

GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE, FUNDING ALLOCATION

164. 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 of Media and Communications Services to each Minister on page 77 of the 2005-2006 State Budget and ask -

- (a) what is the total allocation for the operations of the Government Media Office;
- (b) in 2004-2005 it was budgeted to be \$226,478 per Minister, however, the actual cost was \$252,133 per Minister. Why was there an increase of \$25,655 per Minister;
- (c) what is the total cost estimated to be for the provision of Media and Communication Services to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in 2005-2006;
- (d) how is it determined that \$252,133 is expended on the provision of these services per Minister; and
- (e) will the Government make a similar allocation to the Leader of the First Opposition Party in 2005-2006 for the provision of these services?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a) The allocation for the operation of the Government Media Office (including corporate service and other overheads) in 2005-06 is \$3,795,716.
- (b) When the budget was prepared in 2003-04, the average media and communication cost per Minister was estimated to be \$226,478. Additional funding of \$100,000 for an extra Media Officer and \$125,000 for the Tenders, Public Notices and Jobs Board advertising campaigns provided during 2004-05 plus supplementary funding for the February 2004 and March 2005 salary increases provided in the Public Service General Agreement are included in the estimated actual expenditure. As a result, the estimated actual average media and communication cost per minister for 2004-05 estimated actual was higher than projected in the 2004-05 budget statements.
- (c) The projected cost of media and communication services in 2005-06 for the Premier and Ministers is \$3,795,716 (excluding movements in cash balances and accrual items).
- (d) The average cost per Minister is determined by dividing the projected cost by the number of Ministers (including the Premier). For 2004-05, the estimated expenditure including corporate service overheads of \$3,781,997 was divided by 15 resulting in a projected average cost per Minister of \$252,133. The number of Ministers for 2004-05 is an average of the actual number of Ministers before and after the General Election.
- (e) The Government provided an additional \$100,000 per annum from 2004-05 for the Leader of the First Party in Opposition.