppose bail for any members of the Evil 8 gang?
- (2) Did the Barnett government bother to even check whether any of their bail residences were near schools?
- (3) How many other members of the Evil 8 paedophile ring were allowed out on bail?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. Police opposed bail for every one of the Evil 8 people who were charged with those offences against that young woman.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Right; thank you. Carry on.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Police opposed bail. The opportunity that the police had to oppose bail was taken advantage of. The magistrate —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** As I explained yesterday, defence counsel for these offenders—alleged offenders—opposed bail and the judge made a decision in each of those cases. To my knowledge, all but one of them was released on bail into the community with conditions around their management. The person I am aware of who was near a school is the offender we were talking about—I have forgotten his name—Clegg. As soon as police became aware of the fact that that offender had been bailed to a residence that was contrary to the bail conditions that also required him not to be within 100 metres of a school or a childcare facility and not to have unsupervised access to a child under the age of 16 years et cetera, they took steps to have the bail conditions reviewed. We all know that Mr Clegg is now back in custody. Another two of those offenders are currently on bail in the community at two separate addresses. Because of the sensitivity of this issue, the sex offender management squad now manages those two people. I believe that one is awaiting a plea hearing and the other is awaiting sentencing. Their bail conditions have been set. They have both been complying with those bail conditions. Police have been checking on them and they are now being managed by the sex offender management squad, which has expertise in dealing with these sorts of offenders. I do not believe that the community is at risk. Police are doing their utmost to ensure that those two individuals are complying with their bail conditions.

With respect to Volmer, I will have to go back to check the records. I do not have the information to hand about whether he was bailed into the community or what those circumstances are. When I get that information, I will be happy to provide it to the member.