

WORKSAFE — WORKPLACE INSPECTORS

5962. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the Department of Commerce Annual Report for the 2007–08, 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11 financial years in relation to labour inspections, and I ask —

- (1) Why has the full-time equivalent employees (FTE) WorkSafe inspector complement remained stable at 103 FTE despite progressive increases in —
 - (a) the total businesses liable for inspection by Western Australia's workplace inspectors;
 - (b) the employees employed at the total businesses liable for inspection; and
 - (c) the numbers of improvement and new prosecution notices issued?
- (2) Given that the total businesses liable for inspection have been progressively increasing why has the number of workplace visits steadily decreased?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)–(2) The WorkSafe inspector complement and the decrease in the number of visits reflects the difficulties WorkSafe has in keeping and replacing inspectors who leave. 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 the operating environment.