

PSYCHOTHERAPISTS — REGULATION AND LICENSING

693. Hon ALISON XAMON to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the unlicensed psychotherapy industry.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the great degree of harm that unregulated and untrained counsellors and psychotherapists can cause to the mental health of their clients?
- (2) Does the minister have any intention of bringing in a regulatory framework for these industries?
- (3) Will the minister consider enforcing a code of practice for these industries?
- (4) Will the minister consider as a minimum standard a negative licensing scheme for these industries?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. A regulatory framework for unregulated providers of health services is being considered in the next phase of the national registration and accreditation scheme for the health professions. This will be in addition to the current powers of the Western Australian Office of Health Review, which may investigate complaints against such counsellors and psychotherapists.
- (3) Yes. A code of practice is an option that may be considered in the national regulatory scheme.
- (4) Yes. A negative licensing scheme is an option that may be considered in the national scheme.