

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — UNCLEAN CHIMNEY FIRES

940. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to question without notice 871 in which the Minister for Emergency Services advised that the fire investigation analysis unit had not received any reports of fires being caused by incorrect installation of fireplaces and chimneys and draw the minister's attention to media reports that his department believes that this is a cause of many fires. Is the government now investigating the extent of this problem?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

No. Warning advice on installation manuals state that units should be installed and serviced by an authorised service person. These manuals contain warnings that incorrect installation may result in fire or explosion causing property or personal damage or loss of life. These are the warnings that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is referring to in media reports in an effort to ensure that homeowners take care when installing fireplaces. As advised in question without notice 871, the fire investigation analysis unit at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has received no formal reports of fires as a result of incorrectly constructed fireplaces or chimneys.