

WORKSAFE — WORKPLACE INSPECTORS

5851. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to Worksafe in the 2007–08 financial year, and I ask —

- (1) How many Worksafe full-time equivalent employees (FTE) were allocated to inspections and investigations of workplaces and/or accidents?
- (2) Where are each of the FTE in (1) located?
- (3) How many of these positions were vacant?
- (4) Where were the vacant positions located?
- (5) Of the FTE in (1), how many were —
 - (a) ongoing public sector employees; and
 - (b) employed under fixed-term contracts?
- (6) For each of those employed under contract, what is the term of their contract?
- (7) How many of the FTE positions in (1) are specialist positions in which the inspector/investigator is required to have the expertise to investigate specific types of worksites?
- (8) For each of the FTE in (7) —
 - (a) what is the specialist area;
 - (b) where is the position located; and
 - (c) which, if any, were vacant?
- (9) What was the Budget Actual for Worksafe for the 2007–08 financial year?
- (10) How much, if any, of that budget was spent on legal action?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Department of Commerce system does not report in a format which allows the information requested to be provided over a whole year. However, information is provided as at 24 June 2008.

- (1) 103.
- (2) Metropolitan area 90.
Albany 1.
Broome 1.
Bunbury 8.
Geraldton 1.
Karratha 2.
- (3) 7 FTEs that did not have a substantive occupant or contracted position allocated. While not substantively occupied, many of these FTEs had inspectors occupying the positions under higher duty arrangements.
- (4) Metropolitan area 6.
Albany 1.
- (5) (a) 98.
(b) 5.
- (6) 12/03/2007 to 21/01/2010 (Bunbury).
25/11/2007 to 8/09/2008 (Broome).
14/03/2007 to 16/02/2009 (Geraldton).
22/01/2007 to 21/01/2010 (Karratha).
21/12/2007 to 7/07/2009 (Karratha).
- (7) WorkSafe has 13 specialist inspector positions. The specialist inspector positions relate to particular hazards or qualifications. These hazards may be common to different types of workplaces and are not limited to specific types of worksites.
- (8) (a)–(b) The specialist inspector positions are located in the metropolitan office:
Human Factors and Ergonomics Branch 5 FTE.
Occupation Hygiene and Noise Control Branch 5 FTE.

Plant and Engineering Branch 3 FTE.

The specialist inspectors also undertake activities in regional areas as required.

- (c) 1 vacancy — Inspector/Scientific Officer (Occupational Hygiene).
- (9) Total Expenditure Budget — \$18,451,721.
- (10) WorkSafe does not have an expenditure item titled “legal action”. However, the recorded expenditure for WorkSafe’s Legal Services Branch in 2007/08 was \$522,843.