

**DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT — EMMA WHITE**

*Statement by Leader of the House*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [10.08 am]: I rise to make an explanation to Hon Nick Goiran in relation to his member's statement last night and comments he has made on earlier occasions. Firstly, I take responsibility and apologise to the house for the discrepancy in the answers I provided to this chamber regarding the resignation of Ms Emma White. I now also provide the explanation of the Minister for Child Protection regarding the discrepancy in the answers and circumstances surrounding Ms White's resignation. She states —

I apologise to the house regarding the answer provided on 15 August 2017 advising that the Public Sector Commission was best placed to answer these questions. While the commission could not have known what was said in a meeting between myself and Emma White, I did not want to create confusion surrounding the resignation of Ms White, and in my opinion the Public Sector Commission, as Ms White's employer, was best placed to provide the reason surrounding her departure from the public service.

In that meeting with myself and the director general on 19 May she advised me that she had been offered a Boston scholarship, something that she had been deferring for some time, and the redundancy of her position due to machinery-of-government changes provided an opportunity to take that up.

I expressed to her that we did not want her to leave the public sector and the esteem to which she was held by both myself and the sector a large; however, her mind was made up.

For the benefit of the member, Ms White made contact via email with her employer, the Public Sector Commission, on 17 May regarding a redundancy, and that was followed up with an in-person meeting with the commissioner on 18 May.