

WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS, NUMBER

526. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Have over 200,000 Workplace Agreements been registered under the Workplace Agreements Act?
- (2) How many Workplace Agreements were registered until the 30 June, 2000?
- (3) How many Workplace Agreements are current (that is have an employer and employee party)?
- (4) What percentage of the Western Australian workforce are covered by Workplace Agreements?
- (5) What percentage of the Western Australian workforce are covered by Awards, Industrial or Enterprise Agreements of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission?
- (6) Have all people entering into Workplace Agreements received improved pay and conditions?
- (7) Is it true the Commissioner for Workplace Agreements found, in one survey, that some 25% of people employed under Workplace Agreements were paid a rate of pay less than the relevant Award or Enterprise Agreement?
- (8) If not, what was the figure or percentage that the Commissioner found that were paid less than the comparable rate under the Award or Enterprise Agreement?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Total registrations to 30 June 2000 (including agreements registered under both Sections 30 and 40) 255 963.
- (3-5) Refer PQ 1959 (9 March 1999); PQ 605 (8 April 1997); PQ 2028 (5 September 1996). This information is not available. Employees move between employers and employment instruments and it is not possible to provide information on the number of employees covered by any employment instrument, be it workplace agreements, awards, industrial agreements or common law arrangements.
- (6) Refer PQ 1960 (9 March 1999); PQ 3140 (12 March 1997); PQ 2000 (4 September 1996). Information regarding the reasons for parties entering into a workplace agreement are not recorded in a statistical format by the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements. However, because workplace agreements are entered into by employees who genuinely want them, these employees achieve outcomes for their employment which are to their advantage.
- (7) In a survey conducted by the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements for the month of November 1998 and published in the "Summary Statistics and Other Information - Vol 8 - May 99" publication it was stated that for 25% of those surveyed the ordinary rate in the agreement was below the relevant award. However, the survey did not measure overall wage outcomes for employees, as there are many other variables e.g. additional hours for casuals and flexible working arrangements. Employees enter into workplace agreements for many reasons and these reasons are not available in a statistical format.
- (8) Not applicable.