

Question on Notice
No. 572
Asked on 17 April 2008

MR. P REEVES asked the Leader of the Liberal Party, Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice and Fair Trading (MR. MCARDLE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Coroners (Reporting Arrangements) Amendment Bill—
As it is not clear if the National Party agreed with the introduction of this Bill will he inform the House if this Bill is going to be withdrawn prior to resumption of the debate?

ANSWER:

I would like to thank the Member for Mansfield for recognising the important role the Queensland Coalition is playing in providing a strong and united alternative government with policies worthy of his consideration and interest. This Question on Notice is also an extraordinary testimonial from a Government Member of Parliament who now chooses to direct important questions about policy to the alternative government. This in no small way reflects an underlying lack of confidence in the Bligh Government's ability to provide honest and reliable information about matters of public importance. It is also a view shared by the Queensland Coalition and the Queensland Auditor-General. As the Member is no doubt aware, the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No.1 for 2008 (Enhancing Accountability through Annual Reporting: A Performance Management System Audit) released on 17 April 2008 found: "Guidance provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Treasury Department is not sufficient to support accountability and promote a culture of performance management...[And] The information provided to the Parliament through departmental annual reports does not fully comply with legislation, is incomplete and ambiguous in the portrayal of agency accountability and performance."

The Member for Mansfield should be aware that for the reasons outlined in answers to Questions on Notice from the Member for Algester and the Member for Kallangur, the Queensland Coalition remains committed to *the Coroner's (Reporting Arrangements) Amendment Bill*.

The Honourable Member should also be aware that the current Queensland Government does not have a good track record on accountability and performance management. The Queensland Ombudsman (2006) has argued "the ability of the Queensland coronial system to prevent death and injury would be substantially improved by a requirement that public sector agencies respond to coronial recommendations that relate to legislation they administer. The arguments for this position are highly persuasive, while arguments against are not consistent with a best practice accountability framework." Indeed, the Ombudsman notes that public sector agencies believed they should respond to coronial recommendations directed to them as a matter of good administrative practice. For this reason, I encourage the Member for Mansfield to support the *Coroner's (Reporting Arrangements) Amendment Bill* when it is debated in Queensland Parliament. Notably, on 17 April 2008 Premier Bligh advised Queensland Parliament that the Queensland Government would "explore new ways to improve performance management".

I refer the Honourable Member to Questions on Notice No. 553, No. 570 and No. 586 for more information.