

ASBESTOS DISEASES COMPENSATION BILL — REINTRODUCTION

49. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Asbestos Diseases Compensation Bill 2013 introduced into the Legislative Council by Hon Kate Doust to which all members of the then Labor opposition gave unqualified and unequivocal support as not only important but urgent. Given that even when it came to the bill being considered at the stage of the Committee of the Whole, the Labor Party asserted that there was no need to amend the bill —

- (1) When will that bill be re-introduced in the form passed by the house in November 2016?
- (2) If it is not being reintroduced in the form passed by the house, why not?
- (3) If it is not to be reintroduced in the form passed by the house, is it because now that the Labor Party has responsibility for government it admits that the bill is flawed or, at the very least, requires improvement before it is fit to be passed?
- (4) Will legislation be introduced to achieve reform in this field; and, if so, when?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The McGowan government recognises that asbestos-related diseases are a significant issue and is profoundly sympathetic to those suffering from such illnesses. I commend Hon Kate Doust, MLC, for her important work in this area. The government will complete the economic analysis proposed by the Law Reform Commission of WA in its final report of project 106, “Project 106—Provisional Damages and Damages for Gratuitous Services”, before making a decision to reintroduce the bill.