

DRIVERS LICENCES, ELDERLY DRIVERS, FORM COMPLETED BY MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

2564. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Department for Planning and Infrastructure form that medical practitioners are required to complete for drivers over the age of 75 years explicitly states ‘This form is not to be returned to the person subject of the report’?
- (2) Will the Minister advise if medical practitioners are able to provide a copy of the abovementioned form to the person subject of the report?
- (3) If not, does the Minister accept that by not providing their patient, the person subject of the report, the medical practitioner may be in breach of the *Privacy Act 1988*?
- (4) What steps will the Minister take to ensure that medical practitioners are able to comply with both the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (1) Yes. This is a long standing practice to ensure that the documents reach the department without delay to enable the renewal process to occur or the licence holder to be advised if there is an adverse finding.
- (2) Yes. However the original should be sent to the department.
- (3) Not applicable
- (4) The current medical assessment processes are considered compliant with Privacy Act 1988 and are in accordance with the National Medical Standards “Assessing Fitness to Drive” for Licensing Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers (Austroads). The department is moving to update the medical assessment form that, among other matters, will remove any perceived ambiguity in relation to the provision of copies to patients.