

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 43

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 2 JUNE 1998

(The Questions and Answers Paper published for the first sitting day in each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

Publication of Question	Answer to be lodged by
Q&A No. 32 (Including Questions Nos 204 to 213)	3 June 1998
Q&A No. 33 (Including Questions Nos 214 to 225)	4 June 1998
Q&A No. 34 (Including Questions Nos 226 to 236)	9 June 1998
Q&A No. 35 (Including Questions Nos 237 to 244)	10 June 1998
Q&A No. 36 (Including Questions Nos 245 to 251)	11 June 1998
Q&A No. 37 (Including Questions Nos 252 to 280)	23 June 1998
Q&A No. 38 (Including Questions Nos 281 to 285)	24 June 1998
Q&A No. 39 (Including Questions Nos 286 and 287)	25 June 1998
Q&A No. 40 (Including Questions Nos 288 to 290)	30 June 1998
Q&A No. 41 (Including Question No. 291)	1 July 1998
Q&A No. 42 (Including Questions Nos 292 to 294)	2 July 1998
Q&A No. 43 (Including Questions Nos 295 to 298)	7 July 1998

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

28 APRIL 1998

(Paper No. 31)

*181 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PRODUCTS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister for Emergency Services—

- (1) (a) Did Architectural Glass Products Pty Ltd (AGP) undertake glass installation at 102c St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne, in November 1995?
 - (b) If so, has this work since been investigated by the Department of Fair Trading?
- (2) Did AGP carry out residential building work without an appropriate contractor's licence as per the Home Building Act 1989?
- (3) Did AGP charge more than the maximum deposit stipulated in section 8 of that Act?
- (4) Did AGP supply and install safety glass which does not comply with the Australian Standards AS1288 and AS2208 and as required by the mandatory Building Code of Australia?
- (5) (a) Did AGP supply the consumer with a Certificate of Compliance (issued by their glass supplier), dated 5 August 1997, for work carried out in October 1995?
 - (b) If so, did the supplier have a certification licence for AS2208 products at that time?
- (6) (a) What action has the Department of Fair Trading undertaken or initiated to investigate and rectify this case?
 - (b) What were the results of the Department's investigations?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Yes. There are 2 separate issues in this matter. The first issue concerns whether the company complied with the licensing legislation administered by the Department of Fair Trading. The second issue concerns the glass product itself and whether it was appropriate for the purpose it was used.
- (2) With respect to the licensing issue, the Department of Fair Trading has served a summons upon the company for the offence of "seeking work by or for unlicensed person" under s. 5(1)(a) and "maximum deposits" under s. 8(1)(a) of the Home Building Act, 1989. These matters are listed for hearing on 16 July 1998 at Ryde Local Court and as such it would be inappropriate for me to make any further comment at this time.
- (3) The matter is presently before the Court.
- (4) The Department of Fair Trading has not been able to assess whether or not the glass used in this building project meets the appropriate Australian Standard(s) as Mrs Onorati has declined permission to carry out the necessary tests on the glass.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

The Department of Fair Trading has been advised by the Department of Local Government that in relation to the installation of glass in residential projects, the technical standards outlined in the Building Code of Australia for this specific issue are not mandatory regulations but rather performance based regulations.

- (5) (a) Yes. The certificate was not requested (by the property owner) until 1997.
- (b) No. The Department of Fair Trading has been advised that there is no mandatory requirement under the Building Code of Australia for this company to hold such a licence.
- (6) (a) and (b) See responses to (2) and (4) above.

*182 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PRODUCTS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister for Emergency Services—

In relation to certain matters involving Architectural Glass Products Pty Ltd (AGP) and work undertaken at 102c St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne:

- (1) (a) Was the glass labelled as required by Australian Standard AS1288?
- (b) If not, was the Department advised of this lack of compliance?
- (2) (a) Does the issue of a certificate prove that the pieces of glass were cut from an original panel of safety glass?
- (b) Was the glass supplier, Flat Glass Industries, licensed to produce safety glass in November 1995?
- (3) Has any disciplinary action been instituted against AGP in relation to this matter?

Answer—

- (1) (a) No. The Department of Fair Trading has been advised that the glass was not required to be labelled under the Building Code of Australia.
- (b) A complaint alleging non-compliance was received by the Department.
- (2) (a) The issuance of a certificate means that all of the various performance requirements of the Australian Standards have been complied with by the supplier/manufacturer.
- (b) In November 1995, Flat Glass Industries Pty Limited had not entered into an agreement with Quality Assurance Services (QAS) to use the certification mark. However, this did not prevent the company from legitimately producing safety glass.
- (3) In relation to the glass product no breach of any legislation administered by the Department of Fair Trading has been detected.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

*183 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PRODUCTS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister for Emergency Services—

In relation to any complaints against Architectural Glass Products Pty Ltd (AGP) for work at 102c St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne:

- (1) Did AGP subcontract the work to A1 Glazing Pty Ltd?
- (2) Was Mr Aldo Di Mento the responsible director?
- (3) Was this company and its director licenced to undertake such work in 1995?
- (4) Was Mr T. Lyall of the Department of Fair Trading advised of this information?
- (5) Was this information confirmed by a fax from the consumer to Mr D.B. O'Connor, Director-General of the Department of Fair Trading, on 25 March 1998?
- (6) Are Mr Aldo Di Mento and A1 Glazing Pty Ltd now out of business?
- (7) What has the Department of Fair Trading done to assist Mr and Mrs Onorati in this case?

Answer—

- (1) Architectural Glass Projects Pty Limited subcontracted glazing work to A1 Glazing Pty Limited in 1997 for the premises at 102c St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne.
- (2) Mr Aldo Di Mento is a director of A1 Glazing Pty Limited.
- (3) The Department has investigated this matter and is satisfied that the labour content of the work performed by A1 Glazing Pty Limited in this instance was less than the threshold (i.e. \$200) specified by s.8(a) of the Home Building Regulations 1997 for licensing purposes.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) A recent company search has indicated that A1 Glazing Pty Limited is continuing to trade.
- (7) Various aspects of Mr and Mrs Onorati's complaints have been extensively investigated by the Department of Fair Trading's Product Safety Unit of the Compliance, Legal and Safety Division and the Building Investigations Branch of the Home Building and Property Services Division. A number of matters relating to this property have also been before the Building Disputes Tribunal. Mr and Mrs Onorati have been continually kept up to date with relevant determinations made by the Department.

*184 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister for Emergency Services—

In relation to any complaints against Architectural Glass Products Pty Ltd (AGP) for work at 102c St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne:

- (1) What are the procedures the Department of Fair Trading follow to investigate breaches of the Home Building Act 1989 in the case of unlicensed builders carrying out defective work?
- (2) How long, on average, does it take to investigate each complaint?
- (3) Where are records kept about such investigations?
- (4) What does the Department of Fair Trading do to ensure that the public is made aware of multiple complaints pending against a company and any action taken regarding either rectification orders or fines?
- (5) Is one of the prime responsibilities of the Director-General of the Department of Fair Trading to promote and protect the interests of owners and purchasers of dwellings?

Answer—

(1) As was the case in this particular matter the Department of Fair Trading's Building Investigation Branch investigates complaints against contractors for failure to comply with the Home Building Act 1989. When a complaint is received it is assessed and a determination is made as to whether the matter warrants investigation or the issuance of a warning letter, or is not to be proceeded with by the Department. This process of determination may necessitate investigators making preliminary enquiries to establish the merits of the complaint.

If a decision is made to investigate, experienced investigators are assigned to interview the relevant parties in order to determine if a breach of the legislation has occurred. These interviews are normally reduced to a legally admissible statement. In the case of an alleged offender a formal interview is conducted.

All relevant material is then referred to the Department's Legal Branch and, if appropriate, summons are sworn and served to allow the matter to be properly determined by the Court. The issuance of warning letters in appropriate matters is regarded as an effective compliance strategy and an effective means of dealing with unlicensed conduct.

The Department also relies upon appropriate public education by reminding consumers to deal only with licensed contractors when engaging contractors for residential building work. Periodically, Department investigators undertake compliance checks.

(2) Some complaints may take a few days to be investigated and more involved matters may take several months or longer to investigate. The length of time for investigation depends on the circumstance of each case.

(3) The Department of Fair Trading's Building Investigations Branch maintains a file for each complaint received.

