

**Division 34: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Services 2, 18 and 19, Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, \$20 568 000 —**

Mr S.J. Price, Chair.

Mr P. Papalia, Minister for Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Mr D. Ord, Director General.

Mr M. Beecroft, Director, Strategic Regulation.

Ms S. Sherdiwala, Chief Finance Officer.

Ms K. Ellwood, Acting Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests.

Ms E. Roebuck, Senior Policy Adviser.

Mr S.S. Padshah, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, minister. Questions? I give the call to the member for South Perth.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** I refer to the item “Outcome: Western Australia was recognised as a vibrant and effective multicultural society:” on page 453 of budget paper No 2. The first item under that heading concerns the percentage of organisations and individuals who report that the Office of Multicultural Interests had a positive impact on the promotion and support of multiculturalism. How is “positive impact” measured in relation to these services? Why is the target rate 80 per cent? What happens with the remaining 20 per cent?

[11.40 am]

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Harsh! I ask Ms Ellwood to respond.

**Ms K. Ellwood:** Every year we undertake an effective outcomes customer survey to assess the satisfaction of everyone with whom we work. We survey more than 1 500 people via telephone and email. The survey is determined culturally appropriate because a lot of the clients we work with do not speak English proficiently and we want to ensure that they are able to complete the survey. We use those results every year to ensure that we improve. We tend to get a consistent report back. We analyse the survey responses every year to see whether we can make changes, and we have made changes each year. We believe that that percentage is quite high in government.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Given that 20 per cent of the 1 500 people surveyed were not satisfied—by my math that is 300 out of 1 500—can the minister describe what sorts of things were they unhappy about or not satisfied with?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am not sure what detail the granularity of the survey achieves as far as why people are not satisfied. Understandably, there are a significant number of nil responses to the survey. Given the nature of the survey and the different methodologies that the member heard about are used—they are not all face-to-face—and given the diversity of the population that is being surveyed, it is not unreasonable to expect that a fair number of people will not respond to the survey or give a nil response. I think that a satisfaction rate for service provision in excess of 80 per cent is pretty high across a government agency of any description. It is not a scientific methodology, but, anecdotally, I regularly encounter people in the community who are very supportive of the services provided by the Office of Multicultural Interests and the state government in the multicultural field of endeavour. I might ask Ms Ellwood whether she can add anything.

**Ms K. Ellwood:** Every year it has been relatively consistent, which is something that we are quite proud of and want to continue, but that does not mean that we stop seeking further clarification. If there are potentially one or two small groups that might not have received funding for a program, that is fine because we work with them in other ways to help their capacity. The majority of responses are either positive or neutral. The customer service satisfaction survey is underway at the moment so we can provide the updated figures and any feedback on that, if required. It is not a problem; nothing is hidden.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** It would be good to know how many people do not respond to the survey.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I will undertake by way of supplementary information to provide the member with the number of people who did not respond to last year’s customer satisfaction survey. That might be easier because this year’s survey is still underway.

[*Supplementary Information No B10.*]

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I take some comfort in the knowledge that there has been no significant shift in the satisfaction rating, which would indicate that we are consistently delivering.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I refer to the third line item, “Italian Insertion Program” on page 447. Footnote (a) states that “Existing agency spending has been reprioritised to meet some or all of the costs of this commitment.” What

