

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES — DAVID VOLMER

711. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the minister's continuing inability this week to categorically state whether David Volmer had or had not entered a WA correctional facility, or if David Volmer had interactions with children or convicted paedophiles in those facilities.

- (1) Did David Volmer enter a WA correctional facility; and, if so, which facility and on which occasions?
- (2) Did David Volmer ever enter Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre; and, if so, on how many occasions?
- (3) Was David Volmer ever in a position to meet with a convicted paedophile within a WA prison?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

- (1)–(3) Mr Speaker, I will tell you what this week has shown: it has shown where the true sleaze machine of the Labor Party has come from in this state. It started with the Leader of the Opposition, who put his signature to a freedom of information request to find out if I ever met with someone who later turned out to be a paedophile. It started with the shadow minister's lines of questioning on Tuesday. It started yesterday with questions without notice in the Legislative Council by Hon Kate Doust. We all know where their little sleaze machine in the Labor Party lies—where it comes from. The point is that it is just trying to cast slur and innuendo against other people because—you know what?—people meet people who, at the time, they do not know are paedophiles.

Point of Order

Mr P. PAPALIA: My questions go to whether the minister —

The SPEAKER: Yes, I heard your question, thank you.

Mr P. PAPALIA: My questions go to whether or not the minister has received a briefing about Volmer's access to our prisons and children in detention.

The SPEAKER: I have heard your question; I am going to talk to the minister.

Mr P. PAPALIA: They are very specific questions.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: They will not get anywhere with this sleaze and innuendo campaign coming from the scum of the Labor Party, mate. That is all that is sitting over there right now because everyone knows —

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: I want you to withdraw that comment, first of all; second of all, I want you to answer the question.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I withdraw.

Point of Order

Mr P. PAPALIA: My point of order is about the minister's attempt to avoid answering the question.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I will get there.

Mr P. PAPALIA: If he has not had a briefing, he should just tell us.

The SPEAKER: There are two things, thank you: the minister has withdrawn the comment, and now what I want the minister to do—it is a very specific question—is answer the question specifically.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I will tell members the actual times that I know Mr Volmer had access to a prison. Firstly, as members would know—I have told them—I met with him once. Secondly, I met with him a second time at Acacia Prison during a Sycamore Tree Project graduation ceremony—I saw him there. Thirdly, as I said on Tuesday, listen carefully: he has not had access to a juvenile facility where he has met face-to-face—listen; I will get there—or had any face-to-face contact with juvenile inmates. Has he been to Banksia Hill? Yes, he has.

Mr P. Papalia: How many times?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Five times. Listen: he has had no interaction whatsoever with juveniles and has not been involved with the delivery of programs out there.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That is the advice I have.

The SPEAKER: The minister is answering a question—no cross-questioning. The member will get a supplementary question.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The advice I have is that he went out there five times. He met with the staff; he has not had any contact whatsoever with juveniles out at Banksia Hill. That was the member's specific question on Tuesday, which I asked him to put on notice if he wanted more information. He has not done that; he has not come to me, so I am answering the question now anyway: five times, no interaction whatsoever with juveniles. As to his access into adult prisons, the member never asked me that on Tuesday. I am happy to go and find that information out if he wants to put the question on notice.