

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS BUDGET, OPERATING EXPENSES

330. Hon Tom Stephens to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Aboriginal Affairs Budgets, Cost of Services Operating expenses on p65 and p67 respectively of the budget papers and, in particular, the line item "Grants, subsidies and transfer payments" -

- (1) What are the reasons for the significant reduction of \$2 422 000 in the allocation to this line item from the 1999-2000 Estimated Actual to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimate set out in the 2000-2001 Budget?
- (2) What impact will this have on the recipients of these grants, subsidies and transfer payments?
- (3) Is there expected to be a decline in the number of recipients of grants, subsidies and transfer payments in 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000?
- (4) If yes, what are the reasons for that expected decline?
- (5) Is there any change in the criteria for grants, subsidies and transfer payments between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?
- (6) If yes, what are those changes and why have they been made?
- (7) Will the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs table a list of the recipients and the relevant amounts of the grants, subsidies and transfer payments in 1999-2000?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Will the Minister table a list of the recipients and the relevant amounts of the grants, subsidies and transfer payments in 2000-2001 to date?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) What are the reasons for the difference of \$2 672 000 between the 1999-2000 Budget Estimate in the 1999-2000 Budget and the 1999-2000 Estimated Actual in the 2000-2001 Budget?
- (12) What are the reasons for the increase of \$250 000 in the forward estimates (including the 2000-2001 Budget Estimate) between the 1999-2000 Budget and the 2000-2000 Budget?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) The reduction is attributable to the transfer to mainstream agencies of programs, which were funded predominantly by grants. The role of the Aboriginal Affairs Department (AAD), in line with State Government policy, is to work with mainstream agencies such as health, education, justice etc, in order to provide them with the information they require to provide services to Aboriginal people.
- (2) As the transfer of programs is to agencies with greater capacity and expertise in the delivery of infrastructure, essential services, policing etc, these government services will be provided to Aboriginal people more effectively and more efficiently in the future.
- (3)-(4) The grants will not be issued by AAD but by the agencies to whom the programs have been transferred.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Yes. [See paper No 179.]
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Yes. [See paper No 179.]
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) The major reason for the difference is the number of once-off grant payments in 1999-2000 funded from carryover funds from the 1998-99 year.
- (12) As part of the State Government's commitment to law and order, the Aboriginal Communities Patrol Scheme received additional funding.