
PUBLIC TRUSTEE — APPOINTMENTS

1400. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General or his office aware of any cases in recent months of people, including an 85-year-old, having to wait until March 2016 for an appointment with the Public Trustee?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the reason for such a blowout in wait time, whereas previously appointments were granted within one or two weeks?
- (3) What is the average wait time for an appointment with the Public Trustee office to —
 - (a) initiate the drafting of a will; and
 - (b) amend a will?
- (4) What action will the Attorney General take to ensure wait times for Public Trustee appointments are of a reasonable duration, especially for elderly clients?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Increased demand is due to community education, such as the recent Seniors' Week, and recent decisions of courts and tribunals requiring higher standards of diligence in drafting wills. Over the past four years, the average waiting time has been six to 12 weeks.
- (3)
 - (a) For drafting of a will, the wait time is 12 weeks.
 - (b) For amending a will, the wait time is 12 weeks. Clients are offered earlier appointments—becoming available in January—due to cancellations.
- (4) The wills service is a non-statutory function and the wait times will continue to be monitored.