

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL 2008 — MANDATORY SENTENCING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

767. Hon GIZ WATSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2008.

- (1) Was the Commissioner for Children and Young People consulted on the bill?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), what recommendations did the Commissioner for Children and Young People make regarding the impact that mandatory sentencing is likely to have on children and young people?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Attorney General advises the following —

- (1) I have spoken on several occasions to the Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2008, but the commissioner was not consulted during the development of the bill.
- (2) Because the bill was promised to be introduced within the first 100 days of the Liberal-National government, there was not adequate time for a full period of consultation.
- (3) The commissioner has not made recommendations to me in the nature of any empirical or statistical impact that the bill might have on young offenders or their rates of imprisonment; however, it is a fair summary to say that the commissioner takes the view that young people should be excluded from the mandatory sentencing provision contained within the bill.