

ABORTION LAW REVIEW

897. Hon. P.G. Pental to the Minister for Health

- (1) Is it correct that a review of the provisions of the State's abortion laws, re-written in 1998, is currently under way to satisfy those changes?
- (2) If so, who is conducting the review?
- (3) Specifically, what is the brief?
- (4) What facility is there for public input?
- (5) If there is no such facility, why?
- (6) When is the review due for completion?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) The review has not yet commenced. The Department of Health is currently considering how best to proceed with the review.
- (2) The review will be conducted by the Department of Health with support from the Office of the Attorney General. An internal Department of Health steering group will manage the review process.
- (3) The review will focus on the operation and effectiveness of the provisions of the Health Act 1911 and The Criminal Code related to abortion.
- (4) Written submissions will be called for. Interviews with key stakeholders/community members will also be sought.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) A final report is to be laid before each House of Parliament by 26 May 2002 in accordance with Section 8 of the Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998 which states:

Review of provisions relating to abortion

8. (1) The Minister administering the Health Act 1911 is to carry out a review of the operation and effectiveness of the provisions of the Health Act 1911 and The Criminal Code related to abortion as soon as practicable after the expiration of 3 years from the commencement of this Act.

9. (2) The Minister is to prepare a report based on the review made under subsection (1) and cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament within 4 years after the commencement of this Act.