

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE — PAY EQUITY UNIT

5645. Hon Linda Savage to the Minister for Commerce

- (1) Will the efficiency dividend in the 2012–2013 Budget for the Department of Commerce be reflected in any reduction in funding for the Labour Relations/Work Life Balance/Pay Equity Unit section of the department?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated to the Pay Equity Unit (PEU) in the 2012–2013 Budget?
- (3) How many full time equivalent staff are currently employed in the PEU?
- (4) What action has the PEU undertaken specifically to address the gender pay gap in Western Australia from 1 November 2011 to date?
- (5) What exact amount has been spent on each specific action undertaken by the PEU from 1 November 2011 to date?
- (6) How many non-government agencies or businesses have requested the pay equity audit tool available from the Department of Commerce from 1 November 2011 to date?
- (7) I refer to the 2012–2013 Budget Papers, in particular Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 2, page 461 'Significant Issues Impacting the Agency' and the reference to 'Local Content', and the estimate that Gross Domestic Product could increase by 13 per cent if male and female participation rates were equalised in the Deloittes' report 'Building the Lucky Country – Where is your next worker?' of November 2011, and ask,
 - (1) what has the department done specifically to encourage more women to return to the workplace?
- (8) I refer to the State Government Media Statement of 4 August 2010, stating that the 'State Government has provided more than two million dollars towards research into the early detection of Alzheimer's disease', and I ask —
 - (a) how much direct funding did the State Government provide for research into Alzheimer's disease in the 2009–2010 budget;
 - (b) how much direct funding did the State Government provide for research into Alzheimer's disease in the 2010–2011 budget;
 - (c) how much direct funding did the State Government provide for research into Alzheimer's disease in the 2011–2012 budget; and
 - (d) how much direct funding has the State Government provided for research into Alzheimer's disease in the 2012–2013 budget?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The funding for 2012–13 has not been finalised.
- (2) The funding for 2012–13 has not been finalised.
- (3) 1.4. Other staff from the Policy Branch assist with pay equity projects when required.
- (4) Encouraged public and private sector organisations to address gender issues at the workplace level by undertaking a pay equity audit, provided training on pay equity audits to eleven State government agencies and one non-government agency during the period 1 November 2011 to 12 June 2012 and monitored statistics on the gender pay gap and maintains a comprehensive suite of information on pay equity issues on the Department of Commerce website.
- (5) The Pay Equity Unit budget covers staff salaries, superannuation and staff training. The budget is not based on an allocation to specific actions.
- (6) It is not possible to identify the exact number of non-government agencies or businesses that have utilised the pay equity audit tool as it is freely available from the Department of Commerce website. The website has recorded 5527 unique page views since December 2011.
- (7) The Unit promotes a range of strategies which aim to make workplace participation more attractive and viable for women. These include measures to reduce the gender pay gap, such as the Pay Equity Audit initiative, and the provision of information and advice on the implementation of flexible working

arrangements. The labour force participation rate for females in Western Australia is currently higher than any other Australian State.

- (8) (a)–(c) Please refer to Legislative Council Question On Notice 5527 answered by the Minister for Science and Innovation on 12 June 2012.
- (d) Please refer this question to the Minister for Science and Innovation.