

PUBLIC SECTOR — CONTRACT AND CASUAL WORKERS

1090. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:

I refer to the minister's joint media release with the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations of 9 August 2018 titled "Thousands of State Government workers to receive job security", which advised that up to 13 000 public sector workers on fixed-term or casual contracts will be considered for permanency, a total that might increase to 23 000 overall in 2019.

- (1) Can the minister direct me to where this policy measure was recommended in any of the following reports: the "Special Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects", the service priority review or the sustainable health review?
- (2) If no to (1), can the minister advise which particular group or groups advocated for the policy?
- (3) Has a business case been prepared that supports the economics of this proposition?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(3) As the member should be aware, this is an election commitment of the McGowan Labor government that we are proud to be delivering on. I refer the member to page 19 of the service priority review, which outlines how WA is lagging behind all but one of the other states in the percentage of public sector employees employed on a permanent basis; and page 171 of the "Special Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects", which outlines the need for public sector agencies to review the adequacy of some systems and processes used around the monitoring of use of temporary personnel.

The Public Sector Commission worked closely with Treasury on the implementation of this initiative and it is not expected to incur additional costs beyond what is already in agencies' expense limits over the forward estimates period.