(4) The Director-General maintains a Public Register as required under the Home Building Act. This Register is accessible to the public by contacting any Fair Trading Centre. The Home Building Regulations stipulate the information to be maintained on the Register. The Register has particulars relating to licence holders, including any conditions endorsed on their licence. Results of any relevant determination following a show cause action, or any prosecutions against the licence holder, are also recorded, as is the number of insurance claims paid by the Department on work performed by the licence holder.

(5) The Home Building Act 1989 sets out the statutory functions administered by the Director-General in relation to building matters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

*185 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—PABX TELEPHONE SYSTEMS—Mr Jobling asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Forestry, Minister for Ports, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney—

- (1) Has the Institute of Chartered Accountants raised the issue that PABX telephone systems, which take time and date information from Telstra networks, could be affected by the millennium bug problem?
- (2) What steps has the Government undertaken to notify small business of these potential problems to security and safety systems, transport and health systems and automated machinery in production lines?
- (3) What steps has the Government taken to rectify such problems before they damage the productivity of small business in the year 2000?

Answer—

- (1) Telstra began work on its Year 2000 program in mid 1995. Telstra aims to have key products and services compliant by the end of 1998.

Telstra is committed to informing and responding to customers about Telstra's progress in achieving Year 2000 compliance and assisting customers with their telecommunication requirements.

Telstra's Year 2000 Program includes preparing a detailed inventory of all impacted areas, assessing any remediation requirements, modifying or replacing equipment or systems and testing for compliance.

- (2) In June 1997 Cabinet endorsed The Year 2000 Millennium Strategy and my office established the national Year 2000 (Y2K) Internet website, <http://www.y2k.gov.au> to provide information and assistance to agencies and the public. This Internet site is aimed at agencies, small to medium business and the general public. By April 1998 it had received over 60,000 hits from interested parties.

The Office of Information Technology also convened a number of forums including the Opera House Summit of June 1997 which helped raise awareness of the Year 2000 problem throughout both the Public and Private Sectors. These seminars are on-going and are well supported and received.

During October 1997, in recognition of the Year 2000 problem as a critical business issue for Government Agencies and large, medium and small businesses, the Year 2000 Business Risk Analysis Methodology was developed.

The methodology is designed to help minimise the impact of the Year 2000 problem by recognising Year 2000 as a business key concern. It is complimented with a reporting software package.

Educating government agencies and business to treat Year 2000 as a risk management exercise.

On 29 January 1998, I as Minister for the Office of Information Technology, launched an eight page publication entitled "Taking Steps to fix the Year 2000 Problem". This has been well received by the business organisations, government agencies and the New South Wales public.

In conjunction with the Department of State and Regional Development and Department of Fair Trading, some 20,000 copies had been distributed across New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania in mid March 1998. A reprint of 20,000 copies has been organised to meet further demands for this publication.

This brochure is soon to be complimented by a Multimedia CD which will provide easy-to-understand information on how to address the problem. The CD targets Government Agencies and the wider community.

The purpose of the CD is to clearly communicate to the target audience what the problem actually is. This will highlight to the user the sheer size of the problem and place it on their agenda as their "biggest single issue".

Real life examples will be used to emphasise the implications of this problem and the effects it will have on the user. The main issue is to address the importance of overcoming ignorance in the community and business world.

(3) In partnership with State and Regional Development, a Year 2000 "Hotline" has been established to assist callers with answers to frequently asked questions and to advise them of other sources of relevant information.

The Departments of Fair Trading, State and Regional Development and Industrial Relations are developing co-ordinated strategies and have been directed to ensure that all SME's and the private sector are aware of the potential impact on their businesses, and to provide assistance by the way of education and awareness.

A number of industry working groups have been established to ensure that the problem is addressed across a wide cross-section of the business community. These include the Australian Bankers Association and the Australian Retailers Association (NSW). These working groups are complimented by the National Industry Steering Committee.

*186 ATTORNEY GENERAL—COSTS ASSESSORS—Mr Hannaford asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

- (1) (a) Has the Supreme Court on appeal confirmed that costs assessors are not required to give reasons for their determinations on the basis that a costs assessor is carrying out administrative functions only in assessing costs and is therefore not required to give reasons?
- (b) If so, will this court decision require an amendment to be made to the current legislation in order to compel costs assessors to furnish reasons for their determinations?
- (2) If no amendment to the law is required, does this mean that the measure should continue to be an administrative function?

Answer—

- (1) (a) No. I am advised that the Supreme Court has reserved its judgment in the case of *Kennedy Miller Television v Stephen Lancken, the Nine Network Pty Ltd*.
- (b) Regardless of the decision of the Supreme Court in this appeal, the Government intends to settle this matter by introducing amendments to the Legal Profession Act during the current session of Parliament which will provide that costs assessors must provide a short statement of reasons for decisions in respect of determinations in costs assessment matters. The proposed amendments will bring assessors into line with general Government policy that reasons should be provided for administrative decisions of this nature.
- (2) In view of the Government's intention to introduce legislation clarifying this issue no response to this question is required.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

*187 ATTORNEY GENERAL—DEFAMATION BILL 1996—Mrs Arena asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

In reference to an answer provided by the Attorney General to my question without notice on 1 April 1998 concerning the Defamation Bill 1996:

- (1) (a) Has statutory reform [the Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross Vesting) Act 1987] and judicial convention (*Maple v. David Syme Pty Ltd* [1975] 1 NSWLR 97) resulted in only a minority of defamation actions being affected by differences in the law between States and Territories?
 - (b) If not, will the Attorney General point out the cases where such differences have caused problems?
- (2) Do the Commissioners, at paragraphs 1.17 and 1.18 of the NSW Law Reform Commission's report on Defamation (Report 75), stress the need to change the law in New South Wales regardless of inconsistencies with other States and Territories?
- (3) (a) Did the Australian Law Reform Commission investigate this issue and produce a report on uniform defamation laws in 1979 (ALRDC 11 "Unfair Publication: Defamation and Privacy")?
 - (b) Has this report been ignored?
 - (c) (i) Has the report been assessed as unworkable?
 - (ii) If so, why?
- (4) Have the fears of the NSW Law Reform Commission about increasingly large New South Wales verdicts (Report 75, 1.7-1.8) become reality in that juries are awarding verdicts of up to \$2.1 million plus interest (*Erskine v. John Fairfax* 27.3.98) and the courts are refusing to set these large verdicts aside (*Nugawela v. Crampton* [1996] 41 NSWLR 176)?
- (5) (a) Has the Attorney General referred the question of defamation law reform to the Federal Attorney General?
 - (b) If so, is the Attorney General's referral an admission that the reform process has been an expensive failure?
 - (c) Does the lack of reform continue to muzzle political debate?

Answer—

(1) Differences in the law between the State and Territories remain crucial in the outcome of many cases where defamatory material is published in a number of jurisdictions. The law of defamation applicable in various jurisdictions varies considerably among the various States and Territories as the common law has been modified by legislation, to a greater or lesser extent, in every jurisdiction. In *Theophanous v Herald & Weekly Times Ltd* (1994) 182 CLR 104, Deane J described the law of defamation in most jurisdictions as a "mosaic of statute and common law".

These differences create considerable uncertainty and complexity in defamation proceedings. In theory, each communication of defamatory matter is a separate publication and therefore constitutes a separate cause of action. Where material is published simultaneously in a number of jurisdictions, there is a separate tort committed in each place with its own governing law.

However, generally the plaintiff will be entitled to commence proceedings, with respect to the same publication in one jurisdiction only and may recover damages in respect of the entirety of the publication.

Under the principle accepted in *Maple v David Syme Pty Ltd* [1975] 1 NSWLR 97, it will usually constitute an abuse of process to seek to bring an action in two or more jurisdictions in respect of the publication of the same defamatory material. Damages will not be duplicated, but will be proportionate to the extent of the publication in each jurisdiction. Furthermore, the Court will ordinarily apply one law to determine liability for damages, being the law of the place of domicile of the claimant.

This removes some, but not all, of the difficulties created by inconsistencies between the law of defamation in the States and Territories. Certain procedural matters must still be determined by the court depending of the law in the various jurisdictions. This may be illustrated by reference to the questions of defences. Currently, the same defamatory publication, when published in more than one State or Territory, may be defensible in some jurisdictions but not in others. The defendant may plead any defence available under the law of the various places of publication and, in addition, any defences available in the forum where the action is commenced. Thus, a plaintiff may recover damages in respect of publication in some jurisdictions, but not in others.

