

of skill and experience of the worker. The Government is concerned that access to employment, especially for the young, is not denied because of the lack of suitable entry level wage rates in some awards and agreements. It will intensify its efforts to resolve this matter.

A key element in ensuring high levels of employment is vocational training. This year legislation will be introduced revising the functions of the Vocational Training Council and its associated training boards to reinforce the much closer links between training and employment. Last Session, the Government presented to Parliament a statement of directions in trade training. This set out the general direction of the reforms considered necessary to allow apprenticeship to play its full role in trade training. The proposals in that paper will be reflected this year in a revision and consolidation of the Apprentices Act 1948.

An amendment to the Industrial Relations Act 1973 is proposed which will revise procedures for union balloting on the question of unqualified preference.

You will be asked to consider a revision and consolidation of the Weights and Measures Act 1925.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government is concerned that despite strenuous efforts to make people more aware of the need for road safety, the accident rate continues at a distressingly high level. Representations on a number of matters concerning the inexperienced driver and the drunken driver have been received. The Government has, therefore, decided to reconvene the Parliamentary Select Committee on Road Safety and any proposals requiring legislation will be referred to that committee.

In respect of housing, the need to assist low income first home seekers will continue to be recognised with particular emphasis on those with dependants. The Government continues to recognise the important part that emergency housing plays in easing local social problems.

Reports to the Government on health services reorganisation have been received and a review of the Board of Health is incorporated in legislation for introduction this year. Consideration is being given to a Bill that would enable the formation of area health boards.