

STATE BUDGET — COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES

225. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. If the Premier's management, as he has just outlined, of the state's economy has been so good and has been the creation of so many jobs over the last two years, why are services like Foodbank Western Australia being inundated by demand? The numbers are there. The numbers of people accessing services like Foodbank have doubled under this government's watch.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

We have focused on getting people back to work and we have focused on properly funding organisations out there like those ones. But as some of the ministers have just commented, there is a range of competing factors in there, including the commonwealth government. But I will just make sure that you are aware of one thing: during your time as the Minister for Water, the average cost per household went up by \$288. For five years in government, our average cost went up by \$116 per household. In other words, when you were in office for a shorter time, it went up by more than double in the same period that we have been in office. Your record is there. We will continue to remind people of your record when you were in office. It was an appalling record. The government blew debt, blew deficits and blew cost-of-living pressures on households all over Western Australia. Then, when we put in place cost-of-living measures to assist people, you attack them and you criticise them. You still have not worked out what you stand for—the lot of you. The six of you have not worked out what you stand for. The only thing you stand for, which is not a very smart thing to do, is to oppose whatever the government does. That is the only thing you stand for. No matter how right it is, how justified it is, how sensible it is, the only thing you stand for is to oppose what the government does, and if you think that is a recipe for winning elections, it is not.