

Question on Notice

No. 555

Asked on Tuesday, 20 August 2013

MR KNUTH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (MR BLEIJIE)–

QUESTION:

Will the government introduce legislation for child and adult victims of sexual assault to allow counsellors absolute privilege to ensure that victims' records can be kept confidential and victims of these crimes can be counselled without fear of their confidential information being accessed as part of a criminal trial?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Dalrymple for his question.

I am aware that maintaining the confidentiality of sexual assault counselling records is a significant concern for victims of sexual assault, counsellors and victim support groups.

I understand that concern and I am committed to ensuring that the justice system provides all appropriate support and protection to sexual assault victims.

At the same time, it is important to ensure that the legal system is also fair to the accused.

I am giving this policy issue careful consideration.