

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, COMPUTER SECURITY

2917. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the Auditor General's Report, tabled in the Parliament on Wednesday 5 May 2004 and reported in *The West Australian* on 6 May 2004 and ask -

- (a) has the Premier expressed his concern to his Ministers that some of their Departments and Agencies have been found to have 'lax' computer security regimes;
- (b) is the Premier concerned that some Departments and Agencies have such a poor commitment to the security of information contained on their computer networks, that the Auditor General is still finding 'lax' computer security regimes, even since Report No 8 of September 2001;
- (c) will the Premier now commit that he will ensure that all Departments and Agencies will improve their computer security regimes, to protect information contained on their computer networks; and
- (d) if not, why not?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) This concern has been raised with the Ministers, and on 20 January 2003 Cabinet directed that the Chief Executive Officer of each government agency is responsible for ensuring their agency implements an appropriate level of information and Internet security;
- (b) It is of such concern that on 6 May 2004, the day after the Auditor General's Report was tabled in the Parliament, a Premier's Circular was issued to all Departments and Agencies to remind them of their responsibility to have in place policies, procedures and mechanisms to address both existing computer security issues and the new breed of network threats that face computer networks today (such as wireless technologies, laptop computers connecting into corporate networks, and interconnected networks);
- (c) Issuing the Premier's Circular noted in the previous point demonstrates commitment to ensuring that all Departments and Agencies will improve their computer security regimes to protect information contained on their computer networks.

To underpin and strengthen that commitment, the Premier's Circular also notified Departments and Agencies of resources that have been developed by the Office of e-Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, that are available in order to proactively help them improve their computer and information security regimes.
- (d) Not applicable.