

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE — REPRESENTED PERSONS — NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS

**1207. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:**

I refer to page 40 of the Office of the Public Advocate's *Annual report 2021/22*, which states —

In March 2022 an internal review was conducted of responses to the deaths of represented persons which had been reported to the Office of the Public Advocate from 1 July 2021 to 28 February 2022. The review examined 173 reports. The review of these cases found that guardians and managers are making best efforts to ensure that family and significant others are informed in a timely way when a represented person dies.

- (1) Of the 173 reports examined, what was the average amount of time taken to notify family and significant others when a represented person died?
- (2) Is there a practice standard that outlines the process for notifying family and significant others when a death of a represented person occurs?
- (3) Will the minister table that practice standard?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer is based on information provided to me by the Attorney General.

- (1) The response times of the Office of the Public Advocate in notifying families of the deaths of represented persons was investigated by the Ombudsman at the Attorney General's request, culminating in the report *An investigation into the Office of the Public Advocate's role in notifying the families of Mrs Joyce Savage, Mr Robert Ayling and Mr Kenneth Hartley of the deaths of Mrs Savage, Mr Ayling and Mr Hartley*, tabled on 3 August 2021, and a progress report tabled on 18 October 2022. If the member requires data beyond what has been included in those reports, it is requested that he place his question on notice.
- (2)–(3) Yes. Please refer to the tabled paper.