

ABORTION — NOTIFICATION FORMS

1234. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to section 335 of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*, which states that a medical practitioner who performs an abortion must notify the Chief Health Officer of the fact in the prescribed form within 14 days of the abortion being performed, and that such notification must not contain any particulars from which it may be possible to ascertain the identity of the patient, I ask:

- (a) how many forms have been received covering the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022; and
- (b) further to (a), will the Minister table the forms for the abortions performed at 20 weeks or later; and
- (c) if no to (b), will the Minister undertake to comply with section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a) 8,554
- (b) No, I will not be tabling the abortion notification forms for individual patients. There is a need to balance the public interest in access to information against the need to protect the privacy and dignity of individuals receiving legal health services.
- (c) Not applicable. The information requested in (b) does not fall within the remit of section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.