

GEOFF BARKLA — WORKERS' COMPENSATION CASE

167. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to question on notice 4580 asked on 29 September 2011 regarding the workers' compensation case for Mr Geoff Barkla. Given that under the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981 the insurer has an obligation to lodge a regulation form 3B insurer's notice that liability is disputed when the insurer says that there is a dispute, I ask —

- (1) Is the minister aware that Mr Barkla's insurer has admitted that it has not lodged the regulation form 3B, thereby failing to comply with the act and the regulations?
- (2) What action, if any, will the minister take to address this matter?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. I know that she has an ongoing interest in this matter and that we have both received a lot of correspondence about it.

- (1)–(2) I am advised that this specific issue was the subject of interlocutory proceedings before the arbitration service and is now before the District Court on appeal. As such, it would be inappropriate to comment further.