

PRISON FELLOWSHIP WESTERN AUSTRALIA — DAVID VOLMER

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

I have a supplementary question. Was the minister or the department lobbied or encouraged, either in writing or verbally, to support Prison Fellowship's access to the detention centre by any member of Parliament; and, if so, by which member or members?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

Off the top of my head, not that I can recall; I will have the records checked. What I would say though is that, as I said before, Prison Fellowship as an organisation, like so many other organisations, does a lot of good work out there in the justice system. Nobody, if they did ask for that organisation to have access to any facility in the prison system, would have known about the offending of the director of Prison Fellowship. I can guarantee the member, certainly —

Mr P. Papalia: Banksia Hill has children in it—10-year-olds.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: What is the member saying; I was meant to know? I was meant to know this guy is a paedophile; am I meant to know that?

Ms R. Saffioti: Under your watch!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: They do not come with a sign. No-one knows these things. If the organisation had said, "You know what? We want to go out there and help young people off our own back", would I have supported it? Absolutely. Have I or not? I do not know, I will find out and I will get back to the member. The member cannot possibly expect anyone in authority to have known about this person's offending, or else he would have been locked up a long time before.