



Speech by

Hon. JUDY SPENCE

MEMBER FOR MOUNT GRAVATT

Hansard 8 November 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

John Oxley Youth Detention Centre; Rape Allegations

Hon. J. C. SPENCE (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services) (10.08 a.m.), by leave: Recently allegations of the alleged rape of a 14-year-old girl at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre in the mid to late 1980s have been aired in the media. Such allegations are obviously distressing and traumatic and we take them very seriously.

Upon hearing of these allegations, I immediately ordered the Misconduct Unit of the Department of Families to interview any staff associated with the allegations. I also ordered an immediate search of files by senior officers and referred the issues to both the CJC and the Queensland police.

As I said, these are serious allegations, and they are treated very seriously by this government. Late yesterday senior officers informed me that a file relating to these allegations had been found. That file has been given to both the Queensland police and the CJC. Allegations of this nature are best taken out of the political arena and left to the appropriate investigating bodies. In this case, the allegations have been referred to the Queensland police and the CJC has been asked to investigate whether there has been any official misconduct by staff. They are the appropriate bodies to examine such material, and I repeat that this government is determined to have such allegations fully and thoroughly investigated by the appropriate bodies.
