

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE, GENERIC ANSWERS

2555. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the Annual Report – 2002/2003 (page 25) of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and to the answer to question on notice No.1660 of June 2003 and ask -

- (a) who prepares the generic answers for Ministers;
- (b) if the generic response is different to that of the Minister's original response, are records kept of the Minister's answer;
- (c) are the original answers available on file, through Freedom of Information;
- (d) if so, which file and in which office;
- (e) by supplying generic answers to questions on notice, is it a reflection on the ability and trust that the Premier has for Ministers; and
- (f) if not, will the Premier now allow his Ministers to answer their own questions?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

There are times when questions require a whole of Government response.

Where these circumstances arise the Department of Premier and Cabinet is best placed to prepare an accurate and timely response, which avoids wasteful duplication of Government resources.

Ultimately all answers are signed off by the relevant Ministers ensuring Ministerial accountability is preserved consistent with responsible and open Government.