

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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### ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked in reference to implementation of a review of the Aboriginal Lands Trust:*

*Is the department also involved in the implementation of the report recommending continuing the excision process within Western Australia? What success has the department had so far in facilitating the release of additional lands for excision? I understand some reference is made to the Wangkatjungka community finally being given some excision? Has a policy change occurred?*

*and:*

*Have any additional requests for land, including excision, been granted since the Government came to office?*

*Answer:* As stated in the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) Review Report, Part E, Supplementary Issues, Item 1, "The Administration of Section 9 of the Land Act 1933", Section 9 of the Land Act 1933 was primarily used to assist Aboriginal people to acquire land under the Aboriginal Living Area Program (ALAP). The ALAP program was suspended by the Western Australian Government in 1993. The ALT Review Report recommended that the WA Government review management of Section 9 of the Land Act 1933 to assist Aboriginal people to acquire land for living areas and for other cultural and commercial purposes.

The Land Act 1933 has since been replaced by the Land Administration Act 1997. Under the new Act, Aboriginal people are still able to seek land under Section 83. Aboriginal people/organisations now apply direct to the Department of Land Administration (DOLA) if they wish to acquire land. Already some living area applications which were outstanding at the time that program was suspended, have been processed by DOLA under the new procedures and the applicants offered perpetual leases. I am unable to provide the exact number of applications processed, however, DOLA should be able to provide this information if required.

There has been a change in policy in that, when land is now offered for Aboriginal use and benefit, the Management Order (vesting) is no longer granted to the ALT for leasing to the applicant group. Rather the land is offered by DOLA direct to the group under a form of tenure negotiated between the parties. The usual form of tenure offered has been a perpetual lease. The Aboriginal Affairs Department and the ALT no longer have a direct role in the implementation of this program, however, officers continue to assist Aboriginal groups and DOLA with the progressing of applications.

I am unclear about Mr Stephens' reference to Wangkatjungka community being given an excision. Wangkatjungka community is already located on Crown reserve 36196 which is vested with the ALT and leased to the community expiring 30 September 2085.

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked: Can you give a break down of how many of these patrols are communities, rural/urban areas or metropolitan areas?*

*Answer:* There are currently three patrols operating within the metropolitan area:

*NASAS (Nyoongar Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service), Noongar and Swan*

There are currently 15 patrols operating in rural/urban areas:

*Wunngagutu - Kalgoorlie, Kija Jaru - Halls Creek, Kullari - Broome, Miriwoong - Kununurra, Warriu - Wyndham, Marrala - Fitzroy Crossing, Numbud - Derby, Carnarvon Patrol - Carnarvon, Ganah Gana - Wiluna, Mayu - Mullewa, Yamatji - Geraldton, Yulella - Meekatharra, Minnga - Roebourne, Pakala - Port Hedland and Ngnarogin - Narrogin.*

There are no patrols operating in discrete communities.

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked: What do Town Reserves and Wardens do with their funds?*

*Answer:* The actual expenditure for Town Reserves is on the employment of a Coordinator/Manager. This includes:

Salary and associated costs including leave loading, superannuation, workers compensation, district allowance and air-conditioning allowance;

Other expenditure on administrative support including telephone, electricity, stationary, postage, audit and bookkeeping fees, office rent and repairs and maintenance and vehicle costs.

The actual expenditure for Wardens includes direct wages and wages paid in addition to "Work for the Dole" Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Community Development Employment Program payments ("CDEP top up"). There are also associated costs such as leave loading, superannuation and workers compensation for all Wardens.

Other costs include: Equipment/Uniforms; Training/Staff Development; Audit fees; and Administrative support including telephone, electricity, water, stationary and postage.

*Question: Hon. Helen Hodgson asked: Page 58 of the Budget Statements indicates that there will be some specific effectiveness measures to ensure that patrols and town reserves will comply with pre-agreed outcomes. Are there any progress reports on that or is it a new measure?*

*Answer:* The measurement of progress against pre-agreed outcomes for patrols and wardens is a new measure. The measurement of progress against pre-agreed outcomes for patrols and wardens is a new measure. The apprehension rates for 1991 and 1996 for selected communities where patrols operate are below.

<b>Kalgoorlie</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	3271	21697
Apprehensions 1991	837	954
Apprehensions 1996	554	844
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	256	44
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	169	39

*Patrol funding established 98/99, patrol established 94/95*

<b>Wiluna</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	366	1699
Apprehensions 1991	392	8
Apprehensions 1996	335	20
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	1071	5
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	915	12

*Patrol funding established 95/96*

<b>Meekatharra</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	318	572
Apprehensions 1991	407	94
Apprehensions 1996	164	53
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	1280	164
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	516	93

*Patrol funding established 98/99*

<b>South Hedland</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	2147	8111
Apprehensions 1991	552	243
Apprehensions 1996	425	216
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	257	30
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	198	27

*Patrol funding established 98/99*

<b>Roebourne</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	974	1970
Apprehensions 1991	397	39
Apprehensions 1996	223	16
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	408	20
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	229	8

*Patrol funding established 97/98*

<b>Narrogin</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	671	4196
Apprehensions 1991	126	200
Apprehensions 1996	117	132
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	188	48
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	174	31

*Patrol funding established 97/98, patrol established 95/96*

<b>Geraldton</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	4195	22853
Apprehensions 1991	512	833
Apprehensions 1996	570	645
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	122	36
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	136	28

*Patrol funding established 95/96, patrol established 92/93*

<b>Carnarvon</b>	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Persons 10+	1709	5874
Apprehensions 1991	533	326
Apprehensions 1996	569	274
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1991	312	55
Apprehension rate per 1,000 persons 1996	333	47

*Patrol funding established 96/97*

*Question: Hon. Helen Hodgson asked: Can that document be tabled (Bringing them Home)?*

*Answer:* Please find enclosed a copy of the Western Australian Government response to the Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, *Bringing Them Home* August 1998.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: Is there a time frame for this infrastructure to be taken over by mainstream service providers in this State? Specifically, what is the time frame for Western Power's accepting responsibility for the powerhouse at Oombulgurri and delivering power at the uniform tariff applied in the rest of Western Australia?*

*Answer:* The State Government has been working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) to implement a two stage process to reform the delivery of essential services, including power, to Aboriginal communities. The establishment of the joint Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP) has been the first stage of this process. The second stage involves the development of service delivery models and a bilateral agreement that will supersede the arrangements that have been in place since 1985 and resolve long term service delivery issues. The Minister for Energy has recently indicated that the assumption of increased responsibility by the State for the provision of power services to large communities such as Oombulgurri will proceed through a power procurement process to be coordinated by the Office of Energy. This will be a staged process targeting an initial three communities in the West Kimberley. The Office of Energy are currently working with ATSIC to develop this proposal for the consideration of State Cabinet. Issues such as tariff arrangements and subsidies will be negotiated as part of this process. The successful service provider may be Western Power or it may be a private sector company.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: With whom is the agreement that the gazettal of a townsite will lead to the provision of essential services (by the State government)? Is it the State Coordinating Committee?*

*Answer:* The Minister for Energy has recently indicated (attached) that he sees the constitution of Aboriginal communities as formal towns under the Land Administration Act 1997 would place a responsibility on the State to provide power. Further information should be sought from the Minister for Energy. The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee has not considered this issue.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: What specifically flows as a result of an Aboriginal community arranging for its location to be gazetted as a townsite? Is there, or will there be a firm commitment from Government that the services and utility provisions that come to other West Australians will flow automatically to those communities so gazetted as a consequence of that gazettal? Will the uniform rate that applies to the rest of WA be adopted? Why would a community move toward gazettal and why is gazettal a necessary prerequisite before the State Government will accept its responsibility for its Aboriginal citizens?*

*Answer:* The constitution of an Aboriginal community/locality as a townsite merely provides an administered boundary around the area. For mapping purposes it becomes a town lot rather than a location. Further information should be sought from the Minister for Energy.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked for the current total of charges laid since 1 November 1996; and, of those, how many were investigated by the ACC, how many have been concluded, how many have led to convictions, how many have been proceeded with and been dealt with by way of acquittal, and how many have not been proceeded with?*

*Answer:* The following totals are current up to 31 May 1999 and reflect the number of cases in which criminal charges have been laid. This does not reflect the total number of individual charges.

Total charges laid since 1 November 1996	53
Of these how many investigated by ACC?	2
How many have been concluded?	20
How many have led to convictions?	16
How many have resulted in acquittals?	4
Number where outcome is unknown ?	33

In almost all cases investigated by other agencies, the ACC has received and considered a report on the investigation. It is noted that in its Annual Report for June 1997 – December 1998, the Joint Standing Committee on the Anti-Corruption Commission acknowledged that “while monitoring the rate of prosecutions is important, it is in itself not a very useful measure of effectiveness”. It is important for all allegations to be addressed, including those that are ultimately unsubstantiated of which there have been a significant number.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked about the line item at page 1120 which refers to an actual amount for 1997-98 of \$6.372m. At page 24 of the annual report, the annual expenditure for 1997-98 is \$4 739 639. Note 3 inflates that amount to \$5 397 581, taking into account the cost of professional services for special investigations of \$306 603, and of legal services provided by the Crown Solicitor’s Office free of charge of \$351 339. Can you explain the difference?*

*Answer:* The difference of \$974 419 between the figure of \$5, 397 581 and the appropriation of \$6 372 000 is attributable to the increase of cash on hand and amounts in suspense at 30 June 1998 of \$573 318 and the net effect of accrual adjustments for the year ending 30 June 1998.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked for the allocation for legal services provided by the Crown Solicitor’s Office for 1998-99, and how much has been spent on legal services provided by other people?*

*Answer:* The Crown Solicitor’s Office has allocated some \$242 346 at 30 April 1999 for legal services provided to the ACC. The ACC has expended a further \$38 502 to 30 April 1999 on other legal services.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked what is the allocation for 1998-99 and for 1999-2000 for special investigations?*

*Answer:* In 1998/99 an allocation of \$686 000 has been made for special investigations. From 1999/2000 the Commission has adopted a new approach to only request funds for special investigations as the need arises. Therefore, no allocation has been made for special investigations from 1999/2000.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked what has the ACC spent on media work in 1998-99 and what is its budget for media work for 1999-2000?*

*Answer:* In 1998/99 the commission has expended \$35 507 to 30 April, 1999 on media work. The 1999/2000 Budget allocation for media work is \$40 000.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked why is there no proper breakdown of the commission’s budget before the committee?*

*Answer:* The reason for this is historical. The Official Corruption Commission (OCC), as the Anti-Corruption Commission was formerly known, was a small organisation with a small budget. The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet provided corporate services, including accounting services, to the commission. It was therefore convenient for the OCC to be included as a one-line item in the budget of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. The substantial change in the nature and resourcing of the Anti-Corruption Commission in recent years may necessitate these arrangements being reconsidered.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked for the number of matters received or initiated by the Anti-Corruption Commission this financial year?*

*Answer:*

Total	355
Unique	344

Where the same allegation is received from more than one source, it is only counted once to arrive at the number of unique matters.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked with respect to the number of matters received or initiated, excluding matters that did not proceed even to preliminary investigation stage because they were referred to other agencies, outside jurisdiction, withdrawn or vexatious, etc, what was the cost per case?*

*Answer:* All allegations received by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) are assessed to determine whether they are within jurisdiction and if so, whether further action is warranted on reasonable grounds. The assessment also examines whether the matter should be the subject of further action by the ACC or by an appropriate authority or independent agency. Assessments are completed by investigators in the Complaints and Compliance Unit and submitted to the commission members for a decision. Even if the commission members decide the allegation is not within jurisdiction or is frivolous, vexatious or has not been made in good faith, there is a cost involved to assess each case. The average cost per case including those investigated by the commission's investigators was \$9 957 in 1997/98. The commission does not keep costs of assessing individual allegations. However, the commission is developing systems to record the cost of major investigations performed by its own investigators.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked about the Hon Mark Nevill's reference to the secrecy provision. With respect to the recent occurrence of the commission joining with police to issue a statement with respect to an investigation by an outside body to do with two contenders of the position of Commissioner of Police, was there any expenditure on outside legal advice to assist the commission in finding its way around the Act in the way that the commission did?*

*Answer:* It is assumed that the Hon N.D. Griffiths was referring to an article on page 1 of The West Australian on Friday 21 May 1999 which refers to a statement issued by "Mr Falconer's office". The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) did not join with the police to issue the statement. The Police's media officer did, however, liaise with the Commission's media officer in relation to the release. No expenditure relating to outside legal advice was incurred by the commission in respect of this matter. Further, the commission did not attempt to, nor did it, circumvent the provisions of the ACC Act.

## AUDITOR GENERAL

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked what hospitals will be included in your review of surgical procedures in non-teaching hospitals?*

*Answer:* The performance examination is concerned with the overall organisation of surgical services in Western Australia. In medical parlance, surgical procedures are the actual operations performed, a different matter. All public hospitals are included to some extent. We have accessed the Hospital Morbidity Database System which holds data on all patients formally admitted to any WA hospital. We have sought information and views via a postal survey from all health services. We have also visited a selection of hospitals including:

Royal Perth, Fremantle  
Osborne Park, Bentley, Armadale, Kalamunda  
Geraldton, Carnarvon, Broome, Derby  
Meekatharra, Lake Grace, Kojonup

## COMMERCE AND TRADE

*Question: The Chairman (Hon E.R.J. Dermer) requested a breakdown of the components of the expenditure to date on STEP.*

*Answer:* The major expenditure items for 1998/99 were:

Temporary Staff - Technical and Specialist	\$169,000
Research and Development of Expressions of Interest and Request for Proposal documents and their evaluation	\$200,000

Other expenditure has been principally associated with the administration and support of the telecommunications task force.

*Question: The Chairman (Hon E.R.J. Dermer) requested the breakdown of the components of estimated expenditure on STEP in the 1999/2000 financial year.*

*Answer:*

	1999/2000
Regional Telecommunications Equipment	\$6.0 million
Telehealth	\$1.5 million
Telecentres	\$0.3 million
Whole of Government Messaging and Systems	\$1.2 million
Contract Development and Operation	\$0.5 million
	<hr/> \$9.5 million

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked if the Aboriginal Business Development Office will withdraw from servicing stores at Aboriginal communities.*

*Answer:* The Community Stores Program (CSP), administered by the Office of Aboriginal Economic Development and outsourced under a contract for services for delivery by Aboriginal Business Development Pty Ltd (ABD), will expire on 30 June 1999. However, after consultation with the State Supply Commission, who has waived the requirement for a tender to cover the period from 1 July to 30 September 1999, the CSP will be extended in its current form to 30 September 1999 at which time a revised version of the program will be implemented. ABD has been informed of these developments and that the replacement program will provide stores with mentoring services and access to professional support.

*Question: Hon Simon O'Brien asked about the implementation of the aviation strategy, what it would cost and the expected benefits.*

*Answer:* Before the economic crisis, Asia's air transport industry was expanding at a rate twice the international average. This was projected to create a major shortage of airline pilots. The air transport industry is forecast to resume its growth phase as soon as Asia's economy recovers. Western Australia's natural benefits of good weather, open skies, multiculturalism, etc. is being promoted to attract airlines to train their pilots in regional Western Australia. Also, because of high operational costs in the United Kingdom, it may be possible to attract established colleges to open facilities in Western Australia to tap into the Asian market. This is a long-term marketing strategy that is not expected to yield results until the Asian economy recovers.

The cost to date of developing the aviation strategy and associated promotional material has been \$43,000. As a follow-on from the Deputy Premier's promotion of Western Australia at the World Air Transport Training Conference in Denver in May, the Department of Commerce and Trade, in conjunction with the Department of Transport, proposes to directly target selected airlines in the Asian region. It is important that the 'targets' are carefully selected and this research is yet to be completed. The targets will most likely be the larger airlines (small airlines are unlikely to consider training their own pilots) and will be in the Asian region. The benefits of attracting a major airline to undertake pilot training in regional WA are considerable. The China Southern-West Australian Flying College at Merredin for example, has created some 50 direct jobs, has brought substantial business to the local community and procured some \$20m in export earnings for the State.

