

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

694. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the minister's comments in 2011 that public service cuts would lead to poorer public services while not saving any money.

- (1) How many jobs will be cut from the Department of Communities as part of the government's plan to axe jobs for 3 000 public servants?
- (2) How many people have volunteered to take redundancies so far?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) Regarding the clear target across government for voluntary redundancies, I think that has been pretty widely understood. It was announced in the budget and has been the matter of quite a bit of public discussion—rightly; it is a big decision by this government. We are determined to deliver quality public services, particularly for vulnerable Western Australians. In some of the areas that I have ministerial responsibility for, as the member would know, some very vulnerable families and individuals rely very heavily on the public sector to support them. We are determined to get our budget on track and keep the state budget under control because the only long-term option for supporting communities is to have a viable budget that is under control. We are working through the overall redundancies across all agencies of the public sector, including the Department of Communities. The member would know that three key ministers have responsibility in that department: the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Disability Services and the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering. A number of ministers are responsible for the Department of Communities and we will work through the voluntary redundancy process to ensure that we meet our budget commitment by March. There will be 3 000 voluntary redundancies throughout the public sector but we will not impact on frontline services that vulnerable Western Australians rely on.