

MR WARD — COMPENSATION TO FAMILY

345. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Why is the government yet to finalise the ex gratia payment to the family of Mr Ward and when will the payment be made?
- (2) Why has the government not yet implemented the coroner's recommendations following the inquest into Mr Ward's death and when will all the recommendations be implemented?
- (3) What progress has the government made towards improving the standards of prisoner transport fleet vehicles?
- (4) What is yet to be done to improve standards in these vehicles and what is the timetable for improvements?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The Attorney General is waiting to complete a meeting with Mr Peter Collins of the Aboriginal Legal Service, which is scheduled for 17 June, as part of the consultation process before taking this matter to cabinet. Depending on the content of the meeting, further discussions with the Aboriginal Legal Service may be necessary before a submission can be taken to cabinet.
- (2) The Department of the Attorney General advises that overall the government is well advanced in implementing the coroner's recommendations; for example, recommendation 5 has already been implemented. The government has made a firm commitment to complete a review of the Bail Act 1982 by December this year, and considerable progress has been made on the remaining recommendations, recommendations 4, 6, 7 and 8. The Department of Corrective Services advises that the department is implementing all relevant coronial recommendations. The recommendations will be completed by December 2010.
- (3) The Department of Corrective Services has evaluated each vehicle in the custodial transport fleet and has withdrawn from service all vehicles no longer considered suitable for the movement of prisoners and persons in custody. It has fitted all remaining vehicles in the custodial transport fleet with temperature monitoring and duress alarm systems. It has replaced 27 vehicles in the custodial transport fleet and will replace all 40 vehicles by 31 December 2010. It has purchased two Volkswagen Crafter vehicles and a small coach to move lower security risk prisoners. It has introduced the use of coaches and aircraft to provide safer and more humane movement of persons over great distances. It has established standards and guidelines for the movement of persons in custody, including vehicle specifications, and is implementing these as the new fleet is introduced.
- (4) Following the establishment of ongoing funding for the replacement of the custodial transport fleet, the department has established a vehicle replacement strategy that will see the vehicle chassis replaced every five years and the transport pod replaced every 10 years. The department will continue to evaluate the use of aircraft and coaches as a means of transporting prisoners and persons in custody over long distances. The department is also looking at ways to reduce the need to move prisoners and persons in custody, including increasing the use of audiovisual technology for court appearances, medical consultations, and family visits. The department foresees that these will be ongoing matters.