

Question on Notice
No. 819
Asked on 19 November 2013

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail whether the legislation banning commercial solariums captures businesses who sell or rent solariums for private use at home and if not, is there intention to address this matter in the future?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Mermaid Beach for his question.

I share your concerns over the private use of solarium.

Currently, commercial solarium are banned. This ban was put in place at the end of 2012. To ensure businesses that already had solarium were provided time to move to other business arrangements, a transitional provision in the Radiation Safety Regulation 2010 allowed existing possession licensees to retain their solarium as long as they continued to possess them. There are no businesses authorised under the terms of their licences to sell or rent solarium for private use at home. Further, the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* prohibits licensees from selling, renting or otherwise supplying their solarium to another person without approval.

I recently announced an end to the transitional period, meaning that the ban will soon apply to the solarium currently in the possession of the 43 remaining possession licensees. To give effect to my announcement, the Regulation will require further amendment. This amendment will also clarify that licensees are not allowed to retain, sell or rent their solarium for private use at home.

Solarium that are owned privately and not used for a business are not captured under the terms of the ban. As this is an issue in all States and Territories, Australian Health Ministers are examining ways to effect national restrictions on the supply of solarium for private purposes.

To minimise the number of commercial solarium in the market before the full ban is in place, as well as doing all we can to reduce the risk of skin cancer, I announced financial incentives that will be offered to businesses to encourage them to surrender their solarium to the Department of Health prior to the expiry of their current licences or 31 December 2014, whichever is earlier. These solarium will be destroyed and disposed of.