



# MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST  
*The Independent Party*



## STATE ED. SYSTEM A SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS FOR TEACHERS

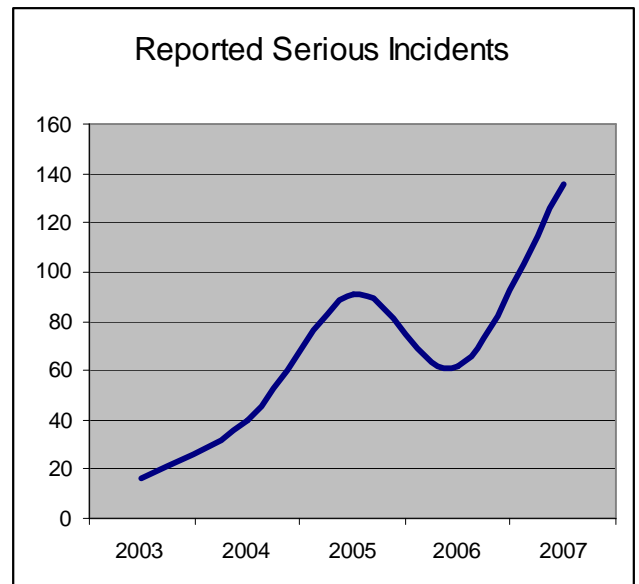
Tuesday, 24 February 2009

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has this morning expressed his grave concern for the safety of teachers, principals and SSOs following an answer tabled in Parliament to Family First leader Hon Dennis Hood MLC's 24 September 2008 question.

As shown in the graph on the right, serious incidents of violence threatened against staff in the last 5 reported years have skyrocketed from just 16 in 2003 to 136 in 2007.

The Government claims these figures are due to an increased reporting culture.

"Hogwash", Mr Brokenshere said in response, "There is a serious deteriorating culture of violence in our schools. The Government has to stop the spin and realise we have a serious problem. Teachers deserve a safe workplace and this data backs up the complaints teachers have made to us about harassment and bullying in schools"



Mr Brokenshere indicated that he believed the solutions for Government included:

1. support for Family First's Bill to create an Education Ombudsman who can, among other things, investigate in cases of departmental inaction;
2. deployment and support of more SSOs, student counsellors and chaplains;
3. roll-out of the Police in Schools program that he trialled as former Police Minister, saying "this is an excellent way for these troubled young people to work through their anger problems and understanding teachers' rights"
4. with a growing number of students needing special behaviour management, a roll out of more satellite campuses of the Bowden-Brompton scheme, saying "I am advised that the one at Christies Beach is fully subscribed, for instance".