

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTEGRATION OF SERVICES, COST SAVINGS

532. Hon C L Edwardes to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth; Disability Services; Culture and the Arts

- (1) I refer to the Report of the Taskforce Established to Review the Machinery of Western Australia's Government and ask what cost savings are to result through the integration of services?
- (2) How are these cost savings to be realised?
- (3) Will the abolition of Public Sector positions be incorporated into the realisation of the cost savings?
- (4) If so, how many positions have been identified for abolition?
- (5) Will the vacancy of public sector positions be incorporated into the realisation of the cost savings?
- (6) If so, how many positions have been identified to be retained as vacant?
- (7) What classification levels are the positions identified for abolition?
- (8) What classification levels are the positions identified for vacancy?

Ms McHALE replied:

It has previously been made clear that the Machinery of Government Taskforce Review was directed at achieving better management and delivery of services. While it is expected that in the long term this will lead to cost efficiencies, no target has been set.

Disability Services Commission

- (1) The Machinery of Government Taskforce made no specific recommendations in relation to Disability Services which retains its status as a separate State Government ministerial portfolio.
- (2)-(8) Not applicable.

Culture and the Arts

- (1) Some minor cost savings may be expected to arise from further pooling of corporate support services, increased economies of scale from shared procurement services and process improvements reducing duplication, however, these have not been quantified.
- (2) Cost savings are to be realised on an ongoing basis as and when the process improvements are implemented and lower procurement costs negotiated.
- (3) Human Resources and Financial Services in the Culture and the Arts were integrated in 1997 and no cost savings through the abolition of Public Sector positions are expected to result in these areas. Information Technology and Procurement services are currently being integrated and no savings in the abolition of Public Sector positions will be realised.