

EDUCATION EMPLOYEES — CHEMISTRY SENSITIVITY

1452. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Education

- (1) Can the Minister inform the House of the number of the Education Department employees who have been diagnosed with suffering from chemical sensitivity and are currently not attached to a work place; and
  - (a) of those people, for how long have they been without a formal placing?
- (2) How many former employees in the last ten years left the Department citing chemical sensitivity as a reason for their departure?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1) The Department of Education and Training only has access to information on employees who have been injured at work and who have submitted a workers' compensation claim. RiskCover, the Department's insurer has advised the Department that it is unable to provide specific information in relation to employees submitting claims due to chemical insensitivity. Requests by employees in relation to applications for sick leave, retirement or resignation do not require employees to specify the reason for the leave or their separation from the Department.
  - (a) Due to inability of RiskCover to provide information specific to employees submitting a claim due to diagnosis of chemical sensitivity, the requested information is unavailable.
- (2) Similarly, due to RiskCover being unable to provide information regarding employees submitting claims resulting from chemical sensitivity, the Department is unable to provide information regarding the number of employees who have left the Department citing chemical sensitivity as a reason for their departure.