

WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS, NUMBER

17. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Labour Relations:

How many workplace agreements have been lodged in Western Australia since the legislation was introduced in 1993, and is there any indication of its success?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Since December 1993, in excess of 200 000 employees have entered workplace agreements. Those agreements have provided choice and flexibility for both employers and employees and have been supported by both.

Since 1993 real wages have grown, standards of living have improved for Western Australians, unemployment is the lowest in over 10 years and there has been sustained growth in labour productivity. We have heard from many organisations - the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, the Master Builders Association and the Housing Industry Association - and many senior executives in this town that they support the continuation of workplace agreements in Western Australia.