

PREGNANCY DISCRIMINATION

1844. Ms WARNOCK to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Report (commissioned by the Federal Attorney General) on pregnancy discrimination?
- (2) If yes, is the Minister aware of any such discrimination in this State?
- (3) How common is the problem of employers' discrimination against women on the grounds of their pregnancy?
- (4) Will the Minister undertake to address this issue if instances are found of such discrimination?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

- (1) Yes. The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity conducted focus groups in Western Australia for the Committee's report as reported on page 16 of the Commissioner's 1998/99 Annual Report.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity reported that in 1998/99 she received 17 complaints relating to pregnancy. This accounts for less than 5% of all complaints handled by the Commissioner.
- (4) Discrimination on the basis of pregnancy in specified areas of public life by the Equal Opportunity Act. The Commissioner addresses this issue through handling enquiries and complaints, producing written material and participating in national reviews.