

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — *FOUR CORNERS* REPORT

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

I have a supplementary question. How was the minister unaware of a practice that has now been banned in other jurisdictions and is allowed to be employed in his system?

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

No-one has ever asked me to review that matter. Not a single advocate group has ever raised that issue with me—not once; not on a single occasion. The procedures that are used by the agency are used by the agency. They are not new. I was never asked to give, nor did I ever give, approval for that procedure to be used because it was already permitted to be used by the agency. As I say, not a single advocate has ever asked me, even today, to take action. That is why I am pleased that the Premier has taken this action and asked that this procedure cease to be.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The first occasion we became aware of it was on Channel Seven on Sunday night. If somebody—anybody—had raised it with me, I would have taken action. As I say, no-one ever asked for my approval nor did I ever give my approval for the procedure to be used, because it was already authorised many, many years ago when the Liberal and National Parties were in government. Let me make it clear to the Leader of the Opposition, who has been interjecting: you were a minister in the government that allowed it to occur.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** You are the minister now.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is right. The difference is that we are taking action and you never did!