



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
SECOND SESSION
1998

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13 October 1998

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

TELEVISIONING AND BROADCASTING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I advise members that as a result of a request from the media, and in anticipation of brief ministerial statements by the Premier on the Main Roads WA investigation and on WorkSafe WA, I have given permission for these live proceedings to be released to both television and radio media outlets.

PUBLIC ACCESS WAY, CITY OF JOONDALUP

Petition

Mr Baker presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 53 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Crawley Grove and Fairlawn Gardens, Heathridge, in the State of Western Australia, call upon the State Government to liaise with the City of Joondalup with a view to closing the public access way adjacent to our respective places of residence due to:

1. The vulgar, disorderly, disruptive and generally anti-social behaviour exhibited by many users of the said public access way, particularly during the early hours of the morning;
2. The need to negative, limit or exclude criminal activities in our suburb by persons using the said access way; and
3. The need to restore our peace of mind, security and quality of life.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 55.]

SUBURBAN BANK BRANCH SERVICES

Petition

Mr Kobelke presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 105 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned believe that it is unacceptable for our banks to desert their responsibilities to provide basic across the counter services through an easily accessible network of suburban branches.

Banks in neglecting their social obligation are making it much more difficult for elderly members of our community to remain independent and they are left more vulnerable to being the victims of attack when they have to use automatic teller machines.

We call on Governments at both State and Federal level to require our banks to provide secure and easily accessible banking facilities for all members of the community, particularly the elderly and those who have to rely on public transport.

And your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 56.]

PADDINGTON AVENUE, CURRAMBINE

Petition

Mr Baker presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 160 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of the City of Joondalup, call upon the WA Government to fast track the completion of the extension of Paddington Avenue through to Ambassador Drive, Currambine. This will have the effect of greatly reducing vehicular congestion at and in the vicinity of the Currambine Primary School and substantially improve the safety of parents and children accessing the said school, and local residents.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 57.]

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION ACT

Petition

Mr Kobelke presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 17 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned express out total opposition to the move by the Court Government to deny injured workers the right to make claims for common law damages for negligence through the "second gateway" in section 93D of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act.

To abolish "second gateway" claims would:

1. deny many seriously injured workers the legal right to seek recompense through the common law, when they have suffered a loss due to negligence of their employer,
2. remove an incentive for employers to improve health and safety in the workplace and thus lead to more accidents and injuries to Western Australian workers and
3. deny injured workers fair compensation for their loss and suffering so that insurance companies can make bigger profits.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 58.]

PUBLIC HOSPITAL WAITING LIST

Petition

Mr McGowan presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 355 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned, respectfully request that the Government acts to rectify the current situation of long waiting lists in the public health system by directing more funding into the public health and hospitals services. We also request that the Government halts any further downgrading of those services so that the community gets the health care that we deserve.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 59.]

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL (No 1)

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

MAIN ROADS WA INVESTIGATION

Statement by Premier

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.15 pm]: The review of the Main Roads WA investigation into the alleged unauthorised release of an internal memorandum to parties external to that organisation has now been completed. I table the review report.

[See paper No 238.]

Mr COURT: The review was conducted by the public sector management division of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. An officer of the State Supply Commission assisted the reviewer in procuring matters examined during the review. The review essentially examined all issues, including costs, associated with three broad matters -

the initial investigation undertaken by the external investigation firm International Investigation Agency;

the procurement matters arising from the engagement and management of the IIA contract; and

the internal disciplinary investigation conducted by an officer of Main Roads that arose from the initial investigation.

In summary the main findings have concluded that -

the Commissioner of Main Roads had the authority to decide that an investigation into the alleged leaking of a sensitive internal report was warranted, and to engage an external investigation firm to conduct the investigation;

although initially the processes used to engage the investigation firm were reasonable, there were a number of deficiencies in the contracting process and the ongoing contract management was flawed;

the principles and processes applied during the IIA investigation were not consistent with public sector requirements;

the investigation process, and the associated costs, cannot be justified on the basis of the alleged leak alone. Justification arises only when regard is given to the wider issue of commercial confidentiality for Main Roads.

The Minister for Transport and I have met with Mr Drabble to discuss the report. The commissioner has assured me, and I agree, that disclosure of confidential information should always be dealt with in the most appropriate manner.

Notwithstanding that the commissioner was justified in taking action in relation to this matter, I believe that the report points to some significant management deficiencies within Main Roads and, as the employer of the commissioner, I have now raised these issues with him.

My concerns in this case are that internal systems were not followed, resulting in a protracted, costly exercise. The commissioner has now developed the following strategies to address the issues arising from the review -

- (1) The provision of contract-project management training will be continued within Main Roads.
- (2) To ensure conformity with supply processes and to gauge the effectiveness of the contract management training, all sections of Main Roads will be audited annually under the organisation's quality management system. The initial audit will be completed within the next three months and subsequent audits at 12-monthly intervals.
- (3) To ensure compliance with State Supply Commission accreditation, Main Roads will review its supply activities. The next assessment is to be made by the end of 1998.
- (4) All cumulative contract payments exceeding \$10 000 to be reviewed by a senior Supply officer for conformity to supply processes before release.
- (5) All contracts exceeding \$50 000 to be endorsed by either the manager supply or executive director corporate services before being recommended for award.

These strategies will be included in Mr Drabble's 1998-99 performance agreement to ensure they are implemented. I have also referred the report to the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards and the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the State Supply Commission for action they consider necessary.

The outcome of the Main Roads disciplinary investigation is yet to be concluded. It is my understanding that the Commissioner of Main Roads is seeking advice in that regard and will take whatever action is appropriate based on that advice.

GOLD CORPORATION-GOLDEN WEST REFINING CORPORATION JOINT VENTURE*Statement by Premier*

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.19 pm]: I inform the House that the Government has approved of Gold Corporation entering into a joint venture with Golden West Refining Corporation to merge the two companies' refining and industrial products operations.

Golden West Refining Corporation is a public company with a controlling interest held by the Rothschild Group. Gold Corporation, which is wholly owned by the Western Australian Government, is the largest precious metals refiner currently operating in Australia. The refinery at Newburn, the industrial products division in Melbourne and marketing outlets in Australia and Asia will be the subject of the joint venture.

Gold Corporation's coin minting operations and the current use of the historic Hay Street building, including the exhibition and gold shop, are not affected by the joint venture and will continue as at present.

Golden West Refining Corporation operates a refinery at Kewdale and also has a 45 per cent share in a Papua New Guinea-based refinery. It also has a fabrication facility located in Melbourne involved in the manufacture of finished and semi-finished jewellery products. Marketing is performed through a network of branch offices in each state capital and New Zealand.

Refining of precious metals is a highly competitive business which operates with small margins. Commercial viability depends on the continued development and marketing of value-added products.

The joint venture forms a partnership of two efficient producers with complementary technologies and a complete range of products that should provide a strong impetus to growth. Importantly, it provides Australian gold refineries with increased links to an international marketer and dealer in bullion and other value-added products.

The deal ensures that the Western Australian gold mining industry will continue to be served by a large, efficient Western Australian refining operation with increased strength in the production and marketing of value-added products into world markets.

The principal features of the arrangement are as follows -

Gold Corporation and Golden West will form a partnership to operate the precious metals refining and industrial products businesses of both companies. Refining will be integrated at Gold Corporation's Newburn facility and their Melbourne-based industrial products operations will be integrated in that city.

The partnership will be managed as a single business with its own board comprising equal representation from the partners' boards.

The partners will contribute to the partnership all of their assets in Australia associated with these activities including Golden West's Papua New Guinea refining operations and its marketing structure in Australia and New Zealand.

Golden West, which is currently the smaller of the two operations, will make a cash payment of \$7m to Gold Corporation to lift its share of the combined business to 50 per cent.

The partnership will distribute revenues to Gold Corporation and Golden West on a 50:50 basis after meeting all costs and will be responsible to, and report to, the partner companies. There will be no negative tax implications for the State Government.

As savings in the order of \$2m annually are expected to be derived from combining the two businesses, Gold Corporation's share of the revenue would be expected to exceed its anticipated revenue if it were not to enter into the partnership.

The partnership agreement contains exit provisions that would enable either party to withdraw from the partnership or sell its interest to the other or to a third party.

As the partnership will have 65 to 70 per cent of the Australian gold refining market, the arrangement has been cleared with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

In addition to the cash payment of \$7m, Gold Corporation will also receive about \$8m in receivables due from current debtors because the partnership will take over the financing of debtors by borrowings. The latter sum and the cash consideration will generate approximately \$15m of cash inflow and \$6m abnormal profit to the corporation.

NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Minister for Energy) [2.22 pm]: In the wake of the recent Victorian gas crisis, I will inform the House of the status and security of natural gas supplies in Western Australia. The tragic explosion at Esso's Longford gas processing plant has impacted greatly on Victoria. Approximately 90 per cent of the State's gas requirements were curtailed when flow from Bass Strait was stopped, and virtually all occupants of homes and businesses in Victoria were ordered to turn off their gas supply. While one of the three gas processing units at the plant has resumed operation, and the restoration of gas supplies has commenced, reports indicate that the extent of the damage may pose a longer-term threat to the security of gas supply to industry in Victoria. The potential for a crisis on the scale of that experienced in Victoria is not as great in Western Australia for a range of reasons.

In contrast to Victoria, the Western Australian gas market is supplied by a number of gas plants, the major supplier being the North West Shelf Joint Venture located in the Carnarvon basin. The NWSJV domestic gas plant consists of two parallel treatment trains and provides approximately 70 per cent of the natural gas to the State. The plant is designed to minimise the possibility of a catastrophic event, such as a fire or explosion on one train impacting on the other train. If for some reason the NWSJV plant were unable to supply gas to the State, a number of other plants could provide a supply. The Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline transports gas from six different production joint venturers all having their own treatment plants. Four are connected to the pipeline and soon a fifth will be connected. This is in contrast to Victoria where almost all of the gas flows through the Longford plant.

The DBNGP using linepack has up to 1500 terajoules of gas storage available in the pipeline. This linepack is adequate to supply the market under normal conditions for up to three days. If supplies to major customers are curtailed, the domestic sector can operate for a considerably longer period. Epic Energy, owner of the DBNGP, has emergency plans in place. If a rupture of the pipeline were to occur, it is estimated that it would take two to three days to repair. Valves installed at regular intervals along the pipeline can be operated in an emergency to isolate a damaged section, thereby conserving the linepack.

Unlike Victoria with multiple operators, AlintaGas is the only network operator in Western Australia. AlintaGas has approximately 390 000 domestic customers compared with 1.4 million in Victoria. The bulk of these customers are in the Perth metropolitan area. In addition to the Carnarvon basin production facilities, there are three separate small production joint ventures in the northern Perth basin providing gas to customers in the south west via the CMS Gas Transmission-owned Parmelia pipeline. The capacity of the CMS pipeline is 120 TJ/day and it is capable of connection to the AlintaGas distribution system, provided some pipe work is upgraded. Another possible option that could be developed for supporting gas supplies in an emergency involves the Mondarra gas storage facility. It should also be noted that the residential sector in Western Australia consumed 3 per cent of total natural gas in the State in 1996-97, compared with 33 per cent in Victoria, again highlighting the different natures of the gas markets.

The tragic accident at the Longford gas plant in Victoria serves as a reminder of the risks inherent in the gas industry. I commend both AlintaGas and the Office of Energy for the assistance they have offered to Victoria with the immediate task of restoring supply through the provision of staff and other technical expertise. A number of Western Australian based companies, including Woodside and Wesfarmers, have also been assisting during the crisis. While our circumstances differ, there are lessons to be learnt and the Government and industry are working closely together to ensure the potential for such a crisis in Western Australia is minimised.

EXPORT LAMB INDUSTRY

Statement by Minister for Primary Industry

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [2.26 pm]: A framework for the State's export lamb industry will allow the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation to continue as a grower owned and controlled organisation and for lamb acquisition to be phased out. The new framework is aimed at providing direct benefits for Western Australian producers and at introducing more competition and increased opportunities into the meat processing sector. In the past two financial years, WAMMCO has secured approximately one-third of the lambs available for live export and for processing in the domestic and export markets.

The board of WAMMCO first approached me in December 1997 to advise of problems with trading conditions and processing arrangements. WAMMCO has posted successive financial losses of \$1.368m in 1996-97 and \$2.49m in 1997-98. I take this opportunity to table the twelfth annual report for WAMMCO for the year 1997-98, which contains details of the continued difficulties being experienced by WAMMCO. Since being advised by the board of WAMMCO's financial difficulties, I have made it clear that maintenance of the financial position is untenable. Therefore, the board of WAMMCO has recommended two possible future options -

to enter into joint venture arrangements with an existing meat processor; or
to wind up the corporation.

I approved WAMMCO's undertaking due diligence and feasibility studies with a potential joint venture partner and supported the board's proposal for the establishment of an organisation which is farmer-owned so that farmers can manage and control the direction of their industry. This proposal was raised by WAMMCO's chairman at a number of producer meetings during June of this year and received a favourable response from producers. The proposal was further progressed via a number of meetings and discussions with representatives from the key industry bodies, the Western Australian Farmers Federation and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, in an attempt to establish the best possible outcome for the future of this State's sheep meat industry for primary producers.

In this regard, State Cabinet has agreed to the transformation of WAMMCO to a new body, likely to be a cooperative structured on modern business principles. The Government will support WAMMCO's transition by providing assistance for advice on options for cooperative structures, functions and membership as well as legal and financial implications. I have also established an advisory group to plan and guide the transformation of WAMMCO to a new entity. The group will be chaired by WAMMCO chairman, Mark Bahen, and other members include producer representative and Pastoralists and Graziers Association member, Max Cameron; Western Australian Farmers Federation meat section president, Mike Norton; and Perth businessman, Roger Hussey. All WAMMCO assets will be transferred to the new organisation and State Cabinet may consider further assistance if necessary. State Cabinet has also agreed to all lamb being exempted from acquisition effective from 1 January 2000. The final date will depend on the progress in formulating the new organisation and the necessary legislation being advanced.

It is important that a reasonable transition period in the phasing out of lamb acquisition be allowed as this will allow the necessary lead-in time for the new organisation to be firmly established. In addition, the lead-in time will provide the opportunity for the meat processors in the State to make the necessary adjustments should they wish to be involved in the export of lambs. The restructuring of WAMMCO to a new farmer-owned organisation will set a solid foundation for this State's future sheep meat industry.

[See paper No 239.]

[Questions without notice taken.]

WORKSAFE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Statement by Premier

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [3.04 pm]: I thank the House and, in particular, the Leader of the Opposition for allowing me to make this statement now. I could not do it earlier because certain formal notifications of this matter had to take place. I advise the House of the outcome of the legal advice I have now obtained arising from the findings of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards on WorkSafe Western Australia.

As previously advised, the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards provided me with further information. The Trades and Labor Council then also provided further information, as did Mr Bartholomaeus. I have now received Crown Counsel's advice. Crown Counsel has reconsidered all the material which the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards has provided and also the additional material received. In particular, Crown Counsel has examined all instances of alleged implementation of the "policy" announced by Mr Bartholomaeus in the media release dated 26 June 1997. Although he found that no information had been provided that revealed any adverse impact upon any employee as a direct consequence of the actions of Mr Bartholomaeus, his analysis revealed that the initial statement of policy in the media release did not reflect the practical operation of the "policy" within the department of WorkSafe Western Australia. The statements made by Mr Bartholomaeus to the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards and me regarding the operation and effect of the "policy" were at odds with the statement in the media release.

As a result, Crown Counsel's advice has confirmed that Mr Bartholomaeus' actions may constitute a breach of the code of conduct of WorkSafe Western Australia and the code of ethics of the public sector, even though the "statement of policy" was never implemented or actioned. Fortunately, it appears to be the case that in fact the dedication, commitment and maturity of Public Service officers within WorkSafe Western Australia ensured that no harm or disadvantage was caused to any employee as a consequence of the public statements made by Mr Bartholomaeus.

I have met with Mr Bartholomaeus to discuss these matters. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to resolve this matter between affected parties and I have today commenced the disciplinary process under the Public Sector Management Act. Accordingly, I have advised Mr Bartholomaeus that I suspect that, by announcing the "policy" within WorkSafe Western Australia, he is in breach of the public sector code of ethics and the code of conduct of WorkSafe Western Australia. I have asked him to submit an explanation of why disciplinary action should not be brought.

At the request of the Minister for Labour Relations, action has been taken this afternoon by the Governor in Executive

Council to transfer Mr Bartholomaeus from his position as chief executive officer, WorkSafe, to the performance of other functions in the senior executive service. The transfer took place under section 50 of the Public Sector Management Act and is effective immediately. Mr Bartholomaeus has been informed of his transfer.

As Mr Bartholomaeus also holds the office of WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner, he has been directed by the Minister for Labour Relations to delegate those functions to appropriate officers in WorkSafe. Mr Brian Bradley has been directed to act in the position of chief executive officer, WorkSafe. Mr Bradley is a career public servant who has worked in this area previously and his expertise is widely recognised internationally, nationally and within Western Australia.

MEMBER FOR BASSENDEAN

Personal Explanation

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [3.07 pm]: In question time today, the Minister for Planning accused me of putting proposals on the Notice Paper to waste the time of the House. That is a serious allegation and I wish to put the situation on record.

Earlier this year, prior to the winter break, the Legislative Council dealt with and rejected the planning amendment to which the Minister referred. On returning after the winter break, I inquired of the Deputy Clerk whether it was appropriate to place on the Notice Paper a disallowance motion notwithstanding that the amendment had been rejected in the other place. The Clerk advised me that it was legally possible, and I did so. I did so because several people in and outside my electorate asked me to raise important issues in the House on their behalf, and the only way to do that in relation to that amendment is to move a disallowance motion. I take considerable umbrage at being accused of wasting the time of the House when members of the community have asked me to raise matters in the House. I will continue to represent those interests, despite misrepresentations by the Minister for Planning.

The minister's adviser asked me about the matter six weeks ago. I informed the minister's adviser then that I was well aware that the matter had been rejected and that I wished to speak on it to represent the interests of my constituency. I do not raise those matters to waste the time of the House, and any such implication in question time was wrong.

ARGYLE DIAMONDS CASE

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Today I received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following motion -

That this House expresses its grave concern that after eight years and five separate inquiries the truth about the Argyle diamond case is still not known and calls upon the Minister for Police to account to Parliament on -

- (1) how much taxpayers' money has been spent on inquiries into the police handling of the case and on court proceedings related to the case;
- (2) why charges against Det Sgt Noye and Lindsay Roddan were dropped and so close to the trial; and
- (3) why a judicial inquiry is not being established into this whole affair.

If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.11 pm]: I move the motion.

On Thursday, 8 October, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced that charges against Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Noye and Lindsay Gordon Roddan of conspiring to pervert the course of justice had been dropped. Mr Speaker, it is difficult to debate a matter of public importance when no Ministers are present in the House. Further, a key prosecution witness, Detective Sergeant Clayton Gwilliam, was charged with perjury over his evidence at that committal hearing in July 1994.

These are extraordinary developments, given the amount of time and money the Government has spent on investigating this matter. I remind the House that no less than five inquiries have been conducted into this issue, spanning a period of eight years. We must remember that Detective Sergeant Noye was committed for trial in September 1994, just over four years ago, and that he was just two weeks away from his trial and from having his day in court when the charges against him were dropped. Therefore, the use of the word "extraordinary" is fully justified.

The Government has a responsibility to explain itself fully to the public and to the Parliament. We have had to use the forum of the Parliament to force the Government to account for itself in this matter. It is a tragedy that in the debate on this issue

over the past few days, the Government has not been forthcoming about the key questions that have been posed by this affair. The Government's response, and the response of the other agencies for which this Government is responsible, has been appalling and has left a cloud hanging over the Police Service yet again.

Mr Prince: Are the three questions in the motion the three questions to which you are referring?

Dr GALLOP: They are the key questions.

This comes as no surprise, because the Government's handling of the Police portfolio since 1993 has undermined rather than promoted confidence in our Police Service. The Government resisted calls for a judicial inquiry into matters left hanging by the Legislative Council Select Committee on the Western Australian Police Service, chaired by Hon Derrick Tomlinson, which reported in June 1996. I remind the Minister for Police that the report of that select committee, which was tabled in the Legislative Council in June 1996, concluded that it is likely that only an independent judicial inquiry will resolve the issues raised by the Argyle Diamonds affair. The Government rejected that recommendation from that Legislative Council select committee. Since that time, the Government has consistently rejected calls for an open and extensive royal commission into these and other matters related to the Police Service. If the Government thinks that by resisting these calls for a royal commission it has established its support for the Police Service and has promoted confidence in the Police Service, it is sadly wrong. By resisting these calls, all the Government has done is further undermine confidence in the Police Service, because the issues continue to come forward again and again and have not been resolved satisfactorily in the public arena.

Following the dropping of the charges against Noye and Roddan, the Government is treating the public with contempt. The Premier said on radio this morning that there comes a time when we must ask what benefits will come from further inquiries. I will provide the Premier with an answer to that question: The benefit of getting to the truth of the matter is surely not an unimportant consideration. A further benefit is allowing honest people to have their reputations cleared. It appears, however, that according to some within government, and according to some who comment on these matters, we can never get to the truth of the matter. I refer to a headline in *The West Australian*, which quoted someone with an interest in this matter as saying that we will never get to the truth of this issue. How convenient a conclusion to reach when these matters relate to things that happened during the coalition's term of office. Are we to understand that this is the standard the Government wishes to set for itself? That reflects very poorly on its commitment to open and accountable government. The reason that we need to further investigate the issues that have been raised over a period and in the past few weeks is to get to the truth of the matter and to allow honest people to clear their names.

I come then to the contribution of the Minister for Police on this issue. He says that we cannot inquire into these matters because a person is before the courts. The Minister for Police has manufactured an argument in order to keep the truth from coming out. After all, his party found no difficulty at all in supporting a royal commission in the early 1990s when some of the players at that time were facing charges. If it was good enough then, it is good enough now. To put it simply, the Government is failing in its duty to the people and to the many decent police officers whose reputations have been unfairly tarnished in this affair.

The Opposition provides another opportunity today for the Government to be accountable to Parliament. We ask the minister to be accountable in three areas. First, Parliament and the people of Western Australia need to know how much taxpayers' money has been spent on court proceedings and inquiries on this matter. One estimate is that over \$10m has been spent. Second, we need to know why charges were dropped against Roddan and Noye. Even though the Director of Public Prosecutions remains unwilling to fully disclose the reasoning behind the decision, it does not absolve the Government of its responsibility to provide answers to Parliament. We expect the minister to give a comprehensive account of why those charges were dropped.

Mr Prince: Do you seriously think I had anything to do with it?

Dr GALLOP: The minister is responsible to Parliament.

Mr Prince: The Director of Public Prosecutions is statutorily independent.

Dr GALLOP: The Director of Public Prosecutions has a minister who reports to Parliament.

Mr Prince: The Attorney General.

Dr GALLOP: The Minister for Police represents the Attorney General in this House.

Mr Prince: Do you seriously suggest that the Attorney General or I had anything to do with it?

Dr GALLOP: That is not the point I make. The minister is responsible to this House, and has an obligation to report on why the decision was made. There is a distinction between who has the responsibility to make those decisions and who is responsible to account for those decisions.

Mr Prince: Parliament.

Dr GALLOP: Exactly. Therefore, I expect the minister to give a full account. The need for this accountability was accentuated by the revelation of a key witness on the front page of our daily newspaper last Saturday that she was willing to give evidence when we were told by the Director of Public Prosecutions that a refusal by her to give evidence was one of the factors affecting the decision to drop charges. Third, we need know why the Government persists in its rejection of calls for a judicial inquiry into this matter.

A very important point is the new allegations which have arisen and which require and deserve serious investigation. I refer to claims by lawyer John Quigley on radio and in *The West Australian* that documents relating to the case were kept from the defence, and that inquiries recommended by the Australian Federal Police were not undertaken for over two years. These are new issues. We refer not only to past events, but also to new claims and allegations which need investigation. These serious claims by lawyer John Quigley cannot be swept under the carpet.

I remind the House of the Commissioner of Police's comments on the Australian Federal Police report. I quote from *The West Australian* of Saturday, 10 October 1998, as follows -

Police Commissioner Bob Falconer said yesterday the Australian Federal Police task force report into the Argyle affair did not recommend a royal commission. However, the report said that further evidence could be provided by former police who had refused to answer questions, if they were brought before a body with coercive powers.

Is that not interesting? I do not think we were told about that "however" when this matter was debated in Parliament a few years ago.

Mr Prince: Obviously, you did not read the report which was tabled here. It said it on page 2!

Dr GALLOP: We read it all right - that is why we argued for an inquiry! Where was the Government in relation to those recommendations?

Mr Prince: Right here - with the report on the Table.

Dr GALLOP: The Government did absolutely nothing!

Mr Prince: You're poorly prepared. Go away and read the report, or at least its executive summary, which spans only a few pages. Read page 2: "This is not a call for a royal commission."

Dr GALLOP: Will the minister account to Parliament regarding why inquiries into a certain detective were not initiated, as recommended by the report?

Mr Prince: I will give you an account on the MPI you have put on the Table.

Dr GALLOP: That was a politician's answer to my question. I suspect that the minister will not account for why this matter was not investigated. Not only the Opposition recognises the need for a further and comprehensive inquiry; the Western Australian Police Union has also warned that many questions which remain unanswered are undermining public confidence in the service and police morale. The Opposition continually indicates to the Government that few more serious circumstances arise for our community than the one under discussion.

Further argument for the establishment of a royal commission is provided by lawyer John Quigley, who noted that royal commissions are required when other agencies have failed to address public concerns. Police have been dealing with this matter for nine years, and Mr Quigley concludes that they have failed to alleviate public concerns. That is why a royal commission, as a full and comprehensive inquiry, is needed into this matter.

The West Australian also makes the important point that "excessive official secrecy about police corruption has not cleared it up." Last Saturday's editorial had three good paragraphs on this matter. They read -

This matter - and the DPP's handling of the prosecution - should be a term of reference in a wider royal commission into police corruption. There have been years of innuendo about and accusation of police corruption.

These are often not supported by facts or even specific allegations. But the whole service has to bear the odium of suggestions of corruption - which is a particular injustice to the majority of officers who are honest.

A royal commission would allow accusations against officers to be made, tested and defended under public scrutiny. Police against whom there is evidence of wrongdoing would be identified and the innocent would have a chance to clear their names in open hearings.

This summarises the case extremely well. It is time for the Government to account to Parliament on the cost of the inquiries, on why charges against Roddan and Noye were dropped, and on why the Government continues to resist calls from a wide section of the community and commentators to conduct a proper and comprehensive inquiry. The time has come to clear the air. It is time the Government was honest with itself, its Police Service and the public of Western Australia.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [3.28 pm]: In addressing this matter of public importance I will make a number of points about royal commissions generally and what is known as the Argyle Diamonds affair in particular.

First, a number of royal commissions have been held in Australia and New York in recent time into matters concerning police. Experience in New South Wales, with the Wood royal commission - which was to a large extent, but not entirely, to do with police matters - and the New York inquiry, demonstrated graphically the following point made by Commissioner Wood -

. . . the cycle of external public inquiries . . . can never be a long term solution. At best, there will be momentary embarrassment, which the past demonstrates can be ridden out with minimal impact on previous practices and procedures.

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to bear those words in mind.

In February 1996, during the time of the Wood royal commission, an elite and so-called untouchable squad was formed to look into organised crime in Kings Cross. The members of that squad were specifically selected, and were approved and vetted by Commissioner Wood. Two years later that squad is disbanded, three officers, including the officer in charge, have been arrested and charged with corruption, and inquiries are continuing. Mr Wood's solution to corruption covered three basic points: First, there should be a sustained joint effort involving a fundamental change in the approach of the Police Service to corruption; second, the existence of a permanent independent body overseeing the service, with police corruption as its focus; and, third, a restructure of the service and its management under which all officers are empowered to reject corruption.

Those reforms have been and are in the process of being implemented in Western Australia through the Delta program and the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission. In other words, those principles which are readily ascertainable have been taken on board, and are being put in place and being worked through. However, the results will not be seen overnight or in an instant. It takes some years to put these things in place and cultural change, in particular, takes some time to happen. It is happening, particularly among some of the younger officers and perhaps those who have not been in the Police Service for so long, but it is also happening among longer serving officers. A climate of change is moving through the Police Service.

Mrs Roberts: How do you know that?

Mr PRINCE: Because I talk to them. That change is entirely commendable. Calls for a royal commission are often premised on the view that public hearings are essential to ensure all information is revealed and the public is informed. I remind members of statements by Mr Geoffrey Miller, now Mr Justice Miller of the Supreme Court, when he was a special investigator for the Anti-Corruption Commission. He stated that, in the case of the six officers he inquired into, much of the information which came to light would not have been revealed in a public hearing for fear of retribution. I am not talking about the coercive nature of a royal commission, or the ability to put people into the witness box and ask them questions. This is referred to in the report of the Australian Federal Police. In Mr Miller's report on those six officers he said much of the information which came to light would not have been revealed publicly for fear of retribution. He also found total disregard by many officers of the Police Commissioner's standard operating procedures and other management directives, coupled with a failure by senior managers to enforce procedures and guidelines. That matter has been addressed and continues to be addressed by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Falconer. He and others are identifying corruption risk and putting in place procedures to minimise the opportunities for corruption. That should happen on an ongoing basis. I refer to the words of Mr Justice Wood, the royal commissioner in New South Wales.

Further reform in WA would be stymied and put on hold - perhaps even reversed - if a royal commission were held. The reforms we are talking about would not have been started because if they had been, the whole place would have come to a shuddering halt. People who want to hide, hide; people who want to say things but fear retribution, do not say them. The criminals of Western Australia would rub their hands in glee and get on with what they do. The whole question of a royal commission needs to be examined as a last resort.

I refer now to the Argyle Diamonds case. I have described it as mishandling. Others have been more critical.

Mrs Roberts: Yes, including the Federal Police.

Mr PRINCE: Yes. This is not a political statement.

Mr Marlborough: What is your definition of "mishandling"?

Mr PRINCE: Rather than go through the report from the Australian Federal Police, I will provide a summary. Diamonds were stolen from Argyle Diamonds in November 1989. This Government was not in power at that time, the Labor Government was. I am not for one moment suggesting that the Minister for Police of the day had anything to do with it, but I make the point that the theft occurred under a Labor regime. It is not a political matter, but diamonds were stolen. In late 1989 Detective Sergeant Robin Thoy was the first person to investigate these matters. He wrote them off and no charges

were laid. In February 1992 a second investigation was held by Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Noye, aided by Detective Sergeant Clayton Gwilliam. That was also written off, concluding there was no evidence of stolen diamonds, but one officer was charged. In early 1993 a third investigation by Detective Sergeant Clayton Gwilliam was concluded, and three people were charged and convicted of stealing diamonds. Those people were Lindsay Roddan who was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, Barry Crimmins who got four years and Lynette Crimmins who was put on a bond. Charges were also brought at that time against Noye.

In May 1995 the *Four Corners* program alleged serious misconduct, and Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International Pty Ltd was contracted by Argyle Diamonds to carry out an independent investigation. In doing that it sought cooperation from the then recently appointed Commissioner of Police, Mr Falconer, and received it on the condition that a copy of the FBIS report would be sent to the commissioner. He received that report in August 1995 and, as a result, he referred the whole matter to the Australian Federal Police. With the cooperation of the federal police commissioner, federal police officers were appointed as special constables and carried out inquiries. They were given the powers available to the police in Western Australia, but no extra powers. That investigation commenced in September 1995, and a report was prepared in July 1996. A copy of that report was sent to Commissioner Falconer, among other people, and it concluded, in summary form, that the Western Australian police investigations were inadequate, inefficient and deficient but that there was no evidence of corruption or criminality. That is a definition of mishandling. I tried to use one word to describe it, rather than a sentence.

Mr Marlborough: The worth of that report will be tested by a royal commission.

Mr PRINCE: The last royal commission the member for Peel called for dug his political grave and that of most of the Labor Party. The member should stop being a clanging cymbal.

The report from the Australian Federal Police recommended that disciplinary charges be laid against one serving member of the Police Service, and that 11 officers be formally counselled. The Leader of the Opposition may not have had the time to read the report by the Australian Federal Police, which is of some length.

Dr Gallop: Charges were dropped last week after four years.

Mr PRINCE: I will come to that. This is a report by the Australian Federal Police and it was tabled in this House by the then Minister for Police, my colleague Mr Wiese, the member for Wagin, in September 1996. It is a tabled paper, and I suggest the executive summary is well worth reading. That summary begins with the following interesting quotation from a police officer interviewed by the federal police during that investigation -

I know I haven't expressed myself really adequately at what I'm getting at, but I'm not biased against anything. I'll defy any people who say that to prove it or otherwise, but no, I just felt we handled this extremely badly from the outset. Too many people. Some people who couldn't even spell fraud were looking at fraud matters should have never been allowed to be in control of it. Should never have been given the inquiry and it was not done properly from the outset and it has brought us a lot of pain and a lot of embarrassment . . .

The Australian Federal Police chose to quote that as a summation of mishandling by the Western Australia Police Service of the investigation into the Argyle diamond theft in 1989 and thereafter. I will quote further from the executive summary of the report -

Unless new evidence becomes available, the WAPOLINV -

That refers to the Federal Police. It continues -

considers that further investigation of the issues addressed in this report would not add substantially to the body of evidence that now exists. The investigation process has been taken as far as possible, unless coercive powers are applied.

This is not a call for a Royal Commission. Given the history of the allegations, it is unlikely that the small number of former police who have declined interview would cooperate with any future police inquiry. WAPOLINV simply observes that an option would be for those former members to be summonsed to appear before a body with coercive powers. This may provide further evidence.

Dr Gallop: How convenient for you.

Mr PRINCE: I did not write it; the Federal Police wrote it. It was tabled in this House in September 1996.

Dr Gallop: Will you get on to why it was?

Mr PRINCE: Yes, I will. I have another 19 minutes. The report continues -

What was a reasonably straight forward criminal investigation when reported to the police in 1989 degenerated into

a web of intrigue and perceived conspiracy through the actions and words of a small number of police. It must be said that (then) Detective Senior Sergeant Robin Martin Thoy and Detective Sergeant Edward Clayton Gwilliam were, in part, responsible for this deterioration. An unprofessional closeness developed between these members and crucial witnesses such as Mrs Lynnette Crimmins, Mr Richard Corfield, and Mr John Burton. This provided the environment for events to be distorted and misinterpreted.

Senior Sergeant Thoy and Detective Sergeant Gwilliam refuse to accept, and may never accept, that certain administrative actions and occurrences were not motivated by corruption or conspiracy. Half truths and supposition were accepted as fact during their investigations. Detective Sergeant Gwilliam, especially, was responsible for incorporating such detail into police records.

On the available evidence WAPOLINV considers that there is insufficient evidence to commence criminal proceedings alleging 'corruption' against any serving or former member of WAPOL.

WAPOLINV recommends disciplinary charges against one serving member.

The remainder of the recommendations in this report focus on the need for 11 members to be formally counselled and so on.

I have quoted only part of this executive summary. I am not trying to do it selectively, but it is here and it has been a tabled paper in this House since September 1996.

Dr Gallop: Charges were dropped last week. Can you come to grips with the impact of that on public confidence?

Mr PRINCE: I am coming to that. The questions concerning taxpayers' money were asked by a member of *The West Australian*. She received a response from the Police Commissioner, albeit beyond the printing date of the first edition of *The West Australian*. I have that information and I will give it to the Leader of the Opposition. I table the questions and answers from the commissioner's office about the cost of the internal and external investigations to date, and I quote -

Q: Does the Commissioner think we need a Royal Commission into the Argyle Diamond events?

Q: What has been the cost of internal and external investigations to date?

A: The cost of investigations into the Argyle matters relating to WA police officers by the AFP was \$340,079.

A separate but directly-related investigation into alleged criminal acts by non-police . . . cost \$177,562.00

[See papers Nos 240 and 241.]

Mr PRINCE: The longer answer goes on to say that they were not able to work out the cost of police salaries and so on from 1989 onwards. Undoubtedly that is nothing like the full cost of the whole exercise. Yesterday the police advised *The West Australian* and me that they did not know the total salary costs. These are costs that we were able to extract yesterday.

I cannot answer the question about the court proceedings, because I do not know. I can ask the Attorney to attempt to find out. In the time since notice of this MPI, I have not been given that information. I cannot ask for it directly. I do not have the information. If and when it is extracted, I undertake to give it to the Leader of the Opposition.

I am aware that the Director of Public Prosecutions issued a press release dated 8 October 1998 about dropping the charges against Detective Sergeant Noye and Lindsay Roddan.

The Leader of the Opposition made much capital about the time delay. The following explains part of the time delay -

Lindsay Gordon Roddan and Jeffery Howard Noye, a police officer, are currently charged on indictment before the District Court with one count of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice allegedly arising from the police investigation into the theft of diamonds . . .

Lengthy *Dietrich* and other interlocutory proceedings have delayed the start of this trial from its originally scheduled date of 5 February 1996. It is now scheduled to commence on 26 October 1998. It is likely to last 3 months. The considerable costs of both the prosecution and the defence cases will be borne by the Western Australian taxpayers.

There have been a number of recent events affecting the prosecution brief. Unfortunately, it is not presently in the interests of justice to detail them all, notwithstanding a legitimate public interest in those matters. One matter relates to the health and general attitude of a key Crown witness who has now indicated a firm resolve to give no assistance whatever to the Crown. In light of that and various other matters which have arisen, the Crown has reassessed its case. While no one factor of itself would justify the termination of the prosecution, the combination of factors has led to the conclusion that the continuation of proceedings is no longer in the public interest.

Accordingly the Director of Public Prosecutions has signed a nolle prosequi to terminate the prosecution.

[See paper No 242.]

Dr Gallop: Do you think that press release is somewhat extraordinary?

Mr PRINCE: Yes, I do.

Dr Gallop: Start responding as though it is.

Mr PRINCE: This is an extraordinary case.

With respect to the charges against Roddan and Noye, I have sought information and assistance from the Attorney General because the dropping of those charges is clearly his area. I spoke to him before Parliament started and he has provided me with the following information -

The charges against Roddan and Noye relating to the conspiracy to pervert the course of Justice were reliant upon the evidence of Lynnette Crimmins, an alleged unindicted co-conspirator. Her evidence thus was dependent upon corroboration by Gwilliam. On 19th August, Ms Crimmins visited two lawyers at the DPP's Office, when she indicated that she did not want to give evidence, and if called would not respond.

The DPP was consulted on the 20th September on the proposed charge against Gwilliam.

A confirmatory telephone call was made to Ms Crimmins, who although attesting to the veracity of her statement, again indicated that she would not give evidence. The combination of these factors at this stage, led to the DPP concluding that it was not in the public interest to submit the defendants to a three month trial when emerging events had indicated that there was no reasonable prospects of conviction.

At the time of entering the nolle prosequi, although aware that charges would be brought against Mr Gwilliam, this was not public knowledge and could not be referred to.

Now that Mr Gwilliam has been charged, it is inappropriate to make comment on Mr Gwilliam or his case.

Circumstances can change during the course of an investigation or case and it is the duty of the DPP to keep the matter under constant review. It was in the light of these circumstances at the time of the nolle that caused the DPP to decide against proceeding to trial.

While it may have been of public interest to air the facts, the DPP has to make a judgment as to whether it is appropriate to submit the State or the Defendant to the cost and in the case of the defendant, the ordeal of a three month trial. Some of the comments have been made on the incorrect assumption that Ms Crimmins was prepared to give evidence and without knowledge of the other factors. In view of the possibility of prejudice to Gwilliam it is inappropriate to canvas those factors.

[See paper No 243.]

Mr PRINCE: With regard to the observations that have been made concerning the charges being dropped against Noye and Roddan, I note that, first, the trial should have commenced at the beginning of last year. Because of the Dietrich case and the impecuniosity of Roddan and the fact that he held out until eventually Western Australian taxpayers' money was found to fund his defence, the matter dragged on until now before coming up for trial. That is an appalling state of affairs and is largely wished upon us by the decision of the High Court in the Dietrich case. That accounts for probably 15 or 16 months of delay.

With regard to other matters, the federal police report was produced in mid-1996 and was made public in September 1996. Noye and Roddan were charged, therefore the trial should have commenced in February. The rest of the delays are as a result of court delays - not the problem of the court itself, but the problem of law created elsewhere.

Mrs Roberts: What about the fact that the documents were not passed on to Mr Noye and his lawyer and the tape was destroyed?

Mr PRINCE: I have questions and answers from *The West Australian*. It asked, "Why did it take so long for the recommendations at page 216 of the report to be implemented recommending that Detective Sergeant Gwilliam's evidence be investigated. *The West Australian* has seen several letters from John Quigley etc." The answer given to *The West Australian* was -

A complaint relating to Det Snr Sgt Gwilliam's evidence was received from Mr Quigley in September 1996.

The Western Australia Police Service commenced an investigation, however following advice from the DPP in relation to the charge against Det Senr Sgt Noye, placed the investigation on hold. Mr Quigley was advised of this action by letter in October 1996.

In December 1997 advice was received that the DPP was not pursuing the charge of releasing official secrets against Noye. At this point the Western Australia Police Service recommenced the investigation of Mr Quigley's complaints against Gwilliam on behalf of Noye. Mr Quigley was so advised in writing. The charge against Noye of conspiring to pervert the course of justice was still proceeding at that time.

With the Australian Federal Police investigation involving over 200 interviews, 8,000 pages of transcripts and more than 40,000 documents, it has taken some several months since our investigations recommenced for it to reach the stage where Det Sgt Edward Clayton Gwilliam was charged with perjury on October 8, 1998.

It should be emphasised that with Det Sgt Gwilliam having been charged, this matter is now sub judice . . .

As far as I am aware, at no stage has there been any refusal of access to appropriate documents to Mr Quigley. Mr Quigley acts on behalf of various people and he has a right to see some things but not everything. With regard to the missing tape of Les Ayton's meeting with Roddan, *The West Australian* raised this question -

Is there any explanation of where it's gone?

The answer given by the director of media and public affairs on behalf of the Police Service to *The West Australian* is -

Mr Ayton advised the Australian Federal Police investigators that the tape was probably recorded over because it did not contain any important material in relation to a meeting he had had with Roddan in March 1992.

I table the paper for the information of members.

[See paper No 244.]

Mrs Roberts: Who assessed whether the information was important?

Mr PRINCE: It was Mr Ayton's tape and he recorded over it.

Mrs Roberts: Some people allege that the contents of the tape could incriminate Mr Ayton.

Mr PRINCE: They can allege what they like; these are the facts.

Mrs Roberts: The tapes get wiped and disappear, that is the fact.

Mr PRINCE: Yes, but not by anybody other than, apparently, Mr Ayton.

Mrs Roberts: That should be of concern as he was in charge of the whole section dealing with surveillance and listening devices.

Mr PRINCE: Who should be dealing with the question of the further inquiry into Argyle when one person is still waiting for trial? No-one would want to prejudice the trial, in the interests of the State, the police and also the individual, all of whose interests coincide. The trial should not be prejudiced in any way. That is a statement that I have made in the past few days - that trial should not be prejudiced. I will be extensively informed and briefed by the commissioner. I will be seeing him at 9.00 am tomorrow. He and I have had a number of phone calls over the past few days. I also want to speak to Hon Derrick Tomlinson, a member in the other place, who has chaired a committee of inquiry. I am aware from matters mentioned to me by other members of the Legislative Council that there has been a good deal of inquiry into this matter by that committee.

Dr Gallop: Can the minister repeat that? Are members of that committee telling him what they are inquiring into?

Mr PRINCE: No, they have told me that I should talk to Hon Derrick Tomlinson.

Dr Gallop: Why are they saying that?

Mr PRINCE: Because apparently his committee has looked into matters related to Argyle Diamonds.

Dr Gallop: I thought all those things were confidential to that committee's inquiries.

Mr PRINCE: No. I will talk to Hon Derrick Tomlinson. He will undoubtedly choose to tell me whatever he wishes. It is incumbent upon me, as we are all part of the same Parliament, to ask him what he can tell me, as Minister for Police, about this matter.

Mr Marlborough: Ask him whether all the written reports he had presented to his committee by the police officers who conducted the inquiry have now been handed over to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mr PRINCE: I will ask him that. I am glad the member raised the question of the ACC because I will table another letter. It is from the ACC, dated 13 October, addressed to the Premier and it says -

My Dear Premier

I am writing to you with respect to the matter known as the Argyle Inquiry.

The Commission has been involved with the inquiry for some years. Indeed, it was this Commission, when it was known as the Official Corruption Commission, which took statements from a witness, whose evidence provided a breakthrough in the inquiry, which had until then been stalled, and resulted in the decision to lay the initial Argyle charges. Since that time, the Commission has received a number of allegations related to the Argyle Inquiry, which involve public officers. The Commission has reviewed reports into many of those allegations from the West Australian Police Service, the Australian Federal Police and FBIS, the group engaged by Argyle Mines to make enquiries into the matter.

Although some two years ago the Commission was given its own investigative capacity, it has not itself undertaken any inquiries in respect of the Argyle matter. In light of events in the last few days and, in particular, in view of the reported comments of Mr Quigley, the Commission is writing to Mr Quigley to enquire from him what are the matters which he believes should be the subject of a Royal Commission.

The Commission will conduct preliminary inquiries into those matters to determine whether or not some further action should be taken by it, or by some other party, or indeed whether we should recommend a Royal Commission as called for by Mr Quigley.

I would note, in passing, the Commission is surprised at Mr Quigley's statement reported in The West Australian, that the matters, about which he is concerned, cannot be referred to the ACC because Mr George Tannin, who originally prosecuted in the Argyle matter, is a Special Investigator employed by the Commission. Mr Quigley should know that Mr Tannin's Special Investigation relates to specific terms of reference entirely unrelated to the Argyle Inquiry. He is not involved in, nor does he have access to the other matters being handled by the Commission.

I table the letter.

[See paper No 245.]

Mr PRINCE: What remains to be inquired into are the officers who refused to answer questions asked by the Federal Police.

Dr Gallop: Everything remains to be inquired into. The minister has not satisfied anyone of that.

Mr PRINCE: The Leader of the Opposition has not been listening. The Anti-Corruption Commission is capable and competent to inquire in a coercive way and also in such a way - I remind members of the remarks by Mr Geoffrey Miller, QC - that there cannot be retribution against those who speak. Surely, that is the best way to get to the "truth of the matter".

Lastly, members opposite have raised the question of the repute of the police in the minds and thoughts of the people of this State. The Roy Morgan Research Centre carries out polling from time to time, as members are well aware. The last polling on this subject that I have is dated 25 May 1998. The polling took place in all the States of Australia; it was a polling to find out how people scored the police for honesty, ethical standards and things of that nature. The majority of Australians - 60 per cent - viewed the police as having very high honesty and ethical standards. That was the highest recorded rating for police since the survey began in 1976. Honesty and ethical ratings for the police increased or maintained the same levels in all States except Tasmania. Australians living in South Australia and Western Australia were most likely to think that the police were honest and ethical. In 1996 in Western Australia, 55 per cent of the people thought they were honest and ethical; in 1997, it was 53 per cent; and in 1998, 70 per cent of the people of this State thought our police were honest and ethical. That is a direct result of the new commissioner, the Delta program and the changes that have been put in place against everything that the Opposition has thrown at us, because basically members of the Labor Party have a fundamental difficulty with the police because they do not abide by the rule of law; they only ever want to abide by the rules that they and not others believe in. Police officers do not do that. Seventy per cent of the people think our police are honest and ethical, despite the best efforts of members opposite.

MRS ROBERTS (Midland) [3.58 pm]: The response by the Minister for Police has been one of the most tired responses from a minister in a long while. There was barely a new line in it. Members of this House would be aware that this has been an ongoing issue for a number of years. It has been the subject of many questions and debates previously in this House. To illustrate the tiredness of the response by the Minister for Police, I indicate some similar previous responses. When Mr Taylor was Leader of the Opposition, he asked what action the Attorney General had taken following calls by senior police officers, including deputy commissioner Frank Zanetti, to investigate their concerns and the concerns of the public in general about what has become known as the Argyle affair. He detailed the seriousness of that allegation. The response from the then Attorney General, Mrs Edwardes, was -

I thank the member for the question, which is of concern to Western Australians. Everyone must recognise that those allegations came out in the middle of a court case. The preliminary hearing is still under way and it would

be inappropriate to make any comments in relation to those allegations. However, I have had discussions with the Director of Public Prosecutions on that matter. It is as a result of investigations carried out by the DPP that the trial is progressing as it is. It is totally in the hands of the DPP. I understand he has been working with a small police unit for the whole of these investigations in order to get that matter to the preliminary hearing.

Mr Taylor: Will you give us an assurance that the DPP will be investigating these allegations of corruption within the Police Force?

Mrs EDWARDES: The DPP will continue what he has already started - that is, the investigation of all allegations of corruption which are brought to his attention.

These are the kinds of fob-off statements that the Government has been making for years.

Mr Prince: All you want is some public bloodletting so that you can have some cheap publicity. Those on your side of politics have no conception of the rule of law.

Mrs ROBERTS: All the minister wants to do is cover up the situation. No-one on his side of the House has taken this issue seriously. That is why the Government has the problem today.

Mr Prince interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister will come to order.

Mrs ROBERTS: On 14 June 1994 Mr Catania, who was then the opposition spokesman for Police, asked the Minister for Police this question -

I refer the Minister to allegations that serving and former police officers received \$40 000 in bribes in relation to the Argyle diamond thefts.

The question went on. Mr Wiese made an insulting comment and then said -

I am not prepared to answer the rest of the question for two reasons: Firstly, the whole matter is sub judice and I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to make any comment about those matters that are before the courts; secondly, the matters are still under investigation and it is not my practice to discuss in the public arena matters which are under investigation by the Police Force of Western Australia.

Mr Wiese: Do you know what happened as a result of that? Two people were sent to gaol; one for six years and one for four and a half years.

Mrs ROBERTS: The minister would not allow the member for Wagin to speak on this matter at any time. He used the whole 30 minutes himself; he did not want to hear from the member because he is an embarrassment.

Mr Prince interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will make her speech.

Mrs ROBERTS: The Opposition has raised the matter of a royal commission or judicial inquiry into police corruption. On 20 June 1996 Mr McGinty moved a motion in this House. He specifically called for a judicial inquiry into the Police Service. He highlighted certain events which needed to be inquired into. He listed the Perth Mint swindle, the death of Stephen Wardle and the Argyle Diamonds affair. That indicates how long these issues have been around.

Several members interjected.

Mrs ROBERTS: I have no desire to hear from the redundant member for Wagin.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask members to allow the member on her feet to make her speech.

Mrs ROBERTS: In recent days *The West Australian* has outlined the whole history and I will not go any further into it. I want to deal with some up-to-date information that has come to light in the past few days. Detective Sergeant Noye first called for a royal commission back in 1993. That was prior to his being charged. Detective Sergeant Noye went to Mr Ayton early in 1993, at which time Mr Ayton was acting Deputy Commissioner of Police. Detective Sergeant Noye complained at that time that Detective Sergeant Gwilliam was making wild and unsubstantiated claims about him. It seems that Mr Ayton did not take any action. At a later stage Detective Sergeant Noye went to the Ombudsman and complained that Mr Ayton had taken no notice of his complaint. After Detective Sergeant Noye complained about Detective Sergeant Gwilliam making unsubstantiated accusations, who then ended up on the team investigating the matter? It was none other than Detective Sergeant Gwilliam. Then Deputy Commissioner Zanetti, who is one of the people mentioned in other contexts in this affair, appointed Detective Sergeant Gwilliam to the task of heading up the inquiry. Members should note that Detective Sergeant Gwilliam now faces a perjury trial for allegedly giving false evidence against both Detective Sergeant Noye and Mr Ayton. That is more than merely a bit of mishandling.

Mr Prince: My comments with regard to mishandling applied to the inquiry into the Argyle Diamonds theft.

Mrs ROBERTS: If I may continue, I point out that when the Gwilliam report was finally finished, Mr Ayton was deputy commissioner and he checked off the report which concluded there was insufficient evidence to proffer any charges against suspects. Subsequently and up to this day doubt has been cast on that whole process. Later Detective Sergeant Noye was appointed to conduct an investigation. Detective Sergeant Noye took Mr Ayton with him on a visit to Mr Roddan. Mr Ayton allegedly wore a wire and recorded what was said, including apparently instructions given by Mr Ayton to Detective Sergeant Noye about his approach to the handling of that inquiry.

Mr Prince: I suppose that was in 1992?

Mrs ROBERTS: Yes, after October 1992. Of course there is nothing wrong with Mr Ayton giving Detective Sergeant Noye directions on how to approach the inquiry. The only interesting point that came out later is that subsequently the DPP cited Detective Sergeant Noye's conduct in following Mr Ayton's instructions as the conduct of a guilty man. It is then disclosed that Mr Ayton inadvertently destroyed the tape. The point I made by way of interjection was that at the time Mr Ayton was responsible for the section of the Western Australia Police Service which had responsibility for surveillance, listening devices and connected matters. People are told to believe that Mr Ayton would destroy evidence which, in the minds of some -

Mr Prince: He did not claim to have destroyed it inadvertently. He said there was nothing of any substance on the tape.

Mrs ROBERTS: There are a number of claims.

Mr Wiese: The way you are putting it is careless and inaccurate.

Mrs ROBERTS: The member for Wagin is obviously not taking cognisance of the fact that the actions of Mr Ayton are under question. Mr Ayton recorded himself giving instructions to Detective Sergeant Noye. Detective Sergeant Noye would like to get that tape, which he believes may incriminate Mr Ayton. Mr Ayton said that the tape was not important and he destroyed it. He destroyed evidence which might have been able to be used against him.

Mr Wiese: It was never alleged it would incriminate Mr Ayton.

Mrs ROBERTS: I am not interested in the point of view of the member for Wagin.

Mr Prince: Ayton said that it was recorded over.

Mrs ROBERTS: I have more matters to move on to.

The Commissioner of Police and the DPP have vigorously refused access to relevant documents which they hold. Detective Sergeant Noye's lawyer, Mr Quigley, said that the secrecy surrounding the whole affair is disturbing and it runs throughout the whole case. What Detective Sergeant Noye and Mr Quigley sought was largely denied them. They also sought full and unedited access to all versions of Lynette Crimmins' evidence and access to records of interviews between the Australian Federal Police and Mr Ayton and other witnesses. There are claims that the Commissioner of Police and the DPP went to considerable lengths to deny access to those documents, thereby ensuring that they would not come to light publicly.

What happened last Thursday has really changed events. Detective Sergeant Noye and his lawyer, Mr Quigley, were in court. They were expecting a judgment on the subpoena of documents that Detective Sergeant Noye sought. As the judge entered the court on that day a lawyer for the DPP jumped up and said that he wanted to say something. Given permission, he announced that the DPP would drop the case forthwith. What is the import of that? It means there is no answer to the subpoena for the documents. The documents are unable to be scrutinised by Detective Sergeant Noye and his lawyer. It means that they will not come to light in a public trial. At the very moment the judge was about to give his answer on whether the documents could be handed over to Detective Sergeant Noye, the DPP's representative said that the DPP would not be going to trial. That prevented the documents coming to light.

Other documents which Detective Sergeant Noye and Mr Quigley were handed prior to that were heavily edited - some 8 000 pages with 30 per cent edited out from the Australian Federal Police inquiry and other police documents. Those documents were provided only on the basis of use during trial. The minister said that the AFP report, which was tabled in this House in September 1996, stated that another inquiry would not add much to the body of evidence. The body of evidence has never been made public. In fact, Detective Sergeant Noye and Mr Quigley are prevented from making public the evidence with which they have been provided for use in the trial. That information is provided on the basis that it be used only during trial and cannot be disclosed to the public. Again, the documents do not see the light of day. Detective Sergeant Noye and Mr Quigley are now suggesting that material in those pages would be extremely alarming if it were made public.

Mr Prince: The Director of Public Prosecutions was advised that the principal crown witness, Ms Crimmins, had spoken to lawyers and had refused to give evidence.

Mrs ROBERTS: The trial judge was told that one of the reasons for discontinuance was health problems with the principal

crown witness and that she would not cooperate with the Crown. Taxpayers were funding both sides of this - the prosecution and the two defence teams. The DPP may have become aware of some difficulty with Ms Crimmins in August. That being the case, the trial should have been called off sooner. It is more than coincidental that it was done on the very day that the answer on the subpoena came out.

Mr Prince: I suspect that it is no more than a coincidence.

Mrs ROBERTS: That was some six or seven weeks ago. Over that time, final preparation was being undertaken, probably by about six lawyers. Each of those people who were due to go to trial had already expended in the order of \$100 000 for their court preparation costs. Many questions are outstanding for the police, the Commissioner of Police and the DPP. One outstanding matter for the Commissioner of Police and the Minister for Police is the delay in investigating the perjured evidence given against Detective Sergeant Noye.

Mr Prince: I have answered that and the paper has answered that.

Mrs ROBERTS: I could quote for the minister's benefit page 239 of the AFP report but I do not have time. Why is the minister so opposed to the public finding out what went on in this matter?

