

COST OF LIVING — EDUCATION

63. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for those comments. Has the minister met with the Treasurer to discuss a broader solution for WA families to sort out this problem?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

Funnily enough, I speak to the Treasurer quite a lot. I do not know whether the member recalls the other cost-of-living relief this government provided in last year's budget—electricity relief and other utility relief—and the fact that we have been able to keep utility prices down. The difference in energy prices on this side of the country compared with those of our counterparts in the east is phenomenal. I speak to the Treasurer all the time. The Treasurer is well aware of cost-of-living issues. Just watch this space.