

WORKSAFE — WORKPLACE INSPECTORS

5964. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the WorkSafe WA Business Plan 2012–13 and specifically the proactive intervention strategies to be carried out in 2012–13, and I ask —

- (1) How are WorkSafe inspector resources divided and prioritised?
- (2) How many, if any, WorkSafe inspectors —
 - (a) work exclusively on proactive interventions and project work; and
 - (b) exclusively respond to employee notifications of workplace occupational health and safety issues?
- (3) Will ongoing WorkSafe inspector vacancies mean that —
 - (a) the Construction, Regional and Primary Directorate cannot complete its anticipated project work;
 - (b) the Health Hazards and Plant Safety Directorate cannot progress its 2012–13 identified industry sectors and hazards for attention; and
 - (c) the Manufacturing, Transport and Service Industries Directorate cannot conduct its proposed interventions programs?
- (4) If no to (3)(a), (b) or (c) —
 - (a) why not;
 - (b) what impact will the vacancies have on the capacity of WorkSafe directorates to —
 - (i) carry out proactive projects;
 - (ii) respond to employee notifications of workplace occupational health and safety issues; and
 - (iii) monitor workplace compliance with issued enforcement actions?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Inspectors are organised into industry-based teams according to their qualifications and experience. Inspector resources are prioritised according to the information provided and after considering matters such as the seriousness and immediacy of a risk to safety, the nature of the issues involved, WorkSafe's knowledge about a workplace or industry, and how the resources can be most efficiently used.
- (2) (a)–(b) WorkSafe organises its inspector resources such that no inspector deals exclusively with either proactive or reactive investigation work.
- (3) (a)–(c) No.
- (4) (a) As each of the Directorates named in question (3) plans its activities on the basis of available resources, the vacancies are not expected to have any impact on the capacity of those Directorates to complete the activities.
 - (b) (i)–(iii) WorkSafe inspectors continually demonstrate their commitment to occupational safety and health, and provide a high level of service to Western Australian workplaces during fluctuations in work levels. WorkSafe will continue to take action aimed at filling the vacancies.