

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDER — MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**393. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to the statement the minister made on commercial radio this morning regarding an interview with the dangerous sex offender TJD on Channel Nine in which the minister said, "What on earth was Channel Nine thinking when they decided it was appropriate to do and air that interview?"

- (1) Is it not the case that TJD informed his parole officer of the interview six days before it went to air?
- (2) Is it not also the case that, as a result, the minister's department and the Premier's office knew about the interview six days before it went to air?
- (3) What on earth was the government thinking when it allowed this interview to go to air?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

- (1)–(3) There is a really simple answer to this. The Department of Corrective Services obviously knew that this particular offender had conducted an interview.

**Mr P. Papalia:** Did the Premier's office know?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Yes. It informed us of this; I am pretty sure it was either my office or maybe the Attorney General's office. We sought legal advice on that. The legal advice on whether he could talk to the media was that we could not stop him at that stage; it was not one of the 44 conditions imposed on him by a Supreme Court justice.

**Mr P. Papalia:** So you misled people this morning, didn't you?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** No. Let me finish. This is very simple. We did not know what was said in the interview until last night, when the member would have found out. Could he talk to the media? Clearly, the advice was yes. Was it in contravention of the terms and conditions imposed upon him? We did not know that until we saw, word for word, what the interview contained.