

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS

701. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I have a supplementary question. Why will the government not legislate to stop the courts using GPS tracking as a consideration when they are determining whether to release dangerous sex offenders?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

We made it perfectly clear when we turned on the GPS system that it was not something that could or should be considered by a judge of the Supreme Court when determining whether someone should be released.

Mr P. Papalia: No, you didn't! He said it would result in —

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: If the member can go back through the remarks made by every single judge of the Supreme Court who has released a dangerous sex offender and find a single line on any one of those —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, can you let the minister answer the question. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The bottom line is that not a single dangerous sex offender has been released because we have brought in GPS tracking. Amanda Banks realised this; she got it right, and she put the boot into the member for Warnbro. He is so far starboard to track on this —

Mr P. Papalia: So why won't you legislate?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Where we are at right now is that the Attorney General has done a review of the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act and he is looking at these things, and this is something that is being considered.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That may well be part of what he is going to look at doing; I am not going to foreshadow that, but the bottom line is that the decision to release them is made independently of government, under the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act, by judges of the Supreme Court.