

HEALTH LEGISLATION

739. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to comments in “The Western Australian Chief Health Officer’s Report 2010” on developing new legislation to replace the Health Act 1911.

- (1) Has the government drafted or begun to draft new legislation?
- (2) What consultation has taken place to develop the legislation?
- (3) When will the government introduce legislation for a new public health act?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Two rounds of extensive statewide consultation with community stakeholders, industry and local government were undertaken. In 2005 “A New Public Health Act for Western Australia: A Discussion Paper” was released, setting out and discussing policy options. The overwhelming response and feedback was support for the public health risk-based approach. In 2008, a draft Public Health Bill was released for consultation. Again, the responses were overwhelmingly supportive, with feedback being fed in to subsequent drafts of the bill.
- (3) It is intended that the public health bill will be introduced in the autumn parliamentary sitting of 2011.