Neither does the Cross Vesting legislation resolve these problems. This legislation merely vests in the Supreme Courts of the States and Territories the jurisdiction of every other superior court. When proceedings are transferred pursuant to the cross-vesting legislation the legislation may dictate the law to be applied in some situations. However, divergences in the defences or damages available will remain.

In an age where electronic communication has resulted in a proliferation of material being available throughout Australia and the world, it is clearly undesirable that differences in defamation laws remain in the Australian States and Territories. These differences create additional complexity in an already highly technical branch of litigation and place greater burdens on court resources.

(2) The Commissioners do state that, in the final analysis, their brief required them to consider the best possible defamation law for New South Wales and the Commission consequently recommended some changes even where their implementation would promote greater disharmony between the law of New South Wales and other Australian jurisdictions: NSWLRC Report 75, para. 1.16.

The Government is committed to developing the best possible defamation laws for New South Wales, but it is also necessary to balance the significant advantages which may be achieved through uniformity in assessing any specific proposals for law reform. The Commissioners themselves concede that "in the context of a highly technical branch of the law such as the law of defamation, some of these differences [between Australian jurisdictions] constitute real impediments to the achievement of uniformity which cannot be simply dismissed as 'mere' differences in practice and procedure" (para. 1.17).

(3) (a) The ALRC Report 11 ("Unfair Publication: Defamation and Privacy") examined a number of issues arising from the need to balance the public interest in maintaining individual honour, reputation and dignity with the principle of freedom of expression and access to information on public affairs. As part of this analysis, the Commission recommended that there should be a uniform law of defamation in Australia to replace the multiplicity of laws which existed then, and continue to exist now. The report considered a number of mechanisms through which uniformity may be achieved. It favoured the proposal that the States consensually refer their powers to the Commonwealth Parliament under section 51 (xxxvii) of the Constitution.

(b) The report has not been ignored, nor assessed as unworkable. The issue of uniform defamation laws has been on the agenda of the Standing Committee of Attorney Generals (SCAG) for many years. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of New South Wales, agreement has not been reached.

(4) The New South Wales Government continues to keep the issue of defamation law reform under review, and has introduced exposure draft legislation. One issue that the legislation seeks to address is the question of damages. As I have previously indicated to the Hon Franca Arena in my answer to a question without notice on 1 April 1998, this is a complex areal of law reform and consultation and consideration is on-going.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

(5) At the April 1998 meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys General, I sought agreement from other jurisdictions to a proposal to refer power to make defamation laws to the Commonwealth. This suggestion was based on the desirability of achieving uniformity in the law in this area. Unfortunately, with the exception of the ACT, other states and territories did not support this approach. This in no way constitutes an admission that reform to defamation law has been a failure, and the process of reform is on-going. As I have said it is a complex area of law that raises important issues of free speech and individual rights. There is a variety of opinion as to the appropriateness of the existing balance struck by the law of defamation and the Government will continue its careful and consultative approach to reform in this important area.

*188 ENVIRONMENT—ACID SULFATE SOILS—Mr Jones asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for the Environment—

What action is being undertaken to combat the problem of leachate from acid sulfate soils?

Answer—

The Government is committed to working closely with landholders and industry to develop an integrated and effective approach to managing acid sulfate soils in NSW.

In 1994, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) produced the “Environmental Guidelines: Assessing and Managing Acid Sulfate Soils” to provide guidance to land users on ways to investigate and manage these soils. The Acid Sulfate Soils Management Advisory Committee (ASSMAC) is updating the guidelines to reflect current best practices in acid sulfate soil management. ASSMAC is at present chaired by NSW Agriculture and comprises representatives of the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC), the EPA, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries, the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP), Local Government, CSIRO and fishing, farming and environmental interest groups.

Additionally, the EPA and NSW Agriculture have worked closely with the ti-tree and sugar cane industries to develop industry-specific best management practice guidelines.

I understand NSW Agriculture has committed more than \$2 million over the next three years to trial acid sulfate soil management projects. Funding priorities are being determined by ASSMAC.

I am informed that DLWC has produced maps showing the risk of acid sulfate soil disturbance along the NSW coast. These maps are an essential tool for local councils and landholders to ensure activities on high-risk lands are planned and managed so as not to cause acid sulfate soil problems.

I am also advised that DUAP has also been working closely with local councils to better address the inclusion of acid sulfate soil disturbance in the planning system.

The Government has sought the urgent development of comprehensive short and long-term strategies for improved management of acid sulfate soils. In this context, the Water Chief Executive Officers established a temporary inter-agency taskforce to look at ways of encompassing a range of strategies, including those detailed above, into a comprehensive whole-of-government approach. The Government is currently considering the package of recommendations formulated by the taskforce.

*190 HEALTH—HOSPITAL DEATHS—Mr Jones asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) Does the estimation that there are 18,000 deaths through hospital errors every year have any validity?

(2) If this figure is correct, does this mean that one in seven deaths in Australia occur as a result of hospital error?

(3) What is being done to reduce the number of iatrogenic and other hospital-caused diseases?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Activities and programs are being undertaken at a national, state and local level. For example:

- Education and training of health professionals at an undergraduate and postgraduate level
- Quality assurance/improvement and peer review programs
- Special Statewide Committees such as the Special Committee Investigating Deaths Under Anaesthesia, the Special Committee Investigating Deaths Associated with Surgery and the NSW Maternal and Perinatal Committee
- Incident and adverse event monitoring programs
- The development and implementation of evidence based clinical guidelines and protocols for the management of common conditions or procedures

In New South Wales, there is a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Quality in Health Care. It has recently funded a study to examine adverse effects associated with surgery.

*194 MINERAL RESOURCES—WINGECARRIBEE SWAMP—Mr Jones asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

(1) Is Wingecarribee Swamp near Mittagong some 30,000 years old and home to a number of endangered species?

(2) Has peat moss been allowed to be mined at the swamp since 1991 under expired mining leases?

(3) Has the mining of ground sourced peat been proven to have a disastrous impact on surrounding natural ecosystems?

(4) (a) Are the Environment Protection Authority, Sydney Water, the National Parks Association, Wingecarribee Council, conservationists and members of the general public strongly opposed to the continuation of peat mining at the swamp?

(b) If so, why?

(5) Has the State Mining Warden conducted an inquiry into the matter which cost in excess of \$2 million?

(6) Was that inquiry completed in November 1997?

(7) (a) Has the Mining Warden's Report on that inquiry been released?

(b) If not, why not?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

- (8) (a) Has an Interim Conservation Order (ICO) now been issued over the area?
- (b) If so, on what grounds?
- (9) Will, or has, the mining lesee made an objection to the ICO?
- (10) (a) Has a copy of the Mining Warden's Report been made available to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning and/or the Heritage Council?
- (b) If not, how can the Minister and/or the council make an informed decision about the ICO and any objection to it?
- (c) If so, will the Minister now release the report so that all parties concerned are fully informed before they appear before any resultant Commission of Inquiry?

Answer—

- (1) I am unable to confirm, or otherwise, that Wingecarribee Swamp is 30,000 years old. I understand the Swamp contains species listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.
- (2) No, the leases are still extant.
- (3) I am advised by my Department of Mineral Resources that it is not aware of any disastrous impact on surrounding natural ecosystems.
- (4) (a) At the Inquiry conducted by the Chief Mining Warden the Government Agencies mentioned and the Council appeared and opposed renewal of the mining leases. The National Parks Association together with a number of other conservation organisations and members of the public have also opposed renewal of the mining leases.
- (b) The opposition is essentially based on environmental grounds, the two government agencies referred to being particularly concerned with water quality.
- (5) Yes, the Chief Mining Warden has conducted an Inquiry. I do not have a cost however, the cost to my Department would be accountable in the same way as any other Inquiry conducted by the Chief Mining Warden.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) (a) No
- (b) In view of the notification of the Interim Conservation Order I have deferred further consideration of the Warden's Report. I do not believe it is appropriate to release the report until I have made a final decision in relation to the applications for renewal of the mining leases.
- (8) (a) Refer above.
- (b) This question should be directed to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning.
- (9) This question should also be directed to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, who has responsibility for the Heritage Act.
- (10) (a) No, refer (7) (b) above.