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (20)

Ms Anwyl	Dr Gallop	Mr Marlborough	Mr Ripper
Mr Brown	Mr Graham	Mr McGinty	Mrs Roberts
Mr Carpenter	Mr Grill	Mr McGowan	Mr Thomas
Dr Constable	Mr Kobelke	Ms McHale	Ms Warnock
Dr Edwards	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Riebeling	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)

Noes (28)

Mr Ainsworth	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Marshall	Mr Prince
Mr Baker	Dr Hames	Mr Masters	Mr Shave
Mr Barnett	Mrs Holmes	Mr McNee	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Mr House	Mr Minson	Dr Turnbull
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Johnson	Mr Nicholls	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Court	Mr Kierath	Mr Omodei	Mr Wiese
Mr Cowan	Mr MacLean	Mrs Parker	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)

Pair

Mr Bridge

Mr Pandal

Question thus negatived.

SESSIONAL ORDERS - TIME MANAGEMENT

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.16 pm]: In accordance with the sessional order for time management, I move -

That the following items of business be completed up to and including the stages specified at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 15 October -

- (1) Taxi Amendment Bill - all remaining stages;
- (2) Government Financial Responsibility Bill - all remaining stages;
- (3) Carnarvon Banana Industry (Compensation Trust Fund) Repeal Bill - all remaining stages;
- (4) WA Meat Industry Authority Amendment Bill - all remaining stages;
- (5) Soil and Land Conservation Amendment Bill - all remaining stages;
- (6) Petroleum Safety Bill - all remaining stages; and
- (7) Surveillance Devices Bill 1997 - all remaining stages.

The Taxi Amendment Bill essentially was completed during the last sitting week and requires only a third reading at some stage today. Three Bills are relatively minor agricultural matters and should be progressed quickly. Another Bill is simply a repeal Bill and is not considered to be contentious. The Petroleum Safety Bill has been in the House for almost six months

and no opposition amendments are listed on the Notice Paper, therefore that can be progressed in reasonable time. Similarly, the Government Financial Responsibility Bill was introduced as part of the 1998-99 budget package and has also been on the Notice Paper for almost six months, and again, no amendments have been proposed. The Surveillance Devices Bill has made some progress over the past few weeks and debate has reached clause 10 in committee. I hope we will complete that Bill comfortably before the end of the week. More than 13 hours of debate has taken place on that legislation.

Mrs Roberts: You changed it. It is a different Bill this year.

Mr BARNETT: The current Bill has had 13 hours of debate. We have advised the Opposition of the program. The Government will require a minimum of seven weeks to complete its legislative program. That presents some options on which members may care to comment informally over the next day or so. We are scheduled to sit for three weeks, have a one week recess, and then sit for three weeks with an optional fourth week. We will need that optional fourth week. There will be seven weeks of sitting. The alternatives are to sit for three weeks, have a one week break, and then sit for four weeks, or to sit for seven weeks straight.

My preference is to sit for seven weeks. I realise that puts some strain on members, but it will mean we will not be required to sit during the week beginning 1 December. Most members of Parliament are conscious of school functions, in particular, at that time of the year. Although I am quite reasonable about it, from my perspective I am largely indifferent. Most members will find it more convenient to sit for seven weeks, although it represents a substantial burden of time. I also remind members that in the next two weeks it is proposed to have the trial sitting times, and notice will be given of that in due course.

MRS ROBERTS (Midland) [4.20 pm]: I oppose the time management motion put forward by the Leader of the House. It is an indication of the Government's poor management of its legislative program. It feels the need routinely to come into the Chamber from week to week with this big-stick approach and say that it will guillotine certain Bills by 5.30 pm on Thursday. This is a further indication of its total mismanagement of business and legislation in this House: Having cancelled a week of Parliament, the Government then says that it needs seven sitting weeks to complete its legislative program. That comes after the lack of management of the abortion debate, after wasting weeks of time and after the Government of its own volition cancelling a week of sittings just because of the federal election.

The Government has now determined it needs approximately seven weeks to complete its legislative program. It is about time the Government adopted a mature attitude and put on the Table the Bills it expects to pass in the next seven weeks, not just those listed for this week or on a week-by-week basis. The Government should not merely refer us to a list of 120 Bills put forward at the beginning of the year, the vast majority of which have not seen the light of day.

Mr Barnett: I will tell you in the last three sitting weeks what we require to get through. I usually do that.

Mrs ROBERTS: We could have a better debate about the time which is required if the legislation were put on the Table and it would enable us to develop a cooperative approach.

Mr Barnett: We have the native title legislation, which I imagine will take some time. Potentially the education Bill is coming back. I cannot judge the program until I know how those two Bills have progressed; however, I can tell you that we will need seven weeks.

Mrs ROBERTS: It is pretty arbitrary to say that the Government needs seven weeks. To do so, the Leader of the House must have some idea of the legislation he intends to pass within those seven weeks, or he must feel it is necessary to deal with a set list of legislation which will take seven weeks. Were we to see that legislation, we could perhaps give a better indication of our position and come to some agreement to expedite some of the legislation where there is agreement.

Mr Barnett: I think we will be able to do that during the last three sitting weeks. The member knows a great deal of law and order legislation is to be dealt with which, presumably, the Opposition will support.

Mrs ROBERTS: I have not even seen most of the legislation.

Mr Barnett: I appreciate that and that is why I think in the last three sitting weeks we can judge what will be required.

Mrs ROBERTS: This is why I think the whole legislative program is badly managed. The Leader of the House has come in here today and talked about sitting for seven weeks, saying legislation which has not even seen the light of day will need to be dealt with. None of us has seen the native title legislation. I am told a whole range of law and order legislation, maybe to do with home burglaries or other matters, will need to be dealt with. I do not know the nature of the legislation because I have yet to see it.

Suddenly the Leader of the House says that he realises he has bungled the legislative program for the first half of the year, that the law and order legislation and the native title legislation are not up yet, and the Government wants to deal with it in last the last seven sitting weeks. From my point of view that is not the way to proceed nor is it correct to proceed on the basis of telling us each week the six or seven Bills which will be guillotined and which must be passed by 5.30 pm on

Thursday. That attitude only encourages a confrontational approach. We must see a full agenda. The Leader of the House tells us what must happen, which Bills will be guillotined and that we must sit for seven weeks, then asks us to negotiate.

Mr Barnett: The agenda is the Notice Paper. We are the first Government to extend the courtesy of informing the Opposition as to what we intend to do the following week. You never did that when you were in government.

Mrs ROBERTS: The Leader of the House says that the agenda is the Notice Paper. If that were the case, we would have debated the Gender Reassignment Bill (No 2) which was on the Notice Paper all last year, but which is still listed at No 15. When I ask members on the other side about it, they say we will not be debating that Bill. If that debate is not to occur, the Bill should be taken off the agenda - the Notice Paper. We cannot regard the Notice Paper as the agenda because it refers to some Bills which the Government has no intention of debating. Yet the Government has other Bills under wraps that have not seen the light of day and are not on this agenda. We have seven sitting weeks left. I expect to be told what legislation the Government intends to deal with between now and the end of the year. Until that happens, I cannot give any undertaking in terms of cooperation, or anything else.

MR OSBORNE (Bunbury) [4.25 pm]: I support the motion relating to the sessional order. There are several good, commonsense reasons the motion should be supported. Every time a motion like this is proposed, it baffles me that members of the Opposition, especially the member for Midland and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, both of whom were former teachers, stand up and speak against the sensible management of the time of this institution. When they were teachers, I wonder whether they thought it appropriate to spend all their time - each day or week or term or year - talking about the first item on the curriculum. Of course, they did not. They would have gone into each lesson with a lesson plan, structured the lesson and the time available, and completed the program set for the students. They would have done that every day, every semester and every year. As I say, it is astounding that they stand up in this place and argue that this Parliament - and this Parliament alone - should not manage its time, an argument which completely contravenes just about every management principle of which members are naturally aware.

The Opposition is alone in standing against this principle. The objective of members opposite is to waste the time of the Government and the Parliament. The further this Government and this Parliament get behind in their legislative program, the better those opposite like it. It is not mismanagement to structure the time of this place; it is good management. It would be mismanagement if we allowed the legislative program to drift out of control or if we left Parliament at the end of this year with our legislative program unfinished.

Time management and the relevant sessional order allow all members in this place to structure their time, to be aware of what is coming up on the Notice Paper and to prepare for debate in a decent, proper and sensible way, rather than rushing in at a moment's notice with sheaves of paper under their arms. Time management allows the House to proceed in an orderly way so that we do not have the mindless repetition we so often hear, with one member after another repeating what has been said. It imposes a discipline on all of us which is useful to take on board.

The member for Midland also talked about the big-stick approach and said that was symptomatic of this Government's management. The situation is exactly the opposite; this is not the big-stick approach. The Leader of the House clearly says, time after time, that he advises those opposite what we will deal with every week, and that is a privilege those opposite never extended to us. Members opposite know in good time what will be debated each week. The member for Midland can let members opposite know which Bills will be debated. She should acknowledge that is of benefit not only to them, but to the entire House. She talked about the federal election and how we lost a sitting week. That was not our doing.

Mrs Roberts: Yes it was. You could have sat during the week we were programmed to sit.

Mr OSBORNE: The Federal Government called the election and there was nothing we could do about that. All members appreciated the opportunity to get out in the electorates and do something which is important to all of us. The member for Midland is being a little simplistic coming in here and criticising the Government for reallocating a week of parliamentary sitting time because of a federal election. The member also talked about how the Government had bungled - those were her words - its legislative program in the first half of the year. She knows very well that matter was also not within the control of this Government.

Mrs Roberts: Of course it was. There were two separate Bills in two Houses; ridiculous rulings from the President, a member of your party; and no leadership on the issue.

Mr OSBORNE: It was something that came straight out of left field and this Parliament dealt with it properly as it should have, and did so very well. Certainly it put us behind with our legislative program and no-one will deny that. To put Parliament back on track, it is rational to put this commonsense program in place. The Government asks that only seven Bills be dealt with before Thursday, which gives everyone ample time to discuss matters in a commonsense and rational manner.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (29)

Mr Ainsworth	Dr Hames	Mr Masters	Mr Shave
Mr Baker	Mrs Holmes	Mr McNee	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barnett	Mr House	Mr Minson	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Mr Johnson	Mr Nicholls	Dr Turnbull
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Kierath	Mr Omodei	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Court	Mr MacLean	Mrs Parker	Mr Wiese
Mr Cowan	Mr Marshall	Mr Prince	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mrs Edwardes			

Noes (20)

Ms Anwyl	Dr Gallop	Mr Marlborough	Mr Ripper
Mr Brown	Mr Graham	Mr McGinty	Mrs Roberts
Mr Carpenter	Mr Grill	Mr McGowan	Mr Thomas
Dr Constable	Mr Kobelke	Ms McHale	Ms Warnock
Dr Edwards	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Riebeling	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)

Pair

Mr Bridge

Mr Pandal

Question thus passed.

TAXI AMENDMENT BILL*Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [4.33 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [4.34 pm]: I have a query. I thought we carried out this procedure on the last sitting day before the break. What happened?

Mr Omodei: It was amended. I understand from the Clerks that the Bill needed to be reported and third read on another day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The normal procedure is that if amendment is made, the adoption of the report must be deferred to a later day. One requires a special order to do otherwise.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL*Second Reading*

Resumed from 30 April.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.36 pm]: The Opposition supports the Bill but will move amendments. This Bill was introduced into Parliament with the 1998-99 budget papers. It is with some irony that a Bill which purports to increase the accountability and transparency of government was introduced with the 1998-99 budget papers, which make it impossible to compare year-by-year expenditure at a departmental or program output level. Although the papers were unveiled in a shower of bells and whistles, they reduced the amount of information available for proper and meaningful analysis of government expenditure and revenue.

It is also ironic that such a Bill be introduced by a Government which breaks its election promises. This Government promised a social dividend during the last state election campaign, but it has delivered anything but a dividend to the people of WA. Instead, it has delivered a raft of increases in state taxes and charges and left core services in decline. None of the new taxes was announced in the election campaign, or included in the forward estimates document released during the election campaign. Then again, it should be no surprise that this legislation, which purports to increase awareness and understanding of the State's finances, misses the mark altogether in certain important respects.

This Bill's main focus is to establish targets and forecasts. It is widely recognised and accepted that targets and forecasts are essential in developing plans for government over the medium to long term. The development of three-year forward estimates for state expenditure began under the previous Labor Government, and publishing forward estimates is now standard practice across Australia.

Equally, if not more importantly, information must be made available by which government performance can be continually assessed. The ability to continually assess government's financial position is in essence the core of financial accountability and transparency. It is this core issue which the Bill seems to ignore even though this issue is central to accountability. This Bill does nothing to answer questions on why we have growing hospital waiting lists or why police operational budgets are being cut when people are paying record levels of taxes and charges.

In contrast, the Bill aims to let people know the expected operating surplus of the State Government in three years' time. In this important sense, the Bill misses the mark. It is extraordinary that the Government went to such trouble to draft and introduce this Bill into Parliament without making it enforceable. Therefore, the Government has acknowledged that in reality the entire legislation is optional. It would seem to be something better left to government policy and financial guidelines than separate legislation.

Western Australia is not the first State to introduce such legislation. The Commonwealth introduced similar legislation titled Charter of Budget Honesty Act, the New South Wales Government has its General Government Debt Elimination Act 1995, and New Zealand its Fiscal Responsibility Act 1994. The Government Financial Responsibility Bill is clearly adapted from those pieces of legislation. However, a number of issues are conspicuous by their absence from the Government's legislation, and I will turn to those in my discussions today.

The Bill takes a narrow accounting view of the world. This is no better demonstrated than by the list of financial principles defined in the Bill. These principles are all about accountancy and appear more at home in the accounting standards than in government legislation. The principles as defined by the Bill are, firstly, that funding for current services is to be provided by the current generation; secondly, that spending and taxing policies are to be formulated and applied so as to give rise to a reasonable degree of stability and predictability; and, thirdly, that financial risks are to be managed prudently.

I am somewhat confused by the wording of the first principle that funding for current services be provided by the current generation. One could make many interpretations of that wording. One interpretation is that recurrent expenditure must be funded by recurrent revenue. If that is the correct interpretation, the Opposition supports the principle, but believes the wording must be changed to more clearly reflect the intention. It is interesting to note that under the above interpretation, the Government has contravened this principle. For example, in 1997-98 the Government used asset sales to fund its recurrent Health expenditure. The Opposition will seek some clarification from the Government on this important point during the committee stage.

The Opposition supports the second financial principle that spending and taxing policies must be formulated and applied to deliver a reasonable degree of stability and predictability. However, the Opposition also recognises that the application of financial management by the Government has a real impact on the lives and welfare of people. Because of this, the Opposition will move an amendment to ensure that the Government considers the impact of its spending and taxing decisions on employment, general economic prosperity and household budgets in Western Australia. It is essential that these factors be considered to ensure that people's welfare and economic prosperity are properly taken into account in the policy decision process.

It is of no surprise that such an amendment must be moved by the Opposition. In the last Budget, the Government agreed on a raft of increases in taxes and charges without any analysis of the impact of its decisions on household budgets. The Government made its decision by looking solely at the budget bottom line. No consideration was given in Cabinet to the extra burden being forced on pensioners, families and low and fixed income earners.

I now move to the reporting requirements contained in this legislation. The legislation requires the production of government financial strategy statements, government financial project statements, midyear financial projection statements and government financial results report. I have a number of concerns with the level and style of reporting required under this legislation. Firstly, I am somewhat confused about the relationship of these reports with what is currently produced. Secondly, it is unclear whether these reports will contain information in sufficient detail to undertake meaningful analysis of departmental expenditure and revenue streams. Thirdly, while the emphasis is on targeting and planning, little or no emphasis is given to providing information to evaluate progress against these targets or plans. I will raise these concerns in more detail when discussing each of the reports.

The financial strategy statement establishes broad financial targets for government. The 1997-98 and 1998-99 budget papers contain the Government's financial strategy and financial statements for the respective budget years. The 1998-1999 financial strategy statement contains targets for 1998-99 to 2001-02. However, no information is provided on the target set for 1997-98 and the Government's performance against the 1997-98 target and the graphs do not contain the 1997-98 year. It appears that the Government wants to establish four-year targets but never measures its performance against the targets.

This is clearly not desirable. The Opposition will therefore move an amendment to ensure that an assessment of progress achieved against previous fiscal targets is included in the financial strategy statement.

Clause 12 requires that government financial projection statements be released when the appropriation Bills are tabled. Again, this statement was included in the 1998-1999 budget papers. The proposed legislation also requires the release of government midyear financial projection statements by mid-February each year. The statement would be a revised financial projection statement and would be released with the budget papers. The Opposition has a problem with the timing of this report. Given that state Budgets are now brought down in April or May each year, a midyear statement released in February would become outdated within two months. It would seem more appropriate to release this statement in December, approximately eight months after budget time, even if it were to include only five months of data for the relevant financial year. The Opposition will move an amendment to change the timing requirement of this report.

Mr Barnett: You have had six months at least to put those amendments on the Notice Paper. This Bill was second read in April.

Dr GALLOP: We are debating it in the Parliament today, my friend.

Mr Barnett: If you are going to move amendments, which is your right, you also have a responsibility to put them on the Notice Paper or to at least tell the Government about them.

Dr GALLOP: The Leader of the House has got them; he can consider them.

Mr Barnett: You have had this Bill for six months and you talk to us about managing government business.

Dr GALLOP: The Leader of the House is a bit stropky today.

Mr Barnett: No. I will make this point repeatedly: Every time a piece of legislation comes you start moving amendments without putting them on the Notice Paper.

Dr GALLOP: Of course we do!

Before discussing government financial results reports, I mention monthly statements. Over many years the Government has produced monthly statements of consolidated fund transactions, otherwise known as the Niemeyer statements. They have been an essential tool of accountability as the Opposition and public can track actual expenditure and revenue throughout any given financial year. The tracking of monthly revenue and expenditure is usual practice undertaken by businesses and households alike. It is now mid-October and we have not received a monthly statement for any month of the 1998-99 year. I suspect that the Government has made a unilateral decision to stop producing those documents. Similarly, this legislation does not require the production of monthly statements. That is in direct contrast to the New South Wales legislation which requires the release of monthly statements of budget progress.

It is important to note that as a result of the closure of the centralised government accounting system, all government departments and agencies are running new accounting systems. With these new systems one would hope that such monthly statements would be easily produced. The Opposition will move an amendment to have monthly statements released to the public and the Parliament.

Clause 14 requires the release of a government financial results report within three months of the end of the budget year. This is a necessary statement to compare budgeted expenditure, estimated expenditure and actual expenditure for any given year. In previous years, the Government has produced the Treasurer's annual statements which are released at end of each budget year normally within three months of the end of the year. Although it is now mid-October, we do not have any such statements for the 1997-98 year. The Treasurer's annual statements provide details of actual expenditure against the appropriated amounts on a departmental and agency basis. Those statements also provide details on the actual revenue raised by the tax type and expenditure against the Treasurer's advance account. They are a key document in the financial accountability of government.

Under this legislation it is unclear whether these documents will continue to be produced. It is also unclear whether the Government's financial results report proposed under clause 14 will contain that detail. The Opposition will seek an assurance from the Government that either the Treasurer's annual accounts will continue to be produced in their current form or the Government's financial results report will include all the information currently contained in the Treasurer's annual report.

It is also interesting that this legislation does not deal directly with the content and form of the budget papers. This approach is in direct contrast to that which has been undertaken by New South Wales. The NSW legislation contains sections which deal specifically with budget presentation standards, the timing of the Budget, and the content of the budget papers. Although clause 12 deals with some of the relevant issues, conspicuous in its absence from the Western Australian legislation is the requirement to provide any information for the years preceding the budget year. For example, section 22(1)(c) of the New South Wales legislation requires that the budget papers contain outputs, outcomes and resource costs for each program

for the budget year and each of the three years preceding the budget year. The Western Australian legislation contains no such requirement. This is in keeping with the approach taken by the Western Australian Government in the 1998-99 Budget. The 1998-99 budget papers made it impossible to compare the 1997-98 budgeted expenditure and revenue with the 1997-98 expected results and the 1998-99 budget. The Opposition had to receive supplementary information to try to make those comparisons.

I cannot stress enough the importance of such information in the accountability process. Members of the public and of this Parliament must have information which is consistent and comparable over time in order to undertake meaningful analysis. That is where the 1998-99 budget papers failed dismally. The Opposition will move amendments to ensure such historical comparisons can be made.

Under the new budget papers format, the 1998-99 budget papers were based on the output-based management approach. This means that all departmental expenditure undertaken is allocated to outputs, whereas previously expenditure was allocated to programs. This approach has reduced the accountability and transparency of government expenditure. Now, departments are run and internally budgeted on a program basis, but must report on an output basis - a crazy system. Let us take the Treasurer's department as an example. The Treasury annual report is structured into four broad areas: Financial management, strategic, economic and asset financing, which represents the activities and programs undertaken by the Treasury Department. Staff and resources are allocated by the department to internal programs. When we look at the budget papers to see whether these programs can be found in any of the Treasury chapters, we find that Treasury provides three main outputs - policy advice, systems and implementation services, and a notional budget is put alongside each output. The budget paper issue must be dealt with by the Government and its departments to ensure that the 1998-99 process is not repeated. It is a bigger issue than this legislation allows and needs to be addressed by this Parliament or one of its committees.

I turn now to the issue of the budget lock-up. As many members are aware, each budget day members of the media and key interest groups are allowed to attend the budget lock-up and to peruse the budget documents before they are tabled. In the commonwealth budget process, the invitation to the lock-up is extended also to members of the Opposition. Prior to the 1998-99 Budget, the state Opposition wrote to the Premier requesting access to the budget lock-up. This request was refused. So much for an accountable and transparent Government.

Proposed section 15 requires the Treasurer to release a pre-election financial projections statement within 14 days after the Legislative Assembly is dissolved or expires. This is a deliberate attempt to put the Opposition at a disadvantage in an election campaign. It creates a situation in which the economic and financial status of the State is known by the Government continuously throughout its term; however, it is only disclosed to the Opposition midway through an election campaign. It attempts to ensure that the Opposition will both decide and announce election policies without knowing the full financial and economic context in which it is operating.

The commonwealth legislation requires the release of a comparable document within 10 days of the commencement of an election campaign. Given the size of the state Budget compared with the federal Budget, there is no reason for its taking Treasury 14 days to develop the pre-election statement. The Opposition will move an amendment to ensure that the pre-election statement will be released in plenty of time for all the parties and other interested players in an election campaign. Only then will there be informed debate about the economic and financial implication of various policy items. Only then will we be assured that political parties are on a level playing field.

The last proposed section, and probably most controversial, deals with costing pre-election commitments. A federal election campaign has just taken place, in which the issue of policy costings received much attention. The election campaign demonstrated that regardless of the existence of this type of legislation, governments continue to use their bureaucracies for their own benefit, and not as independent umpires in policy costings. The federal coalition demanded that the commonwealth Department of Finance cost the entire Labor Party platform. Although that stunt backfired badly, it had the effect of politicising the role of the bureaucracy during the campaign. This piece of legislation will do nothing to purify the relationship. It is a feeble attempt to give the appearance that the Government and Opposition will be on an equal footing in costings of election commitments.

This legislation states that the Leader of the Opposition may ask the Treasurer for a costing of its publicly announced proposals and, in turn, the Treasurer may ask the under treasurer to prepare a costing. In other words, there is no compulsion for the Treasurer to pass the Opposition's proposal to the under treasurer for costing. This is clearly inadequate. There is no good reason for costing requests going to the Treasurer's office and not straight to the under treasurer. Given that the Government has stated that the bureaucracy owns its forecasts and costing assumptions, there is no reason that a request must go to the Treasurer. The Opposition will move an amendment to this proposed section.

The legislation allows the Government and the Opposition to have their publicly announced policies costed by the Treasury. The fact is that the Government has access to the economic bureaucracy throughout its entire tenure in Government simply by being in government. That means that the Government can refine to its heart's content its proposed policies with the assistance of costing advice from those departments without any question of those policies having to be publicly announced.

The Opposition does not have the luxury of that kind of support. We will be placed, as will any future Opposition, in the position of having to make policy decisions in the absence of government information. There are practical difficulties for any Opposition having its unannounced policies costed by bureaucracies. However, the Opposition will move an amendment to allow the Opposition to request costing assumptions from the Treasury. This will provide the Opposition with the option of costing its own policies with the same information being used by the Government thereby creating some semblance of a level playing field.

In summing up, this Bill in itself will not improve the accountability or transparency of government financial operations. Its focus is too heavily weighted on setting targets and not enough on measuring performance. More importantly, words mean nothing if the Government is not committed to financial responsibility and transparency. This Government has produced budget papers which are meaningless and do nothing but obscure financial reality. This Government has taken the extraordinary step of ceasing to produce monthly statements of budget progress. This Government has hidden behind the veil of secrecy using terms like "commercial in confidence" when it does not want to answer fair questions. It takes more than words or legislation like this in order to be accountable. It takes a commitment to open Government, a commitment that this Government has failed to demonstrate.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.58 pm]: The Opposition supports this legislation but does so with some scepticism. The scepticism is increased when we reach some clauses of the Bill. This is a Bill which, on its face, compels the Government to produce various statements of financial projections through the budget cycle and in the election period but which also includes proposed section 3(2). It reads -

Nothing in this Act creates rights or duties that are enforceable in judicial or other proceedings.

If there is no right to go to a court to have a law enforced, the law is only a statement of good intent. It is not like every other law when dealing with breaches. How is the Government to be held accountable if it does not abide by the provisions of this legislation which will no doubt pass through this Parliament? There is no provision for enforcing this legislation. People are back to simple political accountability and debate as a way of holding the Government accountable if it breaches the provisions of this legislation. The Government might posture and make out that it is doing a wonderful thing by putting this legislation before the Parliament, but it does not take us much further than the existing situation. If a Government does the wrong thing, the only outcome is political and media debate. Even the explicit requirements on the Government are severely compromised by clause 12(6) which provides -

The Government Financial Projections Statement does not have to include commercially confidential information.

This provision, which gives the Government a let-out with any commercially confidential information, could hide a multitude of sins. For example, the Government might overestimate the income it might receive from an asset sale, but the true value or likely realisations from the asset's sale do not necessarily have to be included in the Government's financial projections. People in this State are particularly sensitive to problems with financial projections going wrong. When one looks back, one sees that most of the financial projections that have gone wrong have been as a result of government commercial dealings. The State has had the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters. If this legislation purports to be an improvement in the accountability of government and to rectify problems that might have arisen in the past, the fact that it excludes commercially sensitive information vitiates the whole project. Information on the main risks to a state budget, of which the public would not be aware and on which it might need more information, would not be available because of lack of disclosure by virtue of this provision. The Opposition supports the legislation but it feels that the legislation purports to be able to do more than it will in practice. It cannot be enforced. Any Government will be able to hide commercially confidential information from the public and the Parliament, which might well contain information about major risks confronting state finances.

The Opposition's scepticism about this legislation is confirmed by our experience of government financial statements during election periods. When the State went to the last election, the Treasurer released the forward estimates for the four-year period from 1996-97 onwards. The Treasurer made great play about those forward estimates. He wildly exaggerated the significance of the document. He called it his four-year financial plan, as if he had thought about everything that would happen over the following four years; that the Government had it all under control; that the plan was precisely what the public could expect if the coalition Government were re-elected. The outcome was nothing like it. We see year by year that the projections outlined in the four-year financial plan are simply not being realised. I and the rest of the Labor Party know exactly what the Treasurer was on about. He was releasing a document of a very conservative nature with a political objective. His objective was to limit the extent of the election promises which the Opposition could credibly make. He said to the public that for election promises only \$60m was available in 1997-98, \$86m in 1998-99, and \$103m in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. He said that people could not be promised more than the productivity dividends which he had factored into those forward estimates; that would be all there was in the bank and all that people could spend.

It is interesting to see how the Government has matched up to those November 1996 forward estimates. Even during the election campaign the Government backed away from the full implications of its four-year financial plan, and with good reason. When the four-year financial plan was examined and the impact of inflation taken into account, the plan showed

that there would be real cuts in a whole range of government services. The Minister for Education went on television to say that he did not expect that there would be real cuts in education. He expected education expenditure to grow. That was a welcome statement but quite contrary to the figures in black and white in the forward estimates. Even the Treasurer had some trouble coping with the implications of his own plan. He went on radio at the time to say that the Government would match Labor's commitment to provide an additional 280 police officers over four years. That was an astonishing statement by the Treasurer. I think it was a mistake. The coalition election promises made no mention of that additional expenditure. The forward estimates for the Police budget clearly made no provision for an additional 280 police officers. When the Police estimates were examined, they showed a nominal cut in police funding of almost \$28m over four years. When inflation was taken into account, the real cut amounted to around \$123.8m. When the Opposition made those calculations, it took into account money from global salary and price increase provisions that would have been added to the Police budget. Even so, it came up with that nominal cut of \$28m and a real cut of \$123.8m. We have made a lot of criticism of the performance of the Government. However, we do not allege that the Government has cut Police funding to that extent, yet that was in the famous four-year forward estimates plan. The plan clearly had a political objective: It was designed to constrain the Labor Opposition, to create a conservative financial and political climate and to convince the public that little money could be spent on additional programs. The public was very concerned about the erosion of public services and that the Government was not paying enough attention to the needs of the people. The Treasurer felt constrained to offer a social dividend in the future to allay that public concern. The Government's response was a very conservative set of financial assumptions designed to limit what the Labor Party could credibly promise.

I want to compare a few figures to demonstrate how this strategy has worked in practice. One of the difficulties of comparing the Government's budget figures is the constant change in the way in which budgets are presented. The constant change is in itself a problem for accountability. It is very difficult to go back and compare budgets for departments and programs from year to year when the whole basis on which the budget is constructed changes on almost a continuous basis. The Government is eating its cake and having it too. On the one hand the Government is saying that it is improving the presentation of budget information and it has instituted reforms in the presentation of financial information, yet on the other hand, those reforms and changes are making it more difficult for members of Parliament and the public to compare what the Government has done or to examine the history of funding for various programs over the years.

The introduction of net appropriations makes it difficult to compare the infamous four-year financial plan with current budget documents. At the time when the election forward estimates were produced, departments could not retain revenue and spend it on their programs. That revenue was put into general revenue and then appropriated back to the department. The introduction of net appropriations has introduced changes to both revenue and appropriation figures. One thing we can do is look at the operating surplus in the recurrent budget because that figure should not be affected, in our view, by the changes to the net appropriation arrangements.

I compare the figures outlined in the election statement when the famous four-year financial plan was released to the public on 14 November 1996 with the figures contained in the 1998-99 budget papers. The forward estimates produced during the election campaign show an operating surplus of \$357.7m for 1997-98. The 1998-99 budget papers show an operating surplus of \$135.5m. The election forward estimates for 1998-99 show an operating surplus of \$445m. The 1998-99 budget papers show an operating surplus of \$24.5m. The election forward estimates for 1999-2000 show an operation surplus of \$462.3m. Again, that is vastly different from the statements in the 1998-99 budget papers in which the operating surplus is shown to be \$28.1m. The election forward estimates show a surplus of \$498.2m for 2001-01. The 1998-99 budget papers show a surplus of \$32m.

An examination of those figures explains the reason that the Parliament and the public should be sceptical about the Government's claims to openness and accountability in the provision of financial information. The financial information provided to the public in the name of openness and accountability during the last election campaign is different from the financial information which we are now receiving. We should be sceptical about the financial projections which this Government produces, and we should be even more sceptical when they are produced in an election context.

I review the area of education spending simply to illustrate a point. The forward estimates in November 1996 show the budget for recurrent services and education for 1997-98 to be \$1.201b. In the 1998-99 budget, the figure is listed as \$1.086b. To that \$1.086b must be added the net appropriation figure of \$165m, producing a figure, which should be comparable, of \$1.251b. There is a \$50m difference between the expenditure in 1997-98 and what the Government told us was all we could afford to spend in 1997-98 when those forward estimates were produced during the election campaign.

The same result is achieved when one studies the forward estimates produced during the election campaign for 1998-99 and compares them with the budget figure for 1998-99. The forward estimates for education for 1998-99 was \$1.214b on recurrent services. However, the budget papers for 1998-99 show that the expenditure will be \$1.142b, to which must be added \$184m of net appropriations, producing a total expenditure of \$1.326b. That \$1.326b is substantially in advance of the comparable figure in the election forward estimates of \$1.214b. It is clear what has happened; the figures in the election forward estimates were artificially depressed, reduced and conservative in order to suit the Government's political strategy. The Government wanted to say to the community that it cannot afford the Labor Party, nor can it afford the Labor Party's

promises. After winning the election, the Government has spent the money which it said Labor could not afford to spend during the election campaign period. That is the reason that I am sceptical about the Government's financial projections envisaged by this legislation. All of the commentators who examine election matters should be careful when considering the Government's financial projections during the election campaign. It has put one over us already in the past and we, in Parliament or in any area of public life, should not allow the Government to run the same scam the next time.

The Government pretends to be accountable, to be open and to be transparent on financial matters. The net effect of its activities with regard to the provision of financial information has not been helpful. All of the changes to the budget format have made it difficult for people to hold it accountable. The latest budget format for this budget was disgraceful. It was not helpful to members of Parliament, who were trying to determine how the Government was spending taxpayers' money. We have seen the scam with the financial projections. The Government is about to embark on the same set of tricks for the next election campaign. I hope it will not do that; however, once burnt, twice shy.

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [5.18 pm]: On its face, the Government Financial Responsibility Bill 1998 seeks to establish a framework which will provide for greater scrutiny and accountability of government finances. I say that the Bill does that "on its face" because the question of the Government's intent relating to openness and accountability can be determined by its actions in this Parliament. Those actions have been secretive, and have been designed to ensure that information of a financial nature is not made available to members of this Parliament or to members of the public who seek that information. We have found over an extensive period that financial information sought by members of the Opposition is systematically denied. A conspiracy is present among ministers to ensure that that information does not become available. I can produce evidence for that and show members questions on notice that I have asked to which ministers have all responded in exactly the same manner and in a way whereby that information is denied. I will go through that in a moment.

The Government simply cannot be believed when it comes to the Parliament with this Bill and says that it is interested in higher levels of financial accountability and in greater levels of openness. Based on their performance, there is a lot of doubt about the integrity and the credibility of the Treasurer and ministers on this matter. Time and time again when information of a financial nature is sought in this Parliament, it is deliberately denied, not unwittingly, and not because questions are misunderstood or because people are not given sufficient time within which to provide the information. A political decision is made by the Treasurer and by ministers not to provide the information sought. I will outline when that deliberate, secretive action of the Government has taken place during the past few years. The second paragraph of the second reading speech states -

The Bill will set out a number of requirements for the Government and Treasury, with the intent of strengthening the financial accountability and transparency of Government and so enhancing the economic outcomes of this State.

If that were true, and if there were some integrity, some credibility in that statement, this Bill would be taken seriously. We would believe what the Treasurer said in that statement and say that there is a genuine attempt to assist all parties in this Parliament to come forward with policy commitments which, in a costed sense, are in the best interests of the State. Of course, this Bill does not seek to do that. It is not about good government, openness and accountability. Despite all the fine words, this Bill is about politically positioning the Opposition in the lead-up to the next election.

Let us look at some of the phrases describing what the Bill allegedly seeks to do. The long title states that this Bill is designed to facilitate public scrutiny of government financial policy and performance. I will believe that when I see it. Clause 3, which refers to the purpose of the Bill, uses exactly the same terms. Under the heading "Financial elements", clause 7 refers to the assets and liabilities of the State and so on and also to the operating expenses of the State. In theory, the Government is saying that this Bill is designed to enhance accountability and openness, and is in the public interest. However, the practice of this Government is entirely different.

As I have said before, the Government has shown a deliberate, clear intention to withhold financial information from the Parliament on a number of occasions. For example, I have asked a number of questions in this Parliament about contracts. A recent publication by the Department of Contract and Management Services said very boldly that of the total amount of revenue available to the Government, over \$6b a year is allocated by way of contracts for services or for construction work; that is, over three-quarters of the taxpayers' money is spent in that way. When we seek information about contracts in this Parliament, the Government systematically denies that information to the Parliament. It refuses to provide that information. I will provide members with a couple of examples to illustrate the degree to which the Government secretes that information away so that it cannot be examined. In 1997 I asked a question of a range of ministers, to which I received exactly the same answers. Question 925 of 29 May 1997 states -

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -

- (a) the name of each contractor;
- (b) the amount of the contract;
- (c) the purpose of the contract;
- (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
- (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

That should not be a terribly tricky question to answer. It seeks facts about the number of contracts let, the price of them and what they were for. In the interests of accountability, surely that information should be made available, that it is possible to say, "These are the contracts; this is way we are spending taxpayers' money; these are what the contracts are for; and this is the amount of those contracts." I received the same conspiracy of answer from not only one minister, but virtually all ministers, which stated -

Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of their programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

That was a legitimate request made in the Parliament for information. I asked the Government to provide information on part of the \$6b it spends on contracts. I requested the Government to tell me how it was spent, where it went, who got it and what were the contracts. That information was not provided. Now and again we are told to ask questions about specific contracts. On one such occasion I asked for information on a road construction contract at Kalgoorlie involving a particular company. I asked whether the contract was let and was told it was. I asked how much the contract was for. The answer is \$4m. I asked whether there was an overrun in the contract. The answer is yes there was. I asked how much was the overrun. The answer is \$1m; that is, 25 per cent. That detail was never released to the public. There was no media release by the Government telling everybody that it had spent a million dollars or more on that contract, that the costings had been overrun or the reason for the overrun - nothing was said. The only reason we got that information was because someone leaked it to us and we were able to put forward direct questions on that contract. We cannot do that on all contracts because the base information is not provided to us. Time and again when I have raised this question in the Parliament, the information has been refused.

The ministers' answer - I stress the answer of most ministers - was that to provide me with the information for all the contracts let over that nine-month period is too great a job, that too many resources would have to be allocated to provide that information and the minister was not prepared to do that. I followed up my question with another standard question to all ministers. I refer to question 1482 of 1997 which I directed to the Minister for Works. I asked -

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

This is a simple question about how many payments were made under contracts other than employment contracts. One would think that the books of account of each department and agency would contain a record of those payments and that it would not be too difficult to extract that record of payments and disclose it. However, that is not the case. Virtually all Ministers again gave the stock answer, which was as follows -

The information requested by the member for Morley is not currently stored centrally and would require considerable resources from each agency to compile. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector . . .

Again, we found a strong determination by government not to release this information. This information is being secreted from the Parliament and the public of Western Australia. When we ask these questions, we are asking about contracts that, according to Contract and Management Services, are valued at more than \$6b a year. We cannot get answers to the questions that we ask about those contracts. That is a contempt of the Parliament. The Government simply has no credibility with regard to claiming that it is open and accountable. It is going to extraordinary lengths not to provide that information.

I asked a further question about moneys that are allocated for contracts for which no formal tenders have been called. Again, that question was not answered. Again, we saw a determination by the government not to provide that financial information. We asked further questions about what services were to be contracted out by each department and agency, what plans were involved with regard to those contracts, and what amounts of money were involved in contracting out those services; and again, Ministers refused very cold-bloodedly and determinedly to provide that information. After all of that - we are talking about contracts worth \$6b - the Treasurer has said, "We will not disclose any of that information, but we will now introduce

a Bill about financial responsibility and openness." What a lot of rubbish! The Government rates a zero in the credibility stakes.

The final point is a classic. A few years ago, the budget papers listed the ex gratia payments that had been made when there was no contract or obligation to make a payment but the Premier and Treasurer, or the Cabinet, had decided to give someone some money. However, the budget papers for last year and this year provide no details about the ex gratia payments that have been made. How can this Government talk about being more accountable when it will not give the public of Western Australia and the Parliament details of the taxpayers' money that it has decided to give away? I do not know who received that money. I do not know whether it was given to a Minister's brother-in-law, or to someone who has a big nose, or whatever. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been given away, and we do not know where that money has gone.

I have now asked the Treasurer twice to list the ex gratia payments that have been authorised by the State in the past two financial years; and on both occasions, the Treasurer has refused to provide that information. I know that the Treasurer is talking to the Minister for Police and is not particularly interested in what I am saying, but I will continue to ask these questions, and I will continue to inform my electorate of the Treasurer's refusal to provide the answers.

Mr Court: Are you talking about the act of grace payments?

Mr BROWN: Yes, and the contract payments.

Mr Court: The convention in this House is that because act of grace payments often relate to very personal matters, members can see what act of grace payments have been made, but the details are not published.

Mr BROWN: A few years ago, all of those payments were listed in the budget papers.

Mr Court: That is not true. When you were in government, we asked for details about those payments, and we were told that we could look at the information, but that for good reason it could not be made public.

Mr BROWN: We have not even been offered that.

Mr Court: Do you want to see the act of grace payments?

Mr BROWN: Yes.

Mr Court: I do not know of any reason that you cannot see them, but because the payments may be for sexual assault cases, or whatever, we do not publish the details.

Mr BROWN: I will take the Treasurer at his word. Is the Treasurer giving an undertaking that we may see them?

Mr Court: I will confirm that with Treasury. I do not know of any reason that you cannot see all of the act of grace payments.

Mr BROWN: We have made some progress today.

Mr Court: That has been the case for as long as I have been in this Parliament.

Mr BROWN: I have asked the Treasurer in questions on notice, which he took an inordinate amount of time to answer, to detail those payments. He has said, "The information is not centrally stored and is difficult to obtain." He has not said, "The convention is that these payments are not disclosed, but if the member wants to look at them confidentially, I will provide the details." The Treasurer has never said that before, and he has had these questions for months. Is the Treasurer prepared to disclose the information that we are seeking about contracts? We are not asking a difficult question. We want to know what contracts have been let, how much was paid, and what was the purpose of those payments.

Mr Court: We provide more information about contracts than you ever provided when you were in government. You would not tell us anything about contracts. We release a lot of information, and you know it.

Mr BROWN: I will concede that the Government has done some good things with regard to releasing a lot of words, but it is huff, puff and blow the house down. It has no substance and no guts. The Government has a responsibility, when it lets contracts worth over \$6b -

Mr Court: You could not even tell us how many contracts you had let.

Mr BROWN: Nor can this Government. We ask and ask, and the Government says it does not know. Either the Government does not know how many payments it has made, which is financially irresponsible, or it does know but refuses to provide the information. At the moment the Premier has refused to provide it. The Premier's obfuscation again today in not providing this information shows that he will continue to frustrate us. The extent to which he continues to do that is the extent to which I will continue from the highest hill in the land to tell everyone that the Court Government refuses to disclose information about contracts - where they are let, how much they are for, what they are for and other important details. We are talking about information relating to \$6b, or over 75 per cent of the Budget, that has been refused to be released. It is an utter disgrace.

I am pleased to see the member for Avon is in the Chamber. He knows that when I was a member of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee - the watchdog for this House - two or three years ago, I asked repeatedly for a major inquiry into contracting. It was voted down three to two by members. On each occasion, we raised issues concerning financial accountability. I stepped down from the committee because it would not have the inquiry. The member for Avon knows it was voted down. He knows the great determination that was made. It was reported in this Parliament.

Wherever I go, whether it is to the public accounts committee, the Treasurer or to independent ministers, the door is closed and they will not provide me with the information. It is a disgrace! Yet the Government wants members and the people of Western Australia to believe that it is concerned about financial accountability and openness. It needs to lift its game. It needs to stop the conspiracy of silence. I receive the same answers to my questions from ministers, apparently directed by the person who is controlling the strings in the Premier's office. It is absolutely disgraceful!

The Government can use its numbers and pass this Bill. However, the Government has no credibility on this issue. Until such time as it has the courage to put the detail on the table, to come forward and tell the people of Western Australia, "Yes, we entered into this contract; we agreed to pay this amount of money; we thought we would get this service but we did not; and this is what happened with the contract", people will be suspect about the whole process. We will propose some amendments to this Bill. However, if the same amount of conviction is given to this Bill as the Government has shown to financial accountability, then this Bill is not worth the paper it is written on.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Treasurer) [5.43 pm]: I thank members for their contributions. I cannot support the comments made by the member for Bassendean. It is interesting to hear that certain information is required. I cannot recall more information being provided on a whole range of issues. The fact that we act under freedom of information legislation makes it a completely different world.

Mr Brown: We cannot make an application under freedom of information, as you know. I was not able to do anything. I came here in 1993.

Mr COURT: The Opposition was able to cover up everything. I will make some inquiries about the act of grace payments. It was always the convention that when we reached the estimates stage of the Budget and detail was wanted it was provided. In some cases which involved personal matters, information was provided confidentially and that was accepted. I will make some inquiries to see whether we can provide all of that information to the member.

I have glanced at the amendments that have been put forward. This legislation has been on the Notice Paper for months and it concerns me that at the last minute we have been given notice of these amendments. However, we will work through those during the committee stage of the Bill.

Dr Gallop: When do you propose to go to the committee stage?

Mr COURT: Now. Members want to complete the legislation. I thank members for their support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Barron-Sullivan) in the Chair; Mr Court (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Purposes of this Act -

Dr GALLOP: Clause 3 states that the main purposes of the Bill are to establish a framework for government financial planning with a view to improving government financial outcomes and to facilitate public scrutiny of government financial policy and performance. It also states that nothing in this Bill creates rights or duties that are enforceable in judicial or other proceedings. The question of whether the content of the Bill should be legally enforceable was the subject of a significant amount of debate in the Federal Parliament. Indeed, the Australian Democrats moved an amendment to delete the clause in the federal legislation, and that was supported by the federal Labor Party in Canberra. The argument was fairly straightforward; that is, if there is to be a charter of budget honesty or a set of objectives for Governments with respect to financial reporting, they should be enforceable in some way. The Opposition acknowledges that the legislation as it stands does not tell us much about what Governments should do and it has severe limitations. The Opposition intends to move amendments to toughen up the Bill. Nevertheless, the question remains that even though the legislation is not particularly onerous, why are none of its provisions enforceable in judicial or other proceedings? If WA is to have legislation such as this, why not make it enforceable? If it is not enforceable, why not leave these matters to government guidelines or policy? The Opposition reserves its position on whether it will oppose this part of the Bill, because if the legislation is improved as a result of the Opposition's amendments, that will affect the Opposition's position on its legal enforceability. I ask the

Treasurer why the Government proposes to create such legislation if it is not enforceable. If the Treasurer indicates that the Government thinks that is not necessary, why does it not deal with these matters by government guidelines or policy?

Mr COURT: I said I found it unusual that amendments were being prepared for this legislation throughout the debate, although the matter has been on the Notice Paper for many months.

Dr Gallop: That is a problem to you only because you have guillotined the Bill.

Mr COURT: It is not a problem to me at all. I will give the reason. Someone has obviously read the debate in the Federal Parliament on the commonwealth Charter of Budget Honesty Act, looked at the amendments moved, and has decided they should be included wholesale in this legislation.

Dr Gallop: That is not true. We are not moving amendments to this clause.

Mr COURT: I am talking about the amendments as a whole. The rationale for excluding court sanctions or remedies from the Bill and the commonwealth and New South Wales legislation, is that the purpose of the Bill is to encourage accountability through transparency and improved public debate. The fact that the Bill is not enforceable in judicial or other proceedings does not affect its validity in ensuring accountable and transparent financial policy setting. There are a number of weaknesses in including legal sanctions in the Bill that would need to be resolved; for example, who would be held responsible, how would the courts determine compliance and what penalties would be imposed. Intractable conflict between the Executive and the judicial arms of government would be the most likely outcome if sanctions were tested. Confining the forum to public debate provides the most effective and efficient sanction. Furthermore, the inclusion of court sanctions or remedies in the legislation may jeopardise the planning and targeting process by providing an incentive to set low or ineffectual targets to ensure formal compliance with the legislation. The binding of the Crown in New Zealand legislation has not been tested, and I suggest that is because of the problems it would cause.

The Opposition should look at the practical ramifications of the proposal. It would be an absolute nightmare to try to make a decision in a judicial sense in relation to compliance with some of these matters. This Government is about accountability through transparency and public debate, and the provisions of this legislation provide exactly that.

Dr GALLOP: I ask the Treasurer to amplify his comments. He has suggested there will be no sanctions with regard to this legislation. I compare this process with a process of establishing similar government guidelines. Those guidelines would be published by Treasury, perhaps through a statement made in the Parliament, and an expectation would be built up that certain reporting standards would be met. If those reporting standards were not met by the Government, discussions would take place in this Parliament and the Opposition would criticise the Government for non-performance. On the other hand, the Government Financial Responsibility Bill will presumably become an Act of Parliament. Should the Government not meet these standards, the Opposition will raise questions in the Parliament and initiate a public debate on the matter. There is absolutely no difference between those two situations in concrete political terms. In one case the Government has a set of published guidelines, and in the other case an Act of Parliament provides a set of guidelines. There would be public debate about performance or non-performance in relation to those guidelines, and that public debate would be reported in the media. The public could make its own judgment on whether the Government's performance was up to scratch. In other words, the legislation adds absolutely nothing more to public accountability than would exist if this were dealt with by government guidelines. How will this Bill add anything to Western Australian accountability that would not be added by saying that certain guidelines must be followed by the Government?

Mr COURT: The ultimate sanction is the electorate at an election. If the Government indicates that it wants to achieve these goals and sets out the guidelines under which it will operate, and it does not comply, it will provide a lot of ammunition for the Opposition in an election campaign when the public would have the ultimate sanction.

Dr GALLOP: I am making the point that the Treasurer has complained about the time the Opposition has taken to provide amendments to this Bill and that some time will be spent debating this Bill. He has acknowledged that the legislation adds nothing to the situation that would apply if the Government published a paper indicating the guidelines it would use in its reporting standards. The Treasurer's response indicates that this legislation is not treated with any seriousness by the Government. We might as well not debate it if the Government feels it will have no legal impact. The Opposition believes that certain reporting guidelines should be followed by an Executive. It wants to toughen up these guidelines. If the Government agrees to amendments, the Opposition certainly will want some degree of enforceability with respect to the matter.

The Treasurer said it would be difficult for any judicial interpretation to be made of this issue. It would not be difficult. If a Government did not perform, and the matter became the subject of a judicial inquiry, just as with any other legislation that binds an Executive in some way, the court would be in a position to judge according to the way the legislation is framed and debated in the Parliament. There is no special difficulty with respect to judicial interpretation of this Bill. The Government's only difficulty is that it does not want to bind itself to it and, therefore, the Opposition wonders what is the point of the whole exercise.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition misses the point of the legislation. It will enable more effective overview of these financial matters by providing more information in a structured legislative way. Certain information must be provided. That simply has not been done in the past. Under this legislation that information must be provided so that people can decide whether the Government is performing accordingly.

Dr GALLOP: The Government has given no reason, beyond a general statement that these matters would be difficult to interpret in a court situation with regard to legal sanctions. The Government is not serious about its legislation. It is all bells and whistles and there is no real obligation on the part of the Government to carry it out. If the Government tabled a statement in the Parliament about what it intended to do and the Opposition used it as a test of its performance, there would be no difference between that situation and this legislation. I remain strongly of the view that the Treasurer's response to my questions indicates the Government is not serious about financial reporting or accountability to the Parliament. It is merely an intellectual exercise which looks good on paper. It enables the Government to tell people how accountable it is. It is not the words that matter; it is the action. If there are to be no sanctions if no action is taken, the Opposition wonders what is the point of the whole exercise.

Clause put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Clauses 4 and 5 put and passed.

Clause 6: The financial management principles -

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 4, after line 22 - To insert the following -

- (d) spending and taxing policies are to be formulated and applied with consideration of the effect of these policies on -
 - (i) the employment and economic prosperity of the State; and
 - (ii) household budgets, with particular reference to families, the elderly and fixed and low income groups.

This clause spells out the financial principles by which it is proposed Governments should abide, as follows -

- (a) funding for current services is to be provided by the current generation;
- (b) spending and taxing policies are to be formulated and applied so as to give rise to a reasonable degree of stability and predictability;
- (c) financial risks are to be managed prudently.

These financial principles have been adopted directly from the New Zealand legislation. As I said in my contribution to the second reading speech, they are very narrow in focus and the Opposition's view is that they should be widened in order to recognise that spending and taxing decisions have real impacts on people in our community. The equivalent New South Wales legislation has a wider view of the principles that apply.

We find the Treasurer's first financial principle a little puzzling; that is, that funding for current services is to be provided by the current generation. It is ambiguous. Does it mean that recurrent expenditure should be funded from recurrent revenue? If so, why does the legislation not say that? Or does it mean that Governments can borrow, however their borrowings should be repaid within a reasonable period such that one could argue that the raising of that money was within a current generation and paid back within that current generation? Or does it actually mean that no government agencies, be they departments of State or commercial trading enterprises, can borrow at all? It is a puzzling principle that has been outlined and I seek clarification from the Treasurer on that matter.

On the second principle, there is no doubt that a degree of stability and predictability in spending and taxing policies is a very important principle. There is no doubt that acting in a prudent manner on the risks that face Governments is a very important principle and we accept that. However, in assessing any principles for judging government financial planning, we cannot assume that the Government is like a business. If people assume that Governments are like businesses, they are making a very serious mistake. Our view is that Governments have responsibilities in framing their principles to take into account what they will mean for economic development and prosperity; and also what they will mean for households, in particular low income households. We refer specifically in our proposed amendment to pensioners and the elderly in our community. The Opposition's view is that the financial principles outlined in this Bill are not acceptable as a basis upon which to judge a Government. We would insist by our amendment that these principles be broadened to take into account a wider set of objectives.

I ask the Treasurer to clarify what he means by funding for current services to be provided by the current generation. I reiterate my point that we do not believe that Governments are businesses and that there should be a broader definition of the objectives.

Mr COURT: We do not support this amendment because the legislation applies to the aggregate finances, not to particular groups, departments or agencies within government. This Bill is directed at a bigger picture. The Opposition refers in its amendment to the effect of spending and taxing policies on unemployment, economic prosperity and households. The Government must take all of those matters into account; it has the necessary flexibility within its targets to ensure that those matters are considered. The best summation of the concern about funding for current services to be provided by the current generation is that the asset must be left as valuable as the borrowings. Borrowings cannot be used in areas in which we are not leaving a valuable asset. Recurrent expenditure is not broad enough to include consumption of capital. Therefore, that principle allows borrowing if the value of the assets is to be passed on to the next generation.

On many occasions in the past, Governments have taken the easy way out. Going back some 25 years, I recall the old Water Authority had a tendency to take an easier option in the short term: Instead of increasing water and sewerage rates, it increased borrowings within that authority. Andrew Mensaros, the minister responsible for that area, implemented that culture. It was politically difficult to implement because it involved increases in water rates and sewerage charges. Basically, we are saying that the capital works programs as best as possible should be funded by the current generation and, if possible, go beyond that and hand over infrastructure to the next generation which the current generation has been able to fund. In simple terms it means leaving an asset as valuable as borrowings if we are to use borrowings.

Dr GALLOP: I will return to the point the Treasurer made about financial management principles. The legislation states that it is to establish a framework for government financial planning and reporting, to facilitate public scrutiny of government financial policy and performance, and for related purposes. As the financial management principles are outlined, it would be perfectly conceivable that a Government could fund its current services by the current generation, that it could have very predictable spending and taxing policies and could manage its financial risks prudently, but all of the people in its community could live in poverty and there might be massive unemployment. Nothing in the principles of this legislation says that the financial planning should take into account the living standards of people in the community or the level of employment. The Opposition cannot accept a set of principles which is too abstract and general. We believe that the impact of taxation on different households is an important consideration and should be taken into account in the financial planning of the Government. The financial policies being pursued by the Government should be considered in light of the impact they may have on employment levels in the community.

This clause represents one of the weaknesses of so many modern Governments. They assume that they are like business organisations with money coming in and money going out and that they are being judged somehow by a theoretical market place filled by credit rating agencies. The Governments act according to what those financial agencies judge to be financially prudent or otherwise. It does not matter what the impact on the welfare of the people in the community is, what the employment levels may be and whether the Government can assist those employment levels. Those are the standards that are set and the financial restrictions that are placed on Governments, and that is it. There can be no further debate about the matter.

If we as a Parliament are to argue that there should be principles behind financial management within government, those principles should reflect our understanding of what Governments should do. Most people would agree that Governments should have a predictable framework of taxation and spending policies. At the same time the Government should build into its plans concern for the impact of its policies on different households, particularly low income households. Most importantly, its taxation and spending policies should be considered in the light of their impact on employment and prosperity. Why not say it? That is what everyone would expect a Government to do. I certainly strongly argue that the legislation's principles should incorporate what everyone expects of us and what we believe we should be doing. If the legislation's principles do not incorporate it, I believe that we are sending the executive arm of Government a very bad message about what we expect it to do.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition is correct: The Government has a number of roles. There are social roles, economic development roles and the like, but we are addressing the financial management role. If a Government cannot operate within the goals it sets for assets, liabilities, expenses, revenue, debt levels and so on, it will certainly not create economic prosperity. Surely one of the aims of any Government is to make sure that people can have economic prosperity. The amendment will not change the situation at all. Let us get back to basics: This legislation is about financial management. The Leader of the Opposition is correct when he says that it is only one role, but it is an important role. It is all very well to say that some Governments run government like a business. On the financial management side Governments must do that. If a Government has a lot of money going out and not much coming in, it will have problems. There is no way it will meet all of its targets. Let us concentrate on what the legislation is about, which is the financial management of government.

