

DIVISION 26: CONSUMER AND EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION -

Supplementary Information Request No B32

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked - With regard to the system of statistical analysis, since the introduction of the fatigue management code of practice, how many prohibition notices have been issued in the transport industry and how many prosecutions have been launched against transport operators for failing to produce a fatigue management program or breaching the code of practice?

Answer: There have been a total of 40 prohibition and 1070 improvement notices issued since May 2000. No prosecutions have been launched against transport operators for failing to produce a fatigue management plan.

Supplementary Information Request No B33

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked how many ministerial communications on the Labour Relations Reform Bill and/or industrial relations had been received, including letters, e-mails and telephone calls, which would have been logged and should be readily available, indicating the support or otherwise for the legislation.

Answer: The Minister agreed to provide a "reasonably accurate estimate of the number of representations which have been made to his office on this issue. However, where we can clearly estimate from the size of the file the number of representations, correspondence and e-mails we will provide a number covering that general area."

Ministerials	330
DOCEP correspondence	25
Ministerial information - ie submissions received on Options for change to MCE Act and to the draft Exposure Bill	60
Emails to the Minister's webpage	20
<u>TOTAL</u>	435

A specific count has not been made, as correspondence was not classified according to whether its author supported or not the legislation. Some correspondence supported some aspects of the Bill and opposed others. Generally, people don't write unless they have a problem with the matter at hand. Hence, it is not surprising that the majority of the correspondents were opposed or sought an amendment to some aspect of the Bill.

Supplementary Information Request No B34

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked for details of a contract with Advantage Communications and Marketing Pty Ltd. Specifically the Member asked the Minister to provide details of the contract, when it was let and for how long it was let and what the brief is for that contract.

Answer: The Minister agreed "to provide by way of supplementary information the answers to the four part question asked by the Member".

The cost of the contract is \$6000 per year. The contract was let on 19 August 2000 for an initial period of 12 months and extended for a further 12 months in August 2001. Advantage Communications and Marketing provides client survey results in relation to qualitative performance measures of the Labour Relations Division. This is necessary for the Department's internal and external reporting on performance. Consultants have been engaged for this purpose since 1998.

Supplementary Information Request No B35

Question: Mrs Edwardes - Further to that question, will the Minister advise me of the location of his agency's accommodation? Is there any vacant space at the moment for which the department is paying and which is not being utilised, either fully or part?

Answer: The department currently has accommodation at the following metropolitan locations,

1260 Hay Street West Perth (Westcentre)
2 Havelock Street West Perth (Dumas House)
219 St Georges Terrace Perth (Forrest Centre)
221 St Georges Terrace Perth (Forrest Centre)
220 St Georges Terrace Perth
5 Mill St Perth
320 Selby St Osborne Park
20 Southport Street, West Leederville

The department currently has accommodation at the following regional locations,

Unit 2/129 Aberdeen St, Albany
65 Wittenoom St, Bunbury

61 Victoria St, Bunbury Tower, Bunbury
Shop 3, Post Office Plaza, 50-52 Durlacher St, Geraldton
Cnr Welcome and Searipple Roads, Karratha
Unit 9, Karratha Village Shopping Centre, Sharpe Avenue, Karratha
Viskovich House, 377 Hannan St, Kalgoorlie

There will be no vacant space in the metropolitan area, which is not being utilised, either fully or in part as a result of the department's reorganisation. However, there will be a small amount of vacant space, which will not be utilised at Karratha. The department recently co-located all the divisions at Unit 9, Karratha Village Shopping Centre, Sharpe Avenue, Karratha. As a result there is currently 44m² of vacant space on the 1st Floor, Government Office Building, Searipple Rd, Karratha. The lease expires on the 30 June 2004 but the department is pursuing the possibility of another tenant taking over that space prior to that time.

Supplementary Information Request No B36

Question: Mr Barron-Sullivan asked - Can the Minister advise what is done currently, and what is planned to be done, in relation to checking the accuracy of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) bowsers; and

What guidelines does the Minister have for testing equipment at petrol stations to minimise the impact of the testing process on small business (eg. convenient times for testing).

Answer:

1. As a result of receiving a small number of complaints per year regarding the accuracy of LPG bowsers at service stations, the department commenced a small sampling project in December 2000. At this time DOCEP hired test equipment and inspected approximately 20 flow meters. Few problems were found.

Given the increased use of LPG gas however, the department purchased its own test equipment in 2001 for the purpose of:

Compliance inspections

Audits of licensed certifiers (467 certifications have been notified for 2001/02), and

Complaints follow-up (10 received 2001/02).

