

INSURANCE — CLAIMS HARVESTING

173. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the Treasurer's letter to the Law Society of Western Australia dated 9 February 2023 regarding claims harvesting.

- (1) When was the Treasurer most recently briefed by the Insurance Commission of Western Australia about claims harvesting?
- (2) Will the Treasurer table the most recent briefing note, or similar document, he has received about this?
- (3) Has ICWA noted an increase in claims harvesting?
- (4) If yes to (3), what has been the increase and over what period of time has this been noted?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide the answer on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services.

- (1)–(4) Claims harvesting, or claims farming, is predatory behaviour that involves practices designed to entice people to make personal injury insurance claims. Despite a reduction in injuries resulting from car crashes in Western Australia, the volume of claims made continues to increase. It is suspected that around 30 per cent of claims made in WA for compulsory third party motor insurance are the result of claims harvesting activity, up from around nine per cent in 2017–18. This will not be tolerated, and the McGowan Labor government is moving to stamp it out. The drafting of legislation to stamp out claims harvesting practices in motor vehicle injury insurance claims is currently underway.