

MINISTERIAL RESOURCING REPORT

146. MR N.W. MORTON to the Premier:

Could the Premier please outline the figures in the ministerial resourcing report tabled this morning to compare the number of term-of-government employees and ministerial officers employed by the current government with the number employed in the period under Labor?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I anticipated that the opposition would ask a question about ministerial staff positions, but it did not. Usually this attracts a lot of attention. I want to share the information with the house. As of the latest report dated 9 May 2013, the total number of staff across the 17 ministerial offices is 218. That is 11 positions fewer than were in place prior to the election. The truly interesting comparison is with the number of positions under the long-gone and long-forgotten Labor government. There are 218 positions today and there were 246 positions under the Carpenter government before the 2008 election. This government has reduced ministerial staffing by 29 positions, or around 12 per cent, compared with Labor. The state has grown; it is more complex and there are more issues, yet the number of ministerial positions is down by 29 positions, or 12 per cent, compared with the number under Labor.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I formally call you to order for the first time today.

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Willagee, I formally call you to order for the first time today.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I consider a reduction of 29 positions from 2008 to now as a significant achievement of this government, but I think what is probably more significant is the shift in the composition of ministerial positions. Under Labor there was a heavy reliance on political or term-of-government appointments. That has a role in our system; I am not against the TOG appointments system. However, at the conclusion of the Labor government there were 144 term-of-government or political appointments in ministerial offices. Today there are 77 compared with 144. That is almost half. That is a reduction of 67 TOG positions. This government not only has reduced the total number of ministerial staff, but also makes greater use of permanent public servants and dramatically less use of term-of-government or politically chosen employees. That is a reduction in TOG positions of 67. Perhaps that is why we did not get a question from the Leader of the Opposition.