DOCEP received the test equipment in July 2001 and has subsequently inspected approximately 50 service station LPG bowsers. The number of inspections has been limited, in part, to the amount of time required to conduct an LPG inspection (approximately 3.5 hours per bowser). The greater impediment however has been technical problems encountered with the equipment itself. This has required return of the equipment to the supplier in Victoria on two occasions and an intervening re-certification of the equipment in January 2002 by the National Standards Commission (NSC) based in Sydney.

Of the 50 inspections undertaken DOCEP has recently inspected 28 LPG bowsers in the south/west region.

The department plans to conduct further LPG bowser testing during 2002/03. It is proposed that approximately 100 tests will be conducted and that these tests be conducted over a number of metropolitan and regional areas.

An additional factor in the scheduling of visits is that testing is not recommended during the height of summer when the temperature rises above 30 degrees. Additionally, the test equipment will need to be returned to the NSC for re-certification in September 2002.

2. The department applies nationally consistent testing processes and safety procedures during investigations. These do not currently include guidelines about when testing should be conducted.

DOCEP inspectors generally conduct inspections during normal working hours, 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, thus avoiding the often busier weekends and evenings. It is not normal that inspectors will make an appointment with the proprietor to conduct an inspection, however all attempts are made to ensure the minimum disruption while on a particular site.

DOCEP inspectors comply with the Australian Institute of Petroleum Safety Guidelines, which specifies issues such as the amount of area that needs to be closed-off at a site when inspecting bowsers.

To date no complaints have been received from petrol station proprietors regarding DOCEP inspectors conducting inspections at inconvenient times.

The department is aware of concerns being raised from time to time about the disruptions caused by private repairers at petrol stations. One repairer has advised that some 24-hour petrol stations insist that the repair work be conducted at around 1am to ensure that no disruptions are caused.

Supplementary Information Request No B37

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked: On Page 451 under cost of services, expenses from ordinary activities, is an allocation of \$14 million for supplies and services in 2002-03; the estimated actual in 2001-02 is \$16.8 million. Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the expenditure for the current year and the possible expenditure for the forthcoming year?

Answer:

	Estimated Actual 2001/2002	Budget allocation 2002/2003
	\$ 000's	\$ 000's
Communications	1,023	1,035
Services and contracts	13,588	9,301
Consumables	790	789
Other staffing costs	495	1,916
Administration	420	430
Equipment repairs and maintenance	553	553
Total	16,869	14,024

Supplementary Information Request No B38

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked in relation to the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements, for a breakdown of the supplies and services line item in the "Statement of Financial Performance" for the 2001-02 Estimated Actual and the 2002-03 Budget Estimate.

Answer: The Minister agreed to provide "a breakdown of the \$817 000 of supplies and services for 2001-02 estimated actuals and some breakdown of the \$100 000 that has been committed for 2002-03".

The information provided below itemises each expenditure item with some detail of the key goods and services purchased or estimated

Supplies and Services	2001-02 Estimated Actual \$	2002-03 Budget Estimate \$
Employment on-costs	16,000	3,000
Communications (Phone lease, postage)	116,000	7,000
Accommodation	227,000	56,000
Motor Vehicle Leasing	25,000	1,000
Administration Costs (Records storage, insurance, published data)	143,000	19,000
Consumables	40,000	7,000
Maintenance & Equipment (Repairs to business equipment)	18,000	1,000
Carry forward for 2002-03	232,000	0
Closure Costs	0	6,000
TOTAL	817,000	100,000

Supplementary Information Request No B39

Question: Mrs Edwardes asked who was involved in drafting the Labour Relations Reform Bill. If outside consultants provided advice, were they paid a fee for that support and assistance, and, if so, how much were they paid? In total, how many people were involved. The Minister agreed to "provide the names of the principal draftspeople" together with the names of outside consultants used and the cost of their engagement.

Answer: A range of parties, including employer and employee organisations and associations and various persons with industrial relations experience, were consulted over the development of the Labour Relations Reform Bill.

Submissions were received from a range of bodies with respect to draft proposals relating to the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 on which comment was requested in July/August 2001. 30 submissions were received, 6 from unions, 19 from large and small employer groups and 5 from other interested parties.

Submissions were received from a range of bodies with respect to the draft exposure Bill. These include the Australian Hotels Association, Australian Mines and Metals Association, Master Builders Association, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Disability Services Commission, Guardianship and Administration Board, Housing Industry Association and the Motor Trades Association.

Persons or bodies involved in drafting included:

Parliamentary Counsel's Office

Labour Relations Division of Department of Consumer and Employment Protection

Derek Schapper – paid \$19,274.32 for services relating to drafting the IR Bill.

