

EMERGENCY SERVICES — URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT

4645. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) What additional training, capital expenditure and personnel would be required to base a Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) unit capable of being deployed overseas in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the approximate cost of the same and what percentage contribution does the federal government make to those units stationed in NSW and Queensland?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (1) To enable the current USAR unit to be deployed overseas, DFES would need to receive classification by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and takes approximately 2 years to complete.  
  
Capital expenditure would include additional palletised USAR cache; a deployable transport solution; shelter and logistics; and accommodation to house and maintain this equipment at a Perth based facility.
- (2) The approximate cost for the establishment of this initiative is \$2.8 million.  
  
DFES is not privy to Australian Government funding arrangements for USAR capabilities in other jurisdictions.