

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PAID PARENTAL LEAVE, COST

694. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the answer to question on notice No. 171 and ask -

- (a) has the Premier's announcement of providing six weeks paid parental leave to all public servants within two years, been costed;
- (b) what are the costs to the Government and people of Western Australia;
- (c) do these costs include actual and flow on costs;
- (d) have the details of the implementation of paid parental leave been worked out;
- (e) if not, why not;
- (f) have funding arrangements been finalised;
- (g) if not, why not; and
- (h) will the Premier commit to budgeting funds to provide for paid parental leave?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) The salary cost of providing paid parental leave to public sector employees is estimated at \$13 million per annum. This represents an estimated increase in spending of \$5.5 million as 58% of public sector employees currently have access to the entitlement.
- (c) Yes, the cost includes the flow-on to all public sector employees.
- (d) A range of options for implementing the extension of paid parental leave across the public sector is currently being considered.
- (e) See (d) above.
- (f) No.
- (g) See (d) above.
- (h) Yes. The cost of introducing six weeks paid parental leave across the public sector will be funded.