

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION, TRANSITION PERIOD

209. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the Media Statement of 15 July 2002, issued by the Acting Consumer and Employment Protection Minister and ask -

- (a) what is meant by a 'transition period', while the new laws come into effect and how long a period is this to be; and
- (b) what parts of the Industrial Relations Reform Act 2002, will or will not be enforced during this 'transition period'?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) The transition period will begin on 15 September 2002 when Part 3 of the Labour Relations Reform Act 2002 takes effect and will end a year from that date. All workplace agreements will cease by 15 September 2003.
- (b) DOCEP will not be abrogating its responsibility to ensure that industrial laws are complied with and all provisions of the Industrial Relations Act 1979 and Labour Relations Reform Act 2002 may be enforced. However, information provided during employer initiated enquiries will not be used as a basis for commencing an investigation for a breach of any of the provisions of either Act.