

PUBLIC SERVANTS - NUMBER WHO ARE FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF LABOR PARTY

4932. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Regional Development

In view of Maxine Murray's recent report on the Labor Party habit of staffing senior positions in the Public Service with employees sympathetic to their cause, would the Minister please detail how many public servants (level six and above) are financial members of the Labor Party in -

- (a) the Department of Regional Development; and
- (b) each of the nine Regional Development Commissions?

Hon JON FORD replied:

(a)-(b) The Commissioner does not make the assertion referred to by the Member, and it is incorrect.

All persons within the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, and the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne Development Commissions are employed under the Public Sector Management Act 1994, in accordance with Public Sector Standards for recruitment and selection.

The political affiliation or membership of public sector staff is a private matter and it is neither a consideration, nor a requirement of employment that staff provide these details, as it is outside the bounds of their conditions of employment under the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The collection of such information by the Government would constitute an invasion and breach of employee privacy.

Please refer the question to the relevant Ministers for information regarding the remaining six development commissions.