

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHMENT

2416. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

- (1) Did the Government announce in 2003 that it would establish an Environmental Health Foundation to be funded by the Department of Health?
- (2) Was it stated that \$125 000 would be available for the 2003-04 financial year and that tenders would be called before June 30 2004?
- (3) Have tenders been called for the location of this Foundation?
- (4) If not, why not and when will they be called?
- (5) If yes, when did this occur and what was the outcome?
- (6) What are the criteria for choosing the university at which the Foundation will be based?
- (7) What are the terms of reference and what will the role of the Environmental Health Foundation be?
- (8) Who are the experts on which the Foundation will rely for advice?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. The Government has received advice that calling tenders is not an appropriate procedure for setting up the Foundation. A structure has now been resolved utilising the Health Legislation Administration Act 1984.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.
6. It is not proposed that the Foundation be based at a university.
7. Terms of Reference for the Foundation are as follows:

"To advise and make recommendations to the Ministerial Council on Health, Environment and Industry Sustainability (the Ministerial Council) on the impact, or potential impact, of point source emissions and chemicals on the health of the community, including workers".

As indicated in the Terms of Reference, the role of the Foundation will be to provide expert independent advice to the Government on the human health effects of exposure to hazardous or potentially hazardous substances.
8. It is proposed that the Foundation will consist of three 'core' members and that these members will utilise additional expert consultants depending on the nature of particular issues. Three eminent professionals have been approached to participate as core members of the Foundation and have agreed for their names to be progressed accordingly. Formal confirmation is yet to be received.