

LIVING WAGE PROPOSAL — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

179. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Treasurer

I have a supplementary question. Thank you for the response, Treasurer. Given the joint cabinet meeting today, did the Treasurer apprise Bill Shorten of the McGowan government's plan to create 150 000 jobs and the threat to achieving that goal Bill Shorten's policy will have should he be successful in May?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I thank the member for the supplementary question.

We did talk about the target this government has set of 150 000 jobs. I note that yesterday in the Leader of the Opposition's questions, his first question said that it would be too hard to achieve and in his supplementary question, he said it would be too easy to achieve. The inability of the Leader of the Opposition to articulate a clear position on 150 000 jobs suggests to me that perhaps we have got the figure right. Wherever I go, I get critiqued that it is either too easy or too hard. But we have set a target.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr B.S. WYATT: I do not know why people in this chamber find it so infuriating that the government has set itself a clear and accountable target for job creation. What is going on in job creation is that jobs are actually being created. We are creating jobs. Yes, the unemployment rate is a product mainly of the participation rate, to be honest, but we are creating jobs. About 33 000 jobs have been created since we came to government. I remind people in this house: how many jobs do members think were created between March 2013 and March 2017? At the end of that four-year period there were 673 fewer jobs in the WA economy. During the entire second term of the former Liberal government not only did it not create one job, but also it lost 637 jobs out of the sector. I will not be critiqued when the government sets a target of job creation and is well on the way to achieving it.