Mr KOBELKE: I support the points made by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly those relating to accepting his

amendment. I will comment on two of the three principles in the clause to highlight the real need to add a further principle as encompassed in the amendment. The three principles in the Bill are motherhood statements. No-one will take issue with those principles being fundamental to good financial management. The real difficulty is that in the terms in which they are encompassed in the Bill they are likely to mean absolutely nothing. These principles cannot be set out and understood in the presentation of accounts adopted by this Government. People will not be able to assess the accounts and judge whether the Government is funding current services by the current generation.

I will give a simple example of that based on the principle in paragraph (a), which is that the funding for current services is to be provided by the current generation. In the current budget there was a huge jump in the assessment of assets held by the Government. In one of the estimates committees I queried the value of the forests managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The budget showed an increase in the asset base of billions of dollars. It was simply a book entry. When I asked why there had been a sudden increase, CALM representatives said that they had now found a way of valuing part of that asset. It was only a partial valuation. They were still trying to establish an accounting basis for valuing most of the State's forests.

The Treasurer has said that the figures are global. People will not go into CALM and other Government agencies to try to discern exactly what is the asset and whether it matches the expenditure, so as to ensure that the Government is not building up a debt, to which the Treasurer eluded in his contribution a moment ago. People would be dealing with totally meaningless sets of numbers, particularly in a global context. They will not be able to query the figures agency by agency to get a clear picture. In my example it would be possible to change the accounting base for the value of the State's forest by a small amount and suddenly create a huge asset growth which would not necessarily be real or match government expenditure in a different area. The suggestion that we should have as a principle that the funding for current services be provided by the current generation is all very good in theory but it will mean absolutely nothing in this Bill if the Government does not want to put in the effort and open up all of the books. The Treasurer said a few moments ago that people are looking at global figures, so how would anyone know? It would be totally impossible. People would be looking at very elaborate window dressing, if the Treasurer were not be prepared to go beyond that principle.

The principle in paragraph (c) is that financial risks are to be managed prudently. I will give another example of why that is absolutely meaningless. One of the privatisations undertaken by this Government was to get rid of the passenger and small vehicle fleets and have that process funded by a private operator. The value was approximately \$300m. The Opposition asked questions of the Auditor General. He tabled a report in this place. I can fairly correctly paraphrase the Auditor General by saying that it is too complicated to work out whether the process has been of advantage to the Government. There is no way the Auditor General, having done a preliminary inquiry into just part of that process, can measure whether we lost millions of dollars or we gained an advantage. On a whole of government basis, how can we decide that financial risks are managed prudently? If we cannot do it in one simple area of significance, how can it be done globally? It is absolute nonsense to suggest that it can be done, unless we go further. The Leader of the Opposition is attempting to do that.

Dr GALLOP: I go back to this issue of funding for current services which is to be provided by the current generation. Is the Treasurer saying that the current generation has no responsibility, through the framework of the policies and programs that are set up, for assisting future generations?

Mr Court: I am saying the exact opposite: The current generation must pay its own way, not borrow and leave it to a future generation to pay for the current infrastructure or services.

Dr GALLOP: What is the responsibility of the current generation for future generations?

Mr Court: To make sure it does not hand over a debt that should be met by the current generation.

Dr GALLOP: One of the responsibilities of this generation to future generations is this: When they are born and grow, they have a world in which there is a clean environment. Everybody will accept that.

Mr Court: We are talking about the role of government in a financial management sense. This legislation is dealing with financial management, not a social agenda. We cannot put into financial responsibility legislation, social responsibility legislation.

Dr GALLOP: The only reason we manage state finances is to create certain things for our community.

Mr Court: Are you saying that in this financial responsibility Bill we should have a list of the social objectives?

Dr GALLOP: Why do we have a budget? It is not just to collect money and spend money. We have a budget to create certain ends.

Mr Court: We are talking about the management of the finances. I said that it is one role of government, and there are many other roles.

Dr GALLOP: This hits the nail on the head: The Treasurer is saying that the role of the Government is to manage finances.

Mr Court: No; I am not. You are not listening. I said that it is one role of government, and that is what this Bill is addressing.

Dr GALLOP: Governments manage finances to achieve other ends. They collect money and spend money to create a health and education system, to have a regulatory framework, to take new initiatives, to build infrastructure, or whatever. That is why they collect money. They do not do it because that is their activity. Businesses do, because they want to make a profit. That is not what a Government is. The Government does not spend money and collect money and hope to make a profit.

Mr Court: Business has a social agenda as well. It has an environmental agenda.

Dr GALLOP: We feel strongly that we cannot have financial management principles independently of what government is all about; that is, promoting economic prosperity in employment and making sure there is not too much hardship, particularly for the elderly, or low income people or other households that have some difficulty. As it reads, this set of principles sends a very bad message from this Parliament to the executive arm of government - I hope all the National Party members are listening - that Governments should collect money and spend money, according to certain business principles, and that is the beginning and the end of it. It is a ridiculous set of principles.

Mr COURT: I said earlier that there are many different roles of government. Here we are not setting out the social agenda of a Government. We are not putting in place the roles of government in relation to the social or environmental agendas being implemented. This is about financial responsibility. That is what the Bill is called. The Leader of the Opposition says that business is there only because it wants to make money. That is not right. Most businesses have a social agenda and an environmental agenda, et cetera. Here we are talking about only financial responsibility. I think the Leader of the Opposition is getting away from the point of legislation completely.

Mr RIPPER: I am interested in the definition of funding for current services. First, does that definition cover capital works? Secondly, is the building of a school by Government a service for this generation and future generations or, for the purposes of this legislation, is it to be considered a service for the current generation, the funding for which, therefore, should be provided by the current generation? I am interested in how this will apply to capital works. Thirdly, is significant maintenance a current service for the purposes of this legislation? Fourthly, would this legislation require all superannuation schemes to be fully funded? Finally, would any other types of unusual financial obligations be covered by this clause? I wish I could be more specific. I understand, for example, that as a result of the FleetWest sale and leasing arrangements, some obligations might be construed as future obligations and would fall to the Government of the day. Should they be provided by the current generation under this definition?

Mr COURT: I will be specific: It means that it takes into account the depreciation and maintenance that must be covered by current revenue, so we do not have the situation we saw during the time in government of those opposite, when borrowings were used for maintenance. The member was not in the Chamber when I made the general comment that the purpose is to make sure we leave an asset as valuable as the borrowings. When the asset is valued, we must take into account depreciation and maintenance.

Mr Ripper: What about the funding of superannuation schemes and capital works?

Mr COURT: Everyone has conveniently forgotten about superannuation. That is a good example of where we have put in place a set of guidelines. As of this last budget, we are fulfilling all of the current requirements for all new employees in meeting the superannuation surcharge. All of that is fully funded. Over a period we have set a target where we will wind back the tail on superannuation. Previous Governments simply allowed the superannuation liabilities to grow, so our children had to take on the problem. It is a classic example of how we must set a target where we do not allow that to occur in the future.

Mr Ripper: What about capital works on a school, for example? Are they required to be funded by the current generation.

Mr COURT: A school has a life. The minimum obligation is to leave an asset with at least the value of the borrowings. The preferred situation is to leave an infrastructure which is significantly better for the next generation, but without debt associated with it. In that way, it can get the benefit of that infrastructure. That is how we set about to improve quality of life and living standards. Anyone can go into the debt mentality. However, there is a political downside. One must look at one's fees and charges in the current generation to ensure those targets can be met because a secret supply of funds is not available. One must live within one's means. Options must be considered if one is not happy with the revenue streams.

Mr RIPPER: If the economic conditions in Asia worsened and impacted on this State - perhaps the State even went into recession - and consequently the revenue streams available to the State Government were depressed, what would be the implications of this legislation? In the midst of that Asian financial crisis-induced recession it seems to me that the Government would have to either cut services or increase taxes and charges. This legislation would not allow the Government to temporarily increase debt because it was trying to deal with a recession for which the Government would say it had no responsibility.

Mr Court: One we did not have to have!

Mr RIPPER: That is correct. I wonder whether the implications of this legislation will restrict the policy flexibility of the Government if we were faced with pressure on the State's economy arising from the Asian financial crisis.

Mr COURT: It is a good question and it underlines the whole purpose of the legislation. When one sets out what one wants to achieve, one can diverge from those principles if circumstances occur along the lines that the member raised. However, the reason for the divergence from the principles that have been set out must be stated as well as how one can return to meeting one's targets. Yes, the flexibility is there. It must be there if one is to cut one's cloth according to the economic circumstances.

Mr KOBELKE: I will take up the point made by the Treasurer because he clarified a matter for me with his most recent remarks. His earlier statements lead me to believe that he had a simplistic view of ensuring that the funding of current services was to be provided by the current generation. To do that it would be necessary to have a set-up situation and it would be totally unworkable.

The Treasurer's more recent comment that one must show the reason for the variation from the principle and how to get it back on track within a reasonable time makes the position more realistic. The Treasurer must consider his earlier comment about the Labor Government in the late 1980s and the early 1990s having to borrow to pay for maintenance. If that were done over a five or 10-year period, or if for years all the school maintenance were funded by borrowings, a major problem would clearly arise and it would be in total conflict with the principle that we are considering in clause 6(a).

The Treasurer would be aware that in 1989-91 Western Australia was in a deep decline or even a recession over which the State Government had no control and over which the Commonwealth Government had only limited control. An international downturn occurred in 1990-91. At that time it was prudent for the Government to acknowledge that a maintenance problem existed in schools and to ensure that Western Australia had maximum economic activity to assist in the provision of jobs. It was necessary to borrow money for one or two years to fund maintenance, a situation which met both principles. When this Government came into office it dropped maintenance of schools, which is another argument.

I return to the Treasurer's statement that it would be correct for a Government in a given economic situation to borrow money to meet a social need in the community such as education. This facility can be of benefit also when the State's economy is experiencing a downturn in order to keep it going and to provide benefits to the people of this State. However, if that were done over an extended period, a major problem would be created for the State's financial management. The Treasurer has eluded to the fact that this principle can be moved away from for other purposes, if those purposes are stated and it is shown that one has the financial capability and the funds to get back on track within a reasonable time. I suppose most of us envisage a period of three to five years, not 10 or 20 years.

I come back to a larger example which underlines the principle. Again, the Treasurer alluded to the cost of superannuation which has been unfunded in this State. That is clearly an example in which we were allowed to build up a major financial problem for future generations. It was the Treasurer's father, Sir Charles Court, when he was Premier, who swept this matter under the carpet. He tried to hide it because a report was submitted but nothing was heard about it.

A huge, ballooning problem occurred in liabilities and current debt with respect to superannuation for government employees. It was the Burke Government which did something concrete about the matter. The Burke Government negotiated with government employees to enable a major reduction in the liability which amounted to billions of dollars, the debt was stabilised at approximately \$4b to \$5b and a program of debt reduction was established. The reduction of that debt occurred far too slowly and I recognise that the Treasurer and his current Government, now in its sixth year, has addressed the issue in an endeavour to reduce the debt further and I agree that this must be done. The Burke Government addressed this issue in a major way in the 1980s and achieved a huge drop in that liability. Over 10 to 15 years the debt was reduced by almost \$7b as a result of the changes made in the 1980s, but much more must be done. I commend the Government for picking up that problem and seeking to do more in that area.

I return to where I started. The simplistic view that one simply cannot borrow for assets unless those assets weigh up exactly in any given year against the funds expended, is meaningless. It is necessary to take a broader view. This gets back to what is being put forward by the Leader of the Opposition. People will make judgments about the value of assets and there is no simple way of measuring it. Some people see a dam as having a life of 50 years while others would say 100 years; so the way one does one's sums will directly affect whether money is spent and it will also be based to some extent on the social judgment that is made about the value of the investment.

Mr COURT: I am reluctant to respond because I might cause the member to rise to his feet again. He picked the wrong example when he spoke about the late 1980s and 1990s. That was a time when this State had strong revenue growth. It had financial problems because the Labor Government had blown \$1.5b on failed deals.

Mr Kobelke: You had a major recession in this State.

Mr COURT: That is why the Labor Government ran out of money. It had plenty of revenue but it blew it on failed deals and that is the reason it had to resort to borrowing for maintenance. That is the simple explanation for the situation and that is one of the good reasons that this legislation is needed.

Dr GALLOP: I reiterate the point that we are being asked to accept that the financial management principles of the State of Western Australia should be narrowly defined in accounting business terms. There is no recognition of the role of government in our community. Through this legislation we are sending an extremely bad message to the executive arm of government. I have moved a very simple and straightforward amendment that the spending and taxing policies should take into account employment and economic prosperity and the effect of those policies on household budgets. The only reason the Government cannot accept this simple amendment is that it does not believe those considerations should play a part in government. Therein lies our fundamental criticism of what is wrong with Western Australia today.

Mr COURT: I believe Western Australia is travelling well today; it is certainly doing better than any other State and that is something of which Western Australians can be proud.

Dr Gallop: Western Australia for you is an abstraction. The Western Australia I believe in is Western Australia and the people who make it up. Some of the people who make up the State of Western Australia are doing it tough at the moment.

Mr COURT: I will tell the Leader of the Opposition what doing it tough is. Tough is when unemployment goes beyond 10 per cent.

Dr Gallop: I tell you what, my friend, it is about 8 per cent now.

Mr COURT: Tough is when a State's debt is blowing out because expenditure cannot be controlled. Do not tell us that it is the people who are hurting; the Labor Government hurt the people. The principles that we are outlining here are the broad picture. The financial elements that are outlined in the next clause are the targets of the Government of the day. They are the specifics that are set down in the budget each year. We are talking about the principles, and the more specific details are covered in the budget.

Mr KOBELKE: The Premier is making it very clear that his principles for economic management have nothing to do with the welfare of the people of this State. The Leader of the Opposition has clearly brought to the attention of the Government in this amendment that employment and the economic prosperity of this State should be the key factors. For the Treasurer to say that the Government is doing so well indicates that he has not looked at the latest unemployment figures. Does the Treasurer know how many full-time jobs were created in the past month, according to the figures that came out a week ago? The number of jobs created fell by 9 000. Does the Treasurer know whether we had more full-time jobs in September 1998 than we had in September 1997? Does the Treasurer think we have had growth in full-time jobs?

Mr Kierath interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: The Treasurer has a real problem with the minister! I will let the Treasurer try to control him, although I know he has not had much success so far. The September figures that were released a few days ago show that full-time employment in this State has not grown since September last year. The Governor said in his speech last year that we are in the middle of the greatest resources boom in Australia's history. We have a very rich State, of which we are all proud. We have huge resources. The important matter is how we manage those resources for the benefit of the people of this State. This Government has failed abysmally to ensure that the ordinary people of this State benefit from the wealth of this State. That is the problem.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! We are in committee, and the member for Nollamara is getting into a second reading speech rather than dealing with the clause.

Mr KOBELKE: I thank you for your guidance, Mr Chairman, but I think you have misheard because of all the yelling from the Minister for Labour Relations. I am speaking to an amendment that refers to the employment and economic prospects of the State. I have said nothing that does not go directly to that issue. It is an absolute shame that the Treasurer's views are so narrow that he cannot see that the amendment that has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition is of crucial benefit to the people of this State and not just to the few people on the Terrace who have a very narrow accounting view of how Western Australia should be run.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

Ms Anwyl
Mr Carpenter
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop
Mr Graham

Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr Marlborough
Mr McGinty

Mr McGowan
Ms McHale
Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper

Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (27)

Mr Ainsworth	Dr Hames	Mr Minson	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barnett	Mrs Holmes	Mr Nicholls	Mr Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Dr Turnbull
Dr Constable	Mr Kierath	Mrs Parker	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Court	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince	Mr Wiese
Mr Cowan	Mr Masters	Mr Shave	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mrs Edwardes	Mr McNee	Mr Sweetman	

Pairs

Mr Brown	Mr Day
Mr Grill	Mr Board
Mr Bridge	Mr Pandal

Amendment thus negated.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 10 put and passed.

Clause 11: Government Financial Strategy Statements -

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 7, after line 2 - To insert the following -

- (f) include an assessment of progress achieved against the targets laid down in the previous Government Financial Strategy Statement.

A government financial strategy statement is to be released at least once a year, and is to set out the Government's medium term targets for the financial element or elements relevant to each target. For example, the government financial strategy statement contained in the 1998-99 budget papers outlines the following strategies -

Net Assets: net assets of government be maintained or increased;

Net Debt: a declining net interest cost as a proportion of gross own source revenue for the total public sector;

Operating Expenses: real per capita expenditure for the Consolidated Fund be decreased (on average) over the forward estimates . . . ;

Operating Revenue: revenue sufficient to achieve the operating and underlying balance targets;

Operating Balance: an accrual based operating surplus, before extraordinary items, for the whole of government be achieved on average over the forward estimates period;

Underlying Balance: the Consolidated Fund and general government sectors run an underlying surplus . . . ;

Risk Management:

- The implementation of a financial plan during the forward estimates period to manage and fund superannuation liabilities;
- Rationalise ownership of assets exposed to business risks;

They are the targets that the Government has set down as part of its financial strategy. While there is a lot of emphasis in this Bill on the establishment of targets, there does not appear to be much emphasis on the comparison of actuals with targets. For example, the 1998-99 budget does not contain a comparison between the 1997-98 target and the estimated actual result. The budget papers include a discussion of net assets, net debt, operating expenses and so on, and have the target for only 1998-99. No reference is made to the 1997-98 target and what was achieved in that year. The Opposition queries the use of these targets if the Government does not check on what happened in the previous year. This amendment makes it absolutely clear that the progress achieved against the targets will be included in the government financial strategy statements. That would be simple to do and it would bring real accountability to this legislation. This Bill is all about targets. The Opposition wants to measure the targets against what happens and to put more emphasis on performance. Those are the basic criticisms of the Opposition, and its amendments seek to bring more accountability to the process.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition does not understand what must happen under this legislation. This amendment

will assess in the budget how the Government went against last year's target. The government financial strategy statement comes down with the budget. Under this legislation a financial results report must be released after each financial year. Western Australia is the only State that does that and goes back to the targets to assess the actual position against the targets. That is the most meaningful check against the targets, and it is a requirement in the legislation. The Leader of the Opposition has suggested that an assessment be made at the time of the budget against the targets in the previous year's budgets. The Government's suggestion is eminently more sensible, whereby the financial results report compares the actual figures with the targets.

Dr GALLOP: I do not think I have misunderstood the situation. I went to the budget papers this year and all the financial targets mentioned are outlined in them. For example, the papers include the net assets targets for 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, and 2001-02. Why are the figures for 1997-98 not included with the targets to compare the results? We are talking about reporting.

Mr COURT: When the financial results report comes down after the end of the financial year, you can compare the result with the target figure in those papers. That is a more meaningful measure.

Dr GALLOP: This clause requires the Government to put out its financial strategy statements. Treasury must release them at least once in each calendar year. This amendment will require the inclusion of an assessment of progress achieved against targets laid down in the previous financial strategy statements. Under this legislation, the Government will table the statements every year and do nothing more. The proposed amendment presents no difficulties. The Treasurer is reiterating the Opposition's concern; that is, the Government seems to be more interested in targets than in performance.

Mr COURT: I refer the Leader of the Opposition to clause 14 which deals with the government financial results report. The clause states that the Treasurer is to release a government financial results report for each budget year within three months after the end of the budget year. It further states that the report must be prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards; include the financial result for the budget year; include an explanation of the factors and considerations that contributed to any material differences between the financial result and the financial projections; and include an explanation of the factors and considerations that contributed to any material differences between the financial result and the Government's medium-term targets applying at the beginning of the budget year. That is as direct a comparison as it could be. The amendment is unnecessary, and there is no reason to change the provision by not comparing the actual figure with the target.

Dr GALLOP: What is the point of publishing the government financial strategy statements?

Mr COURT: What do you mean?

Dr GALLOP: What is the purpose of the clause we are debating?

Mr COURT: So that projections are made. The Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that when the Government brings down the budget, it should assess how it has performed against the previous year's target. However, three months after the end of the financial year, actual figures will be available to compare with the targets. That is as good as it gets.

Mr KOBELKE: It is necessary to distinguish between accuracy and meaning in the figures. The Treasurer is correct in saying that if we wait for the financial results report, actual figures for the previous financial year will be available. I do not contest that, and they are clearly of value. The amendment by the Leader of the Opposition proposes to give some meaning to the government financial strategy statements which set out the Government's medium-term targets. Without figures for the current year or the previous year, the targets do not have much meaning. The Government can shoot for the sky, but if there are no parameters within immediate vision the targets lose their relevance. In past years, the budget statements included figures for the previous year and the year not yet completed with a best estimate. I recognise that the best estimate for the year about to be completed is not as accurate as the actual figure and reliance cannot be placed on it. However, if a meaningful assessment is to be made of the target figures for the out-years, they must be assessed against the current level of expenditure and services. That is why the Leader of the Opposition has moved the amendment that will allow for that comparison. Without the projections based on the current year, in many cases projections do not have much meaning. Global figures provide an estimate of the level of activity and revenue in the economy. When considering specific areas of service and whether an improvement will be made, it is necessary to look at expenditure in the current year. Time and again press statements have been released by the Treasurer and his ministers heralding a program that will fix some problem or other. However, on further scrutiny, it can be seen as repackaging of programs in the budget without any major improvement. That judgment can be made only if clear figures are available for the current year's expenditure in that area. The exclusion of this requirement to provide an assessment of progress achieved against the target set in the government financial strategy statements will take meaning from the projections. They cannot be anchored in the current level of activity and services that people know are happening. That is why it is worth including the figures - recognising that they are only an estimate of the current level - and comparing them with the projections for the out-years. On that basis, the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition is a very important one and should receive the support of the House.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (16)

Ms Anwyl
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop
Mr Graham

Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr Marlborough
Mr McGinty

Mr McGowan
Ms McHale
Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper

Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (27)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Barnett
Mr Bradshaw
Dr Constable
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mrs Edwardes

Dr Hames
Mrs Holmes
Mr House
Mr Kierath
Mr MacLean
Mr Masters
Mr McNee

Mr Minson
Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mrs Parker
Mr Prince
Mr Shave
Mr Sweetman

Mr Trenorden
Mr Tubby
Dr Turnbull
Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Wiese
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Brown
Mr Grill

Mr Board
Mr Day

Mr Bridge

Mr Pandal

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 12 put and passed.

Clause 13: Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statements -

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 9, line 23 - To delete "15 February" and substitute "31 December".

This section requires the Treasurer to release a government midyear financial projection statement not later than 15 February in each budget year. The statement includes financial projections for the Government for the budget year and for the following three financial years plus other information.

We have a problem. Given that the State's budget is brought down in April-May of each year, a midyear statement brought down in February would become outdated in a very short period. Indeed, a couple of months after it was brought down it would be replaced. It is important that we have a statement that will have some value over a period. Therefore, it is more appropriate to have this statement brought down closer to the midyear - midyear of a financial year is December. Although six months' worth of information may not be available at the time, it may be more useful to have five months' worth of information available in December rather than six months' worth in February which would become outdated in two months. The New Zealand Bill, which is similar to this, requires the midyear statements to be released by 31 December. Obviously, it can be done. It would be a more realistic and meaningful statement if it were published before 31 December rather than not later than 15 February.

Mr COURT: When we were in Opposition we could only dream of having this sort of information provided; that is, half-yearly reports. It is a good initiative.

Dr Gallop: We will come to that. We do not have monthly statements anymore. Perhaps you can tell us why.

Mr COURT: There is a good explanation for that. Those statements did not provide meaningful figures. I will refer to the monthly statements in the Leader of the Opposition's next amendment. We could only dream of a midyear financial projection statement. The reason we have proposed February is that we want the six-monthly report based on the actual figures for the first six months. Therefore, it will be a more meaningful figure. If we released a statement by 31 December, it would not have the actual figures because the six months would have only just finished. It would include less information and be an inferior basis on which to prepare the following budget. I appreciate what the Leader of the Opposition has said. We will have a more meaningful mid-term financial projection in February. It is a terrific initiative and one which we have not had previously.

Dr GALLOP: What advice has the Treasurer had from his Treasury officers about the quality of the midyear financial projections should they be published by 31 December? Would those figures be inferior to the degree that it would not be worth putting them out or is the Treasurer saying that it would be better to wait until February?

Mr Court: It compromises the quality of the information that is available. Businesses do not do it that way. They wait for actual figures to come through before a midyear report is released.

Mr RIPPER: Can the Treasurer indicate the likely cut-off date that would apply if the statement was produced not later than 15 February?

Mr Court: It is a midyear report, so it is for the first six months of the year.

Mr RIPPER: The legislation does not make that clear. It states that a cut-off date is to be specified by the Under Treasurer.

Mr Court: Midyear is halfway.

Mr RIPPER: The cut-off date would be 31 December. If the Opposition's amendment is accepted, would the cut-off date be six weeks earlier?

Mr Court: To release the statement by 31 December, we would make assumptions - 30 October.

Mr RIPPER: A midyear report could be prepared as at a certain date. Assumptions would not necessarily have to be made and have it as at 31 December. I am trying to determine how much earlier that date would have to be. The Treasurer has said two months.

Mr Court: The accepted practice in business is that when one does a mid-year report one waits for the actual trading figures and so on. Budgets still come out before the end of the financial year.

Mr RIPPER: If that were the case, I am surprised that the date of 31 December has not been included in the legislation and that a flexible cutoff date will be determined.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 14 put and passed.

New clauses 14A and 14B -

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 12, after line 19 - To insert the following new clauses -

14A. Monthly financial statements

The Treasurer is to release publicly a statement for each month setting out the budget result from the beginning of the current financial year to the end of the relevant month.

14B. Budget papers to include outcomes etc.

Budget papers are to include -

- (a) outcomes;
- (b) resource costs; and
- (c) number of employees

for each output for the budget year and each of the two preceding years.

This legislation requires the Treasurer to release a government financial results report for each budget year within three months of the end of the budget year, including the financial results for the budget years. That is necessary when comparing budget results to actual results. We have just had some discussion about that issue.

However, it is not clear what will be contained in that report. We must avoid the situation in which the information provided in these reports is so broad as to make comparisons of departmental expenditure impossible. For example, the Treasury currently produces the Treasurer's annual accounts, which provide a comparison of appropriated funds for each department and agency to the actual expenditure. Revenue is also broken down into the different categories of revenue; for example, payroll tax, stamp duties and so on. The Opposition would very much like to see this information provided, but it would like the Treasurer's annual accounts to continue to be produced in their current form or for the government financial results report to include all the information contained in the Treasurer's annual report, albeit in a different format.

It is interesting to note that the Treasurer's annual statements for the 1997-98 financial year have not yet been tabled - three and a half months after the end of that financial year. The Opposition believes that this government financial reporting process needs more meat and has accordingly moved this amendment.

This Bill does not contain any requirement for the production of monthly statements. It appears that the Government has made a unilateral decision to stop producing those statements. We have been receiving them for numerous years, and it is now mid October but we have not received any for July, August or September. Unfortunately, unlike the New South Wales legislation, this legislation contains no requirement for the production of these monthly statements of expenditure and revenue.

The legislation contains no mention of the content and form of the budget papers. Again, this is in direct contrast to the New South Wales legislation, which contains sections dealing specifically with budget presentation standards, the time at which the Budget is to be presented to Parliament and the content of the budget papers. Some of what is contained in that legislation is dealt with in clause 12 of the Western Australian legislation. However, what is conspicuous in its absence is the requirement to provide information on historical comparisons. Section 22(1)(c) of the New South Wales legislation requires that the budget papers contain outputs, outcomes and resource costs for each program for the budget year and each of the three years preceding the budget year. We cannot make those comparisons in the 1998-99 budget papers. The net appropriation changes made it nearly impossible without any supplementary information to compare the budget for 1997-98 with the actual expenditure. That is clearly not acceptable. This amendment requires monthly statements to be provided and will ensure that the budget papers reveal more information.

Mr COURT: The Niemeyer statements, which were released monthly, were not meaningful in the sense that they were cash-based and not accrual-based. They had to include many explanations to give them any meaning. The Government has been piloting the collection of new monthly reports on an accrual basis. Those reports are currently of insufficient quality and timeliness to be released publicly.

Dr Gallop: What about the cash statements? They tell something.

Mr COURT: It is difficult; we are trying to get the monthly statements prepared on an accrual basis so they will be meaningful. Everyone agreed that the Niemeyer statements were of no use.

Dr Gallop: That is not true; there were significant debates.

Mr COURT: People were comparing the position this year with the position last year and many factors had to be taken into account.

Dr Gallop: The fact that the figures were shown meant we could debate them. We are not getting any now.

Mr COURT: The Government wants to provide meaningful monthly reports based on accrual accounting. It will review that matter as the information is improved.

The Opposition's amendment provides that the budget papers are to include outcomes, resource costs and the number of employees. That is covered and the Government already publishes the outcomes and resource costs. The FTEs have been included at agency level.

Dr Gallop: But not at the output level.

Mr COURT: That refers to how many people are used for a particular output.

Dr Gallop: That is very important. Let us say a department has two activities - service delivery and policy advice.

Mr COURT: The Opposition is better than the Government if it can accurately allocate the FTEs within an agency to those different outputs. Information is available about the number of FTEs at the agency level. However, we are talking about aggregates and that is covered in this legislation.

Dr Gallop: That is the problem with your budgeting - it is all aggregates. The budget papers this year are virtually useless.

Mr COURT: That is not true.

Dr Gallop: The aficionados who have a Master of Commerce degree may think they are wonderful, but to everyone else they are absolutely useless.

Mr COURT: We are providing information about how we are funding the different agencies.

Dr Gallop: Ask the member for Geraldton.

Mr COURT: That is not fair.

The CHAIRMAN: No, that is not fair.

Mr Prince: Anyone with an understanding of a balance sheet can understand them.

Dr Gallop: That is nonsense.

Mr COURT: I have outlined the position on the monthly financial statements and the budget papers, including the outcomes, resource costs and the number of employees at agency level.

Dr GALLOP: I refer to why the number of employees should be related to each output. Theoretically, a department has two parts to its activity - one provides policy advice and the other delivers a service - and the overall numbers in that department are about the same from one year to the next. The information from the Premier will show that they are the same from one year to the next. However, if within that department there is a huge shift of people to policy advice and fewer people providing direct services, the people of Western Australia would want to know about that and what is going on in that department. The budget papers do not show any of that.

This amendment will provide a useful addition. The Opposition objects to the budget papers. They are useless at providing the truth about the financial position of the Government. How does government operate? Government departments are broken up into programs. People are allocated to the programs to do their job. Of course, we want to see the social and economic impacts of those programs. At least as a starting point it would have been useful to know that in this year's budget, fewer people than in the previous year were allocated to the direct hospital services program of the Health budget. Could we find that anywhere in the budget? No, but that is a debate for another area. I urge the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee, or another committee of this Parliament, to closely examine the budget presentation. As I said, unless one has a commerce degree, the budget papers are gobbledygook. We must be able to make year-to-year comparisons and make sense of government processes. That opportunity is not being provided. However, with these two amendments we are making an effort to improve accountability.

Mr RIPPER: I listened with interest to the Premier's explanation for not providing monthly Niemeyer statements. He seemed to be arguing that the Government was trying to improve the situation, although the new statements are not yet accurate or informative enough to be released publicly. I am concerned at the Government's apparent willingness to abolish the publication of the Niemeyer statements before it has developed a substitute. If the substitute is not quite ready for release to the public, why not continue with the existing arrangement until the new accrual accounting based statements are ready for release?

It seems to me that once again the Government is eating its cake and having it too. I argued in the second reading debate that the Government has made an art form of claiming to have made reforms to the presentation of financial information, which reforms at the same time manage to confuse members of Parliament and deny them the information they have been used to receiving. The very process of continually reforming and changing the presentation of financial information makes it difficult for anyone to make year-to-year comparisons or comparisons with situations three or four years ago. The Government is claiming the credit for a reform process which makes it more difficult to hold it accountable.

This is not just a theoretical matter. I questioned the Minister for Education today about the Education budget. There are indications that the department is having trouble meeting its budget for this financial year. If we had available the monthly statements, as we have had in the past, we might have more information on which to debate that matter. However, the Government says the statements are not quite good enough so it will not give us anything. How can the Government claim to be more accountable, open and transparent than its predecessors when it gives such flimsy excuses for why we cannot see those monthly statements?

Mr COURT: If members opposite think that the Niemeyer statements on the cash flows will be useful information - we have had advice that people did not find them to be useful in making meaningful month-to-month comparisons - I will talk to Treasury to see whether they can be provided.

Dr Gallop: The Budget is still being organised on a cash basis in departments.

Mr COURT: We want to come down with monthly reports on an accrual basis.

Mr Ripper: Why not continue to release what you have been releasing in the past?

Mr COURT: I will see whether some form of statement can be released before we get the monthly statements on an accrual basis. I ask members to give me a couple of weeks and I will report to the Parliament on whether we can provide that information.

New clauses put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (18)

Ms Anwyl
Mr Carpenter
Dr Constable
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop

Mr Graham
Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr Marlborough
Mr McGinty

Mr McGowan
Ms McHale
Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper

Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (26)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Barnett
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames

Mrs Holmes
Mr House
Mr Kierath
Mr MacLean
Mr Masters
Mr McNee
Mr Minson

Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mrs Parker
Mr Prince
Mr Shave
Mr Sweetman
Mr Trenorden

Mr Tubby
Dr Turnbull
Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Wiese
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Grill
Mr Brown

Mr Day
Mr Board

Mr Bridge

Mr Pandal

New clauses thus negatived.

Clause 15: Pre-election Financial Projections Statements -

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 12, lines 21 to 23 - To delete the lines and substitute the following -

- (1) The Under Treasurer is to release a Pre-election Financial Projections Statement:
 - (a) three years and nine months after the first day of sitting of the Legislative Assembly following the previous general election; or
 - (b) should writs for a general election be issued prior to the report required under paragraph (a), within seven days of the issue of the writs.

The issue is when the Government will release its pre-election financial projections statement. The legislation states that it should be released within 14 days of the Legislative Assembly being dissolved or having expired. The requirement to produce such statements is consistent with what occurred in the previous state election and with the federal legislation. However, the Western Australian legislation has a different time frame in respect of the release of the pre-election statement. The Commonwealth's Charter of Budget Honesty Act requires the pre-election economic and fiscal outlook report to be produced 10 days after the issue of the writ for a general election. Our legislation could see the pre-election financial projections statement released midway through an election campaign. Clearly, that is not good enough and it would be a distinct disadvantage to the Opposition of the day, as it would have to release policy when it was unsure of the economic and financial circumstances of the State. The commonwealth's financial legislation mentions 10 days and the Western Australian legislation states 14 days.

We are either fair dinkum or we are not. We will either try to produce a financial projections statement that will assist political parties and others who commentate on an election so that the public can be properly informed or we will engage in a stunt throughout an election campaign. If the clause is to have any meaning, that information must be published so that people who participate in an election have plenty of time to consider the projections and, therefore, to frame their policy around them. It would provide plenty of time for those who want to advise the public on what they think of the different positions of the parties involved in the election and to assess the various policies.

The matter was given a trial run in the recent federal election campaign. Because the outlook statement came out after the election was called, it was extremely difficult for the political parties. It should come out much sooner so that the matter can be debated properly. Our amendment simply states "three years and nine months after the first day of sitting of the Legislative Assembly". However, if the writs for a general election are issued prior to that, the statement should be produced within seven days of the issue of the writs. That would give people plenty of time to respond to the projections and build them into their thinking in the election.

It is a good amendment and it is a test of whether the Government is carrying out a biased process in favour of the Government of the day or whether it is serious about providing a framework for all those who participate in an election.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition asks whether we are fair dinkum. We have already demonstrated that we are fair dinkum, because we provided the information at the previous election.

Dr Gallop: The issue is when you provided it.

Mr COURT: I asked the Treasury officials when it came out at the previous election. From memory, it was about a week

after the election was called. The reason for the 14 days is that the Under Treasurer is not to know when the election is called. It could take one week but it could easily take two weeks to produce a meaningful projections statement. We must remember that it is to be done by the Under Treasurer. I should have thought that the Opposition would support the fact that we now want to enshrine in legislation that there must be a pre-election financial projection. We must be realistic about allowing some time for it to be prepared properly. It can be properly done within 14 days. That means that it would come out up to half way through an election campaign, but that is a very good basis on which both parties will have their election promises judged. We introduced it, we are proud of it and now we are enshrining it in legislation. The amendment refers to seven days instead of 14 days. My treasury advice is that, because it is not necessarily forewarned about an election, it is not to know when an election will be called, and after it is called it must independently come up with that information. I cannot understand the three years and nine months amendment.

Dr Gallop: We have four-year terms.

Mr COURT: Yes, but they are not strictly four-year terms.

Dr Gallop: In which case it will be seven days after the issue of the writs.

Mr COURT: The amendment states -

. . . three years and nine months after the first day of sitting of the Legislative Assembly following the previous general election;

However, Parliament might not sit for six months after an election. Incoming Governments often do not sit for some months while they organise their legislation and so on. If it could be done within seven days, that would be fine, but there is no political advantage in whether it is seven or 14 days.

Dr GALLOP: The Opposition is trying to provide a better framework within which the information is released. Parliament might sit well and truly after the election, which makes the three years and nine months after the first sitting impractical, in which case it would need to consider the report coming out within seven days of the issue of the writs. I should have thought that, as we get nearer to the end of a term, Treasury would do such work anyway. The federal requirement is 10 days. There is only a three-day difference between 10 and seven days. It would be possible for the Treasury to do it within that time if it had to do so. However, it is obvious that the Premier will not go along with the amendment. I reiterate that if the legislation is to have any meaning and if it is to provide a framework within which the policies of the different parties are to be considered, the statement must be out early enough. If it is not, it will be difficult for people who want to be rational in their planning for the election.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 16: Costing pre-election commitments -

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 15, line 3 - To delete "Treasurer" and substitute "Under Treasurer".

Page 15, lines 6 and 7 - To delete the lines.

Page 15, line 18 - To delete ", through the Treasurer,".

This clause purports to create a level playing field for the Government and the Opposition on the costing of pre-election commitments. This clause is very similar to the commonwealth Charter of Budget Honesty Act, to which the federal Opposition proposed a number of amendments during the parliamentary debate in Canberra. We have a number of problems with this clause. We have in reality a Government which has a bureaucracy underneath it and which can throughout its term ask that bureaucracy about the costs and implications of certain policies, and can build up an enormous amount of information about those policies, all of which it can do in secret. On the other hand, the Opposition may ask a series of questions in the Parliament in order to obtain information, but in so doing it will reveal to the Government of the day the policy thinking in which it is engaged; or it may go outside the framework of government in order to obtain information about its policies and programs. There is an enormous difference between the Government and the Opposition on this issue.

The Government is proposing that the Opposition may ask the Treasurer - who in most cases is also the Premier in our system of government - to prepare a costing of a policy that has been announced publicly during the pre-election period. Therefore, during an election campaign, the Opposition must first announce the policy publicly, and it may then ask the Treasurer for a costing of that policy. The Treasurer may then ask the Under Treasurer to prepare the costing that has been requested. Why must the Opposition announce its policies publicly before it can have the costings done? The Government is not in that position. It can ask the bureaucracy for information about its policies throughout that period, yet the Opposition can do that only when its policies have been announced publicly.

One way in which we may get around this problem is by allowing the Leader of the Opposition to request the Under Treasurer to undertake the costings. The Government keeps telling us that the Under Treasurer has ownership of the costing assumptions and the forecasting situation. Therefore, why should it not be possible for the Leader of the Opposition to ask the Treasury for this information, just as the Government can ask the Treasury for this information, and for that to take place through a process of a direct contact?

Mr COURT: The proposed amendment would place the Under Treasurer in the impossible position of having as many masters as there are parties. The Under Treasurer has the job of financial management, and the Treasurer remains responsible to the Parliament for what is done.

Dr Gallop: Not in an election period.

Mr COURT: In an election period, the Treasurer still has that responsibility.

Dr Gallop: That is a caretaker situation.

Mr COURT: Yes, but even if the Government loses the election, the Treasurer still has that responsibility. It is appropriate that the Treasurer stand between the Parliament and the Under Treasurer. The Bill states that if the Leader of the Opposition has put out policies and wants them to be costed by the Treasury -

Dr Gallop: We do not want them to be costed after we have put them out. We want to put them out after they have been costed.

Mr COURT: That has not stopped the Leader of the Opposition in the past.

Dr Gallop: At the last election, all of our policies were costed, unlike the Government's policies. It would be interesting to check the record to see who got it right and who got it wrong. I think we got it right and you did not.

Mr COURT: The Under Treasurer can have only one master. If the Opposition had access to the Treasury along the lines that the Leader of the Opposition has suggested, all of the parties would want to have the same access. It is appropriate that someone be responsible and that the Under Treasurer have only one master; that is, the Treasurer.

Dr GALLOP: The Treasurer's use of the word "master" gives the game away. His argument is riddled with contradictions. On the one hand, he is saying that the Treasury is independent and has its own costing assumptions and forecasting methodologies, which are owned by the Treasury, and we can trust the Treasury to produce advice that is honest, open and objective, yet on the other hand he is saying that he is the master of the Treasury. He cannot have it both ways. Either the Treasury has independent objective advice that it can give to anyone on these matters, or the Treasury is the Treasurer's slave and vassal.

We are dealing with a caretaker situation in which an election has been called and in which the bureaucracy and the Executive are under severe constraints about what they can and cannot do on a range of issues. All we are doing in this amendment is accepting that situation and saying that the Opposition should be able to get advice direct from the Treasury rather than have to go through the Treasurer. The Treasurer is speaking as if in an election campaign he is just the Treasurer of Western Australia. The fact of the matter is that he is in a contest to keep his job. The Opposition has put up a perfectly reasonable argument.

Mr Court: We are in the same position. We also have to request the Under Treasurer to undertake costings of policies that have been announced publicly.

Dr GALLOP: There is a slight difference. That difference is that in the preceding four years, the Government of the day is in a situation of privilege vis-a-vis the bureaucracy and can get enormous amounts of information which the Opposition cannot get; or if it can get it, it has to tell everyone what it is trying to do. There is no doubt in our mind that if we were to have a level playing field, the Opposition must be able to go directly to the Under Treasurer. We have already placed constraints on what public servants, ministers and the Government can and cannot do in an election period. This added element will not in any way undermine the theory of responsible government. Indeed, it will recognise what that theory means in the context of an election.

Amendments put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (16)

Ms Anwyl
Mr Carpenter
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop

Mr Graham
Mr Grill
Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan

Mr McGinty
Mr McGowan
Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper

Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (28)

Mr Ainsworth	Mrs Edwardes	Mr McNee	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barnett	Dr Hames	Mr Minson	Mr Trenorden
Mr Bloffwitch	Mrs Holmes	Mr Nicholls	Mr Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Dr Turnbull
Dr Constable	Mr Kierath	Mrs Parker	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Court	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince	Mr Wiese
Mr Cowan	Mr Masters	Mr Shave	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)

Pairs

Mr Brown	Mr Day
Mr Marlborough	Mr Board
Mr Bridge	Mr Pandal

Amendments thus negatived.**Clause put and passed.****New clause 17 -**

Dr GALLOP: I move -

Page 15, after line 27 - To insert the following new clause -

17. Costing assumptions and financial forecasts

- (1) The leader of a party in opposition that is represented in the Legislative Assembly may at any time ask the Under Treasurer for costing assumptions and financial forecasts.
- (2) Where a request is made under paragraph (1) the Under Treasurer must provide such information directly to the Leader of the Opposition requesting it within 5 working days of the request being made.

There are two ways of tackling the costings. The first is to ask someone to do a costing of a particular program. If a political party wants to set up a new government agency, having established how many people it will employ and so on, it seeks advice on how much it will cost over the term of government. Another way is to look at the assumptions used. Of course, that is the basis upon which financial organisations, Treasury Departments and others are able to consider issues such as that. They make various assumptions about the number of full-time equivalents required to do a number of things, the cost of an FTE and so on. The Opposition is proposing that it have access to some of those assumptions. There is an important reason for that; that is, the Opposition believes there should be fair and reasonable competition between the parties in these matters. The Government already has access to the bureaucracy and is in a prime position with regard to information. The Opposition should not need to reveal its policies before a costing is carried out. It might want to compare the costing of one proposal against another before making a public announcement. The Government can do that in the four years leading to an election but the Opposition cannot, unless it tells the whole world what it is up to. One way around this is to allow the Opposition to ascertain financial costings and forecasts from the Under Treasurer. It is not an unreasonable request. The Opposition is not asking the Under Treasurer to do the work, but just to give it access to the assumptions in costings. They could then be used by the Opposition to produce the final result when going to the public with policies. It adds to the legislation, provides for a more level playing field and should be seriously considered by the Government.

Mr COURT: It is a good try. The Labor Party was in government for 10 years. Would it give the Liberal Opposition access to Treasury for financial forecasts? Would it ever have given the Liberal Opposition that access? If the Leader of the Opposition wants certain briefings from Treasury, the Government provides them. When I was in opposition, I could not obtain one briefing from the Government without the minister sitting in on the briefing to hear every word spoken.

Dr Gallop: What would you call Mr Fletcher? He sits in on the briefings and who is he? He is your lackey and he could not even tell the truth to the Legislative Council committee. That is the sort of person you send to sit in on our briefings - someone who cannot even tell the truth.

Mr COURT: It is appropriate that ministers sit in when they can.

Dr Gallop: You do not have to be there. What a ridiculous comment! You send your lackey along and try to pretend no-one is there from the Cabinet.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition must agree he has had briefings from Treasury. I have not sat in on those briefings.

Dr Gallop: But you had your lackey in there, so what is the difference?

Mr COURT: In which case?

Dr Gallop: The whole issue of hospital funding. He came along to check up on what was happening.

Mr COURT: The point I make is that no briefings were provided when the Opposition was in government when it did not have a minister sitting in, and we generously provided the briefings. As I understand, the Leader of the Opposition has had regular access to the Treasury officials in briefings. These amendments came to this Chamber today. Where did they come from? The Opposition simply copied them from the federal legislation.

Dr Gallop: This is not copied.

Mr COURT: This one is. It was one that was moved in the House of Representatives but the Labor Party did not bother to follow it through in the Senate. The Opposition has not taken this legislation seriously during six months in the Parliament. If it took it seriously, why would it introduce amendments the day we debate it after it has been sitting on the Table for six months?

Dr Gallop: Because we assume you have the ability and advice to consider them in an appropriate time.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition is right about that.

Dr GALLOP: Now we have the truth in this debate. This Government wants to control the process at an election to suit its narrow political purposes. It comes into this Parliament and calls that legislation. It is a joke!

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Ms McHale): It is highly disorderly for the Leader of the Opposition to throw papers across the Chamber.

Points of Order

Mr BARNETT: Madam Deputy Chairman, it is totally unparliamentary behaviour and I require that you take action. You cannot ignore that.

Mrs ROBERTS: I do not think we need that kind of contribution from the member for Cottesloe. If he had been listening, he would know that he should not be canvassing the Chairman's ruling. She has already drawn the matter to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When the Leader of the Opposition took that action, I called to his attention that it was disorderly prior to the point of order being taken. Therefore I do not see a need for the point of order because I have already pointed out that the action was inappropriate.

Committee Resumed

Dr GALLOP: Madam Deputy Chairman, if that is your ruling, I apologise to the Chamber.

This Government pretends to this Parliament that it is adding to financial accountability. I am angry because it is increasing the power of the Executive during an election period. The Government pretends that it is talking about financial accountability. The Opposition moves a perfectly reasonable amendment to this legislation so that we can access the assumptions that are used by Treasury. The Government says, "That is a good try." It is arrogant of the Executive to come into this Parliament and tell us that we have no right to be on a fair and equal footing during an election campaign. What an absolute joke! This reveals the intent of this legislation, which is to put the Government of Western Australia in a strategically strong position vis-a-vis the Opposition during an election campaign. That is what it is trying to do. It has nothing to do with the costing of election assumptions because if it did, the reasonable amendments that we have moved would be given some consideration. The Treasurer has not given it any consideration whatsoever. This is the Government that we are dealing with in Western Australia today. It is in charge and it will let people know about it.

The member for Cottesloe speaks about the bludgers; that is the word he used when describing the people who battle to pay their school fees. He said that teachers must be loyal to the Government of the day and not to their profession or organisation. That is the sort of Government we have and it is this Government that has produced this legislation. We saw how it worked during the federal election campaign and how Treasurer Costello used this sort of this legislation in the election campaign. That is the truth of this and the truth of this Government. Financial accountability - what a joke! It is about the power of the Executive. It is a very sorry day for our system of government that when we get to the next election - if this legislation is in place - there will not be fairness between the major players. I sincerely hope that the other House of Parliament will ensure that this sort of nonsense does not become law in Western Australia.

Mr COURT: Only one thing is wrong with the argument put forward by the Leader of the Opposition: He is talking about

a pre-election climate. His amendment has nothing to do with the pre-election climate and that is why I said, "Good try." The amendment states that he wants access to the Under Treasurer at any time for costing assumptions and financial forecasts.

Dr Gallop: Which you can do.

Mr COURT: Hang on. The Leader of Opposition is saying - and I never heard him suggest it in government over 10 years - that he wants access to the Under Treasurer at any time. The Under Treasurer is responsible to the Treasurer. That is how the system works. His amendment does not mention pre-election at all. It states "at any time".

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr COURT: In relation to the financial and economic -

Dr Gallop: Why do you not amend section 54B and be done with it? That is what this is about - authoritarian government.

Mr COURT: In 10 years in government I never heard the Leader of the Opposition say that we as the then Opposition should have direct access to the Under Treasurer. Has the Leader of the Opposition now changed his view? He wants to know what are the financial forecasts. The financial and economic forecasts are provided regularly; they are in the projection statements, and they are provided under this legislation, so he already gets that information. Why does he move an amendment stating he wants to have direct access to the Under Treasurer to obtain financial forecasts? It must be made public.

Dr Gallop: Have you ever devised a tax policy for an election?

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition has copied an amendment from his federal colleagues but he has not thought it through.

Dr Gallop: I have thought it through all right.

Mr COURT: No, he has copied it and he has not thought it through because he just stood and gave an emotional speech about how he was going to enter a pre-election climate with the Government having an unfair advantage. This amendment has nothing to do with that.

Dr Gallop: Yes, it has.

Mr COURT: No, it has not. It provides that he should have access to the Under Treasurer at any time for financial and economic forecasts. Madam Deputy Chairman, even your colleagues accept the fact that the Under Treasurer is responsible to the Treasurer and, as I have said, we have had a policy of ensuring that the Opposition has ready access in practice. That is something that we were not provided with during Labor's 10 years in government.

Mr RIPPER: I do not think the Treasurer has understood the point that the Leader of the Opposition is making. The Opposition surely is not expected to develop all its policies in the four weeks before an election. That is an unrealistic expectation. Any Opposition worth its salt will progressively develop policies for at least a year or more before an election. The Treasurer is putting forward legislation which requires an Opposition to publicly release a policy - in other words to publicly commit itself to a policy - before it can go to Treasury for a costing. One would think that the Treasurer would want an Opposition to cost a policy responsibly before publicly announcing and committing itself to it. However, he is saying that we should commit, publicly announce, and he will cost according to assumptions and forecasts about which we do not yet know. That is unfair because the Government has the information. The Government can ask Treasury daily for costing assumptions and financial forecasts.

Therefore, when any government policy is developed, it is developed on the basis of the rule against which it will be finally assessed. However, the Opposition is asked to make a best guess at the rules which might apply when the policy is assessed, announce it, commit itself to it and then see which rules Treasury will apply. It is a recipe for the Opposition to be set up in an election campaign. It is a recipe for us to find that Treasury has costed our policy at \$20m more than we have costed it because it has applied assumptions new to us while at the same time no problem like that ever confronts the Government. Therefore, the Treasurer is wrong when he says this amendment is not relevant to the legislation. He is wrong when he says the Opposition is mistaken to apply this clause to other than the immediate pre-election period. The Leader of the Opposition is right: Any Opposition will be at a significant disadvantage if this amendment is not carried.

New clause put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (16)

Ms Anwyl
Mr Carpenter
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop

Mr Graham
Mr Grill
Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan

Mr McGinty
Mr McGowan
Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper

Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (28)

Mr Ainsworth	Mrs Edwardes	Mr McNee	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barnett	Dr Hames	Mr Minson	Mr Trenorden
Mr Bloffwitch	Mrs Holmes	Mr Nicholls	Mr Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Dr Turnbull
Dr Constable	Mr Kierath	Mrs Parker	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Court	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince	Mr Wiese
Mr Cowan	Mr Masters	Mr Shave	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)

Pairs

Mr Brown	Mr Board
Mr Marlborough	Mr Day
Mr Bridge	Mr Pandal

New clause thus negated.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

CARNARVON BANANA INDUSTRY (COMPENSATION TRUST FUND) REPEAL BILL*Second Reading*

Resumed from 15 September.

MR GRILL (Eyre) [9.48 pm]: The Opposition supports this legislation. I was informed this evening by the minister's staff that this industry comprises about 130 growers in the Carnarvon area who in 1997 produced 9 459 tonnes of bananas worth about \$9.45m. Therefore, it is a reasonably substantial industry. The little sweet bananas that come from Carnarvon are worth producing.

This legislation is essentially a repeal Bill. It winds up the compensation trust fund. In doing so it leaves a sum of \$5.85m to be disposed of one way or another. The fund has been built up over a long period.

Mr Sweetman: It has happened since 1961.

Mr GRILL: I thank the member for that help. The fund was set up in 1961 after a major cyclone went through the area and caused tremendous damage. It nearly wiped out the fledgling banana industry in Carnarvon. At that time individual growers or groups of growers could not obtain insurance from insurance companies. Insurance was not viable. To provide stability for the industry the Government moved to set up the trust fund. The trust fund worked on the basis of a levy per box of bananas. The Government's average outlay is in the vicinity of \$60 000 per annum. I presume that the repeal of the legislation by means of this Bill will mean the Government will be saving \$60 000 a year. The Government is not the only party contributing to the trust fund. The minister's second reading speech makes it clear that for every \$2 contributed by the growers the Government puts in \$1. Therefore a large proportion of the fund is as a result of growers' contributions.

The fund was reviewed in 1996 by a state committee and reviewed again in 1996-97 pursuant to guidelines under the National Competition Code. It was decided as a result of those reviews that the fund legislation should be repealed and that the balance of the funds in the account should be paid to a growers' organisation. It was thought that the whole of the balance in the fund should belong to the industry. Things have changed since 1961. It is possible for growers to obtain viable insurance for their crop on an annual basis. Anecdotally I have been told that the cost for a group's insurance comes to less than the Government's contribution to the fund each year. Not only will the Government be saving something like \$60 000 per annum on average but also the growers will be making significant savings.

The funds to be paid to the Carnarvon Horticultural Development Council can be used for a whole range of purposes, not all associated with insuring a crop. It can be used for different purposes to develop the industry and for the benefit of the industry generally. It seems to the Opposition that the legislation contains a lot of pluses and very few minuses. For those reasons we feel that the trust fund can be wound up and that the funds can be paid to the growers and that the growers can take responsibility for insurance in the future. Not all growers will necessarily be part of the new scheme that will be set up under the auspices of the Carnarvon Horticultural Development Council. Those who want to take part can take part and it will be in their interests to do so. For those who do not want to take part, there will be no compunction for them to do so. They can insure privately. Those who do not want to insure at all will take the risk. The Bill appears to provide quite a number of benefits and no downside. On that basis and the basis of the briefing the Opposition received this morning, the Opposition supports the legislation.

MR SWEETMAN (Ningaloo) [9.56 pm] I support the reassigning of this fund to the industry to allow it to take full responsibility of the management of the fund. My only reservation is in transferring the control of this fund to a grower group in Carnarvon which has yet to be determined. There is a group which, for want of a better expression, is basically a halfway house between the Carnarvon Horticultural Development Council and the committee that will ultimately oversee and manage this fund. Although on the face of it everything contained in the Bill is highly appropriate, it does require some ongoing monitoring. I guess the Government has that covered through the Horticultural Produce Commission which will ultimately give the Government some say in and control of how the funds will be dispersed.

There are some reservations and murmurings around the river about how this fund may be carved up and who may be able to access it. The Government must make sure that those aspects are well and truly ironed out before the final assignment of this fund. Talk of the compensation fund is causing some concern around the river. It is probably appropriate that the amount of compensation be reviewed. The compensation rate is likely to go from \$2.50 or \$2.60 to in excess of \$5.00, which is a fairly substantial increase. I am not sure whether the committee has been talking about putting a floor price on bananas but some growers are actively canvassing that proposition. If they are able to do something like that, it will very quickly dilute the fund. Growers would be growing bananas on the basis that they could be guaranteed a return. Members saw what a floor price did for the wool industry. We can learn something from that.

