

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' STAFF ENTITLEMENTS

**419. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House:**

My question is without notice and it is regarding an announcement made by the Premier in the other place today. I understand that the Legislative Assembly members' staff entitlements will be increased to two full-time equivalents, and that other benefits, including car phone kits, will be provided. Can the leader confirm that this applies to Legislative Assembly members but not members of the Legislative Council; and, if so, why?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I think the answer is yes and no, because two issues are involved. One relates to the provision of an additional 0.6 FTE that does apply to only members of the Legislative Assembly. Currently all members have 1.4 FTEs; members of the Legislative Assembly will have 1.4 plus 0.6; in other words it takes the research officer position to a full-time equivalent. That does not apply to members of the Legislative Council, so the question is correct.

**Hon Norman Moore:** Why not?

**Hon KIM CHANCE:** I am here to tell members only the facts, not the whys. With regard to the provision of the car phone and other arrangements, I think those additional services are available to all members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. I will have to check that, but I am 99 per cent sure that is the case.