

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE — OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

508. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the investigation into delays by the Office of the Public Advocate in notifying families about the death of loved ones and the Ombudsman's final report tabled on 8 July 2021.

- (1) On what date did the Office of the Public Advocate receive the preliminary report referred to in section 4.4 of the final report?
- (2) Did the OPA respond to the preliminary report?
- (3) If yes to (2), on what date?
- (4) Is the government considering enshrining a statutory duty on the OPA to inform families after a death?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Attorney General.

- (1) On 17 June 2021.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) On 22 and 23 June 2021.
- (4) Recommendation 2 of the report was that the Office of the Public Advocate should see it as part of its role to contact family following the death of a represented person. The OPA has accepted all of the Ombudsman's recommendations and, in response to the report, introduced a new practice standard from 11 March 2021, which outlines the actions on-call delegated guardians and delegated guardians must take to notify family of the death of a represented person. As such, the government is not presently considering legislating this duty.