



Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Addressed to: MR ANDREW BARR MLA

Redirected to: MS RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA

In relation to: Phone call from CHS to CMO

Hearing: 11 June 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript page 39-40

Transcript provided: 19 June 2025

Answer Due: 25 June 2025

MR BARR took on notice the following question:

MS CASTLEY: Yes, thanks. So in your capacity as Chief Minister, do you believe this is something the Health Minister should have informed you about as soon as she found out?

Mr Barr: Well, I was informed by way of a one sentence saying—

MS CASTLEY: She found out on the 4th.

Mr Barr: Yes, I will check the exact dating, but it would have been a matter of days, and that was a long weekend, as I recall, Friday the 4th going into the October Labor Day long weekend. I was at that time preparing for my debate against the Leader of the Opposition so I would not have been, I guess, focused particularly on routine weekly updates from directorates. We were at the closing stages of the election campaign, with probably the most significant event in the election happening a matter of days away. But I will confirm all of those dates and those questions for you on notice.

MS CASTLEY: But to confirm you did not know about it until that briefing? There was no phone call or anything like that?

MR BARR: Look, I will have to check whether a call was made to my office to say I have had a call from Canberra Health Services, but certainly it was not a major issue at that time.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Canberra Health Services did not call the Chief Minister or his office in relation to health demand.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

Signature:



Date:

4/7/25

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith