

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 831**  
**Asked on 24 May 2006**

Mrs E CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (Mr Beattie) -

**QUESTION:**

With reference to employees of Government departments who have been charged with child sex offences and either re-employed in their original positions or transferred elsewhere—What processes are in place to give co-workers confidence that they and their families are not put at risk?

**ANSWER:**

The *Public Service Regulation 1997*, requires that if a public service employee of a Government department is charged with an indictable offence or convicted of any offence, they are legally obliged to immediately disclose this fact to their employing agency. The agency will then conduct an assessment of the nature of the offence against the possible risks associated with the employee being in that workplace, and will take reasonable management action as deemed necessary. As an example, actions that could be considered are: suspension from duty; alternative job placement; and/or discipline. The basis of any management action would take into account the level of risk for the safety of other employees, the employee concerned, the effect on the proper and efficient operations of the department, and the ability of the employee to perform the role and responsibilities of their job under the circumstances.

Further, the *Public Service Act 1996* provides a mechanism for criminal history checking of current employees and pre-employment checks on potential employees. Directive No. 2/04 – *Criminal History Checks*, issued by the Public Service Commissioner, also provides certain requirements for the criminal history checking of employees and potential employees.

Additionally, in order to provide child safe workplaces across Government, this Government has committed to developing consistent employment screening and risk management strategies for child-related and child associated employment in Government entities.

A key initiative is the development of a whole of Government policy to provide a framework for employment screening and the implementation of risk management strategies in Government agencies with child related or child associated employment. A working group of key Government stakeholders is continuing to progress this initiative that will help protect our children.