PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT — ITHINK

203.   Ms M.J. Davies to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

I refer to the iThink platform and ask:

(a)   How many total users have signed up to iThink? Please provide the following (in the same format as Legislative Assembly tabled paper 3168.):

  (i)   How many total users are known to be from regional Western Australia;

  (ii)   How many are known government employees; and

  (iii)   Of known government employees, how many are from regional Western Australia;

(b)   To date, how many ideas have been submitted through the platform and:

  (i)   How many of these ideas were from the public;

  (ii)   How many of these ideas were from Government employees;

  (iii)   How many ideas have been referred to departments? Please break down by department pursuing the idea; and

  (iv)   How many ideas to date have been developed into active policy;

(c)   To date, how many of the following have registered to use iThink:

  (i)   Ministers; and

  (ii)   Directors General of Department;

(d)   If no Ministers or Directors General have registered for iThink, is there a policy preventing or recommending against registering for iThink? If yes, provide a copy; and

(e)   How many reports of misuse, abuse or inappropriate conduct have been received through the system? Please detail the subject, nature and outcome of any reports?

Mr M. McGowan replied:

The Public Sector Commission advises:

(a)   (i)–(iii) [See tabled paper no 456.]

    At 10 August 2021 there were 4,743 users, all of whom were government employees except staff from the platform vendor. 503 of these identified as being from regional WA during registration.

    From April to October 2020, iThink was open to the public. In this period, 1,850 'public users' signed up without WA government email addresses. These users were removed after October 2020 when iThink reverted to a WA Government employee only platform.

(b)   1,464 at 10 August 2021.

  (i)   571 (while iThink was open to the public between April and October 2020).

  (ii)   893.

  (iii)   86. See below table for breakdown by department.

Department	Number of ideas referred
Department of Communities	29
Department of Education	6
Department of Finance	30
Department of Health	2
Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	11
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	3
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	4
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	5
Department of Training and Workforce Development	2

Department of Transport	4
Mental Health Commission	3
WA Police	1
Total	**100***

* As some ideas were referred to multiple departments, the number of ideas referred is less than the total in the above table. An additional 431 ideas received during the public COVID-19 recovery challenges were referred to a director general reference group for consideration in the context of the WA Recovery Plan and their individual agencies activities.

(iv)   iThink is an ideas generation platform to inform and contribute to business improvement. Agencies consider ideas from iThink alongside other ideas generated through stakeholder engagement and planning processes. These may or may not be formed into, or comprise part of, active policy or initiatives.

(c)   (i)   Nil.

       (ii)   7.

(d)   Not applicable.

(e)   Nil.