

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE, F CLASS DRIVERS LICENCE

171. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister for Transport:

Many current volunteer drivers in the home and community care program do not hold an F class drivers licence as required by the Road Traffic Act.

- (1) In the event of an accident, are current volunteer drivers without an F class licence covered by third party insurance?
- (2) Can current volunteer drivers without an F class licence be fined or charged for not driving with the correct licence?
- (3) Is the minister aware that some volunteer drivers are being advised by their agencies that the F class licence is not currently required for their services?
- (4) Is the minister aware that the Police Service has advised constituents that such volunteer drivers are infringing the Road Traffic Act?
- (5) Are drivers expected to obtain their F class licence before the State Road Traffic Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2000 is proclaimed?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The requirement for an F class drivers licence under the Road Traffic Act pertains to an omnibus vehicle. An omnibus is defined as a passenger vehicle equipped to carry more than eight adult persons and used to carry passengers for separate fares. Consequently, an F class licence is not required by a driver if the vehicle has less than nine seats. An F class licence is required by the driver if the vehicle has more than eight seats and is used to carry passengers for separate fares.

- (1) Third party insurance relates to the vehicle and type of operation. It does not determine the class of drivers licence required. The drivers licence classifications are prescribed in the Road Traffic (Drivers' Licences) Regulations 1975.
- (2) Yes, if an F class licence is required pursuant to the Road Traffic Act.
- (3) Not expressly.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes, pursuant to the existing provisions of the Road Traffic Act and regulations.