- (b) It is understood the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning takes advice on Interim Conservation Order matters from the Heritage Council. Any further explanation should be sought from the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning.
- (c) Refer (7) (b) above.

*195 ATTORNEY GENERAL—ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS TRIBUNAL BILL 1997—Mr Jones asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

- (1) Did the Australian Labor Party promise, in the lead-up to the March 1995 State election, that it would bring the people of New South Wales in line with the Commonwealth on review of decisions by Government officials?
- (2) Was the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Bill 1997, which was passed by the NSW Parliament in June 1997, meant to give the people of New South Wales a right to reasons for Government decisions and create an Administrative Decisions Tribunal to review decisions of Government officials, including Ministers?
- (3) Did the Attorney state, in his second reading speech, that the initiative was part of the Labor Government's commitment to ensuring open and accessible government for the people of New South Wales?
- (4) (a) Has the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Bill been proclaimed?
(b) If not, why not?
- (5) Is the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Bill one of four stages required in the establishment of an Administrative Decisions Tribunal?
- (6) What budgetary allocation, if any, has been made for the Administrative Decisions Tribunal?
- (7) What areas of Government decision making will be subject to the right to reasons and rights of appeal in Stage 2 legislation?
- (8) What areas in Government decision making will be subject to the right and reasons and rights of appeal in Stage 3 legislation?
- (9) Did the Attorney General's Department conduct a survey of all Ministers to nominate areas that should be covered by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Bill?
- (10) What were the results of this survey?
- (11) (a) How many Freedom of Information (FOI) applications were refused in 1997?
(b) How many appeals against those refusals were made to the District Court?
(c) Are the number of appeals under FOI expected to increase when appeals under the Freedom of Information Act are transferred to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal?
- (12) Have the people of New South Wales been waiting nearly 25 years for reforms in relation to the review of Government decisions?
- (13) Will the Minister ensure that the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Bill is proclaimed, the Administrative Decisions Tribunal established and Stages 2, 3 and 4 legislation introduced as soon as possible?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

Answer—

- (1) The government made a pre-election promise to enact a statute which would provide a comprehensive means of administrative review applying to NSW government decision making and to establish a NSW Administrative Appeals Tribunal.
- (2) The Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) Act provides the mechanism by which reasons may be obtained regarding an ADT reviewable decision made by a government official, including a Minister. For a decision made by a government official to be reviewable by the ADT the statute which enables the government official to make the decision in the first instance must also say that the ADT may review the decision.
- (3) Yes. In his second reading speech the Attorney said “The ADT is integral to the Government’s commitment to ensuring open and accessible government for the people of NSW.”
- (4) (a) All necessary steps are being taken to commence the legislation on 1 September 1998.
(b) As I stated in my answer to the Question without Notice posed by the Hon. JF Ryan, MLC on 7 April 1998 “...a further piece of legislation needs to come before this Parliament, and will come before it, to add to the jurisdiction of that tribunal, make the tribunal viable and allow the tribunal to commence its operations this year.” That legislation was second read in the Legislative Council on 28 May 1998.
- (5) Yes, although I must point out to the Honourable Member that the Bill to which he refers was passed in 1997 and is now an Act of Parliament. It has always been envisaged that the legislation giving the Tribunal jurisdiction would be introduced in stages and this process was foreshadowed in my second reading speech introducing the first stage of the legislation.
- (6) Treasury has made a capital allocation of \$1 Million to fund the first year of the Tribunal’s operation.
- (7) I refer you to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Legislation Amendment Bill 1998 which is presently before the Legislative Council. The Bill sets out the decisions to be reviewable by the ADT.
- (8) As the Cabinet is yet to consider proposals in relation to stage 3 legislation, I am not in a position to provide an informed response to this question at this stage.
- (9) Ministers were asked to confirm decisions identified at a Departmental level as suitable for inclusion in stage 2 of the legislation should be so included.
- (10) The result of the process outlined in response to Question 9, and subsequent consultation between the Attorney-General’s Department and The Cabinet Office, at the direction of the Cabinet, is the Bill presently before the Council.
- (11) (a) The NSW Ombudsman informs me that it has gathered information on FOI applications through an audit of 133 Annual Reports, showing the FOI statistics for 132 Government agencies. The Ombudsman’s advice does not include figures for the 18 Area Health Services which now have open access policies whereby medical records are released on request to patients without the necessity of a formal FOI application. Further, as they are taken from Annual Reports, the figures are for the period 1996/97. I am advised that a little over 16% of applications were granted access in part and under 4% of applications were refused access in full.
(b) The NSW Ombudsman advises me that the reported statistics from agencies showed four appeals were taken to the District Court. However, the District Court has advised the Ombudsman’s Office that 13 appeals were lodged, although not all appeals were proceeded with.

- (c) Yes. It is anticipated that the Tribunal will be a more accessible forum for appeals under FOI than the Court and that as a result such appeals will form a substantial part of the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

(12) Over the past 25 years there have been several landmark pieces of legislation directed at reforming the law relating to review of government decisions. The Ombudsman Act 1974 and the Freedom of Information Act 1989 are two cases in point. The establishment of the ADT and the progressive conferral of jurisdiction on it is another essential element of law reform in this area.

(13) As indicated above, I anticipate that the Administrative Decisions Tribunal Act 1997 will be proclaimed to commence on 1 September 1998. Administrative processes to enable the actual establishment of the Tribunal are under way. Stage 2 legislation is presently before the Council. Stages 3 and 4 of the legislation will be introduced following the due process of consultation and Cabinet deliberation on proposals for these stages of the legislation.

*196 PREMIER—BRUCE CALLAGHAN & ASSOCIATES—Mr Corbett asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

(1) Was Bruce Callaghan & Associates engaged for the purpose of assisting with or organising consultations relating to the Children's Commission or any other related matter?

(2) If so, can the Premier advise:

- (a) On what date was Bruce Callaghan & Associates engaged to undertake the consultancy?
 - (b) Was the consultancy offered by tender?
 - (c) If not, how were the consultants chosen?
 - (d) What terms of reference were given to the consultants?
 - (e) Which individuals, groups and organisations were invited or requested to meet with Bruce Callaghan & Associates during consultation on the Children's Commission?
 - (f) Which individuals, groups and organisations met with Bruce Callaghan & Associates during consultation on the Children's Commission?
 - (g) When did these consultations take place?
 - (h) Who was responsible for determining those individuals, groups and organisations to be invited to these consultations?
 - (i) What was the cost of engaging Bruce Callaghan & Associates to undertake this consultancy?
 - (j) What was the duration of the consultancy?
- (3) (a) Has the consultancy been completed?
- (b) If so, has a report been prepared?
 - (c) For whom was the report prepared?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

(4) Have any other consultants been engaged to perform work in connection with the Children's Commission?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Approval was given for Mr Callaghan to undertake this consultancy on 11 April 1998.

(b) No.

(c) Mr Callaghan was asked to undertake this consultancy in light of his extensive experience in the community services area, knowledge of relevant issues, and skills in facilitation.

In line with the Premier's Department Guidelines, an agency may contract a consultant without seeking competitive quotes provided the consultancy is less than \$20,000 and the rate is consistent with normal market rates for similar consultancies.

(d) Mr Callaghan was initially asked to convene two Roundtable meetings with community groups at the beginning and end of the consultation process on the Children's Commission Green Paper. However, the first Roundtable was cancelled as insufficient groups were able to participate at that time. Mr Callaghan was also asked to prepare a report on the Roundtable.

(e) The following individuals, groups and organisations were asked to attend:

- NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS);
- Association of Child Welfare Agencies (ACWA);
- Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA);
- State Network of Young People in Care (SNYPIC);
- Council for Intellectual Disability;
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG);
- Ethnic Child Care Co-operative;
- Parents and Citizens Association;
- Catholic Education Commission;
- Independent Schools Association;
- Mr Adrian Ford (Benevolent Society)
- Associate Professor Patrick Parkinson (Faculty of Law, Sydney University); and
- Dr Judy Cashmore (Chair, Child Protection Council).

(f) Of those invited, the following individuals, groups and organisations attended the Roundtable:

- Association of Child Welfare Agencies (ACWA);
- Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA);
- State Network of Young People in Care (SNYPIC);
- Council for Intellectual Disability;
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG);
- Parents and Citizens Association; and
- Mr Adrian Ford of the Benevolent Society.

