

WORKSAFE — ASSESSORS

693. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

It is not even a Thursday, President! I refer to the time frame for the approval and registration of WorkSafe assessors who have already obtained a certificate IV in training and a high-risk work licence.

- (1) What is the current average time that it takes for the approval of qualified WorkSafe assessors?
- (2) Has the average approval time changed or blown out in the last two years?
- (3) Why is it taking so long to approve applicants?
- (4) What action is the government undertaking to increase the number of assessors and to reduce the application-to-approval time lag?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

- (1) It is 38 days for the financial year 2022–23, to date, which was correct as of yesterday.
- (2) The time has reduced. The average approval times were as follows. For 2021–22, it was 44 days. In 2020–21, it was also 44 days.
- (3) Noting the answer to question (2), high-risk work licence assessor accreditation applications are a very complex form of application as they involve validation and assessment of the experience of applicants.
- (4) The demand for high-risk work licence assessors is market driven. Funding to support an additional three full-time equivalent staff focused on processing of WorkSafe-related applications was provided to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety through the 2023–24 state budget.