

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE — PAY EQUITY UNIT

5025. Hon Linda Savage to the Minister for Commerce

- (1) How much funding has been allocated to the Pay Equity Unit (PEU) in the 2011–2012 Budget?
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are employed in the PEU?
- (3) What action has the PEU undertaken specifically to address the gender pay gap in Western Australia from 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2011?
- (4) What exact amount has been spent on each specific action undertaken by the PEU from 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2011?
- (5) How many non-government agencies or businesses have requested the pay equity audit tool available from the Department of Commerce from 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2011?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) \$99,744
- (2) 1.4 full time equivalent staff
- (3) Conducted pay equity audit training to ten State government agencies and two Western Australian universities with direct audit assistance provided to three State government agencies, two Western Australian universities, one government agency from another State and one private sector organisation. Statistics are monitored on the gender pay gap and a comprehensive suite of information is maintained on pay equity issues on the Department of Commerce website.
- (4) The budget covers staff salaries, superannuation and staff training. It is not based on an allocation to specific actions.
- (5) It is not possible to identify the exact number that have utilised the pay equity audit tool as it is freely available from the Department of Commerce website. However, during the period 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2011, the Pay Equity Unit directly assisted three non-government agencies or businesses with the use of the pay equity audit tool.