

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, REPRESENTATION

978. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing and Works; Local Government and Regional Development; the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne

I refer to the Premier's media release entitled 'More opportunities for indigenous people in Public Service' dated 22 August 2001, and ask for each Department or agency now under the Minister's control -

- (a) how many indigenous people, Level 7 classification and above, were employed in the public sector as at 9 February 2001;
- (b) of those indigenous people, what was their classification level, position title and agency/department to which each was employed as at 9 February 2001;
- (c) how many indigenous people, Level 7 classification and above, were employed in the Public Sector as at 31 August 2001; and
- (d) of those indigenous people, what was their classification level, position title and agency/department to which each was employed as at 31 August 2001?

Ms MacTIERNAN replied:

State Supply Commission

- (a)-(d) Not applicable

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (a)-(d) Not applicable

Pilbara Development Commission

- (a)-(d) Not applicable

Kimberley Development Commission

- (a)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Local Government and Regional Development

- (a)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Housing and Works

In 1992 Indigenous people represented only 1.5 percent of the Department's workforce and yet made up a significant proportion of the customer base. The Department recognised that having a workforce that reflected the diversity of its customers was vital to the provision of quality service. As a result, it established its first Aboriginal Employment Strategy. This strategy has been maintained and enhanced ever since.

Since the strategy began, the Department has utilised the Aboriginal Traineeship Agreement between the Public Sector Management Division, and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and Small Business. This partnership has seen over 150 Aboriginal people gain training and employment at entry level, with some participants progressing through to Level 5 since their commencement. Other participants have moved on to other agencies to further their careers.

The success of the Department's strategy is demonstrated by the fact that it currently employs 85 Aboriginal officers, making up 9.6 percent of its staff. This success was recognised through the attainment of the Premier's Award for Equal Employment Opportunity in 1998.

- (1)
  - (a) 5
  - (b) Class 1, Executive Director Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure  
Level 7, Manager Aboriginal Home Ownership  
Level 7, Manager Management Support Programs  
Level 7, Manager Aboriginal Communities Strategic Investment Program  
Level 7, Manager Financial Technology Reporting
  - (c) As for (a).
  - (d) As for (b)