As neither the Director nor the President of NCOSS were able to attend the Roundtable, Mr Callaghan met separately with NCOSS to seek their views following the Roundtable.

(g) The Roundtable was held on 30 March 1998.

- (h) The Office of Children and Young People.
- (i) The consultancy cost \$3000 in total.
- (j) The consultancy amounted to two days work.
- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The report was prepared for the Office of Children and Young People within The Cabinet Office.
- (4) Yes. Boccalatte Design was contracted for the layout and design of the Green Paper. Ms Eithne O'Donovan was contracted to edit the Green Paper.

*197 PREMIER—GREEN PAPER ON A CHILDREN'S COMMISSION FOR NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Corbett asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

- (1) Was any individual, group or organisation specifically asked by any member of the Premier's Office, Department, the Cabinet Office or the Office of Children and Young People to lodge their submission relating to the Green Paper on A Children's Commission for New South Wales at least a week prior to the announced closing date (31 March 1998) for submissions?
- (2) (a) If so, who were these individuals, groups or organisations?
- (b) Who made this request?
- (c) What was the reason for the request to lodge a submission prior to the closing date?

Answer—

- (1) No. However, a number of submissions were received before 31 March. These were, of course, accepted. The significant number of submissions which arrived after 31 March were also accepted.
- (2) (a) N/A.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) N/A.

*198 PREMIER—GREEN PAPER ON A CHILDREN'S COMMISSION FOR NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Corbett asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

- (1) How many submissions relating to the Green Paper on A Children's Commission for New South Wales have been received?
- (2) When will a Government response to the submissions on the Green Paper be completed?
- (3) (a) Will a White Paper be prepared?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

- (b) If so, when does the Government propose to release the White Paper?
- (4) When does the Government propose to release any legislation, draft or otherwise, relating to the Children's Commission?

Answer—

- (1) 161 submissions were received in response to the Green Paper. 80 submissions were received by or before 31 March. 81 submissions were received after 31 March.
- (2) The Government's response to the submissions on the Green Paper will be completed as soon as possible.
- (3) (a) At this stage the Government does not anticipate preparing a White Paper.
(b) N/A.
- (4) Legislation in relation to the Children's Commission will be brought forward as soon as possible.

*199 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) Can the Minister advise how effective is the MMR vaccine that will be used in the Measles Control Campaign in actually preventing:
- (a) measles?
(b) mumps?
(c) rubella?
- (2) How is the effectiveness rate of the vaccine determined?

Answer—

- (1) The vaccine efficacy of MMR vaccines are:
- (a) 95%
(b) 90%
(c) 95%
- (2) Vaccine efficacy may be calculated as "(1 - odds ratio) x 100".

Odds Ratio = $\frac{\text{(number of cases vaccinated/number of cases not vaccinated)}}{\text{(number of controls vaccinated/number of controls not vaccinated)}}$

*200 HEALTH—MEASLES—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) What are the major factors that research has shown to affect the susceptibility of children to measles?

- (2) (a) Has research identified any factors that naturally assist the building up of the immune system of children?
- (b) If so, what are these factors?
- (3) (a) Has research identified any factors that contribute to immunosuppression in children?
- (b) If so, what are these factors?

Answer—

- (1) Failure to vaccinate against measles and having previously been infected.
- (2) Yes. Vaccination.
- (3) Yes. Leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS and treatment such as corticosteroids, chemotherapy and radiotherapy contribute to immunosuppression in children.

*201 HEALTH—MEASLES CONTROL CAMPAIGN—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) (a) Will the Minister give an assurance that in implementing the Measles Control Campaign, the administration of the campaign will conform with all the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council contained in The Australian Immunisation Handbook (6th Edition), with respect to the vaccination of children?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (c) If all the recommendations will not be followed, can the Minister advise which of the recommendations will not be followed, and why they will not be followed?
- (2) If any or all of the recommendations are to be followed, can the Minister advise what procedures or arrangements will be put in place to ensure that the administration of the program conforms with those recommendations?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) NSW Health has employed a State Measles Control Co-ordinator to ensure that the administration of the program conforms with the recommendations.

All registered nurses employed to vaccinate primary school children during the Measles Control Campaign will have completed the NSW Health Immunisation Accreditation Training Program.

In the development of both the consent form and information pamphlet for parents/caregivers, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services has followed all the recommendations.

Storage and administration of the MMR vaccine will be followed as per the recommendations.

*202 HEALTH—DEFINITIONS—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

Can the Minister advise what definition the Department of Health uses for:

- (1) Mental health?
- (2) Physical health?
- (3) Emotional health?

Answer—

Mental health, physical health and emotional health are components of health which should be viewed holistically.

- (1) Mental Health is the capacity of individuals within groups and the environment to interact with one another in ways that promote objective well being, optimal development and use of mental abilities (cognitive, affective and relational) and achievement of individual and collective goals consistent with justice.
- (2) Physical Health is the ability to perform physical activities including work, activities of daily living and social activities, without limitation.
- (3) Emotional Health is component of mental health which places particular emphasis on emotional well being.

*203 POLICE—SAFETY HOUSE PROGRAM—Mr Corbett asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Police—

- (1) Has no sponsor yet been identified for the Safety House program?
- (2) Did the previous sponsorship of the New South Wales scheme by MBF expire on 1 July 1996?
- (3) Did MBF's sponsorship of the national scheme expire on 31 December 1996?
- (4) Did the Minister advise me on 11 September 1996 and 15 October 1996 that negotiations were underway with "a major corporation" and "a number of interested organisations"?
- (5) Will the Minister advise why, 18 months later, no sponsor of the Safety House scheme has been secured?

- (6) (a) Does the Minister expect a sponsor to be secured?
- (b) If so, when does the Minister expect this sponsorship to commence?

Answer—

I am advised by the Deputy Commissioner, Operations, that the answers to the Honourable Member's questions are as follows:

(1), (5) and (6) The Safety House Program has been revitalised by the Safer Communities Action Plan, which I announced on 30 April 1998.

On 5 May 1998, Commissioner Ryan and I attended the launch of the 1998 Safety House Yellow Day and publicly sought corporate sponsorship for the program. The NSW Police Service is actively seeking a major sponsor for the Safety House Program in a highly competitive sponsorship market and will continue to approach potential sponsors until a sponsor is secured. A number of major corporations have shown interest in the program but have not committed themselves to a sponsoring role at this stage. However, I am advised by the NSW Police Service's Safety House State Coordinator that since July 1996 the program has received \$20,000 in contributions from members of the public and approximately \$260,000 from the NSW Police Service.

(2) and (3) Yes.

(4) On 11 September 1996, in response to a question asked by the Honourable Member, I advised this House that the Police Service was negotiating a new sponsorship agreement with a major corporation.

29 APRIL 1998

(Paper No. 32)

*204 FAIR TRADING—ARMACK BUILDING SERVICES—Mr Jobling asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister for Emergency Services—

- (1) Did the initial complaint refer to repair work totalling \$20,000?
- (2) Did the Building Disputes Tribunal reject the initial complaint as “nit picking”?
- (3) (a) Did the Department of Fair Trading lose the insurance claim lodged by the Whites on two occasions?
- (b) If so, did the Department blame staff shortages as the reason for the delay in processing the claim?
- (4) What action has the Department taken to settle the claims of Mr and Mrs White, including the 13 defects identified by an independent building consultant?
- (5) (a) In a letter dated 29 October 1997, did the Department accept 5 of the 13 items listed in the White's complaint?
- (b) If so, what were the justifications for rejecting the other 8 defects?
- (6) What action does the Minister propose to undertake to resolve the White's complaint?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

Answer—

- (1) Mr and Mrs White provided quotations for rectification work ranging between \$12,470 and \$21,500 when they lodged their insurance claim.
- (2) The White's never lodged a claim with the Building Disputes Tribunal (BDT) regarding their building extension. A claim was lodged by Mr Robert Mackey of Armack Building Services seeking the payment from the White's of outstanding monies in connection with an extension to property at 17 Picasso Crescent, Old Toongabbie. An order was made on 29 May 1996 requiring Mr and Mrs White to pay the sum of \$7,698.78.
- (3) (a) The White's insurance claim form was temporarily misplaced when the Department's Insurance Branch relocated from St Leonards to its new premises in the Sydney CBD in early June 1997.
(b) No. The White's were advised by letter dated 20 August 1997 that the processing of all insurance claims would be delayed due to a significant increase in the number of claims received by the Department. I should mention that the relocation of Insurance Branch to offices in the Sydney CBD also contributed to the delay.
- (4) Since receiving the White's insurance claim, the Department has inspected their dwelling and has issued a work schedule for repairs assessed as eligible for cover under the insurance scheme. The White's were requested to obtain quotations for rectification based on this schedule.

