

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — CIVIL LITIGATION — STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS LEGISLATION

**564. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Attorney General:**

I have a supplementary question. If the Attorney is serious that his failure to introduce the legislation is because of resourcing in Parliamentary Counsel, is he saying that the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2017, the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017 and the vacuous Western Australian Jobs Bill 2017, among others, has higher priority over victims of child sex abuse?

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:**

All —

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** You think it's funny?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Sorry?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Having fun? I call the Minister for Transport to order for the first time. Attorney General, have you finished?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Thank you. In eight years, the opposition did nothing in this area —

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Except vote it against it.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Except vote against it. Thank you, Treasurer.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, I call you to order for the second time. This is the last question; let us get it out of the way.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** What became clear in drafting the legislation and preparing the legislation was that it would not be effective to all victims of child sexual abuse unless —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Under the private member's bill, there was a hole.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Police!

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Does the opposition want to hear the answer or not? The really important issue is that a whole lot of private schools are operated by trusts. They are church schools, but they are protected by trusts. By lifting the statute of limitations, children who found themselves in state institutions or in private households would have a defendant to sue. For those children in Catholic Church schools, in Church of England schools—all those victims who have been identified —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** All those victims who have been identified as having been abused in church schools and other private schools would have been left out.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** They would have been left out because they would not have had an identifiable defendant to sue. We wanted to address this very important issue, which was the —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Government members, your own member is on his feet.

**Ms S.F. McGurk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Child Protection, I call you to order for the first time. Your own member is on his feet.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** That was the subject of a specific recommendation of the national Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuses. Having started and prepared the lifting of the statute of limitations, the national royal commission came out with its recommendation for the identification of a proper defendant so that churches and other organisations could not hide behind a trust. When we present the bill this year, it will be the lifting of the statute of limitations and the identification of a proper defendant so that children will have someone to sue.