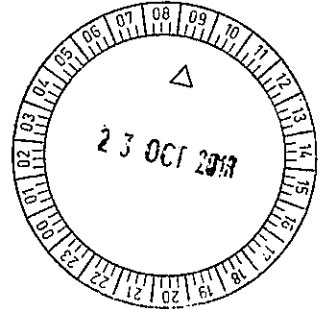


31/10/18



**Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce and Industrial Relations;
Electoral Affairs; Asian Engagement**

Our Ref: 71-08338
Your Ref: A719487



Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC
Committee Chair
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

icefoc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms ^{Alanna}Clohesy

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARINGS

I refer to your letter of 12 October 2018 in relation to 2017-18 Annual Report Hearings – Questions Prior to Hearing.

As requested, please find attached the responses to the questions posed to WorkCover WA.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce and Industrial Relations;
Electoral Affairs; Asian Engagement**

Att

22 OCT 2018

**Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
2017-18 Annual Reports questions prior to hearings**

WorkCover Western Australia Authority

Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

1. I refer to the work of Workcover WA during the 2017/18 reporting period, and I ask:

- (a) what is the current status of the drafting of the Bill based on WorkCover's review of the Act and their Final Report:

Answer: An exposure Bill is currently being drafted by Parliamentary Counsel's Office for the purpose of public consultation.

- (i) when is the drafting of the Bill expected to be completed;

Answer: The exposure Bill is expected to be completed in the first half of 2019 with the final Bill for introduction to Parliament expected by the end of 2019.

- (ii) when is the draft Bill expected to be made available for public consultation;

Answer: The exposure Bill is also expected to be made available for public consultation in the first half of 2019.

- (b) what was the cost of the Conciliation Service for 2017/18:

Answer: Conciliation Services for 2017/18 was \$4.787 million.

- (i) what is the budgeted cost of the Conciliation Service for 2018/19;

Answer: The Conciliation Services allocation for 2018/19 is \$4.538 million.

- (c) in regards to the Arbitration Service, what was the cost of the Service for 2017/18:

Answer: Arbitration Services for 2017/18 was \$4.959 million.

- (i) what allocation has been made for 2018/19;

Answer: The Arbitration Services allocation for 2018/19 is \$5.209 million.

- (d) a key performance indicator for the Arbitration Service is the time taken (within 6 months) to resolve the dispute, is that correct:

Answer: No. The KPI measures the proportion of disputes resolved within 6 months from the initial date of acceptance for conciliation through to the day it is completed either via conciliation or arbitration.

- (i) in 2017/18 the budgeted target was not met and was the worst result in the last 5 years. What was the reason for such a poor result;

Answer: In relation to the average cost to complete an arbitration the actual cost in 2017/18 was below target.

In relation to the KPI measuring the proportion of disputes resolved within 6 months the actual outcome was 6.6% less than the aspirational target of 90%.

A reduction in the availability of arbitrators due to unplanned staff absences and an increase in the number of arbitration applications contributed to this outcome.

- (ii) what action is being taken to improve the performance of the Arbitration Service;

Answer: The Arbitration Service is running with a full complement of staff in 2018/19 and is well placed to meet the service expectations.

A focus on proactive case management is driving efficient scheduling and completion of cases.

- (iii) how many permanent Arbitrators are in the Service and how many sessional Arbitrators;

Answer: There are 7 Arbitrators (including the Registrar) employed by WorkCover WA and 6 sessional Arbitrators.

- (iv) what was the cost of sessional Arbitrators for 2017/18;


Answer: \$209, 000.

- (v) what provision for sessional Arbitrators has been made for 2018/19; and

Answer: \$121, 000.

- (vi) is there any intention to appoint more permanent Arbitrators in 2018/19 and if so, how many and at what cost?

Answer: No. The Arbitration Service is now running with a full complement of staff in 2018/19.


Initialled by-----
22/10/15