

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CORPORATE EXECUTIVE, PLANNING OR
MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

289. Hon C L Edwardes to the Minister for Health

I refer the Minister to page 6-5 of the Report of the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and other Matters 1992 (Part 11) which said under the heading The Public Service - "The Public Service was affected adversely by actions taken into the period which we have inquired. Ministerial staff dealt with officials in matters relating to programme management in ways which affected the organisational integrity of departments", and ask -

- (a) will the Minister advise if the Minister's Chief of Staff, Policy Officers or Ministerial Officers attend Corporate Executive, Planning or Management meetings on a random or regular basis of those organisations within their portfolio;
- (b) if so, which officers have attended;
- (c) what are the names of the officers that have attended; and
- (d) on how many occasions have they attended?

Mr KUCERA replied:

(a)-(d)

In reference to the quotation from the Report of the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters (Part II), it is noted that the Royal Commission recommended inter alia 'the matter in which ministerial staff are to deal with the officers of departments and agencies, other than with the chief executive officer, be made the subject of clear and explicit procedures'.

This recommendation was subsequently incorporated in the Public Sector Management Act 1994 with section 74 of the Act specifically requiring each Minister to:

'make arrangements in writing in relation to each department or organisation for which the Minister of the Crown is responsible setting out the manner in which, and the circumstances in which, dealings are to be had, and communications are to be made, between ministerial officers assisting the Minister of the Crown and the employees in that department or organisation'.

In accordance with this provision I have such arrangements in place with the organisations within my portfolio.