

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, QUESTIONNAIRE BY PUBLIC SECTOR  
STANDARDS COMMISSIONER

2661. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the Annual Compliance Report by the Office of Public Sector Standards Commissioner and ask -

- (a) is the Premier aware that 53% of respondents to the questionnaire, by the Public Sector Standards Commissioner, fear retribution if they report wrongdoing or unethical behaviour and that 21% know of unethical behaviour but did not report it;
- (b) will the Premier concede that this is a vote of no-confidence in the much heralded 'whistleblower' legislation;
- (c) will the Premier now commit to amend the 'whistleblower' legislation to give clear protection to Public Servants and Public Sector Employees who want to report wrongdoing and unethical behaviour but will not because they fear retribution; and
- (d) if not, why not?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003, which provides protection for 'whistleblowers', is relatively new legislation and the public sector is still being educated about its impact and the protection it provides.
- (c) The legislation already provides clear protection for public servants and public sector employees who want to report wrongdoing and unethical behaviour.
- (d) Not applicable.