Supplementary Information Request No B40

Question: Mrs Edwardes - I refer the minister to page 470 under cost of services, expense from ordinary activities. Will the minister provide by way of supplementary information a breakdown of the allocations to supplies and services of \$1.465 million in 2001-02 and \$1.645 million in 2002-03?

Answer: The breakdown sorted by category is as below -

	\$'000 2001-02	\$'000 2002-03
Workers Comp. Insurance	57	60
Fringe Benefits Tax	56	58
Other Staff Costs	50	50
Staff Travel	125	125
Communications	156	184
General Services	233	242
Consultants (Includes Resources Received Free of Charge)	80	117
Court Reporting	220	220
Insurance	49	54
Contingency for Printing Gazette	82	38
Consumables	64	81
Library	126	140
Records Storage		40
Official Catering	3	3
Plant, Equip, Furn	95	145
Maintenance and Repairs	69	88
	1,465	1,645

Supplementary Information Request No B41

Question: Mr Barron-Sullivan asked:

- 1. Will the Minister provide a breakdown of what organisations receive the money and how much they receive?*
- 2. Can the Minister also provide information about how much was in the fund and how much interest was earned?*

Answer:

(1)	Agency	2001/2002
	Tenants Advice Service	\$355,000
	Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc (Bunbury)	\$75,000
	Goldfields Community Legal Centre Inc (Kalgoorlie)	\$75,000
	Geraldton Resource Centre Inc	\$75,000
	Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc (Kununurra)	\$75,000
	Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc (Port Hedland)	\$75,000
	Midland Information Debt & Legal Advice Services	\$75,000
	Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre Inc (Mirrabooka)	\$75,000
	Southern Communities Legal & Education Services (SCALES)	\$75,000
	Inc (Fremantle/Rockingham – Joint Venture)	\$75,000

Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc & Gosnells Community Legal Service (Joint Venture)	\$75,000
TOTAL	\$1,030,000

- (2) The fund currently has a balance of \$35.5 million and this is the expected balance as at the end of the 2001/02 financial year. Interest for the 2001/02 financial year is projected to be \$3.826 million.

Supplementary Information Request No B42

Question: Mr Barron-Sullivan asked: Does the Minister have a breakdown of those administrative costs? The Fund has bonds repayable of about \$20 million per year and 10% of that amount is spent on administration. That figure of about \$2.1 million has been quite consistent over time but does the Minister have any details?

Answer: The breakdown of the \$2.023 million in the 2001-02 estimates for administration for the rental accommodation fund on page 454 is as follows:

Payments to Department of Justice and Department of Consumer and Employment protections for the respective duties under the Residential Tenancies Act:

Payment to the Department of Justice for their costs for their duties under the Act	\$0.639m
Payment of DOCEP for their costs for their duties under the Act	\$1.384m
Sub-total	\$2.023m

Supplementary Information Request No B43

Question: Mr Waldron asked: Page 456 contains the details of the administered transactions revenue table, which the member for Mitchell referred to earlier when talking about business name registrations. I do not understand the figure for land valuers. It might be something innocuous. The revenue increases from an estimated actual in 2001-02 of \$3,000 to a forward estimate of \$7,700. The actual for 2000-01 was \$4,000. The figure in the forward estimates is consistent across all the out years. What does that relate to and is there a specific reason for it?

Answer: Land Valuers licences are renewed triennially on an anniversary date of 30 June. Every three years, approximately 600 land valuers will renew their licences. The revenue at renewal will be approximately \$200,000. Previously revenue was shown in forward estimates in cash terms (i.e. revenue is shown in the year in which it was collected). The forward estimates have been prepared in accrual (not cash) terms to spread the renewal revenue over 3 years because the licence fee is paid for a 3-year period.

Supplementary Information Request No B44

Question: Mr Barron-Sullivan asked

1. *What is the annual cost of the fuel unit in the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection and how many FTE are employed there?*
2. *How does that amount compare with the amount for the last full year?*
3. *How much has been spent on each consultancy and which ones are they?*

Answer:

- (1) The estimated cost of maintaining the PPPU for 2001/2002 is \$1.6 million. Thirteen (13) FTEs are employed in the PPPU.
- (2) The cost of operating the Petroleum Products Pricing Unit in 2000/2001 amounted to \$1.6 million.
- (3) Consultants and Payments 1 July 2001 to 31 May 2002:

Protos Consulting International	\$103,300.
McKessar Tieleman Chartered Accountants	\$ 51,180.
RWB Accounting	\$ 19,184.
Altissimo Management Services	\$ 14,507.
Equal Consulting Group	\$ 9,765.
National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology	\$ 5,000.
Petroleum Cost Evaluations	\$ 925
Total	\$203,861