

Question on Notice

No. 1446

Asked on 30 November 2022

MS F SIMPSON ASKED TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT (HON C DICK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Treasurer's statement this week that SPER debt for court-ordered restitution to victims of crime is 'under review' after revelations that victims are owed \$52m—

Will the Treasurer advise (a) when this review commenced, (b) what are its terms of reference, (c) when will it be completed and (d) what will the Treasurer do to ensure victims of crime receive more transparent information about when they will get paid?

ANSWER:

The premise of the Member's question is incorrect. I provided a statement to a media outlet that included the following: "SPER is in the process of reviewing what additional information it can share with victims of crime." As the Member may be aware, administering agencies continuously consider and reassess operational performance and policy frameworks, and regularly progress legislative and administrative amendments to facilitate ongoing improvement. In that context, the specific details sought by the Member regarding dates and terms of reference are not operative.

Confidentiality provisions were first inserted into the *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999* (SPE Act) in 2012 under the former Newman LNP Government in which the honourable Member served. The provisions relating to non-disclosure of personal information of State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) debtors have remained unchanged since this time.

The strict confidentiality provisions in the SPE Act permit disclosure of personal information only in specific limited circumstances and are designed to protect all persons whose confidential information is acquired in the course of administering the SPE Act. They recognise that all persons have equal rights to privacy and are consistent with the objectives of the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, which includes the fair handling of personal information and provides for the information privacy principles which limit the disclosure of personal information to only particular circumstances.

As I have indicated to the Member directly, SPER will continue to provide the maximum amount of information permissible under law.