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked if the Department of Commerce and Trade had taken into account that not only were there existing providers of export sheep abattoir facilities in this State, in the same great southern district, but also there is significant surplus capacity in the industry. Were Department of Commerce and Trade aware of that surplus capacity in the industry, and what justification did it find for applying public money for the benefit of that company in those circumstances?*

*Answer:* The agency assessment of the assistance proposal recognised the existence of existing providers of sheep abattoir facilities in the state and in the Great Southern and adjacent regions. In addition the evaluation noted issues relating to the supply of animals and production capacity.

The assessment which formed part of the recommendation to Cabinet for approval of assistance noted that smaller abattoirs exist in the Great Southern and the South West Regions and the development of the facility (the Narrikup abattoir) could lead to the demise of other abattoirs. Benefits for the State which provided justification for the assistance to the project included:

- . large investment in value adding activities in regional Western Australia to support primary industry
- . introduction of innovative processing technologies such as warm boning processing and mechanical boning not otherwise available in the State
- . substantial employment generation in a relatively high unemployment area of regional Western Australia
- . the presence in the state of a well established and well run organisation
- . satisfactory net economic return to the State from the project

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked for clarification that the criteria for assistance were met in the case of Fletchers Abattoir. Hon N. F. Moore undertook to check whether the details of the assistance had previously been tabled in Parliament.*

*Answer:* The Minister for Commerce and Trade advised Parliament on 12 August 1998 of a financial assistance package offered to Benale Pty Ltd, owner and operator of the Narrikup abattoir developed by Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd. Paper no. 77 was tabled.

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked for the relevant criteria applying to this case and how the agency could show that those criteria have been properly met.*

*Answer:* The Department of Commerce and Trade assessed the proposal against the criteria of the Industry Incentive Scheme. These criteria are as follows:-

Criterion 1. New product or service: The project for which the incentives are sought must relate to the establishment of a new industry which may involve the establishment of a new operation or the expansion of an existing operation.

Criterion 2. Incentive required: It needs to be demonstrated that the project will not occur in the State unless incentives are provided.

Criterion 3. Net Economic Benefits to the State: The project will need to demonstrate significant net economic benefits to Western Australia. There will need to be a positive rate of return which will invariably be higher than the project's internal rate of return; factors include government revenue, technology transfers and upgrading of workforce skills together with enhanced profitability and increased market opportunities for existing industry.

Criterion 4. No previous assistance or unfair competition: The project must relate to the establishment or development of an industry that has not benefited significantly from State Government financial assistance and where the provision of incentives will not result in an unfair competitive advantage over existing Western Australian companies.

Criterion 5. Capital invested/jobs created: The capital establishment cost of the project is to be a minimum of \$A2.5m which will include an appropriate level of equity funding. In recognition of the Government's commitment to regional development and the nature and type of such projects, the capital establishment cost of a regional project is to be a minimum of \$A1.0m.

Criterion 6. Long Term Viability: The project's feasibility study and business plan, together with other information required by Government for its assessment, will need to indicate long term commercial viability.

Criterion 7. Manufacturing or services sector: The project is to be either in the manufacturing or services sector. Projects that are based on the extractive component of mining, primary agricultural production, fishing, tourism or retail are excluded.

Criterion 8. Export/import replacement/value adding: The project will need to be substantially export oriented or import replacement or involve the processing of, and value adding to, the State's natural resources.

The Department of Commerce and Trade reviewed Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd's application for a financial incentive to establish the abattoir in Western Australia. The assessment supported the commercial viability of the project.

The assessment report was included as part of the Cabinet Submission presented by the Minister for Commerce and Trade. In addition to criteria under which the proposal was assessed, the assistance offered is subject to certain performance criteria, which were tabled in Parliament in August 1998.

These criteria focus on the project undertaking investment of at least \$46m over 5 years, provision of bank guarantee security for the loan component of the assistance package, and impact upon the drawdown of grant funding and the conversion of loan funds to grants.

*Question: Hon Muriel Paterson asked whether timber is a portion of imported products from the Philippines.*

*Answer:* The Department of Commerce and Trade obtained data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics detailing Western Australia's direct imports from the Philippines in calendar years 1997 and 1998. This data shows that no raw timber was imported directly from the Philippines into Western Australia in 1997 or 1998.

Imports of cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture) totalling A\$88,631 were recorded in 1998 and \$46,839 in 1997.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill sought clarification about the relocation of housing from Hope Downs to Wittenoom and the position of Western Power and the Water Corporation in respect of the supply of water to the town.*

*Answer:* Current advice indicates that a private citizen has purchased some living quarters, a kitchen and an ablution block from Hope Downs. Some structures have been relocated to mostly privately owned land in Wittenoom, for security reasons and as a temporary measure. The remaining structures will be relocated within the next few months. Consistent with State Government policy, Western Power does not supply new customer loads in Wittenoom. However, the Water Corporation has agreed to connect a stand alone power supply (diesel) with a duty stand-by arrangement between the two bores provided by the Water Corporation. The new operational water supply system will be in place before the end of June.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked about the situation with what was formerly the Hunt's factory in Albany in terms of Commerce and Trade funding.*

*Answer:* Vital Food Pty Ltd purchased the facilities and business of Southern Processors Ltd, the “successor” to Hunts Foods, in 1994. Since that time the company, Vital Foods has received \$2,700 from the department for 2 services, NIES QA Training and Small Business Improvement Program planning assistance. The company has active requests for assistance in regard to business planning, headworks connections and capital development.

At this stage decisions on approval of assistance and levels of assistance if approved are yet to be made. Prior to Vital Food purchase of the assets and business of Southern Processors, capital assistance of \$500,000 was approved by Cabinet to secure crop payments to growers servicing Southern Processors.

Following the insolvency of Southern Processors, assistance under this approval was provided direct to grower creditors through RAFCOR.

*Question:* Hon Barbara Scott asked for information about some of the economic development projects for Aboriginal business.

*Answer:* Specific examples of Aboriginal businesses that have received departmental support and are prospering are as follows:

**Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation:** In 1998, Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation and G J Johnson & Co entered into a joint venture operating as Kimberley Regional Service Providers. The group successfully tendered for the repair and maintenance of power station, water supply and wastewater facilities for designated communities in the Kimberley region.

**Walitj Aboriginal Corporation:** Since 1998, the above corporation has been operating a cattle-fattening farm and a tree farming operation, in partnership with Bunnings Treefarms Pty Ltd, on a property situated 40 kms North of Albany, WA.

**Bidarn Pty Ltd:** The above corporation was awarded an office cleaning contract for the buildings on the Murrin Murrin project site operated by Anaconda Nickel Ltd. It won the contract from close competition of established cleaning contractors and the business is operating effectively.

**Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) Joint Ventures:** The wholly owned subsidiary of GAC, Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd (GEPL) entered into three joint ventures as follows:

- (1) GEPL and Hamersley Iron (HI) for the provision of earthmoving services at the Yandicoogina iron ore mine;
- (2) GEPL and Wreckair (a division of Brambles Australia Limited) to establish an equipment wet hire business; and
- (3) GEPL and P & O Catering Services to provide catering and camp services for the Yandicoogina iron ore mine. The joint venture agreements have included a substantial level of skills - transfer, training and employment for Aboriginal people at all levels including management, supervisory and operating roles.
- (4) The GEPL and HI joint venture has operated effectively, particularly during the construction phase of the mine. Continuing earthmoving and grading work is being carried out in Paraburdoo and Mt Tom Price as well as for the Shire of Ashburton. Responses to tenders for work with HI, BHP and other contractors in nearby locations are being awaited.
- (5) This joint venture was most active during the construction phase of the Yandicoogina mine, which has now been completed. An ongoing business relationship continues between the partners whereby equipment hire is made available on demand.
- (6) This joint venture is operating effectively, having been awarded the contract to supply services to HI's Yandicoogina operations. P & O Catering Services has decided to use the “Gumala” model in other areas of Australia where it can joint venture with Aboriginal partners.

*Question:* Hon Barbara Scott asked if funding is being provided to the Institute of Child Health Research under the Centres of Excellence program at this time.

*Answer:* The Department of Commerce and Trade is not currently administering funding to the Institute of Child Health Research under the Centres of Excellence (COE) Program, nor is considering future COE funding to the Institute.

*Question:* Hon Barbara Scott asked for information on the supported Centres of Excellence.

*Answer:* Centres of Excellence in Industry Focussed Research and Development Program. Major Funding Support (established since 1996) (\* Indicates Agreement Not Finalised) -



Centre name	Australian Centre for Geomechanics
Amount awarded	\$1,000,000.00
Period of grant	5 years
Year approved	1996
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel including Centre Director and a professorial position.
Purpose of centre	The ACG provides cooperative research and education in geomechanics for the benefit of the mining and oil and gas industries. A focus area is the design of offshore structures and a more complete understanding of the behaviour of sea bed sediments and ensuring that mining operations have safer and more efficient pit and tailings dam designs.
Centre name	Australian Centre for Mining Environmental Research
Amount awarded	\$50,000.00
Period of grant	1 year
Year approved	1996
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel.
Purpose of centre	ACMER aims to conduct strategic research into mining rehabilitation and provide ecologically sustainable environmental solutions. ACMER undertakes commissioned research on mining rehabilitation in an independent and thorough manner; provides scientific and technological foundations to facilitate industry and government in setting acceptable rehabilitation standards; acts as a networking and communications focus of rehabilitation practice; and enhances education and trianing in mining rehabilitation.
Centre name	Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Renewable Energy *
Amount awarded	\$570,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1997
Infrastructure proposed	Fitout out a new display and demonstration laboratory for renewable energy systems technology.
Purpose of centre	ACRE will undertake research in cost effective renewable energy delivery systems, particularly power generation, energy efficiency, energy storage and power conditioning. The research focusses on photovoltaics, solar-thermal, electric windows, wind, and systems development and integration.
Centre name	Centre for Exploration and Production Geophysics *
Amount awarded	\$750,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1998
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for senior researchers.
Purpose of centre	The CEPG will operate as part of the Department of Exploration Geophysics (DEG) within the recently established Faculty of Petroleum and Minerals at Curtin University of Technology. CEPG will build on the DEG's international recognition in exploration geophysics to become an internationally renowned centre for education and research into exploration and improved production of minerals and hydrocarbons using remote, non-invasive geophysical techniques. The mission will be to increase the resolution of subsurface imaging by the application of geophysical data acquisition, processing and interpretation for improving the recovery of minerals and petroleum from known locations.

Centre name	Centre for Groundwater Studies
Amount awarded	\$75,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1996
Infrastructure proposed	Salary for senior lecturer.
Purpose of centre	The CGS conducts research and education on processes affecting recharge, discharge, contamination and remediation of groundwater. Mass spectrometry, carbon-14 and CFC dating facilities are used in integrated hydrochemical and hydrogeological research identifying recharge to groundwater systems and quantifying rates of flow.
Centre name	Centre for Land Rehabilitation
Amount awarded	\$534,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1998
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel including Centre Director. Minor capital equipment.
Purpose of centre	The CLR aims, in collaboration with industry and government, to conduct research and training at an internationally recognised level and develop solutions for rehabilitation and on-going management of land. The CLR seeks to maximise interaction between The University of Western Australia, other research institutions involved in land rehabilitation and management, industry and government departments.
Centre name	Centre for Management of Arid Environments *
Amount awarded	\$900,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1999
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel including Centre Director. Laboratory fit out and equipment.
Purpose of centre	The CMAE will aim to enhance the condition, management and productivity of arid lands through quality research and teaching. CMAE will carry out research programs into landscape and general ecology, animal and plant interactions with normal and modified environments, conservation, sources of water and water use, the rehabilitation of degraded lands and mining environments, education, diversification in land use and innovative extension practices.
Centre name	Centre for Organic Waste Management *
Amount awarded	\$499,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1999
Infrastructure proposed	Laboratory equipment including an anaerobic digester and LECA Analyser, Refurbishment of outdoor demonstration area and laboratories. Salaries.
Purpose of centre	The COWM will provide research and development, technical and decision making support to industry and government responsible for generating and managing organic waste. The COWM will develop innovative solutions to organic waste management including product development and evaluation, and develop models for an integrated approach to management and treatment of waste materials. The COWM will also provide education in waste management, recycling and pollution control through undergraduate and postgraduate programs as well as professional development, community education and specialist courses.

Centre name	Centre for Strategic Mineral Deposits
Amount awarded	\$500,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1995
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for research staff.
Purpose of centre	The CSMD plays a leading role in the documentation of WA's mineral resources and the development of improved models to guide exploration for new deposits within WA. The CSMD is an integral component in the process of linking mineral exploration to successful mine development. The CSMD is an internationally respected training and research centre.
Centre name	Centre for Water Research
Amount awarded	\$313,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1998
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for new Technology Transfer personnel.
Purpose of centre	The CWR aims to develop a better understanding of the processes which determine the transport and quality of water in every area of natural systems. The Technology Transfer facility will develop the software produced from CWR research into packages that are easy to use by industry.
Centre name	Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry *
Amount awarded	\$2,174,000.00
Period of grant	6 years
Year approved	1999
Infrastructure proposed	Equipment including TOF-ICP-MS, TIMS, Mag-Sector Multi-Coll MS, Helium Source MS, Stable Isotope MS, ICP-MS. Laboratory and office space to house new instrumentation and personnel. Salaries for new research scientists.
Purpose of centre	The CEMS will bring together a wide range of state of the art mass spectrometers, with their associated professional scientific staff, into a consolidated organisation located on the Bentley Campus of Curtin University. The CEMS will develop as a partnership between Curtin University of Technology and the University of Western Australia, with strong interaction with CSIRO's Division of Exploration and Mining and Division of Petroleum Resources, and the resource, environmental and health industries. The CEMS will build upon the two Universities' existing research activities in the fields of geochronology, mineralising systems, isotope tracer studies, exploration petroleum geochemistry, reservoir and production geochemistry, mineral exploration and deposit evaluation, anthropogenic impacts on the environment and in forensic science.
Centre name	Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Evolution and Mineral Exploration
Amount awarded	\$438,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1997
Infrastructure proposed	Equipment including two cartographic workstations, film recording, scanning, laminating, copying printing and archiving equipment, X-Ray Diffraction system and laboratory optical equipment.
Purpose of centre	The Centre seeks to generate new knowledge in regolith-landscape evolution, to identify the resulting implications in mineral exploration and mining, to develop new exploration models and to devise new or improved geochemical exploration methods. Effective transfer of that knowledge and experience will substantially improve industry's ability to make discoveries of world-class ore deposits and thus contribute significantly to WA's economy.

Centre name	Environmental Technology Centre
Amount awarded	\$370,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1999
Infrastructure proposed	Construction of a new demonstration area, wet laboratory and research office; and salary.
Purpose of centre	The ETC conducts research and development in small scale environmental technologies in collaboration with the emerging small to medium sized environmental technology industry serving the growing community needs for technologies to achieve local sustainability. The ETC acts as the only provider in WA of the research and development needs of the industry. The ETC also acts as a focus for the diffusion of environmental technologies nationally and internationally through its network of collaborators.

Centre name	IMAGO Multimedia Centre Limited
Amount awarded	\$450,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1997
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel.
Purpose of centre	IMAGO's objective is to develop the multimedia industry and to foster the growth and utilisation of interactive multimedia in business and the community. IMAGO focusses on on-line interactive multimedia projects and establishing a virtual reality environments centre to facilitate simulations for industry problem solving.

Centre name	SRC Centre for Offshore Foundations Systems
Amount awarded	\$371,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1996
Infrastructure proposed	Refurbishment of geotechnical laboratory. X-Ray facility upgrade. Salary for laboratory manager.
Purpose of centre	The COFS performs research into the offshore carbonate soils and foundations systems to develop new conceptual models for offshore foundations on calcareous soils. The research also allows for specialist soil testing, centrifuge modelling and numerical analysis.