Although I am in agreement with the reassigning of this fund to the growers of Carnarvon, the Government initially will have some ongoing involvement in the structure of the committee that will manage the fund for the benefit of the entire industry. The Government must get that right. We must ensure that growers understand that although since 1961 the banana producers have produced the bulk of the fund, it is basically for the benefit of the entire industry. It will take a while for some growers to adjust to that notion. Some growers have left the industry and new growers have come in. The incoming grower's status is the same as that of a grower who may have paid into the fund consistently since 1961. That grower would argue that he had contributed more than anyone else and he therefore had the right to access that money. However, this is first and foremost an insurance scheme, and it is appropriate that the entire industry see it as that. This is now basically a new day. Everything that has been paid since 1961 has been paid on the basis of insurance. An insurance company never sends money back if someone does not make a claim. The business in which I am involved has paid over \$250 000 in workers compensation insurance in the past 15 years. The business has never had a claim for workers compensation - not even half a day. The business has never had anyone from the insurance company send money back simply because the business did not exercise its right through injury to access that fund. Growers need to understand that situation.

The Government has an involvement in that. The industry will not willingly conclude that of its own volition. There is talk of using the funds for alternatives around the river such as water augmentation. That is also a positive. Ensuring that there are always enough funds will be the responsibility of growers. If they overspend, ultimately they will have to reinvent a compensation scheme to cover themselves in the event of calamity, be it storm, cyclone or flood. In agreeing with the legislation, I sound a word of caution that the Government must be involved when this fund is reassigned to the growers in Carnarvon. I support the Bill.

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [10.01 pm]: I thank the Opposition for its support of this legislation. I also to thank the member for Ningaloo for his contribution to the debate. He and the Opposition spokesman have outlined the detail of the legislation and have made some very pertinent comments about grower involvement. While concerns have been expressed by some growers, we have accommodated all of those concerns and have been able to put to those growers an idea that they move forward and control their own destiny. That is the thrust of what we have been trying to do. As the member for Eyre said, there is over \$5m in this fund. I and a number of other people in the district of Carnarvon felt that it was proper that they be in control of that money and be able to make some decisions about what they wanted done with the money. There is no doubt that the compensation fund had outgrown its need and usefulness and could be applied in a better and more sensible way to advance the banana industry in Carnarvon. This repeal legislation will give it the ability to do that and still have control over that money. That has been a contribution by both the Government and the industry. It is a step forward. It has the broad support of the industry. We will assist it as it applies those dollars and provide whatever advice and help we can. I assure the House it will be done with the full cooperation of the majority of growers in the Carnarvon region.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate and transmitted to the Council.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MEAT INDUSTRY AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 September.

MR GRILL (Eyre) [10.04 pm]: The Opposition supports the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority Amendment Bill. The WA Meat Industry Authority was originally set up to put in place standards for the operation of abattoirs throughout

the State. That applied to new abattoirs and existing abattoirs. However, its task changed slightly in 1994. When the Meat Industry Legislation (Amendment and Repeal) Bill 1993 was passed, it took responsibility for the operation of the Midland saleyards. It took over the operation of the Midland saleyards from the Western Australian Meat Commission. The WA Meat Commission is another body that has been wound up. Since 1994, the Meat Industry Authority has run and been responsible for the operation of the Midland saleyards. It was not until 1997, according to the minister's second reading speech notes and the briefing that we had this morning, that it was discovered that the Meat Industry Authority needed to have body corporate status and that it did not have that status. In failing to have that status, it did not have any capital raising powers to be able to renovate and make additions to the Midland saleyards. Crown Law Department opinion was sought on this matter and it confirmed that body corporate status was essential for the borrowing of funds to raise capital for such purposes. We are now embarking on that process to give the Meat Industry Authority corporate status so that it can raise funds for the purposes of maintaining those saleyards.

I do not know why it was not discovered that body corporate status was needed and why this problem has not come to the fore in the past. Perhaps the minister will inform members. We would also like a guarantee from the minister that there have not been any acts of the Meat Industry Authority over those years which needed that body corporate status to make them legal. I was told by the people who briefed us at breakfast this morning that that is the case. They made that statement on the basis that no capital works were done during that period and therefore, there was no necessity to borrow funds. It is hard to believe that no improvements were made to the saleyards since 1994. Perhaps the minister can elucidate further on that matter.

One of the other aspects of the legislation is that we shall be conferring upon the minister a the discretion to grant the Meat Industry Authority a range of other duties. We have not been specific about the range of other duties that might be conferred on the Meat Industry Authority. It is a little open-ended. We have a question mark about that. While we understand that those other duties will benefit the meat industry, the minister should clarify that issue.

Another aspect of the legislation is that it will be compulsory and necessary in the future for the Meat Industry Authority to have separate accounts for the saleyards; on the one hand for its regulatory functions which it has carried on historically and, on the other hand, for any new functions that might be prescribed by the minister. If it takes on a new duty as designated by the minister, it will need to keep a separate set of accounts or account separately for that further duty.

There is another issue that is a little intriguing. It may allow for a backdoor privatisation of the Meat Industry Authority, at least as far as the task of running the Midland saleyards is concerned. This legislation gives to that authority and the minister the right to delegate its functions. It could well delegate the functions of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority to a private organisation. I am afraid that pursuant to this legislation we may well be giving the minister the ability to bring about a backdoor privatisation of the Meat Industry Authority. Perhaps the minister may care to comment on that.

The final matter on which I seek comment from the minister relates to the fact that directors of the new body corporate will become subject to the Statutory Corporations (Liability of Directors) Act. I have not read that Act, but people tell me it is fairly onerous. If people from the meat industry are volunteering to be on -

Mr Bloffwitch: It is onerous, but not as onerous as personal guarantees.

Mr GRILL: The member knows all about personal guarantees, and so do I. They are things to steer well clear of. As I was saying, I am told that is a fairly onerous piece of legislation. We should hear from the minister that the directors of the corporation, after it has been fully corporatised, are well aware that they are taking on a whole new set of responsibilities under the state legislation. With those few comments, I indicate that the Opposition supports the legislation.

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [10.11 pm]: Once again, the member for Eyre, as the Opposition spokesman, has outlined accurately the details of this legislation. He has raised a number of issues that need some response from me. The first relates to the body corporate. That is an appropriate step for this group. The Western Australian Meat Industry Authority is chaired by a practising solicitor who, as the member is probably aware, practices in Kalgoorlie. He has had a number of discussions with me about this issue over some time and is very keen, from his point of view and the points of view of other members of the authority, to see this body corporate formed. As the member has correctly outlined, it gives some protection to those who are carrying out their functions as members of the Meat Industry Authority.

To the best of my knowledge, there has been no breach of the legislation and, I am sure, with people with the expertise of the chairman, had there been any grey areas or any concerns, they would have been brought to my attention. As I am sure the member did when he was minister, I meet regularly with the chairmen of those sorts of authorities to have general discussions about how they are performing their duties. No suggestion has ever been brought to my attention that the legislation may have been breached in respect of those issues.

The member is also correct in saying that some capital works have been done at the Midland saleyards in the life of this Government, since 1993. If my memory serves me correctly, that was done at the end of 1994 or the beginning of 1995. The funds were appropriated directly from Treasury and were used to build additions to the cattle yards at Midland and to install a new truck wash system. That money was not borrowed; rather, it was appropriated from Treasury. In addition, there

has been ongoing maintenance, which is done from money raised from the yard fees and then applied to a general maintenance program. Anybody who has visited the Midland site recently will agree that the yards are in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

The member also asked what our future plans were and whether it might be necessary to borrow money in the future. I have said that, for the term of this Government, there is absolutely no intention of moving or disposing of the Midland saleyards. It is an asset that, rightly, should be retained at this time. However, situations change. As time moves on, it may well be appropriate to look at other sites; for example, with the shifting of time, it may be more appropriate in the meat industry to have multiple sets of small yards or to separate the cattle and sheep functions to different areas in different parts of the State.

The land at Midland is fairly valuable and it will continue to appreciate in value. I can see a time when this legislation could be applied if, and I stress the word "if", the decision to relocate was made and we might want to borrow against the collateral of that land at Midland to fund the building of the new yards. Probably it would take a good 18 months to build if it was started on a greenfields site. That is an example of the ability to borrow under this legislation which may be applied some time in the future. Any Government and any authority will, of course, always be looking at planning in some way.

The member raised the delegation of authority and the future privatisation of the yards. I can assure him and this Parliament that is not part of either the Government's agenda or my personal view at the moment. It is very proper to have a set of yards that have multiple use and are controlled by an authority that does not have to be commercial to the nth degree. It also allows multiple users to access those yards to sell stock on behalf of clients. I do not see a situation arising where that sort of facility would be privatised, but that is not to say that it might not happen in the future. I give an assurance to the House that, if it was part of a program to be implemented, notice would be given publicly. As I said, those yards belong to the growers. There is a responsibility on not only the authority but also the minister of the day to ensure the legislation is administered in the proper way. I think I have answered all the questions raised by the member for Eyre. I thank him, as the Opposition spokesman, for his cooperation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate and transmitted to the Council.

SOIL AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 September.

MR GRILL (Eyre) [10.18 pm]: At the outset I indicate that the Opposition will support the Bill. Essentially this legislation seeks to create another mechanism for raising funds for overcoming land degradation. I asked the officers from Agriculture Western Australia and the minister's staff who briefed me this morning to give me some notes as to the size of the land degradation problem in Western Australia. The notes indicate that the biggest problem is land salinisation. As one of the most significant environmental issues in Western Australia, it affects approximately 9 per cent of Western Australia's agricultural land. The Government has put in place a salinity action plan to overcome that problem. By necessity, it is a long term plan. The major ingredients of the plan are to plant another 3 million hectares of perennials across agricultural areas, and to ensure that other commercially viable water management practices complement the plantings to maximum water use and economic benefits, and to protect and manage remnant vegetation into perpetuity.

Western Australia also has problems with land erosion and land waterlogging. Although apparently Agriculture Western Australia cannot accurately estimate the amount of land affected by those problems, it is a significant area. Both of those problems are significant in themselves. I regard land degradation as the biggest environmental problem we face in Western Australia. I would like to see the Government expend more funds on that issue, and I hope that an incoming Labor Government would do the same.

Mr Barnett: We will have it fixed by then!

Mr GRILL: It is a long term problem.

Mr Barnett: We recognise that.

Mr GRILL: I was told when Minister for Agriculture that if we attacked the problem with due diligence, we would have it in a situation of balance in 100 years, and overcome it in 200 years.

Mr Barnett: That is what we are working on.

Mr GRILL: Even the most optimistic member opposite would not believe that the Liberal Party will be in power for 100 or 200 years. Plenty of scope exists for all parties to have a crack at this problem.

At least half of the rivers in the south west are saline or at least brackish because of this major problem; however, we spend

a great deal of time and energy endeavouring to fix up supposed problems in our forests. I have visited our forests and been briefed by both sides of the argument. One must believe that forests are pretty well managed. Nevertheless, we have this major problem in the wheatbelt. In fact, the wheatbelt is a major environmental problem in itself. Much needs to be done to overcome the problems. I fear that we do not focus enough attention, certainly not enough publicity, on this area, and I hope that in future much more activity and money will be focused on that major environmental issue.

This Bill represents a step forward. It focuses more resources and funds to overcome these problems. Local conservation district committees already obtain funds via levies through local government and those on the affected land. This Bill adds a second avenue for raising funds, and gives more flexibility to those fighting against salinity and other forms of land degradation. Funds currently are raised on the basis of so much in the dollar on ratable land. It is like a local government rate. Therefore, high rating properties raise more than lower rating properties. It could be that the high value property has less of a salinity or degradation problem than the lower value property.

This legislation allows for a new concept to be put in place; namely, to rate property on the basis of a per property rate. Town land will also be included within the rated properties. The State Government has constitutional problems. It can raise funds on the basis of a fee for service. The High Court has ensured that we do not have much scope to go beyond that to raise funds for these purposes. A classification process must be followed by the Minister in striking the rate. That process can be conducted on the basis of soil type, catchment characteristics, property size, whether the property is located on an urban or rural area or the type of problem involved. That is not an exclusive list by any means. However, a classifications process is set out in the Bill in which the minister will play a vital part. I am assured that heavy accountability procedures will apply in raising these funds. No limit or maximum rate can be applied or raised; therefore, a strict accountability regime is needed. The Bill puts in place a fairly strict regime. If an LCDC wants to raise funds for a particular purpose, it will need to set out in writing a plan for the area under consideration; to pre-cost and prepare a proper budget; and to consult the group of people from whom the funds will be raised. That consultation must be by way of writing and public meeting. All of that process will then go to the minister for approval in an accountability procedure. Local government - more than one may be involved - then needs to approve the plan. I understand that local government at that stage will have a veto power.

Mr House: That is correct.

Mr GRILL: The CEO of Agriculture Western Australia will have responsibility for raising the charge or funds. However, this cannot be done without the cooperation of local government. Many of these factors are not set out in the legislation, but in regulations which will accompany the legislation. I am informed that the regulations will apply contemporaneously. I am told that the rates will normally be raised through local government. Where possible, they will be sent out with normal rate notices, although a special rate notice could be sent out during the year. If a particular problem, emergency or critical situation arises, it will possible to raise a notice to be sent out to affected areas.

Mr House: As minister, I would be reluctant, as I am sure would all ministers, to apply an extra process or have a rate notice sent out for a special rate at any time other than when the normal rate process is in train. To do so would add an administrative cost. I hope that all those functions you correctly outlined, such as sending out the rate notice, will be done at the proper time.

Mr GRILL: I presumed the minister would be thinking that way, and that is the proper way to approach it. There are some other safeguards; that is, the money raised can be used only for the service that is specified in the written notice - that was discussed at the public meeting - and only during the time period laid down in the scheme or plan. If it is not spent for that purpose, or within that time period, it will be returned to the people who paid the money on a pro rata basis. Can the minister confirm that the only cost that will be deducted by local government from those fees will be the actual costs incurred to send out the rate notice?

This is a good piece of legislation. The Opposition has discussed it in the party room and supports it. We wish the best of luck to those people who are fighting the fight against land degradation in Western Australia.

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [10.32 pm]: I thank the opposition spokesman, the member for Eyre, for his support of the legislation. He has correctly outlined the principles of this Bill. Tonight is not the appropriate time for a long debate about land conservation or salinity degradation. However, I agree with the member's comments that they are huge problems. These days there is a bipartisan approach towards solving those problems, and one would have to be a game person to claim to be able to resolve them quickly. A huge amount of work has been done by government departments, scientists with the appropriate expertise and farmers. A lot of assistance has been provided by Governments over the past 30 or 40 years. In opposition I had the privilege of chairing a select committee that comprised members of all parties in the Parliament. It was interesting to read that the first committee of the Western Australian Parliament into soil and land conservation was in the early 1900s. Concerns were expressed 80 or 90 years ago. We have progressed through that period, and addressed some of the problems.

Mr Grill: We made a lot of mistakes.

Mr HOUSE: We sure did, and probably more were made by the present generation. People of my age cleared a lot of what is commonly known as mallee country without understanding the consequences of removing that vegetation, and we are paying the price now - big time. All I can say is that we have owned up to the problem and admitted it is a huge problem. Individual landowners are putting their resources into trying to resolve those problems that were created by overclearing. Nonetheless, we are not winning the battle at the moment. These amendments to the Soil and Land Conservation Act are only one step in the cooperative movement established between the State Government, local governments and land conservation districts. It is a step in the right direction, because it is an ownership of the problem.

I take the opportunity to say something that I have said on many occasions before and which I know the member for Eyre supported when he was the Minister for Agriculture: One of the ways to solve this problem a lot more quickly would be to give adequate taxation breaks to landowners to allow them to apply greater amounts of their own dollars. That is something that State Governments in Western Australia have supported over the past couple of decades. It is a fight that we have all taken to the Federal Government and never been able to win.

I confirm that the member for Eyre was correct in saying that the cost deducted by local government from this levy would only be the cost of establishing the rate notice and sending that notice out, so that will be small indeed. Because the minister has the final authority, that is something that I am sure not only I but any minister could keep an eye on.

I want to clarify a point made by the member for Eyre about the Chief Executive Officer of Agriculture Western Australia raising the funds. In fact, the CEO of Agriculture Western Australia administers the funds; the rates are raised by the local government authority in that area. The local government must go through the process that the member correctly outlined to establish community support to do so. I am not sure whether I misheard the member.

Mr Grill: The minister did not mishear me, and I thank him for clarifying the issue.

Mr HOUSE: I thank the member for Eyre and the Opposition for their support of the legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.36 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to questions are as supplied by the relevant Minister's office.

TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENT FINES

6. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) If a traffic infringement fine is paid after the first due date, is the payment returned to the offender with a demand for both payment of the fine and a late penalty?
- (2) If the traffic infringement fine is then paid after the extended due date, is the payment again returned to the offender with a demand for both payment of the fine and an additional late penalty?
- (3) If yes, to 1 and 2, why is the amount of the fine not retained and a demand issued only for the late penalty?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Where a traffic infringement payment is received by the Infringement Payment Centre beyond the due date, the payment is returned to the offender, together with a letter which states that the Police Service will send a Final Demand letter explaining the options for payment of the fine and that an additional penalty of \$10.00 is payable.
- (2) Where a matter has progressed to the Final Demand stage, and a payment is received by the Infringement Payment Centre beyond the due date specified in the Final Demand Letter, the fine amount, together with the additional \$10.00 penalty is returned to the offender with a letter which states:

The Police Service advise that this infringement will be registered with the Fines Enforcement Registry for enforcement. When registered you will receive a Court Order to Pay Penalty, which will explain the options available to you for payment.

- (3) Under the provision of the Fines, Penalties and Infringement Notice Enforcement Act a matter can only be registered with the Fines Enforcement Registry or a Final Demand Letter issued where a fine payment has not been accepted. Therefore, if the original fine amount is retained, it would prevent the provisions of the Fines, Penalties and Infringement Notice Enforcement Act from being applied. The responsibility for the collection of revenue associated with traffic infringements has recently been transferred to Transport, who are currently negotiating with the WA Police Service to put in place a process which will provide a more convenient way of making a traffic infringement payment, together with facilitating the revenue collection process.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY

Sale of Property

13. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many Government Employees Housing Authority (GEHA) homes were sold since 1 January 1995 in -
 - (a) Broome; and
 - (b) Derby?
- (2) What were the names of the real estate agents who were retained by GEHA to assist with sales and how many properties was each agent contracted to sell?
- (3) Who represented GEHA in the settlement of each property?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 21.
 - (b) 17.
- (2) Eight (8) of the Broome properties and two (2) Derby properties were sold directly to tenants in occupation in accordance with Government Employees' Housing Authority policy. The remaining properties were sold through real estate agents as follows:

BROOME
Broome Real Estate

Hutchinson Real Estate	4
PRD Realty	2
DERBY	
Hutchinson Real Estate	11
Kevin Green & Assoc.	4

(3) Homeswest.

HOMESWEST

Access to AlintaGas and Western Power Customer Information

14. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Do Homeswest officials have access to details about customers of AlintaGas and Western Power?
- (2) If yes, under what circumstances do they use this access?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

POLICE COMMISSIONER'S TRAVELLING EXPENSES

22. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What were the travelling expenses, including all costs for the Commissioner for Police for the period 10 October 1997 to date?
- (2) On how many occasions during 1997 did the Commissioner for Police travel to other States or Territories of Australia?
- (3) What were the dates and purpose for each trip?
- (4) For how many days in total during 1997 was the Commissioner for Police outside the State of Western Australia?
- (5) Will the Minister table the details of the Commissioner for Police's overseas travel undertaken during 1997, including a full cost break down?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) \$23,432.63.
- (2) 8.
- (3)

Item No	Date/ From	Date/ To	Destination	Purpose of Trip
1	15 Feb 97	23 Feb 97	Hobart	Australasia and South-West Pacific Region Police Commissioners' Conference
2	26 Feb 97	27 Feb 97	Canberra	Invited to make a presentation on Delta Reforms at the National Innovations Expo '97 - Best Practice in Public Administration
3	8 Apr 97	11 Apr 97	Adelaide	National Community Based Approach to Drug Law Enforcement, Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC)/ Seniors Officers Group and National Common Police Services meetings
4	15 Jul 97	16 Jul 97	Adelaide	Intergovernmental Committee of the National Crime Authority & APMC meetings

5	9 Sep 97	12 Sep 97	Adelaide	National Community Based Drug law Enforcement & Intergovernmental Committee of National Crime Authority, National Common Police Services & APMC /Seniors Officers Group Meetings
6	21 Oct 97	23 Oct 97	Brisbane	Australasian Crime Conference and Seminar
7	5 Nov 97	8 Nov 97	Adelaide	Intergovernmental Committee of the National Crime Authority & APMC meetings
8	14 Dec 97	15 Dec 97	Melbourne	National Institute of Forensic Science Board of Control & Special APMC/Seniors Officers Group meetings

- (4) 49 Full days and 13 part days. These figures are inclusive of the days on which the Commissioner for Police departed from Western Australia and his destination when returning. As a result this figure also includes personal time (weekends) that coincided with travel by the Commissioner of Police. Also included are 5 days annual leave taken whilst visiting the United Kingdom. The Police Service incurred no additional expense for such personal time. This figure does not include annual and personal leave spent in Australia, not coinciding with official travel to other States or Territories of Australia.
- (5) One instance of 32 days travel to the United Kingdom and Singapore to primarily research and review Police Training establishments in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Singapore.

Description	Cost (\$)
Air Fares	6,505.30
Meals & Accommodation	8,413.88
Taxi Fares	161.66
Transport Luggage	149.35
Total	15,230.19

It is important to note the nature of the position of the Commissioner of Police involves various policing responsibilities at the national level. The Commissioner does not participate in all conferences and seminars to which he is invited because of the time and financial costs involved. Further, the Commissioner has a policy of using his Corporate Card wherever possible, which results in actual costs only being claimed as opposed to claiming a daily travelling allowance rate. No claim is made on the Police Service for accommodation and meals received free of charge. The Commissioner's approach ensures the Police Service pays the lowest costs. The majority of conferences and seminars attended by the Commissioner have fixed accommodation arrangements and cannot be varied. There are at least five National Police gatherings that are mandatory, two Senior Office Group meetings, two Australasian Police Ministers' Council and the Australasia and South-West Pacific Region Police Commissioners' Conference. A number of other key conferences have been delegated to the Deputy or Assistant Commissioners.

POLICE

Suspension of Officers

30. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Police:
- (1) I refer to the suspension of six police officers by the Commissioner of Police on or about 12 December 1997 and ask upon what basis did the Commissioner act, given that no charge has been laid against the individuals concerned?
- (2) Given the conclusion of the Special Investigator upon which the Commissioner based his decision to suspend, would the Minister advise -

- (a) has it been standard police practice in the past for officers to grant effective street immunities and, if so, why has this practice been ended;
 - (b) was effective street immunity in the past granted as a result of any written code or guidelines provided to officers by the Commissioner or senior officers;
 - (c) if yes to (b) above, will the Minister produce such written code/guidelines;
 - (d) if no to (b) above, will the Minister indicate why officers have historically been left to make those decisions as part of their police work?
- (3) Is it correct that four of the six officers have never been interviewed by the Police Internal Investigations section in relation to any of the matters that are now the subject of their suspension notice?
- (4) If so, is that failure to interview standard practice?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The Commissioner of Police suspended the six officers on December 12, 1997 on the basis of information provided to him by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Section 8 of the Police Act 1892 expressly confers powers of suspension and removal from office of the Commissioner of Police. The preferring of a charge is not a prerequisite to the invoking of Section 8. The Section 8 process deals with a removal from the Police Service as a managerial prerogative rather than as a sanction. Since the Full Court decision of 22 April 1998 the Commissioner has stood the six officers down from all duties, on full pay, and reinstated all entitlements.
- (2) (a) It is unclear what the honorable member means by the term "effective street immunities" however, I advise:
- Police officers have no power to offer or grant immunity or indemnity from prosecution. This power is vested in the courts by virtue of Section 11 of the Evidence Act and in the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) by virtue of Sections 20(c) & (d) of the DPP Act. Police officer have discretion which is exercised when making a decision to charge a person with an offence. That discretion is inherent in their appointment to the office of constable. It is also provided by statute such as the Young Offenders Act. The exercise of discretion must be defensible and the constable exercising that discretion is accountable at law. Immunity should not be confused with the discretionary powers to prefer a charge.
- (b) Regarding "immunity" - Not applicable.
Regarding discretion to charge - yes. [See paper No 182.]
- (c) Regarding "immunity" - Not applicable.
Regarding "discretion to charge, documents suggested are as follows:
- (1) Extract from the Informant Management Plan (May 1994) - "Duties of case Officers".
 - (2) Extract from Informant Management Plan (May 1994) - "Duties of Supervisors".
 - (3) DPP Statement of Prosecution Policy and Guidelines (Government Gazette 14 December 1993; published on WAPS mainframe 18 January 1996).
 - (4) Commissioners statement "Exercise of Discretion not to Prosecute Indictable Offences" (published on WAPS mainframe computer database 15 June 1998).
 - (5) Discretionary Guidelines - media release (published on WAPS mainframe 23 January 1998).
 - (6) Guidelines for Police Attending Drug Overdoes (Commissioners Orders and Procedures Manual (AD-24.16).
 - (7) Discretionary Powers (Guidelines) (published on WAPS mainframe: 2 February 1998).
 - (8) Memo of Detective Sergeant Powell, Research and Liaison Officer, WAPS Drug Squad dated 30 March 1995.

I also refer the honorable member to relevant statute law which may impact on the accountability of a police officer when exercising the discretionary power not to charge:

Criminal Code	Section 82	Bribery of a Police Officer
	Section 83	Corruption
	Section 136	Compounding or Concealing Crimes
	Section 143	Attempting to pervert Justice
	Section 173	Refusal by Police Officers to perform duty

Police Act	Section 7	Commissioner may appoint non-commissioned officers (appointment, powers, privileges, duties)
	Section 10	Engagement to be Subscribed by Officers and Constables oath of office)
	Section 23	Disciplinary Measures
Police Regulations	Discipline Offences	

- (2) (d) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. Refer (1). Also the officers are no longer on suspension.
- (4) Officers the subject of a complaint or allegation may be interviewed in the course of an investigation by members from the Internal Investigations Unit, Internal Affairs Unit, Parliamentary Commissioner's Office or the ACC. Either of the external overseeing agencies may choose to investigate a complaint or allegation on their own motion or following referral by the Police Service. In this case the investigation was undertaken by the ACC.

HOMESWEST, NEWMAN

32. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many people are listed for Homeswest accommodation in Newman?
- (2) Of those listed, how many have been approved for priority housing?
- (3) What is the current waiting time for allocation of Homeswest accommodation in Newman?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) 86, including those listed for transfer.
- (2) 5.
- (3) The current month of allocation according to bedroom entitlement for Newman is:

1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
January 96	February 96	January 96	August 97

As a result of your question 1940, the building programme for Newman in 1997/98 was increased to 3 three bedroom properties, which are currently under construction. A further 3 three bedroom and 2 one bedroom properties are proposed for the 1998/99 building programme to address the current demand. Homeswest will also be proceeding with a project to provide a "safe house" for women escaping domestic violence during 1998/99. In respect to Parnpajinya, I advise that Homeswest is currently contributing to the upgrade of the water supply and associated services and during 1997/98 has undertaken considerable maintenance and upgrade of houses in the community. Homeswest is also looking at providing additional family accommodation to the community during 1998/99.

RACISM IN SCHOOLS

43. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Beyond the glossy brochure issued by his colleague the Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, has the Minister done anything to reduce the incidence of racism in our schools?
- (2) What if any progress is being made towards meeting the outcomes of the "Living in Harmony" programme in respect to the school initiatives?
- (3) Has the research into "what makes a welcoming inclusive and supportive environment" started?
- (4) Who will be carrying out the research?
- (5) What will the cost of the research be?
- (6) Who is responsible for the production of the posters, leaflets and the information package described in the outcomes?

- (7) How will they be distributed?
- (8) At what cost?
- (9) What will the liaison with the teacher training institutions achieve?
- (10) Who will fund any curriculum development costs if new anti-racism programmes are to be included in teacher training?
- (11) What is the time line for the overall programme?
- (12) What resources have been allocated to assist the meeting of the outcomes?
- (13) How will the success or failure of the programme be evaluated?
- (14) What statistics are being kept on existing racist incidents?
- (15) Who will be responsible for monitoring future incidents?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Education Department has developed a Code of Conduct that will be sent to all government schools in the near future. The policy aims to provide an environment for Department personnel and students which is free from racial discrimination and contributes in a positive way to helping each individual achieve their potential and contribute to society. The Policy identifies the responsibilities of management, staff and students in addressing racial discrimination and racist behaviour. The Education Department has also developed a set of culturally sensitive grievance procedures titled *Racial Discrimination and Harassment: Guidelines for Complaint Resolution*. These guidelines were developed to support the Anti-Racism Policy and to assist line managers to create and maintain work and learning environments that are free of racism and racial harassment and which provide students and employees with effective avenues of complaint and redress. The Education Department's Certified Agreement for Principals, Administrators and Teachers contains a specific clause on *Prevention of Discrimination*. This clause reinforces the responsibilities of all parties to eliminate discrimination and harassment in the workplace.
- (2) The Education Department has worked collaboratively with the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) and other relevant agencies during the development and implementation phases of the *Living in Harmony* and *Valuing Diversity* strategies and is a signatory member of the *WA One* Charter. The Department has provided resources to ensure the *Living in Harmony* package was delivered to every government school in Western Australia and provides professional development and support to schools seeking assistance in implementing the package. The Education Department has consulted with OMI to seek assistance with the implementation of *Valuing Diversity*. The OMI, with the support of the Education Department, has developed the *Virtual Postcard Campaign*, to be implemented in schools. The Campaign is based on the *Living in Harmony* theme and is consistent with the core shared values which underpin the Curriculum Council's *Curriculum Framework*. A teachers' support package has been developed in conjunction with the Campaign. It is intended for classroom implementation and includes practical and inclusive teaching strategies focusing on positive aspects of diversity. It is proposed that the campaign will run from June to August. Almost all government schools now have on-line access to the Internet and all Years 8, 9 and 10 students will be encouraged to participate in the campaign through Internet access. The Education Department will promote the *Virtual Postcard Campaign* through the *School Matters* and the *Ed Mail* publications. Individual and classroom posters will be distributed with the teachers' support package.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Ethnic Communities Council of WA will be responsible for conducting research in schools in collaboration with the Education Department and the Association of Independent Schools of WA to develop an inventory of Best Practice Models for managing cultural diversity, prejudice and discrimination in schools.
- (5) The cost of the research is approximately \$11 000, which will be funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests.
- (6) The Education Department will be responsible for the production of promotional material for its Anti Racism Policy as described in the 'Involving Schools and Youth' brochure in the *Living in Harmony* documents, published by the Office of Multicultural Interests.
- (7) Information will be included in the Education Department's *School Matters* and *Ed Mail* publications and circulated to all Department personnel throughout the State. The information will also be available on the Internet.
- (8) The cost of disseminating information about the Anti Racism Policy will be included in the normal circulation costs of the Education Department. As well, there will be production costs that will not be known until closer to the time of distribution.

- (9) Liaison with the teacher training institutions is intended to ensure that graduate teachers are familiar with the Education Department's Anti Racism Policy prior to their employment in schools.
- (10) The teacher training institutions will fund any curriculum materials they produce for use in their training programs.
- (11) The *Living in Harmony* document was launched in October 1997 and is the strategy to assist with the implementation of the Government's Multicultural Policy, *WA One*, which was launched in 1995. It is anticipated that the Education Department's Anti Racism Policy will be launched in September 1998, and be an ongoing initiative.
- (12) No special resources will be allocated to meeting the outcomes of the Anti Racism Policy. It is intended that the implementation of the Curriculum Framework, which is underpinned by the principles of inclusion and anti racism, will ensure that anti racism is embedded in all Education Department policies, structures, practices, methodologies and best practice models. Separate resources will not be allocated to meeting the outcomes of the Anti Racism Policy.
- (13) Performance indicators for the Education Department's Anti Racism Policy are being developed for line managers to ensure that the outcomes of the policy are being met at all levels. Certain criteria of the policy will be monitored 6 monthly and others 12 monthly.
- (14) Statistics are not maintained on complaints of racist incidents. The Central Office of the Education Department records complaints of breaches of the Equal Opportunity Act that may include complaints of racial discrimination and racial harassment.
- (15) The responsibility for monitoring future incidents of racism will rest with the line manager in the appropriate school or district or at Central Office. The duties of line managers are explicitly detailed in the Department's Anti Racism Policy including the process to be followed to ensure that complaints are appropriately dealt with and resolved.

STATE FINANCE

Taxes and Charges

64. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

In relation to all the portfolio areas for which the Minister has responsibility -

- (a) what fees and charges have been increased in the context of the 1998/99 Budget and the announcements made immediately prior to the Budget;
- (b) what is the rate of increase for each of these in dollar and percentage terms;
- (c) what is the estimated total additional revenue each of these increases is expected to raise;
- (d) are there any other increases in fees and charges proposed for the financial year 1998/99; and
- (e) if so, what are the details of these other increases?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (a)-(e) I refer the member to my answer of 8 September 1998 to Question on Notice 65.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT FUND

73. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Did the Minister issue a media release on 16 December 1997 concerning the Tourism Development Fund?
- (2) Is there a criteria which projects have to satisfy in order to be eligible to obtain funds through the Tourism Development Fund?
- (3) What is the criteria (copy please)?
- (4) Was a panel or committee established to consider applications?
- (5) What was the name of each person on the panel or committee?
- (6) What experience does each person have on tourism matters?
- (7) What was the amount allocated to each successful application?

(8) What applications did not meet with success?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

(1)-(2) Yes.

(3) A copy of the document is tabled. [See paper No 183.]

(4) Yes panels were established in each region. Please refer to page 5 of the Tourism Development fund document, which I have tabled, which outlines the Assessment Process Flow Chart.

- (5)
- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Kimberley | Alan Hines, Kimberley Tourism Association
Bernie Whewell, Broome and the Kimberley Holidays
Harvey World Travel
Martin Pearson-Jones, Moonlight Bay Apartments
Neil McGilp, Kimberley Wilderness Adventures
Ross McCulloch, WATC – Kimberley
Scott Robertson, Tour Desk Manager, Cable Beach Club. |
| Pilbara | Robin Crane, CEO Pilbara Development Commission
Rory Whitelaw, Pilbara Development Commission, who has since left its employ. |
| Gascoyne | Margaret Day, Chairman of the Gascoyne Tourism Assn.
Ron Onions, Local government representative from Shire Shark Bay
Phil Willis, Representative from the board of the Gascoyne Development Commission
Stephanie Tonkin - WATC Carnarvon |
| Mid West | Wayne Morgan, CEO Mid West Development Commission
Brett Pollock, President Mid West Tourism Promotions
Lesleigh Clarke, WATC – Geraldton |
| Heartlands | Don Bremner, Executive Secretary, Northam Tourist Bureau
Avon Valley Tourism Association
Damien Martin, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chris Tate, WATC – Northam |
| Perth | Brian Hearne, Tourism Council Australia
Quentin Harrington, Department of Commerce and Trade
Kevin Tonkin, WATC – Perth |
| Peel | Rod Quartermaine, President, Peel Regional Tourism Association
Greg Woolley, Project Officer, Peel Development Commission
Jim Sargent, WATC – Mandurah |
| South West | Janet Payton, South West Development Commission
Fred Robinson, Tourism South West
Russell Smith, South West Local Government Association
Mark Exeter, WATC – Bunbury
Jim Sargent, WATC - Mandurah |
| Gt Southern | Peter Cook, Gt Southern Development Commission
David O'Malley, Gt Southern Region Tourism Association
Henry Kujda, WATC – Albany. |
| Goldfields | Mayor Ron Yuryevich, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Ray Ciantar, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission
Shane Webber, WATC – Kalgoorlie |
| Tourism Industry | Development Advisory Board
Ross Hughes, Commissioner WATC (Chairman)
Veronica Howman, Caravan Industry Association (WA)
Tom Thomas, Proprietor, Compass Duty Free Shop
Jim Sharp, Conservation and Land Management
Graeme Robertson, Director, Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort
Laurie O'Meara, President Tourism Council Australia
Tim Shanahan, Executive Director WA Municipal Association
Simon Holthouse, Chairman WA Planning Commission
Shane Crockett, CEO WATC
Terry McVeigh, General Manager WATC |
| Board of Commissioners | Kevin Carton, Chairman
Ron Buckey, Aviation Consultant |

Annette Knight, representing regional tourism interests
 Rod Warren, Deacons Graham & James Lawyers
 Ross Hughes, Ross Hughes and Company
 Shane Crockett, CEO WATC

While I have not produced a detailed resume on each of the individuals involved in the assessment process, you will see from the names submitted that they possess a broad degree of experience in tourism and have extensive knowledge of the regional areas of this State.

(7)	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	\$ 48,000
	Argyle Diamond Mines Ltd	\$ 43,500
	Carnarvon Heritage Group Inc	\$129,900
	Shire of Carnarvon	\$ 15,000
	Murchison Shire Councils Ward	\$ 32,415
	Shire of Greenough	\$ 3,717
	Shire of Laverton	\$ 20,000
	Shire of Dundas	\$ 31,365
	City of Mandurah (2 projects)	\$ 80,000
		\$ 30,000
	Shire of Murray	\$ 6,650
	Wagin Historical Society	\$ 2,500
	Shire of Plantagenet	\$130,000
	Town of Albany	\$ 10,000
	Shire of Kojonup	\$ 40,000
	Shire of Jerramungup	\$ 22,200
	Town of Cambridge	\$ 55,500
	City of Stirling	\$ 38,500
	Shire of Harvey	\$ 23,975
	Shire of Busselton	\$ 8,000
	City of Bunbury	\$ 90,000
	Shire of Nannup	\$ 5,500
	City of Bunbury	\$ 91,000
	Cape Naturalist Tourism Association	\$100,000
	Augusta-Margaret River Tourism Assn	\$100,000
	Shire of Busselton	\$ 20,000

An amount of \$30,000 has been allocated to the winner of this year's Top Tourism Town.

- (8) Town of Port Hedland - Welcome Centre Interpretation Area
 Shire of Upper Gascoyne - Entry Statement
 Ngaanyatjarra Cultural and Civic Centre
 Shire of Murray - Heritage Trail Lighting
 Kukerin Agricultural Society Inc
 Shire of Pingelly - Tourist Information Bay
 Shire of Toodyay - Visitor and Interpretive Centre
 Shire of Williams - Entry Statement
 Town of Albany - City of Albany Entry Statement
 Albany Whaleboat Association
 City of Rockingham - Rockingham Foreshore Upgrade Stage 2
 Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
 Aboriginal Western Australia - Aboriginal Art Trail in Kings Park.
 City of Melville - Piney Lakes Environment Education Centre
 City of Perth - Heirisson Island Kangaroo Habitat and Fauna Reserve
 City of Stirling - North Beach Jetty Extension
 City of Bunbury - Big Swamp Development
 City of Bunbury - City Entry Statement
 Shire of Augusta-Margaret River - Upgrade toilets and new kitchen.

GRAFFITI

74. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:
- (1) What is the estimated cost of repairing Government properties damaged by graffiti?
- (2) With respect to Government buildings, what is the estimated cost of repairing or replacing glass or metal scratched or damaged by graffiti?
- (3) Has the Government carried out any research or reviewed any research on issues such as -
- (a) the prevention of graffiti; and
 - (b) the cost of coatings for -
 - (i) painted surfaces;

- (ii) glass; and
- (iii) metal;

that will resist graffiti?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Government agencies apply different approaches to estimating costs for graffiti damage. Some agencies do not distinguish between graffiti and other forms of damage or vandalism. On the basis of costs in previous financial years, the Graffiti Program estimates State Government expenditure on repairing graffiti damage is in the order of \$1.6 million, although total damage is estimated to be valued at upwards of \$5-6 million.
- (2) Scratch damage is a relatively new phenomenon, and it is at this stage difficult to estimate its overall costs. There is, however, no doubt that this form of damage is expensive, although it is not seen as a specific responsibility of the Graffiti Program, but is rather dealt with by individual agencies.
- (3) (a)-(b) The Graffiti Program is in regular contact with organisations involved in graffiti control both in Australia and overseas. The literature on graffiti was extensively reviewed before the commencement of the Graffiti Program in 1993 and the Graffiti Program continues to review the literature in relation to prevention, control and clean-up of graffiti. Individual agencies also review the literature in their areas of concern.

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE

Students on Academic Talent Programs

109. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

Why does not the State Government pay the isolated children's allowances to the parents of those children selected for the academic talent program who cannot access this program in regional schools and consequently study away from home in the metropolitan area?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Assistance for Isolated Children's scheme is administered by the Federal Government. The allowance previously paid to rural and remote students selected for special programs and boarding away to access these programs was discontinued in 1994 by the Federal Government when it tightened eligibility, reverting its allowance provisions to the original criterion of geographical isolation from a suitable school rather than specific courses. A local school offering courses at the applicable year level is considered suitable (eg. A District High School is deemed suitable for students up to Year 10, unless the student has a learning disability or health condition which cannot be catered for, or would otherwise be seriously disadvantaged). This change impacted on Western Australian government school students who were selected on the basis of an annual state-wide talent search and offered places in approved special programs in designated Secondary Special Placement Schools. It also impacted on students gaining admission to agricultural schools and colleges. Lack of a special program at a local school for a talented student is no longer deemed to be a serious disadvantage. The State Government has entered into discussions with the Federal Government in an effort to have the decision reversed.

MILLENNIUM BUG

143. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Is the "Millennium Bug" computer problem an issue for any of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) If so, when will those departments or agencies have installed and tested all Year 2000 corrections?
- (3) What have been the total funds expended to date to correct the "Bug"?
- (4) What is the total cost estimated to be to install all corrective measures?
- (5) Do those departments or agencies intend to engage external resources to manage the process?

Mr SHAVE replied:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 30 June 1999.
- (3) \$300.
- (4) \$150,000.
- (5) Yes, in part.

LANDCORP

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All Year 2000 corrections have been made and will be tested in September 1998.
- (3) No funds have been specifically applied for correction.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) No.

DOLA

- (1) The Department of Land Administration and its customers are highly dependent on the technology and electronic business infrastructure through which DOLA delivers its core services. It is therefore a high priority issue for DOLA.
- (2) DOLA has established target dates for completion based on complexity, business risk and subsequent impact on customers. A target date of March 1999 has been set for the corporate computing environment, July 1999 for embedded chips, August 1999 for the supply chain component and September 1999 for the personal computing environment.
- (3) To date, DOLA has spent an estimated \$600, 000 on the overall Year 2000 issue.
- (4) The overall cost of the Year 2000 issue to the organisation is estimated at approximately \$2 million.
- (5) Some information technology services in relation to Year 2000 issues will be provided by external contractors.

MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING

- (1) Yes.
- (2) December 1999.
- (3) \$19,050.
- (4) The estimated cost is \$425,000.
- (5) No.

MILLENNIUM BUG

152. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the "Millennium Bug" computer problem an issue for any of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) If so, when will those departments or agencies have installed and tested all Year 2000 corrections?
- (3) What have been the total funds expended to date to correct the "Bug"?
- (4) What is the total cost estimated to be to install all corrective measures?
- (5) Do those departments or agencies intend to engage external resources to manage the process?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Department of Transport

- (1) Yes.
- (2) By September 1999.
- (3) Transport has adopted a policy of addressing Year 2000 issues as an integral part of ongoing systems improvement and systems replacement. Approximately \$20 000 was expected in 1995 to address an issue with the Licensing system.
- (4) \$300 000 estimated for testing equipment and procedures for Year 2000 policy compliance. \$200 000 estimated for adjusting and developing new procedures for the delivery of services.
- (5) Transport intends managing this process utilising in house resources. Some external assistance may be required from time to time.

Main Roads Western Australia

- (1) Yes. However, it is being managed.
- (2) March 1999.

(3)-(4) Main Roads has been progressively eliminating the Year 2000 issue as part of upgrades and replacement of hardware and systems, when these have occurred since 1989. These costs are not separable. In addition, work has been undertaken specifically or predominantly to remedy Year 2000 problems and those costs inclusive of in-house labour total \$941 000.

(5) The process is being managed internally. However, external resources are being used for some of the work.

Westrail

- (1) Yes.
- (2) July 1999.
- (3) Approximately \$128 600 as at 18 June 1998.
- (4) Between \$465 600 and \$800 600.
- (5) No.

Fremantle Port Authority

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Before the end of December 1998.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) \$25 000.
- (5) No.

Port Hedland Port Authority

- (1) We do not believe that the "Millennium Bug" computer problem will be an issue for the Authority.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) The total estimated cost to install all corrective measures is \$32 000.
- (5) The Authority does not intend to engage external resources to manage the process.

Albany Port Authority

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Bunbury Port Authority

- (1) No, only minor changes necessary.
- (2) By July 1999.
- (3) \$41 170.
- (4) \$72 520.
- (5) Combination of external and internal.

Dampier Port Authority

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)-(4) Dampier Port Authority are in the process of spending approximately \$30 000 on new computer hardware and software, which will all be "Millennium Bug Free". However, this expenditure would have probably occurred in any event. Operational equipment (radar, wave/tide systems, etc) will be reviewed in 1998/99 but no specific amount within our consulting budget has been identified.
- (5) No.

Esperance Port Authority

- (1) The "Millennium Bug" is an issue for the Esperance Port, however, it is not considered to be a major issue.
- (2) By mid 1999.
- (3) \$1 500.
- (4) None anticipated.
- (5) No.

Geraldton Port Authority

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 31 December 1998.
- (3) \$5 000.

- (4) \$41 000.
- (5) Yes, to attend to the Port's accounting based computer program.

MILLENNIUM BUG

155. Ms McHALE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the "Millennium Bug" computer problem an issue for any of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) If so, when will those departments or agencies have installed and tested all Year 2000 corrections?
- (3) What have been the total funds expended to date to correct the "Bug"?
- (4) What is the total cost estimated to be to install all corrective measures?
- (5) Do those departments or agencies intend to engage external resources to manage the process?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(5) I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 153 of 8 September 1998.

TEACHER SHORTAGE

189. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Department evaluated the recent report of the Australian Council of Deans of Education, which anticipated a shortfall of 7000 teachers Australia-wide by 2003?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what is the result of that evaluation?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why not?
- (4) Does Western Australia anticipate a shortfall of teachers in either the short or long term?
- (5) If yes, what is the anticipated shortfall, and when will it eventuate?
- (6) Does the Minister have a long-term strategy for dealing with teacher shortages?
- (7) If yes to (6) above, what is it and what will the strategy cost?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Education Department of Western Australia, while recognising the value of the method used to project teacher demand and supply, disagrees with some of the projection assumptions. In particular, the assumed teacher separation rates do not reflect current trends and the surplus of teachers from one year are not accounted for in the following years. Further, the projections do not take into account the changed starting age which will result in a half cohort intake into Year 1 in Western Australian schools in 2003. According to projections presented in the report, Western Australia should now have a significant shortage of both primary and secondary teachers. This is clearly not the case.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Education Department is not anticipating shortages of teachers in Western Australia across all teaching areas. Overall enrolment numbers into tertiary pre-service teacher education courses suggest that significant long term strategies are not warranted at this stage. A minor shortage of Mathematics teachers has been identified and there are emerging shortages in Technology and Enterprise, Science, Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and Special Education.
- (5) The extent of the shortages in specialist teaching areas are relatively small. For example, based on current trends an additional 15-20 Mathematics teachers will be required each year over the next four years to meet the needs of the Education Department. A retraining program is being implemented to address possible shortages in the mathematics learning area. Extension of this program to other areas with potential teacher shortages is under consideration.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) The Education Department regularly liaises with tertiary providers to provide advice on employment trends and

areas of need. A Recruitment Business Unit has been established in the Staffing Directorate to initiate long term strategic planning in relation to recruitment. In addition, the Department has committed \$500,000 in 1998 to address teacher shortages in specific areas of need. This will include retraining for approximately 30 teachers in the area of mathematics teaching. The Department is also represented on the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) National Teacher Recruitment Strategy Taskforce which is currently undertaking market research and the design of a marketing strategy related to teacher recruitment. Lastly, the new country incentives package being developed will help in addressing the teacher shortages in difficult to staff remote locations. Over the next four years \$13.9 million will be expended on this initiative.

TERTIARY EDUCATION ENROLMENTS

190. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In each of the last five years, what was the total student enrolment in tertiary education courses in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the current total enrolment?
- (3) How many graduates are required annually over the next five years to meet the State's requirements for teachers in all areas?
- (4) How many graduates are expected over the same period?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Total enrolments in the Education field of study in Western Australian universities (including The University of Notre Dame Australia) in each of the last five years were as follows:

Year	Enrolments
1993	7,616
1994	7,276
1995	7,416
1996	7,499
1997	8,123

- (2) Current enrolments in all education courses are 7,762.
- (3) The number of graduates required annually will increase over the next five years because of the demography and ageing of the profession. November 1997 projections by the Department of Education Services suggest that the following graduates may be required in both the government and non-government sectors:

	Primary		Secondary	
	Graduates needed	Estimated supply	Graduates needed	Estimated supply
1999	340-500	240*	470-630	500
2000	410-560	550	470-630	600
2001	450-610	560	530-690	580
2002	500-650	Not known at this time	570-730	Not known at this time

*This figure is a result of the undergraduate teacher training course changing from 3 to 4 years.

Any potential shortfall in the supply of new teachers will be offset by the large pool of qualified teachers not currently in teaching positions.

- (4) November 1997 estimates of supply of preservice Education graduates for the next three years are as indicated above. The Education Department of WA is aware of possible shortfalls in the supply of teaching graduates in the next few years and is investigating strategies to address this.

UNIVERSITIES, SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

197. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

What available data is there on the effect of universities changing the satisfactory performance criteria for students in terms of subjects offered and staff attrition or change?

Mr BARNETT replied:

It would appear that the most frequently dropped subjects as a result of the change were wholly school assessed ones which do not contribute to the Tertiary Entrance Score (TES). The subjects most involved are Applied Computing, Physical Education Studies, Arts and Design, and Drama. Amongst TEE subjects, Chemistry seems to have declined. As a result of these changes, there may be a minor shift in the balance of staff required for different learning areas. Given some growth

in the system and the need for continued supervision of students who drop subjects in some form of supervised studies, little change in demand for staff would be expected. The impact upon students' breadth of study from changes to the satisfactory performance criteria will also be considered by the Review of Post-Compulsory Education which I announced in March this year. The final report of the Review is expected toward the end of 1999.

SCHOOL NURSES

219. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When did the Education/Health Departments establish a working party to consider the future of school nurses?
- (2) What are the working party's terms of reference?
- (3) Who are the members of the working party?
- (4) What representation do consumers have on the working party?
- (5) When will the working party seek submissions from interested parties?
- (6) When is the working party expected to report?
- (7) Will the Minister give a guarantee that the number of school nurses working in Government schools will not be reduced?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The first meeting of the Working Party was held on 22 September 1998.
- (2) The terms of reference are as follows:
 Identify the role of school nurses;
 Map current school nursing services;
 Describe health services required by schools;
 Design outcomes targeted by community school nursing services;
 Consider health service delivery models including interagency links; and
 Establish area and district based consultation processes and communication strategies.
- (3) Ms Dianne Kerr, Executive Director, Education Programs Division of the Education Department will chair the Working Party. The Working Party is comprised of representatives from:
 Area Health Services
 Nurse Managers
 School Health Nurses
 District Education Officers
 the West Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO)
 School Principals
 Health Department, and
 Education Department of Western Australia
- (4) Consumers are represented by school principals, officers from the district education offices and WACSSO representatives.
- (5) Although consultation and communication strategies will be utilised, no decisions have yet been taken on the use of submissions.
- (6) The Working Party will report in July 1999. Interim progress reports will be submitted.
- (7) It will be the role of the Working Party to provide advice on future directions, and therefore no guarantee can be given at this stage regarding employment levels of nurses. However, the Health Department has been given an assurance that the Education Department will continue to commit \$3.8 million each year to the provision of a quality health service and I can guarantee that the quality of care will not be compromised.
- (8) The report of the Working Party will provide advice on future direction.

CANNINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

223. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students attend the Cannington Senior High School Education Support Centre?
- (2) How many staff are at the centre?

- (3) What are the relative functions and positions of those staff?
- (4) When was the Education Support Centre established?
- (5) From what areas does the Cannington Education Support Centre draw its student cohort?
- (6) What is the budget for that Education Support Centre?
- (7) What parent representative from Cannington Senior High School's Education Support Centre was included in the process which led to the draft Local Area Education plan for that area?
- (8) If no such representative was included in the drafting process, why not?
- (9) What consideration has been given to Cannington Education Support Centre students in the planning process so far?
- (10) How has that consideration been demonstrated?
- (11) Would closure of the Cannington Education Support Centre be beneficial to the education needs of the students who attend?
- (12) If so, how, and if not, why not?
- (13) Does Cannington Education Support Centre provide an inclusion program for all year 8 students?
- (14) What other schools provide an equivalent program?
- (15) If Cannington Senior High School does close, will the Education Support Centre be relocated as a whole to an alternative school?

Mr BARNETT replied:

As at semester 1, 1998:

- (1) There were 40 students attending the Cannington Senior High School Education Support Centre.
- (2) There were 7.6 FTE at the Centre.
- (3) Positions and functions of staff are:

1 x Level 3 Principal - duties include 0.4 teaching load. Provides educational leadership and is responsible for the daily management of staff, delivery of appropriate programs and student achievement of educational outcomes.

3.8 FTE Level 2 Teachers - duties include a full teaching load including teaching classes which contain only education support centre students, classes which contain education support and mainstream students, and developing and implementing Vocational Education Programs and the Inclusion Program.

2 FTE Teacher Assistants - duties include assisting education support and mainstream teachers in the classroom, working on a one-to-one basis with students or in small groups, and performing duties at the direction of the principal and teachers.

0.6 FTE Level 2 Registrar - duties include managing the school accounting system and budget, maintaining the stock and controlling the purchase of school supplies.

0.2 FTE Library Officer - duties include maintenance and purchase of the Centre's library resources.
- (4) The Education Support Centre was established in 1992.
- (5) The Cannington Education Support Centre draws its student cohort from the following suburbs:

Beckenham	Forrestfield	Orange Grove
Bentley	Gosnells	Queens Park
Cannington	Huntingdale	Rivervale
Canning Vale	Karawara	St James
Como	Kenwick	Thornlie
East Victoria Park	Maddington	Victoria Park
- (6) The budget for the Cannington Education Support Centre (ESC) for 1998 is \$41 000.
- (7) The Cannington ESC was initially represented by the Principal in the drafting phase. Several parents of ESC students were involved in the discussions leading to the development of the draft local plan. This plan provided the stimulus for more detailed discussion of the specific issues once they had been identified and options for the

secondary school developed. Parents were involved in public meetings held during the drafting stages of the Local Area Education Planning (LAEP) process.

- (8) The matter of representation was managed by the school Principals with an understanding that a sub-committee was to be formed consisting of Education Support parents and staff. A committee consisting of educators and parents then developed the consultative report and options for Education Support students. Parents invited to participate in this process were, Mr Les Gilham, Mr and Mrs Lucas, and Mrs Rosetta Ferraro.
- (9) Consideration of Education Support students and their needs has been demonstrated through the drafting, consultative and implementation stages of the process.
- (10) Nominations for a working party have already been called to specifically identify and address the issues for Education Support students in the implementation of the Minister's decision.
- (11) The configuration of the Cannington ESC will only be addressed in the context of decisions made regarding middle school and the senior campus to be developed on the Cannington Senior High School site for 2001. The working party, through the implementation committee, will decide on this issue. The needs of the students will be paramount in this process.
- (12) If the current physical ESC site is closed and rebuilt, students will gain first class purpose built facilities. The configuration of these is yet to be determined.
- (13) Yes.
- (14) Armadale Senior High School ESC provides a similar program.
- (15) Cannington Senior High School in its current format will close at the end of the Year 2000. Decisions on the ESC will be made through the implementation committee after engaging appropriate interest groups.

ASIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS

Impact on Overseas Student Enrolments

241. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Asian economic crisis had any impact on overseas student enrolments in Western Australia?
- (2) How is the shortfall in revenue resulting from any reduction being managed by education institutions?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes. The two government senior colleges, Tuart College and Canning College, have experienced a 20% reduction in enrolments, apparently due to the Asian economic crisis. In addition, apart from anecdotal evidence from local institutions, the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs advises that the number of student visas issued has declined across most of the Asian markets. In spite of this, information from the public universities in fee paying overseas student enrolments from semester one are:

University	1997	1998	%
Curtin	5086	6014	+18.2
Edith Cowan	1492	1576	+5.6
Murdoch	1262	1329	+5.3
UWA	1593	1567	-1.6
Total	9433	10486	+11.2

Fee paying overseas students in university courses have increased by 11.2 per cent overall in 1998 compared with 1997, however, second semester enrolments are generally lower compared with last year's intake, perhaps reflecting the impact of the Asian financial situation. More precise information on the extent of this decline is not yet available.

