

STATE LAW PUBLISHER, PRICING SURVEY TO SET BENCHMARK AND COMPARATIVE PRICES

2545. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the 2002/2003 Annual Report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and ask -

- (a) is benchmark and comparative price setting against the spirit of ACCC pricing policy;
- (b) has a legal opinion been sought on the State Law Publisher conducting a pricing survey in other States and the Northern Territory in order to set 'benchmark and comparative prices' for legislation products;
- (c) has the opinion of the ACCC been sought; and
- (d) if not, why not?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) The exchange of business information and statistics between persons who are not competitors and by which prices are not fixed, production allocated or sales restricted is not understood to be against the spirit of ACCC pricing policy.
- (b) No
- (c) No
- (d) Western Australian legislation products are not marketed or sold in competition with other States or Territories legislation products. Survey data is used for benchmarking and comparative purposes in relation to manufacturing or purchasing costs and not with the intent or effect of controlling or recommending prices of products or other matters relating to sales or terms and conditions relating to these products. Any increase in the State Law Publisher's fees and charges are calculated in accordance with Department of Treasury and Finance guidelines.