

Dr Kim Hames; Mr John Kobelke; Mr Roger Cook; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Albert Jacob; Mrs Carol Martin; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr David Templeman

Division 14: Indigenous Affairs, \$30 351 000 —

Mr P.B. Watson, Chairman.

Dr K.D. Hames, Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

Mr P.J. Walker, Director General.

Mr C.G. Weeks, Executive Director, Corporate Development.

Mr D. Ord, Executive Director, Regional Outcomes.

Mr A.J. Burke, Executive Director, Land and Heritage.

Mr M.W. Hanrahan, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr B. Wilkinson, Chief Operating Officer, Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Any questions, members?

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

I refer to the heading “Total Cost of Services” on page 210 of the *Budget Statements*. It has been reported in the media that the government has a contingency plan in relation to the stolen wages report and the outcomes that might be anticipated from that report. What is the quantum of that contingency, what line item would we find it under, and when will the report be made public?

[Mr M.W. Sutherland took the chair.]

Dr K.D. HAMES: That matter is not within these budget papers. The funding is coming from an alternative source. It is a matter of cabinet submission; therefore, I am not able to discuss the details. I advised the media in discussions last week that I will make that report available when I present the government’s proposed response to that report. I have done a mea culpa in terms of the time it has taken. We have had the report for a year and a half now, but I have to say it is extremely difficult to determine what is the best approach for both Aboriginal people and the government. I am still working through the process. I anticipate, though, that within the next couple of months I will have that issue resolved and will make it public. It is not in this budget.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: My question relates to the full-time equivalents that are mentioned on pages 213 and 215 of the *Budget Statements*. I draw the minister’s attention to footnote (b) on page 215 —

The Full Time Equivalents ... may differ from previously published figures due to changes in calculation methodology.

I would like the minister to explain that change in methodology. I refer to the 2008–09 financial year on page 213. If we add 79 and 66 we get 145, but the budget papers for last year show 162, which is a substantial difference. Can we have some explanation of how the methodology changes 162 people into 145?

Dr K.D. HAMES: We can. I could give that answer, because it was given to me yesterday, but the director general has a much more understandable response than I do.

Mr P.J. Walker: The chief finance officer, Mr Hanrahan, can do an even better job than I can!

Mr M.W. Hanrahan: The Treasury methodology of reporting FTEs this year changed from what was previously reported—FTE caps down to average annual staffing levels that are consistent with the MOIR returns. So whilst previously it was an FTE cap, what is in there reflects what we return in the minimum obligatory information requirements. That is why it has come down to what we actually have on deck rather than what the cap is.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Does that mean for the 2009–10 estimated actual on 2010–11 the minister is assuming that he will fill all the positions if the numbers are going up?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes, it does. As the member knows, DIA has been through a time when the Dawn Casey report into the service recommended that it close down. The former Premier did not support that view, and neither did I. I strongly supported its retention. It was clear that things had to change through DIA to make it more relevant—that is, obtain more senior staff with broader ranges of experience. We have been going through that process. We have been actively recruiting staff in a whole range of different areas—to use the member for Balcatta’s favourite expression!—from a whole range of different parts of Western Australia. I have been very satisfied with that progress and that improvement. It is interesting to note that previous FTE numbers were based on a cap rather than actual numbers. In opposition, we were not aware of that in the past.

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Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Can the minister give the percentage of Indigenous employees amongst those FTEs for the years 2008–09 and 2009–10, and the estimate for 2010–11?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I was going to say 30 per cent. Thirty per cent is current, but that is not the question.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I would like to have exact figures, if we can, for those years.

Mr P.J. Walker: I do not have the precise figures—30 per cent. We can provide those figures by way of supplementary information.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: That 30 per cent is for what year?

Dr K.D. HAMES: That is this current year.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: In 2009–10?

Dr K.D. HAMES: The member wants last year's percentage as well. We will provide, by way of supplementary information, the percentage of Indigenous staffing for 2008–09 and for the current financial year, 2009–10.

[*Supplementary Information No A31.*]

[3.00 pm]

Dr K.D. HAMES: It just may be that we can get more information on that.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: How many voluntary severances were taken in the Department of Indigenous Affairs, and can that be broken down into Indigenous and non-Indigenous?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes. Can we have that included in that supplementary number, so it will be a total answer?

