

MODEL DEFAMATION AMENDMENT PROVISIONS 2020

**1121. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:**

I refer to the Model Defamation Amendment Provisions 2020 that the Standing Council of Attorneys-General approved back in July 2020, and the Attorney General's statement published in *The Australian Financial Review* on 11 April 2021 that said passage of the model bill was "in progress, but not imminent".

- (1) Did the Attorney General attend the Council of Attorneys-General meeting on 31 March 2021?
- (2) Did the Attorneys General at that meeting agree to commence the Model Defamation Amendment Provisions on 1 July 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter?
- (3) Which jurisdictions have commenced the Model Defamation Amendment Provisions 2020?
- (4) Given more than 19 months have passed since he made his statement, is the Attorney General planning to introduce a bill this year?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is based on information provided to me by the Attorney General.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. I table the communique for the meeting of Attorneys General on 31 March 2021.

[See paper [1809](#).]

- (3) The Model Defamation Amendment Provisions 2020 have commenced in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.
- (4) The government is progressing a full legislative reform agenda and must balance competing priorities. Matters regarding legislative reform are decisions of cabinet and are cabinet-in-confidence.