- (2) It is understood that some institutions have responded through the introduction of flexible payment options for students' fees and are making regular adjustments to their short and medium term operations. Institutions are also exploring the commercial opportunities in non traditional markets such as the Middle East, India and Vietnam while maintaining a focus in the more traditional markets of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

EDUCATION

Goods and Services Tax on Non-government School Fees

315. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

Is it State Government policy to support the application of a Commonwealth Goods and Services Tax to fees charged by non-Government schools?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The recently announced Federal Government tax reform package has specified that education is to be "GST-free", which will mean that GST will not be applied to non-government school fees.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES WORKING PARTY

324. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a joint working party been formed by the Education Department and Health Department to discuss the future of school health services?
- (2) Who are the members of this working party?
- (3) When will the working party be calling for submissions?
- (4) When is the working party expected to report?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes. The first meeting took place on 22 September 1998.
- (2) The Working Party is comprised of representatives from:
Area Health Services
Nurse Managers
School Health Nurses
District Education Officers
the West Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO)
School Principals
Health Department, and
Education Department of Western Australia
- (3) Although consultation and communication strategies will be utilised, no decisions have yet been taken on the use of submissions.
- (4) The working party will report in July 1999. Interim progress reports will be submitted.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Impact of Labour Market Deregulation

330. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware the unemployment rate in New Zealand increased from a low of 6.1 per cent in 1996 to 7.1 per cent in the March 1998 quarter?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware the unemployment rate has increased notwithstanding all of the predictions that the unemployment rate would fall and remain low as a result of the labour market being deregulated?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the factors which have caused the unemployment rate to increase in spite of the labour market being deregulated?
- (4) Does the Government expect the unemployment rate in Western Australia to increase notwithstanding the labour market deregulation that has occurred under the Coalition government?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) If so, to what extent does the Government expect the unemployment rate to increase in this State?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The latest unemployment rate for New Zealand is 7.7% for the June 1998 quarter (Statistics New Zealand, *Household Labour Force Survey - June 1998 quarter*, attached). [See paper No 184.]

- (2) Using OECD figures, unemployment in New Zealand has decreased from 10.3% in 1991 to 6.1% in 1996 (Source: The Treasury (New Zealand), *The Economy of New Zealand*). Unemployment has slowly increased between 1997 and 1998, increasing from the March quarter 1997 at 6.5% to the current June 1998 quarter of 7.7% (Source: Statistics New Zealand, *Household Labour Force Survey - June 1998 quarter*, attached). [See paper No 184.]
- (3) Forecasts from the New Zealand Treasury anticipate unemployment to rise further over 1998 to peak at around 8.5% by early next year, then to decline in 1999/00 to 8% and in 2000/01 to 7%. It states the rise in unemployment reflects weak employment growth, as firms strive for productivity gains in the face of difficult trading conditions. New Zealand Treasury also expect economic growth to be down in the year to March 1999. It states lower growth in the near term reflect financial market volatility, lower confidence, drought effects and the downturn in Asia. New Zealand Treasury believes it is difficult to estimate its growth prospects given the uncertainty of the world economic outlook but expects the economy to show a modest strengthening towards the end of 1998. It states that its reforms of the past fifteen years mean that New Zealand is better placed to cope with the impact of the Asian crisis. (Source: The Treasury (New Zealand), *September 1998 Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, pp 3 & 7, attached). [See paper No 185.]
- (4) The Government expects unemployment to decline steadily this year and in future years. Western Australia continues to have the lowest unemployment of all States.
- (5) The Government expects robust growth in demand to underpin employment growth which will result in declining unemployment.
- (6) Not applicable.

DRIVERS' LICENCES

A Class

339. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to change the licensing arrangements so that drivers with an 'E' class licence will be able to acquire an 'A' class licence after a period of time without the need to pass an 'A' class licence?
- (2) If not, exactly what change is envisaged?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that driving instructors believe the changes which allow 'E' class licence holders to obtain an 'A' class licence without having to undergo a manual driving test will have a negative impact on road safety?
- (4) Does the Minister contend that such a change will not risk the lives or safety of the travelling public?
- (5) If so, what is the basis of that belief?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes, the Government intends to change the licensing arrangements when it introduces the National Driver Licensing System next year. Under the proposed changes, holders of 'E' class (automatic) driver licences will have their licence converted to an 'A' class (manual) licence upon the expiration of their provisional licence period (currently 12 months) without being required to undertake a further practical driving test. The adoption of this practice is in keeping with the Federal Government's 1990 Ten Point Road Safety Package and was endorsed by the then Minister for Police in 1995 (the Minister for Police was the Minister responsible for licensing matters at that date).
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) I do not consider that the removal of the 'automatic only' restriction without a further driving test will risk the lives or safety of the travelling public because:
 - the key skills required to drive safely in traffic (that is, scanning, speed and direction skills) are the same for all drivers regardless of the vehicle transmission;
 - vehicle handling skills are not the sole focus of practical driving tests;
 - research conducted both in Australia and overseas, has shown that people who pass their test in automatic vehicles and later drive manual vehicles do not create more risk on the road.

Studies conducted by Rogerson (1989) and Haworth (1994) showed that there are no clear road safety benefits in retaining 'automatic only' restrictions beyond the first year of driving. In addition, a number of Australian states have adopted this practice without any adverse impact on road safety.

RAILWAYS

Passenger Numbers

342. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the average numbers of passengers using each train travelling -
 - (a) Joondalup-Perth;
 - (b) Armadale-Perth; and
 - (c) Midland-Perth,
 between the hours of 7 am and 9 pm?
- (2) What is the average capacity of the trains running on those services during those periods?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)
 - (a) Weekdays - 134.
Weekends - 113.
 - (b) Weekdays - 175
Weekends - 125.
 - (c) Weekdays - 129.
Weekends - 83
- (2) Weekdays - 349.
Weekends - 312.

BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY, GREEN HEAD

353. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Minister made any representations to the Minister for Transport to have a boat launching facility constructed at Green Head?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Does the Minister and/or the Western Australian Tourism Commission accept that a boat launching facility at Green Head will enhance the tourism prospects in the area?
- (5) If so, has that view been communicated to the Minister for Transport?
- (6) If so, when?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes I asked the Western Australian Tourism Commission to take the matter up with the Department of Transport.
- (2) Early August.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) It is expected that a boat launching facility at Green Head will increase the appeal of the area as a destination for domestic tourists interested in fishing.
- (5)-(6) The WATC has communicated its support for the project, both verbally and in writing to the Department of Transport in August.
- (7) Not applicable.

BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY, GREEN HEAD

354. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government propose to allocate any funds in the 1998-99 financial year to construct a boat launching facility at Green Head?
- (2) If so, what funds have been provided for this purpose?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Have any funds been set aside in the forward estimates for the construction of a boat launching facility at Green Head?
- (5) What funds have been set aside in the forward estimates?
- (6) In what financial year have the funds been set aside?
- (7) How much has been set aside?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) Not for construction. Some further site investigation work is planned funded from recurrent budgets.
- (3) Application for Capital Works funding for this project was unsuccessful for 1998/99.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) \$350 000 is sought for construction, on the basis that the Shire of Coorow can fund the balance, estimated at \$250 000.
- (6) Funding sought in 1999/2000.
- (7) Not applicable, refer to question (5).

CRIME

Increase in Rate

356. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 16 July 1998 under the heading of "Top Cop Wants Answers"?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Assistant Police Commissioner is reported as saying "that crime was increasing across the country and it was as much a social problem as a police one"?
- (3) What action is the Government taking or planning to take to deal with the social problem referred to by the Assistant Commissioner?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Please refer to answer for PQ355.

SKYWEST AIRLINES PTY LTD

Perth-Busselton Service

358. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware if Skywest Airlines has scrapped the service it was operating between Perth and Busselton?
- (2) Does the Minister know why the service was cancelled?
- (3) If so, was the service scrapped due to lack of demand?
- (4) What was the total amount of Government subsidy provided to the airline to operate the Perth - Busselton flights?
- (5) Is the Minister aware if any other airline has taken up the service now that Skywest has vacated the field?
- (6) Is the Government providing any financial assistance or subsidy to that airline?

- (7) Since 1993, have any taxpayers funds been used to improve the Busselton airport?
- (8) How much has been spent on the airport since 1993?
- (9) In what financial years did that expenditure occur?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Skywest indicated that the Jetstream aircraft they were operating was too big for the route (and they had no small aircraft).
- (3) Please refer to response (2).
- (4) \$100 000.
- (5) Yes. Maroomba Airlines.
- (6) Yes. A support package is being provided jointly by the Government and the Shire of Busselton.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) \$3.5 million was paid under the State's Regional Airports Development Scheme.
- (9) Financial years 1995/96, 1996/97.

EDUCATION

Technology and Enterprise Budget Allocation

385. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister advise how much has been allocated in the Education Budget to implementing new technology and enterprise learning areas as recommended in the Government science and technology policy?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Post Compulsory Trial of new Year 11 and 12 subjects for the Technology and Enterprise Learning Area has been funded as follows:

1996	\$60 000
1997	\$42 000
1998	\$53 000

The Technology and Enterprise Primary Project designed to develop implementation models for Primary Schools.

1998	\$52 000
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The total project allocation is \$207 000.

Technology and Enterprise is one of the eight learning areas being implemented in the Curriculum Improvement Program over a five year period 1999-2003. An amount of \$5.5445 million has been allocated for implementing this Program in 1998-1999.

EDUCATION

Budget Allocation for Technology 2000 Project

387. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister advise how much has been allocated in the Education budget to implement the technology 2000 project?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Technology 2000 covers a number of strategic projects aimed at improving learning, teaching and management through technology. For 1998/99 a total of \$35.14 million has been allocated for the projects listed below:

Learning technologies	\$20.00 million
Internet in the curriculum	\$ 2.50 million
Technology focus schools	\$ 1.00 million
Satellite receivers in schools	\$ 0.65 million

EdNet	\$ 2.98 million
Technology 2000 secretariat	\$ 0.17 million
Computers for schools	\$ 7.44 million
Library automation	\$ 0.40 million
Total program allocation	\$35.14 million

RAILWAYS

Restrictions on Pensioner Concessions

413. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government given or is the Government giving any consideration to imposing further restrictions on Pensioner Concession cardholders insofar as when or under what circumstances the annual pass may be used?
- (2) Has the Government given or is the Government giving any consideration to placing restrictions on Pensioner Concession cardholders insofar as when and under what conditions such cardholders may elect to travel to Kalgoorlie using their annual pass?
- (3) Is the Minister prepared to give a commitment, on behalf of the Government, that there will be no further restrictions imposed on Pensioner Concession cardholders which further limit their opportunity to travel to Kalgoorlie on concession once a year?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(4) Due to a significant demand for travel on Westrail's country passenger services from both paying passengers and pensioners using their free travel entitlements, in 1996 restrictions were placed on free pensioner travel during peak travel times. A stand-by arrangement operated during the restricted period whereby any unsold seats 24 hours prior to departure of services were made available for free travel. The restrictions on free travel were necessary to avoid chartering private road coaches to cater for non paying passengers which could not be justified on economic grounds. In an endeavour to create a more equitable system, Westrail is putting arrangements in place to trial a quota system for pensioner free travel during the next school holiday period from 25 September to 11 October 1998 inclusive. The proposed quota system, which will set aside 20 per cent of available seating for free pensioner travel, will only apply to Westrail's heavily patronised services. Accordingly, the trial quota system will apply to the following services:

Perth Terminal - Albany via Kojonup road coach services.
 Perth Terminal - Esperance road coach services.
 Perth Terminal - Geraldton - Kalbarri via Eneabba road coach services.
 Perth Terminal - Albany via Bunbury road coach services.
 Perth Terminal - Kalgoorlie Prospector services (Friday evening services only).

All other services will not be subject to restrictions or quotas. The 50 per cent fare concession will remain available to pensioners on all services throughout the trial period. If the trial proves successful, consideration will be given to adopting the quota system for free travel during all peak travel times.

TRAIN TRAVEL PROMOTION

416. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Government/Westrail interested in promoting passenger train travel?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, what initiatives does the Government /Westrail intend to do to promote train travel?
- (4) Will the promotion of train travel include train travel to regional Western Australia?
- (5) How much has been set aside in the budget for the promotion of train travel to regional Western Australia?
- (6) Will any funds be allocated to the promotion of train travel to regional Western Australia?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) Will the Minister confer with the Minister for Tourism and the Western Australian Tourism Commission on ways to promote train travel to the regions in Western Australia?

(9) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

While there is scope for some tourism on Westrail's country passengers services, its core business in respect of those services is the operation of scheduled train and road coach services in response to community requirements. The following responses are provided in that context:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Currently, promotion of Westrail's country passenger services is by newspaper advertising, through booking and travel agent publications and Westrail's published timetables and it is intended that this will continue.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(6) Westrail has a budget allocation for the promotion of all of its country rail and road passenger services. Based on 1997/1998 expenditure, it is expected that approximately \$40 000 will be spent on promotion of train travel in 1998/1999.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8)-(9) Westrail already has an excellent working relationship with the Western Australian Tourism Commission for the joint promotion of tourist activities in this State.

VISITORS' CENTRE, BUNBURY

420. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the State Government supported the establishment of a visitors' centre in Bunbury to support the city and the surrounding areas?
- (2) Is the Minister aware if the Federal Government, in its recent funding round, rejected an application to provide funds for this centre?
- (3) Has the Minister made any further representations to the Federal Government to provide funds for a visitors' centre?
- (4) When were those representations made?
- (5) What level of financial support has the Minister requested the Federal Government to provide?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The WATC has supported the proposal in principle, pending the location of the centre. There was some concern at a local level over the proposed site for the centre. A new location is currently being discussed that would see greater participation by neighbouring shires and tourist associations. The WATC has allocated \$190 000 in its Tourism Development Fund to assist with the construction of the centre, however, again it is dependent on the planned location.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not recently, however, the WATC supported the funding proposal to the Federal Government and met with Federal representatives to discuss the project. Once the location and concept are finalised, the State would again, if appropriate, support an application to the Federal Government for grant funds.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) None specified at this stage, as the local community is still undecided on the location of a new centre.

TOURISM

Visitors to Kalgoorlie

421. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Does the Western Australian Tourism Commission have statistics on the number of visitors to Kalgoorlie?
- (2) What is the source of the statistics?

- (3) Are there any plans for further statistics to be provided from this source?
- (4) Will the Commission be obtaining statistics through a national survey?
- (5) What information on Kalgoorlie visitors will be provided through the national survey?
- (6) Will it provide the number of visitors to Kalgoorlie?
- (7) Will it distinguish between business and sight-seeing visitors?
- (8) Will it provide information on how many visitors come from each State and Territory?
- (9) Will the Government/Commission take the initiative to ensure these statistics include information on the visitors home State?
- (10) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Visitor arrivals to some accommodation types are collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and published by the ABS for some local authority areas. The time series for this collection was broken by a new survey methodology put in place as at the March 1998 quarter. As such, it is not known whether Kalgoorlie data will continue to be available.
- (2) Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Tourist Accommodation.
- (3) Local Government Authority statistics for the new series are not known at this time as this level of data is still being considered by the ABS.
- (4) The WATC will rely on nationwide statistics via the National Visitor Survey (NVS) which began collecting data in January 1998 and will become the national standard for domestic tourism activity.
- (5) The NVS data will be available only at the 'regional' (Goldfields) level.
- (6) No.
- (7) Data from the NVS will be available for business and other purposes.
- (8)-(10) It is expected that data from the NVS will provide information on visitor numbers from each State/Territory to the Goldfields region, subject to levels of statistical reliability.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING COURSES

Decline in Numbers

425. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of comments made by a representative of the Australian English Language Association concerning a downturn in the number of students coming to Australia which is likely to cost the industry three hundred million dollars in English language training alone?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm if there has been a decline in the number of overseas students coming to Western Australia to participate in English Language Training courses or other courses?
- (3) Has there been any estimate made of the loss of income from this downturn?
- (4) If so, what is the estimate?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No. I am not aware of any particular comments made by a representative of the Australian English Language Association. However, I am aware of an article that appeared in the Sunday Times newspaper on 26 July 1998 entitled "*Slump in Asian student entries*". This article suggested that enrolments of international students in English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) institutions across Australia had decreased by approximately 40 per cent and estimated earnings from ELICOS students were expected to decrease by \$300 million.
- (2) Yes. Anecdotal evidence suggests there has been a decline across most of the Asian markets, particularly with the shorter ELICOS and vocational educational courses offered through private providers, universities and TAFE

International. The Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs also advises that the number of student visas issued has declined across most of the Asian markets.

- (3)-(4) Some institutions have preliminary data on the reduction of income as a result of this downturn. However, the International Education market is very sensitive to market speculation and unqualified statements may cause further deterioration in the market. Further credible data will be available when the official Department of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) census is conducted and released around November 1998. There has, however, been a 20 per cent fall in TEE/Foundation enrolments at Canning College with an estimated income loss of \$320 000. There has been a similar decline in the percentage of international students at Tuart College with an estimated loss of approximately \$200 000. Expenditure on staffing has accordingly been reduced. Around a 15 per cent decline has been experienced in the August Start Bridging Program at Canning College at a loss of \$24 000. There is a similar decline in numbers at Tuart College at a loss of around \$26 000.

BUSSELTON TOURIST BUREAU

426. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a radio interview with Beryl Morgan, Shire President of the Busselton Shire concerning the Council funding and/or making a contribution towards the local Tourist Bureau?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that, according to the Shire President, there has been some local opposition to funding being provided to the Tourist Bureau?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention to provide funding to the Tourist Bureau this year?
- (4) What level of funding will be provided to the Tourist Bureau in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (5) What level of funding has been provided to the Tourist Bureau in the three previous financial years?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The Minister is not aware of a radio interview with Beryl Morgan, Shire President of the Busselton Shire concerning council funding for the Busselton Tourist Bureau.
- (2) The Minister is not aware that there has been some local opposition to funding being provided to the Tourist Bureau.
- (3)-(5) The Government does not intend providing funding to the Busselton Tourist Bureau in the current financial year. Whilst the Government does not provide direct funding to Busselton Tourist Bureau, it did, at the beginning of the 1997/98 financial year, enter into a fee for service based agreement via the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) with Tourism South West (TSW). In accordance with this agreement, TSW agrees to undertake a number of activities including, but not limited to, the production of a regional guide; support for an appropriate level of visitor servicing (ie through tourist bureaux); attendance at designated national and international trade and consumer shows; support for a locally produced television program; and, a commitment to the TCA's National Tourism Accreditation Program. These agreements are in keeping with the Government's commitment to decentralise activities and decisions to regional areas. The decision therefore with respect to the amount of moneys paid to the Tourist Bureau rests with TSW. As a result of the implementation of these new regional agreements, the WATC was able to increase the amount of moneys available for direct allocation to the regional tourism associations, by 35.5% over 3 years. It should be noted that prior to entering into this agreement, TSW required the approval of local government authorities and tourist bureaux in the South West region. The WATC understand that TSW has contributed the following moneys to the Busselton Tourist Bureau:

1997/98	\$13,000
1998/99	\$13,000

from its allocation from the WATC.

Prior to this, the WATC allocated \$13 000 plus \$7 436 as an Opening Hours Incentive Grant directly to the Tourist Bureau in 1996/97.

NATIONAL DAIRIES WA LIMITED

445. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Has any department or agency under the Minister's control have shares in National Dairies WA Limited?
- (2) How many shares does the department or agency own?

(3) What is the purpose of the share ownership?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

(1) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

NATIONAL DAIRIES WA LIMITED

447. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

(1) Has any department or agency under the Attorney General's control have shares in National Dairies WA Limited?

(2) How may shares does the department or agency own?

(3) What is the purpose of the share ownership?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

(1) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

NATIONAL DAIRIES WA LIMITED

449. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

(1) Has any department or agency under the Minister's control have shares in National Dairies WA Limited?

(2) How may shares does the department or agency own?

(3) What is the purpose of the share ownership?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for the Justice has provided the following reply:

(1)-(3) I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 447.

HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

453. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

(1) Was provision made in the 1996-97 Capital Works Budget for additions and/or improvements to the Hollywood High School?

(2) How much was actually spent in the 1996-97 calendar year?

(3) What was that amount spent on?

(4) How much has been spent in the 1997-98 calendar year?

(5) What was that amount spent on?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1) An allocation of \$2 million for alterations and additions at Hollywood Senior High School was announced in the 1996/97 State Budget.

(2) An amount of \$130 000 was spent in the 1996/97 financial year.

(3),(5) The total funds were spent on providing an upgrade to administration facilities plus improvements and alterations to materials/technology, music, library, science, food technology, computer studies and staff facilities, plus associated costs such as architects fees, furniture, fire prevention work, and minor contingency items.

(4) An amount of \$2.2 million was spent in the 1997/98 financial year.

EDUCATION

Organisations Funded

506. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the Education Department of Western Australia (the Department) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does the Department have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
 - (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
 - (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(6) Aboriginal Affairs Department - Youth Initiative \$ 5 000

Provision of funding for the production of a play about the problems of drug and substance abuse. A written report is required by the end of November 1998. It is a one off grant for this year only.

Association of Secondary School Registrars WA Inc \$ 4 000

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership arrangement between the Education Department (EDWA) and the Association to assist with country registrars' professional development opportunities. There is no commitment to further funding but negotiations will take place in this regard. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

Australian Children's TV Foundation \$27 000

Provision for the development, production and distribution of quality and entertaining audiovisual media for children. Funded since 1991/92, and although no formal agreement is in place there is an expectation of continued funding.

Australian Council for Education Research \$78 500

Independent organisation which provides research on a contractual basis to the Department on cross sectoral education issues. The Commonwealth Government provides 50 per cent and States, in total, provide the remaining 50 per cent. Funding has been provided since 1991/92 as the result of a Ministerial Agreement. The current funding is included in the forward estimates.

Australian School Sports Council \$15 000

This represents the Education Department's affiliation fee to the Australian School Sports Council to enable student participation in national sporting activities. This is an annual fee with expected continued funding, and has been included in the forward estimates.

Australians for Reconciliation \$90 000

The Education Department funds the Australians for Reconciliation Western Australia Incorporated to operate a reconciliation van to complement the Department's Aboriginal Studies Curriculum. A Service Agreement is in place with provision of funding for two years with a possible extension of a third year into 1999/2000. This ongoing expenditure is included in the forward estimates.

Chamber of Minerals and Energy \$20 000

To support the Chamber of Minerals and Energy's Mining in Society seminars and other educational programs. The grant is negotiated annually as the Chamber supports many of the Education Department's schools and programs (eg Quest for Excellence Awards). Ongoing funding support is expected and is included in the forward estimates.

Churches' Commission

\$100 000

Represents the Education Department's share of the Government's commitment to the School Chaplaincy Program of \$150 000 in 1998/99, \$200 000 in 1999/2000, \$250 000 in 2000/2001. In each year the Office of Youth Affairs will provide \$50 000, with the balance being provided by the Education Department. The program enables the location of chaplains in schools to provide pastoral care. A Service Agreement is currently being negotiated between the Churches' Commission, the Education Department and Office of Youth Affairs. The recency of this agreement has meant that the Education Department's increased commitment has not been reflected in the forward estimates.

Conservation and Land Management

\$ 6 000

This funding was provided to the Aboriginal Cultural Excursion Program to operate at the Hills Forest in Mundaring. Students were able to participate in this program which complements the Aboriginal Studies Curriculum. Funding was provided from 1996 for three years. The program will be reviewed at the end of 1998 to determine if funding will continue for 1999.

Curriculum Corporation

\$53 970

The Curriculum Corporation is jointly owned by all Education Departments across Australia. Its role is to develop and disseminate curriculum resources and materials. Core fees are established by the Curriculum Corporation Board. Fees are paid annually and are ongoing. The current level of funding is included in the forward estimates.

Curriculum Corporation: Benchmarking

\$30 391

Fees are provided from each State on a per capita basis for the development of the literacy and numeracy national benchmark. This agreement ends at the end of this year.

Dyslexia Speld Foundation 1997/98 Grant

\$40 000

The grant is to support work undertaken by the foundation in supplementing the services provided by the Education Department. The grant is reviewed annually and continued funding will depend on the outcome of the annual review.

Education.Au

\$30 028

As owner of the company, the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) is committed to ongoing funding if it decides to keep the company which provides the Education network Australia directory service. A review of the funding arrangements is proposed during 1998/99 and this will have an impact on the level of funding required by the company. Western Australia's proportion of the funding contribution is 4.8 per cent and is shared 50-50 between the Education Department and the Department of Training.

Focus School Project in Early Childhood Education

\$12 000

John Septimus Roe	\$3 000
Our Lady of Mt Carmel	\$3 000
Child Study Centre (UWA)	\$6 000

The Focus School Project in Early Childhood Education is a cross sectoral project for the development and dissemination of innovative programs for young children. The agreements conclude in December 1998 when the project ends. No further funding will be required.

Ministerial Council on Employment, Education and Youth Affairs

\$72 000

Contribution towards operating costs of the MCEETYA Secretariat and associated activities and towards Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board (AQFAB) operating costs and projects supporting implementation and monitoring of Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). This contribution is subject to Ministerial agreement between the States. There is an expectation of funding to continue, and funds have been allocated in the forward estimates.

Ministry of Justice - Pilot Project

\$29 800

This is a whole of government initiative, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, to address the cycle of Aboriginals offending and non-attendance at school. This funding has been included in the forward estimates.

Safety Houses Association

\$92 000

This is the Education Department's contribution to this community based initiative where children can identify houses as "Safety Houses" nominated to protect children. Funded since 1989/90 and reviewed annually with an expectation of funding to continue. Current funding included in the forward estimates.

School Sport WA \$25 000

An agreement with the Education Department is currently being negotiated which will cover all school sport resource commitments, including those listed for the future, and is to be negotiated annually. Funding is provided to:

assist Education Department approved interstate team coaches and managers with costs associated with their duties;
enable a meeting with country delegates, and to assist with funding for transport for statewide champion schools finals.

Current funding levels are included in the forward estimates.

School Volunteer Program \$30 000

Grant to support the School Volunteer Program to coordinate the placement of volunteer seniors in schools so they can assist students who are at risk in the areas of literacy and numeracy. There is an agreement to provide \$30 000 for the three financial years; 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 which is reflected in the Education Department's budget allocations and forward estimates.

Speech and Hearing Centre \$520 000

The Education Department funds the salaries of the teachers who work with children with hearing impairments. A service agreement is currently being negotiated. There is an expectation of continued funding which is included in the forward estimates.

The Polly Farmer Foundation Inc.
Gumala Mimuwarni Education Project \$100 000

This is a collaborative initiative between the Education Department, Hamersley Iron, Dampier Salt and Woodside Petroleum to provide education and work experience opportunities for Aboriginal students in the Roebourne and Karratha regions. It is a three-year agreement, which is consistent with the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiative Program (IESIP) funding cycle and finishes at the end of the year.

WA Council of State School Organisations Inc. \$180 000

The grant is a contribution towards the salary and operating costs of the administrative team. Current funding levels are included in the forward estimates. A Service Agreement is in place for three years from January 1998 with an annual review. The Agreement promotes the collaborative nature of working with the Education Department in the development of educational policy and enhancing the provision of government schooling.

WA District High School Principals' Association \$24 000

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership agreement between the Education Department and the Association. Additional support of \$6 000 provided in 1998 to allow principals to work on Education Department initiatives which are not industrial and have system wide implications. There is no formal agreement but funding is negotiated on an annual basis. The current level of funding is included in the forward estimates.

WA Education Support Principals' Association \$ 6 300

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership agreement between the Education Department and the Association. There is no commitment but negotiations will take place with regard to ongoing funding arrangements. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

WA Institute for Deaf Education 1998 Grant \$52 722

This grant supplements funding that is provided by WA Boards of Deaf Education to conduct courses in deaf education for teachers of the deaf. Further funding for the 1999/2000 financial year will be decided on the outcomes of a review early in 1999. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

WA Primary Deputy Principals' Association \$17 200

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership arrangement between the Education Department and the Association. There is no commitment to further funding but negotiations will take place in this regard. The current funding level is included on the forward estimates.

WA Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA) \$41 000

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership arrangement between the Education Department and the

Association. A special grant is to be made in 1998/99 for an induction program for principals and for strategic planning initiatives. There is no commitment to further funding but negotiations will take place in this regard. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

WA Secondary Deputy Principals' Association \$13 000

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership arrangement between the Education Department and the Association. There is no commitment to further funding but negotiations will take place in this regard. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

WA Secondary Principals' Association \$ 8 000

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership arrangement between the Education Department and the Association. There is no commitment to further funding but negotiations will take place in this regard. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

WA State Schools Registrars' Association (WASSRA) \$16 000

Support for their Annual Conference as a partnership arrangement between the Education Department and the Association to enable participation in formal professional development activities and networking. There is no commitment to further funding but negotiations will take place in this regard. The current funding level is included in the forward estimates.

WAPPA Business Centre - Aboriginal Education \$10 000

It is a formal partnership between WAPPA and the Education Department to work towards achieving outcomes to improve the educational opportunities and academic attainment for Aboriginal students. The agreement will formally cease at the end of this year with the opportunity of annually reviewing and reporting on the achievements of the agreement, as well as establishing the priority focus for the following year.

EDUCATION

Organisations Funded

507. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the Department of Education Services (the Department) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does the Department have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
 - (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
 - (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Organisation
Port Community High School
Catholic Education Office
Corridors Secondary Vocational College
Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation
Non-government Schools Psychology Service
(C/- Catholic Education office)
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre
Parents and Friends' Federation of WA (Inc)
Parkerville Children's Home
Australian Music Examination Board | |
| (2) | Organisation
Port Community High School
Catholic Education Office
Corridors Secondary Vocational College | 1998/1999
\$50 000
\$98 000
\$10 000 |

Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation	\$140 000
Non-government Schools Psychology Service (C/- Catholic Education office)	\$949 000
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre	\$82 000
Parents and Friends' Federation of WA (Inc)	\$71 000
Parkerville Children's Home	\$160 000
Australian Music Examination Board	\$100 000
Total:	\$1 660 000

- (3) Port Community High School: To implement government policy on assisting alienated youth at risk of not achieving in school along similar lines to the "Making the Difference" strategy.

Catholic Education Office: To implement government policy on assisting alienated youth at risk of not achieving in school along similar lines to the "Making the Difference" strategy.

Corridors Secondary Vocational College: To implement government policy on assisting alienated youth at risk of not achieving in school along similar lines to the "Making the Difference" strategy.

Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation: The provision of a range of children's services, including the Early Childhood Resources Library, professional development, parenting education and support for over 50 community groups.

Non-Government Schools Psychology Service (C/- Catholic Education Office): Provision of psychology services to non-government schools.

Fremantle Children's Literature Centre: To enable students and teachers to have direct contact with the writers, storytellers and illustrators of children's literature and their work.

Parents and Friends' Federation of WA (Inc): Operating costs subsidy.

Parkerville Children's Home: To support a unique program for youth who have an extensive history of failure to assist them to enter the workforce or continue with their schooling.

Australian Music Examination Board: To support the administration of music examination for Western Australians.

(4)-(5) Organisation	1999/2000	2000/2001
Port Community High School	\$50 000	\$50 000
Catholic Education Office	\$145 200	\$216 900
Corridors Secondary Vocational College	\$14 800	\$22 100
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre	\$82 000	\$82 000
Parents and Friends' Federation of WA (Inc)	\$73 000	\$75 000
Non-Government Schools Psychology Service (C/- Catholic Education Office)	\$1 040 000	\$1 129 000
Australian Music Examination Board	\$100 000	\$100 000
Total:	\$1 505 000	\$1 675 000

- (6) Yes.

CURRICULUM COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Organisations Funded

508. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the Curriculum Council of Western Australia (the Council) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does the Council have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
 - (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
 - (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) In the 1998-99 financial year the Curriculum Council will be providing funds to the Education Department of Western Australia (EDWA), the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) and the Catholic Education Office (CEO).

(2)	EDWA	\$1,090,800
	AISWA	147,600
	CEO	261,600
	Total:	\$1,500,000

This funding is being provided by the State Government for professional development in the implementation of the Curriculum Framework. It is being distributed according to the student numbers in EDWA, AISWA and CEO. These organisations have agreed to make an equivalent contribution.

- (3) Professional Development Guidelines prepared by the Curriculum Council identify the types of knowledge, understandings, skills and values which teachers need to acquire to successfully implement the Curriculum Framework. In addition a statement of the types of activities which sector/systems agree are appropriate for expending these funds has been stipulated in the funding agreement.
- (4) The Council is currently preparing a submission to the Government for the provision of funds for professional development for the Curriculum Framework in the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 financial years.
- (5) Unknown.
- (6) No.

MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Organisations Funded

509. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the Ministry of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests (the Office) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does the Office have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
- (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
- (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) List of organisations with which the Office of Multicultural Interests has agreements to provide funds in the 1998/99 financial year is:

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)
 OZ Concert
 Ethnic Communities Council Inc (ECC)
 Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Research Contribution (DIMA)

- (2) Amounts of grants payable for 1998/99 are:

NAATI	\$35,000
OZ Concert	\$30,000
ECC	\$80,000
DIMA	\$5,000
	220,000

- (3) The purposes of the grants are :

NAATI is funded under a Commonwealth States/Territories Agreement. Its major objectives are to establish and

maintain professional standards for interpreters and translators and to develop and implement a national system of registration and licensing. The contributions are indexed annually in line with a Commonwealth deflator adjustment.

OZ Concert Grant is the Government contribution paid to the OZ Concert Inc. Committee for the Australia Day (26 January) celebrations. This grant is provided under a triennial agreement, which ends in the 1998/99 financial year.

Ethnic Communities Council Grant is payable to the ECC to provide a representative advisory/consultative service to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests on policy and service issues concerning ethnic communities in Western Australia. This is provided under a triennial agreement which ends in the 1999/2000 financial year.

DIMA Research Contribution is paid under the terms of a Commonwealth/State agreement for research into immigration and multicultural issues of priority.

- (4) The Office is committed to provide some funds for grants in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.
- (5) The levels of commitments for the next financial years are:

	1999/2000	2000/2001
	\$	\$
ECC	80,000	(*)
NATTI	36,000	37,000
DIMA	5,000	5,000
OZ Concert	(*)	(*)

(*) Commitment dependent on a new agreement

- (6) Likely commitments are reflected within the forward estimates.

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION

Organisations Funded

510. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Services:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the State Supply Commission (the Commission) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does the Commission have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
- (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
- (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) Yes, the Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS).
- (2) \$2,682,000.
- (3) A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between CAMS and the State Supply Commission for contracting services performed on behalf of the Commission.
- (4) (a) 1999-2000 \$2,601,000
(b) 2000-2001 \$2,525,000
- (5) The level of commitment for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 financial years is for contracting services performed on behalf of the Commission.
- (6) Yes.

DEPARTMENT OF CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Organisations Funded

511. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does CAMS have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
 - (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
 - (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr BOARD replied:

I am advised :

- (1) Australian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC), a combined Federal, State and Territory Government body.
- (2) \$53,000 estimated.
- (3) To enable the APCC to function as a national forum for member governments to exchange information and experience and to develop co-ordinated policies in relation to procurement and construction policy.
- (4) (a)-(b) Yes.
- (5) \$55,000 estimated in each of the two financial years.
- (6) Yes.

MINISTRY OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Organisations Funded

512. Mr BROWN to the Premier

- (1) As Minister for Premier and Cabinet, will you provide a list of all organisations (including Commonwealth Government, State Government, local government and the private sector) the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet (the ministry) has agreements with to provide funds in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How much will be provided to each organisation?
- (3) Under each funding agreement, what is the purpose of the funds being provided?
- (4) Does the ministry have any commitment to provide further funds under the funding agreement in -
 - (a) the 1999-2000 financial year; and/or
 - (b) the 2000-2001 financial year?
- (5) What is the level of that commitment in each of these two financial years?
- (6) Is this commitment included in the forward estimates?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)
 - (i) Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS)
 - (ii) Football Development Trust (WA Football Commission)
 - (iii) Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - (iv) Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conferences (Australia) Incorporated
 - (v) Duke of Edinburgh's Award
 - (vi) City of Perth
 - (vii) Returned Services League

- (2) (i) \$77 000
(ii) \$50 000
(iii) Up to a maximum of \$50 500
(iv) \$2 000
(v) \$10 000
(vi) \$100 000
(vii) \$3 000
- (3) (i) Funding provided jointly with Family and Children's Services in accordance with signed agreement to enable WACOSS to continue operation.
- (ii) For sponsorship of the Drug Free message administered by the Western Australian Football Development Trust.
- (iii) To assist with the completion of the Flame of Remembrance Memorial at King's Park once all necessary approvals are granted.
- (iv) To assist fund expenses related to sending participants to the eighth Commonwealth conference in Canada, commencing in September 1998.
- (v) To assist the Duke of Edinburgh's Award establish a new "State Award for Personal Achievement" for people over the age of 25.
- (vi) State contribution to the City of Perth's Christmas Decoration Program for 1998.
- (vii) Provision for the State to meet 50% of estimated general maintenance costs of the State War Memorial in King's Park.
- (4) (a) (i)-(vi) No.
(vii) Yes.
- (b) (i)-(vi) No.
(vii) Yes.
- (5) 1999-2000 (i)-(vi) Not applicable.
(vii) \$3 000
- 2000-2001 (i)-(vi) Not applicable.
(vii) \$3 000
- (6) (i)-(vi) Not applicable.
(vii) Yes.

Information excludes donations that may be contributed to charitable organisations or appeals without an agreement to provide funds, and contracts for goods or services. In addition, details of financial support to the Royal Agricultural Society to undertake modifications to the Claremont Showground arena have not been included as no formal agreement is in place and no funds will be provided in 1998-99.

RETIREMENT VILLAGES

Review of Code of Practice

520. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Was a review undertaken of the Retirement Villages Act after a year of operation?
- (2) If yes -
- (a) will the Minister table a copy of the report into that review; and
- (b) what action arose out of that review?
- (3) When will the next review of the Retirement Villages Act 1992 commence?
- (4) Given the overlapping of the Retirement Villages Act and the Code of Practice for Retirement Villages why were the reviews not conducted simultaneously?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The Report by the Hon Minister for Fair Trading on the operation and effectiveness of the *Retirement Villages Act 1992* was tabled in March 1995.

- (b) Public submissions were sought on the report following its tabling. Recommendations relating to interagency liaison between Fair Trading and relevant Commonwealth officers and the standard charter for Village Disputes Resolution Committees were implemented. All recommendations relating to the *Code of Fair Practice for Retirement Villages 1993* are due to come into operation in October 1998. At the time the Report was released, the Commonwealth Government proposed changes to the regulation of hostels and nursing homes. As these changes would have had a significant impact on the existing regulation of hostels, and nursing homes would have inadvertently been regulated under the *Retirement Villages Act 1992*, progress of the Report's recommendations was postponed. The Commonwealth Government has now finalised its position in relation to these matters. Accordingly, the State Government has requested the Report's outstanding recommendations be assessed when the Act is reviewed.
- (3) Fair Trading is to commence the review of the *Retirement Villages Act* in October this year.
- (4) There are different statutory requirements for the review of the Act and Code, being every five years and three years (respectively).

SAMSON PRIMARY SCHOOL, FUTURE

564. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Samson Primary School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Samson Primary School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) 410.
- (4)

	1997	1996	1995
	413	421	414
- (5)

	PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
	65	41	49	45	56	39	59	56
- (6)

Year	PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
1997	62	50	43	50	38	60	61	49
1996	50	48	51	39	69	58	49	57
1995	38	50	43	64	58	51	50	60
- (7) 402.
- (8) 23.
- (9) 19.4 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.

(11)		1997	1996	1995
	Number	23	21	19
	FTE	19.4	19.2	18.2

(12) 6 (5.6 FTE)

(13)		1997	1996	1995
	Number	6	2	3
	FTE	4.9	1.8	2.8

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

MELVILLE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FUTURE

565. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education

- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Melville Senior High School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Melville Senior High School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All secondary schools in the Fremantle Education District are currently engaged in the Local Area Education Planning process. As part of this process, options for the future of schools in the area are being developed by a Drafting Committee comprising the District Director, Principals, staff, parents and student representatives. These options will be considered by the Education Department's Senior Executive before being released for further consideration by the community.
- (3) 650.
- (4)

1997	1996	1995
648	731	796
- (5)

Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Ungraded (Intensive Language Students)
151	121	131	127	85	35
- (6)

Year	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Ungraded (Intensive Language Students)
1997	120	121	130	125	96	56
1996	132	137	171	143	101	47
1995	137	169	189	139	126	36
- (7) 646.
- (8) 62.
- (9) 56.0 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	58	66	72
FTE	54.5	62.4	69.8

(12) 21 (14.8 FTE).

(13)		1997	1996	1995
	Number	22	21	22
	FTE	15.4	14.7	14.8

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

HAMILTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FUTURE

566. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Hamilton Senior High School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Hamilton Senior High School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All secondary schools in the Fremantle Education District are currently engaged in the Local Area Education Planning process. As part of this process, options for the future of schools in the area are being developed by a Drafting Committee comprising the District Director, Principals, staff, parents and student representatives. These options will be considered by the Education Department's Senior Executive before being released for further consideration by the community.
- (3) 1057.
- (4)

1997	1996	1995
1090	1061	1038
- (5)

Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12
228	240	270	201	118
- (6)

Year	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12
1997	250	287	249	195	109
1996	280	247	260	182	92
1995	251	261	295	155	76
- (7) 1015.
- (8) 85.
- (9) 81.2 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	83	76	78
FTE	77.7	74.8	74.7
- (12) 24 (17.1 FTE).

(13)		1997	1996	1995
	Number	23	22	20
	FTE	17.9	17.9	15.9

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

EAST HAMILTON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, FUTURE

567. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of East Hamilton Hill Primary School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at East Hamilton Hill Primary School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of full time equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) 240.
- (4)

1997	1996	1995
228	232	246
- (5)

PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
60	24	23	34	21	30	24	24
- (6)

Year	PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
1997	20	26	35	22	32	30	28	35
1996	27	32	27	35	28	25	27	31
1995	27	27	33	32	32	30	32	33
- (7) 237.
- (8) 15.
- (9) 12.4 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	15	15	15
FTE	13.1	13.8	13.8
- (12) 7 (5.1 FTE).
- (13)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	6	5	7
FTE	4.4	4.1	4.4

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

COOLBELLUP PRIMARY SCHOOL, FUTURE

568. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Coolbellup Primary School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Coolbellup Primary School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) 92.
- (4)

1997	1996	1995							
88	84	116							
- (5)

PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	
15	19	8	12	9	12	9	8	
- (6)

Year	PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
1997	17	7	12	7	14	9	8	14
1996	0	13	8	15	10	12	14	12
1995	0	16	20	12	16	19	13	20
- (7) 94.
- (8) 6.
- (9) 5.1 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	6	7	9
FTE	5.4	6.5	8.0
- (12) 4 (3.7 FTE).
- (13)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	4	3	4
FTE	3.7	2.7	3.0

Note: Students and staff numbers are as at semester one.

KOORILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, FUTURE

569. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Koorilla Primary School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?

- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Koorilla Primary School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) 230.
- (4)

1997	1996	1995
221	219	221
- (5)

PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
21	25	33	25	41	28	27	30
- (6)

Year	PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
1997	23	29	28	35	28	24	29	25
1996	26	29	34	29	27	26	23	25
1995	23	37	27	31	28	25	25	25
- (7) 227.
- (8) 16.
- (9) 13.5 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	14	14	14
FTE	12.8	11.4	12.3
- (12) 8 (6.3 FTE).
- (13)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	6	7	7
FTE	4.6	5.4	5.7

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

KARDINYA PRIMARY SCHOOL, FUTURE

570. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:
- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Kardinya Primary School?
 - (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
 - (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Kardinya Primary School?
 - (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
 - (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
 - (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?

- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?
- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) 842.
- (4)

1997		1996		1995					
776		805		779					
- (5)

PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
146	88	88	91	104	103	117	105
- (6)

Year	PPR	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07
1997	96	87	91	105	95	114	102	86
1996	94	101	107	102	111	113	83	94
1995	94	105	101	106	114	86	94	79
- (7) 830.
- (8) 39.
- (9) 34.1 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	40	40	40
FTE	33.9	34.4	33.6
- (12) 13 (10.7 FTE).
- (13)

	1997	1996	1995
Number	15	10	10
FTE	11.4	9.0	9.1

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

HILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, FUTURE

571. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education;
- (1) Has any recent analysis been done on the long term future of Hilton Primary School?
- (2) If so, by whom was it done and what was the result of that analysis?
- (3) How many students are currently enrolled at Hilton Primary School?
- (4) How does that figure compare with enrolments for the past three years?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the enrolment figure for this year by year of study?
- (6) How do those figures compare with the figures for the previous three years?
- (7) Is there a projected enrolment for 1999 and, if so, what is that figure?
- (8) How many teachers are at the school?
- (9) Can this figure be provided in terms of Full Time Equivalents and if so, what is that figure?
- (10) If not, what breakdown can be given?

- (11) How do those teaching figures for this year compare with figures for the previous three years?
- (12) What non-teaching support staff are at the school?
- (13) How does that figure compare with the three previous years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) 242.
- (4)
- | | 1997 | 1996 | 1995 |
|--|------|------|------|
| | 281 | 275 | 297 |
- (5)
- | PPR | Y01 | Y02 | Y03 | Y04 | Y05 | Y06 | Y07 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 42 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 36 | 29 | 35 | 26 |
- (6)
- | Year | PPR | Y01 | Y02 | Y03 | Y04 | Y05 | Y06 | Y07 |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1997 | 47 | 31 | 31 | 38 | 32 | 43 | 28 | 31 |
| 1996 | 49 | 28 | 36 | 27 | 34 | 29 | 27 | 45 |
| 1995 | 47 | 40 | 32 | 40 | 33 | 27 | 46 | 32 |
- (7) 239.
- (8) 20.
- (9) 16.2 FTE.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11)
- | | 1997 | 1996 | 1995 |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Number | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| FTE | 16.2 | 15.6 | 16.8 |
- (12) 8 (6.1 FTE).
- (13)
- | | 1997 | 1996 | 1995 |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Number | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| FTE | 6.6 | 4.7 | 5.5 |

Note: Student and staff numbers are as at semester one.

HILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEANING CONTRACT

578. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is school cleaning currently contracted out to private cleaners at Hilton Primary School?
- (2) If yes, which company holds the cleaning contract?
- (3) What standards and guidelines have been issued to the company which holds the cleaning contract at Hilton Primary School?
- (4) Has the school administration or the Parents and Citizens Association at Hilton Primary School made any complaints regarding the cleaning services since the school cleaning was contracted out?
- (5) If so -
- how many complaints have been made; and
 - what action was taken following these complaints?
- (6) Has the Education Department ever had cause to cancel a cleaning contract at Hilton Primary School?
- (7) If so, what was the reason for the contract termination?
- (8) Can the Education Department, under the terms of the contract, take disciplinary action against a cleaning contractor for failure to adhere to the terms of the contract?
- (9) If so, what action can be taken?
- (10) Has the Education Department ever taken disciplinary action under the contract against a cleaning contractor at Hilton Primary School?

- (11) If so, when?
- (12) What was the reason in each of these cases?
- (13) What procedure does Hilton Primary School have to go through to register a complaint with -
 - (a) the contracted cleaning company; and/or
 - (b) the Education Department?
- (14) What procedures does the Education Department have in place to deal with these complaints?
- (15) What procedures does the company who is contracted to clean Hilton Primary School have in place to deal with complaints about the standard of school cleaning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Linfoot Cleaning Services.
- (3) The required cleaning services and cleaning standards are defined in Schedule 1 of the Cleaning Services Contract. [See paper No 188.]
- (4) Yes.
- (5)
 - (a) Six (6) written complaints.
 - (b) A Property Services Officer liaised with the contractor and the school until all issues were resolved.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Failure to remedy breaches specified in the notice of default.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) The cleaning contract (Clause 28) allows the Department to terminate the contract and sue for damages where there is a breach of the contract. Contractors who have a contract terminated are ineligible to be awarded contracts for two (2) years. If a Contractor surrenders a contract, they are ineligible to be awarded a contract for one (1) year.
- (10) Yes.
- (11) 31 May 1996.
- (12) Failure to remedy breaches specified in the notice of default.
- (13) The Dispute Resolution process is outlined in Clause 27 of the contract. Schools are required to report complaints to the contract cleaning company in the first instance (Level 1 Dispute in the contract). Where the dispute cannot be resolved by the Contractor and the school, the complaint is then referred to the Department (Level 2 Dispute in the contract).
- (14) The contract requires the Contractor and the school to maintain a communications book as a record of complaints and compliments, and appropriate action about the cleaning of the school. Where the Contractor and the school cannot resolve a complaint, the complaint may be referred to the District Office for resolution (Level 2 Dispute in the contract). Should the complaint remain at issue, it is then referred to the Department's Property Services Officer for resolution with the Managing Director of the Contractor (Level 3 Dispute in the contract). If the dispute is not resolved within 30 days of it first arising, the Department may terminate the contract and sue for damages. The Contractor may choose to surrender the contract, rather than having the contract terminated.
- (15) The contractor must maintain at each school a communications book into which either party must enter details of issues requiring attention. The communication book must be reviewed on a daily basis. The Contractor's Site Supervisor must be in attendance at each school at the commencement of each school day as agreed by the relevant Principal for the purpose of opening the school for use, disarming any alarm system and communication with the Principal. In addition, a contract requirement provides for monthly on-site meetings between the Principal or nominated school representative and the Contractor to nominated representative to partially inspect the school and to agree upon a quality rating of cleaning standards.

WILLAGEE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEANING CONTRACT

579. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is school cleaning currently contracted out to private cleaners at Willagee Primary School?

- (2) If yes, which company holds the cleaning contract?
- (3) What standards and guidelines have been issued to the company which holds the cleaning contract at Willagee Primary School?
- (4) Has the school administration or the Parents and Citizens Association at Willagee Primary School made any complaints regarding the cleaning services since the school cleaning was contracted out?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) how many complaints have been made; and
 - (b) what action was taken following these complaints?
- (6) Has the Education Department ever had cause to cancel a cleaning contract at Willagee Primary School?
- (7) If so, what was the reason for the contract termination?
- (8) Can the Education Department, under the terms of the contract, take disciplinary action against a cleaning contractor for failure to adhere to the terms of the contract?
- (9) If so, what action can be taken?
- (10) Has the Education Department ever taken disciplinary action under the contract against a cleaning contractor at Willagee Primary School?
- (11) If so, when?
- (12) What was the reason in each of these cases?
- (13) What procedure does Willagee Primary School have to go through to register a complaint with -
 - (a) the contracted cleaning company; and/or
 - (b) the Education Department?
- (14) What procedures does the Education Department have in place to deal with these complaints?
- (15) What procedures does the company who is contracted to clean Willagee Primary School have in place to deal with complaints about the standard of school cleaning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Airlite Cleaning Pty Ltd.
- (3) The required cleaning services and cleaning standards are defined in Schedule 1 of the Cleaning Services Contract. [See paper No 188]
- (4) None recorded.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) No.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) The cleaning contract (Clause 28) allows the Department to terminate the contract and sue for damages where there is a breach of the contract. Contractors who have a contract terminated are ineligible to be awarded contracts for two (2) years. If a Contractor surrenders a contract, they are ineligible to be awarded a contract for one (1) year.
- (10) No.
- (11)-(12) Not applicable.
- (13) The Dispute Resolution process is outlined in Clause 27 of the contract. Schools are required to report complaints to the contract cleaning company in the first instance (Level 1 Dispute in the contract). Where the dispute cannot be resolved by the Contractor and the school, the complaint is then referred to the Department (Level 2 Dispute in the contract).
- (14) The contract requires the Contractor and the school to maintain a communications book as a record of complaints

and compliments, and appropriate action about the cleaning of the school. Where the Contractor and the school cannot resolve a complaint, the complaint may be referred to the District Office for resolution (Level 2 Dispute in the contract). Should the complaint remain at issue, it is then referred to the Department's Property Services Officer for resolution with the Managing Director of the Contractor (Level 3 Dispute in the contract). If the dispute is not resolved within 30 days of it first arising, the Department may terminate the contract and sue for damages. The Contractor may choose to surrender the contract, rather than having the contract terminated.

- (15) The contractor must maintain at each school a communications book into which either party must enter details of issues requiring attention. The communications book must be reviewed on a daily basis. The Contractor's Site Supervisor must be in attendance at each school at the commencement of each school day as agreed by the relevant Principal for the purpose of opening the school for use, disarming any alarm system and communication with the Principal. In addition, a contract requirement provides for monthly on-site meetings between the Principal or nominated school representative and the Contractor or nominated representative to partially inspect the school and to agree upon a quality rating of cleaning standards.

SAMSON PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEANING CONTRACT

580. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is school cleaning currently contracted out to private cleaners at Samson Primary School?
- (2) If yes, which company holds the cleaning contract?
- (3) What standards and guidelines have been issued to the company which holds the cleaning contract at Samson Primary School?
- (4) Has the school administration or the Parents and Citizens Association at Samson Primary School made any complaints regarding the cleaning services since the school cleaning was contracted out?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) how many complaints have been made; and
 - (b) what action was taken following these complaints?
- (6) Has the Education Department ever had cause to cancel a cleaning contract at Samson Primary School?
- (7) If so, what was the reason for the contract termination?
- (8) Can the Education Department, under the terms of the contract, take disciplinary action against a cleaning contractor for failure to adhere to the terms of the contract?
- (9) If so, what action can be taken?
- (10) Has the Education Department ever taken disciplinary action under the contract against a cleaning contractor at Samson Primary School?
- (11) If so, when?
- (12) What was the reason in each of these cases?
- (13) What procedure does Samson Primary School have to go through to register a complaint with -
 - (a) the contracted cleaning company; and/or
 - (b) the Education Department?
- (14) What procedures does the Education Department have in place to deal with these complaints?
- (15) What procedures does the company who is contracted to clean Samson Primary School have in place to deal with complaints about the standard of school cleaning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(15) Samson Primary School is cleaned by Education Department employees.

NORTH LAKE SENIOR CAMPUS, CLEANING CONTRACT

581. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is school cleaning currently contracted out to private cleaners at North Lake Senior Campus?
- (2) If yes, which company holds the cleaning contract?

- (3) What standards and guidelines have been issued to the company which holds the cleaning contract at North Lake Senior Campus?
- (4) Has the school administration or the Parents and Citizens Association at North Lake Senior Campus made any complaints regarding the cleaning services since the school cleaning was contracted out?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) how many complaints have been made; and
 - (b) what action was taken following these complaints?
- (6) Has the Education Department ever had cause to cancel a cleaning contract at North Lake Senior Campus?
- (7) If so, what was the reason for the contract termination?
- (8) Can the Education Department, under the terms of the contract, take disciplinary action against a cleaning contractor for failure to adhere to the terms of the contract?
- (9) If so, what action can be taken?
- (10) Has the Education Department ever taken disciplinary action under the contract against a cleaning contractor at North Lake Senior Campus?
- (11) If so, when?
- (12) What was the reason in each of these cases?
- (13) What procedure does North Lake Senior Campus have to go through to register a complaint with -
 - (a) the contracted cleaning company; and/or
 - (b) the Education Department?
- (14) What procedures does the Education Department have in place to deal with these complaints?
- (15) What procedures does the company who is contracted to clean North Lake Senior Campus have in place to deal with complaints about the standard of school cleaning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(15) North Lake Senior Campus is cleaned by Education Department employees.

CARAWATHA PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEANING CONTRACT

582. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is school cleaning currently contracted out to private cleaners at Carawatha Primary School?
- (2) If yes, which company holds the cleaning contract?
- (3) What standards and guidelines have been issued to the company which holds the cleaning contract at Carawatha Primary School?
- (4) Has the school administration or the Parents and Citizens Association at Carawatha Primary School made any complaints regarding the cleaning services since the school cleaning was contracted out?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) how many complaints have been made; and
 - (b) what action was taken following these complaints?
- (6) Has the Education Department ever had cause to cancel a cleaning contract at Carawatha Primary School?
- (7) If so, what was the reason for the contract termination?
- (8) Can the Education Department, under the terms of the contract, take disciplinary action against a cleaning contractor for failure to adhere to the terms of the contract?
- (9) If so, what action can be taken?
- (10) Has the Education Department ever taken disciplinary action under the contract against a cleaning contractor at Carawatha Primary School?