Centre name	SRC Tectonics Special Research Centre
Amount awarded	\$250,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1997
Infrastructure proposed	Computer based mapping equipment. Salary for senior lecturer.
Purpose of centre	The TSRC will provide a structural framework for research groups which are developing conceptual exploration models for mineral and petroleum resources through the investigation of the geotectonic evolution of the supercontinents.

Centre name	State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre
Amount awarded	\$350,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1998
Infrastructure proposed	Construction of a new 24 place laboratory.
Purpose of centre	The SABC performs research into molecular activities involved in primary production of commercial livestock, crop plants, and their subsequent bioprocessing for added value.

Centre name	Western Australian Biomedical Research Institute *
Amount awarded	\$998,000.00
Period of grant	5 years
Year approved	1999
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel including Executive Director. Laboratory fit out and equipment.
Purpose of centre	The WABRI is a response to the need for a more integrated approach to Biomedical Science in WA. The WABRI will provide a framework for collaboration and growth in biomedical science at Murdoch University and Curtin University of Technology. The WABRI will carry out research in biomedical science to provide innovative solutions to health care, medical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries.

Centre name	Western Australian Centre for Microscopy *
Amount awarded	\$977,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1998
Infrastructure proposed	Equipment including HRTEM, TEM, Optical Microscope. Refurbishment of TEM facility, installation of TelePresence Microscopy networks. Salaries for new research application specialists.
Purpose of centre	The WACM is a collaborative centre linking the electron, laser and light optical and related microscopy and microanalysis facilities of The University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University. WACM consists of a primary installation at UWA and associated facilities at the abovementioned universities. The primary objective of the WACM is to provide leading edge, industry relevant microscopy and microanalysis services to the WA universities and industry.

Centre name	Western Australian Centre for Petroleum Geology *
Amount awarded	\$585,000.00
Period of grant	3 years
Year approved	1997
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key personnel including Centre Manager.
Purpose of centre	The WACPG will carry out applied research and development in collaboration with the Petroleum Industry. It will provide a focus for postgraduate training, conduct undergraduate and postgraduate courses, industry related specialist courses and interact with the wider petroleum and university community.

Centre name	Western Australian Petroleum Research Centre *
Amount awarded	\$2,900,000.00
Period of grant	4 years
Year approved	1998
Infrastructure proposed	Salaries for key research staff including a professorial position and supporting equipment.
Purpose of centre	The WAPRC will be a collaboration between two new industry-focussed structural units based at Curtin University of Technology and The University of Western Australia. The research philosophy for the WAPRC is one of 'integrated petroleum asset management' which incorporates the three disciplines of petroleum engineering, hydrocarbon process engineering and offshore engineering. The advantage of combining these is the enhanced ability to integrate management of the vital cross-disciplinary overlaps typically experienced by industry in field development and operation. The proposed research will help lower capital costs via novel production system designs and assist in reducing operating expenditure via effective extraction of reserves.

Centres of Excellence in Industry Focussed Research and Development Program  
Major Funding Support paid in 1998/99

Australian Centre for Geomechanics	\$50,000.00
Australian Centre for Mining Environmental Research	\$50,000.00
Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture	\$5,000.00
Centre for Strategic Mineral Deposits	\$50,000.00
Centre for Water Research	\$156,689.00
Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Evolution and Mineral Exploration	\$141,000.00
Environmental Technology Centre	\$130,000.00
IMAGO Multimedia Centre Limited	\$150,000.00
State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre	\$200,000.00

Centres of Excellence in Industry Focussed Research and Development Program  
Business Planning Support paid in 1998/99. (\* Indicates Received Major Funding Support)

- \* AJ Parker Cooperative Research Centre for Hydrometallurgy
- Australian Maritime Engineering Cooperative Research Centre Ltd
- Australian Sustainable Development Centre
- \* Australian Telecommunications Cooperative Research Centre
- Centre for Groundwater Studies
- Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture
- \* Centre for Management of Arid Environments
- Centre for Maritime Education and Research Alliance
- Centre for Molecular Immunology & Instrumentation
- Centre for Natural Resource Management
- Centre for Production Animal Research
- Centre of Excellence for High Throughput Genetic Analysis
- Centre of Excellence in Agribusiness
- Centre of Excellence in Industrial Optimization
- \* Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry
- Cooperative Research Centre for Gas to Liquids
- Cooperative Research Centre for Geophysical Exploration Technologies
- Cooperative Research Centre for Physical Activity Movement and Health
- Cooperative Research Centre for Welding
- \* Environmental Technology Centre
- Medical Engineering Research Institute
- Warren Centre for Forest Science
- \* Western Australian Biomedical Research Institute
- Western Australian Centre for Electromagnetic Compatibility
- Western Australian Centre of Excellence Intelligent Process Operation Management
- \* Western Australian Petroleum Research Centre
- Western Australian Separation Science and Technology Centre

Centres of Excellence in Industry Focussed Research and Development Program. Application Support paid 1998/99

Australian International Gravitational Observatory  
Centre for Rhizobium Studies

*Question: Hon Dexter Davies asked how many Telecentres will be developed between 1 July 1999 and 31 December 1999 to reach the total of 76 Telecentres.*

*Answer:* It is expected that there will be 68 Telecentres in operation by the end of this financial year including 9 part Telecentres. This equates to 62 full Telecentres. Thus 14 full Telecentres can be developed to achieve this target of 76 by 30 December 1999.

*Question: Hon Ray Halligan asked if the Western Australian Innovation Support Scheme is at Bentley Technology Park and whether it is subsidised by the Department of Commerce and Trade; he asked for the terms and conditions of that support; the services that are expected to be provided, and what outcomes will be achieved.*

*Answer:* The Western Australian Innovation Support Scheme (WAISS) is a grants scheme administered by the Department of Commerce and Trade, from its offices at 170 St. George's Terrace. It aims to stimulate investment by small and medium size enterprises into research and development, which generates innovative Western Australian products and processes with

commercial merit. The scheme is competitive and has an annual budget of \$1m for grants of between \$20,000 and \$50,000 which are offered to companies on a dollar for dollar basis. The Minister for Commerce and Trade awards funding based on recommendations from an independent WAISS Advisory Panel. Projects are selected for funding after assessment against a set of published selection criteria and are expected to be completed within 12 months. The criteria and conditions are:

Applicants must be **incorporated bodies** undertaking research and development in Western Australia. **Sole traders and individual inventors are not eligible** for funding under this scheme. Other forms of trading enterprises may be considered on a case by case basis.

All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they **cannot effectively benefit** from the 125% Research and Development Taxation Concession for the duration of the project.

The project must clearly demonstrate **net economic benefits for Western Australia**. This may be in the form of local manufacture, employment, export or import replacement opportunities, or local accrual of royalties from production elsewhere.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that there is a **real need** for grant funding. That is that there are no other sources of funding available to enable the project to proceed without the Scheme's support, or that the project will not proceed in a timely way to maximise its benefits. (As a guide, the WAISS Advisory Panel would expect that Applicants, would have an annual turnover during the previous financial year of less than \$20 million. If an applicant organisation is a subsidiary or division or a parent/holding company, the parent holding company's annual turnover will be included. The Panel would also expect the total cost of the R&D project would be less than \$200,000)

Grant funds provided through WAISS are restricted to an **overall maximum of \$100,000** from all funding rounds of this and previous Commerce and Trade (or its predecessors) R&D Grant schemes.

The project must be aimed at commercially exploitable outcomes.

The scope of the project must satisfy the definition of research and development which is systematic, investigative or experimental activities (ie. core activities) that:

- (a) are carried on in Western Australia or Australia;
- (2) involve innovation or technical risk; and
- (3) are for the purposes of acquiring new knowledge for the development of new or substantially improved products or processes.

The project outcome(s) must be able to be secured by intellectual property arrangements. Intellectual property rights ownership must be resolved prior to lodging a grant application.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are able to match the grant funding and are able to finance the commercialisation of the project outcome.

The project should be conducted entirely in Western Australia. All activities for which expenditure is claimed should be undertaken in Australia.

The project must be completed within 12 months of the nominated commencement date.

Only one application from a company will be considered in each funding round.

A workforce limit applies. To be eligible, organisations must have an active full time equivalent workforce of less than 100 people (ie staff, consultants and contractors). In calculating this workforce figure, the complete structure (from the parent/holding company down) is to be considered for eligibility regardless of which subsidiary (or division) of the parent company makes the application, ie. if one of the subsidiaries applies for financial assistance, it will be considered as part of the parent company total workforce and not as a separate entity.

Successful WAISS applicants will be required to sign an agreement between their company and the Government. The Chief Executive Officer at the Department of Commerce and Trade will sign the agreement on behalf of the Government of Western Australia. The Agreement details how the grant funds will be paid and utilised, the covenants of the grantee and Government and the grantee reporting requirements. The project must follow the objectives stated in the grant application, which will be attached to the Agreement. The Agreement requires the project to be completed within the time frame stated in the application. If for some reason the project extends beyond 12 months, approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Trade is required to maintain grant entitlement. Staff of the department audits project expenditure and technical outcomes are monitored mid way through the project, at the conclusion of the project and over subsequent years. Commercialisation of the supported innovation usually does not return economic benefits to the State for

up 3 to 7 years after project completion. Successful projects result in exports of new technologies, import replacement, increased employment and increased investment in research and development.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked the reason for the discrepancy between the \$19.137m estimated actual for Services and Contracts for 1997-98 shown in the Budget Statements and the estimated actual of \$23.301m for services and contracts in the department's 1997-98 Annual Report.*

*Answer:* The discrepancy is mainly due to the different accounting treatment of capital works expenditure in the Budget Statements compared to the department's 1997/98 Annual Report. In the Annual Report, capital works expenditure other than capitalised expenditure is included in the total amount shown against the item "Services and contracts". In the Budget Statements, capital works are not included against Services and Contracts but against Other under the Operating Statement for Administered Expenses and Revenues (Page 206). However, expenditure other than capital works is also included against this item. These and other differences in allocation make comparisons between the Budget Statements and the Annual Report difficult.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked the reason for the increase in the services and contracts from \$11.5m in 1996-97 to \$23.1m in 1997-98 as shown in the department's 1997/98 annual report.*

*Answer:* The increase in expenditure in 1997-98 is due mainly to capital works expenditure related to the construction of the Northern breakwater at Jervoise Bay, the redevelopment of the Coogee industrial strip, and commencement of the CSIRO relocation project to Technology Park. The increase also reflects the establishment and operation of the Office of Information and Communications with the department.

## CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

*Question: The Chairman (Hon E.R.J. Dermer) asked: I note on page 240 of the Budget Statements that the tammar wallaby and the southern brown bandicoot have been removed from the Western Australian threatened fauna list. How many species of fauna have been added to the threatened fauna list in the 1998-99 financial year to date?*

*Answer:* The most recent amendments to the list of fauna species declared to be specially protected (threatened) pursuant to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* were Gazetted in July 1998.

There were 24 additions from the 1997 list of threatened fauna. These included 17 invertebrates listed in the table below and 7 albatross species, listed following a detailed international taxonomic review. The newly listed albatross species are: *Diomedea exulans* (Wandering Albatross), *Diomedea gibsoni* (Gibson's Albatross), *Diomedea epomophora* (Southern Royal Albatross), *Thalassarche cauta* (Shy Albatross), *Thalassarche salvini* (Salvin's Albatross), *Thalassarche chrysostoma* (Grey-headed Albatross), *Thalassarche carteri* (Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross), and, *Phoebastria fusca* (Sooty Albatross).

TAXON	GROUP	TAXON	GROUP
Undescribed Rhytidid sp.nov. (WAM#2295-69)	Land Snails	<i>Liagoceradocus subthalassicus</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<b>Bamazomus sp.nov.</b> (WAM#95/748) "Western Cape Range Bamazomus"	Arachnids (Spiders, scorpions, pseudoscorpions)	<i>Nedsia fragilis</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<b>Draculoides sp.nov.</b> (WAM#96/1151) "Western Cape Range Draculoides"	Arachnids (Spiders, scorpions, pseudoscorpions)	<i>Nedsia humphreysi</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<b>Australotomurus sp.nov.</b> (SAM# I 22621) "Guildford Springtail"	Insects-Springtails	<i>Nedsia hurlberti</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<i>Synemon gratioa</i>	Lepidoptera (Butterflies and moths)	<i>Nedsia macrosculptilis</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<i>Speleostrophus nesiotis</i>	Millipede	<i>Nedsia sculptilis</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<i>Bogidomma australis</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans	<i>Nedsia straskraba</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
Undescribed Crangonyctidae species "Crystal cave, Yanchep National Park"	Amphipod Crustaceans	<i>Nedsia urifimbriata</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans
<i>Liagoceradocus branchialis</i>	Amphipod Crustaceans		



*Question: The Chairman asked: What funds are appropriated in the 1999-2000 budget for research into the dieback conditions in Western Australian flora?*

*Answer:* Total funds appropriated in the 1999-2000 budget for research into dieback in Western Australian flora are \$868,500.

*Question: The Chairman asked: I would also be happy to take on notice advice about what funds the Commonwealth will contribute to this research in the next financial year and what funds it contributed in 1998-99.*

*Answer:* CALM has not had any indication of funding for 1999-2000. No Commonwealth funds were contributed in 1998-99.

*Question: The Chairman asked: What funds were expended in 1998-99 by the department on mapping and interpretation of dieback risk areas?*

*Answer:* Expenditure to date on mapping and interpretation of dieback risk areas is \$1 101 412.

*Question: The Chairman asked: What is the anticipated expenditure in the next financial year?*

*Answer:* Anticipated expenditure for 1999-2000 is currently \$781,790, but may increase depending on whether additional work is required during the year.

*Question: The Chairman asked: How much area has been treated with phosphite this financial year and at what cost?*

*Answer:* Ninety-nine hectares were treated in 1998-99. Expenditure was \$102,200, including \$6,230 provided by the Commonwealth. This expenditure included the purchase of equipment for use in future years and purchase of chemicals for use in 1999-2000.

*Question: The Chairman asked: I would be grateful to receive the detailed information on notice. I would also like to know what area it is anticipated will be treated in the coming financial year?*

*Answer:* It is anticipated that 87 hectares will be treated in 1999-2000.

*Question: Hon Barry House asked: Are you in a position to provide a breakdown of fees collected from the public for entry to national parks in Western Australia? Do you have a breakdown of the individual parks?*

*Answer:* Revenue from entry to individual national parks for 1998-99 to date is as follows:

Yanchep National Park	\$339 507
Nambung National Park	\$366 572
Purnululu National Park	\$213 962
Gloucester National Park, Beedelup National Park, Warren National Park, Shannon National Park, D'Entrecasteaux National Park	\$180 968
Kalbarri National Park	\$119 010
John Forrest National Park	\$52 276
Serpentine National Park	\$50 286
Cape Le Grand National Park	\$64 987
Walyunga National Park	\$35 967
Cape Range National Park	\$72 403
Karijini National Park	\$62 078
Stirling Range National Park	\$32 979
Francois Peron National Park	\$25 658
Porongorup National Park	\$16 905
Millstream-Chichester National Park	\$19 437
Cape Arid National Park	\$4 189
Stokes National Park	\$4 214
Mirima National Park	\$14 571
Fitzgerald River National Park	\$13 220
Avon Valley National Park	\$3 513
Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park	\$10 000
<b>Entrance Fees Total</b>	<b>\$1 702 702</b>
Park Pass revenue (this revenue cannot be allocated to an individual park as passes cover entry to multiple parks)	\$282 863
<b>Total Entrance and Park Pass Revenue</b>	<b>\$1 985 565</b>

*Question: Hon Barry House: For nearly 12 months the imposition of fees at the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park has been opposed. CALM has an agreement with the Busselton and Margaret River shire councils to collect those fees but there appears to be some difficulty with the return of work in kind by those councils in some regards. How is CALM overcoming the conflict between the normal process of putting that work out to tender and meeting its agreement for the shires to perform that work?*

*Answer:* CALM does not consider that a conflict exists in this situation as all works performed by shires are on an “in kind” arrangement and not a “fee for services” basis. As such, there is no requirement for this work to be put out to tender.

*Question: Hon Barry House: I understand there are problems with some projects that have been discussed between the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the shires, for instance, road building.*

*Answer:* Agreed works to the value of \$100,000 have been carried out in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park in 1998-99 by the shires of Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River. This is in lieu of payment for park passes issued to ratepayers by these shires. These funds have been committed to the building of roads etc. which provide mutual benefit to CALM and the shires. All works are performed by shire staff. There is no subcontracting of services to private contractors

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: I will ask two follow-up questions about the area to which Hon Barry House has just referred. Could I have an indication of the total revenue from national park fees for this financial year, and what is anticipated for the next financial year? Could CALM provide us with a list of parks which charge an entry fee and a list of those which do not charge an entry fee?*

*Answer:* Projected national park revenue for 1998-99 is \$5.8 million. Budgeted income from national parks for 1999/2000 is \$6.3 million.

National Parks at which an entry fee is charged are:

Yanchep National Park	Cape Range National Park
Nambung National Park	Karijini National Park
D'Entrecasteaux National Park	Warren National Park
Gloucester National Park	Beedelup National Park
Stirling Range National Park	Shannon National Park
John Forrest National Park	Kalbarri National Park
Serpentine National Park	Walyunga National Park
Cape Le Grand National Park	Porongurup National Park
Francois Peron National Park	Purnululu National Park
Fitzgerald River National Park	Stokes National Park
Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park	Mirima National Park
Millstream Chichester National Park	Cape Arid National Park
Avon Valley National Park	

National Parks at which no entry fee is charged are:

Alexander Morrison National Park	Boorabbin National Park
Drovers Cave National Park	Brockman National Park
Badgingarra National Park	Eucla National Park
Drysdale River National Park	Frank Hann National Park
Collier Range National Park	Goongarrie National Park
Geikie Gorge National Park	Dale National Park
Gooseberry Hill National Park	Hassell National Park
Greenmount National Park	Kalamunda National Park
Lesmurdie Falls National Park	Leda National Park
Moore River National Park	Mt Hart National Park
Monadnocks National Park	Lesueur National Park
Mt Augustus National Park	Neerabup National Park
Mt Frankland National Park	Tathra National Park
Peak Charles National Park	Scott National Park
Rudall River National Park	Torndirrup National Park
Sir James Mitchell National Park	Watheroo National Park
Wolf Creek Crater National Park	Waychinicup National Park
Tunnel Creek National Park	William Bay National Park
Walpole-Nornalup National Park	Yalgourup National Park
West Cape Howe National Park	Jaurdi National Park
Windjana Gorge National Park	Mt Elvire National Park
Wallaroo Rocks National Park	Forest National Park
Tuart	

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: You have pre-empted my next question which was what amounts is CALM contributing to these programs. You have answered that. Can you also answer it with respect to estimates for the coming financial year?*

*Answer:* The Salinity Action Plan (SAP) funding is being phased in. Prior to the Salinity Action Plan, the State was spending \$15.1 million per annum across four agencies. Details are at page 33 of the Salinity Action Plan published in 1996. In addition to these funds, \$10 million in extra Government funding allocated across the four agencies will be spent in each of 1998-99 and 1999-2000. This includes spending of \$4.65 million by CALM on conservation measures in both years.

Also in addition, through reallocation of its resources CALM spent \$6.364 million on nursery expansion and \$5.285 million in planting of maritime pine in 1998-99 and will spend \$9.702 million on planting maritime pine and \$1.876 million on completion of the nursery expansion in 1999-2000. Additional spending by other agencies from reallocation of existing resources is not included in these figures.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What funds have been sought from the Federal Government this financial year, and what funds have been obtained from the Federal Government, for CALM's salinity action programs? Generally how are we faring comparatively as a State in receiving Commonwealth Natural Heritage fund grants to this area?*

*Answer:* The Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust provides funds to community groups and State agencies across a wide range of programs. Because project approvals have continued throughout the 1998-99 financial year, details of total funding and the apportionment of funding to individual topics such as the Salinity Action Plan will not become available until the WA Natural Heritage Trust Secretariat, housed in Agriculture WA, collates the figures for the State's annual report to the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, a substantial proportion of Landcare, Bushcare and Rivercare funding to Western Australia contributes to implementation of the Salinity Action Plan.

CALM has received Natural Heritage Trust funding in 1998-99 for two major projects under the Salinity Action Plan:

Selection and development of multiple purpose species for large scale vegetation - \$470 000; and

State agency contributions to land conservation/biodiversity revegetation - \$280 000.

Another project for which CALM receives funding that contributes to implementation of the Salinity Action Plan is the Bushcare support project (\$324 917).

Figures provided by the Commonwealth Government for 1998-99 show that Western Australia has received approximately 15% of Natural Heritage Trust funds distributed to States and Territories.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What is the basis of the significant increase in the community grant for the next financial year? Is it accounted for primarily by extra moneys for the salinity action programs, or is there some money for the restructuring of CALM? What is the reason for that increase in the community grant for the next financial year?*

*Answer:* The community grant for 1999-2000 has increased by \$6.365 million above the 1998-99 amount. A number of items contribute to this overall increase, as follows:

- (i) *Plus \$2 million:* CALM deferred debt retirement in 1998-99 by \$2 million which was directed to the Gascoyne/Murchison Strategy for land acquisition. For 1999-2000 only an additional \$2 million has been made available for debt retirement deferred in 1998-99.
- (ii) *Plus \$1.2 million:* Provided for the Gascoyne/Murchison Strategy.
- (iii) *Plus \$7.5 million:* Increase to CALM's appropriation for land sales expected in 1999-2000. This land is controlled by CALM although not vested in CALM. Such sales are processed through the Department of Land Administration (DOLA). DOLA pays Treasury the sale proceeds and Treasury returns this revenue to CALM by an increased appropriation.
- (iv) *Minus \$4.4 million:* As for (iii) above, the appropriation for 1998-99 included \$4.4 million for a specific land sale via DOLA.
- (v) *Plus \$1.14 million:* For salary increases.
- (vi) *Plus \$0.561 million:* Return of a budget cut made to CALM in 1996-97.
- (vii) *Plus \$0.55 million:* CALM has taken over responsibility for Regional Parks.
- (viii) *Minus \$1.087 million:* Global reduction in the recurrent account.
- (ix) *Minus \$0.915 million:* Deferral of capital works. The amount will be reinstated in the year 2001-02.
- (x) *Minus \$0.158 million:* Miscellaneous adjustments.

*Question: Hon Murray Montgomery: I move to page 245 of the Budget Statements. The first major initiative is the completion of the first phase of the Manjimup nursery, with the resulting production capacity of seedlings there. What percentage of those seedlings will be used in the salinity action plantings, and has any measurement been done so far in the plantings of those seedlings that have taken place - I take it that most of it is maritime pine - of the draw-down of water in those salinity areas?*

*Answer:* The extension of the nursery is to provide *pinus pinaster* seed production capacity for the salinity action plan. About 95% of the 1999 pinaster plantings will be used in the salinity action plantings managed by CALM. A large proportion of the balance will be private plantings within the salinity threat areas.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly: May I be provided with all payments made to the executive director for the years 1997-98 forward?*

<i>Answer:</i>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>(to 10/6/99)</b>
		<b>\$</b>
Basic Salary	129 438.23	127 021.67
20% on Basic Salary	25 887.58	25 404.02
Annual Leave	1 743.84	707.60
Long Service Leave Pay Out	77 725.98	
Travel Allowance 227.70		
Travel Allowance Overseas	129.90	

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly: I understand that there has been a problem in submitting a performance agreement in line with the Public Service Management Act. Has that now been complied with, if so how? When was that done?*

*Answer:* A performance agreement for the position of Executive Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management was approved on 18 December 1998. The agreement covers the year ending 30 June 1999.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: Has the executive director or any other officer referred to in section 15(3) of the Wildlife Conservation Act or section 133 of the Conservation and Land Management Act since 1 January 1988 issued any licences of the type referred to in sections 15, 23C and 23D of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, which would allow for non-compliance with that Act; if so what was the fee payable for such a licence? Has the minister responsible for CALM issued any similar licences under the same section of the Wildlife Conservation Act? If any licences of that type have been issued, to whom have they been issued, what otherwise illegal actions were permitted by such licences and what conditions were attached to such licences, financial or otherwise? Are any of those licences, if they exist, still in operation?*

*Answer:* It is unclear what is meant by the questions. Section 15 of the Wildlife Conservation Act provides broad head powers for the establishment of licences and the operation of licence issue. Section 23C covers the issue of licences to take protected flora, with Section 23D covering the taking and sale of protected flora on private land. There is no specific provision for the issue of licences for non-compliance with the Act, as suggested in the question.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: I want to expand on the issue of bonus payments. Has the executive director or any other employee of the department received bonus payments from the Government or any other entity in respect of the sale of timber?*

*Answer:* No.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: Have there been any bonus payments from the Government or any other entity in respect of financial or any other type of performance achieved by CALM?*

*Answer:* CALM has not received a bonus payment in 1998-99, but may be eligible in 1999-2000 for an incentive payment from the Consolidated Fund. Incentive payments are available to all agencies which operate within their 1998-99 budget. The Treasury section of the *Budget Statements* at page 1467 of Volume 3 mentions a major policy decision "Global Provision for incentive payments to agencies".

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: With regard to the contract of employment, since 1 January 1992 has CALM employed or contracted any of the following: Advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations, media advertising organisations and lawyers other than the Crown Solicitor's office? When you provide the answer on notice, could you also provide what quantum of payment was made by CALM, to whom the payment was made, when the payment was made and in respect of what services it was made? Will you confirm whether any answers to that have been referred to in the annual reports of CALM?*

*Answer:* Between January 1995 and May 1999, the marketing firm Effective Advertising and Design Pty Ltd of Perth was used for 15 projects to design and prepare artwork for a range of information and marketing materials. Total payment was \$55 246.

In September to November 1995, the advertising firm of Clemenger Perth was used for one project involving photography and the design and preparation of artwork. Total payment was \$5 465.

Between January 1996 and June 1998, the market research firm of Patterson Market Research was used for five market research projects related to fox baiting on conservation lands, the Perth Observatory, and the planting of tree crops on existing cleared farm land. Total payment was \$25 415.

Details of these payments were not included in the annual reports of CALM because, until October 1998, CALM was unaware that it was a requirement under Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act. In CALM's next annual report and beyond, expenditures will be reported on as required by Section 175ZE.

Between 1 January 1992 and 10 June 1999 the following amounts were paid for legal advice:

Clayton Utz Solicitors	\$67 437.95
Mallesons Stephen Jaques	\$1 085 684.77
Phillips Fox Lawyers	\$7 041.17
Freehill Hollingdale & Page	\$139 906.82

Details of legal costs are not included in CALM's annual reports.

*Question: Hon Muriel Patterson: Has the radio frequency that is used by the bush fire brigades of the various shires and CALM been adjusted? I believe that was quite a serious problem because the various locations use their own frequency and are not au fait with CALM's frequency. When you go into a location, what frequency do you use?*

*Answer:* The VHF Band Plan change was completed prior to the summer of 1998. All bush fire brigade radios have CALM channels and CALM radios have bush fire channels. All shires and bush fire brigades have been advised of the appropriate CALM channels that operate within each area. See tabled paper containing Shire/CALM channels.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: With regard to debt, what assets were sold this financial year, and what is the expected yield from asset sales in the next financial year? Those lists will be provided as supplementary information regarding the next and current financial years.*

*Answer:* Asset sales 1998-99:

<b>PROPERTY LOCATION</b>	<b>SALE PRICE (\$)</b>
<b>Freehold</b>	
Part Folly Plantation Nannup (21 titles)	2 880 000
Location 1050 Bridge Road Balingup	190 000
Location 11988 Cutting Road Manjimup	675 000
Location 1274 Boundary Road Nannup	115 000
Lot 18 Glew Street Pemberton	43 000
Lot 27 Nannup-Balingup Road Balingup	81 000
Lot 1 Southampton Road Balingup	250 000
Location 1255 Boundary Road Nannup	105 000
Location 1272 Agg Road Nannup	200 000
Location 1052 Bridge Road Balingup	200 000
Location 1065 Bridge Road Balingup	145 000
Locations 189 & 1255 and Lots 1 & 11 Boundary Road Nannup (2 titles)	195 000
<b>Crown Land</b>	
Part Reserve 26916 Como	4 342 000
<b>Total Asset Sales 1998-99</b>	<b>\$9 421 000</b>

Proposed Asset Sales 1999/2000

<b>PROPERTY LOCATION</b>	<b>ESTIMATED SALE PRICE (\$)</b>
<b>Freehold</b>	
Blackwood Valley and sundry other properties	2 000 000
<b>Crown Land</b>	
State forest No. 70 Baldivis	6 000 000
Part State forest No. 69 Joondalup	1 800 000
<b>Total estimated asset sale receipts 1999-2000</b>	<b>\$9 800 000</b>

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What is the expected return from the leaseholders under the nature-based tourism program by category in the next and current financial years? I assume the question will need to be placed on notice. I note that the variance between the projections for this and the past financial year tended to be modest concerning the expectation for potential growth of income in this sector.*

*Answer:*

	1998/99	1999/2000
	\$	\$
State Forest		
Tourism	15 334	16 464
Clubs & Associations	5 050	5 138
Conservation Estate		
Tourism	326 418	338 750
Clubs & Associations	110 395	58 009
Communications Licences	3 451	3 504
Other	58 040	59 002
Freehold		
Clubs & Associations	150	150
Miscellaneous	18 058	18 094
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$536 896</b>	<b>\$499 111</b>

*Question: Hon Ken Travers: What is the current status of the redevelopment plans for the Yanchep National Park? Is CALM still seeking private sector involvement in the redevelopment of the park? What money is allocated in this year's budget to carry out the urgently needed upgrade of the park?*

*Answer:* In September 1998, Jones Lang Wootton TransAct acting for CALM, called for expressions of interest for the redevelopment of the Yanchep Inn and the construction of a new kiosk. The call attracted several substantial proposals. Following a review of submissions and further discussions with two of the proponents, CALM recommended to the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) that more detailed negotiations continue with one proponent, Mr Tony Villanova. The Authority approved further negotiations with Mr Villanova in respect to his proposal. The proposal involves converting the upstairs accommodation into nine en-suite rooms and two conference rooms. The existing kitchen would be moved and that area converted to additional meeting facilities capable of conducting small conferences/conventions. A new purpose-built tearoom kiosk is proposed. Twelve additional motel units are planned. Subject to CALM, NPNCA and Ministerial approval construction could commence by early 2000 and be completed by the end of 2001. Overall expenditure is estimated at \$2.6 million. Over the past five years, over \$3.5 million has been spent on realigning roads, building new roads and car parks, replacing car parks with grassed areas, upgrading barbeque facilities, constructing walking paths, substantially improving the koala compound, construction the new Balga Mia Village and upgrading the ground floor of the Inn. In 1998-99 \$1,021,125 was spent on operating Yanchep National Park. In 1999-2000 the project operating expenditure is \$1,071,497. These figures include recurrent and recoup funding.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly: My next questions relates to royalties referred to on page 243 of the Budget Statements. It is listed as a major achievement for 1998-99 that negotiations were finalised on a second-phase increase in royalties. How far into the future are these royalties negotiated? Who was involved in those negotiations? The final part of my question will need to go on notice: What are the new levels of royalties? I will place on notice the quantum of the increase and the detail which can be provided. Who was involved in these negotiations?*

*Answer:* In late 1996 Arthur Andersen was engaged to make an independent assessment and report on CALM's general review of hardwood timber royalties commenced in 1995. Cabinet noted and agreed on 21 April 1997:

That a 13% increase be applied to karri and jarrah forest products with a 10% first stage being applied from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997 and 3% from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1998.