Settlement of the claim has been delayed because the White's have disputed the omission of certain complaint items from the work schedule. The White's have also engaged an engineer to inspect and report on the defects in their dwelling.

The White's have agreed to provide the Department with a copy of their engineer's report when it becomes available, as well as a building consultant's report. The Department has not yet received these reports. Assessment of the insurance claim will be expedited as soon as the White's have provided this information to the Department.

- (5) (a) Yes.
(b) Eight items were rejected for various reasons. Six of these items were not considered to be defective. Of the remaining two, one did not form part of the contracted works and the other was a duplicate of a complaint item which had been accepted by the Department.
- (6) As I stated in my response to question (4), the processing of the White's claim will be expedited as soon as they have submitted the engineer's report and building consultant's report.

*207 ATTORNEY GENERAL—ELECTRONIC WARRANT ISSUING SYSTEMS—Mr Hannaford asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

- (1) Have all other Australian States passed legislation enabling the electronic issue and management of warrants which can be issued by justices or the courts and then passed on to the police for execution?
- (2) What steps has the Government undertaken to initiate electronic warrant issuing systems in New South Wales?

Answer—

(1) Following the Member's question on notice concerning electronic warrant issuing systems I sought information from all State and Territory Governments.

I am informed by the Northern Territory Attorney General's Department that warrants are normally issued in the Northern Territory through the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS), which is provided for under the Justices Act.

The system is currently not being used as amendments are being made to deal with new Local Court Rules and forestall possible "Millennium Bug" problems. I am informed that the Police Service and other agencies which include the Department of Corrective Services and Fisheries have access to the IJIS, subject to access restrictions.

Victoria has also introduced technology which is directed towards achieving the goals of data sharing and accessibility throughout the State's criminal justice system.

At the time of reply I have not received replies from other States. I will provide additional information to the Honourable member as it comes to hand.

(2) Recent changes to the structure of some parts of the justice sector have highlighted the importance of sharing a collective view on how to manage our information resources and assets.

The criminal justice agencies comprising the Inter-Departmental Information Technology Committee (IDITC) have identified a large number of processes in the criminal jurisdiction which will be pursued under the Justice Agencies Data Exchange (JADE) project. Key agencies which include my Department, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Corrective Services have recognised that while there may be differing operational and business needs, there are also many common interests which are best addressed collectively.

The JADE project objective is to bring together complementary computer systems in each of the justice agencies which allow more efficient and effective exchange of information through computer technology.

The benefits to be achieved include; increase productivity stemming from the replacement of paper forms, improved information control, completeness of information, increased accuracy of information passed between the agencies, more timely availability of data, an integrated approach to providing information, increased user accessibility to data resulting in faster updating of the records of each of the agencies, improved ability to provide consistent statistics on the overall justice system, and improved effectiveness in dealing with individual offenders.

There are literally several hundred thousand paper based documents which are currently exchanged between the justice agencies every year. The JADE project is about making these electronic.

The key component of the project is common codes. There are:

- common law codes, which mean that each agency and their computer systems codify criminal laws in the same way, this has been completed and in fact adopted by the NSW Police Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- common outcome codes, which standardise the description of penalties, this will be completed in May 1998; and

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

- data mapping - this is where the individual data elements in a document are standardised for example a charge sheet which is passed from the Police to Courts in charging an offender - this is the major component of the project and will be undertaken during the remainder of the project.

The project then relies on each agency to adopt these codes into their computer systems to allow for the exchange of information.

In addition, a pilot project has been undertaken to exchange Apprehended Violence Orders between the Local Court and the NSW Police Service to ensure that relevant, timely and accurate information is available and accessible to authorised agencies in the administration of the State's justice sector. This exchange is currently being tested and evaluated and when fully operational in June 1998 will provide significant benefits to the justice system.

Interest has been expressed by other States and New Zealand for the concept and design of the common codes databases.

The project is being continually reviewed for any potential viable exchanges that could be implemented in the short term and the automation of current tape and disk based exchanges.

I also understood that tenders for the development of the Department's Court Administration Sydney (CAS) will be sought in the near future.

My Department is currently reviewing the current legislation impacting on the electronic transfer of data between agencies and develop legislative solutions to current barriers to electronic transfer of data.

*208 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) Is the Minister aware of any studies that have investigated the long-term health effects arising from the use of the MMR vaccine?

(2) What are these studies and what are their findings?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) The results of these epidemiological investigations are clearly summarised in *Principles and practice of infectious diseases*, edited by Mandell, Douglas and Bennett. These studies have shown that vaccination with MMR vaccine results in immunity against measles, mumps and rubella, and a decrease in the occurrence of these diseases.

*209 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) Does the Australian Immunisation Handbook (6th Edition) list a number of common reactions to the MMR vaccine?

(2) Does the handbook state that the time period within which these reactions are reported to occur is 3 weeks or less, when in fact, most apparently occur between 5 to 12 days?

(3) Do such reactions actually occur often between 5 to 12 days?

(4) Can a child suffer adverse effects from the MMR vaccine beyond the time periods referred to in the handbook?

Answer—

- (1) No. It lists the most common adverse reactions.
- (2) No.
- (3) No, the time period is variable.
- (4) NSW Health has a monitoring system of adverse events. Notifications are reviewed by an expert panel and appropriate alternative measures put in place.

210 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

*211 HEALTH—MEASLES EPIDEMIC—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

I refer the Minister to comments attributed to him and reported by the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 14 November 1997, that “[we] might be looking at the potential for a measles epidemic right now” based on evidence amassed by the Department of Health.

- (1) Does the potential for a measles epidemic still exist?
- (2) Can the Minister advise what evidence enables the Department to indicate that the potential for such an epidemic exists?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Epidemiological studies have shown that without the use of vaccine measles epidemics occur every two to five years. The last outbreak in NSW was in the summer of 1993/94.

At the time of the media report, Queensland and New Zealand were experiencing an epidemic. NSW cases had already reached the number of notifications for the whole of the previous year.

30 APRIL 1998

(Paper No. 33)

215 FAIR TRADING—MRS KUHNKE—Dr Pezzutti to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

*216 ATTORNEY GENERAL—ASSAULT FIGURES FOR NORTH COAST—Dr Pezzutti asked the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) What is the Minister and the Government doing to combat the startling increase of assaults in many cities across New South Wales?
- (2) Have the figures for assault in some North Coast towns increased significantly over the last 3 years?
- (3) Has Kyogle's figure for assault for 1997 increased by 26% from 1996?
- (4) Has Richmond-Tweed's figure for 1997 increased by 5% from 1996?
- (5) Has Casino's figure increased 20% from 1996, but 63% since 1995?
- (6) Has the figure for Lismore increased since 1996 by 14%?
- (7) Will the Minister indicate what he will be doing to protect citizens in these towns?

Answer—

(1) As Attorney General I have been responsible for the establishment of the Crime Prevention Division in my Department, which includes the Violence Against Women Specialist Unit. The initiatives of the Division and this Unit are too numerous to mention within the confines of this answer, however, I would like to stress the Crime Prevention Division is aware of the considerable levels of concern about crime in country New South Wales. Within this context it is able to provide a variety of services which include:

- Information about successful community crime prevention strategies and contact details about those agencies which have implemented such strategies;
- Consultation, advice and support in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention strategies; and
- Information, education and training about the development of specific crime prevention programs.

These services can be tailored to the specific needs of different communities and organisations.

My Department has also been instrumental in the implementation of the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 and the Young Offenders Act 1997.

In relation to the north coast region of New South Wales the Honourable Member may now be aware that my colleague, the Hon Faye Lo Po', Minister for Juvenile Justice, announced the extension of Youth Justice Conferencing to all areas of the Far North Coast, including Richmond and Lismore from 25 May 1998. I am advised that Conference Administrators have been appointed across northern New South Wales. The Administrators will be responsible for implementing and operating the conferencing system. I am also informed that they are presently recruiting conference convenors, who will be required to facilitate conferencing in their local areas.

