

Question on Notice

No. 1477

Asked on Thursday 29 November 2006

Mr McARDLE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

With reference to 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006 to date of answer thereof, each reported separately-

- (1) What is the number of convictions that were entered in the Supreme, District and Magistrates Court for sexual offences where the victim was under the age of 16 years?
- (2) With respect to those figures and each reported individually, will he advise the number of convictions that were (a) for indecent treatment of a child under 16 (b) unlawful carnal knowledge of a child under 16 and (c) maintaining a sexual relationship with a child?
- (3) For the same period as stated above and each reported separately, how many children had their evidence pre-recorded due to their vulnerability?

ANSWER:

1 & 2- The Department of Justice and Attorney-General and each court jurisdiction report extensively on the matters lodged and dealt with by the courts in their respective annual reports. The specific detail sought in your question is not readily available and the Department further advise that it would have to expend "substantial departmental resources" at public cost to manually collate this information. I note previous Attorneys-General have responded in a similar way that would require "substantial departmental resources". However, as Attorney-General, I am keen to work with the Department to improve its data electronic collation systems.

3- I understand in the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 District Court annual reports, reference was made to affected child witness pre-recordings, though detailed data was not reported. I am further advised that child witness pre-recordings to date, and up to and including the period ending 30 June 2007, will be reported on in the District Court Annual Report for 2006-2007.