

Question Without Notice

3 May 2024

I (*Ms Webb*) tomorrow to ask the Honourable Leader of the Government —

With reference to the Independent Review into legal assistance provided to state servants during the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings, which the Attorney-General announced on the 18th of December 2023 was to be undertaken by Mr Sam Tatarka OAM, can the government please provide an update on the status of the Independent Review, including the following:

1. Has the Independent Review been completed, and if not what is the expected timeframe by which it is expected to be completed?;
2. If the Independent Review has been completed, has the Final Report been submitted to the Attorney-General, and if so on what date was it submitted?; and
3. If the Attorney-General is in receipt of the Independent Reviewer's Final Report, when does he expect to table the Report and its recommendations, or as much of the Report 'as permitted by law' as indicated by the media statement issued by the Attorney-General on the 18th of December 2023?

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

On 18 December 2023, I announced that the Government had commissioned an independent review into whether there are appropriate grounds to require any Public Officers, who received a grant of legal assistance in the course of the Commission of Inquiry, to reimburse the Crown for reasonable costs and expenses.

Mr Sam Tatarka OAM has been appointed as the Independent Reviewer, and has commenced this important work. Mr Tatarka OAM is being assisted in his Independent Review by fellow Victorian Barrister, Mr David Blumenthal.

To ensure that the independent reviewer is able to perform his core functions, he will require access to materials and information that would otherwise be protected by the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. On 17 January 2024, a Ministerial exemption under the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* was published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette.

I recently met with Mr Tatarka and Mr Blumenthal to discuss the progress of the review and to ensure that they are able to undertake a fulsome review.

The review has not yet been completed. It is anticipated that Mr Tatarka will conclude his review in mid to late 2024.

A final report will be submitted to me as Attorney-General on behalf of the Government, at the conclusion of the review. The outcomes of the review and the recommendations will be made public, as permitted by law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Barnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice

Date: 17 June 2023