



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

OneSchool, Information Technology

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.20 am): On 31 July this year, the Minister for Education announced that there had been a major IT failure in relation to child protection reporting on the education department's OneSchool system. The minister advised that, as a result of this bungle, 644 reports by conscientious principals concerned about the protection and welfare of students were not reported to the relevant authorities. On 3 August, as is the practice of this government, the minister announced one of its 69 reviews into this debacle and stated that Deloitte would report back within eight weeks. Today, it is close to 11 weeks since that announcement and we still do not know the reasons for this alarming oversight and whether vulnerable children in our schools are safe.

Let me talk about what we do know. We know that, whilst this system was implemented during the caretaker period of the last election campaign, it became operational when school resumed and when the minister assumed control of the department. We know that most, if not all, of the 644 cases of failed reporting happened on this minister's watch. We know that this minister stated that she did not want to play politics on such a sensitive issue and then blamed everybody but herself. We know that, during estimates, the minister dropped another bombshell when she revealed quite casually that there may be another 300 cases of child protection notifications not getting to the authorities. We know that, through further questioning, the minister had simply accepted the advice of department officials that the system was working—and it was not. We know that the minister also advised that, because of her massive workload that comes with her megaportfolio, she has been—and I quote—'a very busy girl'.

I go now to what I suspect. I suspect that this minister is so busy in her megaportfolio that she did not have the time to do more than simply accept the advice of her officials without question. I suspect that this minister did not have the time to ask the probing, investigative questions that the public expect from somebody on a very high ministerial salary.

Why did this minister, on viewing the three categories of reporting, not find it unusual that, in two categories there were hundreds of reports but in one category there were zero?

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I have listened intently and I feel—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms JONES: My point of order is that the information that the member is putting on the public record is not factually correct and it contradicts what was said at estimates.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr MANDER: We have a portfolio that is responsible for 100,000 registered teachers, 1,700 schools, the education and welfare of 770,000 children, a budget of \$9 billion, but it is not a stand-alone portfolio. This report is overdue. We need to know whether or not our kids are safe in our schools.