

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — *FOUR CORNERS* REPORT

**689. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to the minister's comments on the *Four Corners* piece last night, "Locking Up Kids", in which he admitted, "No, I am not aware of what folding up is" and "No, I am not aware of a figure 4 because I'm the minister."

Why has the minister chosen to remain ignorant of a practice that is known to be dangerous and can cause suffocation and death?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

I just draw the attention of the Leader of the Liberal Party to either the Young Offenders Act or the Public Sector Management Act; they do not allow me to be involved directly in the administration of any agency.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Given that the procedure that the member is talking about has been used —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, the question has been asked and the minister is responding. There will be the opportunity for a supplementary if I do not get continual interjections from several members opposite.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Given that the procedure the member referred to has been used in the corrective services function for many years, including the entire time that the Liberal and National Parties were in government, I would have thought that there would have been plenty of opportunities for them to do something about that. I remind the member that the shadow Minister for Corrective Services was in the cabinet that moved 70 young offenders to Hakea Prison.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Seven zero.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Seven zero. At the moment, there are fewer than 10 people at unit 18. Unit 18 is the only facility in Western Australia that could take young offenders, other than Banksia Hill. No other location in the state is available to take those young offenders. That is why we made the decision to move those young offenders. We did not move them to Hakea; we moved them to a separate unit that has no contact with prisoners in the adult estate.