funding has been reprioritised, which projects does the funding relate to, how much money has been reprioritised and will this affect any other programs?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** At the outset, I will respond to the last question. No other programs have been impacted by retaining or meeting our funding commitment to the Italian language program. OMI is now part of a consolidated agency in the form of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and there are opportunities for drawing on a greater spread of funding from other sources. I can confirm that none of the community languages programs were impacted. That is not what happened. We did not shut anything down to fund it. We went to the election committed to it and we have met that commitment. I will put this on the record with a breakdown. There is a redirection from the community languages budget to the Italian insertion program of \$120 000 in 2017–18, \$190 000 in 2018–19 and \$300 000 in 2019–20. In 2018–19, there is a one-off shortfall. We are effectively funding it from the program without cutting any of the other funding. There is a one-off shortfall of \$110 000 in the 2018–19 budget that we will meet by the internal relocation of departmental funds.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** What programs were cut?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** No, it is departmental funds, which is Mr Ord's responsibility. He had to find the money from his other budget.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Whether that is from OMI or the local government component.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Yes, somewhere within the overall department funding.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Why was the decision made to split the fund into two streams—the after-school program and the in-school insertion program—when the program has traditionally been designed for after-school hours?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I think it is pretty rich to claim that it has traditionally been something when it has been underway for three years, effectively. The community languages program is a relatively new initiative. I acknowledge that the previous government established it on the grounds of funding it for after school, but some 30 years before that, we put in place the delivery of an Italian language program in schools. We are encouraging the opportunity for other languages—Chinese and potentially others—to be delivered in a relatively similar fashion in the school curriculum. These are delivered at two places; one is more small scale and involves the retention of culture and reaching out to its own demographic in the community on the weekends and after hours while the other provides a more substantial delivery of the service to a wider audience and potentially greater participation by the general community during school as part of the program. I think it is a good mix. Clearly, the ones who do that during school need a stronger, more robust structure around their program. They need a wider volunteer base, they have to have qualifications and all the necessary components for delivering training in a school. There are more demands on them so we need a different category.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** If other ethnic groups decide to set up that structure of capability, will they automatically be entitled to a similar level of funding?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** No. It is a process. It is the same as the community languages program outside of school hours. There is an application process. If they meet the criteria they become eligible, and the funding reflects numbers engaged and things like that.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** What is the current application process and what criteria have to be met?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I think it is all publicly available. The Office of Multicultural Interests can outline the process to people. I know that applications have been made for other languages to be engaged in after-hours school funding. I am getting the terminology wrong. We have to remember also that with the Italian insertion school program, the Italian government has provided funding from its budget to the Western Australian education system for three decades. That is a significant contribution and exceeds the amount we put in.

[11.50 am]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Is no-one else doing it?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Not at the moment, but the criteria would mean —

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Are the criteria public at the moment?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** We can make them public.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** But they are not public at the moment?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Not yet. It is an evolving process, but I can do that. Last week we concluded those deliberations around the Italian language program and we made an announcement. I will undertake to ensure that the criteria are made public, noting that a significant factor is the contribution that the Italian government makes to language training. As far as I am aware, that does not happen anywhere else in Australia. Perhaps Victoria might have just received something, but I am not aware of any other national government that has offered to contribute to our education system.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Is one of the criteria that funding has to be received from a foreign government?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am informed that it is in a partnership, yes.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** If a foreign government wants to fund a program in our schools, do we allow that to happen?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** We have with the Italian language program for something like 37 years. The member is talking about a language program.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Yes.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** He is talking about Croatia!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** If the Croatians are going to step up, I would welcome that. But it is a challenge to match the extent of the contribution from the Italian government—I can understand that. It is an opportunity, and other governments from around the world are interested in supporting the promotion of their language as part of their cultural engagement. It is not outrageous to suggest that that might happen. Once we put the criteria out there, that could be possible and we might engage with them, which would be a good thing.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Does this funding predominantly go to private schools, not public schools?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is undeniable that as a consequence of the previous government's decision to cut the Italian language program, the extent of its reach was diminished. Many schools that had been participating in the public and private sector withdrew because they could not meet the obligations necessary to retain the program without state government funding. The program's reach is less than it used to be, but it is available. I expect that with our funding, that reach will extend again to what it was before. I am informed that our funding is for the government sector and Catholic education—not other private schools—noting that Catholic schools often deliver to a fairly widespread demographic; they are not necessarily just Aquinas College.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Of course. The minister indicated in his response that a number of programs in both public and Catholic schools were cut as a result of the funding cut. Can the minister please provide a list of all the schools that cut the Italian language program?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** No. I am saying that the number of schools participating in the Italian language program contracted when the previous government withdrew the funding for that program.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** By default, they did not deliver the Italian language program. That is what the minister said.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I can probably tell the member how many schools—perhaps we can find that out. We know that, for instance, 22 000 students were engaged annually in the program and, when the funding was cut, it contracted to around 14 000.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Can the minister provide me by way of supplementary information a list of the schools at which the program was cut and no longer delivered?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** That is not something I can do. The member could ask the Italo–Australian Welfare and Cultural Centre.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The minister indicated that the program had been cut from a number of schools because of that, so I assume he must know which schools.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The number of participating students went from 22 000 to 14 000.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** That could be for many different reasons.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** There was one pretty obvious reason.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Then it should be easy to get the list of schools.

