

Question on Notice

No. 214

Asked on Wednesday, 1 March 2006

Mr MCARDLE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mrs Lavarch) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to date, each reported separately—

- (1) On how many occasions has the Queensland Law Reform Commission held public meetings on questions of law reform outside the Brisbane metropolitan area?
- (2) With respect to each consultation, what was the location thereof?
- (3) With respect to each consultation, what was the date thereof?
- (4) With respect to each consultation, what was the advertising that occurred to notify the public of Queensland such consultation was taking place?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Law Reform Commission's usual practice, on the release of a Working Paper, is to invite submissions from the public by issuing a press release and by publishing a call for submissions in a newspaper circulating throughout Queensland. Depending on the reference, brief articles outlining the nature of the review and calling for submissions may also be placed in other publications. In addition, copies of the Commission's current Working Papers are provided, on request, to members of the public free of charge, and are also made available on the Commission's website.

The Commission does not routinely hold *public* meetings, whether in Brisbane or outside Brisbane. Most consultation meetings are organised either at the request of particular individuals or organisations, or as a result of the Commission itself soliciting the views of particular individuals or organisations. Accordingly, in relation to the specific questions asked:

- (1) The Queensland Law Reform Commission did not hold any public meetings on questions of law reform either in Brisbane or outside the Brisbane metropolitan area during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 or 2005-06 to date.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) See answer to (1).
- (4) See answer to (1).

However, the Commission has taken other steps to consult on questions of law reform with individuals or organisations from outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, consisting of telephone consultations, meetings in Brisbane with individuals from outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, and meetings in Brisbane with representatives of organisations that are peak bodies or that have a State-wide focus.

By way of example, during 2004-05, the Commission held one meeting outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, six telephone consultations with individuals or organisations from outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, and six meetings in Brisbane with representatives of organisations that are peak bodies or that have a state-wide focus.

The initial meeting and the telephone consultations were held with individuals from a variety of locations outside the Brisbane metropolitan area – namely, Atherton, Beenleigh, the Gold Coast, the Ipswich Corridor, Macleay Island, Mt Isa, Tara and Roma.

In the current financial year to date, the Commission has held two meetings in Brisbane with individuals from outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, seven telephone consultations with individuals or organisations from outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, and two meetings in Brisbane with representatives of organisations that are peak bodies or that have either a state-wide focus or offices or branches outside Brisbane.

The initial two meetings and the telephone consultations were held with individuals from a variety of locations outside the Brisbane metropolitan area – namely, Bundaberg, Emu Park, the Gold Coast, Goondiwindi, Kallangur, Logan and Townsville.

The type and extent of the consultation undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission depends on the nature of the particular reference and the issues under review. Because the Commission's new reference to review Queensland's guardianship laws involves issues that affect a very wide range of people, additional funding has been provided to the Commission to undertake extensive community consultation.

The Commission intends, following the release of its first Discussion Paper on that reference, to hold public forums and other meetings in a number of regions outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, including Northern, Central and Western Queensland, as well as at the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast.