

PUBLIC SECTOR — WAGES

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

I refer to the hundreds of child protection workers, school and TAFE support staff, people working in our justice system, along with police and nurses who are all waiting for a fair offer from the McGowan Labor government.

- (1) What will the Premier say to those frontline public servants who are saying that their cost of living has gone up, particularly in the livings, but their pay has gone backwards in real terms?
- (2) When can they expect a fair offer from his government?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) The offer that the Western Australian government put to the workforce is more generous than that which was put by the New South Wales government, the Victorian government, the South Australian government and the Tasmanian government in the circumstances that we face. For lower paid workers, it is \$60 per week plus an increase in superannuation, plus a \$3 000 sign-on bonus. New South Wales is offering a \$2 500 sign-on bonus only for the health workforce. We are offering it to everyone. The percentage increase in WA is higher and the price of a house in New South Wales is double what it is in Western Australia. In Victoria, the wages policy is 1.5 per cent. We are offering three per cent, plus a \$3 000 sign-on bonus, plus half a per cent in superannuation; and for lower paid workers, it will be anywhere up to a six or seven per cent increase. What we are putting to the workforce is very fair and reasonable—so much so that the Leader of the Opposition on 21 September 2022, when asked about our wages policy, said, “The offer was reasonable”.