

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT ACT — REVIEW

313. Hon ADELE FARINA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the minister's press release of 26 March 2009 about the announcement of a review of the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act. A major and successful overhaul of that act occurred in 2004 and came into force in 2005.

- (1) What are the terms of reference of this review?
- (2) Will the minister table the terms of reference?
- (3) When will the review begin?
- (4) Will public submissions be called for?
- (5) When will the review close?
- (6) Will key groups such as unions and legal firms that specialise in representing injured workers be consulted?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

- (1) WorkCover WA will facilitate a review of the Western Australian Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981. The focus of the review will be limited to examining the readability and accessibility of the statute. The review will not examine the benefits and entitlements contained within the scheme. An external reference group will be established to provide input into this process. This group will include representatives of key stakeholders in the workers' compensation system.

The review aims to create an improved structure from the act to improve the readability and consistency of the legislation; improve the efficiency of the legislation to respond to changing circumstances via delegation of certain powers to subsidiary legislation or administrative procedure; address anomalies that have been identified through past experience in the operation of the act, including matters raised in the evaluation of the 2005 reforms or by stakeholders; and address specific policy issues such as age discrimination, as agreed by the external reference group.

Terms of reference will be finalised in consultation with the external reference group.

- (2) Terms of reference will be tabled once finalised.
- (3) It is anticipated that the first meeting of the external reference group will be held in May 2009.
- (4) No; refer to (1) and (2).
- (5) The Minister for Commerce will be provided with a report by December 2009.
- (6) Yes; refer to (1) and (2).