

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

171. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer to the Premier's announcement of providing six weeks' paid parental leave for all public servants within the next two years and ask -

- (a) when will this commence; and
- (b) will the Premier explain why the Budget provision regarding parental leave was removed in May 2002 and then the policy was subsequently announced in company with Federal Labor Leader Simon Crean following the WA State Labor Conference in June 2002?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) The details for the implementation of paid parental leave for public sector employees including funding arrangements are still under consideration.
- (b) A sum of money (\$3.2 million) had previously been placed in the DOPLAR budget for the out years. As no policy was in place at the time for paid parental leave the funds were taken back into consolidated revenue until such time as a policy was set in place.