

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

*Eighth Report — “Report on the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People:
Working with children checks” — Tabling*

HON HELEN BULLOCK (Mining and Pastoral) [10.07 am]: I am directed to present the eighth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People entitled “Report on the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People: Working with children checks”.

[See paper 4300.]

Hon HELEN BULLOCK: Whenever I pick up a committee report, there are three questions to which I seek answers: first, why did the committee produce the report; second, what is the basis for the committee’s recommendations; and, third, what are the recommendations? I will provide members with a brief background as to why the committee produced this report. In doing so, I hope to arouse members’ curiosity enough that they will want to read the rest of the report.

The report forms part of the committee’s examination of the way the Commissioner for Children and Young People exercises her functions. We have had a specific focus on what role, if any, the commissioner should have in working with children checks in Western Australia. The reason for this focus is that the Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006 includes a proclaimed function which, if used, will transfer the administration of the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 to the commissioner. The committee has been considering the appropriateness of this section for quite some time. Given that a statutory review of the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act is currently underway, the committee thought it was timely to present its findings so that its recommendations can be taken into account during the review process. To find out the answers to the other two questions I suggested, members should read this report.