

MINISTER FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS, AVERAGE COST PER BRIEFING

168. 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 Briefing Provided to the Premier as Minister for Federal Affairs on page 79 of the 2005-2006 State Budget and ask -

- (a) as the average cost per briefing has increased from \$2,235 in 2003-2004 to \$4,876 in 2004-2005, can the Minister please explain point (c) in the explanatory memoranda;
- (b) how many people were employed in Federal Affairs in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005;
- (c) at what levels are these officers employed; and
- (d) how many briefings were provided to the Premier in each of these two periods?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) The explanatory note (c) refers to the movement between 2004-05 and 2005-06 in the average cost per briefing provided to the Premier as Minister for Federal Affairs.

Variations occur from year to year in the number of briefings required, and in 2003-04 the number of briefings was unusually high. The decrease in the number of briefings in 2004-05 was in part a consequence of the reduced level of Council of Australian Governments (COAG) activity in a Federal Election year.

- (b) 5 officers were employed in the Office of Federal Affairs at 30 June 2004, and 5 at 30 June 2005. Expressed as FTEs (Full time Equivalents), the Average Annual Staffing level for the year ending 30 June 2004 was 5.02 FTEs and for the year ending 30 June 2005, 4.96 FTEs.

- (c) The following officers are currently employed in the Office of Federal Affairs

Title	Level
Executive Director	Class 1
Principal Policy Consultant	Level 8
Principal Policy Officer	Level 8
Principal Policy Officer	Level 7
Administrative Assistant	Level 2

- (d) The Premier was provided with 164 briefings in 2002-03, 299 briefings in 2003-04 and 140 briefings in 2004-05.