

NO BODY, NO PAROLE — ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS

16. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Minister for Police:

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker; this is a very important question. I refer to comments made yesterday by the Attorney General in regard to the petition for no body, no parole laws by Margaret and Ray Dodd, who are campaigning for these laws, in which he said, "It seems to be me to be a beat up based on a lady's grief" and "It is simply a non-issue." Is the government's law and order policy to belittle a mother searching for closure by calling this a non-issue?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

With respect to the no body, no parole legislation that the opposition has said it is committed to, in this state it is actually somewhat unnecessary. Under the Sentence Administration Act 2003, the parole board can make a recommendation to the Attorney General of the state with respect to the release of someone on parole, should they be in jail for a murder with the body perhaps not having been recovered. In those circumstances our Attorney General assures me that he would deny the release order for parole, because one of the considerations he would make in making a decision to release somebody on parole is whether they had shown a sufficient act of contrition or remorse by revealing the location of the body of the victim they had murdered, and them not having done so would preclude them from having him consider them for parole. The way that this Liberal-National government works is that we put an Attorney General of strong moral character into the role —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: He is an Attorney General who is willing to make the tough decision not to release into the community those offenders who have not shown sufficient remorse for their crimes. That is the way we do things. If the opposition feels that it needs to have legislation to bind our Attorneys General to act in a particular way, if it feels it needs to bind the Attorney General by legislation, it is up to the opposition. We work on putting the right people in the right jobs to make the tough decisions, and our Attorney General assures me he will.