

DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

300. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Minister for Disability Services:

I am not trying to make the minister in any way nervous or anything when I ask the question.

- (1) Is the government going to bring forward legislation to remove the independent status of the Disability Services Commission and subsume it into a larger department; and, if so, will there still be a standalone portfolio of Minister for Disability Services?
- (2) Does any of this apply to the reason Dr Ron Chalmers was apparently pushed out of his office as director general of the Disability Services Commission?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1) Yes; at some stage legislation will be brought forward, but those details are being worked through at this stage.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Legislation to do what, minister, if I may?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: This is question time, member, so you ask the question and I give my answer. It was not on notice. I am very happy to organise a briefing, but let me answer what I heard the question was today.

In relation to an ongoing Minister for Disability Services, absolutely there will be one as part of the McGowan Labor government. I continue —

- (2) Dr Ron Chalmers will finish at the agency in early August. He was intending to leave in early July; however, I have asked him to stay around longer to assist in negotiations with the federal government in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.