

PUBLIC SECTOR — GOVERNMENT WAGES POLICY

457. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to a 14 June article in *Business News Western Australia* that ran under the heading “Cracks emerge in state pay policy”.

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that a deal has been offered to employees in the public sector that includes new entitlements such as discounted public transport, an extra holiday, superannuation during unpaid parental leave, and cultural leave for Aboriginal employees?
- (2) Does the Premier agree with the Community and Public Sector Union–Civil Service Association of WA that the conditions that have been offered break the government’s wages policy, as outlined in that article?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I am unaware of the article to which the member is referring. She can hold it up, but I cannot read it from here. I am sorry; I know that members opposite think I have super-vision, but I unfortunately do not.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! A bit of discipline, please.

Ms M.J. Davies: I am happy to give you a copy.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I cannot read it while I am standing here, but I can comment on the member’s question.

I appreciate the work that our public servants across the state do. We have not had forced redundancies. We have provided domestic violence leave for our public sector workforce, and we have increased the payouts to the families of those killed in the workplace across Western Australia—in fact, doubled them. Public sector workers are the beneficiaries of that. We have also increased the prospects of permanency for public sector workers who might be casual or part-time, and many public servants have been the beneficiaries of that. Our \$1 000 wages policy continues and will remain in place for four years. As members know, there is a wages freeze for members of Parliament, judges and senior public servants. I think the \$1 000 wages policy is fair. We have provided an offer to the public servants of Western Australia that includes some other longstanding benefits that they were seeking. I think that is a reasonable way of dealing with this issue in straitened financial times.