

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

**ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

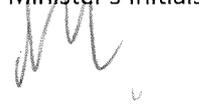
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Committee asked:

- 1) I refer to Budget Paper No. 2, page 66, outcomes and key effectiveness indicators. I note the Premier's advice in the Committee's consideration of the 2018-19 annual reports that the Department is developing additional targets to reflect services to Members, and ask for an update on that work.

Answer: Following the Department of Treasury's 2019 sector-wide review of the Outcome Based Management Framework, the Department commenced work with Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General to develop additional targets. This work was placed on hold due to COVID-19. The Department plans to recommence this work in the near future.

Minister's Initials



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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

### ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Committee asked:

- 2) I refer to Budget Paper No. 2, page 66, outcomes and key effectiveness indicators, targets for support services are met or exceeded, and ask which support services for Members of Parliament are covered by this indicator? What are the targets for each support service?

Answer: The Department sends Members of Parliament an Annual Expectations Survey. Member responses to the survey are used to determine if service targets were met.

Support services for Members of Parliament covered by the survey are:

- Information and technology support;
- Electorate office maintenance;
- Entitlements support; and
- HR advice.

The target for each support service is an overall rating of 4.0 (or higher) on the below scale:

1. Was well below expectations;
2. Was somewhat below expectations;
3. Met expectations;
4. Was somewhat above expectations; or
5. Was well above expectations.

Minister's Initials



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**ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Committee asked:

3) I refer to Budget Paper No. 2, page 71, financial statements, paragraph 3, and ask:

- a) Why did responsibility for the grant to the WA Child Research Fund shift from WA Health to the Department; and

Answer: The transfer of responsibility enabled the contribution to occur as part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's contribution to the annual Telethon Appeal through a Donation Deed arrangement and subsequently reviewed by Telethon's Auditors.

- b) Was the transfer of responsibility of the grant from WA Health to the Department made under section 25 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*?

Answer: An appropriation adjustment under section 25 was not required. Instead, recurrent appropriation of \$2 million (for 2021-22 and the out-years) was reallocated from the Department of Health to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to support the ongoing commitment to the Research Fund.

Minister's Initials



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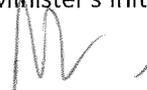
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

- 1) I refer to page 63 of Budget paper No. 2 Vol. 1, Appropriations, Expenses and Cash Assets and ask specifically about the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR) that commenced in 2011, with work continuing via an independent panel in 2018, being subsequently deferred indefinitely on 26 March 2020. I ask:
  - a) has any funding been allocated to progress the SAPPR; and
  - b) if not, why not and when can we expect the program to begin again?

Answer: No funding has been allocated. The Government is continuing to monitor the environmental and land use outcomes in the Perth and Peel Regions and is considering all options available for resolving issues.

Minister's Initials



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Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

2) I refer to page 64, Significant Issues Impacting the Agency, point 5 Perth Casino Royal Commission in Budget Paper No. 2 Vol. 1. Given "the Department is coordinating the Government's response, including implementation activities", I ask:

a) can you please provide a timeline for when you expect to complete these actions;

Answer: The Government is carefully considering each of the Royal Commission's recommendations. Many of the recommendations are complex, have multiple stakeholders and will require legal advice. Given the significant findings in the Royal Commission's final report, it is important that this work is not rushed and the Government will release its full response in due course.

b) a media statement from Minister Buti on Thursday 24th March stated "Further actions arising from the Royal Commission recommendations will be considered as the Government continues to review the final report in more detail". Has the government finished considering the report and finalised the further actions; and

Answer: As indicated in response to (a) above, the Government has not finished considering the Royal Commission's final report. With respect to further actions, in June 2022 the Government introduced the Casino Legislation Amendment (Burswood Casino) Bill 2022 into Parliament. The Bill will progress a number of priority reforms arising from the Royal Commission. As part of a staged response, the Government will consider whether there are further priority reforms that should be progressed ahead of its full response. This is part of ongoing consideration of the Royal Commission's final report and recommendations rather than a set timeline.

c) if yes to (b), what further actions have been identified and can you please provide a detailed timeline?

Answer: Not applicable.

Minister's Initials



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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

### ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

- 3) I refer to page 67, Services and Key Efficiency Indicators, point 2 Administration of Parliamentary Support. I also refer to the current allocation of 2 FTE per crossbench Member of Parliament and the precedent set in the 40th Parliament to give crossbench Members of Parliament additional FTE allocation, which was removed in the 41st Parliament. I ask:
- a) did the Premier receive the letter I sent on 7 February 2022 regarding additional resourcing for the crossbench, and if so when was it received;
  - b) has a response been drafted and if not, why;
  - c) given the disproportionate workload and responsibilities the crossbench must perform to provide necessary checks and balances in the current Parliament, has any budget been allocated to additional FTE; and
  - d) if no to (c), why not?

Answer: The Premier received correspondence from Hon Brad Pettitt MLC on 11 June 2021 and 7 February 2022, requesting additional staffing resources to Members of the crossbench. The Premier wrote to Mr Pettitt on 19 July 2021, advising that no provisions to provide additional staffing resources to Members of the crossbench in the 41st Parliament had been made.

All Members of Parliament – not only government and the opposition, but also the crossbench – have equal obligations in the Parliament and to their electorates.

All Members of Parliament, including the opposition and the crossbench, are offered briefings by the public service on all Bills introduced to Parliament, to ensure Members' are informed.

Considering this, and the costs that would be associated in providing additional staffing resources, no changes are being considered to staffing resources. All Members of Parliament will continue to receive an equal number of Electorate Officers.

Minister's Initials



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Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

2) I refer to page 67 of Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, and the amounts allocated to Administration of Parliamentary Support: Employees (Full-Time Equivalents), and I ask:

a) Do all 95 Members of Parliament each have a maximum allocation of two FTE electorate office staff;

Answer: Each electorate office is approved to engage up to four employees at any point in time while still working to the allocated two full time equivalent (FTE). Electorate offices for the Premier, Deputy Premier and Leader of the Opposition are allocated three FTE. The Minister for Health is currently allocated a third FTE due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

b) Which members had a greater allocation during 2021-22; and

Answer: Hon Mark McGowan MLA (Premier), Hon Roger Cook MLA (Deputy Premier), Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA (Minister for Health) and Hon Mia Davies MLA (Leader of the Opposition).

c) Which members had a greater allocation in any financial year during the 40th or 41st Parliaments?

Answer: Hon Mark McGowan MLA (Premier), Hon Roger Cook MLA (Deputy Premier), Hon Mike Nahan MLA (Leader of the Opposition), Hon Liza Harvey MLA (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Zak Kirkup MLA (Leader of the Opposition), Hon Robin Chapple MLC, Hon Tim Clifford MLC, Hon Diane Evers MLC, Hon Rick Mazza MLC, Hon Charles Smith MLC, Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC, Hon Colin Tincknell MLC, Hon Alison Xamon MLC, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA (Minister for Health) and Hon Mia Davies MLA (Leader of the Opposition).

Minister's Initials

