

REGIONAL AIRLINE SERVICES - GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

**547. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the minister representing the Treasurer:**

I refer to the flights on competitive routes in regional Western Australia, including Karratha, Port Hedland, Broome, Kununurra and Kalgoorlie.

- (1) What are the figures for total government spending for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 on Qantas, Virgin Blue and Skywest Airlines flights for each route mentioned above?
- (2) How much has the government spent under the patient assisted travel scheme on each route on each of the airlines mentioned above?
- (3) Does the Carpenter government have a policy on a preferred provider for airline travel undertaken by local government staff, agency and government staff and ministers?
- (4) If so, will the minister please outline this policy?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. On behalf of the Treasurer, I am happy to provide the following response -

- (1) The information is likely to be available from the Department of Treasury and Finance's travel service management contract but would take some time to prepare. I ask that the member put this question on notice.
- (2) See (1) above.
- (3) No, there is no policy on a preferred provider for airline travel. The government has a policy that follows the principle of "the best fare of the day", as outlined in "Premier's Circular 2004/13 - Guidelines for Official Travel by Ministers and Government Officers".
- (4) Not applicable.