

WORKCOVER WA — WORKERS' COMPENSATION SCHEME

242. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Commerce:

- (1) Can the minister advise how WorkCover WA monitors insurers, such as Allianz Australia Insurance, in their compliance with the workers' compensation scheme?
- (2) Can the minister confirm whether it is the case that when an insurer disputes liability for a workers' compensation claim, the insurer is required to issue a notice pursuant to section 57A(3)(b) of the act?
- (3) Can the minister explain why Mr Geoff Barkla's workers' compensation claim was left in an indeterminate state for 21 months with no formal reasons given as to why his claim was in dispute?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) WorkCover WA monitors approved insurers, including Allianz Australia Insurance, in accordance with section 161 of the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981. In meeting its obligations under this provision, WorkCover WA undertakes an annual performance review of approved insurers and a five-yearly renewal process.
- (2) I assume that the question relates to the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981. The section referred to by the member is self-explanatory and I can add nothing further.
- (3) It is inappropriate for me to comment on the nature of an individual's dealings with his insurer. If the individual is dissatisfied with his insurer, he may be able to refer his complaint to WorkCover WA's conciliation and arbitration services.