

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No 5
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-11
HEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions relating to Emergency Services

QUESTION 1

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Is there any statistical information about when the insulation fires that you relate to, the 79, when that insulation was installed?

Mr STEVE WHAN: I do not have information on that.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: I am happy for you to take that on notice if you do not have an answer.

Mr MULLINS: Yes, I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

The question quotes 79 fires. The figure reported to the Committee was 69 fires.

The NSWFB holds limited information concerning the dates that insulation involved in these 69 fires was installed. It does not routinely monitor the date of installation of insulation involved in these fires.

Of the 69 recorded fires some relate to insulation that has been in place for many years.

QUESTION 2

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Is that due in part to the \$57,000 consultancy that you undertook in 2008-09 called Fraud Prevention and Governance for the improvement of corporate governance, investigate the controls in place to ensure all overtime payments are made according to departmental guidelines?

Mr MULLINS: Do you recall who the consultant was?

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Management Services.

Mr MULLINS: I am not aware of that particular consultancy, so I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The consultancy reported in the 2008-09 Annual Report was undertaken by Fraud Prevention and Governance Pty Ltd to support the development of the NSWFB Code of Conduct and related policies including the NSWFB Gifts and Benefits and Conflicts of Interest policies.

QUESTION 3

CHAIR: What progress has been made by emergency services in New South Wales in their lobbying of Federal Government agencies to allow people with hearing or speech impairments to send SMS messages to the 106 emergency number?

Mr STEVE WHAN: Mr Tannos might be able to answer your question. If not, I will take it on notice.

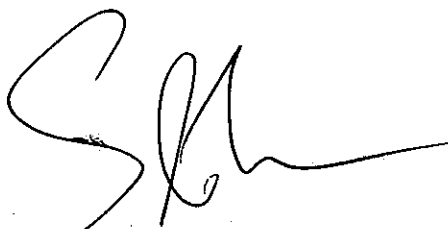
Mr TANNOS: We will take that question on notice.

Mr STEVE WHAN: We will take that question on notice to get the latest progress on that issue.

ANSWER

The NSW Emergency Services support the speech and hearing impaired community having SMS access to 106, the National Relay Service, currently operated by the Australian Communication Exchange Ltd (ACE).

The NSWFB has requested that the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) give priority to providing SMS access to 106 for the hearing and speech impaired community.



Steve Whan MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Emergency Services
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