



Speech by

Hon. M. FOLEY

MEMBER FOR YERONGA

Hansard 25 November 1999

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Courier-Mail Article

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (10.07 a.m.), by leave: Today the Courier-Mail made an inaccurate report of a motion I seconded in Parliament yesterday. The report is factually wrong in a number of respects. The motion agreed to by the House expressed support for the need to prevent unsuitable persons from gaining child-related employment, referred the proposal to the Minister, and did not direct her to ensure a particular outcome—contrary to the Courier-Mail report. Also contrary to the report, I did not second the motion of which the member for Warwick, Mr Springborg, gave notice yesterday morning. In fact, Mr Springborg was granted leave to withdraw his motion and to move a different motion based on a bipartisan approach hammered out at a meeting yesterday with the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and the member for Warwick, Mr Springborg.

There was an elementary difference between the two motions. The former supported the creation of a new criminal offence whereas the second referred the proposal to the Minister. The latter approach allowed for a reasoned, thoughtful process for the consideration of the issue in accordance with an undertaking previously given by the Minister in this House on 11 November 1999.

It is regrettable that the report was not an accurate account of the parliamentary record and thus did not reflect the true basis of the bipartisan approach to this important issue.
