

SKILLED WORKER RECRUITMENT — PREMIER McGOWAN

1315. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) For each of the financial years 2021–22 and 2022–23 inclusive, how many overseas trips did ex-Premier McGowan undertake for the promotion and recruitment of skilled workers to join the Western Australian workforce?
- (2) What countries were visited, on what dates and for what period?
- (3) What was the total cost for each of the ex-Premier's overseas trips?
- (4) As at 17 October 2023 —
 - (a) how many overseas skilled workers have been recruited to the WA workforce in a full-time, part-time or casual capacity as a direct and measurable result of the ex-Premier's overseas trips; and
 - (b) how many of those recruited overseas skilled workers have become permanent residents in Western Australia?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(3) This type of information is published in the quarterly *Report of overseas air travel undertaken by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and government officers on official business*, tabled in Parliament regularly.
- (4) The commonwealth government is responsible for the granting of Australian residency. Western Australia's net overseas migration was 52 664 people in the 12 months to 31 March 2023, as stated in the most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data. Western Australia has the highest employment participation rate in the country. Since coming to government in 2017, the state Labor government has created over 250 000 new jobs.