**The CHAIR:** The member has asked the question and the minister has answered it.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The previous government cut the funding, so far less funding was available to deliver the program. The program funding essentially came from the Italian government rather than the state government because the state government of Western Australia withdrew its funding. That meant that for schools to retain the training, they had to meet some obligations that they were not previously meeting, and some of them could not achieve that.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The minister said that student numbers went from 22 000 to 14 000—an 8 000 drop. Is the minister saying that 8 000 students stopped studying Italian because of a \$200 000 cut by the state government?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is actually bigger than that, but yes.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** So a cut of \$200 000 across the entire Catholic school system cut the number of students —

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The member's government cut the state contribution to the program and schools could not afford to fill the gap.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Out of all the Catholic schools —

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It was not just Catholic schools; it involved state schools as well.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Over how many Catholic schools is this funding spread?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The member would have to ask the society that delivers the program. We did not deliver the program. As the member is aware, the now Leader of the Opposition when in government changed the portfolio that was responsible for the funding so that he could cut it, and he did that. That was the previous government's decision. We committed to refund the program, and we are doing that.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I assume that the money must be acquitted. The minister must know where it has been spent. The schools are not just given the money and told to spend it wherever they like.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It was the member's government that made the cut. It happened under the member's government. The member should ask the Treasurer of the time.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The government is giving them the money now, which is fine.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Ask me next year where the funding went and which schools took it up—I will know then.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** So the minister does not know where the money is going; he just knows that it is going to the schools and that they will do something with it?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** All I know is that the previous government cut the funding, there was a drop in the number of students enrolled, and schools dropped out of the program because they could not substitute the funding that the member's government cut. The current Leader of the Opposition was the minister responsible. Why does the member not go down the hallway and ask him?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** But how much per school was cut?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I say it again: that cut occurred under the member's government. If the member wants details of the negative impact of his government's cuts, he should ask the minister who made them.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** But the minister is making assertions that those reductions —

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am reinstating the funding. I will be able to tell the member what impact that will have after it happens.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Does the minister expect that that number of 14 000 students will increase back to 22 000 students or more, based on the fact that this money is being reinstated?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am hopeful that the benefits accrued to the children of Western Australia in language training will be enhanced by the funding increase.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Will the minister do an assessment at the end of each year to see how effective this funding has been and whether it has achieved any of the objectives that it set out to achieve?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The objective is to refund the Italian languages program that was cut by the member's government. We will achieve that and we will monitor the uptake. If the member wants to find out the impact of his government's cuts to the Italian language program, he should ask the minister who was responsible at the time—that is, the Leader of the Opposition. The member will find his office if he goes out through that door, turns right and goes down to the other end of the corridor, and he can ask him.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am sure I will.

[12 noon]

**Mr R.R. WHITBY:** I draw the minister's attention to budget paper No 2, volume 2. I refer to the sixth dot point on page 448 under the heading "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency". Can the minister explain how amendments to the Liquor Control Act will result in efficiencies being realised?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The proposed changes are contemplated with the intention of streamlining approvals and avoiding duplication wherever possible. We hope that by introducing these amendments to Parliament we will ensure that existing and potential licensees in Western Australia do not have the burdens of excessive time or money to contend with when making an application or varying a licence. In turn, applications of a less intensive nature will be progressed through the licensing system more efficiently and a greater number of licences will be processed.

I can highlight several proposed amendments that will address these matters. The proposed amendment to clause 20 will allow the director of Liquor Licensing to classify licence categories as low risk, meaning that licences that fall in the prescribed categories will not be required to complete a public interest assessment unless

requested by the director. That will free up resources and time at the department to process applications requiring greater scrutiny. The proposed amendment to clause 27 will allow all new applicants for a restaurant with a capacity of 120 people or fewer simply to opt in for a permit to serve liquor without a meal. Currently, this process requires a separate permit application. This measure will save time, money and resources at the department and for the applicant. The proposed amendment to clause 32 will remove the requirement for established venues with an ongoing-hours extended trading permit to return to the department after five years and doubles this time frame for licensees, with licensees only required to lodge a renewal for an ongoing-hours ETP after 10 years. Time, money and resources will be saved at the department and by the licensee. The proposed amendments to clauses 25 and 26 will remove the requirement for clubs to register their constitutions in two separate departments, which is unnecessary duplication. The proposed amendment to clause 65 will allow applicants and licensees to agree to a code of conduct that will incorporate all venue policies that are currently prepared by the applicant to obtain a licence. This amendment will remove the burdens of cost and time for the applicant and streamline this process at the department. I have to reiterate some of the observations made in the lower house during consideration in detail of this proposed amendment: it will be to the benefit of venues. There is no secret agenda to extend onerous demands on people; the amendment will actually reduce obligations and make the process more streamlined. It is a good initiative.