The Minister for Police will be able to provide further information in relation to initiatives in the area in policing.

(2) As the attached chart indicates, in some areas of northern New South Wales there have been increases in assault rates over the past year. However, in other areas there have been slight decreases.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

Local Government Area	1995	1996	1997
Ballina	166	255	247
Byron	131	212	241
Casino	105	137	164
Kyogle	96	78	98
Lismore	443	490	506
Richmond River	81	127	121
Tweed	280	284	310
Richmond-Tweed Statistical Division	1302	1583	1687

(3) The number and rate of assaults in the Kyogle Local Government Area has increased by 26% from 1996 to 1997. However, I should point out that the number of assaults has increased by only two between 1995 and 1997.

(4) Yes. However, the rate of increase of assaults in the Richmond-Tweed Statistical Division has decreased significantly in this period. The total number of assaults increased by 21.5% from 1995 (1302 incidents) to 1996 (1584 incidents), but by only 6.5% between 1996 (1584 incidents) and 1997 (1687 incidents).

(5) The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research advises me that this claim is only partially correct. The number of incidents as assault in the Casino Local Government Area increased by 20% from 1996 to 1997. However, the increase from 1995 to 1997 was 56%.

(6) No. I am advised by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research that the number of assaults in the Lismore Local Government Area increased by only 3% over the last two years.

(7) Apart from the answer provided above, further questions on this matter should be directed to the Minister for Police.

217 HEALTH—MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION SUBSCRIPTIONS—Dr Pezzutti to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

218 ENVIRONMENT—BALLINA NATURE RESERVE—Dr Pezzutti to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for the Environment—

*219 HEALTH—COMMONWEALTH-STATE GOVERNMENT MEASLES CONTROL CAMPAIGN—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

I refer the Minister to the proposed Commonwealth-State Government Measles Control Campaign:

(1) (a) Will children in the target groups for the campaign, who have already received the recommended two doses of the MMR vaccine, receive another dose of the vaccine under this program?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

- (b) If so, why?
- (2) (a) Will children who have already had measles, and therefore, in all but rare instances, have a natural immunity to measles, be vaccinated with the MMR vaccine in the campaign?
- (b) If so, why?
- (3) (a) Is the Minister aware of any vaccine products containing only the measles virus?
- (b) Given the focus of the campaign on the control of measles, has any consideration been given to the use of a vaccine containing only the measles virus?
- (4) What safeguards will be in place at the schools where vaccines are to be administered in the event of a child experiencing an anaphylactic reaction?
- (5) (a) Will resuscitation equipment and adrenalin be on hand at all schools in case of an anaphylactic reaction?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (6) (a) Will there be a medical professional on hand at all schools qualified and experienced in the use of these measures?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Yes, unless the diagnosis was based on a positive blood test.
- (b) If there is no evidence of confirmed and natural immunity, but the child has had a measles-like-illness, the child can receive the MMR vaccine without any ill effects.
- (3) No.
- (4) All nurses administering the MMR vaccine will have completed the NSW Health Immunisation Accreditation Training Program and will be proficient in Cardio - Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). All teams will carry adrenaline as per the recommendations by the National Health and Medical Research Council in the Australian Immunisation Handbook 6th Edition. The management of a child experiencing anaphylaxis will be followed as per the recommendations.

The Ambulance Association will be advised of the impending Measles Control Campaign, and will be informed of current schools in which vaccination clinics are being conducted.

On the day of the vaccination a nurse will conduct a pre-vaccination assessment of each child. If there is any doubt or suggestion of the child being allergic, the child will not be vaccinated and instead will be referred to a hospital for vaccination.

- (5) (a) Adrenaline will be on hand as per the recommendations.
- (b) Not applicable.

- (6) (a) Yes, nurses who have completed the Accreditation Program.
(b) No applicable.

*222 HEALTH—COMMONWEALTH-STATE GOVERNMENT MEASLES CONTROL CAMPAIGN—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

I refer the Minister to the proposed Commonwealth-State Government Measles Control Campaign to “ensure all primary school children are provided with a second dose of the measles (MMR) vaccination, through a school based delivery campaign”:

- (1) (a) Have representatives of the Minister or the Department of Health attended any planning meetings to discuss the implementation of the campaign?
(b) If so, when did these meetings take place and can the Minister advise of the outcomes of such meetings?
- (2) What information, if any, is currently available to parents about the campaign?
- (3) Will the Minister advise the number of school students and the age cohorts of those students who will be targeted for vaccination in the campaign?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
(b) The National Immunisation Coordinators meet on a quarterly basis to plan the National Measles Control Campaign Strategy.

Representatives from the NSW Health Department, Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services, education providers and parent groups have met to support the planned Measles Control Campaign.
- (2) Information will be available in July 1998.
- (3) 587,500 students in year kindergarten to year six at primary school.

*225 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—COST OF OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT—Mr Gay asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) (a) Did the Minister state that the cost of refurbishment of the new ministerial office on the 9th floor of Parliament House was \$65,000?
(b) Is this the true and final figure for all aspects of the refurbishment?
(c) If not, what was the total cost and why was it not made public?
- (2) (a) Was there any refurbishment necessary for the opening of the regional office in Bathurst?
(b) If so, how much did this cost?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

(3) At this stage, how much has it cost to establish the Ministry for Regional Development?

Answer—

- (1) (a) *Hansard* will confirm the Minister has not made such a statement.
- (b) No.
- (c) The refurbishment of the Ministers office at Parliament House was approached with a view to minimising costs and strictly adhering to the relevant guidelines.
- (2) (a) In addition to the purchase of standard office equipment, the construction of a secure office entrance was necessary for the operating of the regional office.
- (b) The Minister's Regional Office was approached with a view to minimising costs and strictly adhering to the relevant guidelines.
- (3) The establishment of the Ministry for Regional Development and his staff was approached with a view to minimising costs and strictly adhering to the relevant guidelines.

5 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 34)

228 PREMIER—NEW SOUTH WALES YOUTH POLICY—Mr Corbett to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

*229 CORRECTIVE SERVICES—MS BELLA JONES—Mr Corbett asked the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Energy, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

I refer to an article in the *Daily Telegraph* on Thursday 30 April 1998 about Ms Bella Jones, a protestor against woodchipping, who was arrested at Batemans Bay and flown by chartered aircraft to Sydney to be remanded in custody at the Mulawa remand section at Silverwater. Could the Minister advise:

- (1) During Ms Jones' time in the prison, was she forced to take tranquillisers twice a day, doused regularly with de-icing agent KP-24 and had to sleep on a concrete floor?
- (2) If so, what disciplinary or other actions will the Minister undertake to ensure that these actions by prison authorities will not occur again?
- (3) What was the cost to taxpayers of the return chartered aircraft flight from Batemans Bay to Sydney?

Answer—

(1) Ms Jones was imprisoned at Mulawa Correctional Centre from 4.20 pm on 24 April, 1998 until 6.30 am on 28 April, 1998.

Medication is of course a matter for the Corrections Health Service, which is administered by the Minister for Health. I am advised by the Corrections Health Service that Ms Jones was not forced to take tranquillisers.

On reception inmates are given a routine examination. The doctor at the clinic counselled Ms Jones who was showing anxiety about being in a correctional centre. The doctor explained that anxiety may cause sleeping difficulties and offered Ms Jones a sedative, which she accepted. Ms Jones had the option to decline the medication. I am advised that the offer of prescribed sedatives to persons for the first few days is standard Corrections Health Service procedure.

In line with routine induction procedures Ms Jones was issued with personal toiletries including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and KP 24 shampoo. The issue of KP 24 shampoo to all new receptions and on request is a standard procedure which was introduced at the request of a committee, comprised of an inmate representative from each wing, which meets with the governor on a regular basis. Use of the KP 24 shampoo is optional.

As a first-time inmate Ms Jones was kept overnight in the clinic on 24 April, where she had her own room and a bed. On her other three nights at Mulawa, as a result of a high number of inmates in reception and limited reception accommodation as a result of the construction of new reception facilities currently underway, Ms Jones was accommodated in a room with two other inmates. The room consisted of a double bunk and Ms Jones was provided with a mattress on the floor. If she slept on the concrete floor, it was by her own choice.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The transfer of Ms Jones from Batemans Bay to Sydney was arranged by the Police Service. The Member's question should be directed to the Minister for Police.

