

GAS FITTERS — CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY

4652. Hon Kate Doust to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the new *National Occupational Licensing regulations* (NOLS) for gas fitters, and ask —

- (1) What processes are in place to ensure that people with a gas fitting Certificate of Competency are aware of the need to convert their certificate to a gas fitting permit?
- (2) What methods of correspondence have been used to communicate the changes to gas fitters?
- (3) How many letters from the Department of Commerce (Energy Safety) have been sent to gas fitters with a Certificate of Competency advising them of the upcoming change?
- (4) Of the letters sent, how many have been returned, marked as return to sender?
- (5) What process is followed after a letter is returned as a result of incorrect address details?
- (6) Will Certificates of Competency of a gas fitter be terminated if they have not obtained a NOLS approved gas fitting permit by 1 July 2012?
- (7) If yes to (6), how many fitters does the department expect will no longer be licensed gas fitters at that date?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)–(3)
 - o Articles in the Energy Bulletin (EnergySafety magazine) sent to all registered gas fitters
 - o Advice to Master Plumbers & Gas Fitters Association
 - o Gas suppliers provided information for inclusion in their industry awareness programmes
 - o Included in recent gas fitter information sessions held in Perth, Mandurah, Bunbury, Merredin, Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Broome, Port Hedland and Karratha, as well as:-
 - o Gas Fitter company information (meet and greet) sessions; and
 - o Trade night presentations
 - o Information sheet available on the EnergySafety web site
 - o Direct mail out to all 2334 registered holders of a Certificate of Competency commenced on 10 July 2011; with two proposed follow-up direct mail outs to non respondents
 - o Prepared supply information to trade outlets for display on counters
- (4) 279
- (5) It is proposed to compare the gas fitter identification for letters returned as incorrect address details against the list of Notices of Completion submitted over the last two years in order to ascertain gas fitter contact details.
- (6) No. The draft National Occupational Licensing System (NOLS) regulations for gas fitters is expected to be released for public consultation in December 2011 for public consultation and expected to be completed in mid-March 2012, as a consequence NOLS it not expected to commence for gas fitters before April 2013 rather than by 1 July 2012.
- (7) Not applicable.