A further increase of no more than 1.11% from karri (forest) products and 6.35% for jarrah (forest) products to be applied from 1 July 1998, subject to an independent review of timber royalty methodology.

An independent assessment panel chaired by Mr John Jenkins was duly appointed and reported to the Minister supporting the application of the 1.11% and 6.35% increases. Following the recommendations of the Jenkins report, the final increases were applied from 1 July 1998. Arthur Andersen and the Jenkins review panel undertook independent consultation with FIFWA and CALM. Royalties are indexed annually by reference to movements in the Timber Price Index which is prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. General reviews of royalties are undertaken periodically. A copy of the current Native Hardwood royalty schedule is tabled.

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: Can you table the coupe maps for the 1999-2000 cutting program? Could we also have the coupe summary tables for the same period?*

*Answer:* The 1999 harvest plan is incomplete due to finalisation of the RFA as both the areas of forest required to provide a comprehensive adequate and representative reserve system and the amount of log timber that can be harvested on a sustainable basis had not been determined at the time the plan was prepared.

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: Page 236 of the Budget Statements refers to the establishment of maritime pines and a wide range of tree species in relation to the state salinity action response. What proportion of CALM's budget is directed to alternative species as opposed to maritime pine?*

*Answer:* Under the Maritime Pine Project each landowner is offered the opportunity to plant an additional 10% of their area to alternative species. Not all landowners take up this option. In 1998-99, \$528 500 (10% of the budget) was available for the establishment of alternative species compared to \$4 756 500 (90%) for maritime pine. However, actual expenditure will depend on the area of alternative species taken by landowners. Expenditure to date for 1998-99 for species other than maritime pine amounts to approximately \$209 000.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill: Reading the annual report, what is the reason for the decline in the estimated number of red kangaroos since the mid-1980s?*

*Answer:* Statewide Red kangaroo populations dipped in the early 1990's after sustained growth throughout the 1980's. Populations have exhibited strong growth again after dropping to a low point in the period 1995/96. Red kangaroo populations have fluctuated in a cyclic fashion over the past 18 years, since aerial surveys were first used to estimate rangeland kangaroo populations. This cycle appears to be mainly related to a general food availability across the rangelands, which is in turn mainly influenced by broad rainfall patterns. The cyclical nature of the population changes can be readily seen in the tabled paper.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: Does CALM have any contracts for third grade jarrah saw-logs? Does CALM have any other allocation quotas for third grade jarrah saw-logs? How are third grade jarrah saw-logs and/or residue logs which are cut down accounted for? When the log is sold or removed, how is it accounted for?*

*Answer:* Yes, sale contracts for jarrah third grade sawlogs are held by a number of buyers. There are no "other allocation quotas" for third grade jarrah sawlog. A list of current buyers is tabled. Third grade sawlog timber is accounted for according to Forest Management Regulations.

- S.35 (1) states that a person shall not remove log timber that has been felled in a State forest or timber reserve unless a log delivery note has been completed.
- The log delivery note must be completed in accordance with information required as specified in s36. Log timber may not be delivered to any person other than the person specified in the log delivery note or delivered to a place other than the place specified in the D/Note (s47).
- S50 - Log timber from State forest or timber reserve may not be received at a sawmill without a log delivery note.
- S51 - When log timber felled in a State forest or timber reserve is received at the sawmill the log delivery note must be immediately signed to indicate that the timber has been received at the sawmill.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: I have a question about a case in the Armadale District Court on 5 May last week. Was CALM responsible for the prosecution for removal of timber without a licence?*

*Answer:* CALM was not involved in any cases at the Armadale Court on 5 May 1999. The nearest to that date was prosecution action initiated by CALM, which was listed for hearing at Armadale Court of Petty Services on 4 May 1999. It is understood that the matter was adjourned to 25 May 1999, when the matter was dealt with.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: If CALM was responsible for that prosecution, why was the charge of transporting timber without a licence withdrawn? What were the grade of the logs involved? Who was the driver working for? What was the destination of the logs? What other prosecutions, if any, of this type have occurred in the past two years?*

*Answer:* The alleged offence involved:

"removing log timber felled in State forest without completion of a log delivery note in accordance with Part 5 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993, contrary to Regulation 35(1) of the Regulations"; and

"engaging in the transport of log timber harvested in a State forest when not registered as a timber worker under Part 5 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993, contrary to Regulation 5 of the Regulations".

In this case, the issue of a licence was not an issue. As referred to above, it was alleged that the defendant did not have a completed log delivery note, contrary to Forest Management Regulation 35(1). That charge was not withdrawn, the defendant entered a plea of guilty, was convicted and fined \$200 plus costs. However, the second charge relating to the

defendant allegedly not being registered as a timber worker, was withdrawn. The logs were first grade saw logs. The driver was working for COP Transport. It is believed that the logs were being transported to Colli & Sons at Mundijong.

In 1997/98 the following prosecution action took place:

3 x offences for unauthorised removal of firewood/forest produce  
1 x delivery note offence

In 1998/99 recommendations were made for the following cases which are in various stages of processing:

9 x alleged unauthorised removal of firewood/forest produce  
alleged delivery note offences involving three individuals.  
1 x alleged failing to pay appropriate royalty

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What funding did CALM receive from Commonwealth sources this financial year and what is the anticipated funding next financial year?*

*Answer:* CALM expects to receive approximately \$8 million in Commonwealth funding for 1998-99. The level of Commonwealth funding for 1999-2000 is yet to be determined. CALM is expecting a level of funding similar to 1998-99.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What funds have been allocated for the management of Yalgorup National Park this financial year, and what will be allocated next year?*

*Answer:* Expenditure of \$91 000 was estimated for the management of Yalgorup National Park in 1999-98.

A budget of \$91 000 has been allocated for management of the Park in 1999-2000.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: Have any funds been appropriated to purchase private landholdings near Lake Clifton within the Yalgorup National Park as prescribed in the Yalgorup National Park management plan for 1995-2005?*

*Answer:* No funds have been allocated within the 1998-99 financial year to purchase private land within the Yalgorup National Park. CALM will, however, seek to purchase or exchange, when opportunities arise and funds are available, private property enclaves and properties adjoining the Yalgorup National Park that have exceptional conservation and recreation values, management benefits, or that could protect areas with these values within the Park. This includes private lots near Lake Clifton. This action is prescribed in the Yalgorup National Park Management Plan 1995-2005 prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: Have any management funds been allocated in anticipation of the establishment of the Peel regional park in the next 12 months?*

*Answer:* No.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: Dr Shea mentioned purchase of land. What was CALM's budget for the purchase of land for conservation purposes this financial year, and what lands were acquired? What will CALM's budget for such purchases be in the next financial year? I am not looking at the annual allocation of \$200 000 but from all sources.*

*Answer:* Funds allocated for conservation land acquisition during 1998/99 were derived from four sources, as shown below:

CALM capital allocation (this includes a carry over of \$176 700 from the 1997-98 financial year)	\$376 700
Gascoyne-Murchison Strategy (this includes a carry over of \$1 000 000 from the 1997/98 financial year)	\$2 000 000
Salinity Action Plan	\$700 000
Natural Heritage Trust (National Reserve System Program)	\$1 711 356
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4 788 056</b>

Purchases of eleven properties (or part properties) have been settled during 1998-99 (to 9 June 1999). These include two areas of freehold land on the Swan Coastal Plain; three pastoral leases in the Gascoyne-Murchison Strategy area and parts of four other leases in the Strategy area; and two pastoral leases in the Pilbara Region. The majority of these purchases were funded with assistance from the National Reserve System Program of the Natural Heritage Trust. Formal announcements



on these purchases are expected to be made jointly by the Commonwealth and State Ministers for the Environment in the near future.

For 1999-2000 CALM's capital allocation for land purchase will be \$200 000. \$1.2 million will be provided under the Gascoyne-Murchison Strategy. There is no specific allocation of Salinity Action Plan funds to land purchase, but priority purchases may be made out of funds allocated to Crown reserves and natural diversity recovery catchments. Approved Natural Heritage Trust Funds for 1999-2000 have yet to be advised.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: You mentioned in other areas that the commonwealth provides funding on the basis of \$2 for \$1 provided by the State. Could you indicate in that answer the limitation on this sort of funding and whether we have accessed all the possible federal money?*

*Answer:* The Commonwealth Government through the National Reserve System Program (NRSP) of the Natural Heritage Trust has to date approved funding for conservation land acquisition on a project by project basis. Funding has been at the rate of \$2 from the Commonwealth for every \$1 of State funds. The NRSP gives priority to approving funds for the purchase of lands to add to the conservation estate that lie in the high priority bioregions as defined by the *Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia*, which is a study endorsed by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, which classified Australia into bioregions of high, medium and low priority, at the national scale, for the acquisition of lands to add to the national reserve system. In Western Australia these high priority bioregions include the Swan Coastal Plain, Avon Wheatbelt, Gascoyne, Murchison, Yalgoo, Carnarvon, Pilbara and parts of the Kimberley. The NRSP also recognises that priority should be given to endangered ecological communities in regions that are otherwise not of high priority.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly: My question relates to page 238 of the Budget Statements. Under recurrent costs there are forward estimates for total net and cash costs of outputs but none of the detail. Why is that the case?*

*Answer:* The format of the budget papers has been determined by Treasury and this is uniform throughout the *Budget Statements*.

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: I ask on notice to see the time-lines of that program.*

*Answer:* I refer the honourable member to the answer to Question 1399 in the Legislative Council on 22 April 1999, which broadly answers this question. In addition, CALM has prepared the following summary and attached graph outlining the key stages of progress in WA's marine conservation reserves program over the past 15 years and the likely progress in the next decade or so:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1985:      | <p><b>Commencement of MPA legislation in Western Australia</b><br/>Commencement of operation of the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> (i.e. WA's first statutory provisions for the establishment and management of marine parks and marine nature reserves).</p>  |
| 1986-1990: | <p><b>Initial MPA declarations (six marine parks and one marine nature reserve)</b><br/>Marmion Marine Park (1987), Ningaloo Marine Park (1987), Shoalwater Islands Marine Park (1990), Shark Bay Marine Park (1990), Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve (1990), Rowley Shoals Marine Park (1990) and Swan Estuary Marine Park (1990).</p>  |
| 1986-1994: | <p><b>Development of a strategic framework for a statewide MPA program (i.e. Report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group).</b><br/>This report identified approximately 70 areas within the State waters of Western Australia that were considered worthy of reservation under the CALM Act. It provides the strategic framework for a statewide MPA program.</p>   |
| 1994:      | <p><b>Development of a revised Government policy framework for the MPA program (i.e. New Horizons in Marine Management)</b><br/>The New Horizons policy outlined a commitment by the Western Australian Government to establishing a statewide system of MPAs under the CALM Act with the dual objectives of biodiversity conservation and the management of human usage within an ecologically sustainable framework. It also foreshadowed changes to the CALM Act and the establishment of new vesting and advisory bodies for MPAs as well as a specialist branch within the Department of Conservation and Land Management to support the MPA program. In essence, the New Horizons policy was needed to address issues raised by stakeholders and the community during the period since the commencement of WA's MPA program in the mid-1980s.</p> |
| 1994-1997: | <p><b>Development of a revised legislative framework for the MPA program</b><br/>The amendments to the marine reserve provisions of the CALM Act included revised statutory consultative processes prior to the declaration of a MPA, the establishment of a new vesting and Ministerial advisory body (the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority), establishment of a Marine</p>   |

Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, and creation of a new category of marine conservation reserve called a Marine Management Area. These changes came into effect in August 1997.

The future direction was published in a revised policy New Horizons – the way ahead in marine conservation and management.

- 1996-1998: **Establishment of the structural framework for the MPA program**
- 1996: **Establishment of the Marine Conservation Branch within CALM**  
This specialist branch within the Nature Conservation Division of CALM was established to 'drive' the MPA program in Western Australia.
- 1997: **Establishment of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA)**  
The MPRA is the vesting body for MPAs in Western Australia and also has a Ministerial advisory role.
- 1997: Establishment of the Marine Parks and Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee (MPRSAC)  
The MPRSAC has a scientific advisory role to the Minister and the MPRA.
- 1997: **Development of fisheries compensation legislation in relation to the MPA program**  
The Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997 provides for compensation to commercial fishing, aquaculture and pearling operators in the event of loss suffered as a result of the establishment of MPAs. This legislation is administered by the Minister for Fisheries.
- 1998-2002: **Phase I implementation of the MPA program (i.e. following the 1997 legislation)**  
The establishment of five MPAs (Jurien Bay, Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston, Montebello/Barrow Islands, Geographe Bay/Capes/Hardy Inlet region and Walpole/Nornalup Inlets) plus extensions to the Shoalwater Islands, Ningaloo and Shark Bay marine parks. It is anticipated that the establishment of these MPAs will largely address and remove the major institutional barriers to MPAs in Western Australia.
- 2003-2012: **Phase II implementation of the MPA program**  
Phase II will potentially involve the simultaneous establishment of a larger number (10+) of MPAs around the State."

*Question: Hon Murray Montgomery: How many overseas companies are in partnership, or are negotiating a partnership, with CALM on farm forestry plantation? Which companies are they? What are their financial arrangements with CALM? What projected plantings would occur with these arrangements?*

*Answer:* CALM has four agreements with companies to establish plantations. All companies have overseas links, but are also Australian registered businesses. The companies in partnership, or negotiating a partnership with CALM on farm forestry plantations are:

British Petroleum Refinery, Kwinana;  
Albany Plantation Forest Pty Ltd (a joint venture between Oji Paper Company, Itochu and Sensukai);  
Hansol Australia; and  
Bunbury Treefarm Project (a joint venture between Nippon Paper Industries, Mitsui & Co. and Mitsui Australia).

Each company has an agreement with CALM to pay for the direct costs and associated overheads incurred in establishing and maintaining trees on their behalf, plus a management fee. There is a total target of 60 000 hectares for bluegum plantations. There is no specified target for BP's plantings as it is still in a pilot phase with BP yet to determine its long term goal for this project.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: I note that on page 244 there is a stated anticipated increase of 10 000 ha in the amount of plantation timber under management. What area of plantation timber will be harvested in the next financial year? How much of it is state-owned plantation? What area of plantation timber will be planted in the next financial year and how much will be state owned? I realise that these questions might have to be taken on notice.*

*Answer:* It is planned to harvest approximately 7 100 hectares in the year from 1 July 1999. This includes both softwood and hardwood plantations. The actual area harvested will be varied by changes to the demand for logs which may occur throughout the year. Included in the 7 100 ha area proposed for harvesting will be a small area of privately owned plantations (approximately 200 hectares) which is subject to final negotiations. CALM is planning to plant approximately 17 200 hectares next year, of which 11 200 hectares will be State-owned or on State-landowner sharefarming arrangements. These areas will vary depending on final planting targets from CALM's agencies and the actual area of land secured under sharefarming agreements.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: I seek a list of national parks, indicating the date the management plan for the park was adopted, or the projected date for the adoption of such a plan. I also wish to know the anticipated expenditure on planned development for the next 12 months. We seem to be proceeding very slowly with the development of plans throughout national parks. I seek some indication of the expenditure for the next 12 months and what we might see in an overview.*

*Answer:* The attached two tables indicate the parks and reserves for which management plans have been prepared, or are in preparation. In total, 39 management plans have been approved. Fifteen of these cover national parks or marine parks, and a further five are regional plans that provide broad guidelines for management of the CALM estate, including national parks, in each region. The estimated expenditure on the preparation of management plans over the next 12 months is \$890 000. This includes two regional plans and twenty-five management plans for national parks, marine parks, conservation parks and regional parks as indicated in the tabled papers.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly: Page 255 relates to the capital works program and shows \$2m allocated in 1999-2000 for tourism road improvement. Is that made up of various pieces of work, or does it comprise one significant program? I also seek the same details for the 1998-99 program.*

*Answer:* Funding for the Tourism Road Improvement Program is provided by way of an annual grant from Main Roads WA. The 1999/2000 program is currently being considered by Main Roads WA and involves a total of 23 specific projects throughout the State. Approval for the program is expected shortly.

