

**OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING NATIONAL LAW (WA) BILL 2010 —
STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM LEGISLATION AND STATUTES REVIEW REPORT —
GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE**

Statement by Minister for Commerce

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Commerce) [2.02 pm]: I would like to provide the house with an interim response to the report of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review on the Occupational Licensing National Law (WA) Bill 2010 which was tabled in the house on 14 April 2011. It is my intention to provide a detailed response to the committee's report in due course. The purpose of this statement is to advise members of this government's proposed course of action with this bill.

May I firstly acknowledge the work of the committee in its lengthy examination of this bill. The bill was first referred to the committee on 25 November 2010. Members will recall that the Occupational Licensing National Law (WA) Bill 2010 was created to implement the Council of Australian Governments' intergovernmental agreement to establish a national licensing scheme for specified occupations. Under the national scheme, businesses and workers with a national licence will be able to operate across Australia without the need to hold multiple licences. The bill is intended to enact the provisions of a model Occupational Licensing National Law as a law of Western Australia.

The committee recommended that the Occupational Licensing National Law (WA) Bill 2010 not be passed. The committee identified a number of concerns with the bill, including that too much policy detail is to be included in national regulations that are yet to be developed. The government is confident of being able to address the committee's concerns but cannot do so until the detail of the national regulations is known. The national regulations for those occupations intended for inclusion in the national licensing scheme from 1 July 2012 are being finalised and are scheduled to be released, along with a regulation impact statement, in July 2011 for a two-month public consultation period. Having regard to this timetable and the need for further consultation with other jurisdictions and affected stakeholders, it is my intention to defer further consideration of the Occupational Licensing National Law (WA) Bill 2010 until later this year when the national regulations have been settled. At that point the government will determine its final position with regard to the implementation of the national licensing scheme in Western Australia.

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Ed Dermer**.