

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

1219. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the event held in a bookstore in Maylands earlier this month in which two Perth drag performers were to read queer-themed books to children.

- (1) Was the minister or any of her staff aware of this event?
- (2) Has the minister received any complaints about this event?
- (3) Does the department's working with children screening unit receive and verify applications by any person engaged in child-related work, as defined in section 6 of the act?
- (4) Is the minister aware that the hosts of this event were unaware whether a working with children check was required?
- (5) Has the minister or her staff been in communication with the hosts of this event?
- (6) If yes to (5), will the minister table any documents relating to that communication?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. As an aside, I do not believe being a drag performer is an illegal act.

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Nick Goiran, you asked a question. The minister has only just commenced responding. Perhaps if you listen to what the answer is, we can see where we go.

Point of Order

Hon NICK GOIRAN: I ask the minister to clarify whether she is reading the answer that has been provided to her by the Minister for Child Protection or whether she is indeed reading her own answer.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I said at the outset, "As an aside", and then I made my own comment.

The PRESIDENT: There is no point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon SUE ELLERY: The answer is as follows.

- (1)–(6) As the member is aware, many members of Parliament were copied into the email about this event. The working with children screening unit contacted the hosts of the event, who confirmed their understanding that this event did not meet the scope of child-related work as defined in the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004. This event was open to the general public and was not targeted or marketed specifically to children. Parents retain responsibility to make decisions about whether these events are suitable for their own children.