Mr R.H. COOK: I refer to the heading "Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies" on page 215. I foreshadow that I will ask a series of questions on this subject because I am keen to understand the migration of Aboriginal community patrols money from the community patrols division into what I assume is a training program. In the first instance, could the minister explain why heritage grants, the Indigenous multilateral funding pool and the land management grants have all been cut in 2010–11?

Dr K.D. HAMES: They have not been cut. Simply, the explanation is that the member needs to go to the total columns on each page. I noted that the member commented, during his contribution to the budget speech, that they had been cut. Prior to my arrival as minister it had been decided—presumably in the previous government's time—that the two components of reconciliation grants and heritage grants would not proceed as a line item on their own, and they would become part of various Indigenous community grants. That explains those ones stopping as we move forward. We can see that the 2009–10 budget had no funding for the various Indigenous community grants, heritage grants or land management grants. In this current year we have funded a significant number of community grants, which is the \$655 000 figure in 2009–10, and the heritage grants has \$16 000 left over, which presumably was just one individual grant, and \$100 000 in the reconciliation grants. A lot of grants are made that are not included in that list, and I will ask the director general to go through those grants that are not specifically listed.

The other point to make is that, as we got towards the end of the financial year, we had, through the Treasury process, to get all the information into Treasury. Grants were made subsequent to those listed in this financial year with additional funds we had as part of last year's fairly large budget. Some of those additional funds do not appear in this budget because those grants have been made since the final papers were drawn up. We will let the member know what those funds were.

Mr P.J. Walker: Yes, some examples of grants that were actually provided after the preparation of the budget papers were a grant of \$40 000 to the Mugarinya Community Association; \$50 000 to the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; \$81 000 to the Community Development Foundation; \$125 000 to Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships; \$200 000 to the Clontarf Foundation; \$50 000 to Wunan Foundation Inc; \$5 000 to Perth Legacy, which was a contribution to the commemoration of Indigenous war veterans; and \$20 000 as sponsorship for the opening and ceremonial events for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee week.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the minister prepared to provide a copy of that list?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes, I certainly will.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I ask a supplementary question about grants generally. Can we have a list of grants by category? Some of them may not be grants; some of them may be both grants and internal expenditure. What is the total budget for Aboriginal Lands Trust land, whether by grants to a community or direct spend?

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Dr K.D. HAMES: Aboriginal Lands Trust land is totally separate from this issue of land grants. These land grants are grants made according to the capacity of our budgets to assist various groups. Money comes through the Aboriginal Lands Trust, as the member knows as a former minister, and that goes into a whole range of different things.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It is not actually listed anywhere in the papers, so can we have some figures for how much money has been spent in maintaining Aboriginal Lands Trust land for the years contained in the budget; and how much is budgeted for 2010–11?

Dr K.D. HAMES: We will need another supplementary number, and we will provide details of grants provided through the Aboriginal Lands Trust for various community organisations.

[*Supplementary Information No A32.*]

Dr K.D. HAMES: During the last term of the former government, the Aboriginal community patrols budget was \$1.371 million; the budget this year is \$4.1 million, and it was under \$4 million for 2009–10. That is a massive increase—a \$1.7 million increase—in Aboriginal community patrol funding. That is because as part of those agreements with the commonwealth, community development employment project funds that were funding those patrols were taken away, and now we have to fund them.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Did the commonwealth pass on any money at all, or did the state have to pick up the total amount after it withdrew CDEP money?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I think the director general needs to answer that.

Mr P.J. Walker: The state has funded, out of its own funds, \$19 million over a four-year period for a range of CDEP conversion jobs that cover about four or five different agencies such as health, education, the Department of Indigenous Affairs, and community development, to name a few.

Dr K.D. HAMES: What about the commonwealth?

Mr P.J. Walker: From memory, I think that the commonwealth converted, under CDEP in Western Australia, something in the order of 260 jobs or thereabouts. In total, 156 or thereabouts were state-based jobs for state-based funding, so the residual—the differential—was funded from commonwealth sources.

Dr K.D. HAMES: How did it fund that? Was it funded through this budget, for example?

