

PARENTAL SUPPORT AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2008 — REPEAL

552. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) Is the minister planning to repeal the Parental Support and Responsibility Act 2008?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) will responsible parenting agreements be incorporated into section 32 of the Children and Community Services Act 2004;
 - (b) will responsible parenting orders be abolished;
 - (c) will the age of children subject to a responsible parenting agreement be raised, and, if so, what will be the new age provision;
 - (d) will the objects of the Children and Community Services Act 2004 be changed; and
 - (e) when will these legislative changes be made?
- (3) If no to (1), what action is the minister proposing to address the fact that no orders have been applied for by the relevant government agencies and agreements are being underutilised by government agencies?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes. The repeal of the Parental Support and Responsibility Act 2008 is included in an amendment bill currently being drafted to implement recommendations contained in the “Report of the Legislative Review of the Children and Community Services Act 2004”. This legislative review was tabled in the Legislative Council on 29 November 2012.
- (2)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (c) Yes. The upper age of children who may be subject to a responsible parenting agreement is being raised from 14 years to 17 years.
 - (d) Yes. The objects of section 6 of the Children and Community Services Act 2004 will be amended to further support and reinforce the role and responsibility of parents in exercising appropriate control over their children’s behaviour.
 - (e) The amendment bill is expected to be introduced during the autumn sitting.
- (3) I think question (3) was, “If nothing has been happening, what are you going to do about it?” Obviously, it is not applicable because there is plenty happening. I do not agree that agreements are being underutilised, as a substantial number of agreements are in place. That is precisely the area of work that is taking place.