Details of the 1998-99 program are:

REGION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Kimberley	Purnululu NP-Bellburn/Piccaninny Road (continuation of current upgrading program)	\$103 000
	Parry Lagoons NR - upgrade Marglu Access Road	\$40 000
	Mitchell Plateau - upgrade public access road between the Mitchell River and the airstrip	\$20 000
Pilbara	Karijini NP - resurface Hamersley Gorge Road	\$60 000
	Karijini NP - Joffre Falls Road (upgrading program to be staged over several years)	\$80 000
Midwest	Kalbarri NP - Loop and Z Bend access roads (initial upgrading of 40 km of road while detailed road planning and design work is undertaken and contracts arranged)	\$150 000
	Lesueur NP - Lesueur Access Road (design, clear alignment and commence construction of access road as specified in the management plan)	\$50 000
Swan	Avon Valley NP - upgrade main access road into park	\$20 000
	Lane Poole Reserve - upgrade Park Road	\$30 000
Central Forest	Lower Collie Valley - upgrade River and Falcon Roads	\$100 000
	Leeuwin-Naturaliste NP - reform and seal Ellensbrook Access Road	\$170 000
	Leeuwin-Naturaliste NP - Cosy Corner Road realignment and resurfacing	\$145,00

REGION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Southern Forest	D'Entrecasteaux NP - Lighthouse Road reforming and resurfacing	\$75 000
	D'Entrecasteaux NP - Mandalay Beach Road realignment and resurfacing	\$100 000
	Beedelup NP - Beedelup Falls Road widening, reforming and resurfacing	\$70 000
	Warren National Park - Ralph Road resurfacing program in conjunction with Manjimup Shire	\$100 000
South Coast	Two Peoples Bay NR - complete Two Peoples Bay Road upgrading program	\$110 000
	Stirling Range NP - upgrade Stirling Range Oceanic Drive (upgrading program to be staged over 2 - 3 years)	\$75 000
	Fitzgerald River NP - Hamersley Drive upgrading	\$50 000
	Stokes NP - upgrade Stokes Inlet Road	\$80 000
	Cape Arid NP - Thomas River Road (complete upgrading work commenced in 1996-97)	\$20 000
	Cape Le Grand NP - Dunns Rock Road improve drainage, install culverts, reform and resheet	\$20 000

Wheatbelt	Dryandra Woodland - upgrade main public access road through Dryandra Village	\$5 000
	Dryandra Woodland - upgrade Kawana Road	\$9 000
	Dryandra Woodland - upgrade Guru Road	\$15 000
	Dryandra Woodland - resurface portions of Contine Hill Access Road	\$3 000
Other	Routine maintenance of park and forest roads	\$300 000
TOTAL		\$2 000 000

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: I will ask a couple of questions about Pinus radiata. One is a small detail. I understand the natural stands of Pinus radiata in California are very small and are under serious natural threat of infection by pine canker. Given this serious threat to the last remaining natural stands in California, is it too late to save the provenance of stands in the Department of Conservation and Land Management supply at the Manjimup nursery? Can the department protect these natural provenance in Western Australia?*

*Answer:* It is quite correct that many populations of *Pinus radiata* in California are under Pitch Canker threat. There has been no evidence of this fungal disease in Australia and New Zealand and hence our gene pool is important for the commercial development of this species in this region. We will not be able to import any more material from the native population.

The *Pinus radiata* referred to at the Plant Propagation Centre (Manjimup nursery included) are CALM's seed orchards that deploy the best genetics of this species for Western Australia for plantation establishment. These orchards have been established from selections made from a range of trials, mainly of the Monterey provenance, that are scattered across south Western Australia. It is these trials that conserve the genetics of the species and they are replicated on State land. Seed coming from CALM's Manjimup orchards has a very broad genetic base. A large number of parents are included that have been selected for high volume production, straight stems, multinodal branching, resistance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and higher wood density. CALM is also a *Pinus radiata* member of the Southern Tree Breeders Association and thus has access to other replicated genetic material across Australia.

To further the gene conservation commitment, in 1998 CALM established four trials of the Cambria provenance of *Pinus radiata*. This seed had been stored at the CSIRO Australian Tree Seed Centre and was losing its viability. CALM requested that it have the opportunity to conserve this resource for Australia as CALM predicts that, with the movement of plantation forestry into the dryland zone for land rehabilitation, this provenance may plan an important role for the commercial development of this species. The Cambria provenance of radiata is important for Western Australia as it has resistance to *Phytophthora*, has more salinity tolerance and may be more drought tolerant. Whilst these are not the only trials in Australia, they are the most comprehensive plantings of this provenance in Australia.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp: I refer to section 2 of the Grimwade radiata plantation. Why was that area not replanted with pinus radiata when it was regenerated?*

*Answer:* CALM is seeking to plant exotic tree species in areas that maximise the potential for an economic rate of return to be obtained as well as to maximise the nature conservation potential in respect of amelioration of salinity. The main exotic species selected to achieve these objectives include *Pinus radiata*, *Pinus pinaster* and *Eucalyptus globulus*.

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: My question relates to the harvesting of sandalwood and meeting the sustainability criteria with the harvesting of sandalwood both currently and in the future, and it will probably have to be taken on notice. I would like to know the criteria that are met for assessing the ecological sustainability, the monitoring that is carried out to assess whether that harvesting is sustainable and the evidence that is available of regeneration of sandalwood, particularly given that the area is very large. On what basis is it claimed that it is sustainable?*

*Answer:* The objectives and strategies for the sustainable management of sandalwood are published with accompanying data in Wildlife Management Program No 8 "The Management of Sandalwood 1991". The size and quality of the sandalwood resource in Western Australia was calculated during an assessment program between 1980 and 1984 and the results are detailed in Wildlife Management Program No 8. The amount of sandalwood which was above minimum harvest size and outside of reserves identified in that assessment was 137,000 tonnes of greenwood and 27,000 tonnes of dead wood with annual ingrowth calculated at 1,930 tonnes per annum.

A new assessment of the sandalwood resource in the pastoral area is presently being undertaken. Although the results have not yet been completely analysed, the indication is that the 1984 assessment may have been an underestimate. This assessment will also provide data regarding the average regeneration rate of sandalwood for specific land types. The survival of regeneration is dependent on weather conditions and the degree to which individual areas are grazed. Areas on repurchased pastoral stations where grazing pressure has been removed show a higher level of regeneration survival.

Records show that since 1975 the average proportion of green stems harvested per annum has been less than 50% of the annual ingrowth in any one year as assessed in 1980-1984. CALM is proactive in establishing sandalwood (*Santalum*

*spicatum*) in the wheatbelt in association with the Maritime Pine Program as part of the State Salinity Action Program. Sandalwood harvesting is supervised and monitored by CALM officers, including regular inspections and written reports.

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: What is being done to control feral animals, particularly goats? I understand they have a major impact on successful regeneration but there is a contradiction between that and pastoralists harvesting goats.*

*Answer:* The primary responsibility for policy and feral goat eradication rests with the Agricultural Protection Board and Agriculture WA through Hon Minister for Primary Industry. These bodies have set up a Feral Goat Eradication Steering Committee, chaired by Ms Keryl Enright. A discussion paper on Future Management of Feral Goats was prepared for the Committee and distributed on 23 April 1999. CALM is not a member but has observer status. On CALM-managed lands, feral goats are controlled by mustering, trapping and ground and aerial shooting. All programs are integrated with those of neighbours and by Agriculture WA. The main areas of control are Cape Range National Park, Kennedy Range National Park, Francois Peron National Park and Zuytdorp Nature Reserve. Control also occurs on pastoral leases purchased by CALM and on some reserves in the Goldfields Region. Other feral grazing animals controlled on CALM-managed lands include cattle, donkeys, horses, camels and pigs. Western Shield is a major CALM initiative to control foxes and feral cats for biodiversity enhancement.

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: I understand the Cape Range National Park management plan was due for review last year or this year. When will the review of the Cape Range National Park management plan take place?*

*Answer:* It is proposed to commence the review of the Cape Range National Park Management Plan early next year with the intention of releasing a draft plan for public comment by the end of 2000. The planning process for this park will run concurrently with a review of the management plan for Ningaloo Marine Park.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What is the basis for the reduction of tourism and recreation services recoupable revenues as indicated at page 246 of the Budget Statements? At the top of the page a reduction in estimated recoupable projects is noted under "reason for significant variation". What is the explanation for that?*

*Answer:* The actual operating revenue figure for 1997-98 of \$12.1 million is \$2.1 million greater than the 1998-99 estimate. Estimates for external funds (ie. recoupable works) are generally conservative and below what is actually achieved. Many opportunities to access external funds develop over the course of the financial year and are unknown at the time of the budget preparation. The 1997-98 operating revenue includes some one-off items, including \$400 000 funding for the Monkey Mia visitor centre and \$565 000 funding for the Bibbulmun Track construction project.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: Could I receive a breakdown of the Department of Conservation and Land Management employees by Division?*

*Answer:*

Corporate Executive	17.00
Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs	28.55
Corporate Services	120.50
CALMscience	157.49
Nature Conservation	71.51
Parks, Recreation Planning and Tourism	55.23
Forest Resources	270.48
Regional Services	689.43
Total	1410.19

*Question: Hon Giz Watson: What objectives of conservation and bio-diversity is the Department of Conservation and Land Management expected to achieve in declaring sanctuary areas within marine reserves?*

*Answer:* The Government's 1998 "New Horizons – the way ahead in marine conservation and management" policy explains sanctuary zones in marine parks as "look but don't take areas" managed solely for nature conservation and low-impact recreation and tourism. This is reinforced by legislative provisions which prohibit commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, pearling, petroleum drilling and mining in sanctuary zones.

Sanctuary zones provide strict protection of biodiversity values free from the influence of extractive activities, and also provide the opportunity for use as reference areas in scientific research and monitoring programs. Sanctuary zones also act as replenishment areas by providing sources of larvae for adjacent exploited areas and as "insurance" against population decline by protecting spawning sites and nursery areas.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: What is the anticipated reduction in the native forest available to the Department of Conservation and Land Management for harvesting as a result of the Regional Forest Agreement?*

TABLE 1

## The RFA Base Reserve Design

			Gazetted Formal	Proposed Formal	Accredited Informal	Other Informal	State Forest	Other Public	Private Land	TOTAL	Manual Adjustment
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
THE FINAL RFA RESERVE DESIGN	Gazetted Formal	1	422 512							422 512	
	Proposed Formal	2		268 895						268 895	
	Accredited Informal	3		4 416	130 520	247	2 576	131		137 890	
	Other Informal	4		4 872		116 825				121 697	+ 200
	State Forest	5		44 838			1 102 363			1 147 201	- 200
	New Formal	6			56 548	11 834	100 680	25 007	10 940	205 009	
	New Informal	7						12 893		12 893	
	Other Public	8						75 719		75 719	
	Private Land	9							1 864 618	1 864 618	
	TOTAL	10	422 512	323 021	167 068	128 906	1 205 619	113 750	1 875 558	4 256 434	
	Manual Adjustment	11				+ 3 200	- 3 200				

## ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - EXTRACTED FROM TABLE 1

			Table 1 Reference	Area Hectares
1	Area of new formal reserves	Final RFA	H6	205 009
2	Net increase in formal reserves	Final RFA Base RFA	(H1+H2+H6) (A10+B10)	896 416 745 533 <b>150 883</b>
3	Net Increase in all reserves	Final RFA Base RFA	(H1-H4,H6,H7) +200 (A10-D10) + 3 200	1 169 096 1 064 707 <b>104 389</b>
4	Source of the increase in reserves	To reserve from SF To SF from proposed reserve net increase to reserve ex SF  Additions from other public  Additions from private land  Subtract net manual addition	(E3+E6) B5  (F3+F6+F7)  G6  sub total (D11-14) <b>total</b>	103 256 44 838 58 418  38 031  10 940  107 389 3 000 <b>104 389</b>
5	Net decrease in SF area	Base RFA Final RFA	(E10 -3 200) (H5 -200)	1 202 419 1 147 001 <b>55 418</b>
6	Source of decrease in SF	Inverse of additions to and reductions from reserves ex SF shown above.		
7	Difference between increase in reserves and decrease in SF	Net addition to reserves Net reduction to SF		104 389 55 418 <b>48 971</b>
8	Sources of difference	Additions from public land Additions from private land	(F3+F6+F7) G6	38 031 10 940

## EDUCATION

*Question: The Chairman asked for a copy of the published audit on the computers in WA government schools.*

*Answer:* Attached is a copy of the School Computer and Connectivity Census Report. The report is also published at <http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/centoff/t2000/comp.htm>

*Question: The Chairman stated not only do I want to know the percentage that have not provided the technology plans, I would like to know which schools they are and the date by which all schools are expected to comply.*

*Answer:* 100% of schools have provided technology plans to their District Directors. 92% have been approved by District Directors. The remainder, listed below, are in the process of being approved following amendments to the plans requested by the District Director. All plans are expected to be approved by 30 June 1999.

Amaroo Primary School  
Applecross Senior High School  
Armada Senior High School  
Badgingarra Primary School  
Bibra Lake Primary School  
Booragoon Primary School  
Bremer Bay Primary School  
Brunswick Junction Primary  
Bunbury Primary School  
Carawatha Language Develop Centre  
Carnarvon Primary School  
Carnarvon Senior High School  
Cascade Primary School  
Castletown Primary School  
Challis S.P.E.R. Centre  
Cockburn PEAC Centre  
Collie Senior High School  
Coorow Primary School  
Cranbrook Primary School  
Cue Primary School  
Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School  
Eaton Primary School  
Eneabba Primary School  
Esperance Senior High School Education Support Centre  
Ferndale Primary School  
Harvey Primary School  
Harvey Senior High School  
Jerramungup District High School  
Kardinya Primary School  
Kent Street Senior High School  
Koorilla Education Support Centre  
Lakeland Senior High School  
Langford Education Support Centre  
Langford Primary School  
Leeman Primary School  
Leeming Senior High School  
Leeming Senior High School Education Support Centre  
Lynwood Primary School  
Maddington Education Support Centre  
Medina Primary School  
Metropolitan North West S.P.E.R.  
Mindarie Primary School  
Mount Pleasant Primary School  
Newton Primary School  
Norseman District High School  
Parkwood Primary School  
Phoenix Primary School  
Quinninup Primary School  
Rangeway Primary School  
Rossmoyne Senior High School  
Rottne Island Primary School  
Sandstone Primary School  
Shark Bay Primary School  
South Coogee Primary School  
South Lake Primary School

Southwell Primary School  
 Spearwood Alternative School  
 The Andrew Relph School  
 The WA Institute For Deaf Education  
 Useless Loop Primary School  
 Walkaway Primary School  
 Wattleup Primary School  
 Willetton Primary School  
 Yangebup Primary School  
 Yuna Primary School

*Question: The Chairman asked how many computers had been provided to WA government schools through the computers in schools program announced in the 1998-99 Budget Statements.*

*Answer:* As indicated during the hearings, schools are still in the process of purchasing the computers in question. It is therefore very difficult to provide an answer to this question at this stage. This information will be provided in the next departmental computer census document when totals are next collected.

