

RURAL CHILDCARE SERVICES - REGULATIONS

155. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the specific childcare regulations for rural childcare services that were formulated under the previous minister.

- (1) Have these rural regulations been approved and implemented?
- (2) If not, when will this occur?
- (3) Will the split of the Department for Community Development into two separate departments hinder or delay the implementation of these regulations?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)-(2) Alternative models for rural and remote childcare regulations have been developed by the Department for Community Development following consultation with the community, and will be forwarded to parliamentary counsel shortly. The further development of the alternative regulations remains a priority for the Department for Community Development.
- (3) The creation of a new department of communities focusing on universal community services and the early years will assist with the development and implementation of childcare regulations, including the alternative models for rural childcare.