

STATE BUDGET, COST OF PROVIDING POLICY ADVICE, INCREASE

171. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; Water Resources; Federal Affairs

I refer the Premier to the line item relating to the Average Cost per Hour of Policy Advice and Policy Implementation on page 84 of the 2005-2006 State Budget and ask -

- (a) this cost increased by 21.7% in 2004-2005, from \$92 to \$112 per hour. Will you provide an explanation;
- (b) how many officers are employed in providing policy advice to the Premier;
- (c) are all of these officers located in the Premier's Office and the Department of Premier and Cabinet; and
- (d) what are the levels of the officers who provide policy advice to the Premier?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) This indicator reports the average cost per hour of policy advice provided to the Premier as Minister for Public Sector Management, Ministers, and public sector departments and agencies to ensure compliance with Government policy by the Review and Coordination branch, Public Sector Management Division. Once-off carryover of \$136,000 from 2003/04 to 2004/05, additional funding for the Public Sector General Agreement salary increases in February 2004 and March 2005, and a marginal reduction in the total number hours in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04 were responsible for the movement in the average cost per hour from \$92 to \$112.
- (b) Eight officers from the branch provide advice to the Premier as Minister for Public Sector Management, other Ministers and public sector departments and agencies.
- (c) All of these officers are located in the Public Sector Management division of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- (d) The policy officers in the Review and Coordination branch are:

Title	Level
Director	9
General Counsel	9
Project Manager (2)	8
Principal Policy Officer (2)	7
Senior Policy Officer	6
Policy Officer	4