

MENTAL HEALTH BILL — INTRODUCTION

120. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the minister's statement in November 2012 that the government was well positioned to introduce a final mental health bill as a matter of priority when Parliament resumed in 2013. When will the mental health bill be introduced?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. As members would probably remember, the green Mental Health Bill 2012 was tabled in Parliament and made available for public comment on 8 November 2012; that consultation period went until the end of February 2013. Obviously that feedback needs to be considered and incorporated in the bill. A lot of that feedback is coming from people with lived experience of mental illness—families and carers—as well as clinicians and advocacy groups. We have reviewed over 100 written submissions this time around and the Mental Health Commission, which is doing that work, will provide me with a briefing once its analysis of the submissions has been finalised. I am looking forward to making sure the bill being introduced in the lower house is a priority, and that will happen this year.