*Question: Hon John Halden asked if he could have a breakdown of the figure for non-recurring salaries costs and reductions of about \$19 million.*

*Answer:* The components are:

Salary reclassification arrears for education assistants in 1998/99.	\$2.7 m
Central and district office staff redundancy payments in 1998/99.	\$1.7 m
Payments to staff for accrued leave loading entitlements in 1998/99.	\$0.4 m
Reduction in overpaid salaries in 1999/00 compared with 1998/99.	\$1.0 m
Expected reduction in student enrolments in 1999/00.	\$0.8 m
Savings in wage costs for school cleaning staff due to the continuing conversion to contract cleaning in 1999/00.	\$7.4 m
Savings in salary costs for vacation swimming teachers due to the conversion to contract in 1999/00.	\$1.3 m
Savings resulting from the placement of redeployees in 1999/00.	\$2.3 m
Savings in salary costs for staff employed in the First Steps Program due to the conversion to a contract arrangement.	\$1.1 m
	<hr/> \$18.7 m

*Question: Hon John Halden requested a breakdown of the proposed increase in salaries of \$68.0 million in 2000/01.*

*Answer:* The major components are

Provision for award increases.	\$9.0 m
Increases in salaries flowing from the 1996 teachers' enterprise agreement which removed the qualification barrier for two and three-year trained teachers.	\$19.0 m
Productivity dividend funding.	\$32.6 m
Annual incremental increases and full year impact of classifications etc.	\$7.9 m



*Question: The Chairman: Are the schools in the Indian Ocean Territories – that is Cocos and Christmas Islands – included in the Government's computers in schools program?*

*Answer:* Cocos and Christmas Island Schools have not been funded from the State computers in schools program. Any money spent on these schools for the purchase of technology will be recovered from the Commonwealth.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: What productivity dividend applies to the 1999-2000 budget in the Education Department, the Curriculum Council and Department of Education Services?*

*Answer:* The Education Department provided their answer at the time of asking

A \$161,000 government productivity dividend statement applies to the 1999-2000 Curriculum Council budget.

Government productivity savings dating back to 1997-1998 have a current value of \$64,000 in 1999-2000 for the Department of Education Services.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked for the figure for the amount of overpayment which has occurred through the PeopleSoft system.*

*Answer:* Overpayments of salaries in the order of approximately \$1.7 million have occurred since September 1998 when the Education Department's new payroll system was introduced. These overpayments occurred for a variety reasons, including problems arising from some re-writing of the base software and user error. These overpayments are currently being recovered in a concerted way, and the incidence of overpayment has dropped substantially as the system has stabilised and as user expertise has increased.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked for information on the two components of the student allowance scheme, how much was expended on a school by school basis and the number of students covered.*

*Answer:* The components of the Secondary Assistance Scheme are the Clothing Allowance (\$3.1 million allocated in 1998/99 and \$3.091 million expended to 31 May 1999) and Secondary Assistance (\$4.970 million allocated for 1998/99 and \$4.845 million expended to 31 May 1999). The Clothing Allowance is paid to parents while the Secondary Assistance is paid to schools as partial payment of school charges. There are a small number of claims still to be processed that total about \$50,000 in entitlements. This assistance was provided to 22,597 government school students and 4,279 non-government students. The level of funding provided to eligible government schools is attached.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked whether the Department kept any figures on the collection rate of school fees.*

*Answer:* As indicated in the hearings, the Education Department does not hold detailed information on this matter. The following information is provided by way of assistance. The collection rate for schools varies greatly, not only across the State, but within individual districts. For example in the Pilbara Education District collection rates for primary schools range from 39% to 100%; in the Midwest Education District collection rates range from as low as 25% up to 100%. In the metropolitan area, in the Joondalup Education District the collection rate varies between 85%-98%. At one senior high school the collection rate of fees achieved was in the order of 98% with the balance being received in the following year, if the child returned to school. In the Swan Education District the range is even more dramatic with the lowest being 17% for a primary school in a low socio-economic area up to 95% for a small primary school in the Avon Valley. An inner-city school achieved 97%. There are a number of senior high schools in the Swan Education District and collection rates vary between 68% and 96%.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: Are expulsions and suspension statistics kept outlining the magnitude of the problem (bullying) in the State?*

*Answer:* "Bullying" is not a category that is used in the Education Department's data collection system. However, in the 1998 school year, 4,658 suspension notices were issued as a result of physical assault or intimidation of other students. This accounted for approximately 29% of the suspension notices that were issued during the year.

*Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell: If an individual school does not act on extensive bullying, is the State legally liable? Have cases been brought against the State in this regard?*

*Answer:* The Education Department is unaware of any case having been brought against the State in regard to its liability for an individual school failing to act on extensive bullying. However, advice has been sought from the Crown Solicitor's Office to confirm this. If any further information becomes available it will be supplied as supplementary information.

*Question: Hon Barbara Scott: In finalising the transfer of responsibility from FCS to EDWA how many Family Centres will continue to be used to provide kindergarten programs?*

*Answer:* The transfer of responsibility for kindergarten programs was finalised at the end of 1998. In 1999, the Education Department has leased activity rooms in 21 Family or Community Centres for the accommodation of kindergarten programs.

The Education Department is currently negotiating with Family and Children's Services to secure the ongoing use, beyond the end of 1999, of four Family Centres.

*Question: The Hon Barbara Scott: My third question refers to the Centre for Professional Excellence noted on page 368. With the changing nature of the early childhood education sphere, are any specific programs being planned for the centre to allow early childhood teachers to access early professional development programs in that centre?*

*Answer:* The Centre for Excellence in Teaching is managed by an independent Board that is responsible for the programs on offer through the Centre. At this point in time the Centre has not been approached to establish any programs tailored specifically for early childhood teachers. Should such an approach be made, by teachers or an association in this area, then the Centre will respond in an appropriate manner. It should be noted that the Centre operates on a cost recovery basis and has received no funding to develop a program.

*Question: The Hon Barbara Scott: How many MAG programs are in place? Will they continue as pilot programs? Does the budget contain a line item to continue the funding for them? Will they continue to be funded under a pilot program or at a systemic level?'*

*Answer:* Currently there are 2069 classes in Western Australian schools with groupings of children from more than one year level ranging from Kindergarten to Year 7. Of these 1796 classes have children from two year levels; 136 have children from three year levels; 86 have children from four year levels; 39 have children from five year levels; 6 have children from six year levels; 1 has children from seven year levels; 2 have children from eight year levels; and 3 have children from nine year levels. Additionally there are 20 classes with children from primary and high school years eg. Year 5 to Year 10.

The MAG pilot project commenced at the beginning of 1994 and concluded at the end of 1996, consequently there is no line item in the budget for schools with MAG classes. Funding is continued at the systemic level whereby schools organising children in multi aged group classes receive resourcing through the School Grant based on the number of students. Information gained from the MAG and the Focus Schools Projects will be used to support schools in the development of more flexible organisational structures for the benefit of children. Encouraging schools to develop appropriate pedagogy to meet the individual learning needs of each child is an integral component of the implementation of the Curriculum Framework.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked how many education districts are able to afford to employ a special education teacher as part of their district student services program.*

*Answer:* Education support teachers are employed in schools rather than in district student services teams. The breakdown of these appointments is as follows:

NUMBER OF ED SUPPORT TEACHERS IN EACH DISTRICT		
District Code	District Description	Number of Ed Support Teachers
91	Admin Centre	32
40	Albany	23
41	Bunbury	24
42	Cannington	137
43	Esperance	8
44	Fremantle	98
45	Goldfields	13
46	Joondalup	34
47	Kimberley	7
48	Mid West	13
49	Midlands	13
50	Narrogin	8
51	Peel	54
52	Perth	152
53	Pilbara	13
54	Swan	120
55	Warren Blackwood	15
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>764</b>

Further support is provided to districts and schools through the District Service Centre, Learning Difficulties. There are 34 officers who operate in teams to provide support through districts to teachers who work with students at educational risk.

*Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked to provide data on how many districts offer students at education risk professional development and how many teachers take that up.*

*Answer: This information is currently being collated and will be forwarded as soon as it is available.*

*Question: Hon Muriel Patterson asked about the second major initiative at page 369 refers to increased local flexibility and scope for decision making at the local level to support student learning and its being explored through the local management of schools pilot project. I seek a more detailed explanation.*

*Answer: More detailed information is contained in the attached document Local Management of Schools.*

*Question: Hon Muriel Patterson asked how was the figure per year for the enrolment of international students arrived at a fee of \$8000 per annum. Where do you expect most of the intake to come from?*

*Answer: The fee of \$8000 was set following a comparative analysis of other States and Territories, together with an examination of the Department's calculations of per capita total costs. This fee includes tuition, textbook hire, school fees, sports fees to \$5 per week and excursions to \$100 a year.*

The Department is receiving enquiries in the main from parents/students from Indonesia. Two students from Indonesia are to commence in semester 2 1999.

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked what amount will be made available for remote country incentive packages? What are the criteria for those two packages?*

*Answer: The Education Department has two packages in place to help attract teachers to country schools – the Remote Teaching Service and the Country Incentives Package. The Remote Teaching Service was established in 1996 and included all schools at that time with an allocation of 3.5 transfer points. The 37 schools in the Remote Teacher Service are considered to be unique and distinguishable in terms of isolation, distance from a main centre, and distance from Perth. They are typical of a small community or town environment with limited infrastructure. All but two schools have a predominantly Aboriginal population of above 80% and stand apart as being different and distinct in terms of their needs and general environment, including:*

- Preferred and non-preferred for staffing purposes
- Context of community
- Barrier to travel (ie cut off due to impassable roads)

The categories for financial remuneration were:

- Category 1** - Those isolated communities difficult to negotiate by road with very little shopping and facilities
- Category 2** – Those communities with very little shopping and facilities but within two hours driving of a town
- Category 3** – Those localities with shopping, banking and entertainment facilities.

It is estimated that the cost of the additional incentives for staff in Remote Teaching Service schools will be approximately \$5 million during 1999/2000.

The Country Incentives Package was awarded to non-RTS schools that met three of the following criteria:

Schools where 75% or more of the staff are initial appointments to the Education Department of WA (this includes new entrants and new graduates but does not apply to schools with less than 3 staff).

Schools with a turnover of more than 35% of their staff in one calendar year.

Schools where clear vacancies in subject areas or administrative positions have been unable to be substantially filled for more than 6 months because of lack of applicants.

Schools which attracted increased allowances in 1999 under the revised country benefits scheme because of their locality.

Schools in rural and remote areas which have poor physical infrastructure and geographic and climatic characteristics which negatively affect the quality of life.

An additional \$13.9 million has been allocated to these schools during the 1999 to 2001 calendar years to provide financial incentives for teachers.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked questions relating to the level of financial management compliance in schools.*

*Answer:* The detail of information requested is not available as it is not collected centrally. The Office of the Auditor-General conducted a follow-up examination to the “*Learning the Lessons*” in Financial Management in Schools Report (1996), and tabled its findings in Report No 12 – December 1998 presented in Parliament as part of the Public Sector Performance Report 1998.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: In regard to public sector standards breaches, how was the increase from 1996-97 to 1997-98 accounted for?*

*Answer:* The increase in allegations and breaches found from 1996-97 to 1997-98 year is largely due to the inclusion of the selection process for Level Three Classroom Teacher positions, comprising 72% of all breaches established within the Education Department. These positions arose from an industrial agreement between the State School Teachers Union and the Department. There were 721 applicants for these positions. A total of 128 staff applied for a review, with 71 breaches being substantiated, the majority of which were of a minor nature. The vast majority of breaches were due to staff being unfamiliar with the process involved. This was the first time such a process had been adopted within the Education Department for classroom teacher positions. Recommendations were made that several claimants have their respective applications re-assessed. The competencies and selection criteria for the position have subsequently been validated and feedback from applicants on the selection process is being collated.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: How was the disproportionate number of breaches of public sector standards in relation to recruitment, selection and appointment and transfer of staff established by EDWA compared to other government agencies accounted for?*

*Answer:* A comparison of the number of breaches of Public Sector Standards on Recruitment, Selection and Appointment of staff between the Education Department and other agencies does not reveal a large discrepancy and requires consideration of the following issues –

Breaches of the standard for Recruitment, Selection and Appointment are most frequent in all agencies.

The distribution of information about additional standards and guidelines for staff has heightened awareness of the standards and the allegation process.

The workforce covered by the Public Sector Standards during this period numbered approximately 21,700, leading to a large number of transactions subject to the Recruitment, Selection and Appointment standard. In 1996 this number was estimated at 1535 for school leadership positions alone. The level of non-compliance is therefore very low.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked whether the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards is investigating EDWA in respect of the number of breaches of public sector standards.*

*Answer:* I am unaware of any general investigation by the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner, into the number of breaches of public sector standards in the Education Department of Western Australia.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: In an effort to reduce leave liability, Circular to Ministers No. 5/98 required all agencies to reduce their leave liability by 10% based on figures published in the 1998/99 budget papers by no later than 30 June 1999. The comparative figures were to be published in the 1999/2000 papers (as stated in the Profile of the WA State Government Workforce).*

- (1) *Where are these figures shown in the 1999/2000 budget papers?*
- (2) *I understand that the average cost of leave liability per FTE in EDWA was \$11,990 as of 30/6/98. What was the average cost of leave liability per FTE in EDWA in 1998-99?*
- (3) *Where are these figures shown in the 1999/2000 budget papers?*
- (4) *Does this represent a reduction of 10% from the previous year?*
- (5) *If not why not?*
- (6) *If not how is EDWA proposing to meet the target 10% reduction by 30<sup>th</sup> June 1999?*
- (7) *How much does a 10% reduction in leave liability equate to in number of days each of the 24,859 FTE's that will have to be taken to reach the desired reduction?*
- (8) *Why haven't you been able to substantially reduce your agency's leave liability?*
- (9) *How much of this leave liability will be paid out in money in lieu of leave? Has any been paid out to date?*

- (10) *Where is leave liability budgeted for in the forward estimates? How much is budgeted?*
- (11) *What is Cheryl Vardon's leave liability? Will this be paid out at the end of her contract in lieu of leave? How much does that equate to?*

*Answer:*

- (1) The figures are shown under the Statement of Financial Position p382
- (2) The average leave liability per FTE for 1998/99 was \$11,394
- (3) The figures are shown under the Statement of Financial Position p382
- (4) No.
- (5) The major part of the leave referred to is for teaching staff annual leave which is cleared within the year at the Christmas vacation. With regard to Long Service Leave there is no increase. The cost of providing relief teachers to replace employees on leave would be equivalent to the reduction in leave liabilities therefore there are no cost savings. Procedures are in place to ensure a reduction of at least 10% in Public Service Act staff leave liabilities.
- (6) For the above reasons the Department is unable to meet the 10% reduction by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1999.
- (7) Average salary in 98/99 will be \$43,744. Based on 251 paid working days per year the average salary per day is \$174.28. To achieve a 10% drop in leave entitlements would cost \$28,252,500. Therefore 162,109 days would need to be taken (or paid out) to achieve the 10% drop from 98/99. This equates to 6.538 days per FTE.
- (8) Reduction of leave liability is difficult to implement while there is a policy of no replacement of staff on leave. Schools require a full complement of staff to meet the needs of students and ensure duty of care provisions are met. The Department is considering a range of policies to reduce the outstanding leave liability.
- (9) Approximately \$150,000 has been paid out during 1998/1999 in lieu of leave. Conversion of leave into money is not a preferred practice.
- (10) The leave liability is shown as employee entitlements in the current and non current liabilities. The budgeted amount for leave liability is \$300.8m in 2000/01, \$310.7m in 2001/02 and \$321.0m in 2002/03.
- (11) Cheryl Vardon's leave liability is 2.25 days of annual leave which will be paid out at the end of her contract. This equates to \$1,858

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I refer to the increase in sick leave absence in Education Department of Western Australia from 1996-97 to 1997-98.*

- (1) *Why is there such a high rate of sick leave absence in EDWA?*
- (2) *How is the large increase in sick leave absence from 1996-97 to 1997-98 accounted for?*
- (3) *What is the cost in dollar terms of their high rate of sick leave absence?*
- (4) *Where is this shown in the budget papers?*
- (5) *What is being done to reduce the high rate of sick leave absence?*

*Answer:* There are certain health hazards posed in having staff continually in close contact with many children. Contagious diseases such as influenza are easily caught in such circumstances. Last year especially appears to have been a bad year for influenza.

The estimated cost of sick leave for 1998/99 is \$10m. Not all sick leave results in a cost. The cost is not identified separately but is included in the Operating Statement as salaries and allowances under operating expenses on page 381.

The Department is investigating a range of strategies and best practices to reduce the level of sick leave absence.

