

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - GERALDTON AND THE MID-WEST

772. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment Protection:

- (1) What are the total unemployment rates for Geraldton and the mid-west?
- (2) What plans does the state government have to address this?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

On behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Employment Protection, I thank Hon Murray Criddle for some notice of the question.

- (1) The unemployment rate for the city of Geraldton was six per cent in the 2006 June quarter. There is no specific unemployment rate for the mid-west as a whole. Unemployment figures are available for statistical local areas, which mostly correlate with local government authorities. Unemployment rates for individual shires can vary significantly, and the data has a high standard of error. For instance, seven of the 19 local government authorities in the mid-west region have an unemployment rate between one and two per cent, while Mt Magnet has an unemployment rate of 8.3 per cent. The breakdown of the unemployment rates for statistical local areas is provided in an attachment, which I will table.
- (2) The government provides support for a range of projects in regional Western Australia that generate employment opportunities for local communities. If Hon Murray Criddle has a specific question relating to a specific project or initiative in the mid-west, I ask that he address it to the Minister for the Mid West and Wheatbelt or, when relevant, to the Minister for Education and Training.

[See paper 1877.]