

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — CASUAL EMPLOYEES — ALLOWANCES

1069. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the cessation of certain allowances from 1 January to casual employees under the School Education Act Employees' (Teachers and Administrators) General Agreement 2017.

- (1) What allowances will cease?
- (2) What was the purpose of each allowance?
- (3) What is the estimated annual cost of each allowance?
- (4) How many employees will be impacted by the loss of each allowance?
- (5) Why could the state government not reach an agreement with the State School Teachers' Union of WA on these allowances?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(5) No allowances will be ceased. The department sought legal advice in relation to a number of allowances the department pays to its casual employees under the School Education Act Employees' (Teachers and Administrators) General Agreement 2017. The advice received confirmed that there had been a number of allowances incorrectly paid to casual employees since 1998. These allowances included the locality allowance, remote teaching service allowance and band 2 allowance for teachers in education support units, centres and schools. The department does not intend to pursue the overpayments. Employees have been written to and correct payments will be made from 1 January 2019. Casual employees are paid a 20 per cent loading in lieu of leave and allowances such as these.