

PSYCHOTHERAPISTS — REGULATION AND LICENSING

Hon ALISON XAMON to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to question without notice 693, asked on 16 September, regarding regulation for counsellors and psychotherapists. The answer given was that such regulation was being considered for the next phase of the national registration and accreditation scheme for health providers.

- (1) In the Council of Australian Governments negotiations, will the minister press for these industries to be licensed as part of the next phase of the scheme?
- (2) When does the minister expect each of the planning, consultation and implementation phases of the next phase of this scheme to be complete?
- (3) Which peak bodies and non-government organisations will the minister consult with regarding regulation of unlicensed psychotherapists and counsellors?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. The Minister for Health has provided the following answer —

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No timetable has been developed for this project.
- (3) This project is in the very early stages and the consultation process is yet to be developed.