

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, DEBT COLLECTION POLICY

2391. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer the Minister to question on notice No. 2018, asked on 16 September 2003, and ask -

For each person or company listed with a debt over \$10,000 -

- (a) what is the amount of each debt;
- (b) what was the cause of the debt;
- (c) what action was taken to recover the debt;
- (d) for companies that are still in operation, has a repayment schedule been put in place to recover the debt;
- (e) if not, why not;
- (f) why was a debt by the Health Department of Western Australia allowed to go unrecovered; and
- (g) did you, as the Minister, approach the Minister for Health regarding the debt?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

Western Australia Police Service

The Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) advise as follows:

- (a)

Polanda Arachige Dias	\$11,197.04
Westrans Heavy Haulage	\$12,649.41
Constable Care Child Safety Project	\$100,000
Health Department of WA	\$24,000
Oversized Transport	\$11,868.17
	\$11,830.55
Daniel Van Zuilecom	\$17,388.73
- (b)

Polanda Arachige Dias	Damage to police vehicle
Westrans Heavy Haulage	Escorts
Constable Care Child Safety Project	Loan
Health Department of WA	Grants and subsidies
Oversized Transport	Escorts
Daniel Van Zuilecom	Damage to police vehicle
- (c) Polanda Arachige Dias
An invoice and reminder letter was sent without a response. Telephone contact was made revealing debtor was an overseas student who had left Australia.

Contact was made with Immigration who confirmed debtor had left Australia on 5 December 2003.

Westrans Heavy Haulage

Standard invoice and follow up letters sent. Telephone contact was made with manager, resulting in a part payment agreement due to financial difficulties. Further phone contact was made on numerous occasions, but only resulted in one part payment.

Crown Solicitors Office (CSO) was instructed to commence legal action on 17 March 1997. The company went into liquidation during this action and WAPS were advised there would be no funds available for unsecured creditors. Various asset searches were made on the Director with the view of suing him to recover some of the debt. The final result was advice from the CSO recommending no further action be taken.

Constable Care Child Safety Project (CCCSP)

An agreement was entered into to allow CCCSP to repay the debt at \$20,000 per year. The standard invoice and follow up letters were sent. A 12 month deferral was made on the first instalment. Further deferments were made resulting in advice from CCCSP that they had no funds to repay the loan.

Health Department of WA

The Police Service receives Commonwealth funding via the Health Department for the provision of drug prevention grants. This money is matched on a dollar for dollar basis from the WAPS appropriation.

Towards the end of the 2001/02 financial year advice was received that the Commonwealth contribution would rise from \$146,000 to \$170,000 and as a consequence an invoice was raised by WAPS for \$170,000.

However, on the 27 June 2002 the WAPS only received \$146,000 resulting in an outstanding amount of \$24,000.

On follow up it was determined that the intended additional funds had been allocated to anti drug programs elsewhere in Government. It was not possible to correct the invoice in the 2002/2003 financial year as the original invoice was raised by WAPS in the previous financial year (2001/02). To comply with the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the outstanding amount of \$24,000 was written off.

Oversized Transport

Invoices were mailed out in June and August. The Police Service were advised in September that the company had gone into receivership. Further advice was received from the Administrator that the company had been sold. A final dividend payment of \$14,141.93 was received.

Daniel Van Zuilecom

Various checks were conducted and revealed that the debtor was serving time in prison and released on parole on 20 November 2000. Many attempts were made to contact and locate the debtor, however, all attempts were unsuccessful.

The debtor again received a prison sentence in May 2002 and was released on parole in November 2002. Again, follow ups were conducted, however, no response was received.

- (d) No companies are still in operation.
- (e) Not applicable
- (f) Refer to part (c)
- (g) No

Fire and Emergency Services Authority

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) advise:

- (a)

Dolmar Australia	\$11,263.73
Davison Industries	\$11,293.44
- (b)

Dolmar Australia	Invoice raised to recover FESA costs incurred for attending a
HAZMAT	(Hazardous Material) incident.
Davison Industries	Invoice raised to recover FESA costs incurred for attending a
HAZMAT	(Hazardous Material) incident.
- (c)

Dolmar Australia	Standard debt collection process was followed including referral to debt collection agency. The company was found to be deregistered and the company directors had absconded overseas.
Davison Industries	Standard debt collection process was followed and it was revealed that the company had gone into receivership. A claim was lodged with the Company Administrator which was part paid in the winding up process.
- (d) No companies are still in operation.
- (e) Not applicable.