

Question on Notice

No. 752

Asked on Friday 18 June 2004

Mr MCNAMARA asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Welford) –

QUESTION:

How are volunteers in community groups specifically covered by public liability insurance when they are taking part in the group's activities?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has assisted community groups in reducing the extent of cover required for the actions of volunteers through passage of the *Civil Liability Act 2003* on 9 April 2003. This Act contained provisions that dealt with the exposure of volunteers. Specifically, under the Act, a volunteer doing community work for a community organisation does not incur any personal liability for their negligence if acting in good faith and in accordance with the instructions of the community group.

The intention of these provisions, in addition to other provisions of the Act dealing with liability generally, is to provide a sustainable environment for public liability insurance in the future. However, it must be remembered it will take some time for any savings as a result of the Act to be generated, identified and passed on by insurers.

In addition to the Act, the Queensland Government established the Group Liability Insurance Scheme in September 2002 to ensure provision of insurance to community groups who could not secure cover at all.

The Queensland Government also developed a risk management website. The site was specifically designed to train community organisations, small business and individuals on development of good risk management practices to reduce exposure to risk. In addition to providing training, the site also provides resources, such as forms and checklists, as well as links to other useful web sites.