Mr P.J. Walker: No, the commonwealth has funded those directly, through service providers and its own departmental agencies.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I wish to talk further about the patrols. I appreciate that it was complicated because it was going through transition. The original model was that the state funded—I think that is where the \$19 million came in—a top-up to CDEP to run the patrols. I am trying to find out what the picture became after CDEP was changed or withdrawn by the commonwealth, and whether the state got dragged into having to really fund a lot more, or whether money from the commonwealth picked up a percentage of that additional up-front cost.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The member is right about how it used to operate. We used to provide the top-up funding to the CDEP; now they are stand-alone jobs. In a lot of the communities, all or most of those jobs have now gone—those positions are gone. Kalumburu was a good example.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Does that mean that the jobs do not exist any more?

Dr K.D. HAMES: It means there are significantly fewer, and they are being funded as proper jobs, but only part time, so they do not actually get any more money than they used to. We are looking around to fund a couple in Kalumburu, for example. The commonwealth converted some to jobs that it funds itself, but it is nowhere near adequate. The member can see what it has done to our state budget; we have more than doubled the state money going into it, which has made less money available in other areas for grants. We have had a good year this year in that, as part of some transition funding that we moved to employ more staff, we had a bit of money that was, in effect, spare that we have been able to use for that list of grants that we just put out.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Will there be no commonwealth money to help cover the \$4.15 million and the \$3.9 million that will be lost this year? Will that be totally state funding?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Totally state funds, yes.

Mr M.J. COWPER: I refer to page 213 of the *Budget Statements* and the reference to partnerships. Minister, I know there have been some issues in the Kimberley, particularly with Oombulgurri. How will the minister's department assist, in concert with other government departments, in dealing with issues in that area?

[3.10 pm]

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Dr K.D. HAMES: The member for Murray–Wellington is right. Oombulgurri has had significant problems, which has been extremely disappointing. I had a lot to do with Oombulgurri when I was the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Court government. In fact, that government had decided that Oombulgurri would be one of the locations at which it would build a swimming pool. The member for Pilbara talked us out of it. He was worried that it would become a cesspool and not be managed properly. Since then he has become one of the strongest advocates for swimming pools in such communities. The swimming pool that was destined for Oombulgurri was built in Mugarinya. There have been significant problems in Oombulgurri. The police charged some senior elders from that community, one of whom received a 10-year jail term only yesterday. Two options were recommended to me. The first was the closure of the community. I was fairly reluctant to do that. It would have been a difficult exercise anyway given that it is on Aboriginal Lands Trust land and that it is the traditional home of a large number of Aboriginal people. The second option was to significantly reduce the number of people in that community and to relocate them to Wyndham. We took a number of steps to get that community back on its feet. We appointed an administrator to review those operations. We also appointed a community development officer, who is a former police officer from the neighbouring community of Kalumburu. We are addressing housing issues and we are looking at opportunities for young people for fly in, fly out employment. I am having discussions with the Minister for Regional Development to see whether we can work with the Wunan Foundation to implement a program that it is currently undertaking in Halls Creek. The program involves looking at accommodation on-site for workers and a fly in, fly out system for employees. We are looking at re-establishing the community's market garden. We are seeking funds through Lotterywest or Heathway to re-establish what was an extremely large and functional market garden in the community. The local police officer did some fund-raising to rebuild the community basketball court. We have had discussions with Lotterywest about that. It has been approached and I am fairly confident that it will help re-establish that basketball centre. A lot of work is being done to try to get Oombulgurri back on its feet. There is a long way to go, but I am confident we will get there. The Minister for Racing and Gaming has banned alcohol in that community, which has been a big step forward. There were occasions on which plane loads of alcohol were going to that community each day. It had become extremely dysfunctional. It is a beautiful location. Many local residents say that it is a great location to live in. It needs a strong community. Many wonderful Aboriginal people live in that community. I have great confidence that the community has the ability to pull itself back together. Commonwealth government funding was proposed for the community as part of a package with the federal minister. Those funds were put on hold while the issue is sorted out. Hopefully now that the community is back on a better footing, that money will be forthcoming and we will end up with a community that functions as it used to in the past. The reason it was offered a swimming pool 10 years ago was that it was one of the best functioning Aboriginal communities in the state. A swimming pool was seen as a reward for its great operations.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I refer the minister to the second dot point on page 212 of the *Budget Statements*. I note that the Department of Indigenous Affairs has been working with the City of Swan on the development of the Yagan Memorial Park. Can the minister provide additional information about the park and about the repatriation, reburial and recognition of Yagan as a significant person in Western Australia's history?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I had a lot of involvement in this issue when I was the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The Liberal government funded the trip to England that allowed Mr Bropho, Mr Colbung, Mr Wilkes and Mingili Wanjuri to collect the head. Mr Colbung had been negotiating for the return of the head of warrior Yagan for a long time. His head was taken after he was murdered. It was brought back to Western Australia and stored ready for burial and commemoration. We also funded attempts to use ground radar to find the body in the Midland region where it was known that he was killed and where it was thought that he was buried. Unfortunately, that was not successful. Mr Colbung and Mr Wilkes formed a committee that had management responsibility for the kaat. They have now reached the stage at which they are ready for a ceremony to officially bury the kaat and to celebrate Yagan as a warrior of the Aboriginal people. There were funds in the 2008–09 budget of \$550 000. In 2010–11, \$146 000 has been allocated; in 2011–12, \$160 000 has been allocated; and, in 2012–13, \$172 000 has been allocated. Those ongoing funds will help the Swan council, which has been an integral part of the whole process and which has management of the site. It has ongoing care of the site and it employs some local Aboriginal people to act as guides and information providers to people who visit the site. That event is happening on 10 July. I am not sure whether the shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs has received an invitation.

