

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — INVESTIGATION INTO SALARY PACKAGE ALLOWANCE CLAIMS

750. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the ongoing investigation into salary packaging allowance claims in the Department of Health.

- (1) Will the minister inform the house about what stage the investigation is at?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that those public servants who have been stood down at this stage are all from Health Corporate Network division of the department?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that that part of the department would be responsible for managing the salary packaging scheme?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The investigation is ongoing. In some cases the data is being inputted, in others it is being analysed and others still are with the director general for consideration. In the other cases, the director general is awaiting responses from the employees.
- (2) The employees who have been stood down are either Health Corporate Network administrative staff or mental health nurses.
- (3) The Health Corporate Network has never managed the salary packaging scheme. The scheme is managed within the finance and corporate division of the department by public service officers who are not eligible to salary package meal entertainment benefits.