

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION — SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY UNIT

436. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's so-called "program rationalisation", which will lead to the abolition of the substantive equality unit in the Equal Opportunity Commission.

- (1) What programs are operating in other government agencies to fill the gap?
- (2) What partnerships with non-government organisations are being undertaken to ensure that racist and discriminatory policies and practices in government do not lead to unequal outcomes and treatment?
- (3) Is the Attorney General aware that in a pre-election forum Deputy Premier Hames, on behalf of the government, reiterated the government's commitment to substantive equality?
- (4) Will the Attorney General explain why the unit is being abolished prior to the conclusion of the review of the EOC, which he has recently set in motion?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1)–(4) Timing and implementation plans for budget measures are currently being determined between ministers and agencies. When completed, the government will make detailed announcements. It should also be noted that members will have significant opportunity to seek this information during estimates hearings.