

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES, MOBILE PHONES, HANDS-FREE DEVICES

863. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Education; Sport and Recreation; Indigenous Affairs

I refer to the answer to question on notice No. 436, in respect to mobile phones, and the answer to question without notice No. 126 and ask will the Minister provide a detailed response to question on notice No. 436?

Mr CARPENTER replied:

Department of Education

1. All staff utilising Department vehicles have been advised of the notice from the Department of Transport regarding the ban on the use of mobile phones while driving. Senior staff are able to have cradles fitted to the government vehicles they drive, and all other staff have the discretion to acquire hands free devices such as earpieces, for use when driving.
2. Not applicable.
3. Total costs are not readily available as purchase of cradles or other devices such as earpieces is managed by individual cost centre managers.

Country High School Hostels Authority

1. Yes
2. Not Applicable
3. (1) All 8 residential colleges within the control of the Country High School Hostels Authority are aware of the ban on using hand held phones while driving vehicles
(2) Of the 8 colleges:
 - (a) 2 College managers have a mobile phone and 2 colleges have phones with a hands free facility
 - (b) If used in college buses (by 2 colleges only) another passenger (other than driver) answers the telephone
 - (c) 1 college does not have any mobile phone facility
 - (d) 2 colleges are also now looking at cost of buying earpiece and microphone sets which are estimated to cost \$250 each.

Department of Sport and Recreation

- 1) No
- 2) Vehicles will be fitted with a 'universal handsfree car kit'
- 3) Approximately \$600 total

Curriculum Council

- (1) No. One staff member was issued with a combined earpiece - microphone type device.
- (2) The Curriculum Council chose to install cradles.
- (3) \$90.00 for the cost of one combined earpiece-microphone device.

Department of Education Services

- (1) No.
- (2) The Department of Education Services had already installed cradles.
- (3) Not applicable

WA Sports Centre Trust

The answer to Assembly Question Without Notice 126 on 13th June 2001 is applicable

Department of Indigenous Affairs

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) \$1,038.

WA Institute of Sport

- 1) WAIS does not have any Government issued mobile phones.
- 2) Not Applicable
- 3) Not Applicable