- (11) If so, when?
- (12) What was the reason in each of these cases?
- (13) What procedure does Carawatha Primary School have to go through to register a complaint with -
 - (a) the contracted cleaning company; and/or
 - (b) the Education Department?
- (14) What procedures does the Education Department have in place to deal with these complaints?
- (15) What procedures does the company who is contracted to clean Carawatha Primary School have in place to deal with complaints about the standard of school cleaning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Airlite Cleaning Pty Ltd.
- (3) The required cleaning services and cleaning standards are defined in Schedule 1 of the Cleaning Services Contract. [See paper No 188.]
- (4) None recorded.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) No.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) The cleaning contract (Clause 28) allows the Department to terminate the contract and sue for damages where there is a breach of the contract. Contractors who have a contract terminated are ineligible to be awarded contracts for two (2) years. If a Contractor surrenders a contract, they are ineligible to be awarded a contract for one (1) year.
- (10) No.
- (11)-(12) Not applicable.
- (13) The Dispute Resolution process is outlined in Clause 27 of the contract. Schools are required to report complaints to the contract cleaning company in the first instance (Level 1 Dispute in the contract). Where the dispute cannot be resolved by the Contractor and the school, the complaint is then referred to the Department (Level 2 Dispute in the contract).
- (14) The contract requires the Contractor and the school to maintain a communications book as a record of complaints and compliments, and appropriate action about the cleaning of the school. Where the Contractor and the school cannot resolve a complaint, the complaint may be referred to the District Office for resolution (Level 2 Dispute in the contract). Should the complaint remain at issue, it is then referred to the Department's Property Services Officer for resolution with the Managing Director of the Contractor (Level 3 Dispute in the contract). If the dispute is not resolved within 30 days of it first arising, the Department may terminate the contract and sue for damages. The Contractor may choose to surrender the contract, rather than having the contract terminated.
- (15) The contractor must maintain at each school a communications book into which either party must enter details of issues requiring attention. The communications book must be reviewed on a daily basis. The Contractor's Site Supervisor must be in attendance at each school at the commencement of each school day as agreed by the relevant Principal for the purpose of opening the school for use, disarming any alarm system and communication with the Principal. In addition, a contract requirement provides for monthly on-site meetings between the Principal or nominated school representative and the Contractor or nominated representative to partially inspect the school and to agree upon a quality rating of cleaning standards.

KARDINYA PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEANING CONTRACT

583. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is school cleaning currently contracted out to private cleaners at Kardinya Primary School?
- (2) If yes, which company holds the cleaning contract?

- (3) What standards and guidelines have been issued to the company which holds the cleaning contract at Kardinya Primary School?
- (4) Has the school administration or the Parents and Citizens Association at Kardinya Primary School made any complaints regarding the cleaning services since the school cleaning was contacted out?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) how many complaints have been made; and
 - (b) what action was taken following these complaints?
- (6) Has the Education Department ever had cause to cancel a cleaning contract at Kardinya Primary School?
- (7) If so, what was the reason for the contract termination?
- (8) Can the Education Department, under the terms of the contract, take disciplinary action against a cleaning contractor for failure to adhere to the terms of the contract?
- (9) If so, what action can be taken?
- (10) Has the Education Department ever taken disciplinary action under the contract against a cleaning contractor at Kardinya Primary School?
- (11) If so, when?
- (12) What was the reason in each of these cases?
- (13) What procedure does Kardinya Primary School have to go through to register a complaint with -
 - (a) the contracted cleaning company; and/or
 - (b) the Education Department?
- (14) What procedures does the Education Department have in place to deal with these complaints?
- (15) What procedures does the company who is contracted to clean Kardinya Primary School have in place to deal with complaints about the standard of school cleaning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(15) Kardinya Primary School is cleaned by Education Department employees.

TAXI USER SUBSIDY SCHEME APPLICATIONS

586. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many applications for the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme were submitted in -
 - (a) 1996;
 - (b) 1997; and
 - (c) 1998?
- (2) How many applications for the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme were approved in -
 - (a) 1996;
 - (b) 1997; and
 - (c) 1998?
- (3) When was the last review of the Taxi Users Subsidy Scheme undertaken?
- (4) Why was the review undertaken?
- (5) What were the recommendations of that review?
- (6) When were the changes arising from that review implemented?
- (7) As a result of those changes, how many people who were previously eligible have become ineligible for the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme?
- (8) What consultation was undertaken with community groups representing people with disabilities?
- (9) How many people who have had their Taxi User Subsidy Scheme application rejected have applied to have their case reviewed since 1 June 1997?

(10) How many of these people were successful in having their case reviewed favourably?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) (a) 4 372
(b) 7 960
(c) 5 035
- (2) (a) 3 434
(b) 7 080
(c) 4 595

The review of all existing members of the scheme began in July 1997 and will take approximately 18 months to complete. Therefore, the above figures for 1997 include new members/applicants and review of existing members for the period July to December. The 1998 figures are to the end of August 1998 and include new members/applicants and the review of existing members.

- (3) 1995.
- (4) As part of a process to reach agreement with complainants under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) which resulted in fundamental changes to the scheme to improve equity, access and effectiveness for people with severe disabilities.
- (5) That the eligibility for membership of the Taxi Users' Subsidy Scheme (TUSS) change from a medically based to a functionally based eligibility criteria. The changes include:

New functionally based eligibility criteria;
An increased level of subsidy, from 50 per cent to 75 per cent, for people who use wheelchairs; and
Temporary membership.
- (6) 1 July 1997.
- (7) 368.
- (8) Extensive consultation was undertaken with many community groups representing people with disabilities through a series of workshops held in conjunction with the program for door to door transport, formed as part of a conciliation agreement between three people with disabilities, the Department of Transport and myself. These groups included representatives from the Disability Services Commission, Lady Lawley Cottages, ACTIV Foundation, Workpower, Workplus Employment Services, Recreation Network Inc, Perth Homecare Services, Head Injured Society of WA Inc, Royal (WA) Institute for the Blind, Blind Association, Mofflyn Child and Family Care Services, People with Disabilities WA (Inc), Netwest-Netball for People with Disabilities, WA Guild of Blind Citizens, Get There Inc, Independent Living Centre of WA (Inc), Ministry of Education, Nulsen Haven, Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Main Chance, Lotteries Commission, WA Municipal Association, Health Department and Phylos Homes. Several people with disabilities were included in a working party steering the Action Plan.
- (9) 128.
- (10) 74.

MINISTERIAL VEHICLES

Accidents

588. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

With regard to the six accidents involving vehicles provided to Government Ministers (as indicated in answer to question on notice No 4092 of 1998), for each accident -

- (a) was the vehicle involved a ministerial or electorate car;
- (b) what was the cost of repairs to the car;
- (c) who was driving the car at the time of the accident;
- (d) was the person driving the vehicle at the time of the accident authorised to drive that vehicle;
- (e) where did the accident take place;
- (f) at what time did the accident occur;
- (g) did the police attend the accident;
- (h) if not, why not; and
- (i) was any other vehicle involved in the accident?

Mr COURT replied:

	Accident Date 16/2/98	Accident Date 20/3/98	Accident Date 26/3/98	Accident Date 20/1/98	Accident Date 15/2/98	Accident Date 28/4/98
(a)	Ministerial	Ministerial	Electorate	Ministerial	Ministerial	Ministerial
(b)	\$1479.94	\$1500	\$1848.62	\$8093.58	\$772.06	\$2500
(c)	Mr Bill Donohue (Min. Chauffeur)	Mr G Jeavons (Min. Chauffeur)	Mrs Sheena Prince	Ms Georgina Shave	Vehicle Parked	Mr S Whitehead (Min. Chauffeur)
(d)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not applicable	Yes
(e)	Car Park	Great East Hwy Redcliffe	Troy Terrace Daglish	Cnr Coode/ South Streets South Perth	Riverton Drive Shelley	Cnr Ord/ Emerald Streets West Perth
(f)	11.00am	12.15pm	3.15pm	1.00pm	10.00am	1.30pm
(g)	No	No	No	No	No	No
(h)	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
(i)	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

MINISTERIAL VEHICLES

Accidents

589. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Fair Trading:

With regard to a car accident on 20 January 1998 involving a Government provided vehicle allocated for ministerial use -

- (a) was the Minister driving the car at the time of the accident;
- (b) if no, who was driving the car;
- (c) what authority did that person have to drive the car;
- (d) who gave that authority;
- (e) will the Minister table written evidence of that authority;
- (f) was the Minister travelling in the vehicle at the time of the accident;
- (g) If not, who was travelling in the vehicle at the time of the accident;
- (h) was the accident reported to the police;
- (i) if not, why not; and
- (j) if yes, by whom?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) My daughter.
- (c) My authority, under the Guidelines for Use of Official Vehicles.
- (d) I did.
- (e) The authority was verbal.
- (f) No.
- (g) My daughter.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (j) My daughter.

MINISTERIAL VEHICLES

Accidents

590. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

In relation to a car accident on 16 February 1998 involving a Government provided vehicle allocated for the Minister's use -

- (a) was the car provided as a ministerial car or an electorate car;
- (b) who was driving the car;
- (c) what authority did that person have to drive the car;
- (d) who gave that authority;
- (e) will the Minister table written evidence of that authority;
- (f) was the Minister travelling in the vehicle at the time of the accident;
- (g) if not, who were the passengers in the vehicle;
- (h) was the accident reported to the police;
- (i) if not, why not; and
- (j) if yes, by whom?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response:

- (a) Ministerial car.
- (b) A Government driver.
- (c) As an employee of the Government Garage.
- (d)-(e) Driver was on official duty authorised by the Senior Transport Officer of the Government Garage.
- (f) No.
- (g) None.
- (h) No.
- (i) Minor scrape to rear end wheel arch. No other vehicle involved and no injuries sustained.
- (j) Not applicable.

MINISTERIAL VEHICLES

Accidents

591. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

In relation to car accidents on 20 March 1998 and 26 March 1998 involving Government provided vehicles allocated for the Minister's use -

- (a) were the cars provided as ministerial or electorate cars;
- (b) who were the drivers of the cars;
- (c) what authority did those drivers have to drive the car;
- (d) who gave that authority;
- (e) will the Minister table written evidence of that authority;
- (f) was the Minister travelling in the vehicles at the time of the accidents;
- (g) if not, who was travelling in the vehicles at the time of the accidents;
- (h) in what suburb/town did the accidents take place;
- (i) were the accidents reported to the Police;
- (j) if not, why not; and
- (k) if yes, by whom?

Mr PRINCE replied:

20 March 1998

- (a) Ministerial car.
- (b) Gary Jeavons of Government Garage.
- (c) Government Garage driver assigned to drive the Minister.
- (d) Geoff Caple, Senior Transport Officer, Government Garage.
- (e) See paper No 236.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) Redcliffe.
- (i) Yes.

- (j) Not applicable.
- (k) Gary Jeavons.

26 March 1998

- (a) Electorate car
- (b) Mrs Sheena Prince
- (c) My wife.
- (d) I did.
- (e) A nominated driver as per lease agreement.
- (f) No.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) Albany.
- (i) No.
- (j)-(k) Not applicable.

HOMESWEST

Number of People Offered Accommodation

593. Mr NICHOLLS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many people/families were offered rental accommodation by Homeswest in each of the last five years?
- (2) How many of these people/families were seniors?

Dr HAMES replied:

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|--------------------|
| (1) | * | 1994 | - | 7701 |
| | | 1995 | - | 7105 |
| | | 1996 | - | 5469 |
| | | 1997 | - | 5678 |
| | | 1998 | - | 3834 (to 31/08/98) |
| (2) | | 1994 | - | 1415 |
| | | 1995 | - | 1089 |
| | | 1996 | - | 877 |
| | | 1997 | - | 927 |
| | | 1998 | - | 622 (to 31/08/98) |

* All figures provided relate to allocations not offers.

CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

600. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Fair Trading:

With respect to the Consumers' Association of Western Australia -

- (a) where is the office of the association located;
- (b) how is the association funded;
- (c) how many staff are employed at the association, and who is their employer; and
- (d) what, if any, relationship does the association have with the Ministry of Fair Trading?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (a) I am advised by the Ministry of Fair Trading that the Consumers' Association of Western Australian does not have a specific office, but operates from the various addresses of its office bearers.
- (b)-(c) The Association is privately funded by its members, and therefore the Ministry does not have the information requested.
- (d) The Ministry has a long standing relationship of consulting with the Association concerning consumers' attitudes to Fair Trading matters.

PRISONS

Escapes

605. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many prisoners escaped from Western Australian prisons during the month of July 1998?
- (2) From which prisons did these escapes occur?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) There were 6 'escapes' during the month of July, all involved minimum security rated prisoners absconding from the following minimum security facilities.

Broome
Eastern Goldfields
Karnet
Wooroloo

SCHOOLS

Airconditioning

625. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to question on notice number 4021 of 1998, will the Minister advise the name of each of the schools identified as being in the hotter regions of the Swan and Joondalup Education Districts?
- (2) Will any funds be allocated to air cool any of these schools in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (3) Will any funds be made available to air cool schools in the Bassendean electorate in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Glen Forrest Primary School located in the Swan Education District and Gingin District High School located in the Joondalup Education District.
- (2) No. It is likely that these schools will be provided with air-cooling in the latter part of the three year program; that is in the Year 2000/2001.
- (3)-(4) No. The review of the Education Department's air cooling policy in 1997 was based on the annual 25 day relative strain index contour provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. No schools in the Bassendean electorate are located within the above contour.

AUSTRALIND TIMETABLE

636. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any discussions that have taken place between the Government and the tourism industry in Bunbury to change the Australind timetable to better facilitate day visits to Bunbury?
- (2) On what date or dates were the discussions held?
- (3) Was any agreement reached arising out of the discussions?
- (4) What was the nature of the agreement?
- (5) Does the Government intend to change the Australind timetable to better facilitate day visits to Bunbury?
- (6) If so, what is the nature of the planned change?
- (7) When will the change be introduced?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) I am aware that Westrail held discussions with a representative from the Bunbury Tourist Board on this matter.
- (2) I understand that discussions were held in November 1997.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) There are no plans to change the present Australind timetable.
- (6)-(7) Not applicable.
- (8) I refer the member to the answer provided to parts (1) and (2) of Question on Notice No 117 of 12 August 1998, in which it was explained that the changes made to the Australind timetable reflected the requirements of the

majority of people who use the service. I believe that my predecessor also wrote to the member with this advice.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Guidelines on Provision of Hospitality to Staff

650. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

- (1) What guidelines or instructions are in place to inform Ministers, Ministers' staff, their agencies and their agencies' officers of the State's obligations under Commonwealth fringe benefits taxation legislation in respect of the provision of hospitality or entertainment to State Government employees?
- (2) What information is required to be kept to comply with those obligations?
- (3) Will the Premier table a copy of any guidelines or instructions on these matters?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet relies on guidelines issued by the Australian Taxation Office for use by public sector agencies to determine their obligations under Commonwealth fringe benefit taxation legislation. The Ministry uses the guidelines in conjunction with Australian Taxation Office rulings, the CCH Master Tax Guide and advice given by the Treasury Department to ensure the correct fringe benefit tax is calculated in relation to expenditure on motor vehicles, parking, entertainment and any other benefits. A copy of the Australian Taxation Office guidelines and the Fringe Benefits Tax Return Form is tabled for the member's information. [See paper No 235.]

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

655. Mr RIEBELING to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Deputy Premier's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Deputy Premier require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) All agencies.

(2)-(3) None of the agencies in my portfolio reported on this section of the Electoral Act 1907.

(4)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985."

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (13) Department of Commerce and Trade: Executive Director, Industry Services Division
 Small Business Development Corporation: Mr George Etrelezis, Managing Director
 International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE): Mr Theo Jongeling, Accountant/Principal Accounting Officer
 Gascoyne Development Commission: Mr Christopher Jones - Manager Corporate Services
 Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission: Mr Craig Jarrard, Principal Accounting Officer
 Great Southern Development Commission: Mr Bert Pardini, Principal Accounting Officer
 Kimberley Development Commission: Mr Jeff Gooding, Chief Executive Officer
 Mid West Development Commission: Mr Wayne Morgan, Chief Executive Officer
 Peel Development Commission: Ms Sue Davis, Corporate Services Manager
 Pilbara Development Commission: Mrs Robyn Crane, Chief Executive Officer
 South West Development Commission: Mr Garry Adams, Manager Corporate Services
 Wheatbelt Development Commission: Mr David Singe, Director

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

661. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:
- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
 - (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
 - (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
 - (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
 - (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
 - (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
 - (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
 - (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
 - (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
 - (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
 - (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?

- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr SHAVE replied:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- (1) Any public agency required to furnish an annual report, under the FAAA.
- (2) The Western Australian Electoral Commission has included the statement.
- (3),(5) Not applicable.
- (13) Gary Harrington, Manager Corporate Services.

MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING

- (1) Ministry of Fair Trading
Builders' Registration Board
Painters' Registration Board
Finance Brokers Supervisory Board
Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board
Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board
Settlement Agents Supervisory Board
Land Valuers Licensing Board
- (2) Nil.
- (3) Ministry of Fair Trading
Builders' Registration Board
Painters' Registration Board
Finance Brokers Supervisory Board
Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board
Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board
Settlement Agents Supervisory Board
Land Valuers Licensing Board
- (5) The agencies were not aware of this requirement.
- (13) Ministry of Fair Trading:
1996 - 1997 Mark Bodycoat
1997 - 1998 Patrick Walker
- Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board: Mrs Rona Okely
Finance Brokers Supervisory Board: Mr John Urquhart
Builders' Registration Board: Mr Nigel Lilley
Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board: David Dawes
Settlement Agents Supervisory Board: Greg Gaunt
Land Valuers Licensing Board: Vicki Scarffe

DEPARTMENT OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

- (1) The Department of Land Administration.
- (2) The Department of Land Administration has included the required statement in its 1997/98 Annual Report.
- (3) The Department of Land Administration did not include the required statement in its 1996/97 Annual Report.
- (5) The Department of Land Administration was unaware that the section of the Act applied to it (1996/97).
- (13) Mr Allan Skinner.

LANDCORP

- (1) LandCorp is required to comply with section 175ZE (the section) of the Electoral Act 1907.
- (2) LandCorp will include the required statement in its 1997/98 Annual Report.
- (3) LandCorp did not include the required statement in its 1997/98 Annual Report.
- (5) At the time of drafting the 1996/97 Annual Report LandCorp was unaware of the requirements of the section.
- (13) Mr Graham Lewis, Director Corporate Management.

ALL AGENCIES

(4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

664. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) All statutory authorities including the Health Department. This encompasses all Hospitals and Health Services.
- (2)-(3) The response will depend on what year or years the question is relating to.
- (4),(6)-(12) Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure

on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

(5),(13)

Gathering the information requested will be exorbitant in cost and will require an extensive manual search of the archived accounting records of all Hospitals and Health Services. If the member wishes to request this information in regards to specific Health Services or a specific advertisement it will be provided to him.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

665. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response:

- (1) State Revenue Department
Valuer General's Office

Insurance Commission of Western Australia
Government Employees Superannuation Board

- (2) State Revenue Department - will be included in 1997/98 report
Valuer General's Office - will be included in 1997/98 report
Insurance Commission of Western Australia - will be included in 1997/98 report
Government Employees Superannuation Board - will be included in 1997/98 report
- (3) State Revenue Department - was not included in 1996/97 report
Valuer General's Office - was not included in 1996/97 report
Insurance Commission of Western Australia - was not included in 1996/97 report
Government Employees Superannuation Board - was not included in 1996/97 report
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (5) State Revenue Department
1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Valuer General's Office
1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Insurance Commission of Western Australia
1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Government Employees Superannuation Board
1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- (13) State Revenue Department: Mr A Bryant, Commissioner of State Revenue
Valuer General's Office: Mr R F Williams, Valuer General
Insurance Commission of Western Australia: Mr V Evans, Managing Director
Government Employees Superannuation Board: Mr P Farrell, Executive Director

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

666. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:
- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?

- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
- (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr BOARD replied:

I am advised that:

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION

- (1) State Supply Commission.
- (2) The required statement is included in the State Supply Commission's 1997/98 annual report.
- (3),(5) Not applicable.
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (13) Charles Vinci, A/Chief Executive Officer is the Accountable Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES & OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

- (1) The Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS) and the Western Australian Building Management Authority (WABMA).
- (2) The required statement is included in the CAMS' 1997/98 annual report, which includes the WABMA's and Office of Youth Affairs.
- (3),(5) Not applicable.
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure

on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

(13) Dr Paul Schapper is the Accountable Officer.

Mike Daube is the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Affairs.

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

(1) The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI).

(2) The required statement is included in the 1997/98 annual report.

(3),(5) Not applicable.

(4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

(13) Brenda Robbins is the Accountable Officer.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

667. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -

- (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
 - (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
 - (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
 - (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
 - (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
 - (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
 - (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

- (1) Based on those agencies required to report under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985:

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
 Betting Control Board
 Gaming Commission of WA
 Racecourse Development Trust
 Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal
 Totalisator Agency Board
 Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority
 Burswood Park Board
 Lotteries Commission

- (2) Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Betting Control Board - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Gaming Commission of WA - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Racecourse Development Trust - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Totalisator Agency Board - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Burswood Park Board - will be included in 1997/98 report
 Lotteries Commission - will be included in 1997/98 report
- (3) Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Betting Control Board - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Gaming Commission of WA - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Racecourse Development Trust - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Totalisator Agency Board - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Burswood Park Board - was not included in 1996/97 report
 Lotteries Commission - was not included in 1996/97 report

- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information.

However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (5) Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor -
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Betting Control Board -
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Gaming Commission of W A -
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Racecourse Development Trust -
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal -
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Totalisator Agency Board -
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Burswood Park Board
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- Lotteries Commission
 1996/97 annual report - Unaware of requirement
 1997/98 annual report - Not applicable
- (13) Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor: Mr Barry Sargeant, Executive Director
 Betting Control Board: Mr Barry Sargeant, Chairman
 Gaming Commission of W A: Mr Barry Sargeant, Chairman
 Racecourse Development Trust: Hon Tom McNeil, Chairman
 Racing Penalties Appeal Tribunal: Mr Dan Mossenson, Chairman
 Totalisator Agency Board: Mr Ray Bennett, Chief Executive Officer
 Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority: Mr Ken Norquay, Chief Executive
 Burswood Park Board: Mr Barry Sargeant, President
 Lotteries Commission: Mrs Jan Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

668. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:
- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
- (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 (c) in the current reporting period to date?

- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Department of Minerals and Energy is required to comply.
- (2)-(3) To date, the Department of Minerals and Energy has not included the required statement.
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (5) The Department of Minerals and Energy has only recently become aware of the requirement for the statement to be included in annual reports. It will be included in the 1997/98 annual report as required.
- (13) Lee Ranford - Director General, Department of Minerals and Energy.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

669. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and

(c) in the current reporting period to date?

- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Western Australia Police Service Questions (1), (2), (3), (5) & (13)

- (1) Western Australia Police Service.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Western Australia Police Service.
- (5) At the time of producing the 1996/97 Annual Report, the Western Australia Police Service had not been advised of its obligations under section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 and was therefore unaware of the requirement to provide this statement. In addition, the Western Australia Police Service's current financial systems would be unable to readily provide the appropriate information to satisfy this requirement.
- (13) The Strategic Planning Services area of the Western Australia Police Service is responsible for the production of the agency's annual report. The Commissioner of Police is the Accountable Officer and the Director of Finance is the Principal Accounting Officer.

Emergency Services Questions (1), (3), (5) & (13)

- (1) The Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, the Bush Fires Board and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- (2) The Western Australian Fire Brigades Board and the Bush Fires Board included the statement in their 1997/98 annual report.
- (3) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services did not include the statement in its 1997/98 annual report.
- (5) There was no expenditure incurred in the areas where information is required to be disclosed.
- (13) The officer responsible for ensuring the above is complied with for the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, Bush Fires Board and Department of Fire and Emergency Services is the Principal Accounting Officer. Mr. William Hewitt is currently the Principal Accounting Officer of all three agencies.

POLICE & EMERGENCY SERVICES Questions (4) & (6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information.

However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

670. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

- (1) Ministry for Culture & the Arts
Library and Information Service of Western Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Western Australian Museum
ScreenWest
Perth Theatre Trust
- (2) Nil.
- (3) Ministry for Culture & the Arts
Library and Information Service of Western Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Western Australian Museum
ScreenWest
Perth Theatre Trust
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to

agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (5) Treasurer's Instruction 903 Report on Operations was updated on 30 June 1998 to include as a guide the requirement under the Electoral Act to include a statement relating to particular expenditure items. Updates to the Financial Administration and Audit Act and Treasurer's Instructions were previously provided by Treasury in hard copy with amendments and additions clearly highlighted. Updates and access to the FAAA and Treasurer's Instructions are now through the Internet. Ministry Agencies in Part 1 were not aware of the reporting requirement under the Electoral Act and the amendment to Treasurer's Instruction 903 guidelines.
- (13) The Boards of the Statutory Authorities in 1) above are responsible for the preparation of the Annual reports. The Director General is responsible for the Ministry for Culture & the Arts Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

672. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Attorney General's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Attorney General require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1) Equal Opportunity Commission

Legal Aid WA
Ministry of Justice

- (2) The Ministry of Justice will include a statement in the 1997/98 annual report.
- (3) Legal Aid WA.
- (5) The Equal Opportunity Commission does not incur expenditure of the type required to be published. The requirement to include the statement was overlooked by Legal Aid WA.
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (13) Equal Opportunity Commission - June Williams, Commissioner
Legal Aid WA - Bevan Warner, General Manager, Operations
Ministry of Justice - Alan Piper, Director General

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

- 673. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:
 - (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
 - (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
 - (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
 - (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
 - (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
 - (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
 - (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
 - (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
 - (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
 - (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
 - (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?

- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

- (1) The Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) is required to comply with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907.
- (2)-(3) The WATC did not include the required statement in its 1997/98 annual report, but has subsequently submitted a request for an amendment to be made to ensure compliance in the published report.
- (4),(6) to (12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (5) The WATC was unaware of the requirement.
- (13) Shane R Crockett - Chief Executive Officer.

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY

- (1) The Rottnest Island Authority is required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907.
- (2)-(3) The Rottnest Island Authority did not include the required statement in its annual report, but has subsequently submitted a request for an amendment to be made to ensure compliance in the published report.
- (4),(6)-(12)
See above.
- (5) The Rottnest Island Authority was unaware of the requirement.
- (13) Brian W Easton - Chief Executive Officer.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

674. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?

- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
- (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(13) I refer the member to the answer to Question on Notice 672.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act

675. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Which public agencies within the Minister's portfolios are required to comply with section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907?
- (2) Which of those agencies included the required statement in their annual report?
- (3) Which of those agencies did not include the required statement in their annual report?
- (4) In respect of those agencies which did not include the required statement, will the Minister require the agencies to amend their annual report to include the required statement?
- (5) In the case of those agencies which did not include the required statement, why did they not include it?
- (6) What is the amount of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of each such agency in relation to the matters set out in the section 175ZE -
 - (a) in the 1996-97 reporting period;
 - (b) in the 1997-98 reporting period; and
 - (c) in the current reporting period to date?
- (7) What is the name and address of each advertising agency, market research organisation, polling organisation and direct mail organisation on which expenditure has been incurred since 1 July 1996 by or on behalf of each agency?
- (8) When was that expenditure incurred?
- (9) What was the value of the expenditure incurred in each case?
- (10) What is the nature and content of the advertising, market research, polling or direct mail services provided by each agency and organisation on each occasion?
- (11) What was the name of the officer incurring each item of expenditure?
- (12) What was the name of the certifying officer in relation to each item of expenditure?
- (13) What is the name of the principal officer in each agency responsible for ensuring that the statement required under section 175ZE is included in the agency's annual report?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND RECREATION

- (1) The Ministry of Sport and Recreation and the Recreation Camps and Reserves Board.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) The Ministry of Sport and Recreation and the Recreation Camps and Reserves Board.
- (4),(6)-(12)

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act requires that all public agencies publish annually information on expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. This section came into force in October 1996 and has only operated since then. The Western Australian Treasury was advised a number of months ago by the Western Australian Electoral Commission of this requirement which was then noted in the instructions to agencies for the preparation of Annual Reports. In the Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, the Electoral Commissioner recommended:

That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Government intends to give early and favourable consideration to this, and bring forward the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act. All agencies in my portfolio are now aware of the requirement to meet the provisions of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act, and henceforth will be providing the appropriate information. However, I am not prepared for agencies to devote the considerable resources necessary to retrospectively prepare this report, and in particular to provide the level of detail requested. If the member has a question in relation to a specific advertising contract I will endeavour to provide the information.

- (5) The requirement was not listed on the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet "Reporting Requirements Web Service" which was used as the guide for the annual reports.
- (13) JG Busch - Executive Director, Ministry of Sport and Recreation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

- (1) This section of the Electoral Act does not apply to WAIS as WAIS is not a public agency.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4),(6)-(12)
See above.
- (5),(13)
Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CENTRE TRUST

- (1) The WA Sports Centre Trust is required to comply with section 1752 of the Electoral Act 1907.
- (2)-(3) The WA Sports Centre Trust did not include the required statement in its 1997/98 Annual Report.
- (4),(6)-(12)
See above.
- (5) The WA Sports Centre Trust was not aware of the requirement to include the statement in its Annual Report.
- (13) Graham Moss - chief executive officer, WA Sports Centre Trust.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, FUNDING

677. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) I refer to the School Volunteer Program which works with students at risk of not achieving satisfactory learning outcomes, especially in literacy, and ask, is it acknowledged that this program, which has been widely acclaimed by the Australian Institute of Criminology because of its violence-prevention value, assists in increasing self esteem and in the fight against crime?
- (2) Is it correct that the Director-General of Education has requested your department to assist funding because of the established value of the scheme?

- (3) If yes to (2) above, what has been the result of such a request?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The School Volunteer Program has been acknowledged by winning a National Violence Prevention Award in 1995, 1996 and 1997 for its "Peaceful Solutions Training Program".
- (2) The Western Australia Police Service is unaware of any formal approach by the Director-General of Education to assist in funding the program for this financial year, however, the School Volunteer Program received \$30,000 funding from the State Crime Prevention Strategy in the 1996/97 financial year.
- (3) Not applicable.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, FUNDING

678. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the School Volunteer Program which works with students at risk of not achieving satisfactory learning outcomes, especially in literacy, and ask, is it acknowledged that this program, which has been widely acclaimed by the Australian Institute of Criminology because of its violence-prevention value, assists in increasing self esteem and in the fight against crime?
- (2) Is it correct that the Director-General of Education has requested your department to assist funding because of the established value of the scheme?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, what has been the result of such a request?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes, I understand the School Volunteer Program was one of the community based organisations that won the 1997 Australian Violence Prevention Awards. The program facilitates the placement of volunteers to work on a one-to-one basis with students in government schools who are at educational risk.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

POVERTY TASKFORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

680. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 4141 of 1998, will the Minister advise which recommendations of the Poverty Taskforce the Government has -
- (a) supported;
- (b) rejected; and
- (c) not yet made a decision on?
- (2) With respect to the recommendations which the Government has yet to make a decision on, will the Minister advise when it is envisaged a decision will be made?
- (3) Have any of the recommendations been referred to other departments, agencies or Ministers for consideration?
- (4) If so, what process is being followed in respect of each recommendation?
- (5) Of the recommendations which have been rejected, what was the reason each recommendation was rejected?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Poverty Taskforce recommendations

	(a) Supported or supported in principle	(b) Not supported	(c) Under consideration
1	30	8	3
2	31	10	32
4	33	13	37
6	34	16	38
7	35	21	40
11	36	23	41

12	39	48	42
14	45		43
15	47		44
17	49		46
18	50		56
19	51		59
20	52		
22	53		
24	54		
25	55		
26	57		
27	58		
28	60		
29			

The Government has not commented on recommendations 5 and 9 as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry is not a government agency.

- (2) Decisions will be made following due consideration.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Awaiting feedback from the agencies concerned.
- (5) Refer to the responses to recommendations 8, 10, 13, 16, 21, 23 and 48 provided in the *Response of the Government of Western Australia to the report by the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) Taskforce*.

WORKSAFE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Employees' Removalists' Costs

681. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Labour Relations:

With regard to the use of removalist companies to move the belongings of employees of WorkSafe transferred in their employment -

- (a) under what circumstances does the Department meet that cost; and
- (b) what is the process followed to chose the removalist company?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a) When an employee of WorkSafe Western Australia is transferred in the public interest, or in the ordinary course of promotion or transfer, or on account of illness due to causes over which the employee has no control, the employee is reimbursed the cost of removal of his or her belongings in accordance with the provisions of the departments Enterprise and Workplace Agreements. The provisions of these agreements in relation to removal allowances follow the provisions of the Public Service Award.
- (b) Quotations are called in accordance with Government policy.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Criminal Record Screening of Employees

687. Mr KOBELKE to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Which agencies within the Deputy Premier's portfolios have a policy on criminal record screening of employees or prospective employees?
- (2) In each agency that has a policy on criminal record screening, which categories or classes of employees, other workers or prospective workers are required to submit to criminal record screening?
- (3) For each such agency, what is the cost of criminal record screening per individual?

- (4) In which cases is the cost of criminal record screening met by the worker, prospective employee or the employing agency?
- (5) Will the Deputy Premier table a copy of each such policy document?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Criminal Record Screening of Employees

693. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Which agencies within the Minister's portfolios have a policy on criminal record screening of employees or prospective employees?
- (2) In each agency that has a policy on criminal record screening, which categories or classes of employees, other workers or prospective workers are required to submit to criminal record screening?
- (3) For each such agency, what is the cost of criminal record screening per individual?
- (4) In which cases is the cost of criminal record screening met by the worker, prospective employee or the employing agency?
- (5) Will the Minister table a copy of each such policy document?

Mr SHAVE replied:

LANDCORP

- (1) LandCorp does not have a policy on criminal record screening. However, it does require each new employee to declare any criminal conviction. A criminal record does not automatically disqualify an applicant. The applicant will be given an opportunity to discuss the matter fully before a final decision is made.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- (1)-(2) The WAEC has adopted a policy on criminal record screening only for casual presenters at the Electoral Education Centre.
- (3) \$25.
- (4) The WAEC met the cost for existing employees at the time the policy was introduced. From that point on, prospective employees are required to meet their own clearance costs.
- (5) A copy of the required documentation is attached. No formal policy document has been prepared.

DOLA

- (1) DOLA currently has no policy on criminal record screening of employees or prospective employees. DOLA is currently developing a Human Resource Best Practice Manual which will include a policy on criminal record screening of prospective employees.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING

- (1) The Ministry of Fair Trading has a policy entitled "Criminal Record Checks for Employees".
- (2) All employees and prospective employees are required to sign a declaration to the effect that they have or have not been charged or convicted of a serious criminal offence. Only those people who indicated in the positive are required to obtain a statement of their criminal record from the Police. This is consistent with a long standing procedure within State Government. A statement to this effect is included on standard application forms for prospective Public Service/Sector employees.
- (3) \$16 where required.

- (4) The agency covers the costs for current employees, volunteers and students. Prospective employees meet the cost themselves if a check is required.
- (5) Yes.

FORESTS AND FORESTRY

Botanists

709. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

In the Minister's answer to question without notice No 20 of 1998, the Minister stated that another independent botanist has been appointed to ensure that information provided as part of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) public process has been properly carried out -

- (a) who are the other independent botanists who have been appointed during the course of the RFA;
- (b) who was the initial independent botanist;
- (c) what are the terms of reference for the investigations by the independent botanist referred to by the Minister;
- (d) with whom is the botanist meeting and consulting in his/her investigations;
- (e) is the botanist examining the RFA's mapping of old growth forest;
- (f) if so, is he/she examining all of the 364,000 hectares of jarrah forest that the Minister has previously said were logged once between 1940 and 1970 and hence potentially meet the RFA's rule set for identifying old growth forest; and
- (g) if not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDS replied:

- (a)-(b) A number of independent botanists have been employed during the course of the RFA, including Dr M Adams, Dr B Barlow, Dr E Bennett, Dr N Bougher, Mr D Bright, Dr M Brown, Mr R Davies, Mr M Hislop, Mr K Kershaw, Professor J Kirkpatrick, Ms B Koch, A/Professor B Lamont, Ms K Lemson, Mr R Mann, Dr E Mattiske, Ms MA Perez-Fernandez, Mr R Safstrom, Mr L Sage, Professor R Slatyer and Mr S Watkin.
- (c) The terms of reference for the botanist were to review the old-growth status of areas not mapped as old-growth by the Comprehensive Regional Assessment, but suggested as old-growth by stakeholders through the RFA public consultation process.
- (d) The consultant has met with staff of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Environment Australia and a number of individual stakeholders.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) No.
- (g) See (c).

LOCKRIDGE REDEVELOPMENT

712. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Lockridge redevelopment been completed?
- (2) If not, what in financial terms remains to be done?
- (3) Does Homeswest plan to build any additional houses, units or other structures?
- (4) Does Homeswest plan to sell any additional or further land?
- (5) Does Homeswest plan to refurbish any further houses, units, flats or other accommodation?
- (6) If so, how many houses, units, flats or other accommodation does Homeswest intend to refurbish?
- (7) When is it envisaged that the redevelopment will be completed?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) No.

- (2) As advised in Parliament on 11 June 1998 the estimate was \$12.657 million, the estimate is now \$11.787 million as a consequence of work done. However it should be noted that this figure is constantly changing and always under review.
- (3)-(5) Yes.
- (6) 169 units of accommodation, however this is subject to tenant relocation.
- (7) June 2000.

WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

725. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) In the 1996-97 Annual Report of the Commissioner for Workplace Agreements is reference made to a number of workplace agreements being structured to enable a flat rate of pay to apply whenever work is performed thereby assisting to maintain staffing levels on Sundays and public holidays at a consistent cost?
- (2) In the same Annual Report does the Commissioner say that this type of agreement generally has an increase in the normal base rate of pay?
- (3) Is it true that some workplace agreements that provide flat rates of pay on Sundays and public holidays do not provide any increase in the normal base rate of pay to compensate for the loss of penalty rates?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) An employee could agree to a flat rate of pay on Sundays and Public Holidays without any increase in the normal base rate of pay for one or more different reasons. The agreement may provide the opportunity to earn a higher take home pay. Work on those days may suit the employee for personal reasons, such as family responsibilities or providing an income whilst studying, and if the award was to apply the employer may not provide the opportunity to work those days.

HEALTH

Mr George Barrie Owen's Knee Replacement

728. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the case of Mr George Barrie Owen and his need for a knee replacement and ask -

- (a) when will Mr Owen be able to have his needed knee operation;
- (b) why hasn't he been able to get the operation before now;
- (c) are any steps being taken to lift Mr Owen up the waiting list; and
- (d) if not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a)-(d) Mr Owen was admitted to Fremantle Hospital on 1 September 1998 for knee replacement.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Stock Ratios

729. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Arts:

I refer to the ratio of 1.25 public library stock items per capita and ask the Minister -

- (a) which library has the highest ratio and what is it;
- (b) which library has the lowest ratio and what is it;
- (c) is there a formula for managing the turnover of worn out or damaged stock;
- (d) if so, what is it;
- (e) if not, why not; and
- (f) which are the forty local government areas with under 1.25 items per capita?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

This information is based on the estimated local government populations at 30 June 1998 from the Planning Commission report Population Projections for Local Government areas in Western Australia 1991 to 2011, published in the Public Library Resources Review Issues Paper and stock in public libraries at 30 June 1999, including the stock to be provided in the 1998-99 Development program. The data relates to local governments rather than individual public libraries as the ratio of 1.25 items per capita is based on the total stock in all libraries in that local government divided by the population of that local government area.

- (a) City of Perth - 6.93 items per capita
- (b) Shires of Wiluna and Ngaanyatjaraku - 0.45 items per capita
- (c) Yes
- (d) The Library Board of Western Australia's policy document Provision of resources for public libraries contains, in Appendix A, a table expressing the recommended number of items to be exchanged per year as a percentage of the stock in each library. This ranges from 70% of the stock of those libraries with a stock of up to 1099 items to 20% of the stock of those libraries over 7,000 items.
- (e) See (c).
- (f)

Capel	1.25
Fremantle & E Fremantle	1.23
Geraldton & Greenough	1.23
Victoria Park	1.23
Vincent	1.23
York	1.23
Armadale	1.21
Harvey	1.20
Mandurah	1.20
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	1.19
Albany	1.18
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	1.18
Swan	1.18
Boddington	1.17
Northampton	1.16
East Pilbara	1.11
Kwinana	1.09
Murray	1.09
Mundaring	1.07
Wanneroo	1.07
Rockingham	1.06
Denmark	1.05
Gosnells	1.04
Meekatharra	1.01
Gingin	0.99
Waroon	0.98
Dardanup	0.90
Leonora (inc Leinster)	0.89
Hall's Creek	0.85
Cockburn	0.70
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	0.64
Wiluna & Ngaanyatjaraku	0.45

WHITBY FALLS PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION CENTRE CLOSURE

730. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Government intending to construct or purchase any community based residential accommodation to house those persons that will be displaced by the closure of Whitby Falls Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre?
- (2) If so, what is the time frame for establishing such accommodation and in what suburbs are they likely to be located?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) A Project Officer and Assessment Panel are being engaged to determine, in conjunction with residents, their relatives and staff, what arrangements are optimal for each resident's accommodation needs, lifestyle support and ongoing access to rehabilitation. A report to Government, following these assessments, will outline what requirements there are to construct or purchase any community based residential accommodation. If residents at

Whitby Falls Hostel are to be relocated, this will be a gradual process over many months. There will be no pressure for any resident to move until the improved arrangements have been put in place.

PROSTITUTION LEGISLATION

732. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Police:

- (1) When will the Government introduce new laws on prostitution in this State?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that street soliciting by prostitutes and their pimps is an almost daily activity in the Palmerston/Bulwer Streets area of Northbridge?
- (3) Will the Minister provide figures for -
 - (a) arrests;
 - (b) charges; and
 - (c) convictions,
 relating to prostitution in -
 - (i) 1996;
 - (ii) 1997; and
 - (ii) 1998?
- (4) Will the Minister give any figures for the number of "street prostitutes" and prostitutes operating in brothels in Perth?
- (5) Is the Minister aware of any under-age prostitutes operating on the streets?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Draft legislation regarding prostitution is currently being reviewed by the Ministerial Working Party on Prostitution.
- (2) Yes. The Police Service Vice Squad are aware of and addressing the problems caused by prostitutes operating in and around Palmerston Street, Northbridge.
- (3) As the result of judicial precedent, prostitutes arrested for soliciting are charged with "loitering", subject to the provisions of Section 59 of the Police Act 1907. As a charge of "loitering" is non specific, it is impossible for the Police Service to determine the exact number of persons in Western Australia who have been charged with soliciting offences. The Police Service can provide statistics on the number of arrests and charges laid by the Police service Vice Squad in the Perth metropolitan area.

1996	83 arrests resulting in 89 charges
1997	39 arrests resulting in 62 charges
1998 (to date)	52 arrests resulting in 83 charges

The Police Service does not retain statistics regarding convictions.

- (4) The Police Service is unable to determine the exact number of prostitutes currently operating in Western Australia. It should be noted that prostitutes are not obligated to identify, notify or register themselves as a working prostitute, to the Police Service or any other authority or agency.
- (5) The Police Service have on occasion been made aware of and acted upon advice received regarding juveniles working as prostitutes. This year (to date) the Police Service has charged two female juveniles (both 16 years of age) with street soliciting. Where a juvenile (ie, a person under the age of 18 years) is charged with loitering for prostitution, the Police Service will contact a parent or a person in loco parentis, to enable appropriate arrangements to be made for the juvenile to be bailed to that parent.

HEALTH

Areas of Unmet Need

734. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What areas have been declared areas of unmet need under the Medical Act 1894?
- (2) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure the provision of medical services in those areas before declaring them to be an area of unmet need?
- (3) What has the Minister done to ensure the areas are met by Australian graduates?

Mr DAY replied:

(1)	SERVICE	AREA
	Aboriginal Medical Services	Any portion of the State outside the metropolitan area of WA.
	Medical Call Service	The State.
	Psychiatric Medical Services	The State.
	Royal Flying Doctor Services	The State.
	Individual arrangements approved by the Minister (including local arrangements) under which a medical practitioner ensures, that any person who needs medical attention during the absence of a medical practitioner, is attended by a medical practitioner.	Any portion of the State outside the metropolitan area of WA.
	General Medical Practitioner Services	Shires of Laverton, Ravensthorpe, Serpentine, Jarrahdale.
	Medical positions up to Senior Registrar	Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial Hospital

Note: All these areas above were scheduled prior to the 1993/4 amendments to the Medical Act 1894.

Some determinations post 1993/94 amendments have an expiry date.

date determined	service/area	expiry date
7/95	Shire of Fitzroy Crossing	Nil
8/95	Shire of Dalwallinu	Nil
10/95	Shire of Narembeen	Nil
3/95	Bunbury Orthopaedic Service	Nil
2/96	Shires of Corrigin and Cunderdin	Nil
3/96	Shire of Lake Grace	Nil
3/97	Moora District	Nil
7/97	General Medicine in the Shire of Wagin	Nil
6/96	Kimberley and Pilbara Regions (Medical Services)	31/12/99
7/96	Shires of Three Springs, Morawa, Perenjori, Coorow, Carnamah and Mingenew	31/12/99
9/96	Shire of Goomalling	31/12/99
1/97	Gascoyne Health Service (Medical Services)	1/2/99
5/97	General Medicine in the Shire of Collie	1/11/99
8/97	Perth Aboriginal Medical Services - General Practitioners	31/12/99
4/97	Royal Perth Hospital Junior Medical Officers and Registrars Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Junior Medical Officers and Registrars Fremantle Hospital Junior Medical Officers and Registrars Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital Junior Medical Officers and Registrars <i>Note :All these positions include Emergency Departments</i>	28/2/2000
6/97	Joondalup Health Service Registrars, Emergency Medicine Care Consultants and Intensive Care Consultants	30/11/99

- (2) (i) To attract and retain Australian doctors in rural communities a publication (prepared by the Federal Government) titled "RURAL PRACTICE" is available to Shire Councils and rural community leaders. This publication details a step by step guide to Shire Councils assisting them to get the right doctor for their community.
- (ii) Through the RURAL LOCAL RELIEF PROGRAM. This is funded by the Commonwealth and provides rural and remote communities with means of satisfying a short term need for doctors to take holidays for

example. The Rural Local Relief Program is co-ordinated by the West Australian Centre for Rural and Remote Medicine (WACRRM).

- (iii) Through the Rural Health Policy Unit located in Geraldton. WA Rural Health Policy Unit plays a predominate role in the national arena and has been successful in attracting considerable Commonwealth funding which has been directed into a number of continued medical education programs for rural GPs. Many of these programs have been implemented by or in collaboration with WACRRM. WACRRM and the local GPs provide the evaluation for the GPs on the locum service. WACRRM is also represented on the assessment panel for Commonwealth grants and has a good relationship with the AMA. Some aspects to attract local doctors to rural areas provided by this panel are:

GP locum support. Continuing medical education for rural GPs to attend courses, seminars in Perth. Spouses are encouraged to travel to Perth for recreational leave purposes all expenses paid.

Relocation costs up to \$25,000 for metropolitan GPs to take up country practice.

- (3) (i) Establishment of a range of medical training opportunities and scholarships to encourage rural students to pursue a career in rural medicine.

funding for seven university departments of rural health across Australia - a commitment of more than \$27 million over four years.

organisation of rural student clubs in medical schools to provide peer support for students.

founding of the Community Medical Scholarship scheme to enable local communities to make tax deductible donations to help train students.

establishment of John Flynn Scholarships to give medical students experience in rural areas during four separate periods of their four years of university study, investing \$4 million over four years.

training grants through the Rural Health Support Education and Training Grant (RHSET) which provide places to be set aside for rural students to enter into Medical School at UWA. In addition to these, 2 places have also been set aside for Aboriginal students. (Scholarships are available through Aboriginal health to assist these students).

- (ii) Establishment of Clinical Assistantship post, usually four years in hospitals to give young doctors lifestyle and career opportunities in rural areas.

RETIREMENT VILLAGES

Code of Practice

737. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Why is the Code of Practice for Retirement Villages under the Fair Trading Act 1987 rather than under the Retirement Villages Act 1992?
- (2) When did the current review of the Code of Practice for Retirement Villages commence?
- (3) Who is undertaking the review?
- (4) Have public submissions been called for?
- (5) When is the review scheduled for completion?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The power to make codes of practice for fair dealing between a particular class of suppliers and consumers or by a particular class of persons in relation to consumers exists under Part IV of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*. Therefore, a code of practice for retirement villages is not necessary under the *Retirement Villages Act 1992*.
- (2) 18 May 1998.
- (3) Fair Trading.
- (4) Yes - on 13 June 1998.
- (5) 30 September 1998.

HEALTH

Dementia Action Plan

749. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the State have an action plan for dealing with people with dementia?
- (2) If yes, will the Minister table a copy of the plan?
- (3) If not, what steps does the Minister take to formulate a plan for the provision of services to people with dementia and their carers?
- (4) Does the Minister intend to connect with interest groups in the formulation of such a plan and if so, which groups?
- (5) Will the State take up the offer of the Alzheimer's Association of Western Australia to prepare an initial discussion paper on the matter?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) There is no specific action plan for dementia care at this stage.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Health Department is developing detailed aged and continuing care strategies on a locality basis and the needs of people with dementia are factored into all levels of service provision planning.
- (4) All aged and continuing care strategies are being developed in consultation with consumer groups and service providers, including support groups and non government service agencies.
- (5) A discussion paper from the Alzheimer's Association of Western Australia will be very welcome.

INFILL SEWERAGE PROGRAM, HAMILTON HILL

750. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Water Resources

- (1) Have you received a petition from 35 residents of Ruddick Place and Derinton Road, Hamilton Hill protesting that their homes are not on the schedule for the infill sewerage program?
- (2) Are you aware that their homes are bounded by public open space, sewerage areas or areas scheduled to be connected to sewerage in work beginning next year?
- (3) Do you realise that this will leave them as a stranded island of non sewerage homes with no prospect of connection for six years?
- (4) Will you have the Water Corporation review their plans so as to include these homes in the work commencing next year?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes, a petition was received on 28 July 1998 and I responded directly to the petitioners on 11 August 1998. This area is included in the Infill Sewerage Program.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. However, the area to the north is programmed to be sewerage in 1999/2000 and this area will follow in the period 2002/2004.
- (4) No.

FORESTS AND FORESTRY

Royalties

752. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is it correct that the following royalties are paid by saw millers for -
 - (a) karri sawlogs - \$36.38 per tonne;
 - (b) jarrah sawlogs - \$28.22 per tonne;
 - (c) plantation pine sawlogs - \$69.49 per tonne; and
 - (d) chiplogs - \$18.73 per tonne?

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is no, what are the current royalties for the above, and for all other plantation timber?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is yes, why are royalties for plantation pine logs higher than for other sawlogs?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2) See paper No 186. The Department of Conservation and Land Management royalty schedules; Schedule A: Schedule of gross hardwood royalties and Schedule B: Schedule of Gross Softwood Stumpages.
- (3) Not applicable.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS 1996

Costs of Installing Residual Current Devices

761. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

With respect to Regulation 3.60 of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 which requires the installation of residual current devices in workplaces -

- (a) what is the estimated cost to the average business of complying with the regulation; and
- (b) how many small businesses are estimated to be affected by the regulation?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(b) The estimated cost to the average business of complying with the regulation is not known since the regulation applies only to workplaces where portable electrical equipment is used. The number of businesses using portable electrical equipment is unknown. The cost of installing residual current devices at the office premises of WorkSafe Western Australia in West Perth was \$488 per floor of approximately 1500 square metres.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS 1996

Workers Compensation Payments

762. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

In each of the last five years -

- (a) what amount was expended by employers on workers' compensation premiums to cover injury or death caused by the risks to which Regulation 3.60 of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 applies (which requires the installation of residual current devices in workplaces); and
- (b) what amount was paid out in workers' compensation as a result of injury or death caused by the risks to which the regulation applies?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(b) Workers' compensation premium costs and payments are not disaggregated to this level of detail.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS 1996

Responsibility for Installing Residual Current Devices

763. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Under Regulation 3.60 of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996, which requires the installation of residual current devices in workplaces, in the case of leased premises, who is considered to be the person in control of the workplace?
- (2) What degree of control must a lessor exercise or retain to be considered the person ultimately in control of the workplace and thus responsible for installing the necessary equipment?
- (3) In the case of disputes between lessors and lessees regarding who is responsible for installing the necessary equipment, will workplace Western Australia extend the effective deadline of 30 September 1998 for complying with the regulation until the dispute is resolved?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) Persons having control of the workplace include owners of buildings or the person managing the building on behalf

of the owner. The regulation does not extend to cover situations where contractual arrangements may transfer responsibilities to tenants. This is a contractual matter between owners (or agents) and their tenants. However where a tenant must seek approval from the owner or agent to carry out electrical work on the premises, the owner or agent is considered to be the person having control of the workplace and thus responsible for installing the residual current devices.

- (3) WorkSafe Western Australia is providing adequate time for workplaces to install residual current devices. Inspectors will issue improvement notices giving adequate time for compliance with the regulation.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS 1996

Costs of Installing Residual Current Devices

764. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

In respect to all other jurisdictions which have regulated for the protection of operators of portable equipment in all workplaces by the installation of residual current devices, what is the available data on -

- (a) the costs of complying with the regulation;
- (b) the rate of compliance with the regulation; and
- (c) the incidence of death or injury by electric shock in workplaces?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(c) WorkSafe Western Australia does not have access to this information concerning other jurisdictions. However other jurisdictions in Australia have supported the installation of residual current device (RCD) protection in workplaces, because of experiences with electrical fatalities and shocks. South Australia has regulated for the RCD protection of operators of portable equipment in all workplaces and in addition the protection of all electrical installations in new workplaces. Northern Territory has regulated for the RCD protection of all portable equipment. New South Wales has issued guidance material which recommends that power outlets used to supply portable electric equipment are supplied through an RCD. Queensland has regulations requiring RCD protection for portable equipment other than double insulated equipment while Victoria encourages the use of RCD's for both fixed and portable electrical equipment.

PERTH DENTAL HOSPITAL WAITING TIMES

765. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the current -

- (a) minimum; and
- (b) maximum,

waiting time for -

- (i) urgent; and
- (ii) non-urgent,

appointments at the Perth Dental Hospital?

- (2) How many patients are currently on the waiting list for -

- (i) urgent; and
- (ii) non-urgent,

treatment at the Hospital?

- (3) What is the current -

- (a) minimum; and
- (b) maximum,

waiting time for -

- (i) urgent; and
- (ii) non-urgent,

treatment at the Perth Dental Hospital?

- (3) What are the comparable figures for (1) and (2) above for the preceding three years?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) (i) Appointments are not made for urgent treatment. Patients are seen on the day they present.
(ii) Non urgent patients are currently seen and treated within nine months.
- (2) (i) There is no waiting list for urgent care.
(ii) 3500.
- (3) (a) (i) Immediate.
(b) (i) 1 Day.
(a)-(b) (ii) Non urgent patients are currently seen and treated within 9 months.
- (4) Waiting time for:
 - (i) Appointments for non urgent general treatment :

1995	1996	1997
7 months	7.5 months	2 months
 - (ii) Treatment for non urgent care :

1995	1996	1997
8 months	8.5 months	3 months

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES

768. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

What are the "crime prevention strategies" referred to in His Excellency, the Governor's speech to Parliament made on Tuesday, 11 August 1998?

Mr PRINCE replied:

In his speech to Parliament on Tuesday, 11 August 1998, His Excellency, the Governor, referred to the Cabinet Standing Committee on Law and Order overseeing "the maximisation of crime prevention strategies" under the Safer WA program. Some strategies have recently been established, others are already in place and many more will be implemented over the remainder of the current term of the Government. The following are some examples:

Vehicle Immobiliser Subsidy Scheme: This voluntary scheme has been in operation since January 1997. Under the Safer WA program, the Government has announced its intention to introduce legislation which would make the fitting of an immobiliser a mandatory requirement to effect a vehicle transfer.

State Crime Prevention Strategy: This strategy provides annual funding of \$500,000 for the establishment of community based crime prevention initiatives.

Safer WA Community Security Program: \$4 million has been allocated for Local Government Authorities to conduct security audits to determine security risks, implement appropriate response measures, such as private security patrols and evaluate their community crime fighting strategies.

Community Policing Grants: Approximately \$400,000 is allocated annually to fund programs which foster relations between Police Officers and the wider community.

Crime Stoppers: The Western Australian Crime Stoppers program is the most successful in Australia. Since its inception in 1995, the Crime Stoppers Unit has received over 88,000 telephone calls resulting in the arrest of over 1500 people on more than 4,200 charges, seizure of over \$2.4 million in property and \$7.7 million in illegal drugs and reward payments of approximately \$110,000.

POLICE

Ratio of Police Officers to Residents

770. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What is the ratio of residents per police officer in each of the metropolitan regions throughout Western Australia, as defined by the Police Service?
- (2) What is the ratio of residents per police officer in each of the five largest metropolitan regions of all other State and Territory capital cities throughout Australia, as defined by the relevant Police Service?
- (3) What is the ratio of police officers to reported crime in -
 - (a) Western Australia;
 - (b) each other State and Territory;

- (c) each metropolitan region throughout Western Australia, as defined by the Police Service; and
- (d) each of the five largest metropolitan regions of all other States and Territories throughout Australia, as defined by the relevant Police Service?

(4) What are the figures for 1, 2 and 3 above for five and ten years ago?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1) Ratio of police officers to population in each of police region.

- * Preliminary data; to be published in the WAPS 1998 Annual Report Statistical Appendix
- * These figures do not take into account the Metropolitan based Support Portfolios (eg, Crime Support and Traffic and Operations Support). These areas provide support throughout WA, their biggest impact is in the metropolitan area.

