

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

WorkCover WA

Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

1. I refer to page 120, Budget Paper No.2, Volume 1, and also note that the recommended premium rate increase is 1.822 of total wages in 2022, and I ask:

(a) How does that increase compare to 2021;

Answer:

The average recommended premium rate for 2021/22 was 1.704% of total wages. The average recommended premium rate for 2022/23 is 1.822% of total wages – a 6.9% increase.

(b) What is the current staffing numbers at WorkCover WA;

Answer:

WorkCover WA currently employs 127 FTE as at 1 June 2022.

(c) How many Conciliation Officers are currently employed;

Answer:

WorkCover WA currently employs 8 conciliation officers as at 1 June 2022.

(d) How many Arbitrators are currently employed;

Answer:

WorkCover WA currently employs 7 arbitrators as at 1 June 2022. In addition, there are presently 4 sessional arbitrators and 1 casual arbitrator engaged on an as needs basis. The Registrar also performs the statutory functions of an arbitrator.

(e) Is there any proposed increase in staffing in 2022? If so, in what areas;

Answer:

There is a budgeted FTE increase of 8 staff for the 2022/23 financial year. This comprises:

- 5 temporary positions - 3 in the Conciliation and Arbitration Services and 2 in the Office of the CEO required for implementation of the proposed new Act
- 2 positions to meet operational demand (1 in the Conciliation and Arbitration Services and 1 in Regulatory Services).
- 1 additional graduate

Minister's initials



(f) What is the current average turnaround time for an Arbitration decision; and

Answer:

The average turnaround time for an Arbitration decision given in the financial year 2021/22 (to 1 June 2022) is 137 days.

(g) What is the longest time taken for an Arbitration decision in 2022?

Answer:

The longest time taken for an Arbitration decision given in the financial year 2021/22 (to 1 June 2022) is 450 days.

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