

WORKERS COMPENSATION, ACTUARIAL REPORT ON GUTHRIE REPORT

676. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection:

- (1) Has the minister received a copy of the actuarial report on implementing the recommendations of the Guthrie report on changes to the workers compensation system commissioned by the Labor Government?
- (2) Will the minister table a copy of the Guthrie report; and, if not, why not?

Mr KOBELKE replied:

- (1)-(2) The short answer is no -

Mrs Edwardes: Have you not received a copy?

Mr KOBELKE: No, I have not, because there has not been an actuarial analysis of the changes to be brought forward from the Guthrie report. The member for Kingsley is alluding to something the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been crowing about, because some of its members sit on the board of WorkCover, and have a copy of the report. WorkCover did an actuarial analysis of a whole range of proposals, which were not the Guthrie report. That indicated a potential annual increase in costs of over \$100 million for injury management. The Government believes that injury management is very important, but there was not a single line in the Guthrie report that said that every medium to large business should have a full-time injury management consultant, being paid \$60 000 a year. There has not been an actuarial analysis of the Guthrie report, so I have not received one.

Following wide consultation with industry, and very positive feedback from right across the community, a whole range of sectors think the Government is taking the right track in fixing up the mess it was left with by the last Government in workers compensation. This will be done by developing very specific and detailed recommendations following on from the Guthrie report. When those recommendations are complete, a thorough and proper actuarial analysis will be carried out on the costs of implementing that set of recommendations for change. If the recommendations result in a costing that would impose an upward pressure on premiums, the Government will look at it again, to make sure that it delivers on its promise of low premiums, while cleaning up the mess left by the last Government in the workers compensation system.