

COMMUNITIES — CHILD PROTECTION CASE — ABORIGINAL ADVOCACY GROUP

180. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* titled “DCP crisis: Leaked emails show homeless pregnant woman was living in property being visited by sex predator” that details a case in late 2021 of a child protection worker contacting an Aboriginal advocacy group for help to find housing for a heavily pregnant Aboriginal woman who was in overcrowded housing with exposure to her sex abuse perpetrator.

- (1) When was the minister first briefed about this case?
- (2) Has the woman since been housed in safe accommodation?
- (3) Has the child been taken into care?
- (4) If yes to (3), was housing a contributing factor?
- (5) Why did the child protection worker need to reach out to an external advocacy group given that housing and homelessness sits within the same mega-department?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) She was notified on 1 November 2021.
- (2)–(4) The safety and wellbeing of children is always the Department of Communities’ top priority. In keeping with its legal and ethical obligations, Communities does not comment on individual cases. The decision to remove a child from their family is not taken lightly and only as a last resort to ensure their safety and wellbeing.
- (5) The child protection worker reached out to an external advocacy group as Communities was exploring all possible avenues to identify alternative accommodation options.