

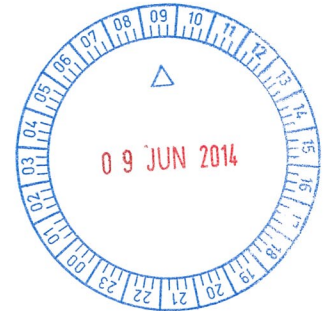


PUBLIC

9/6/2014

ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

Our ref: 44-10706



Ms Hannah Moore
Committee Clerk
Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
PARLIAMENT HOUSE WA 6000

Dear Ms Moore

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Please find attached the answers to the questions on notice submitted for the estimates hearing scheduled on Tuesday 10 June 2014.

An electronic copy of these answers was sent to your office on 4 June 2014. If you require any further information please feel free to contact me directly on (08) 6552 5919.

Yours sincerely

Darren Mellowship
**DEPARTMENT LIAISON OFFICER
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE**

04 JUN 2014

Attach:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, 10 June 2014

Question No 1:

Hon. Alanna Clohesy MLC asked: I refer to Budget paper No 2 Vol 2 p 432 Spending Changes and I ask:

(a) How is the Department meeting the procurement saving of \$4.7 million in addition to the \$2.91 million procurement saving from 2013-14?

Answer: Given the size of the Department, it is not possible to detail where these savings will specifically come from. However, the Department will reprioritise its procurement in the areas of communication, consultants, consumables, equipment repairs and maintenance, staff travel, and other expenses to generate the required savings.

(b) How is Legal Aid meeting its procurement saving of \$767,000 in 2014-15 in addition to \$364,000 last year?

Answer: Legal Aid WA funded the \$364,000 procurement saving for 2013-14 through accrued savings already achieved by the agency. Legal Aid WA's internal allocation of resources for 2014-15 is still to be finalised. However, it is likely that the required procurement saving of \$767,000 will be spread across a number of corporate overheads with the categories of administration, communication, consultants, consumables, equipment repairs, and staff travel.

(c) Please specify how the savings under 'program rationalisation' announced in 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 Vol 2 p. 576 were met in 2013-14 and how they will be met in 2014-15 and through the forward estimates.

Answer: The Department has fully implemented the government's changes to the *Juries Act 1957* which has resulted in a reduction in the number of people that are being summoned for each trial and less people are being drawn from the electoral roll, providing a saving of approximately \$1.2 million per annum in 2013-14 and out years.

In addition, a direction from the Commonwealth Attorney-General to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecution in relation to the prosecution of people smuggling in late 2012 resulted in significant reduction during 2013-14 in the numbers of accused appearing in the District Court of WA and a subsequent reduction in interpreter costs that will carry into the forward estimates.

During 2014-15, the Department will continue to examine further opportunities to create efficiencies in order to generate savings with minimal disruption to frontline service delivery.