Mr R.H. COOK: I knew it was happening.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I ask the staff here to ensure that the shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs receives an invitation for that event. It will be a fantastic event that will be attended by Aboriginal people from all over the state. It is not only about an Aboriginal man and his story; Yagan is representative of all Aboriginal people in this state. Indeed, he is one of their heroes. The official burial of his kaat will be greatly welcomed by all Aboriginal people in this state.

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Mr R.H. COOK: Did the minister say that the government owns and manages the site?

Dr K.D. HAMES: The City of Swan is managing it. I think it is on state government land. It will be vested in the City of Swan. It will have management and maintenance responsibilities as per the agreement. Hence, that funding will go to the City of Swan to assist it to maintain the park and to employ Aboriginal staff.

Mr R.H. COOK: Will the \$116 000 in the budget go straight to the City of Swan?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Five years' forward funding for that site is the agreed position we have come to with the City of Swan. The original amount of \$550 000 was for the construction of the site. The ongoing funds are for maintenance and employment.

[3.20 pm]

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The first dot point on page 212 states, "The Department will be conducting a review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972." Can I have some indication of the priority that will be given to that? It was a priority when I was the minister many years ago and never came to the light of day. Is it one of those issues that all ministers put forward or is the minister going to progress it and, if so, does he have any target dates by which he hopes to have the review undertaken and perhaps legislation in the Parliament?

Dr K.D. HAMES: That is an excellent question. We had a huge amount of work done by a lawyer when we were in government last time.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Which is only 10 years ago.

Dr K.D. HAMES: It is extremely complex and difficult. We have had some work done. The director general will tell us exactly what work has been done. Then we will get onto the issue of what we do with that.

Mr P.J. Walker: The department was funded with \$200 000 in the budget to do that work. A legal research policy officer, who is experienced in legislative policy analysis, is commencing with us, I think, next week on secondment from another agency. We have a commitment to try to complete that work internally within a six-month period, following which it will be up to the minister and the government to consider that work and take it from there.

Dr K.D. HAMES: There is only one way forward and that is for us to do it together. I tried to get the member when he was minister to establish a select committee of the Parliament, with me chairing it, to plan a review. The member expressed interest at the time, but I think some then government members were not that keen on the proposed Labor members I was going to have on my committee.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I was afraid they would be more hardline than the member!

Dr K.D. HAMES: We will not mention his name, given he is not here. I have to follow the normal rules of cabinet, but the best way is for me to do it as a green paper and put it out with the aim of getting it through before we finish government this term.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It sounds as though the minister wants a major overhaul rather than to fix some of the urgent problems within the existing act.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I do, but it is very difficult because there are extreme views on both sides of the argument. The problem is, once it gets out there, it is likely to get criticised by both sides; hence the reason we need to be bipartisan. If we go for it, the opposition will go for us and if the opposition goes for it, we will end up going for the opposition. That is the way politics work. We need to get agreement on this, if we can.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: There is no other mention in the budget papers. Is it possible by supplementary information to have what has been spent on Aboriginal heritage across the three years in the budget?

