

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE, GENERIC ANSWERS SUPPLIED BY OFFICE OF PREMIER AND CABINET
2632. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Attorney General; Minister for Health; Electoral Affairs

I refer the Minister to the Annual Report – 2002/2003 of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, page 25 ‘responses to parliamentary questions’ and ask -

- (a) does the Attorney General ask the office of Premier and Cabinet to supply answers to questions relating to all Ministers;
- (b) does the office of Premier and Cabinet supply the Attorney General with a prepared answer;
- (c) if the generic response is different to the response prepared by your Ministerial office, what happens to the original answer;
- (d) are the original answers available on file, through freedom of information;
- (e) if so, which file and in which office;
- (f) by the office of Premier and Cabinet supplying generic answers for the Attorney General to use is it a reflection on the Premier’s trust in the ability of the Attorney General’s staff to answer questions; and
- (g) by using generic answers to questions on notice, supplied by the office of Premier and Cabinet is it a reflection of the Attorney General’s commitment to free and open Government?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (a)-(g) There are times when questions require a whole of Government response.
Where these circumstances arise the Department of Premier and Cabinet is best placed to prepare an accurate and timely response, which avoids wasteful duplication of Government resources.
Ultimately all answers are signed off by the relevant Ministers ensuring Ministerial accountability is preserved consistent with responsible and open Government.