Region	1997-98
Metropolitan	1:653
Southern	1:462
Northern	1:233
Central	1:252
Western Australia	1:372

(2) Ratio of police officers to population in each State/Territory.

- * The Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) does not have access to other Police Service jurisdiction data below the State level. The main reason being that some of the other jurisdiction's regions/districts are set up differently to those used in WA and are unsuitable for comparative purposes. Hence, State level data only is provided using the latest available comparative data.
- * Ratios calculated using data for population published in Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, December quarter 1997 (ABS Cat. no. 3101.0) and data for number of sworn officers published in Report on Government Services 1998 (COAG).
- * Ratio for WA is different to that presented in part (1) of this response due to different counting methodology and reference dates.

State/Territory	1996/97
New South Wales	1:485
Victoria	1:459
Queensland	1:524
South Australia	1:438
Western Australia	1:375
Tasmania	1:458
Northern Territory	1:231
Australia Capital Territory	1:478
Australia	1:462

3 (a)-(c) Ratio of police officers to reported crime in Western Australia and each of the Police Service regions.

- * Reported Crime based on the WAPS Offence Information System. The methodology used is to count offences.
- * Figures for the Metropolitan Region include the Metropolitan based Support Portfolios (eg, Crime Support and Traffic and Operations Support). Although these areas provide support throughout WA, their biggest impact is in the metropolitan area.

Region	1997-98
Metropolitan	1:56
Southern	1:47
Northern	1:40
Central	1:43
Western Australia	1:53

(b) Ratio of police officers to reported crime in each State/Territory

- * Ratios calculated using data for reported crime published in Australian Bureau of Statistics, Recorded Crime Australia 1997 (ABS Cat. no. 4510.0) (Data presented in this publication reflects offence types that are common/consistent across all jurisdictions and does not reflect all reported crimes in each jurisdiction. The methodology used is to count victims) and data for number of sworn officers published in Report on Government Services 1998 (COAG).
- * NSW ratio does not take into account figures for Dangerous Driving causing Death as do ratios for other States/Territories and impacts on Australian ratio accordingly.
- * Ratio for WA is different to that presented in part (2) of this response due to different counting methodology and reference dates.

State/Territory	1996/97
New South Wales	1:44
Victoria	1:24
Queensland	1:31
South Australia	1:30
Western Australia	1:35
Tasmania	1:30
Northern Territory	1:21
Australia Capital Territory	1:29
Australia	1:30

- (d) The WAPS does not have access to other Police Service jurisdiction data below the State level. The main reason being that some of the other jurisdiction's regions/districts are set up differently to those used in WA and hence are unsuitable for comparative purposes.

- (4) (1) Ratio of police officers to population in Western Australia (5 and 10 years ago)
Only whole of State figures are available for Western Australia. No data is available at region level as the current regions have only been in existence since 1995 and the regional boundaries have changed over time.

Year	Ratio
1991-92 (5 years ago)	1:398
1986-87 (10 years ago)	1:442

- (2)-(3) No data available.

POLICE

Tracking of Crime Trends and Patterns

771. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Police Service's information technology system capable of compiling data such that crime trends and patterns in the Perth metropolitan region can be tracked on a daily basis?
- (2) If yes to 1, is the data actually compiled by Police Service personnel on a daily basis, and if not on a daily basis, how often is the information compiled?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is no -
 - (a) why not;
 - (b) how quickly can crime trends and patterns be ascertained using the existing Police Service information technology system; and
 - (c) is there an information system available which would enable crime trends and patterns in the Perth metropolitan region to be tracked on a daily basis, and if so, what would it cost to install such a system and train Western Australian Police Service personnel to use it?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The Offence Information System (OIS) is the primary data source used by the Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) for the compilation of crime trends in the Perth Metropolitan Region. Raw data drawn from OIS is able to be manipulated so as to provide crime trends and patterns on a daily basis, however, this requires manual re-entry onto spreadsheets to produce useful intelligence. This task is extremely labour and time intensive. As a consequence, the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence produce crime trend and pattern information in this format only on a monthly basis.
- (2) Reported offences are entered in the OIS by the receiving officer on a daily basis. District Intelligence Officers also use the raw OIS data to map the incidence of crime by category (ie, offence type), within each locality (ie, suburb), either manually or with unlinked software mapping applications. This information is used by operational Commanders to proactively address and target criminal activity within their Region or District.
- (3) Not applicable.

POLICE

New Stations

773. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What and where are the 15 new state of the art police stations which have been opened in the last two and one half years, as claimed in His Excellency, the Governor's speech made in Parliament on 11 August 1998?
- (2) Did any of the new police stations replace an old station, and if so, which ones?
- (3) Which police stations in Western Australia have -
 - (a) closed down;
 - (b) reduced hours of operation; or
 - (c) reduced staff numbers or staff hours,
 in each of the last ten years?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Since May 1996, the following stations have been opened:

Police Station	Address	Opening Date
Scarborough Police Station	Scarborough Beach Road, Scarborough	29 May 1996
Australind Police Station	Paris Road, Australind	4 October 1996
Meekatharra Police Station	Main Street, Meekatharra	28 May 1997

Belmont Police Station	Abernethy Road, Belmont	19 June 1997
Halls Creek Police Station	Great Northern Highway, Halls Creek	28 October 1997
Roebourne Police Station	Carnarvon Terrace, Roebourne	11 February 1998
Kununurra Police Station	Coolibah Drive, Kununurra	25 February 1998
Morley Police Station	Cnr Coode Street & Valentine Avenue, Morley	26 March 1998
Clarkson Police Post	Unit 15, Clarkson Shopping Centre, Ainsbury Parade, Clarkson	8 April 1998
Hillarys Police Station	Finders Avenue, Hillarys	12 May 1998
Murdoch Police Station	Murdoch Drive, Murdoch	29 May 1998
Gosnells Police Station	Albany Highway, Gosnells	5 June 1998
City Police Post	Perth City Railway Station, Wellington Street, Perth	8 June 1998
Dunsborough Police Station	Cnr Cape Naturalist Road & Leslie Pearce Court, Dunsborough	28 July 1998
Cannington District Complex	Albany Highway, Cannington	4 August 1998

- (2) Yes. The following stations were replacements:

Kwinana Police Station
 Leeman Police Station
 Scarborough Police Station
 Meekatharra Police Station
 Belmont Police Station
 Halls Creek Police Station
 Roebourne Police Station
 Kununurra Police Station
 Morley Police Station
 Gosnells Police Station
 Dunsborough Police Station
 Cannington District Complex

Clarkson Police Post and City Police Post occupy leased premises.
 Mirrabooka district Complex is scheduled for occupation by 11 September 1998.

- (3) (a) Brunswick Junction Police Station
 Goldsworthy Police Station
 Telfer Police Station
 Shay Gap Police Station
 Wittenoom Police Station
 Hearson Cove Police Station, and
 Boulder Police Station

- (b) Hilton, Brentwood and Nedlands

Station: Hilton Park
 Hours: Reduced from 22 hours per days, 7 days per week to 8 hours per day, Monday to Friday.
 Staff: Reduced from 13 to 1 per day - Day station only - no patrols.
 Year: 1998

Station: Brentwood
 Hours: Reduced from 23 hours per day, 7 days per week to 8 hours per day, Monday to Friday.
 Staff: Reduced from 19 to 1 - day station only - no patrols.
 Year: 1998.

The broader duties previously undertaken by these stations are now being supplied by the new Murdoch Police Complex operating with a staffing component of 32 and 6 detectives, on a 23 hour per day basis.

Station: Nedlands Police Station
 Hours: Reduced from 16 hours per day to 8 hours per day.
 Staff: Reduced from 6 to 2.
 Year: 1997.

Staff have been moved to Subiaco and Claremont Police Stations to supply a combined 23 hour patrol of all three suburbs.

- (c) Geraldton District
 1994 - Mingenew decreased when the Traffic Officer was redeployed to Three Springs through traffic modularisation.

1997 - Morawa decreased by one officer who was redeployed to Mullewa Police Station to improve operational efficiency.

1998 - One officer reduced at Carnarvon Police Station and redeployed to Shark Bay for operational efficiency.

Narrogin District
 Narrogin Traffic Office closed in 1997. Staff moved to outstations.
 1 x Corrigin
 1 x Williams
 1 x Boddington
 1 x Narrogin
 1 x Narrogin District Office.

Northam District
 Due to Resource Management Planning prioritising and Traffic Modularisation in the Northam Police District, the following Stations decreased in size by one officer.

Station	Year of Reduction
Bencubbin	1996
Cunderdin	1993
Cunderdin	1998
Bruce Rock	1991
Wundowie	1998
Quairading	1993
Kellerberrin	1993
Toodyay	1993
York	1993
Dalwallinu	1996

At stations where officers were reduced in number they were immediately placed elsewhere in other Sub-Districts in order to better utilise the resources and meet the needs of our customers. Staff hours have not been reduced at any centre over the last ten years.

DRUGS STRATEGY

774. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Service:

- (1) What are the 66 initiatives of the Government's Strategy Against Drug Abuse which are under way, as referred to in His Excellency, the Governor's speech made in Parliament on 11 August 1998?
- (2) What are the four remaining initiatives, and why are they not yet under way?
- (3) What is the budget for each initiative for 1998-99?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(3) See below -

Attachment 1

The Government's policy framework in relation to drug abuse stresses the need for a comprehensive approach and emphasizes two principles:

First and foremost, opposition to drug abuse; and
Second, harm reduction, recognising the need for strategies to reduce the risks and harm to those continuing to use drugs and to the wider community, whilst taking care that such strategies do not encourage or normalise drug abuse.

Effective drug education will be provided in all schools through the continuing implementation of the School Drug Education Project over the next three years. This will include development of curriculum, professional development for teachers, drug policies in all schools, and the involvement of parents and the community.

Parents will receive education materials developed as part of the curriculum for the primary and secondary schools, so that they and their children can learn and talk together about drugs.

More parents, families and drug users will be reached with information and advice regarding drugs through a major program with the Pharmacy Guild to make information available through local pharmacies.

Drug education courses for parents, piloted in the last year, will be assessed, further developed and promoted.

The "Drug Aware" public education campaign on illicit drugs will, in addition to supporting parents, target the use of particular drugs by youth and include a strong focus on heroin.

Educational materials outlining lifesaving strategies will be developed and distributed to drug users.

Drug users will be reached with information through peer education initiatives with support from the WA Substance Users Association.

A comprehensive program of education initiatives will tackle the contribution of both alcohol and drugs to the road toll.

A State Drug Education Co-ordination Group comprising the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office, the Health Department, the Education Department, the Police Service and the Office of Road Safety will assess and co-ordinate the ongoing effectiveness of drug education programs.

An Alcohol and Drug Services Unit that will be a health and medical centre of excellence, providing treatment for alcohol and drug problems, will be established within the Health Department. This will bring the current services of the Alcohol and Drug Authority into the context of the broad health system.

Methadone treatment will be expanded further through general practitioners and community based pharmacies in order to meet the demands of heroin addicts who require this treatment.

New pharmacotherapies for heroin and other opiate dependence (such as buprenorphine, LAAM, and naltrexone) will be introduced if current Australian trials prove successful.

An alcohol and drug policy unit within the Health Dept will ensure that the broad health system, including hospital and community health services, can respond to the alcohol and drug problems of its patients.

Services for young people and adults, and their families, will be expanded in metropolitan and country regional areas through the establishment of ten Community Drug Service Teams.

Community Drug Service Teams will provide a focus on:

Early intervention and family support;
Support for Local Drug Action Groups;
Support for schools dealing with drug abuse;
Outreach counselling for youth;
General counselling service where services are currently minimal; and
Attention to specific problems such as chronic solvent abuse.

Support and training for the various human services agencies and professions will be expanded so that they can deal with the drug and alcohol problems of their clients.

Offenders with alcohol or drug problems, serving custodial or community based sentences, will be able to access treatment during and following their sentences. An integrated range of interventions for both treatment and management of offenders, including detection and deterrence, medical management and general treatment strategies is being developed.

Drug abuse treatment services for agencies providing supported accommodation for youth, piloted in the last year, will be assessed and further developed in conjunction with Family and Children's Services.

Youth agency contracts will be assessed to ensure that all young people using drugs receive appropriate intervention.

Alcohol and drug agency services will be enhanced and service agreements will be reviewed to ensure that best practice in alcohol and drug treatment is being provided.

Street dealing of drugs will be the target of a new concerted operation by the Police Service.

The penalties for high level and major drug suppliers will be strengthened with the penalties for all drug suppliers being reviewed through a Parliamentary Select Committee.

The capacity to seize and confiscate assets of drug suppliers will be strengthened, and could be used for tackling drug problems in the community, with new legislation building upon existing laws.

The ability of the Police Service to target drug suppliers and mount large scale operations will be enhanced through:

- the implementation of the telephone interception and listening device powers;
- legislation to support covert operations and provide for higher penalties where firearms are used by offenders; and
- further action to deploy Joint Task Forces on Drug Operations in co-operation with Commonwealth police agencies.

Drink driving will be tackled through a proposed increase in penalties, raising the likelihood of licence loss and higher fines, and by simplifying procedures to reduce court time and delays.

Police will work closely with health and welfare agencies and community groups to develop a community based approach to drug law enforcement. Pilot programs will be established in the Mirrabooka metropolitan region and the Geraldton country region.

Training of Police officers will be enhanced through:

- the integration of specialist Police Service education packages - covering illegal drugs, alcohol and crime, harm reduction, and working with youth - into regular Police training programs;
- education of new and serving police officers about enforcement of the Tobacco Act; and
- a Police Drug Information Guide for use by operational, school based and community policing officers as a resource for dealing with the community.

A further 20 Local Drug Action Groups will be established around the State, with a special emphasis on country regions, to make a Statewide network of 40 groups.

Local Drug Action Groups will be developed and strengthened through:

- the participation of Police Officers and representatives from local governments, schools and Family and Children's Services;
- support being provided by linking with Community Drug Service Teams;
- training for the groups and their broader community networks; and
- an annual Community Action on Drug Abuse conference

A "Leaders Against Drug Abuse Team", involving His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia, will support the community's opposition to drug abuse, participating in public education campaigns on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and school drug education initiatives.

The role models program, *Reach for the Dream* (managed by the WA Football Commission Community Service Division) will support public education campaigns on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

A Heroin Overdose Strategy Group monitors, develops and implements the approaches outlined below. Convened by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office, it includes ambulance and hospital emergency medical services, the Health Dept, alcohol and drug agencies, the WA Substance Users Assoc, the Police Service, the Pharmacy Guild and the National Centre for Research Into the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

Information and education for users regarding high levels and variations in the strength of street heroin, the danger of mixing drugs including alcohol, and the need to call an ambulance to any overdose will be provided through posters and postcards at appropriate sites, warnings on fitpacks, and through users themselves.

Outreach and peer education for users to educate other users regarding these hazards and simple resuscitation methods will be developed.

Emergency services will employ the best approaches based on evidence, including the appropriate use of Narcan, and procedures which do not deter users from contacting them.

Trends through the Coroners Office and ambulance services will be monitored, and fast-tracked research with users will support the effectiveness of education strategies.

The feasibility of new proposals to get assistance to overdose victims will be investigated.

The growth of problems with steroids will be targeted with education programs together with law enforcement.

A comprehensive approach to solvent abuse in regional centres and communities will be led and co-ordinated by the Health Department.

Chronic solvent abusers in Perth and regional centres will be treated by expanding the availability of intensive case work through Community Drug Service Teams, working collaboratively with other government departments and youth agencies.

The needs of intoxicated youth and associated community problems will be met by ensuring that sobering up facilities meet the needs of solvent abusers where appropriate.

New avenues to protect solvent abusers who are a danger to themselves and the community will be developed in co-operation with the Minister for Police.

Local Drug Action Groups will work with retailers to limit the supply of solvents.

Responsible behaviour by social and licenced hosts, and by drinkers themselves, will be promoted through a program of strategies under the banner of "host responsibility" including:

- public education of consumers and both social and licenced hosts;
- enforcement of alcohol serving practices in licenced venues including a demerit point system for licensees; and
- monitoring advertising of alcohol products according to a State code of practice.

Alcohol Accords, implemented successfully in Fremantle, Perth and other centres, will be further developed in regional centres.

Local Drug Action Groups will work with retailers to limit the supply of tobacco to juveniles.

Quit smoking services are being reviewed and their availability publicised through the Quit campaign.

The safe and effective use of pharmaceuticals, particularly with respect to driving and minimising 'doctor shopping' will be supported in conjunction with Commonwealth health initiatives, and the medical and pharmaceutical professions.

Services, prevention programs and community responses addressing alcohol abuse with Aboriginal people will be developed in accordance with the "Living with Alcohol" program arising from a Statewide consultation with Aboriginal people.

Services for Aboriginal people in Perth, provided through the Noongar Aboriginal Substance Abuse Service, will be improved and enhanced through a review and services development plan.

As a major cause of early death, smoking will be tackled through a range of education initiatives.

Specialist training in methadone treatment will be provided to medical officers employed by the community controlled Aboriginal health services where this is needed.

Issues in the inner city will be addressed through a comprehensive strategy that co-ordinates law enforcement and service provision.

The ability of the Government and the community to respond to drug abuse problems will be improved by providing regular and timely production of:

- Statistical Bulletins being published;
- local statistical profiles;
- Statistical Bulletins on issues of significance;
- WA drug abuse indicators; and
- comparative indicators with other States.

Police resources will be better targeted through the development of local statistical profiles of drug and alcohol incidents. A pilot program will be conducted in the Fremantle region.

Health and other resources will be better targeted through undertaking studies to monitor and analyse the Western Australian morbidity associated with alcohol and other drugs.

The effectiveness of major developments will be assessed by the evaluation of initiatives such as community based methadone treatment and the School Drug Education Project. (SDEP)

Trends in the quantity of youth drug abuse will be monitored in Western Australian surveys that include alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

The effectiveness and co-ordination of treatment services will be enhanced by the redevelopment of the treatment data system for non-government organisations.

Local crime prevention initiatives and the responses of the Police Service and the Ministry of Justice will be enhanced by the results of research analysing the links between burglary, armed robbery, property crime and drug abuse in Western Australia.

The use of research to inform policy and practice will be substantially improved by convening a WA Research Co-ordination and Policy Advice Group.

A WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office will co-ordinate implementation of the WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse and provide policy advice to Government, administer funding for the strategy, and co-ordinate the availability of information.

Co-ordination across government will be achieved through a WA Ministerial Council for the Strategy Against Drug Abuse with the Ministers for Police, Health, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, the Attorney General, Youth and Family and Children's Services; and a corresponding Senior Officers Group that will include officers with portfolio responsibility for drug issues in their agencies.

Co-ordination at the local level will be achieved through bodies including senior regional representatives of Police, Health, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Family and Children's Services and Justice, integrated where appropriate with existing structures such as alcohol and drug committees or District Crime Prevention / Community Policing Committees.

Together Against Drugs provides \$4 million in new funding over the two year period, to prevent as well as respond to existing drug abuse problems. Within the same time, the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office will administer funding of nearly \$24 million.

The Action Plan for 1997 to 1999 charts the Government's strategy for the next two years. It is not a static program. Rather, it provides the capacity and the organisation to listen to the community and to work with it to respond to existing and newly emerging issues.

Additional developments (not indicated above)

- expansion of residential, drug treatment and parent support services to prevent waiting lists
- partnerships with local government;
- partnerships with sports;
- WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse newsletter;
- Parent Drug Support Project - an integrated program of service enhancements, promotion and community action to support parents;
- youth activities to prevent drug abuse grants fund;
- Proceeds of Drug Crime Trust Fund;
- Cannabis cautioning and education system trial as part of an overall strategy including continuing public education.

Attachment 2

In co-operation with industry, targeted drug education initiatives will be developed to focus on the dangers posed by drug abuse to work safety.

Strategies will be developed in co-operation with local media outlets to limit the normalisation of illicit drug use occurring through the entertainment media and popular culture.

Hospital services will expand treatment of alcohol and drug problems through responses such as regional hospitals admitting inpatients in conjunction with general practitioners, and development of a program for the introduction of screening and brief counselling for alcohol problems.

A practical schedule of penalties and testing procedures for driving under the influence of drugs will be developed subject to the outcome of a feasibility study.

In the context of a two year action plan, to have only four actions remaining to commence early in the second year of the plan is a substantial achievement. Moreover, preliminary work has begun on each.

Attachment 3

The Government's policy framework in relation to drug abuse stresses the need for a comprehensive approach and emphasizes two principles: \$ nil

- First and foremost, opposition to drug abuse; and
- Second, harm reduction, recognising the need for strategies to reduce the risks and harm to those continuing to use drugs and to the wider community, whilst taking care that such strategies do not encourage or normalise drug abuse.

Effective drug education will be provided in all schools through the continuing implementation of the School Drug Education Project over the next three years. This will include development of curriculum, professional development for teachers, drug policies in all schools, and the involvement of parents and the community.	\$ 1,700,000 (WADASO)
Parents will receive education materials developed as part of the curriculum for the primary and secondary schools, so that they and their children can learn and talk together about drugs.	Within School Drug Education Project operations
More parents, families and drug users will be reached with information and advice regarding drugs through a major program with the Pharmacy Guild to make information available through local pharmacies.	Within WADASO operations following development in 1997/98
Drug education courses for parents, piloted in the last year, will be assessed, further developed and promoted.	Within Community Drug Service Teams operations
The "Drug Aware" public education campaign on illicit drugs will, in addition to supporting parents, target the use of particular drugs by youth and include a strong focus on heroin.	\$ 495,000 (WADASO)
Educational materials outlining lifesaving strategies will be developed and distributed to drug users.	\$ 40,000 (WADASO)
Drug users will be reached with information through peer education initiatives with support from the WA Substance Users Association.	\$153,600 (Health)
A comprehensive program of education initiatives will tackle the contribution of both alcohol and drugs to the road toll.	Within Road Safety Council, Health Dept and WADASO campaigns
A State Drug Education Co-ordination Group comprising the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office, the Health Department, the Education Department, the Police Service and the Office of Road Safety will assess and co-ordinate the ongoing effectiveness of drug education programs.	Within WADASO and participating agency operations
An Alcohol and Drug Services Unit that will be a health and medical centre of excellence, providing treatment for alcohol and drug problems, will be established within the Health Department. This will bring the current services of the Alcohol and Drug Authority into the context of the broad health system.	\$ 7,620,200 (Health/Alcohol & Drug Authority (ADA))
Methadone treatment will be expanded further through general practitioners and community based pharmacies in order to meet the demands of heroin addicts who require this treatment.	\$ 265,000 (Health/ADA)
New pharmacotherapies for heroin and other opiate dependence (such as buprenorphine, LAAM and naltrexone) will be introduced if current Australian trials prove successful.	\$ 180,000 (Health)
An alcohol and drug policy unit within the Health Dept will ensure that the broad health system, including hospital and community health services, can respond to the alcohol and drug problems of its patients.	\$ 354,320 (Health)

Services for young people and adults, and their families, will be expanded in metropolitan and country regional areas through the establishment of ten Community Drug Service Teams.	\$ 3,211,377 (WADASO, Health, Commonwealth Health))
Community Drug Service Teams will provide a focus on: Early intervention and family support; Support for Local Drug Action Groups; Support for schools dealing with drug abuse; Outreach counselling for youth; General counselling service where services are currently minimal; and Attention to specific problems such as chronic solvent abuse.	
Support and training for the various human services agencies and professions will be expanded so that they can deal with the drug and alcohol problems of their clients.	\$ 709,726 (Health/ADA/WADASO)
Offenders with alcohol or drug problems, serving custodial or community based sentences, will be able to access treatment during and following their sentences. An integrated range of interventions for both treatment and management of offenders, including detection and deterrence, medical management and general treatment strategies is being developed.	\$ 480,000 (Justice)
Drug abuse treatment services for agencies providing supported accommodation for youth, piloted in the last year, will be assessed and further developed in conjunction with Family and Children's Services.	\$ 86,000
Youth agency contracts will be assessed to ensure that all young people using drugs receive appropriate intervention.	Within FCS NGO services contracts
Alcohol and drug agency services will be enhanced and service agreements will be reviewed to ensure that best practice in alcohol and drug treatment is being provided.	\$ 100,000 (WADASO)
Street dealing of drugs will be the target of a new concerted operation by the Police Service	Within Police Service operations following initial phase 1997/98
The penalties for high level and major drug suppliers will be strengthened with the penalties for all drug suppliers being reviewed through a Parliamentary Select Committee.	\$ 137,700 (Parliament)
The capacity to seize and confiscate assets of drug suppliers will be strengthened, and could be used for tackling drug problems in the community, with new legislation building upon existing laws.	Within Parliamentary Counsel operations
The ability of the Police Service to target drug suppliers and mount large scale operations will be enhanced through: the implementation of the telephone interception and listening device powers; legislation to support covert operations and provide for higher penalties where firearms are used by offenders; and further action to deploy Joint Task Forces on Drug Operations in co-operation with Commonwealth police agencies.	Within Police Service Organised Crime and Drug Squad operations (total budget \$2,826,655)
Drink driving will be tackled through a proposed increase in penalties, raising the likelihood of licence loss and higher fines, and by simplifying procedures to reduce court time and delays.	\$ nil

Police will work closely with health and welfare agencies and community groups to develop a community based approach to drug law enforcement. Pilot programs will be established in the Mirrabooka metropolitan region and the Geraldton country region.	Mirrabooka - \$90,519 Geraldton - \$81,932 (Police Service)
Training of Police officers will be enhanced through: the integration of specialist Police Service education packages - covering illegal drugs, alcohol and crime, harm reduction, and working with youth - into regular Police training programs; education of new and serving police officers about enforcement of the Tobacco Act; and a Police Drug Information Guide for use by operational, school based and community policing officers as a resource for dealing with the community.	\$ 231,000 (Police Service)
A further 20 Local Drug Action Groups will be established around the State, with a special emphasis on country regions, to make a Statewide network of 40 groups.	\$ 200,000 (WADASO)
Local Drug Action Groups will be developed and strengthened through: the participation of Police Officers and representatives from local governments, schools and Family and Children's Services; support being provided by linking with Community Drug Service Teams; training for the groups and their broader community networks; and an annual Community Action on Drug Abuse conference.	Within Police, FCS, Community Drug Service Teams and WADASO operations
A "Leaders Against Drug Abuse Team", involving His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia, will support the community's opposition to drug abuse, participating in public education campaigns on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and school drug education initiatives.	Within WADASO operations
The role models program, <i>Reach for the Dream</i> (managed by the WA Football Commission Community Service Division) will support public education campaigns on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.	\$ 50,000
A Heroin Overdose Strategy Group monitors, develops and implements the approaches outlined below. Convened by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office, it includes ambulance and hospital emergency medical services, the Health Dept, alcohol and drug agencies, the WA Substance Users Assoc, the Police Service, the Pharmacy Guild and the National Centre for Research Into the Prevention of Drug Abuse.	Within participating agency operations
Information and education for users regarding high levels and variations in the strength of street heroin, the danger of mixing drugs including alcohol, and the need to call an ambulance to any overdose will be provided through posters and postcards at appropriate sites, warnings on fitpacks, and through users themselves.	\$ 40,000 (WADASO)
Outreach and peer education for users to educate other users regarding these hazards and simple resuscitation methods will be developed.	\$ 200,000 (Health/ADA)
Emergency services will employ the best approaches based on evidence, including the appropriate use of Narcan, and procedures which do not deter users from contacting them.	Within St John Ambulance & other agency operations
Trends through the Coroners Office and ambulance services will be monitored, and fast-tracked research with users will support the effectiveness of education strategies.	Within WADASO operations
The feasibility of new proposals to get assistance to overdose victims will be investigated.	\$ 27,650 (Health/ADA)

The growth of problems with steroids will be targeted with education programs together with law enforcement.	\$ 39,000 (WADASO, Police Service)
A comprehensive approach to solvent abuse in regional centres and communities will be led and co-ordinated by the Health Department.	\$ 185,000 (Health)
Chronic solvent abusers in Perth and regional centres will be treated by expanding the availability of intensive case work through Community Drug Service Teams, working collaboratively with other government departments and youth agencies.	Within Community Drug Service Teams, Health and WADASO operations
The needs of intoxicated youth and associated community problems will be met by ensuring that sobering up facilities meet the needs of solvent abusers where appropriate.	\$ 163,000 (Commonwealth Health, WADASO)
New avenues to protect solvent abusers who are a danger to themselves and the community will be developed in co-operation with the Minister for Police.	Within Police Service, Parliamentary Counsel operations
Local Drug Action Groups will work with retailers to limit the supply of solvents.	Within Local Drug Action Group operations
Responsible behaviour by social and licenced hosts, and by drinkers themselves, will be promoted through a program of strategies under the banner of "host responsibility" including: public education of consumers and both social and licenced hosts; enforcement of alcohol serving practices in licenced venues including a demerit point system for licensees; and monitoring advertising of alcohol products according to a State code of practice.	\$ 89,000 following substantial implementation 1997/98
Alcohol Accords, implemented successfully in Fremantle, Perth and other centres, will be further developed in regional centres.	\$ 20,000 (Health)
Local Drug Action Groups will work with retailers to limit the supply of tobacco to juveniles.	Within Local Drug Action Group operations
Quit smoking services are being reviewed and their availability publicised through the Quit campaign.	Within Health operations
The safe and effective use of pharmaceuticals, particularly with respect to driving and minimising 'doctor shopping' will be supported in conjunction with Commonwealth health initiatives, and the medical and pharmaceutical professions.	Within Health and Health Insurance Commission operations
Services, prevention programs and community responses addressing alcohol abuse with Aboriginal people will be developed in accordance with the "Living with Alcohol" program arising from a Statewide consultation with Aboriginal people.	\$ 600,000 (Health)
Services for Aboriginal people in Perth, provided through the Noongar Aboriginal Substance Abuse Service, will be improved and enhanced through a review and services development plan.	\$ 139,400 (Health)

As a major cause of early death, smoking will be tackled through a range of education initiatives.	Within Aboriginal Medical Services' operations
Specialist training in methadone treatment will be provided to medical officers employed by the community controlled Aboriginal health services where this is needed.	Within Community Based Methadone Program operations
Issues in the inner city will be addressed through a comprehensive strategy that co-ordinates law enforcement and service provision.	Within participating agency operations
The ability of the Government and the community to respond to drug abuse problems will be improved by providing regular and timely production of:	Within WADASO operations
Statistical Bulletins being published	
local statistical profiles,	
Statistical Bulletins on issues of significance,	
WA drug abuse indicators, and	
comparative indicators with other States.	
Police resources will be better targeted through the development of local statistical profiles of drug and alcohol incidents. A pilot program will be conducted in the Fremantle region.	\$ 90,000 (Police Service)
Health and other resources will be better targeted through undertaking studies to monitor and analyse the Western Australian morbidity associated with alcohol and other drugs.	Within Health and WADASO operations
The effectiveness of major developments will be assessed by the evaluation of initiatives such as community based methadone treatment and the School Drug Education Project. (SDEP)	Within Community Based Methadone Program and School Drug Education Project operations
Trends in the quantity of youth drug abuse will be monitored in Western Australian surveys that include alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.	\$ 22,000 (Health)
The effectiveness and co-ordination of treatment services will be enhanced by the redevelopment of the treatment data system for non-government organisations.	\$ 60,000 (WADASO)
Local crime prevention initiatives and the responses of the Police Service and the Ministry of Justice will be enhanced by the results of research analysing the links between burglary, armed robbery, property crime and drug abuse in Western Australia.	\$ nil following report in 1997/98
The use of research to inform policy and practice will be substantially improved by convening a WA Research Co-ordination and Policy Advice Group.	Within participating agencies operations
A WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office will co-ordinate implementation of the WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse and provide policy advice to Government, administer funding for the strategy, and co-ordinate the availability of information.	\$ 995,000
Co-ordination across government will be achieved through a WA Ministerial Council for the Strategy Against Drug Abuse with the Ministers for Police, Health, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, the Attorney General, Youth and Family and Children's Services; and a corresponding Senior Officers Group that will include officers with portfolio responsibility for drug issues in their agencies.	Within participating Ministers and agencies operations

Co-ordination at the local level will be achieved through bodies including senior regional representatives of Police, Health, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Family and Children's Services and Justice, integrated where appropriate with existing structures such as alcohol and drug committees or District Crime Prevention / Community Policing Committees.

Within participating agency operations

Together Against Drugs provides \$4 million in new funding over the two year period, to prevent as well as respond to existing drug abuse problems. Within the same time, the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office will administer funding of nearly \$24 million.

\$ 4,918,000 new
\$ 13,332,800 total
(WADASO)

The Action Plan for 1997 to 1999 charts the Government's strategy for the next two years. It is not a static program. Rather, it provides the capacity and the organisation to listen to the community and to work with it to respond to existing and newly emerging issues.

Additional developments (not indicated above)

expansion of residential, drug treatment and parent support services to prevent waiting lists

\$ 252,000

partnerships with local government

Within WADASO operations

partnerships with sports

\$ 100, 000

WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse newsletter

Within WADASO operations

Parent Drug Support Project - an integrated program of service enhancements, promotion and community action to support parents

\$ 160,000

youth activities to prevent drug abuse grants fund

\$ 100,000

Proceeds of Drug Crime Trust Fund

\$ 868,000

Cannabis cautioning and education system trial as part of an overall strategy including continuing public education

Within Police Service and Community Drug Service Team operations

In co-operation with industry, targeted drug education initiatives will be developed to focus on the dangers posed by drug abuse to work safety.

Within WADASO operations

Strategies will be developed in co-operation with local media outlets to limit the normalisation of illicit drug use occurring through the entertainment media and popular culture.

Within WADASO operations

Hospital services will expand treatment of alcohol and drug problems through responses such as regional hospitals admitting inpatients in conjunction with general practitioners, and development of a program for the introduction of screening and brief counselling for alcohol problems.

\$ 250,000

A practical schedule of penalties and testing procedures for driving under the influence of drugs will be developed subject to the outcomes of a feasibility study.

Within Police Service and Office of Road Safety operations

DRUGS STRATEGY

775. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Service:

(1) In relation to the Government's Strategy Against Drug Abuse, what are the -

- (a) community support services;
- (b) community drug service teams; and
- (c) rehabilitation services,

referred to in His Excellency, the Governor's speech made in Parliament on 11 August 1998?

- (2) What is the total funding allocated to each of the above, and what was the comparable funding for each of the last three years?

The answer was tabled. [See paper No 237.]

DRUG OVERDOSES

776. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Service:

In each of the last five years -

- (a) what was the number of drug overdoses;
- (b) what drug caused each overdose;
- (c) what was the age of each overdose victim;
- (d) how many deaths resulted from drug overdoses; and
- (e) what was the financial cost to the State of each drug overdose?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (a) This specific information is not available. Data is available only with respect to inpatient admissions for all drug related causes to all hospitals in WA for 1991 to 1995. On the basis of this morbidity data, there were a total of 11,573 admissions. This is a mean of 2,315 admissions per year.
- (b) This specific information is not available. On the basis of available morbidity data for the period 1991 to 1995, a breakdown of admissions by drug related cause follows.

Drug related cause	Total admissions 1991-95
Opioids	1,253
Barbiturates/sedatives/hypnotics	863
Tranquillisers	2,817
Antidepressants	1,530
Psychostimulants	333
Hallucinogens	126
Other/comb psychotropic agents	641
Volatile substances	106
Unclassified drugs	2,561
Drug psychoses	622
Complications of pregnancy/infancy	489
Conditions related to IDU	232
All drugs	11,573

- (c) This specific information is not available. A breakdown of inpatient admissions by 5 year age group for all causes for the period 1991 to 1995 follows.

Age group	Total admissions 1991-95
0-4	199
5-9	-
10-14	-
15-19	1,489
20-24	1,960
25-29	1,984
30-34	1,703
35-39	1,481
40-44	943
45-49	597
50-54	337
55-59	230
60-64	150
65-69	158
70-74	118
75-79	85
80-84	71
85+	67
Total	11,573

- (d) Data on mortality by drug related causes is not readily available for most drugs for the period after 1994. A breakdown of available information regarding mortality by cause for the period 1993 to 1997 follows:

Drug related cause	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Cannabis	0	0	0	0	n/a
Opiates	28	46	79	66	90
Amphetamines/psychostimulants	1	0	0	0	n/a
Cocaine	0	0	0	0	n/a
Hallucinogens	1	0	0	0	n/a
Barbiturates	1	0	2	2	n/a
Tranquillisers/sedatives/anti-depressants	11	29	7	10	n/a
Volatile substances	3	3	1	2	n/a
Other drugs	23	21	23	21	n/a
Other causes	3	3	4	6	n/a
All drug related causes	71	102	116	107	n/a
n/a = not available					

- (e) This specific information is not available. On the basis of morbidity data with respect to inpatient admissions for all drug related causes to all hospitals in WA for the period 1991 to 1995, it is estimated that the total cost of inpatient stays for all drug related causes was \$23,224,520. This is a mean cost of \$4,644,904 per year and a mean cost per admission of \$2,007.

DRUG USE

777. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Service:

In each of the last five years in Western Australia, what is the estimated number of users of each illicit drug (excluding under age use of alcohol and tobacco)?

Mrs PARKER replied:

The most recent comprehensive prevalence data is for the year 1995 when the last triennial National Drug Strategy Household Survey was conducted. The Western Australia component of the number of persons estimated to have ever used illicit drugs is as follows.

Drug	Number of persons ever used
Cannabis	501,600
Amphetamines	116,200
Heroin	30,400
Cocaine	43,700
Natural hallucinogens	76,700
Other hallucinogens	114,700
Inhalants	38,900
Ecstasy/designer drugs	69,700

Results from surveys of secondary school students (conducted in 1996) and of adults (conducted in 1997) will be published in the near future. Only summary data from these surveys is currently available. The next triennial National Drug Strategy Household Survey (conducted in 1998) will be published in 1999.

AUSTRALASIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' REPORT ON PRISONS

785. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to the report prepared for the Ministry of Justice by Australasian Correctional Services (ACS), entitled "Assessment of Existing Prison Infrastructure and the Projection of Future Needs" and tabled in Parliament on 1 July 1998 and ask -

- what was the total amount of payments made to ACS for the preparation of the report;
- how many quotations were received by the Ministry for the purpose of carrying out a feasibility study of future prison requirements in Western Australia; and
- what was the basis for selecting ACS to undertake this feasibility study?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- Total amount of payments made to ACS for the preparation of the report was \$15,000 plus approximately \$600 for additional copies of the report at completion.

- (b) Eight companies submitted tenders for the service.
- (c) ACS were awarded the contract on the basis that they were the lowest priced conforming quotation offering the best overall value for money.

AUSTRALASIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' REPORT ON PRISONS

786. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to the report prepared for the Ministry of Justice by Australasian Correctional Services (ACS), entitled "Assessment of Existing Prison Infrastructure and the Projection of Future Needs" and tabled in Parliament on 1 July 1998 and ask -

- (a) does the Minister agree with any or all of the findings of the Report (as listed in the Executive Summary on pages 2 and 3);
- (b) if so -
 - (i) which findings; and
 - (ii) what action will the Government be taking to deal with these findings; and
- (c) if not, why not?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (a)-(c) The recommendations contained in the report by Australasian Correctional Services were neither endorsed nor rejected by the Ministry of Justice. The report was useful in that it confirmed the Ministry's own muster projections and assessment of infrastructure needs but it is only one of many tools used as a guide for planning purposes. Some of the content was considered to be of a marketing nature and suggested building solutions at some existing prisons were not considered necessary by the Ministry of Justice.

CARE AND PROTECTION APPLICATIONS

788. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) How many Care and Protection applications have been taken out by the Department for Family and Children's Services during each of the last 5 financial years?
- (2) How many Care and Protection applications have been taken out by the Department for Family and Children's Services since 1 July 1998?
- (3) What was the age of the children in each case?
- (4) What percentage of the children were of Aboriginal descent?
- (5) Are details available of the reason for each such Care and Protection Order?
- (6) If yes to (5) above, will the Minister provide those details?
- (7) What resources are directed to family mediation?
- (8) Are statistics kept with respect to services provided for family mediation?
- (9) If so, what numbers of people have accessed these services during each of the last five financial years, namely -
 - (a) 1 July 1997-30 June 1998;
 - (b) 1 July 1996-30 June 1997;
 - (c) 1 July 1995-30 June 1996;
 - (d) 1 July 1994-30 June 1995; and
 - (e) 1 July 1993-30 June 1994?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The number of Care and Protection Applications taken out during each of the last five financial years was:

1993-94	237
1994-95	269
1995-96	151
1996-97	132
1997-98	250

- (2) Since 1 July 1998 sixty-three Care and Protection Applications have been taken out by the Department of Family and Children's Services.
- (3) Age of Children Subject of Care and Protection Applications from 1 July 1998

Age at Application	Number of Children
less than 1 year	14
1	6
2	3
3	6
4	8
5	3
6	5
7	4
8	4
9	0
10	0
11	3
12	2
13	1
14	2
15	2
16	0
17	0
Total	63

- (4) Thirty-two percent of children who are the subject of Care and Protection Applications since 1 July 1998 have been of Aboriginal descent.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Legal definitions of the Care Applications

Reason	Number of Applications
Insufficient means of subsistence and near relatives unable or unwilling to look after child	6
Dwells with a person of ill repute	1
Unfit Guardian	11
Deserted or not maintained properly by near relative	3
Found in a place where drugs are used	1
Ill treated	2
Living in conditions or behaving in such a manner to indicate that the mental, moral, physical welfare of the child is in jeopardy	39
Total	63

- (7)-(9) Mediation is not a service strategy used when there are concerns about the need for care and protection of a child. Family support services are used in this respect wherever this is possible. Family mediation services are used for situations of parent/adolescent conflict and at times in the post adoption area.

PRISONS, PYRTON SITE

790. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Government and/or Ministry of Justice made any plans or put forward any options to establish a maximum

security prison on the Pyrton site in Eden Hill if the Government decides to locate a minimum security prison on that site in the foreseeable future?

- (2) Is it true that the Government and/or the Ministry of Justice has made tentative plans or drawn up proposals to establish a maximum security prison on the Pyrton site about five years after a minimum security prison is established on the site?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) No.

JERVOISE BAY DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT

792. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the Government entered into a contract or arrangement with the former Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Trade, Mr Bruce Sutherland, to manage or otherwise the Jervois Bay development?
- (2) Will the Minister outline the terms and conditions of the contract including -
- (a) the amount paid to Mr Sutherland;
 - (b) the term of the contract;
 - (c) any other benefits provided to him under the contract; and
 - (d) obligations under the contract including any payments that are made on a performance basis?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Department of Commerce and Trade has a contract with CP Resourcing Pty Ltd to provide specialist professional services. CP Resourcing was commissioned to provide the services of a Project Director for the project development phase of the Jervoise Bay Project. CP Resourcing advertised the position, received four applications and recommended Gunn Sutherland Corporate Pty Ltd whose principal representative is Mr Bruce Sutherland.
- (2) (a) Since the contract commenced on 5 April 1998 up to 31 August 1998 CP Resourcing reports it has paid Gunn Sutherland Corporate Pty Ltd \$62,000 for services in relation to the Jervoise Bay Project.
- (b) 5 April 1998 to 5 April 1999.
- (c) The contract provides for travel and accommodation costs outside the Perth metropolitan area to be reimbursed in accordance with Public Sector rates and guidelines provided those costs have been approved by the department.
- (d) The Government has no other obligations. The Department of Commerce and Trade may at any time, without liability to pay damages or compensate, terminate the assignment upon giving not less than 14 days notice in writing of its intention to do so with CP Resourcing.

TYRE DISPOSAL SITE, KALGAN

794. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the current status of the proposal to operate a tyre disposal site in Kalgan?
- (2) In what form are the tyres proposed to be disposed?
- (3) On the basis of what advice is the dumping of tyres in landfill sites considered to be best environmental practice?
- (4) What are the environmental consequences of dumping whole tyres in landfill sites?
- (5) How does this compare with the disposal of shredded tyres?
- (6) What guidelines will the Minister use in assessing the appropriate disposal of tyres?
- (7) By what process are tyre disposal landfill sites assessed for environmental impact minimisation?
- (8) What facilities are currently in operation to process waste tyres?
- (9) What form does this processing take?
- (10) Will the Minister be preparing a comprehensive management plan for the disposal of waste tyres?

- (11) If not, why not?
- (12) Is the ad hoc disposal of tyres considered acceptable?
- (13) If not, why not?
- (14) What does the Minister consider to be current best management practice in relation to the disposal of tyres?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The proponent has made application for a licence under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Department of Environmental Protection has requested further information from the proponent on groundwater and site management issues.
- (2) The tyres are proposed to be buried whole in cells of up to 20 cubic metres in size.
- (3) As recycling opportunities for tyres are limited in country areas, landfilling of tyres in a controlled manner is considered to be an environmentally acceptable means of disposal. Landfilling of tyres, both whole and in pieces, is the most common means of tyre disposal in Australia and many other countries.
- (4) Where whole tyres are disposed with clean or inert fill, there are no significant environmental consequences.
- (5) Shredded tyres create smaller and fewer voids and thus have a greater compaction ratio.
- (6)-(7) There are regulations which control the storage and disposal of tyres. The Department of Environmental Protection undertakes assessment of tyre disposal sites through the Works Approval and Licensing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Proponents need to address issues such as disposal volume, site characteristics, groundwater depth, fill method, site management, stability, fill ratio, and final soil cover.
- (8)-(9) I understand that Tyre Waste (WA), located in Perth, is the only company processing scrap tyres. Tyre Waste (WA) reduces tyres to pieces prior to reuse, predominantly as drainage medium.
- (10)-(11) This issue is being appropriately addressed by an interdepartmental committee investigating alternative uses of waste tyres.
- (12)-(13) No. I do not support the ad hoc disposal of tyres. There are regulations in place which control the storage and disposal of tyres.
- (14) As with many wastes, the preference is firstly to reuse the material, secondly to recycle it and thirdly to reclaim its energy. In relation to tyres, this means making tyres available for retreading, secondly to shred or crumb the rubber for drainage, road base, paving or many other such uses, followed by reclamation of the energy as a tyre derived fuel in a cement kiln, pyrolysis or in an incinerator. Disposal to landfill, although environmentally acceptable, is the least environmentally desirable. In country areas, disposal to an appropriately designed landfill is likely to be the best practicable management practice.

JERVOISE BAY PROJECT, MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

796. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

With regard to the awarding of a contract for the management of the Jervoise Bay project -

- (1) was the contract advertised;
- (2) when, and by what means, was it advertised;
- (3) how many applications were received for this contract; and
- (4) which officers made the decision to award the contract to the successful tenderer?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes. The Department of Commerce and Trade has a contract with CP Resourcing Pty Ltd to provide specialist professional services. CP Resourcing was asked to provide the services of a Project director for the project development phase of the Jervoise Bay Project and advertised the position in *The West Australian* on 25 March 1998.
- (3) CP Resourcing received four applications.

- (4) CP Resourcing assessed the applications and recommended to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Trade that Gunn Sutherland Corporate Pty Ltd was the most competitive and cost effective and therefore the preferred applicant. The Chief Executive Officer accepted the recommendation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

Mr Bruce Sutherland's Contract

798. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Does the former Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Trade, Bruce Sutherland, have a consultancy or contract with any agency under your control?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
- (a) which agency; and
- (b) what is the nature of the consultancy or contract?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Commerce and Trade has a contract with CP Resourcing Pty Ltd to provide specialist professional services. CP Resourcing was asked to provide the services of a Project Director for the project development phase of the Jervoise Bay project. CP Resourcing has a contract with Gunn Sutherland Corporate Pty Ltd for provision of Mr Bruce Sutherland's services. Mr Bruce Sutherland, Principal of Gunn Sutherland Corporate Pty Ltd has no direct consultancy or contract agreement with the Department of Commerce and Trade. Mr Sutherland has no consultancy or contract agreement with any other agency under my control.

WARRANT EXECUTION

Nationwide Mercantile Services

799. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

With regard to the contracts to execute warrants -

- (a) do Nationwide Mercantile Services operate an office in Kalgoorlie;
- (b) what is the address of that office;
- (c) is this office listed in the telephone book; and
- (d) is the location of this office advertised in any way and if so by what means?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 49 Lewis Street, Kalgoorlie.
- (c) No.
- (d) Clients are advised of the Sheriff's Office address by the issue of a "calling card" and/or details on the warrant served.

JUVENILE BAIL

801. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Government assessed the success or otherwise of the changes it made to the juvenile bail arrangements?
- (2) Have the changes been successfully implemented?
- (3) Have the changes eliminated "revolving door" in so far as stopping juveniles charged with offences obtaining bail only to offend again while on bail?
- (4) Will the Minister explain what operational measures are taken to prevent juveniles re-offending while they are on bail?
- (5) Will the Minister advise if the existing arrangements permit a juvenile to be released on bail where that juvenile is arrested for allegedly committing further offences while on bail?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) No. However, changes to the *Bail Act* have ensured that no juvenile under the age of 17 years is granted bail without a 'responsible adult' undertaking. The *Bail Act* is continually being reviewed and significant amendments are currently in Parliament. I have requested a fundamental review of the *Bail Act*.
- (3) Yes. Generally young people appearing in Court are respectful of conditions of bail and do not reoffend. There is a small number of marginalised youth entrenched in the system who will not be influenced by their conditions of bail and will continue to reoffend. When a young person appears in Court and their record indicates previous breaches, it is extremely difficult for that young person to be granted bail. Should the offence be a Schedule 2 offence under the *Bail Act*, then bail must be refused regardless of the circumstances.
- (4) When granting bail the Court places conditions on the young person. These may include accommodation arrangements, curfews, reporting regularly to Police, attendance at a particular program, urinalysis or other conditions which the Magistrate deems appropriate. Young people referred to the Supervised Bail Program operated by the Ministry of Justice will have bail withdrawn on the failure to comply with any conditions imposed by the Court.
- (5) See (3).

OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Communication Process with Business Enterprise Centres

803. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What arrangements has the Department of Commerce and Trade made to ensure there is a proper and comprehensive communication process between the Office of Aboriginal Economic Development and Business Enterprise Centres (BECs)?
- (2) Does the Department/Office liaise with the relevant BECs on funding initiatives for new Aboriginal enterprises?
- (3) Does the Department/Office seek advice from BECs on proposed Aboriginal business initiatives?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Do circumstances arise where there is little or no co-ordination between the Department/Office and BECs on the enterprises to be provided with financial support?
- (6) What process does the Department/Office use to determine applications for funding?
- (7) How does the Department/Office ensure that funding decisions are not politically influenced or influenced by people who simply make the most noise?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Office of Aboriginal Economic Development (OAED) contracts most of the Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) to serve as initial contact points for OAED's client base. OAED staff are therefore in frequent contact with many of the BECs. In addition:

OAED provides written briefings on relevant program and policy matters to BECs several times a year.

OAED has arranged with the Small Business Development Corporation for opportunities to meet with BECs at their conferences held twice each year.

OAED officers travelling to regional areas visit local BECs whenever possible.

OAED is a subscriber to the BEC electronic mail network.

OAED contracts several BECs to provide specific client services after the initial client contact. Staff from these BECs are invited to OAED training workshops.

A small number of BECs visit OAED's Perth office.
- (2) Yes. OAED seeks input from those BECs involved in client service delivery when considering new or modified financial assistance programs.
- (3) Yes. OAED seeks advice from those BECs involved in OAED client service delivery when considering new business initiatives.

- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) As a rule, no. However, if the relevant BEC has no formal involvement beyond the initial contact stage, subsequent information about a business's financing application would generally be treated as confidential.
- (6)-(7) OAED manages the assessment process and employs qualified contractors to carry out commercial assessments of funding applications. Senior OAED officers make the funding decision or funding recommendation based on commercial considerations and the applicable scheme guidelines.

ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICERS, KIMBERLEY

804. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the department appointed one or more Aboriginal Liaison Officers in the Kimberley region?
- (2) Where are those officers stationed?
- (3) When were they appointed?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Department of Commerce and Trade does not employ Aboriginal Liaison Officers so I assume that the questions concern our Aboriginal Economic Development Officers in the Kimberley.

- (1) The Department has appointed an Aboriginal Tourism Project Officer and has contracted to be provided with the services of a further two Project Officers in the Kimberley Region.
- (2) The Aboriginal Tourism Project Officer is located in Derby and the Project Officers are in Broome.
- (3) Aboriginal Tourism Project Officer - 1 July 1996
Project Officers - mid 1998.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS, LIAISON WITH BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRES

805. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Does the Government require "Development Commissions" to liaise with and keep in constant contact with business enterprise centres?
- (2) If so, what mechanisms are used in this regard?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

All Regional Development Commissions

- (1) The statutory objectives and functions of the Regional Development Commissions are set out under section 23 of the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993. These provisions include requirements to provide information and advice to promote business development and inter-organisation cooperation. In accordance with these provisions and consistent with the Commissions' Corporate Plans, the Regional Development Commissions are required to cooperate and maintain contact with a range of agencies and organisations including Business Enterprise Centres.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (2) The Gascoyne Development Commission works in partnership with the Gascoyne BEC by:

the Director of the GDC attending BEC Board meetings.

the Manager of the BEC partnering with a GDC Senior Project Officer in the joint operation of projects such as Building Better Business Program and the Gascoyne Business Awards.
- (3) Not applicable.

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (2) The Commission's Senior Development Officer is a Committee Member of the Goldfields Business Enterprise Centre (GBEC). This officer has directly assisted the GBEC in a number of ways, such as organising briefings from the Office of the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements and the State Supply Commission. Mrs Esther Roadnight, who is a GEDC Board member, is Chairman of the Goldfields Business Enterprise Centre (as well as being Chairman of the statewide peak body BECWA and a Board member of the Small Business Development

Corporation). The Commission's Southern Regional Manager, based in Esperance, is a Board member of the Esperance Local Enterprise Initiative committee (ELEIC), which is the Business Enterprise Centre in the South East. There is a close working relationship between GEDC and ELEIC in Esperance with clients seeking business advice and being referred between the two agencies as appropriate.

- (3) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (2) The Great Southern Development Commission's Assistant Director is a member of the Albany Business Centre's (ABC) management committee and it meets once a week. The Chief Executive Officer is a member of ABC's Board. Great Southern Development Commission has outsourced a number of activities through Albany Business Centre including funding a seminar series on the benefits of business planning and an investigation into the applicability of accessing marketing data-bases for the Albany retail sector.

- (3) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (2) Mechanisms for communication and cooperation between the Commission and local business enterprise centres (BEC) include:
- (a) Participation in BEC Committee processes.
 - (b) Participation and cooperation in joint projects such as on the Petroleum industry project and the Kimberley Business Awards).
 - (c) Ongoing officer liaison.

- (3) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (2) In the Mid West there are two Business Enterprise Centres, namely the Mid West BEC and the Perenjori BEC. The Commission has had a long association with both these organisations. The Commission has allocated a project officer to liaise directly with each of the BECs. This provides a point of contact in the Commission for referral and/or issue discussion. The Commission also endeavours to have an officer/Board member on the Management Committee of the BECs to ensure coordination and regular contact. In addition, the Commission has a system of referral to the Mid West BEC for clients seeking assistance in starting a new business. This involves Commission staff making appointments for clients to meet with the BEC's Manager, Mr Brian Keeble.

- (3) Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (2) The Peel Development Commission is a member of the Peel Business Enterprise Centre's board of management. In the last financial year it provided financial assistance to increase the scope of coverage of the organisation within the Peel region.

- (3) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (2) The Pilbara Development Commission does work closely with the Business Enterprise Centre in Port Hedland on matters relating to industry and business development in the region. The Business Enterprise Centre in Port Hedland is currently working closely with the Pilbara Development Commission in the area of Aboriginal Economic Development.

- (3) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission

- (2) The South West Development Commission has a close relationship with Business Enterprise Centres in the South West. The South West Development Commission provides grants and sponsorship for the South West Region's Business Enterprise Centres. The centres are required to provide information on the expenditure of funds and outcomes achieved. Commission staff visit and provide support to Management Committees as required and there is general liaison between Commission staff and the staff of Business Enterprise Centres. This also includes membership of Management Committees.

- (3) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (2) The Wheatbelt Development Commission was instrumental in facilitating the establishment of a number of Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) in the Wheatbelt Region and has been and is still represented on the management committee of some BECs. The establishment of the BEC network proceeded with a clear delineation of roles between the Wheatbelt Development Commission and BECs which are autonomous entities under the direct control of the communities in which they are established. The Wheatbelt Development Commission shares information with, and works cooperatively with, various BECs on numerous specific projects related to business and industry development in the region. Examples include organising business and industry development events (field days), housing projects, communications initiatives, jointly organised funding submissions and provision of information to specific industry and business development proponents.
- (3) Not applicable.

