

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT —
STATE OF THE WA GOVERNMENT SECTOR WORKFORCE REPORT

441. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:

I refer to the State of the Western Australia Sector Workforce 2021–21 Report released 18 November 2021 that showed that salaries comprised \$13.5 billion, or 39 percent of general Government expenses and grew at 4.5 percent last year, and I ask, of the 15,500 employees converted to permanency, what was the average level and salary of those contracts?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

The growth in FTE has been in frontline services, with almost 80% of the growth from Health and Education alone.

We make no apologies for hiring more nurses, doctors, teachers, and teaching assistants; unlike the Leader of the WA Liberal Party who states he would cut jobs from the public sector.

Under the previous Liberal National Government, FTE reported in the Budget increased by 13,314 from 97,348 to 110,662. This is despite five rounds of voluntary separations at a cost of \$393 million.

The State Government has provided certainty to thousands of workers and their families by providing permanent employment, rather than contract or temporary employment, as was the case under the previous Liberal National Government.

The conversion of casual employees to permanency has occurred for over four years. To calculate the average level and salary of each employee would require each department and agency to manually prepare the information for each employee.

Manually preparing this information would require considerable time and is not considered a reasonable or responsible use Government resources.