Several other amendments aim to reduce the time, money and resources used by the department and licensees, which will result in greater efficiencies in liquor licensing systems. Key stakeholders, such as the Australian Hotels Association, the Liquor Stores Association of WA, the Small Bar Association of WA, Clubs WA and many others, have assisted us to reach some great outcomes with these amendments to the act. I look forward to the legislation passing in the Legislative Council in due course.

**Mr R.R. WHITBY:** As a patron of hospitality venues, along with the member for South Perth, I know we will both be celebrating those changes.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** I refer to page 448 and the fifth dot point that states —

The Department continues to see a consistent increase in the number of liquor applications ...

Can the department provide supplementary information that shows since March 2017 the number of liquor licence applications lodged with and received by the department, the types of liquor licence applications, how many applications were approved and how many were rejected, and the location of the sites granted liquor licences?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The number of liquor licence applications lodged for the financial year 2016–17 was 14 792. It was an increase from the previous year, when 11 628 applications were lodged. I think I can provide by way of supplementary information details on the member's questions about the types of licences, how many of those were approved and how many were rejected, but I do not think I can provide answers to the other components of the question.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** The location of the sites.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I do not think I can do that one. That is an unnecessarily onerous task for the agency that I do not want to impose on it. I will undertake by way of supplementary information to provide the member with numbers of the types of applications for liquor licences since March 2017 and of those applications the number that were approved and the number that were rejected.

[*Supplementary Information No B11.*]

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** And the number of applications made in relation to temporary venues or bars—pop-ups.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The category is a casual licence and that incorporates a range of other activities associated with a casual licence, so it will not isolate licences for pop-ups. I think we can give you the casual licence category, but that will be part of the other answer, because the member asked for the types of categories. I think we are already answering the question. The member needs to understand that not all casual licences are for pop-ups.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** I understand.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 467 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, and the third paragraph under the subheading "*Income*", which states —

The decrease in service appropriations of \$3.4 million in the 2018–19 Budget Estimate compared to the 2017–18 Estimated ...

How many of these redundancies fall within the Racing, Gaming and Liquor section of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I might ask Mr Ord to answer.

**Mr D. Ord:** In terms of the voluntary separation scheme that the minister referred to previously in the division, at the time when the budget was set, there had been 33 separations in total from the agency. Obviously, that covers Local Government, Culture and the Arts, Sport and Recreation and the others. I need to find the specific number for Racing, Gaming and Liquor. We do have a number for it out of the 33 separations.

[12.10 pm]

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Yes, it is not where they anticipated it coming from.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Perhaps I could keep talking while the minister is looking for it. It was reported on 11 May in *The West Australian* that 39 redundancies have so far been taken across the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** That was the global number that the director general referred to.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Was it the 33?

**Mr D. Ord:** It was 33 at the time of the budget papers.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** That is across the whole department. If we do not find the figure now, we can find it for Racing, Gaming and Liquor and provide it to the member.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** How many of these redundancies were positions based in regional Western Australia?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am told it was six.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Were six positions taken out of regional Western Australia?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Six voluntary targeted separation scheme —

**Mr D. Ord:** From racing and gaming —

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Sorry, we have confused it there. The number of VTSS from Racing, Gaming and Liquor and associated agencies was six. In response to the member's question about regional positions, there are none. Yet again, the regions come out on top. I look after the regions.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is not comedy week, but anyway.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** You normally take care of the comedy.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** What process is in place to ensure that the function of each of these redundant staff members is being undertaken?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is the director general's job to ensure that services are delivered by his agency. The voluntary targeted separation scheme just provides opportunities for people to take a voluntary separation. The service delivery is not impacted.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Perhaps by way of supplementary information, will the minister provide the position, location and level of each position made redundant?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I think we can. Is the member talking about in Racing, Gaming and Liquor? By way of supplementary information I undertake to provide the member with the title of the position, the geographical location and the level of the roles that the individuals who took VTSS in Racing, Gaming and Liquor were filling.

