

SEX OFFENDER REGISTER

595. Mr P.T. MILES to the Minister for Police:

As the member for Wanneroo, I am very proud to be a part of the Liberal–National government and the successful —

Mr P.C. Tinley: Preamble!

The SPEAKER: Member for Willagee, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for Wanneroo.

Mr P. Papalia: Can you say that without reading it?

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, there is a process in this place. There is an expectation that members in here might adhere to it occasionally. I formally call you to order for the first time today.

Mr P.T. MILES: The Liberal–National government has successfully completed another election commitment and established a publicly available sex offender register, a first in Australia. Can the minister please advise the house how the government’s community protection website—www.communityprotection.wa.gov.au—is intended to help parents to keep their children safe?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Wanneroo for the question and, indeed, his interest in keeping the community safe and in this government’s commitment to putting children and communities first in everything we do. The Liberal Party’s 2008 election commitment to have a public sex offender register—our community notification website, as we call it—is up and running. I am pleased to say that in the very first day of operation, we had 3 787 inquiries where people, through the second tier of the public sex offender website, put their drivers’ licence details into the system, had their address verified and did a locality search for repeat reportable offenders who are living within the vicinity of their residential address. The first tier of this website is for the police department to publish the faces of, and identifying information for, repeat reportable offenders who fail to meet their reporting requirements. These are the people that the police will appeal to the public for assistance in locating. If people have any information for police, I encourage them to put that information forward. The Crime Stoppers number and police contact numbers are available on that website.

Mr A.P. O’Gorman interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is 1800 333 000 for Crime Stoppers and 131 444 for police.

The second tier of the register, as I have referred to before, allows parents and any citizen to find out if there are any reportable offenders living in the vicinity of their residential address. The website will bring up the photograph of reportable offenders that may be located near the residential address of the people who have applied for it. That information is not any more specific than information detailing that the person is living within the general catchment of the residential address of the person who has applied for it. At this stage the third tier of the community notification website is where people can make an application to the police about a specific person who may have unsupervised care of their children three or more times a year. At this point in time, no third-tier applications have been processed, but I look forward to seeing the statistics at the end of the week for the access to this website through the various different tiers and also the success of the publication of these people’s details and the ability to aid police when they are trying to locate offenders who have failed to report for whatever reason. Once again, I reiterate that the government has taken its community notification website very seriously. There are about 2 700 reportable offenders in Western Australia. Of these, we expect between 30 and 50 will be published through one or other tier of the website. In doing that, the commissioner makes a decision about whether the risk of managing the offender versus the community benefit of the awareness of these people being out in the community are balanced off and, in the interests of community safety, the decision to publish will be made. As it has done to date, the government puts children and the community as its first priority, and it will continue to do so.