WYNDHAM-KUNUNURRA ROAD UPGRADING

807. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Minister made any representations to the Minister for Transport to upgrade the old Wyndham/Kununurra Road?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(3) No, but I understand it is identified in the Kimberley Road Strategy, a Main Roads 2020 document. I would be pleased to discuss this matter with my Ministerial colleague as I understand it is subject to a specific planning study,

HOMESWEST, KUNUNURRA

811. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many Homeswest houses in Kununurra are below Homeswest standard?
- (2) Does Homeswest have any maintenance program to bring houses up to standard?
- (3) How many houses will be brought up to standard during the course of the 1998-99 financial year?
- (4) How much has been allocated to the maintenance program for Kununurra in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (5) Has Homeswest liaised with other government departments and agencies in the town with the view to providing a solution to tenant behaviour causing concern?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) What action does Homeswest intend to take in this regard?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) There are no Homeswest houses in Kununurra below Homeswest's standard. Homeswest has identified three properties under the Stock Replacement Program which is designed to see older dwellings upgraded or replaced where they are over forty years old. Of the properties identified, one is currently vacant (duplex half) and has been boarded up, the other two will be vacant in the very near future. The three x 3 bedroom replacement properties are currently under construction in the 1998/99 program. The three lots from the demolitions will be utilised in the 1999/2000 building program.
- (2) As above, no houses are below standard however, I can advise that each Homeswest Region is provided with a yearly improvement and planned maintenance budget to improve the amenity level of old dwellings and to attend to larger maintenance items such as internal and external painting. In 1998/99 \$154,500 has been allocated for properties in Kununurra and Wyndham for improvement and planned maintenance.
- (3) No houses are below standard however, Homeswest staff identify properties requiring upgrade or refurbishment during annual property inspections and inspections following tenant requests. This is an ongoing process with maintenance undertaken as identified however, it is anticipated that 35 properties will be upgraded as part of this program.
- (4) \$603,752 has been allocated to routine and vacated maintenance in Kununurra and Wyndham during 1998/99.

- (5) Homeswest has excellent ongoing liaison arrangements with government agencies such as Family and Children's Services, Centrelink and the Police and non government agencies such as Waringari Aboriginal Corporation in relation to tenant behaviour.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Homeswest's action is determined by the nature of the behaviour however, at all times Homeswest endeavours to provide support to enable the tenancy to continue successfully. There are instances where Homeswest may be required to enforce the powers of the Residential Tenancies Act, resulting in eviction of families who continue to damage properties and/or disrupt neighbours. Homeswest is not aware of any antisocial tenancies in Kununurra at the present time however, Homeswest is aware that two families with a history of antisocial problems have recently left Kununurra.

POLICE, KUNUNURRA

812. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Are the police resources in Kununurra adequate?
- (2) Does the Government have any intention of providing additional police resources in Kununurra?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that residents have reported being unable to obtain police assistance as a result of officers being unable to leave the station?
- (5) What steps does the Government intend to take to analyse demand for police services in Kununurra and provide an appropriate level of service?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The Western Australia Police Service, through the Commissioner, allocates resources to Regional Commanders who, in turn, deploy those resources both human and equipment on a priority and needs basis.
- (3) Currently existing resources are considered adequate for the demands.
- (4) Yes. I had been informed by a delegation of Councillors from the Shire of Wyndham and East Kimberley.
- (5) Workplace Analysis Section conducts ongoing analysis of the workloads throughout the agency. Additional resources are allocated subject to results. A random audit was conducted this date of 148 consecutive tasks received and undertaken between the 25th of July and the 10th of August 1998. It revealed an average response time of 10.12 minutes included were response times to outlying communities and traffic crash sites, some of which were outside the township boundaries. These response times, although averaged out across all received tasks, appear adequate.

WATER CHARGES, KUNUNURRA

815. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What is the cost of water, in Kununurra, for -
- (a) plantations; and
- (b) domestic use?
- (2) Is the Government prepared to examine modifying the domestic water charge for domestic users in Kununurra to facilitate the enhancement of the town and in recognition of the unique location?
- (3) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) (a) Irrigation charges for the Ord River Scheme are as follows:-
- (i) Irrigation Charges : \$70.35 per hectare
- (ii) Packsaddle Horticultural Farms (Sub-area 1):
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Rates | \$32.20 per hectare |
| Minimum charge | \$251.30 |
| Charges | \$699.80 per year per hectare irrigated |

- (iii) Where land is in Ord Irrigation District (Sub-area 2):

Rates \$70.35 per hectare

- (iv) Where land is irrigated by pumping from works:

Assured supply \$64.70 per hectare
Supply not assured \$48.85 per hectare

Household and for stock supply to properties other than feed lots or land subject to an irrigation charge:

Generally assured supply \$112.90 per service
Intermittent supply \$82.65 per service

Stock water to feed lots and for dust prevention:

up to 4 hectares \$302.85
for each additional hectare \$60.25

- (b) Charges for domestic use as follows:-

Volume	Charge
First 165 kl	36.5 c/kl
next 185 kl (350 kl)	58.9 c/kl
next 200 kl (550 kl)	70.7 c/kl
next 200 kl (750 kl)	80.4 c/kl
next 400 kl (1150 kl)	123.5 c/kl
next 400 kl (1550 kl)	177.6 c/kl
next 400 kl (1950 kl)	204.7 c/kl
over 1950kl	238.0 c/kl

- (2) No.

- (3) The price for water up to 350 kl is the same for all residential customers, statewide. Charges for water consumption in Kununurra between 350 kl and 750 kl are the lowest in the State. Water consumption charges above 750 kl are the lowest applicable to any country town.

TOXIC WASTE DUMP, TOODYAY

816. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the nature and the volume of toxic waste intended for the proposed toxic waste dump at Toodyay?
- (2) Has it been assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (3) Will the Minister table a map of the proposed location and environs?
- (4) Why was this particular site chosen?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) According to the Consultative Environmental Review for the proposal, the proponent intends to accept contaminated soils and solid 'low hazard' wastes, with no liquid wastes being accepted. The wastes will be Class IV as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection's Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996 document. A Class IV secure landfill can accept the following types of waste:

low hazard waste (type 2) as defined by its concentration of contaminants and their leachability; and

special waste (type 2 - asbestos and clinical waste).

The volume of waste taken will be determined by market demand. At least 600 000 cubic metres of storage space is available now in the proposed Williamson's Pit and a further 2 to 3 million cubic metres of storage space will eventually be available.

- (2) The proposal is currently being assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, as a Consultative Environmental Review.
- (3) The site is located approximately 8 kilometres south of Toodyay - [See paper No 187.] The location of the site and its environs are described in the Consultative Environmental Review document. A copy of this can be viewed in the Department of Environmental Protection's library.

- (4) The particular site was chosen by the proponent to integrate the burial of Class IV wastes with the proposal's ongoing excavation of clay.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Payments to Members

824. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Although not under the Minister's control, five controlling bodies are established under the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984 where members receive remuneration.
- (2) National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, Lands and Forest Commission, Forest Production Council.
- (3) Membership is as follows: -

National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority

Chairman	Mr Thomas Day
Deputy Chairman	Mrs Marion Blackwell
Member	Mrs Patricia Barblett
Member	Mr Graeme Rundle
Member	Mr Kevin McMenemy
Member	Cr Hugh Browne
Member	Cr Therese Stroud
Member	Ms Tammie Reid
Member	Mr Terrence Adams
Member	Mr Rodney Bellotti
Ex officio	Dr Sydney Shea
Ex officio	Mr Keiran McNamara
Ex officio	Mr James Sharp
Ex officio	Mr Donald Keene

Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

Chairman	Dr Barry Wilson
Deputy Chairman	Mr Michael Hardy
Member	Mr David Hayes
Member	Professor Diana Walker
Member	Ms Edwina Davies Ward
Member	Mr Ian Finlay
Member	Mr Angus Horwood

Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee

Chairman	Dr Christopher Simpson
Deputy Chairman	Dr Iva Stejskal
Member	Dr James Penn
Member	Dr Patrick Berry
Member	Dr Andrew Heyward
Member	Dr Louis Evans
Member	Dr Jacqueline Alder

Lands and Forest Commission

Chairman	Mr Leon Watt
Deputy Chairman	Mr Patrick McNamara
Ex officio	Dr Sydney Shea

Forest Production Council

Chairman (ex officio)	Dr Sydney Shea
Deputy Chairman (ex officio)	Mr Donald Keene
Member	Mr Mario Bajada
Member	Mr Ardino Gosatti
Member	Mr Patrick McNamara

Member	Mr Ron O. Pollard
Member	Mr Graham Shepherd
Member	Mr Donald Spriggins
Member	Mr Anthony Wheatley

(4) Remuneration is as follows:-

National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority: Remuneration for the Chairman (Mr Day) is \$12,000 per annum. Remuneration for the Deputy Chairman and remaining appointed members is \$4,800 per annum. Under section 30 of the CALM Act Ms Reid is not eligible to receive this remuneration.

Marine Parks and Reserves Authority: Remuneration for the Chairman (Dr Wilson) is \$12,000 per annum. Remuneration for the Deputy Chairman and remaining members is \$4,800 per annum. Under section 30 of the CALM Act Professor Walker is not eligible to receive this remuneration.

Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee: Remuneration for the Chairman is \$7,000 per annum. Remuneration for the Deputy Chairman and remaining members is \$3,700 per annum. Under section 30 of the CALM Act only Dr Stejskal is eligible to receive this remuneration.

Lands and Forest Commission: Remuneration for the Chairman (Mr Watt) is \$12,000 per annum. Remuneration for the Deputy Chairman (Mr McNamara) is \$4,800 per annum.

Forest Production Council: Remuneration for Messrs Bajada, Gosatti, McNamara, Pollard, Shepherd, Spriggins and Wheatley is \$108 per full day meeting and \$73 per half day meeting.

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (1)-(2) Environmental Protection Authority
Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management
State Recycling Advisory Committee
Western Australian Greenhouse Council

- (3) Environmental Protection Authority:
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Chairman | Mr Bernard Bowen |
| Deputy Chairman | Ms Sally Robinson |
| Member | Mr Denis Glennon |
| Member | Dr Elizabeth Mattiske |
| Member | Dr Roy Green |

Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management:

Chairman	Prof Desmond O'Connor
Member	Ms Oona Borlaug
Member	Mr Stephen Drake-Brockman
Member	Cr Donald Greyson
Member	Mr Adrian Price
Member	Ms Rita Waters
Member	Commissioner Rob Rowell
Member	Dr Tony Hendry
Member	Mr Brian Kavanagh
Member	Cr Bevan Carter
Member	Mr Martin Taylor
Member	Cr Clive Robartson

State Recycling Advisory Committee:

Chairman	Mr Peter Fitzpatrick
Member	Dr Sue Graham-Taylor
Member	Cr Deborah Hopper
Member	Mr Murray Ladhams
Member	Mr Les Robinson
Member	Mr Bernard Ryan
Member	Mr Alex Sheridan
Member	Cr Margaret Smith
Member	Mr Jamie Young

Western Australian Greenhouse Council:

Chairman	Dr Bryan Jenkins
Member	Dr Des Kelly
Member	Dr Syd Shea
Member	Mr Nenad Ninkov
Member	Mr Lee Ranford
Member	Mr Geoffrey Hay
Member	Dr Les Farrant
Member	Dr Marnie Leybourne
Member	Mr Stephen Wood

Member	Mr Richard Muirhead
Member	Mr Gary Prattley
Member	Dr Chris Whitaker
Member	Mr Mike Waite
Member	Mr Martin Taylor
Member	Mr Ian Satchwell
Member	Prof Barrie Melotte
Member	Mr Barry Jones
Member	Mr David Parker
Member	Ms Rachel Siewert
Member	Cr Jan Star
Member	Dr Brian O'Brien
Member	Mr Alex Campbell
Member	Mr Colin Sanders

- (4) Environmental Protection Authority: Remuneration for the Chairman is \$124 876 per annum plus 20% loading for non-secured tenure. The Deputy Chairman receives \$39 936 per annum (50% of C1.1) and members receive \$18 800 per annum.

Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management: The Chairman receives \$145 per full day and \$97 per half day. Messrs Borlaug; Drake-Brockman; Greyson; Price; Waters; Rowell; Hendry; Kavanagh; Carter and Taylor receive \$108 per full day and \$73 per half day. Cr Robartson does not receive a fee.

State Recycling Advisory Committee: The Chairman receives \$73 per half day. No fees are payable to the Committee Members.

Western Australian Greenhouse Council: The Chairman and Messrs Kelly; Shea; Ninkov; Ranford; Hay; Farrant; Leybourne; Wood; Muirhead; Prattley; Whitaker and Waite receive no fees. Messrs Taylor; Satchwell; Melotte; Jones; Parker; Siewert and Star are eligible to receive \$186 per full day and \$93 per half day but do not claim. Messrs O'Brien; Campbell and Sanders receive \$186 per full day and \$93 per half day.

Perth Zoo:

- (1)-(2) Zoological Gardens Board.

(3)	President	Mr Charles MacKinnon
	Member	Prof. Don Bradshaw
	Member	Ms Carol Day
	Member	Ms Margaret Nadebaum
	Member	Prof. John Howell
	Member	Mr Ted Bull
	Member	His Worship John Hardwick

- (4) The Board President is paid \$1 125 per quarter for Presidential fees and \$150 per quarter for an office allowance making a total of \$1 275 per quarter. The remaining Board Members are paid a \$73 half day sitting fee for each Board meeting they attend, of which there are 11 each year.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden:

- (1)-(2) Kings Park Board.

(3)	President	George Savell
	Member	Lorraine Allchurch
	Member	Norma Calcutt
	Member	John Considine
	Member	Anne Durack
	Member	Tony Ednie-Brown
	Member	Kerry Smith
	Member	Ross Willcock

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|--------------------|
| (4) | President | \$5 100 per annum |
| | Members | \$2 250 per annum. |

KARRI AND JARRAH LOGGING

825. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) In 1997, how much karri forest was -
- clear felled with seed trees;
 - clear felled without seed trees; and
 - thinned?

- (2) In 1997, how much jarrah forest was logged with each of the following silvicultural objectives -
- (a) thinned;
 - (b) release of regeneration;
 - (c) establishment for regeneration;
 - (d) single tree selection;
 - (e) selective; and
 - (f) other?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 11 ha
 - (b) 1 858 ha
 - (c) 61 ha
- (2)
 - (a) 1 420 ha
 - (b) 4 388 ha
 - (c) 8 460 ha
 - (d) 2 242 ha
 - (e) 1 453 ha
 - (f) 275 ha

FORESTS AND FORESTRY

Revenue from Royalties and Timber Sales

826. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) For the financial year 1997-98, how much did the Department of Conservation and Land Management receive from royalties and timber sales?
- (2) Of this amount, how much came from the sale of -
 - (a) native forest logs;
 - (b) softwood plantation logs; and
 - (c) hardwood plantation logs?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) \$117 188 684
- (2)
 - (a) \$ 76 165 244
 - (b) \$ 31 428 711
 - (c) \$ 998 525

Note: The balance of \$8 596 204 from the answer to question (1) was earned from the sale of sandalwood.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT SUBMISSIONS

828. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How many submissions were made on the options for a Regional Forest Agreement in Western Australia?
- (2) How many submissions were -
 - (a) in favour of each of the options and what is the breakdown for each option;
 - (b) how many submissions opposed all the options; and
 - (c) of those opposing all options how many were supportive of increased conservation measures?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) The task of recording and analysing these submissions is being undertaken by Environment Australia with the assistance of the Forests Taskforce at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra. I have not received the information that would allow me to answer this question.

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER, RITALIN AVAILABILITY

852. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Health Department of Western Australia telling public hospitals that specific funding for the provision of Ritalin to child patients with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), either new or existing, will no longer be available?

- (2) If so, why will Ritalin no longer be available to those patients?
- (3) If not, what is the case?
- (4) Is Ritalin denied to new patients at Fremantle Hospital?
- (5) If not, what is the case?
- (6) Are you aware of the cost burden that Ritalin can place on families?
- (7) If so, what are you prepared to do as Health Minister to ensure that those families are assisted and that children are not denied their prescribed treatment because their parents cannot afford it?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Public non teaching hospitals were advised in an interim policy dated January, 1997 that no new cases of ADHD were to be funded through the public hospital system.
- (2) The reason for this was that the Health Department was unable to provide additional funds to the hospitals which had been experiencing significant growth in demand and costs for supply of Ritalin free of charge to community patients. Patients who had been commenced on Ritalin prior to January 1997 continue to be provided Ritalin through a number of public hospitals. Princess Margaret Hospital has continued to provide Ritalin for child ADHD patients both for new and continuing prescriptions. Princess Margaret Hospital is experiencing high demand and costs for Ritalin supply at the present time.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Fremantle Hospital had provided Ritalin for new child ADHD patients until June this year. The hospital continues to provide Ritalin for patients who had been commenced on Ritalin prior to that date. However, due to increasing costs and the Health Department's inability to provide additional funding, Fremantle Hospital has implemented the interim policy.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) The Government is aware that since Ritalin is not listed on the PBS the manufacturer's cost is borne by families and that this may be significant.
- (7) The Government has written to the Commonwealth previously to stress the need for Ritalin to be listed on the PBS in view of the cost burden that can be placed on families. Both the NH & MRC and the WA Technical Working Party reports recommended that Ritalin be made available to patients through the PBS. The Government of Western Australia convened an expert panel to provide complementary advice to that of the Technical Working Party report and the NH & MRC 1996 report. The report of the expert panel will include the outcomes and recommendations of an international symposium to be held in the USA. The reports will enable the Government to develop policy in relation to the management of child ADHD patients including prescription of stimulant medication. The Minister will consider this policy in due course.

VICTORIA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

853. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that there are no plans to close Victoria Park Primary School?
- (2) Will the Minister also confirm that consideration of the closure of Victoria Park Primary School is not on the agenda of the Government or the Education Department?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There are no plans to close Victoria Park Primary School.
- (2) Consideration of the closure of Victoria Park Primary School is not on the agenda of the Government or the Education Department of Western Australia. Victoria Park Primary School will be involved in the Local Area Education Planning (LAEP) process next year with an announcement expected on the outcome of the process by the end of 1999.

SCHOOLS, SUSPENDED STUDENTS

856. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the suspension of students from government schools and ask -

- (a) at what stage are parents informed that their child has been suspended from school;
- (b) what checks are made to see if a suspended student will have parental or other familial supervision whilst suspended; and
- (c) what is the correlation between suspended students and their involvement in criminal/anti social behaviour?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Education Act Regulation 35 requires that if a principal of a school is suspending a student from attendance at that school, the principal should give notice in writing to the student and forward a copy of the notice to the student's parent, independent of the student.
- (b) There is no requirement for schools to make checks, as the school is not responsible for the student during a period of suspension.
- (c) Students are away from school at various times for a variety of reasons, only one of which includes suspension. There is no research to indicate that a correlation exists between suspension and criminal/antisocial behaviour.

STATION SQUARE PRECINCT

858. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

With regard to the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority sale of undeveloped land, lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, collectively referred to as the Station Square Precinct -

- (a) was a valuation undertaken of the land;
- (b) what was the valuation of the land;
- (c) was the sale of this land advertised;
- (d) where and when was it advertised;
- (e) did any companies tender for the contract and to whom was it awarded;
- (f) what were the names of these companies; and
- (g) What conditions of sale did the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority place on the land use?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) Yes, by Chesterton International.
- (b) Estimate \$5M to \$8M.
- (c) Yes and Chesterton International also sent out 137 information packages to companies that made enquiries.
- (d)

Australian Financial Review	22 August 1997
The Australian	15 August 1997
	29 August 1997
	6 September 1997
Post Newspapers	16 August 1997
	6 September 1997
West Australian	13 August 1997
	20 August 1997
	27 August 1997
	3 September 1997
Business Review	21 August 1997
	4 September 1997
- (e) Yes. Syndicate of Stockland (Constructors) Pty Ltd and Rockingham Park Pty Ltd were awarded the contract.
- (f) Dockpride Pty Ltd, Saracen Properties Pty Ltd, Fini Group, Station Square Syndicate and Expectations Pty Ltd, Syndicate of Stockland (Constructors) Pty Ltd and Rockingham Park Pty Ltd .
- (g) In accordance with the Subiaco Redevelopment Scheme Text and Planning Policies 1996.

EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sale of Lot 8 Arden Street

859. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

With regard to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority sale of lot 8 Arden Street -

- (a) was a valuation undertaken of the land;
- (b) what was the valuation of the land;
- (c) was the sale of this land advertised;
- (d) where and when was it advertised;

- (e) did any other companies tender for the contract and to whom was it awarded;
- (f) what were the names of these companies; and
- (g) what conditions of sale did the East Perth Redevelopment Authority place on the land use?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Ranged from \$990 000 to \$1.5M.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) West Australian 29 March 1995
 1 April 1995
 5 April 1995
 8 April 1995
 12 April 1995
 15 April 1995
 19 April 1995
 22 April 1995
- (e) Yes. Greendene Development Corporation Pty Ltd was awarded the contract.
- (f) Blackburne & Co, Cape Bouvard Investments, Perth City Holdings Pty Ltd and Greendene Development Corporation Pty Ltd.
- (g) In accordance with the East Perth Redevelopment Scheme and Guidelines.

OLD BOANS WAREHOUSE, BROWN STREET, SALE

860. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

With regard to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority sale of the Old Boans Warehouse, Brown Street -

- (a) was a valuation undertaken of the land;
- (b) what was the valuation of the land;
- (c) was the sale of this land advertised;
- (d) where and when was it advertised;
- (e) did any other companies tender for the contract and to whom was it awarded;
- (f) what were the names of these companies; and
- (g) what conditions of sale did the East Perth Redevelopment Authority place on the land use?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Ranging from \$620 000 to \$700 000.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The Australian 10 December 1994
 17 December 1994
 West Australian 7 December 1994
 10 December 1994
 14 December 1994
 17 December 1994
 Financial Review 9 December 1994
 13 December 1994
- (e) Yes. Fini Group was awarded the contract.
- (f) Time Conti Sheffield, Resource & Industry Limited, Broad Constructions Pty Ltd, Heytesbury Holdings and Fini Group.
- (g) In accordance with the East Perth Redevelopment Scheme and Guidelines.

EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sale of Lot 217 Royal Street

861. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

With regard to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority sale of lot 217 Royal Street -

- (a) was a valuation undertaken of the land;

- (b) what was the valuation of the land;
- (c) did any other companies apply for the sale;
- (d) what were the names of these companies;
- (e) was the sale of this land advertised;
- (f) where and when was it advertised;
- (g) why wasn't this contract put to tender; and
- (h) what conditions of sale did the East Perth Redevelopment Authority place on the land use?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) \$937 000
- (c) No - private treaty.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Yes.
- (f)

West Australian	19 September 1995
	27 September 1995
	30 September 1995
	4 October 1995
Financial Review	21 September 1995
	29 September 1995
The Australian	21 September 1995
Sunday Times	24 September 1995
- (g) Policy decision to release 9 lots in Eastbrook subdivision for sale by private treaty.
- (h) In accordance with the East Perth Redevelopment Scheme and Guidelines.

EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sale of Lot 34 Brown Street

862. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

With regard to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority sale of lot 34 Brown Street -

- (a) was a valuation undertaken of the land;
- (b) what was the valuation of the land;
- (c) was the sale of this land advertised;
- (d) where and when was it advertised;
- (e) did any other companies tender for the contract and to whom was it awarded;
- (f) what were the names of these companies; and
- (g) what conditions of sale did the East Perth Redevelopment Authority place on the land use?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) \$2.1M
- (c) Yes.
- (d)

West Australian	13 December 1995
	16 December 1995
	10 January 1996
	13 January 1996
Financial Review	15 December 1995
- (e) Yes. Stellenbush Pty Ltd was awarded the contract.
- (f) Blackburne & Co, Consolidated Constructions, Hay Property Group and Stellenbush Pty Ltd.
- (g) In accordance with the East Perth Redevelopment Scheme and Guidelines.

EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sale of Lots 73-76 Royal Street

863. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

With regard to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority sale of Lot 73, 75 and 76 Royal Street -

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (a) | Yes. | |
| (b) | \$1.215M to \$1.35M | |
| (c) | No. Bellridge Nominees Pty Ltd, Crosscut Pty Ltd, Schaffer Corporation Ltd and Hawaiian Developments Pty Ltd were awarded the contract. | |
| (d) | Not applicable. | |
| (e) | Yes. | |
| (f) | West Australian | 25 February 1998
28 February 1998
4 March 1998
7 March 1998
11 March 1998
14 March 1998
18 March 1998
21 March 1998
25 March 1998
28 March 1998 |

Business News 5 March 1998
 19 March 1998

- (g) In accordance with the East Perth Redevelopment Scheme and Guidelines.

MR SHANE RUDD, TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

865. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Was a Mr Shane Rudd charged recently over a traffic accident on Gardner River Road, near Northcliffe, on 21 July 1998?
- (2) If so, what was the charge?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

IDEAL REALTY, CLAIMS

868. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

In respect to the numerous claims against Ideal Realty and Bridget Micheline Patterson, what actions have been taken by the Ministry of Fair Trading and/or the Real Estate and Business Agent's Supervisory Board, in particular -

- (a) has the Board caused the trust accounts at Ideal Realty to be audited pursuant to section 88 of the Real Estate and Business Agents Act 1978, if not, why not;
- (b) what action has been taken in respect of breaches of section 60 (3) and section 68 (1) of the Real Estate and Business Agents Act 1978;
- (c) when did the Ministry refer the complaints to the Board; and
- (d) when were the complaints first made?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised by the Ministry of Fair Trading:

- (a) No. The statutory appointed auditor delivered a termination audit report to the Board on 17 November 1997 as required by section 70 (8) of the Act.
- (b) Ministry investigators have continued to request and gather evidence from various financial institutions apparently used by Bridget Paterson in respect of possible breaches of Part VI of the Act, in the context of Fidelity Fund claims. The Ministry is preparing a brief for consideration by a legal officer as to whether Bridget Paterson should be prosecuted for possible non-compliance with the Act in the context of Fidelity Fund claims.
- (c) The Board was informed that the Ministry had received complaints in the form of claims against the Fidelity Fund, relating to Ideal Realty Pty Ltd, in late June 1997.
- (d) The first complaint against Ideal Realty Pty Ltd and Bridget Micheline Paterson relating to matters currently under investigation, and which are the subject of a claim against the Fidelity Fund, was lodged with the Ministry on 5 June 1997.

PRISONS, PRE-RELEASE PROGRAMS

870. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to your answer to Question on notice No 614 on pre-release programs offered in prisons in Western Australia and ask -

- (a) will the Minister explain how the Ministry claims it is not aware of a pre-release program titled a "pre-enhanced release program" when this is the exact terminology used to describe the program on page 501 of the 1997-98 Budget papers;
- (b) will the Minister now confirm that these "pre-enhanced release programs" were in fact established in five metropolitan prisons as claimed in the budget Papers;
- (c) if yes, what does "pre-enhanced" actually mean;

- (d) how much was spent on these programs; and
- (e) are these "pre-enhanced" programs still running?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (a) The terminology used in the 1997/98 Budget Papers is not in common usage within the Ministry of Justice to describe the programme in question. The programme is more commonly referred to as the Prison to Community Transition Programme.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The programme is aimed at enhancing skills and knowledge of offenders as a preparation for living in the community prior to release from custody.
- (d) \$285,000 per annum.
- (e) Yes.

SEWERAGE INFILL PROGRAM PAMPHLET

873. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Water Resources:

In regard to contract work associated with the pamphlet produced for the Water Corporation titled *The Infill Sewage Program* -

- (a) what were the names of the companies associated with -
 - (i) the design;
 - (ii) the printing; and
 - (iii) the distribution of the pamphlet;
- (b) for each stage of design, printing and distribution -
 - (i) were tenders called;
 - (ii) how many tenderers were there;
 - (iii) what was the price quoted in the winning tender; and
 - (iv) what was the final cost of the contract;
- (c) in which areas of the State were the pamphlets distributed; and
- (d) what was the final total cost of this whole exercise?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) It is assumed the question is referring to the pamphlet "The Infill Sewerage Program Is Coming To Your Area", dated June 1998. The Water Corporation has a contract with the Brand Agency to handle advertising issues. That Agency arranged the design, printing and distribution.
- (b) (i)-(iv) Not applicable.
- (c) Pamphlets were inserted in community newspapers throughout the State of Western Australia whose circulation boundaries included targeted infill sewerage areas.
- (d) The cost of production and distribution of 28 different versions of the pamphlet, with a total distribution of 804,900 copies, was \$123,000.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Design and Printing

874. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

- (1) For the financial years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 how many contracts were awarded for design and printing work for the Government without tenders being called for the contract?
- (2) For each contract what was the name of the company awarded the work and the value of the contract?

Mr COURT replied:

I am advised that:

- (1)-(2) Government agencies are responsible for arranging their own printing requirements and in doing so are required to seek competitive quotes up to \$50 000 or tenders over \$50 000. As such the information required is not readily available and extensive work would be required to research this matter across all agencies over the last three financial years. If the member has a specific matter relating to a Government agency, the question should be directed to the appropriate Minister.

SALARY PACKAGING

875. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that on 6 July 1998 the Manager, Human Resources, Ministry for Culture and the Arts issued Information Bulletin No 14 *Salary Packaging Briefings*?
- (2) Is it the case that the Bulletin promoted salary packaging by describing it as "reducing tax liability"?
- (3) Did this Bulletin restrict salary packaging to staff on workplace agreements?
- (4) How many employees of the Ministry for Culture and the Arts are employed on a workplace agreement?
- (5) What percentage of all employees of the Ministry does this represent?
- (6) How many staff have elected to take salary packaging?
- (7) In light of the Industrial Commission's recent determination on salary packaging will the Minister now ensure this Bulletin is revoked?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Bulletin stated "For many people, the prospect of reducing tax liability by having the employer make payments directly from your salary for such things as superannuation or novated leases on motor vehicles is appealing". This is an appropriate statement when applied to a salary packaging arrangement which complies with relevant taxation laws.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) 168.
- (5) 17%.
- (6) None. Salary packaging is not yet available to any employee of the Ministry for Culture & the Arts as it has not been formally offered.
- (7) In the event that taxation and legal arrangements can be put in place so that salary packaging becomes available to award based staff, a bulletin will be issued advertising that fact. The existing bulletin will not be revoked.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION GRANTS

876. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the Lotteries Commission Annual Report 1998 and ask -

- (a) who received a lotteries grant to purchase aircraft totalling \$1.2 million;
- (b) will the Minister explain why there is an increase of \$20 million in total product sales and yet only a \$5.8 million increase in funding to the community; and
- (c) how is the \$14.2 million increase for the total product sale dispersed?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply.

- (a) In May 1996, the Board of the Commission gave an in principle approval to the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Western Australia to provide a grant of \$600,000 per year for five years commencing in the 1995/96 financial year. The grant was for replacement aircraft to allow a rationalisation of their fleet to Super Kingair B200 prop jet aircraft. A grant was not provided in 1996/97 due to the unavailability of a suitable plane. Consequently, two grants of \$600,000 each were provided during the 1997/98 financial year to bring the program back into balance. Further

requests of \$600,000 each will be submitted by the Royal Flying Doctor Service in 1998/99 and 1999/2000 to complete the agreed in principle approval and those requests will be subject to the availability of funds.

- (b) All allocations of funds raised from the sale of lotteries products by the Lotteries Commission are made in accordance with the Lotteries Commission Act 1990 and the associated Game Rules. Compliance with these requirements are audited by Pricewaterhouse Coopers and the Office of the Auditor General. The distribution requirements of the Lotteries Commission Act 1990 do not treat incremental increases in annual sales any differently from the distribution of the \$403.5 million annual sales. Information regarding the allocation of sales revenue is contained in the Lotteries Commission's Annual Report, and can be easily derived from an analysis of the Operating Statement and the Notes to the report. Put simply, the application of the Lotteries Commission Act 1990 and Game Rules results in each dollar received from the sales of Lotteries Products being allocated as follows:

approximately 59 cents returned to players as prizes;
 approximately 7.7 cents paid to retailers as their sales commission;
 approximately 22 cents distributed to the specific statutory funds for Hospitals, Sports, Arts, the Festival of Perth and the commercial film industry;
 approximately 5 cents distributed to eligible organizations as "statutory" direct grants;
 Approximately 6.3 cents remaining with the Lotteries Commission to recover the variable and fixed operational costs and capital replacement costs.

The above general allocation when applied to the \$20.121 million results in a total community funding allocation of \$5.432 million. In fact, \$5,720 million of incremental community funding was approved for allocation during the financial year, and an additional \$0.434 million was transferred to unappropriated profits and is available for allocation in future financial years. This represents 30.58% of gross sales (or 31.30% of subscriptions) returned to the Community during the 1997/98 financial year or available for distribution in future financial years. This level of return was in fact 14.8% greater (note: returns are based on subscriptions not gross sales) than the statutory requirements of the Lotteries Commission Act 1990.

- (c) A full explanation of the allocation of the \$20.121 million sales increase to prizes, retailer commissions, community funding and reserves is detailed below.

Allocation	Funds	Section of Act	Comments
Total Additional Sales	\$20,121,000		
Less "add on" Commissions	\$ 462,783	Rules for Powerball and Oz Lotto Schedule 1 & 2	Does not apply to Saturday Lotto or S66
Subscriptions	\$19,658,217	Section 3 of Act	Used for calculating prizes, commissions and Funding Allocations
This was applied as follows:			
Prizes	\$11,794,930	Section 14(1) of Act and Part 3 of Game Rules	60% on games that provided the sales increase
Funding Allocations			
Direct Funding	\$ 982,910	Section 22(2) (a)	5% of subscriptions
Hospital Allocation	\$ 3,145,314	Section 22(2) (b)	16% of subscriptions
Sports Allocation	\$ 393,164	Section 22(2) (c)	2% of subscriptions
Arts Allocation	\$ 393,164	Section 22(2) (d)	2% of subscriptions

Festival of Perth and Film Industry	\$ 393,164	Section 22(2) (e)	not exceeding 2% of subscriptions
Residual Funds	\$ 412,284	Section 24 of Act	Balance of receipts
Total Funding	\$ 5,720,000		
Funds for Operations			
Retailer Commissions (excludes "add on" commissions)	\$ 1,076,473	Section 20(5) of Act and Schedule 1 & 2 of Game Rules	Varies with product and sale types. When aggregated with "add on" Retailer commission equates to 7.65% of gross Sales
Operations expenses	\$ 632,814	Section 20(5) of Act	3.2% of gross sales. \$461,000 of which was as a result of T1 521 impost.
Total Operations	\$ 1,709,287	Section 20(5) of Act	Act allows up to 25% of sales as operating costs
Reserves	\$ 434,000		Reserves are used for future community funding allocations and capital additions.
Total Allocations	\$19,658,217		

TELEVISION, CAPTIONING OF PROGRAMS

877. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the National Working Party on captioning ("Supertext") and ask -

- (a) are all Western Australian Government television commercials and public information videos captioned;
- (b) has the Minister taken any action to encourage commercial networks to extend their captioning of programs;
- (c) if so, what action has been taken;
- (d) if not, why not;
- (e) is the Minister monitoring the Western Australian networks to ensure the target that all programs shown on Australian television networks should be captioned for the benefit of deaf and hard of hearing people by 2010;
- (f) has the Minister taken any action to have this target met prior to 2010;
- (g) if not, why not; and
- (h) if yes, what action has been taken?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (a) It is State Government policy that all government television advertising is appropriately captioned. In addition, through their Disability Service Plans State government agencies and local government authorities are required to ensure that all public information is provided in formats that meet the communication requirements of people with disabilities.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) The Disability Service planning undertaken by State government agencies highlighted the need for a captioning centre located in Perth. This has now eventuated with the opening of a supertext facility in North Perth. The ABC news is captioned online in the Perth studio and TVW Channel 7 became the first commercial television station to implement "real time" closed captioning into its live evening news and Today Tonight broadcasts. The Minister has been supportive of these developments.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e)-(f) No.
- (g) Australian Broadcasting is the responsibility of the Federal Minister for Communications, Senator Richard Alston. I refer the Member for Thornlie to the recently passed Television Broadcasting Services (Digital Conversion) Bill. A key component of this legislation is the introduction of compulsory captioning on Australian television from 1 January 2001.
- (h) Not applicable.

PRISON ESCAPES

878. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to escapes from Western Australian prisons for the month of August -

- (a) what was the total number of prison escapes; and
- (b) for each adult prison how many prisoners escaped?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (a) There were 4 "escapes" during the month of August, all involved minimum security rated prisoners absconding from the following minimum security facilities.
- (b) Broome (1)
Karnet (3)

FINANCE BROKERS SUPERVISORY BOARD

879. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that investors are experiencing difficulties in being able to place serious complaints against a finance broker before the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board?
- (2) Why is it that members of the public cannot have direct access to the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board as is the case with other statutory boards such as the Builder's Registration Board, the Architect's Registration Board, the Hairdresser's Registration Board etc. all of whom hear complaints submitted by members of the public?
- (3) Why does the decision rest with only one person in the Ministry of Fair Trading as to what complaints are placed before the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board?
- (4) What are the formal investigative and/or legal qualifications of that one person?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) I am aware of one instance where it has been claimed that people had difficulties in submitting a complaint to the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board ('the Board'). I understand that the process for referring complaints to the Board have now been explained to these people.
- (2) Any person can make an application to the Board for an inquiry into the conduct of a licensed finance broker, provided the application is made in accordance with the requirements of Section 82 of the *Finance Brokers Control Act 1975*.
- (3)-(4) No one person determines what complaints are placed before the Board.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRIVATISATION

186. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) Given the mounting evidence that Western Australians do not support the Government's privatisation agenda, is the Premier prepared to call a halt to plans to sell off Westrail, AlintaGas and the Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and make them the subject of proper debate and discussion at the next election?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) The Government has not had a radical privatisation strategy. We have sold two major assets; that is, BankWest and the Pilbara to south west gas pipeline. They have been the two major privatisations and neither has been rushed. The privatisation process of an asset takes some years. All the other States, to my knowledge, are well down that path of selling, if they have not already sold, their electricity utilities. Even the Labor Party in New South Wales has been trying to sell its electricity utility.

Mr Kobelke: Not true.

Mr COURT: Not true? It has been the subject of the most public debate that we have ever had.

Dr Gallop: Yes, as part of a democratic process.

Mr COURT: I will put it simply: The Premier and the Treasurer have wanted to privatise the electricity utility.

Mr Thomas: They have changed their minds.

Mr COURT: No, they did not change their minds at all. We have not even started a process for Western Power -

Dr Gallop: I did not ask about Western Power.

Mr COURT: - because that is not appropriate currently. A great deal of water will flow under the bridge before decisions are made on the operation of the Westrail and AlintaGas assets.

Ms MacTiernan: What about having an election before we make the decision? Where is the Government's mandate?

Mr COURT: The Government has taken a responsible approach and it has not gone willy nilly down a privatisation path.

EXPORTS

Value

187. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What was the value of Western Australian exports at the end of the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) Does this figure evidence an increase in the previous year's figures and if so, by how much?
- (3) Which particular export industries have experienced high levels of growth during this period?

Mr COWAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. It has enabled me to get advice which gives precise figures.

- (1) Preliminary data indicates that the value of Western Australian exports in 1997-98 was \$22.8b.
- (2) This is an increase of \$3.5b or 18.1 per cent on the previous year.
- (3) Exports within the manufacturing sector rose by 14 per cent. In particular, high levels of growth came from -
 - information technology, which rose by 66.8 per cent;
 - chemicals which rose by 26.8 per cent - I include in that products such as pigments, paints and varnishes which had an even higher increase of 33.9 per cent;
 - machinery and transport equipment which rose by 25.2 per cent - that includes specialised machinery and ferries. Ferries increased by 35.7 per cent and specialised machinery by 52.1 per cent; and
 - pearls, precious and semi-precious stones which rose by 38.6 per cent.

In the mining sector, overall exports increased by 22.6 per cent. Key contributors in that sector were gold which increased by 53.5 per cent and iron ore by 19.6 per cent. The export of processed raw materials such as alumina increased by 19.2 per cent. I hope that answers the member's question.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

National Party's Policy

188. Dr GALLOP to the Deputy Premier and Leader of the National Party:

I refer to National Party policy on tax matters. I refer to the Leader of the National Party's claim in *The West Australian* on 5 October that the Howard Government's goods and services tax would have to be finetuned. What exactly does the Deputy Premier mean by finetuning? Which parts of the GST will need to be finetuned?

Mr COWAN replied:

I am sure that every member agrees that the tax reform process, which has been outlined, will require some adjustment between now and its application. In doing that, the Prime Minister will need to look closely at two areas. After the tax package was presented to the public, it became evident that there might be some difficulty getting pensioners and low income earners to feel that they were winners. I am sure that Treasury, the Treasurer and the Prime Minister - in fact, everyone responsible for the tax package - will want to ensure that everyone is a winner.

Dr Gallop: Your Minister for Seniors said they were all winners.

Mr COWAN: The Leader of the Opposition has this tendency to ask a question, to sit down with a smug look on his face and then to ask a series of further questions from his seat! Mr Speaker, why you let him do this, I am not sure. Nevertheless, I will answer the question he asked when he was on his feet and not the questions he is asking by interjection.

So-called experts, economists and even members of the Press have pointed out that pensioners and low income earners might be losers as a result of the tax reform package proposed by the coalition. The Prime Minister will need to look closely at that issue. Many simple solutions have been bandied about, including that the pension be increased by 5 per cent rather than 4 per cent and that the tax exemption threshold be raised so that low income earners gain a greater benefit. I expect the Prime Minister and the Treasurer to examine those issues very closely to ensure that everyone is a winner.

Mr Ripper: What about exempting the GST on food?

Mr COWAN: I do not think so. Everyone can be a winner as a result of the tax package proposed by the Federal Government. It was re-elected on the basis of a package that included food.

WATER LAW REFORM

189. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Water Resources:

The issue of water law reform has been of great interest and some concern to water users in Vasse.

- (1) What stage has the water reform process reached?
- (2) What further consultation is proposed?
- (3) When is legislation likely to be introduced into this Parliament?

Dr HAMES replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) As the member is aware, as part of the Council of Australian Governments reform process the Water and Rivers Commission has been looking at water reform in this State. An extensive consultation process has been undertaken, particularly in the south west where many of the reforms have been of great interest to members of the local communities, including those in the member's electorate. After that long consultation process, a package of proposed reforms was drafted by the commission and presented to the community with a further consultation period. The commission now has the results of that consultation process and a state Water Reform Council has been established. It is assessing the responses and a legislative package will be presented to Cabinet some time this year. The member might be aware that as part of the COAG reform process the Government must have made significant progress by the end of this year, and it intends to achieve that target.

MAIN ROADS INQUIRY - PREMIER'S RESPONSIBILITY

190. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Premier:

In his statement today, the Premier acknowledged that the Main Roads witch-hunt - now in its tenth month - is still not at

an end, notwithstanding clocking up costs of about \$300 000. When will the Premier accept his responsibility as Minister for Public Sector Management and bring this disgraceful episode to an end?

Mr COURT replied:

If members had listened to that statement, they would have heard the last paragraph which stated that the chief executive officer of Main Roads will make a decision based on the advice that he has relating to this leaked information.

Ms MacTiernan: For three months he has been telling the staff that in two weeks' time this investigation will be brought to an end. It is a farce. You will not bring it to an end because you know you will not be able to bring anyone to book.

Mr COURT: The member would be aware that it is a criminal offence to leak information. The CEO quite correctly has taken action to stop it occurring.

METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME AMENDMENT

Disallowance Motion

191. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the minister aware of a motion from the member for Bassendean to disallow Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment No 985/33, Eastern Districts Omnibus (No 3)?
- (2) As this amendment affects some areas of Swan Hills, will the minister inform the House of the significance of this disallowance motion?

Mr KIERATH replied:

(1)-(2) Mr Speaker -

Mr Brown: It has been disallowed in the other place. Don't you know that?

Mr KIERATH: That is right. Is that not fascinating?

Mr Brown interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KIERATH: The member for Bassendean has moved a disallowance motion in this House.

Mr Brown interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Bassendean!

Mr KIERATH: It relates to an amendment that has already been disallowed.

Mr Brown interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have twice asked the member for Bassendean to come to order. I want to hear the Minister for Planning.

Mr KIERATH: On 1 July of this year the other place disallowed that amendment. Under parliamentary procedures that amendment has been disallowed. Why would a member place a motion on our Notice Paper to debate the whole thing again?

Mr Brown: Go and ask the Clerk, because I did.

Mr KIERATH: I do not care from where the member got his advice. He should accept responsibility for his own actions.

Mr Brown interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bassendean seems to be very sensitive on this. Members from time to time come out with the statement that they have taken advice from the Clerk or whoever. If a member takes advice and proceeds on it, the member is the one who proceeds on that advice.

Mr KIERATH: I am disappointed in the member for Bassendean. He wishes to waste the time of this Parliament by seeking to achieve an outcome which has already been achieved in the other place. If I were the Leader of the Opposition, I would look closely at the members of my front bench and at giving them some skill and education in parliamentary procedures. We have come to expect this sort of performance from members opposite. It is appalling and they should lift their standards.

WESTRAIL FREIGHT BUSINESS AND TRACK INFRASTRUCTURE SALE

192. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Given that more than 76 per cent of grain growers polled on the weekend by the Western Australian Farmers Federation opposed the Government's plans to sell Westrail's freight business and track infrastructure, will the minister be seeking to have the decision to sell reconsidered, or does he share the view expressed by the Deputy Premier on GWN last Friday that he does not care what result the poll had because the Government would not take any notice of it?

Mr Cowan: I did not say that.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Yes, the Deputy Premier did say that.

Mr HOUSE replied:

The Western Australian Farmers Federation poll was interesting because my fax rang twice during the weekend as the federation was trying to drum up business. During the first eight hours of the poll, the federation obviously had not received too many replies.

Mr Graham: Did they mistake you for a farmer?

Mr HOUSE: I think the reality is they mistook me for a member. How many farmers replied?

Ms MacTiernan: Five hundred.

Mr HOUSE: There are about 12 000 grain growers out there.

Mr THOMAS: They were from your electorate.

Mr HOUSE: That is not the case. A poll of 500 is not very representative of 12 000 grain growers, so the result would not influence me one bit.

NATIVE TITLE LEGISLATION

Comment by Member for Kalgoorlie

193. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of comment by the member for Kalgoorlie that the Government has been slow to introduce its native title legislative package?
- (2) When is the legislation likely to be introduced into Parliament?

Mr COURT replied:

As members heard about half an hour ago, the Government has begun introducing the three Bills that will enable this State to establish its own native title regime. The Government has been accused by the member for Kalgoorlie of dragging its heels on native title. The member must have had some memory loss on this issue. She said we should have done it two years ago.

Ms Anwyl: You had the opportunity to set up a tribunal a long time ago and chose not to do that.

Mr COURT: The member for Kalgoorlie wanted us to set up a state tribunal when everyone knew that the federal native title legislation was unworkable.

Dr Gallop: Are you acknowledging you acted in bad faith?

Mr COURT: Not at all. Members opposite acted in bad faith. The Labor Party at both state and federal levels has obstructed every opportunity to make that native title legislation work.

The amendments were passed in the federal Parliament in July. One month later, draft legislation was circulated for public comment. Public comment closed on 10 September. Some members opposite accused us of cutting that time short and of moving too quickly. On the one hand the member for Kalgoorlie, who must have seen election results a few weeks ago, says we are not moving fast enough, while others say we acted too quickly.

The native title amendments were proclaimed on 30 September, only a few weeks ago. We will introduce government legislation today in response to the changes to the native title legislation. Surely that is moving quickly. I hope that members opposite are able to support the proposals to validate titles and to set up a workable state regime under that amended legislation.

The member also said that rather than drafting the legislation, I was spending my time in Kalgoorlie.

Ms Anwyl: I did not say that.

Mr COURT: She was critical of my visiting Kalgoorlie during the election campaign when I should have been preparing the native title legislation. As the member for Kalgoorlie knows, I visit Kalgoorlie regularly. When the Leader of the Opposition finally makes his next pilgrimage to Kalgoorlie -

Dr Gallop: The Premier should not be ridiculous. I have visited far more country towns in the past 12 months than he has. Some country towns have not seen a government minister for so long they have forgotten what they look like.

Mr COURT: When did the Leader of the Opposition last visit Kalgoorlie?

Dr Gallop: I will have to check my diary; I cannot recall.

Mr COURT: When the Leader of the Opposition next visits Kalgoorlie he will not know the place. He will find a magnificent new sport and recreation centre and construction commencing on a \$12m community college.

Mr Shave: Good hotels.

Mr COURT: Yes, and good hotels. Last week we even gained significant international tourism coverage for Kalgoorlie which was supported by one of the local members but not supported by the Leader of the Opposition. We hear nothing but negativity. When he goes back to Kalgoorlie he will find a town for which a coalition government is doing something, but for which his Government did nothing.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has had a fair go and I have called him to order.

ARMADALE HEALTH SERVICE

Glossy Brochure Promotion

194. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Premier:

- (1) What was the cost to taxpayers of producing, publishing and distributing the four-page glossy brochure on the Armadale Health Service that appeared in the *Weekend Examiner* on 18 September, two weeks before the federal election?
- (2) From what budget was that money paid?
- (3) Why was the brochure used to promote the services provided by Ramsay's, then one of the two remaining participants in the expression of interest process for the privatisation and purchase of the facility?
- (4) Was this promotion of Ramsay's approved by the probity auditor and by the rival bidder?
- (5) What was the cost of producing and distributing the letter the Minister for Health sent to residents of the Armadale region - nine days before the federal election - on the Government's plans for the Armadale Health Service?

Mr COURT replied:

The Opposition could not provide a decent health service. Now that a new hospital is to be built in Armadale, the local member criticises it. Negative knock-knock.

- (1) \$12 439.35.
- (2) Health Department of WA capital works program, Armadale-Kelmscott stage two redevelopment.
- (3) The only purpose of the article was to respond to community sensitivity in relation to the fact that the existing hospital is currently a memorial to local residents who served in World War II. The decision was made to provide information about the successful transition of Hollywood Private Hospital from public to private ownership - a Labor Party initiative - particularly in view of the fact that the hospital provides treatment for war veterans. It is coincidental that Hollywood Hospital is owned and operated by one of the proponents and in no way suggests a preference.
- (4) Not applicable. Ramsay's was not provided.
- (5) The cost of the letters which went to each resident who signed the petition to the minister regarding the potential privatisation of Armadale Health Service was \$6 924.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Out of Order

195. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Police:

Mr Speaker -

Dr Gallop: I hope the failed candidate for Canning declares that.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Dawesville should get on with his question.

Mr MARSHALL: The winners take all the spoils and the glory and the losers -

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Dawesville will take his seat. Next question.

PROSTITUTION

Legislation

196. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the claim on the front page of today's *The West Australian* by a sex industry researcher that a person responsible for a series of sexual assaults on prostitutes would be counting on his victims not reporting attacks to police because of the illegal nature of their job. As the Government has been promising prostitution legislation for almost five years and the minister's predecessor promised it would be ready in January this year, when does the minister propose to introduce a Bill or Bills to the Parliament?

Mr PRINCE replied:

I do not know whether there is a rational connection between the death of this unfortunate woman and the point that the member for Midland made about prostitution legislation.

Mrs Roberts: And her being too frightened to go to the police.

Mr PRINCE: It has not been promised for five years. By my recollection, it is about three years. Members opposite would agree that it is a very difficult area in which to legislate. A committee of ministers and others have worked continuously on this subject since the beginning of last year. I know this because I have been on the committee. The legislation is well progressed in draft form. It is about draft four or five at the moment. A number of difficult areas are still being worked through.

Mrs Roberts: No-one in the industry has seen the draft.

Mr PRINCE: When it is ready I will take it to Cabinet. Subject to the cabinet process, the party room process and so on, it will be introduced into Parliament. It is difficult and it has taken a long time to work through it properly, but it is reaching the end of its drafting stage.

EASTERN HILLS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Year 8 Accommodation

197. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister for Education:

The minister will be aware of the exacting work carried out over a two-year period by a parent-teacher committee to improve the year 8 classroom accommodation at Eastern Hills Senior High School. Can the minister advise of the progress of this new year 8 cluster?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

Mr Ripper: Tell us about Ballajura?

Mr BARNETT: Ballajura is doing very well. Eastern Hills Senior High School has been allocated \$882 000 in the education budget for a six classroom teaching block. That will be in place for the start of the 1999 school year. Work has recently begun on the project, which will substantially improve facilities at that school.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETAIL GROCERS OF AUSTRALIA

198. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

I refer to correspondence from the National Association of Retail Grocers of Australia in which the association seeks support

for, firstly, a comprehensive socioeconomic study to consider the impact of the growth in the dominance of major retail chains on Australian small business and jobs; and, secondly, a moratorium on the extension of retail trading hours, and ask -

- (1) Does the Government support these calls by the National Association of Retail Grocers of Australia?
- (2) Will the Government place a moratorium on any further extension of retail trading hours?
- (3) What action does the Government intend to take to protect the interests of small business retailers represented by NARGA?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The Government set up a committee to look into this area of monopolies. The member for Pilbara was on that committee. The Government has some concerns in this area. The Ministry of Fair Trading has set up a committee to look at the issues and to take on board the concerns that NARGA has expressed to the member opposite and to me.
- (2) A review is underway into the extension of retail trading hours. Recommendations will come to me over the next few months, and a decision will be made based on the investigations, submissions and recommendations. By way of information, the Harvey Norman group, which is currently trading on a Sunday, did not care to provide a submission on retail trading hours to the Ministry of Fair Trading. That should be of concern to some people.
- (3) I have covered that in my answers to the first two questions. The Government will consider the submissions and recommendations. The Government has concerns. Members on both sides of this House are of the view that some of the monopolies that appear to be occurring in the area of retail trading, particularly in the retail food sector, are of concern to the community. The Government will be looking at all of those issues.

BICYCLE HELMETS

199. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Police:

Controlling youngsters not wearing bicycle helmets is proving a hardship in my electorate. Infringement notices issued to children under 16 years of age are not supported by the Fines Enforcement Registry. What direction should the authorities take with this issue?

Mr PRINCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The instructions under which police operate do not allow them to issue an infringement notice to children under the age of 16 years. However, infringement notices can be issued to people over the age of 17 and under the age of 18. If those people over the age of 17 years do not pay those penalties, their notices do not go into the fines enforcement register; they go back to the officer concerned. The officer may then refer the person to a juvenile justice team, issue a juvenile caution, or take the matter to court. It will depend upon the circumstances of the offence as to what action the officer takes. For example, someone who is a repeat offender may well go to court; someone who is a first offender may be cautioned; someone who is riding without a helmet or brakes or lights at night may go to the juvenile justice team. It is a matter of discretion for the officer concerned.

From a community point of view, another aspect of dealing with these matters is to improve liaison between local schools and police. Many schools are good at this task. The no helmet-no ride policy has been widely adopted by schools, and most schools police it themselves quite well. A great deal of self-policing among peer groups takes place, which is an excellent thing to do. I recommend that the bicycle offence reports are completed and sent to the bicycle section of the Police Service because it also sends letters home to parents and guardians of offenders. A good deal of action happens in this regard. Notwithstanding that the fines and enforcement process does not apply, there is an attempt to get to parents and guardians, and an ongoing attempt to involve the school in self-policing. By and large, the officers concerned take a responsible view when dealing with people of this age.

BIKIE GANGS

200. Mrs ROBERTS to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's hairy-chested suggestion last month that his solution to warring bikie gangs was to lock them in a room together for a year to sort out their problems themselves, and to his "Deputy Dick" line this morning that they should just get out of town. Other than irresponsible glib one-liners, what is the Government's response to the escalating bikie war which has seen drive-by shootings and vicious bashings become almost weekly events in our city?

Mr COURT replied:

The comments I made about putting the bikie gangs in a room to sort things out among themselves was not made in a light-hearted way; I was angry about what was happening. It has been suggested that the people who have moved from the east to the west should move further west. The police have a policy of zero tolerance for the activities of these bikie gangs, and I have been very supportive of the work the police have done to try to keep the situation under control. Those gangland tactics are a scourge on Western Australian society.

Mrs Roberts: What are you doing?

Mr COURT: The police are doing what they can to rid our society of those activities, and we fully support them.

FINES ENFORCEMENT REGISTRY

Introduction of 1300 Telephone Service

201. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Country people suffer many disadvantages, including higher costs in dealing with government departments which are headquartered in Perth. Will the Attorney General support the introduction of a 1300 telephone service for the Fines Enforcement Registry?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided me with the following comprehensive reply: The Ministry of Justice acknowledges the member's concerns about country people and will undertake to establish a 1300 telephone service number.

The SPEAKER: I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the final question today.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Budget Overrun

202. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

Has the Minister or his department approached Treasury for assistance in dealing with ongoing financial difficulties in the department?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for his question. It is no secret that the Education Department overran its budget by \$22m last year. That reflects that this Government is spending more and more money in schools.

Dr Gallop: That just means you haven't kept to your budget.

Mr Ripper: What about this financial year?

Mr BARNETT: This Government is spending, on average, an increase of between 5 per cent and 6 per cent in education funding. The Government is looking at another budget overrun this financial year, and there is continuing dialogue with Treasury. I tell Opposition members this: We will continue to spend on government schooling in this State and will provide the programs, the teachers and accommodation our system needs.

Mr Ripper: I have a supplementary question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I gave the member the call to ask the final question today, and there is no opportunity for a supplementary question.
