

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN THE WORKPLACE

2340. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the WorkSafe Western Australia Commission's 'Guidance Note' on Alcohol and Other Drugs at the Workplace and ask -

- (a) does this guidance note recognise that the use of alcohol and drugs in the workplace is an occupational safety and health issue;
- (b) does this translate to a duty of care for the employer;
- (c) will the Minister now incorporate the roadside testing protocol, that will be used by the Western Australia Police Service, to determine driver impairment due to drugs, into the occupational safety and health guidelines;
- (d) if not, why not;
- (e) will the Minister support these protocols with amendments to the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*; and
- (f) if not, why not?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.
- (d) There is no single way to address the issue of drugs and alcohol in workplaces. Any testing should form part of an overall drug and alcohol management strategy. The roadside testing protocol to be used by the Western Australia Police Service is still being developed. The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection will monitor progress.
- (e) No.
- (f) The current legislative framework already places an obligation on employers to address any risk at their workplace, including risk posed by impairment through the use of drugs or alcohol.