

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE - PAEC Inquiry into the 2024-25 Budget Estimates – Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC

Hearing Date: Friday 17 May 2024

1. Will the inquiry into the modernisation of Victoria's WorkCover scheme be made public?

(Asked by Danny O'BRIEN Pages 2-3 of the transcript)

Danny PEARSON: We have given an undertaking that that inquiry will report by the end of the year. We are in the process of working on the terms of reference and finding a suitable, appropriate person to head that inquiry, and that work is ongoing.

Danny O'BRIEN: When will it be actually up and running?

Danny PEARSON: Soon. I do not have a definitive date, but it is my expectation that it will be established as soon as we can identify and secure the services of an appropriate person and that we work on finalising those terms of reference. The work is undergoing, and we have indicated that that inquiry needs to commence and conclude this year. That is separate to the statutory requirement for an inquiry to occur in the 2027 calendar year, by which point we will have three years worth of data points in order to assess the efficacy of the modernisation reforms that were passed by the Parliament this year.

Danny O'BRIEN: Have you already given an undertaking that all the inquiry's findings will be released publicly, and if not, will you do so?

Danny PEARSON: I might take that on notice, if I may, Mr O'Brien. I do not want to mislead the committee. I think that it was an undertaking that I gave at the time of the modernisation reforms to come through. Let me come back to you. It would be my expectation that this is about trying to provide the community with some level of confidence as to why the government felt the need to embark upon the modernisation of the scheme – because the scheme was fundamentally broken.

Response

The findings of the independent inquiry into the modernisation of Victoria's WorkCover scheme will be released publicly.