

FOSTER CARE — ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

734. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the minister's answers to my questions without notice asked on 21, 28 and 29 August 2018 about the case of a male foster carer in Newman who has been served with a restraining order and who, since 13 June 2018, has been subject to a departmental carer review.

- (1) Is the Minister for Child Protection aware whether any children are currently in the care of this carer?
- (2) If yes to (1), are any children currently in the care of this carer?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) Yes. As stated previously, inquiries are ongoing. The Department of Communities will not comment on individual cases or reviews that may lead to the identification of individuals, as this has the potential to lead to conjecture that may cause conflict in the community. The Department of Communities continues to take the necessary steps to appropriately protect and support children. If any concerns for child safety are raised, they will be investigated and, if required, acted upon immediately.

Point of Order

Hon NICK GOIRAN: My question asked —

- (1) Is the Minister for Child Protection aware whether any children are currently in the care of this carer?
- (2) If yes to (1), are any children currently in the care of this carer?

The minister responded —

- (1)–(2) Yes.

We have had this problem before and it caused great controversy and a potential motion through you, Madam President. If the answer is yes to (1) and (2), does the “yes” apply to part (1), or to part (2), or to both? It makes a big difference.

The PRESIDENT: There is no point of order. You have asked a question and you may have expected an answer in a different format. The Leader of the House has given you the answer that she has been provided with. You know, having been here for a while, that when you ask a question, you may not always get the answer that you want. You have been given an answer and that is it.