

DANTE ARTHURS — PAROLE

Question without Notice 1145 — Answer Advice

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [5.08 pm]: I have an answer to the question asked by Hon Michael Mischin of me representing the Attorney General. I seek leave to have the answer incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

- (1) Mr Arthurs' first Statutory Review Date has been calculated to be 26 June 2019. This date is also his Earliest Eligibility Date for release on parole.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) From searches carried out within the time available, the Attorney General has received six emails from members of the public opposing parole for Mr Arthurs. The Attorney General is also aware of a change.org petition opposing parole.
- (4) Under case law and established procedures and protocols, the Attorney General must give reasons for decisions in relation to accepting or rejecting recommendations of the Prisoners Review Board. Making a decision in advance of the formal PRB process, particularly as it relates to the first Statutory Review Date, risks opening any decision up to legal challenge on the basis that it had been prejudged.
- (5) Extending the legislation to apply to all child murderers would capture some offenders whose periodic review is warranted, for example young offenders or others with reduced culpability like distressed mothers. It would also increase the risk of the legislation being challenged through the courts, which would further traumatise the very survivors and secondary victims that this legislation is working to protect.

The proposed laws are designed to reduce the trauma suffered by survivors and secondary victims of mass and serial murder. The McGowan Government went to the election seeking a specific mandate for serial killers and mass murderers and we were elected overwhelmingly on that mandate. In framing this extreme measure, we confined it to mass murderers and serial killers.