

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, MOBILE TELEPHONE CHARGES

3083. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the answer to question on notice No. 2712 of 2004, and ask -

- (a) has the Premier inquired as to why the average monthly mobile phone bill has risen by 54% between the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004;
- (b) has the Premier investigated the reason for this increase;
- (c) what action has the Premier taken to reduce this increase in expenditure;
- (d) has the Premier drawn the attention of the Minister for Agriculture to the 62% increase in his Ministerial Office monthly average mobile telephone expenditure between the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004;
- (e) has the Premier investigated the reason for this increase;
- (f) what action has the Premier taken to reduce this increase in expenditure;
- (g) has the Premier drawn the attention of the Minister for Local Government to the 48% increase in his Ministerial Office monthly average mobile telephone expenditure between the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004;
- (h) has the Premier investigated the reason for this increase;
- (i) what action has the Premier taken to reduce this increase in expenditure;
- (j) has the Premier drawn the attention of the Minister for Education to the 63% increase in his Ministerial Office monthly average mobile telephone expenditure between the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004;
- (k) has the Premier investigated the reason for this increase;
- (l) what action has the Premier taken to reduce this increase in expenditure?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a)-(l) I have sought an explanation from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the significant variations in average mobile phone charges in a number of Ministerial offices between 2000-01 and 2003-04. The Department has advised that many of the discrepancies may be attributable to changes in the administrative treatment of mobile and other phone charges over these financial years.

The Department is undertaking a review of phone billing procedures within the Department to ensure there is consistency in the manner in which information is collated and reported.