

LEGAL AID FUNDING, APPLICATIONS

60. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the Attorney General:

- (1) How many applications for legal aid funding were received in the 1999-2000 financial year?
- (2) How many of those applications -
 - (a) were successful in receiving funding in part or in whole; and
 - (b) were denied funding?
- (3) What amount of money was received from the Federal Government for legal aid funding in the last allocation provided?
- (4) What amount of money was received from the Federal Government by each of the other States in Australia for the provision of legal aid?
- (5) How much money did the Western Australian Government provide in legal aid funding -
 - (a) in the 1999-2000 financial year; and
 - (b) how much is budgeted for the 2000-01 financial year?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

In answering this question, I should clarify the capacities in which I am answering it. In part, the State Government obviously funds the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia and has a contract with the Legal Aid Commission for the provision of legal aid funding for state matters. There is also a contract with the Commonwealth for the provision of legal aid in federal matters. This has happened since the Commonwealth Government made the distinction in how money will be provided, so there will be a slightly different situation depending on whether it is a state or federal matter. The answers are given on an overall basis for the Legal Aid Commission.

- (1) 12 942.
- (2)
 - (a) 8 744
 - (b) 4 713
- (3) \$8.25m.
- (4) New South Wales, \$25.306m; Victoria, \$27.75m; Queensland, \$18m; South Australia, \$8.962m; Tasmania, \$3.72m; Australian Capital Territory, \$3.006m; Northern Territory, \$2.011m.
- (5) The Government continues to increase the state grant funding to legal aid.
 - (a) The state grant for legal aid is \$11.838m; additional funding for Dietrich matters is \$1.024m; and additional funding for redundancy payments is \$332 000. Funding for Dietrich matters is met by way of additional funding when the case crystallises. The \$1.024m incorporates funding of \$503 000 provided for 1998-99 matters and \$521 000 for 1999-2000 matters.
 - (b) The state grant for legal aid is \$11.885.