

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — SCHOOLS

399. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's response to question without notice 354, which informed the house that the Department of Education has the responsibility for determining whether a young person charged with harmful sexual behaviours can return to school, and that "assessments are made based on what is best for the school community and the individual young people".

- (1) Is the minister aware that the multiagency protocols for education options for young people charged with harmful sexual behaviours states that there is no actual predictor tool to assess young people and their risk of reoffending?
- (2) What set of criteria is used to determine whether allowing a sex offender to remain at school is in the best interests of that school community?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Yes, I am.
- (2) Rather than using a set of criteria, young people in this situation are assessed as individuals on a case-by-case basis. The determination as to whether a young person charged with harmful sexual behaviours can remain at school involves identifying the potential risks associated in the context of the school environment and the restrictions/conditions to be adhered to as outlined in the bail conditions.