

MENTAL HEALTH ACT — MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Question without Notice 898 — Answer Advice

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Attorney General) [5.07 pm]: By way of information, in respect of the question asked by Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich earlier, the information I have received is that the question, if it is question without notice 886 —

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I don't have a number.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: In any case, I have been told that it is not a question that falls within my ability to answer. It should be directed to the Minister for Mental Health and it has been redirected accordingly. That is why I do not have an answer.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: No; the State Solicitor's Office gave advice to the Minister for Mental Health.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I should clarify that the State Solicitor's Office, as the member is well aware, she having been a minister at one point, gives advice to various government departments. They do not always go through the Attorney General's office —

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: That's all right; I'm just asking when you gave the advice.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: — and they are not necessarily directed through me. They are provided directly to various government departments.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I'm just asking when you gave the advice.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I did not give the advice.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Your office did.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! My understanding of all that is that the question was redirected to the Minister for Mental Health. Does the Minister for Mental Health have an answer today or does she wish to take it on notice and provide an answer tomorrow?

HON HELEN MORTON (East Metropolitan — Minister for Mental Health) [5.08 pm]: I did speak across the chamber and offered to answer that question on behalf of the Attorney General and the member who asked the question did not want that, because she said there were two separate questions, one to me and one to the Attorney General and she wanted the Attorney General's response. I have an answer to one question that was directed to me and I do not recall now whether the answer is identical, in terms of the question, but I have one that is similar to that.

Hon Michael Mischin: Mr President, perhaps —

The PRESIDENT: I do not know what the question is.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I heard the question asked by Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich, but I do not know whether the question asked of the Minister for Mental Health is the same, so I cannot tell whether it is the same answer that the member was seeking—just redirected. Can the Attorney General throw any light on it?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I cannot answer the question that has been asked of me. I already indicated earlier that I will look into it and if one did come through I would respond. My information is that it has been redirected. Plainly, I cannot resolve that issue now. I am not trying to be difficult about this; I simply cannot offer the answer. I will look into it overnight and I will see that the honourable member gets her answer either through me or through the agency that is able to provide it. I will sort it out.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I think that's fair enough.

The PRESIDENT: That assurance has been provided and we will get an answer perhaps after question time tomorrow.