

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, RESEARCH STATION EMPLOYEES, PAY INCREASE

1307. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer to the recent State Wage Case and the State Research Station Agricultural Schools and College Award and ask -

- (a) will the Minister advise why employees of the State, under the above award, have not been paid their increases which were granted on 1 August 2001 by the West Australian Industrial Relation Commission;
- (b) is it because the Education Department is required to consider the application of similar adjustments for approximately 30 000 employees covered by over a dozen awards;
- (c) is it correct that the delay in the processing of the increases is due to the fact that the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection took until the middle of September 2001 to advise the Education Department of the increases;
- (d) if so, why does it take 6 weeks for the advice to be forwarded to the Education Department; and
- (e) what steps will the Minister take to ensure that increases to this group of employees in the future are received within 21 days of the order of the Industrial Relations Commission?

Mr KOBELKE replied:

- (a) The Department of Education has advised administrative complications in relation to this group of employees required auditing and adjustments to the payroll. The Department has also advised wage increases will be made in the pay of 6 December 2001, with all arrears paid in the Christmas pay run.
- (b) No.
- (c)-(d) No. Following the State Wage Case decision on 25 July 2001 the wage schedules for all state awards, including public sector awards, required adjustment. This was completed in time for the State Wage General Order to be gazetted on 22 August 2001. Advice to all public sector agencies was prepared and distributed on 6 September 2001. The administrative complications referred to in (a) above were discovered upon receipt of the schedule dated 6 September 2001.
- (e) Public sector agencies are responsible for processing pay adjustments. Every effort will be made by the DOCEP to expedite the process of issuing advice on pay increases.