

Division 4: Anti-Corruption Commission -

Question: Hon Kate Doust referred to page 30 of the annual report and the expenditure for advertising and asked "During the year the commission made payments totalling \$45 545 to Marketforce Advertising for recruitment services. How many positions did the commission seek to fill using the services of that company?"

Answer: Eleven positions. Because of the relatively small pool of people resident in the State who are available, or who possess the required investigations-technical skills and experience to be employed by the ACC, positions may be advertised in the Weekend Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Courier Mail and the West Australian, as appropriate.

Question: Hon N.F. Moore asked "Can the commission provide me with details on the \$590 000 (priority and assurance dividend savings for 2001-02) and how it proposes to save \$736 000 next year."

Answer: The Anti-Corruption Commission has grown rapidly over the past four years, in establishing the comprehensive administrative, policy, technical and legal infrastructures required to meet its mandate. With recent commissioning of its telecommunication surveillance (TS) equipment and legal authorisation for the use of those facilities, 2001-02 this will be the first year the Commission has been able to employ the full raft of capabilities considered essential for effective and efficient investigations. Furthermore, it is the first time the Commission has been able to accurately assess ongoing budgetary needs.

Overall the funding requirements for operational activities and essential administrative overheads have increased substantially from 2000-01. This is a consequence of FTE increases (related to the TS implementation) that reflect in salaries and allowances, significant accommodation cost increases, higher communications costs resulting from application of the TS capabilities and implementation of systems to ensure the integrity of all Commission records. Of further significance is the need to also be able to meet the set-up and ongoing operational costs for (the recently announced) public hearings into allegations of corruption, criminal or serious improper conduct.

Addressing its budgetary position in the context of the Government's savings policies and priorities, the Commission adopted a "zero based" approach to assessing its capacity to effectively meet existing operational requirements and public hearings over the next 4 years, with minimum overheads. It was determined that this can be achieved, but only by utilising the existing forward appropriations (lower than now required, having been established in 2000-01) and the approved carryover funds. The \$2 804 000 total contribution to the Priority and Assurance Dividends over the period was factored in the calculations.

A number of administrative and operational strategies will have to be adhered to for these objectives to be achieved, including -

- Maintenance of certain personnel, payroll, purchasing and accounts payable functions by the Department of Premier and Cabinet systems.

- Judicious management of surveillance and investigation technical equipment acquisitions, administrative overheads (ie overtime), training and general consumables.

- Extension, where appropriate, of IT and other technical equipment replacement cycles, and enhancements to vehicle leasing and similar contract arrangements.

Question: Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked "Is there any commitment at this stage by the Anti-Corruption Commission, financially or in resources, to the preparation or conduct of the royal commission into the Police Service?"

Answer: As indicated during the Legislative Council Estimates Hearings, at this stage the Government has provided \$5.0 million in 2001-02 and \$10.0 million in 2002-03, in estimates for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, for the establishment and conduct of a Royal Commission into the Western Australian Police Service. This funding commitment is separate to the budget allocation for the ongoing operation of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Possible future commitments by the Anti-Corruption Commission to the Royal Commission will be considered, if necessary once the terms of reference for the Royal Commission are finalised.