

ABORIGINAL POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS, REVIEWS OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND
WORKPLACE PRACTICE PROBLEMS

3061. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer the Minister to the *Police News* of June 2004, page 23, and the article titled 'OS&H and APLOs – role of managers, OICs' and ask -

- (a) has the Minister read the article;
- (b) is the Minister concerned that the role of Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers (APLO's), as outlined in the article, does not reflect the risks that APLO's find themselves exposed to in the field;
- (c) has the Minister or the Department, conducted any reviews or investigations of the occupational health and work place practice problems faced by APLO's;
- (d) will the Minister table copies of these reports;
- (e) if not, why not;
- (f) if there have not been any reviews or investigations of the occupational health and work place practice problems faced by APLO's, why not;
- (g) if there have not been any reviews or investigations of the occupational health and work place practice problems faced by APLO's, will the Minister now instigate such a review or inquiry; and
- (h) if not, why not?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b)-(h) Effective from January 2004, the Gallop Government extended the application of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 to include Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers (APLOs) and police officers to enhance occupational safety and health practices within the Western Australia Police Service. The Police Service is fully aware of and committed to fulfilling its occupational safety and health obligations to APLOs.

The Commissioner of Police has reaffirmed the duties of APLOs to ensure adherence to orders that underpin the duty of care and OS&H obligations to APLOs. The role of APLOs has been defined by orders in the Commissioner's Operating Procedures Manual. Commissioner O'Callaghan has been working with APLOs and the Police Union to confirm the important role and function of APLOs into the future.

The Police Service advise the agency was subject to a full review as part of the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984. The Co-agency Agreement between WorkSafe Division Department of Consumer and Employment Protection and the Western Australia Police Service includes APLOs. A system for reporting hazards and accidents was put into place with the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health legislation. All officers can report hazards and workplace accidents and they are investigated and corrective actions implemented as appropriate. Any overall trends that merge with any particular work practices or work areas will be dealt with by way of a more formal review process.