

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — UNDERAGE DETAINEES IN ADULT PRISONS

**478. Hon ALISON XAMON to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to my questions to the minister on 24 March and 17 May pertaining to concerns about underage detainees being kept in adult prisons.

- (1) In view of recent media reports, does the minister remain confident that no underage detainees are currently being held in adult prisons in Western Australia?
- (2) Does the minister still have confidence in the age determination tests being utilised to determine a prisoner's age?
- (3) Is the minister aware of any detainees being kept in prison whose age is currently under dispute?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Corrective Services relies upon the relevant documentation supplied by the Australian Federal Police and the commonwealth courts to ensure remanded prisoners are at least 19 years of age or older.
- (2) It would not be appropriate to comment on this as the determination of age is made by the court, based on information provided by the federal authorities.
- (3) According to the Australian Federal Police and the commonwealth courts, all detainees currently being kept in prison are at least 19 years of age or older.