Dr K.D. HAMES: It depends what the member means by Aboriginal heritage. A lot of money is spent on Aboriginal heritage that does not relate specifically to changes proposed in the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: As opposed to legislative change, the minister has support for a committee. Expenditure is sometimes incurred because of the work of the committee and heritage. The minister has not provided any figures in these budget papers to indicate how much is being spent on heritage.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The advice is that it is very difficult to disaggregate.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Is there not a unit within the department that deals with heritage? Perhaps the department could provide the expenditure for that unit—the cost of maintaining the unit and any specific grants that may flow occasionally from it.

Dr K.D. HAMES: We will provide by supplementary information, as best we can, staffing numbers and cost structures within that for the Aboriginal heritage branch. I will also provide the details of the \$200 000 funding

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for the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act so that we can see what is there. When I get it, I will try to find a mechanism to get that to the member's side of the house so we can discuss what is in it and work forward as a unit.

[*Supplementary Information No A33.*]

Mr R.H. COOK: There have obviously been a number of attempts to review the Aboriginal Heritage Act at state level and a couple of attempts to consolidate, I think, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, federally. I seem to remember being on one side of the debate once when an agreement was reached with Senator Robert Hill when he was in that space. Has the government had discussions with the federal government on advancing a nationwide heritage protection regime? If so, where are those discussions at? What is the government's policy in relation to our act working under a national framework?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I am not sure that I am convinced it is the way to go. In fact, when people cannot get their own way under the state Aboriginal Heritage Act, they run to the federal heritage minister.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: The WA minister has the last say though.

Dr K.D. HAMES: We do with things such as section 18 applications, but not with all things. A lot of things do not come to me; in fact, some things do not come to me because they continue to be looked at within the department.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: If something goes to the committee, the minister can overturn the decision. That the department even exists is a disgrace in this day and age.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I think the former minister who made those decisions might not have thought it was a disgrace. A good example of why it is not a disgrace is Port Hedland harbour. I am advised that our officers will have discussions with the commonwealth. The Native Title Act fits into all that as well. In effect, three governments have talked about reviewing the Aboriginal Heritage Act in just this state but have not been able to reach agreement and outcomes.

Mr R.H. COOK: Is it just three? I am sure it was more than that.

Dr K.D. HAMES: There were probably more before this government, but there are three that I am aware of. We will try to have that go forward. I do not agree with the member for Kimberley.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: The minister may be able to change the world by getting rid of the whole lot!

Dr K.D. HAMES: I will leave it at that.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I refer to "Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies" on page 215. Can the minister outline how the community grants assist the Community Development Foundation run by Barry Cable and the MOASH program?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes; we have had a lot of discussion with Barry Cable and his team, supported by both sides of government in the past, about his program that links into schools and provides a range of programs that help kids, particularly getting into school. It works, in effect, like a frequent-flyer program. If parents go to the local school and assist the school with their kids such as doing some gardening, they are given reward points that earn them items such as a pair of running shoes for their child. Parents can earn points towards the purchase of sporting or other gear for their children at the school. In areas where they put this program in place, there has been a huge improvement in support by parents of their children's learning process. Each hour that they sit in the class with their child being involved in the education program counts towards earning something for their children. At the same time, they are obviously making sure their children attend the school. I think it is an excellent concept.

I am looking at rolling that concept out into the remote Indigenous communities. We have had a very good price from Barry Cable to do that. My first aim is to get this out to as many of the larger Indigenous communities as I can. Part of that, and what has been done in some of the areas Barry Cable's team has worked in, involves building what is called a MOASH, which stands for Mother of All Sheds, interestingly enough. It is a shed that is an extremely functional area for families to use and includes a kitchen and teaching areas for kids and the like. His team is putting in applications to Lotterywest to try to link in the sheds in remote communities with funding provided by our department. We will probably start with six in the first year. My aim over the next three years is to try to get all communities with a population of more than 200 involved, which is 18 altogether. It will depend on outcomes for the first stage. We will see how it functions outside the metropolitan area, where it is working at present.

[3.30 pm]

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We also provide lots of other grants and subsidies in different areas. One of those is the Leeuwin youth development program, to which we provided \$65 000. The government was looking for a package to assist the retention and support of the *Leeuwin II*. Money was put up by the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Education and our department to try to help provide that support funding. That \$65 000 will go to assisting Indigenous youth, working through local councils, to have some time on the *Leeuwin II* to expand their horizons. We are also providing some additional funding for Clontarf academies. We are able to provide a range of support mechanisms. I am particularly looking forward to seeing the outcome of Barry Cable's proposal in those remote communities.

