

MANDATORY BUILDING INSPECTIONS

179. Dr D.J. HONEY to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Commerce:

An article in *The Sunday Times* titled “How the Wild West was Built” written by John Flint outlines how the absence of a requirement for mandatory inspection of houses under construction is contributing to the stress and financial burdens on new Western Australian home owners. Furthermore, the article also explains that every state other than Western Australia has adopted mandatory building inspections. When will the minister’s government also introduce mandatory building inspections to ensure that builders in Western Australia are complying with appropriate building standards?

The SPEAKER: Members, I see a few quizzical faces about the parliamentary secretary being asked a question. Under the standing orders, it is permitted for a question to be asked of a parliamentary secretary. However, it is appropriate that some notice is given and I understand that some notice, in this instance, has been given because the concept behind the standing order is that the parliamentary secretary has the opportunity to speak about the issue with the minister concerned before responding on that issue. I give the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Commerce the call. I think you are the first parliamentary secretary in this Parliament to be asked a question, member for Riverton.

Dr J. KRISHNAN replied:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I provide this answer on behalf of the Minister for Commerce.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety’s Building and Energy division has been reviewing ways to modernise and improve the state’s building regulatory framework. This is in line with the recommendations of the *Building confidence* report, which was a national review. The mandating of inspections is recommended in that national review. Significant work has been undertaken by the state government to thoroughly consult with the stakeholders and industry on the recommendations made in the *Building confidence* report and we expect to make a further announcement on this soon.