

BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES — DIGITALISATION

**244. Hon SUE ELLERY to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:**

I refer to the impact of the Attorney General's failure to fund the full digitalisation of birth, death and marriage certificates in Western Australia.

- (1) Is the minister aware that people seeking information for job clearances to work in the Pilbara and other regional areas get an automated message from the department telling them that they have only two options—apply by mail with certified ID documents or turn up in person to the Perth office with ID and \$44?
- (2) Is the minister aware that a Victorian arriving in Tom Price can get a birth certificate by going online and paying only \$26.60?
- (3) When can Western Australians expect to have online access to birth, death and marriage certificates?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Attorney General advises the following —

- (1) The registry's automated phone message provides the following options to obtain Western Australian certificates —
  - (a) apply in person to the Perth Registry Office;
  - (b) apply in writing to the Perth Registry Office; or
  - (c) apply in person at various court house locations throughout the state. These regional locations are available from the registry's website and delivery times depend on the location and postal delivery times.

Customers also have an option to speak to a registry officer if they wish to do so.

- (2) Persons born in Victoria can apply for a birth certificate on line; however, the applicant must also separately post his or her identification documents to the Victorian registry to assist in confirming his or her entitlement to the certificate. The identification documents are matched with the online request before the certificate is posted back to the applicant. I understand that whilst the certificate fee in Victoria is currently \$26.60, the cost of the Western Australia certificate fee of \$44 is similar to the fee in New South Wales, being \$44, and the ACT, being \$42.
- (3) The current priority is to convert two million paper-based birth, death and marriage records to computer format. This project commenced in December 2008 and is expected to take five years to complete. Once the conversion project has been completed consideration will be given to online applications for birth, death and marriage certificates.