

WORKERS COMPENSATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT BILL 2023

926. Hon BEN DAWKINS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

I refer to *Hansard* of 15 August 2023 and comments made by Hon Matthew Swinbourn that it is not the government's intention to exclude any class of workers from coverage in the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023. The intention of the words of the amendment are clear, and it is clear and unambiguous that the government's proposed amendment at clause 12 will exclude a class of workers that we can loosely call contractors. This is confirmed by a letter dated 16 June 2023 from the Australian Lawyers Alliance. I seek leave to table the document.

[Leave granted. See paper [2467](#).]

Hon BEN DAWKINS: I ask —

- (1) Is the mistake and explanation of the effect of clause 12 a mistake made by the parliamentary secretary or is it a mistake the minister has made himself in understanding the effect of clause 12?
- (2) Given, based on barristers' opinion, that without any doubt contractors will be excluded from the coverage of "worker" in the new bill, what steps will be taken to ensure that this class of workers is made aware of their exclusion and takes steps to get their own coverage?

Point of Order

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: I rise on a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: I am just consulting with the Clerk.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: I wish to raise a point of order about the question before we get any further, President.

The PRESIDENT: I give the call to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: The member's question appears to seek an opinion, including a legal opinion or interpretation. It contains argument and is not concise, all of which is in breach of standing order 105. I seek a ruling on that, President.

The PRESIDENT: Given the range of issues involved in your point of order, I will take the matter under advisement and report to the chamber at a later date.