[*Supplementary Information No B12.*]

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** We get on to the sport of kings. I refer to page 449. The first item under the dot point headed "Government initiatives in other areas that will impact the Department" states in part —

the Department of Treasury (Treasury) has undertaken a detailed analysis on whether a potential sale framework for the Western Australian TAB could be developed to satisfy the interests of Government, the racing industry and a potential buyer.

It goes on to say that the department will provide assistance going forward. Can the minister give the Parliament some update on how things are progressing?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It might be best if we move to Racing and Wagering Western Australia for the purpose of discussing anything associated with the TAB or point of consumption, if that is the member's objective?

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Okay.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** He is talking about a specific field of endeavour.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** What about the greyhound program? Is the minister happy to talk about that?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The member could wait for RWWA too, because Mr Burt can respond to any of that stuff.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Wednesday, 23 May 2018]

p301b-308a

Chair; Mr John McGrath; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Reece Whitby; Mr Vincent Catania

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**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** I will leave it for RWWA. That is fine.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 463 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, service 18, “Licensing—Evaluation and Determination of Applications”. Can the minister explain the \$1.2 million drop in the line item “Net Cost of Service” from \$2.4 million in 2017–18 to the 2018–19 budget target of \$1.8 million?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am pretty certain that as a consequence of the voluntary targeted separation scheme and the wages policy across government, we are now delivering services in a far more efficient manner than the member’s government was ever capable of. We have reined in the 6.4 per cent compounding growth across the public sector that we saw throughout the member’s term in office. As the member would have seen, the Treasurer delivered a very boring budget that had 0.9 per cent projected growth in the public sector spend, and that is all part of it.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Is the minister confirming that in the line item “Employees (Full Time Equivalents)” the number has decreased from 50 in 2016–17 to 46 this year and that he does not expect more redundancies in the liquor licensing area of the department in the coming year?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I do not know whether that is in any way related to the member’s original question. What is he asking?

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is because the minister just mentioned the full-time equivalents.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** No; the member asked me to explain the cost of service change, and I explained that.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Then under the line item “Net Cost of Service” —

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Net cost of service was one thing and now the member is going on to another line item for a different question.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I think it is in the same area, but if the minister wants to take it as a new question, he can. It does not matter; I still would like the answer to it.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is a completely different line item.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Let me perhaps have a new question.

**The CHAIR:** No; there are people in the queue and it is not you.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is okay. Is it our people who are in the queue? We might withdraw, because I want to give time for RWWA, unless our members have something that they are really anxiously awaiting.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** He could have answered the question by now.

**The CHAIR:** I thought it was one of your own, to be honest.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I do not think anyone else is asking on this side.

**The CHAIR:** It is just the member for North West Central.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** In the line item “Employees (Full Time Equivalents)” on page 463, the number has decreased from 50 in 2016–17 to 46 this year. Does the minister expect more redundancies in the liquor licensing area of the department in the coming year?

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I do not know whether I am reading it right, but in 2016–17 the actual is 49, and this year the budgeted target is 45. Sorry, I am looking at something different—the member is talking about the figures further up the page. As the member heard the Treasurer indicate in the budget, the VTSS is continuing. It has actually been extended and more numbers are anticipated across government before the end of the financial year. I will ask the director general to respond.

**Mr D. Ord:** As the minister said, the program is ongoing until June 30. The savings measures are effected across the department and the separations are, as the minister has indicated, voluntary. We have, however, found that in bringing the agencies together, we had four corporate services divisions and four finance and human resources divisions and so on. Staff who are thinking about their careers have self-selected, to some extent, mostly around corporate services—type roles rather than specific roles related to skill sets such as licensing or areas in which other career options might be more limited because they are specialists in their area. On that basis, I am confident that we will retain a workforce that is highly skilled to do the functions the government has set us up for. Although the numbers that apply to each division will change a bit as the program is finalised, most of the savings will in fact come out of duplicated roles in the corporate services area and general administrative support of the agencies.

[12.20 pm]

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to the fifth dot point on page 448 of budget paper No 2. It continues from the previous page under the heading “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”. Will the minister provide the number of applications per licence category for the year 2017–18 so far and 2016–17 —

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Wednesday, 23 May 2018]

p301b-308a

Chair; Mr John McGrath; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Reece Whitby; Mr Vincent Catania

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**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** We already asked for that.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I have undertaken to provide that information for 2016–17 to the member for South Perth. There are some qualifications, but mostly we responded.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** In regard to pop-up bars —

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** He asked about that too. We have undertaken to provide something.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** He was too quick!

**The appropriation was recommended.**