

Division 7: Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, \$1 022 000 —

Ms R.S. Stephens, Chair.

Mr M. McGowan, Minister for Public Sector Management.

Mr L. Cullen, Acting Executive Officer.

[Witness introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. It is the intention of the chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 1 October 2021. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Moore.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to page 99 of budget paper No 2, volume 1, the heading "Service Summary" and the line item "Support Services to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal". Last year the allocation was \$719 000 and this year it is \$1 070 000. I read that it is partly because of the end of the salary cap that was previously in place. Will this money be used to enable the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to hire staff, take on board contractors or determine the appropriate remuneration for members of Parliament and other senior government office holders?

Mr M. McGOWAN: In 2020–21, there was an underspend, basically because there was no need to spend as much money as was budgeted because of the wage freeze legislation. Underspend is probably a good thing in that environment. The wage freeze legislation on members of Parliament, judges and senior public servants obviously expires, so the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has had to decide what will happen in the future. It handed down a determination that the government wages policy applies to members of Parliament. That happened recently, which is obviously setting a good example. This year, its budget climbs by \$300 000. That will allow it to do the work that the member referred to—to assess the community and what the appropriate salaries and the like should be. It has already made a determination for members of Parliament and ministers for next year.

Mr R.S. LOVE: There have also been some changes to the electoral allowance system for MPs. Will this cause extra expense for the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to monitor and implement the system?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The answer is no, because, as the member knows, we had to change the electoral allowance system following the Corruption and Crime Commission inquiry and all that unpleasantness. That system is now run by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Parliamentary Services of Parliament House.

The appropriation was recommended.