

LABOUR RELATIONS REFORM BILL 2002, COST IMPACTS

776. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth; Disability Services:

Given the minister's recognition of increased wages arising out of the labour relations reform, will the minister commit to increased government funding to ensure that the quality and level of service delivery to the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged in our community will not be compromised by Labor's industrial relations reform?

Ms McHALE replied:

I do not believe I indicated that there would be an increased wage rate. I indicated that the previous Government's industrial relations agenda had the effect of depressing wages for the lowest paid.