Can I ask the member how long he wants to spend on this so we can leave time for the other portfolios?

Mr R.H. COOK: I have had the word "fisheries" mentioned in my left ear on a number of occasions over the past five minutes.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I want to go fishing in about five minutes.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I have one more question.

Dr K.D. HAMES: We have an hour and a half —

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We can do Disability Services at four o'clock.

Mr R.H. COOK: Is that all right with the minister?

Dr K.D. HAMES: Whatever the member likes. We are happy to talk about whatever the member wants to talk about.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The third dot point on page 214 states —

An increase in supplies and services as a result of set-up costs associated with additional activities such as the IIB, the AACC and the WA AAC.

If there is too much detail to provide now, the minister might like to provide supplementary information. Firstly, for each of those—the Indigenous Implementation Board, the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee and the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council—what are the running costs for the current year? What are the expected costs for each of those? Secondly, can we have a list of the members who have attended? What is their record? Have they been to four out of five meetings or two out of three or whatever it is? When sitting fees or other costs are paid for those attending, what costs were paid to each member and what costs were associated with each member's contribution?

Dr K.D. HAMES: We cannot answer the question as it relates to attendances. We would have to provide that information. We have details of costings. We will go through that first.

Mr P.J. Walker: For the Indigenous Implementation Board, the recurrent budget provided in 2009–10 is \$427 000. A similar amount is provided in the out years 2010–11 and 2011–12. For the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council, \$230 000 was provided in 2009–10, \$250 000 will be provided in 2010–11 and \$270 000 will be provided in 2011–12. The remuneration arrangements for the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee are essentially in line with normal statutory committees. The chair is entitled to \$655 for a full day and the various members are entitled to \$425 for a full day.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I was actually after totals rather than the hourly rate.

Dr K.D. HAMES: We will need to provide that as supplementary information. Can we have the detail of what the member actually wants?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I have already been given the information for the IIB, the AACC and the ACMC. For the WA Aboriginal Advisory Council, I would like the total costs for those years and then for each of those three—that is, the IIB, the AACC and the WAAAC—how many members do they have, how many meetings did they attend out of the possible meetings for the year and what was the cost associated with the attendance of each member?

Dr K.D. HAMES: We will provide that.

[*Supplementary Information No A34.*]

Mr M.J. COWPER: I refer to page 210 of the *Budget Statements*. I note that the total budget is quite substantial. Has there been any reduction in funding this year?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I might note that the shadow minister talked about the reduction in the fund for Indigenous Affairs. Members need to look at the first page of the budget for Indigenous Affairs on page 210 and then look at the sums that are listed for delivery of services. Members can look at any of those lines. If they look at "Total

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Appropriations”, the figure under the last term of the former government was \$23 707 000. When I was minister last time, 10 years ago, our budget for the year was about \$19 million. I do not know what it was during the former government’s time but it has obviously grown extremely marginally over the 10 years since I was minister.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It grew substantially when I was the minister.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Members will notice that the budget for this current year was \$29 million, an increase of roughly \$6 million or nearly 30 per cent. Our spend was \$33 million. That is a massive budget increase from the year before. This year’s figure is marginally less at \$30 million but still \$7 million —

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The minister is proud of cutting his budget.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I am proud of the fact that it has substantially increased over what it was under the Labor Party’s term in government.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: That was under the minister’s term of government. He had control of the budget in 2008–09.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The actual for 2008–09 was during the Labor Party’s term of government. It was the end result of spending —

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The minister is talking about actuals. He was in government for 10 months of the 12 months. It was his government’s budget.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The former government’s allocation was less than that. We overspent its allocation. It was in the order of \$22 million. Since then we increased it substantially. The current budget is nearly 30 per cent higher than it was in the Labor Party’s term of government. We have massively increased spending in the year and a half that we have been in government far beyond what the former government was able to achieve in its full seven and a half years in government. Far from slashing Indigenous budgets, we have massively increased the budget.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is a cut on last year’s expenditure.

Dr K.D. HAMES: It needs to be taken in context. There was a huge increase from what the former government spent. The reason it is different is that we had additional funds. We had a pouring out of additional funds for the restructure of Indigenous Affairs. We were changing employment, changing structures, changing the way things operated and providing some additional grants. We were able to obtain a significant increase in funding for last year and for this year.

The appropriation was recommended.

Meeting suspended from 3.38 to 3.43 pm