

VIRULENT INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE, INSPECTIONS

2338. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

I refer the Minister to question on notice No. 1880, asked on 9 September 2003, and ask -

- (a) are inspectors trained to recognise Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease (VIBD);
- (b) how often are inspections carried out on commercial properties;
- (c) how often are inspections carried out on private chicken coops on private properties;
- (d) how does the Department of Agriculture currently test for VIBD; and
- (e) how does this test differ from the test developed by the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

- (a) The Department of Agriculture does not employ inspectors in the poultry industry. The Department's Animal Health Laboratory provides a diagnostic service to industry, with pathologists skilled in the diagnosis of Virulent Infectious Bursal disease.
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) As part of Australia's exotic disease response arrangements, the Department of Agriculture would forward samples from any suspected outbreak of Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease to the CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong, Victoria, for testing.
- (e) Not applicable