230 ROADS—GRAIN HAULAGE SUBSIDIES—Ms Kirkby to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

231 PUBLIC WORKS—STRICKLAND HOUSE—Ms Kirkby to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services—

*232 HEALTH—VACCINATION—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) (a) Are some New South Wales doctors and vaccine providers failing to provide accurate information regarding adverse reactions to vaccines?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to ensure the recommended guidelines, as set out in the 6th edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, are followed by doctors and vaccine providers?

(2) (a) Are some New South Wales doctors and vaccine providers failing to gain fully informed consent from the parents of children who are being vaccinated?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to ensure the recommended guidelines, as set out in the 6th edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, are followed by doctors and vaccine providers?

Answer—

(1) (a) NSW Health recommends doctors and other immunisation providers provide parents with information contained in the *Australian Immunisation Handbook* concerning the use, safety and contraindications of vaccines. All immunisation providers are professionally and ethically obliged to be guided by these standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

- (b) The Australian Immunisation Handbook is available free of charge to all immunisation providers. The Public Health Units and Divisions of General Practice Doctors also provide updated information to general practitioners.

(2) (a) and (b) NSW Health recommends any immunisation provider gain informed consent before administering any vaccine. The Australian Immunisation Handbook gives clear instructions about consent.

*233 HEALTH—ADVERSE REACTIONS TO VACCINATIONS—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) (a) Are some New South Wales doctors and vaccine providers not reporting “adverse reactions” to vaccinations as required under the NSW Public Health Act 1991?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for their refusal to report?

(2) What steps are being, or will be taken, by the Government to ensure all adverse reactions are notified by doctors and vaccine providers as is required by law?

Answer—

- (1) (a) There is no evidence available to the New South Wales Department of Health suggesting that immunisation providers refuse to report adverse events.

(b) Not applicable.

(2) NSW Health encourages all immunisation providers to report adverse events following vaccination to the local Public Health Unit. In addition, every three months the Commonwealth sends doctors the *Schedule of pharmaceutical benefits for pharmacists and medical practitioners*. The first page of this book is a reply paid form on which to report suspected adverse drug reactions to the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee.

234 HEALTH—VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

235 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

236 HEALTH—VACCINATION—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

6 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 35)

237 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—MILLENNIUM BUG—Mr Jobling to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Forestry, Minister for Ports, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney—

238 FISHERIES—FISH TRAPPING ENDORSEMENTS—Dr Pezzutti to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

- 239 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—BATHURST OFFICE—Mr Gay to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—
- 240 HEALTH—VACCINES—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 241 HEALTH—VACCINATION—SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 242 HEALTH—VACCINATION—SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 243 HEALTH—VACCINATION—INCENTIVE SCHEMES—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 244 HEALTH—COMMONWEALTH-STATE MEASLES CONTROL CAMPAIGN—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

7 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 36)

- 245 PREMIER—JOB INCREASES—ILLAWARRA-SOUTHERN TABLELANDS-SOUTH COAST—Mr Hannaford to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—
- 246 HEALTH—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITAL—Dr Pezzutti to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 247 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM—Mr Corbett to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth Affairs—
- 248 HEALTH—VACCINATION—MIMS ANNUAL—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 249 ROADS—VEGETATION ISLANDS—Mr Jones to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport, Minister for Roads—
- 250 MINERAL RESOURCES—CHAIN VALLEY BAY—Mr Jones to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—
- 251 TRANSPORT—STATE RAIL—Ms Kirkby to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

19 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 37)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

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- 252 ENERGY—GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Energy, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 253 PREMIER—KEN CRIPPS—CONSULTANCIES—Mrs Arena to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—
- 254 TREASURER—STATE AUTHORITIES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME TRUSTEE CORPORATION—REMUNERATION FOR DIRECTORS—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 255 HEALTH—HOSPITAL SERVICE AUDITS—Dr Pezzutti to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 257 MINERAL RESOURCES—MOUNT ARTHUR NORTH COAL DEPOSITS—Mr Jobling to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—
- 258 HEALTH—ORTHOMOLECULAR MEDICINE—Mr Jobling to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 259 HEALTH—IMMUNISATION—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 260 HEALTH—IMMUNISATION—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 261 EDUCATION—PORT KEMBLA PRIMARY SCHOOL—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth Affairs—
- 262 EDUCATION—MEASLES CONTROL CAMPAIGN—Mr Corbett to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth Affairs—
- 263 HEALTH—VACCINATION—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 264 PREMIER—MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT—Mr Jones to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—
- 265 ENVIRONMENT—TIMBARRA GOLD PROJECT—Mr Jones to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for the Environment—
- 266 ENVIRONMENT—TIMBARRA GOLD MINE—Mr Jones to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for the Environment—
- 267 ENVIRONMENT—TIMBARRA GOLD MINE—Mr Jones to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for the Environment—

- 268 URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING—TIMBARRA GOLD PROJECT—Mr Jones to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, and Minister for Housing—
- 269 ENERGY—PHOTO VOLTAIC—Mr Jones to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Energy, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 270 HEALTH—PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL—Mr Jones to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 271 HEALTH—MENTAL HEALTH ACT—Mr Jones to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 272 ENVIRONMENT—VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENT—Mr Jones to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for the Environment—
- 273 EDUCATION—SCHOOL BUSES—Mr Jones to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth Affairs—
- 274 ATTORNEY GENERAL—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—BROTHELDS—Mrs Nile to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—
- 275 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 276 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION—REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS FOR CHAIRPERSONS AND TRUSTEES—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 277 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION—CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SALARY PACKAGES—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 278 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 279 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION—STATE SUPER FINANCIAL SERVICES—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 280 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION—STATE SUPER FINANCIAL SERVICES—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tuesday 2 June 1998

20 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 38)

- 281 LOCAL COURTS—JURISDICTIONS—Mr Gallacher to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—
- 282 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PRODUCTS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—
- 283 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PRODUCTS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—
- 284 FAIR TRADING—ARCHITECTURAL GLASS PRODUCTS PTY LTD—Mr Jobling to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading—
- 285 PREMIER—SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE OLYMPICS—RENTWATCHER—Mr Cohen to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

21 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 39)

- 286 TRANSPORT—NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAY STATIONS—STAFFING—Mr Jobling to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 287 TREASURER—SUPERANNUATION ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY—Mrs Chadwick to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

26 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 40)

- 288 OLYMPICS—PESTICIDES—HOMEBUSH BAY—Mr Cohen to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for the Olympics—
- 289 PREMIER—MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT—SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM—Mrs Arena to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—
- 290 MINERAL RESOURCES—POST-MINING RELIEF SCHEME—Mr Gallacher to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

27 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 41)

- 291 ENVIRONMENT—PESTICIDE EXPOSURE—Mr Corbett to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Fair Trading representing the Minister for the Environment—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

28 MAY 1998

(Paper No. 42)

- 292 HEALTH—VACCINATION PROGRAM—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 293 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 294 HEALTH—STATISTICS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

2 JUNE 1998

(Paper No. 43)

- 295 HEALTH—MEASLES—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- (1) Is the Department aware of anecdotal evidence, from parents and paediatricians, that a child who recovers completely from a disease, such as measles, may demonstrate signs of improvement in developmental skills and motor ability, such as improved speech and enhanced manual dexterity?
- (2) Is the Department aware of any research to determine whether there is a link between recovery from such diseases and noticeable improvements in developmental skills and motor ability?
- 296 HEALTH—MMR VACCINE—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- (1) (a) Is immunity from measles, mumps or rubella passed onto a newborn child as a result of a mother having received the MMR vaccine?
- (b) If yes, how long is this immunity expected to last?
- (2) Is a mother's natural immunity from measles, mumps or rubella passed from the mother onto the newborn child?
- 297 HEALTH—NATIONAL ENHANCED MEASLES CONTROL PROGRAM—“SUSCEPTIBLES”—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- (1) (a) Will the term “susceptibles” be widely used during the National Enhanced Measles Control Program?
- (b) What children are included under the term 'susceptibles'?

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 2 June 1998

298 HEALTH—NATIONAL ENHANCED MEASLES CONTROL PROGRAM—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Public Works and Services representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) (a) What are the explicit objectives of the National Enhanced Measles Control Program?
- (b) What method will be used for evaluation of these objectives?

John Evans
Clerk of the Parliaments