

“ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?” CAMPAIGN LAUNCH 2015

1147. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the launch of this year’s “Are You Bushfire Ready?” campaign and I appeal to community members to access the website.

- (1) Can the Minister for Emergency Services confirm that the only information available on that site in a language other than English is a fact sheet on evaporative air conditioners?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that other key documents such as the checklist and other material to assist householders in preparing are not available in other common community languages?
- (3) Why is this, and how does the minister intend to address this gap in communication?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises —

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The department has found that the checklist and other material is too complex for translation. In consultation with culturally and linguistically diverse community leaders, it was agreed that translated Bushfire Ready fact sheets and other materials in the campaign would not be an effective use of resources. CALD community leaders advised that many CALD community members cannot read their primary language or would not be able to understand the complex material. The department considers its current practices to be appropriate and cost effective.