

MOBILE CRANE ACCIDENTS, OPERATOR TRAINING

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

I refer the Minister to the recent spate of mobile crane accidents that have been attributed, either wholly or partly, to operator error and ask -

- (a) is there a single trainer involved in the training of all of these operators;
- (b) if yes, who is that trainer;
- (c) have all training staff been assessed for their competence and skill as trainers;
- (d) what action, if any, has Occupational Health and Safety and/or WorkSafe taken to ensure that the training being provided, by the above trainers, to the mobile crane operators is adequate;
- (e) if no action has taken place, when will action be taken;
- (f) if no action is intended, what are the reasons given for not taking action; and
- (g) given the potential for loss of life, has the State Coroner been informed or asked to investigate?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c)-(f) In WA, all crane operators must undergo supervised and/or accredited training. "Accredited" training means training provided by a Registered Training Organisation under the Australian National Training Authority framework. Responsibility for delivery of such accredited training lies with the State Training Authority.

All crane operators in Western Australia must have been assessed as competent against the requirements of the National Certification Standard for users and operators of Industrial Equipment [NOHSC: 1006(2001)]. The person carrying out that "assessment of competency" (the Assessor) must be a person registered with WorkSafe.

A key recommendation of the Crane Safety Standard Working Group set up by the Hon. Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection to advise on safety standards in the crane industry was to develop regulations which will require crane operators, riggers and doggers in WA to maintain records of training and experience, including a record of practical on-the-job experience, prior to and after achieving certificates of competency. These regulations are currently being developed.

- (g) No.