

INVESTMENT READY PROGRAM

299. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Industry and Enterprise:

I refer to the recently announced Investment Ready program.

- (1) How much state government funding is committed to this program each year?
- (2) Why have applicants been given only 10 days to apply?
- (3) How many people will be selected for this program this year?
- (4) How many additional people have been or will be employed by the Department of Industry and Resources to provide support for this program in the areas of mentoring, development workshops, other business support services and administration of the program?
- (5) What is the total number of additional staff?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for providing notice of the question.

- (1) State government funding committed to this program is \$150 000 in 2007-08 and up to \$1 040 000 in 2008-09.
- (2) Applicants have been given 11 business days to apply. This was considered ample time for applicants to complete the application. The department has received significant interest in response to the advertising of this program.
- (3) Up to 25 applicants will be selected in 2007-08.
- (4)-(5) Existing Department of Industry and Resources and Innovation Centre Western Australia staff will be attending to the administration of the program and workshop event coordination. A panel of experts will be accessed based on the needs of selected applicants. This will be determined for each round of the program after applications have been assessed and successful applicants have been determined.