*Question: The Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: In Vol 1 page 366 of the 1999/2000 budget papers mention is made of the continued implementation of the local area planning process. In relation to this process: What new schools are going to be constructed? Which schools will be amalgamated? Which schools will be closed?*

Answer:

#### NEW SCHOOLS APPROVED TO BE CONSTRUCTED

1999-2000

Albany	Denmark High School	
	Denmark Agricultural High School	
Bunbury	Carey Park Primary School	(Replacement)
	East Eaton Primary School	
Joondalup	Mindarie PS	(Replaces School in Houses)
Kimberley	Roebuck Bay Primary School	in Houses
Narrogin	Boddington DHS	(Replacement)
Peel	Port Kennedy South (Endeavour) Primary School	
Perth	Swanbourne Primary School	(Subject to negotiations)

#### SCHOOLS WHICH WILL AMALGAMATE

1999 for 2000

Cannington	Grovelands Primary School and Grovelands Early Childhood Education Centre
Goldfields	Kambalda High School and West Kambalda Primary School to become Kambalda District High School

#### SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR CLOSURE

1999 for 2000

Albany	Denmark District High School will close to become Denmark PS
Perth	Scarborough Senior High School
Cannington	Kewdale Senior High School
	Grovelands Early Childhood Education Centre (amalgamation)

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked which five senior high schools and one senior campus will trial the enrolment of international students at a fee of \$8000 per annum.*

*Answer: The five senior high schools and one senior campus participating in the trial are:*

Churchlands Senior High School  
John Forrest Senior High School  
Melville Senior High School  
Mount Lawley Senior High School  
Perth Modern Senior High School  
North Lake Senior Campus.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how the large increase in depreciation from 2000/01 to 2001/02 is accounted for.*

*Answer: This is due to the depreciation on computers purchased through the \$80.0 million Computers in Schools Program being taken into account in the 2001/02 year. The accounting treatment of plant and equipment funded from the Capital Works Program results in the total value of the computers being taken to account and depreciated in the year of the completion of the program, that is, 2002.*

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how the massive increase in plant, equipment and vehicles in 2001/02 is accounted for.*

*Answer: This is mostly due to the cost of computers purchased through the \$80 million Computers in Schools Program being taken into account as assets at the completion of the program. The total value is partially offset by an increase in depreciation of about \$7.6 million.*

*Question: The Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Is EDWA intending to sell off the Ern Clark athletics track in Cannington? If yes, is it intending to develop new recreational facilities in its place?*

*Answer: The Ern Clark athletic track and facilities are located across land owned by the City of Canning and the Education Department. The City of Canning currently has a lease on the Education Department land until 2004. At this time, there are no plans to dispose of the land owned by the Education Department.*

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: What is being done to improve retention rates which have not been maintained at early 1990s rates?*

*Answer:* Apparent retention rates are significantly influenced by market forces, migration and inter-sector movements. The published rates for government schools only reflect the students 'apparently' retained in the government school sector and take no account of the movement of students to other educational providers such as TAFE, the non-Government sector and private providers.

The overall trend, since the early 1980s is for an increase in the apparent retention rate in government schools, from approximately 25% in 1980 to 59.6% in 1998. While the rate appeared to peak in 1993, a weakening of the job market and some restructuring of educational opportunities for 16-17 year olds in TAFE during the period 1991-95 were responsible for these changes. There was a small increase in the rate for 1997 and a further increase of 1.3% for 1998.

In response to an increasing expectation that students will complete 12 years of schooling, the Education Department is providing a broader range of programs to accommodate post compulsory students. There are significant increases in the number of students involved in a variety of vocational education programs. Alternative settings and "second chance options" are being offered at Senior Colleges and Senior Campuses. The Retention and Participation Plan was implemented in July 1998 as part of the Students at Educational Risk Strategy known as Making the Difference. The plan focuses on preventing student alienation and improving student access, participation and retention. Districts and schools are required to plan for improvements in attendance, retention and participation. \$1.8m has been allocated over the last two years for this to occur. A range of programs, services and strategies addressing retention and attendance issues has been developed.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked what costs were involved in providing special incentives to encourage teachers to take up promotional roles in rural and remote areas.*

*Answer:* Teachers who take up promotional roles in rural and remote areas are subject to either the Remote Teaching Service or Country Incentives Package where applicable. It is estimated that the cost of the additional incentives for staff in Remote Teaching Service schools will be approximately \$5 million during 1999/2000. An additional \$13.9 million has been allocated to these schools during the 1999 to 2001 calendar years to provide financial incentives for teachers.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked what funds have been allocated to improve the relevance of education to Aboriginal students.*

*Answer:* The Education Department has an Aboriginal Education Operational Plan that strategically manages a number of specific programs aimed at improving Aboriginal students' outcomes. The supplementary funding associated with these programs amounts to \$15m. These programs are in addition to the regular set of programs available to all students, which is estimated to provide approximately \$81.65m in funding to the 15,904 Aboriginal students in government schools.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked whether an evaluation of the resource package for mainstream teachers working with students with disabilities, which was trialed and distributed in 1998-99, had been carried out.*

*Answer:* The Education Support Package was developed mainly to assist teachers in education support facilities. Modifications were made to the Education Support Resource Package following extensive consultation and research. There is no necessity to review the package at this stage.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how much has been allocated to services for students with disabilities.*

*Answer:* \$2,482,000 has been allocated to the District Service Centre to provide support to District Education Offices and schools in the disability area. This does not include the salaries of teachers, grants to schools or the operating costs of Education Support Schools and Centres catering exclusively for the needs of students with intellectual disabilities.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Have the annual targets set under the Indigenous Education Agreement with the Commonwealth to achieve the primary objective of equity and improved outcomes been met? If not, why not?*

*Answer:* The Education Department has an Indigenous Education Agreement with the Commonwealth that specifies 35 performance indicators and 63 specific targets. In 1998 the Education Department made considerable progress towards all of the targets. Sixteen of the targets relate to achievement on MSE testing, where results will not be available until mid 2000 and twenty five of the remaining targets were met or surpassed. A detailed report on each of the performance indicators and targets was submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) in March 1999.

*Question: The Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: How much has been allocated to train teachers in the use of computers and to keep them up-to-date with the latest in computer technology?*

*Answer:* There have been no central funds allocated to training teachers in the use of technology. Schools receive funding from several sources which they can choose to use for the provision of professional development of staff. For example, over the next four years the Learning Technologies project will provide approximately \$20m which schools will have the flexibility to use for areas such as professional development, technical support, local area networks and telecommunications.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how much money is being spent on the new policy on student behaviour management which will be used in all government schools by the end of the year. Will teachers have to be trained to implement this policy?*

*Answer:*

- (1) Funds allocated to government schools for Student Behaviour Management for 1999 is \$390 000.
- (2) It l be the responsibility of schools to ensure that staff are aware of the new Behaviour Management in Schools policy.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how much Commonwealth funding was allocated to WA's private schools. Can you list the schools that received this funding and how much each school received?*

*Answer:* The Department of Education Services has provided the following information. This is not straightforward by any means. Firstly, the State Government does not possess this information. Details of the aggregate and individual school funding would need to be requested from the Commonwealth. Secondly, while all WA non-government schools receive Commonwealth recurrent funding, some schools will have received other funds under specific purpose Commonwealth programs and capital funds for building projects. This query needs to be addressed to the Federal Minister or the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

*Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked what is the cost of providing low interest loans to the non-government school sector. Where is this shown in the budget papers?*

*Answer:* The Department of Education Services has provided the following information. The main cost to Government is in the interest subsidy which in 1999/00 is \$6 million. The figure is included within the \$12,512,000 shown as the total cost of Department of Education Services' Output 2 on page 398 of the Budget papers. A note alongside this item explains the reasons for the variation in the overall figure between 1997/98, 1998/99 and 1999/00.

The amount of \$6 million is also shown in the Operating Statement on page 401 of the Budget papers within the item labelled "Interest". The total figure of \$8,400,000 for 1999/00 also includes an estimated \$2,400,000 in interest paid by the schools on the loans provided to them.

The cost of administering the low interest loan scheme within the Department of Education Services, on an average cost per loan basis, is shown in the Costs of Output 2 on page 399 of the Budget Papers and is \$12,456 per loan in 1999/00.

*Question:*

- (1) *The Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked how many computers are expected to be provided through the Program by each of 1 July 2000, 1 July 2001 and 1 July 2002?*
- (2) *What is expected to be the ratio of WA Government primary school students to computers by each of 1 July 2000, 1 July 2001 and 1 July 2002?*
- (3) *What is expected to be the ratio of WA Government secondary school students to computers by each 1 July 2000, 1 July 2001 and 1 July 2002?*
- (4) *By what date it is now estimated that the target ratios of 1 computer for every 10 primary school students and 1 computer for every 5 secondary school students will be met?*

*Answer:*

- (1) Schools are individually planning their acquisition of computers to meet the ratio targets set for 2002. There is no system wide information available for expected numbers of computers by 1 July 2000 or 1 July 2001.
- (2) All primary schools are planning to meet the standard and ratio target of 1 computer per 10 students, with computers being no more than 4 years old or a functional equivalent, by 2002. There are no system wide numbers available for expected ratios by 1 July 2000 or 1 July 2001.
- (3) Secondary schools are individually planning their acquisition of computers to meet the ratio targets set for 2002. The 2002 target is for 1 computer per 5 secondary students, with computers being no more than 4 year old or a functional equivalent. There are no system wide numbers available for expected ratios by 1 July 2000 or 1 July 2001.
- (4) It is estimated that the target ratio of 1 computer for every 10 primary students and 1 computer for every 5 secondary students, with computers no more than 4 years old (or a functional equivalent) will be met by 2002.



## FAIR TRADING

*Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked when a separate discussion paper was commissioned on the new trade measurement legislation (in relation to the Ministry's position on the inclusion of liquor provisions in the legislation).*

*Answer:* A separate discussion paper was not commissioned. A paper outlining the Ministry's recommendations in regard to Uniform Trade Measurement Legislation is currently being drafted in preparation for the final consultation phase. This paper will include reference to proposed liquor provisions.

*Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what discussions have taken place between the Minister and departmental officers about the discussion paper on the new trade measurement legislation.*

*Answer:* There have been no such discussions.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked what Acts does the Ministry have in almost complete form and on which other Acts is the Ministry working on amendments at present. (Particular interest in Acts ready to be introduced in Parliament.)*

*Answer:* There is one piece of amendment legislation that is almost in complete form and ready for introduction into Parliament, that being the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 1999.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked what progress has been made on getting the complementary new unconscionable measures brought before Parliament, how progress has been made on the reference group and when a publicly available outcome is expected.*

*Answer:* The Small Business Safeguards Reference Group released a consultation paper on the subject in May 1999. Submissions close on 31 July 1999. The paper addresses the unconscionable conduct issue in all business dealings and seeks public input and appraisal of applying provisions in an industry specific or general legislative form or by other means such as codes of conduct and education. The group will provide advice and recommendations to the State Government by 31 December 1999 on how to improve safeguards for small business in Western Australia. In relation to Commercial Tenancy, the Minister gave an undertaking that he would take an unconscionable conduct proposal to Cabinet by the end of 1999 with a view to Print and Introduce a Bill by June 2000.

*Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked where the \$160,000 for the unconscionable conduct provisions was located in the budget.*

*Answer:* The money is located in Output 1 - Policy Advice and Development.

## FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked for a copy of the recommendations that have been endorsed by Cabinet from the adoption legislative review final report.*

*Answer:* Herewith is a copy of the recommendations from the Adoptions Legislative Review Committee together with a memorandum indicating those recommendations that have been endorsed by Cabinet.

### List of recommendations

#### Chapter 2: Concept of adoption

**Recommendation 1:** That section 3 be amended to include a statement which reinforces the notion that adoption is a service for the child.

#### Chapter 5: Deciding to relinquish a child for adoption

##### **Birth parents considering adoption**

**Recommendation 2:** That the wording of Schedule 1 1(b) be changed to read 'has attended counselling on the matters referred to in paragraph (a) and been provided with a list of independent counsellors.'

**Recommendation 3:** That the legislation provide a definition of 'counsellor'.

##### **Exploring options**

**Recommendation 4:** That section 18 include a provision that adoption consent cannot be signed until the birth parent has demonstrated that he/she has explored all alternative options for the care of his/her child.

**Notification of the birth father**

**Recommendation 5:** That section 4(3) be amended to provide for uniformity of presumptions of paternity between adoption and family law legislation.

**Recommendations 6:** That section 21 be amended to require notification of the signing of consent to a man defined by the presumptions of paternity or named by the birth mother as the birth father.

**Recommendation 7:** That where a matter of paternity is disputed, the matter be referred to the Family Court for determination and the Family Court should also determine who will meet the resultant costs.

**Recommendation 8:** That dispensation of notification under section 21 be limited to where a man cannot be found or contacted or the Court considers it proper to dispense with the requirement.

**Dispensation of adoption consent**

**Recommendation 9:** That section 24(2)(b) be amended to read ‘during a period of not less than 1 year immediately before the application’.

**Recommendation 10:** That section 24(2)(g) be amended to read ‘special circumstances’ exist in which it is proper to dispense with the requirement for the person’s consent.

Chapter 6: Selection of adoptive parents**Management of waiting lists**

**Recommendation 11:** That the present requirements relating to the management of adoption waiting lists be maintained, with the exception, that Regulation 37 be amended to allow for second/subsequent applicants to be sent an information package instead of attending an information session.

**Criteria for application and assessment**

**Recommendation 12:** That the maximum age difference between a child and each of the adoptive parents, at time of placement, be increased from 40 years to 43 years.

**Placement of a child**

**Recommendation 13:** That section 45 be amended to provide for a birth parent to state his/her wishes regarding the preferred attributes of the adoptive family, and to study profiles any time after signing of consent and not more than 14 days after the revocation period.

**Recommendation 14:** That, subject to discussions with relevant overseas agencies, section 53 be amended to apply only to children under the guardianship of the Director General or the Principal Officer of a licenced private adoption agency.

**Application and assessment process**

**Recommendation 15:** That further consideration be given to whether the Honorary Adoption Medical Panel should be provided with statutory status and liability protection.

**Adoption Applications Committee**

**Recommendation 16:** That section 12 be removed from Regulation 6 as a function that may be performed by a licenced private adoption agency.

**Recommendation 17:** That Regulation 25 be amended to state that membership of the Adoption Applications Committee consist of no more than eight members and that three be independent of Family and Children’s Services.

**Recommendation 18:** That a quorum for the Adoption Applications Committee remain at four and Regulation 31 be amended to state that there be at least one independent member and two departmental members, and that where relevant, the quorum include an Aboriginal representative.

**Recommendation 19:** That where a licenced private adoption agency exists that agency may nominate a representative to the Adoption Applications Committee as long as that person is not an employee nor receives any financial remuneration from the agency.

**Recommendation 20:** That the Regulations be amended to state that on occasions when an application is being considered for the placement of an Aboriginal child, membership of the Adoption Applications Committee should include an Aboriginal representative.

### Chapter 7: Adoption plans

**Recommendation 21:** That there should be a legislative requirement for the adoption plan to provide for information exchange at least once per year.

**Recommendation 22:** That Family and Children's Services be encouraged, where appropriate, to follow up parties to an adoption plan two years after the adoption order has been granted to inquire whether any of the parties wish to re-negotiate the plan.

**Recommendation 23:** That section 46(1) be amended to allow for the negotiation of one or more adoption plans.

**Recommendation 24:** That consequential amendments be made to section 76 to allow for more than one adoption plan.

**Recommendation 25:** That the legislation be amended to allow for relatives, who were not aware of the adoption at the time of the granting of the adoption order, to later request the Court's approval to negotiate or vary a plan.

**Recommendation 26:** That section 46(3) be amended to allow for the period for negotiation of an adoption plan to be extended to 21 days.

**Recommendation 27:** That the legislation be amended to provide for the approval of an interim adoption plan at any time prior to the granting of an adoption order.

**Recommendation 28:** That section 73 be amended to provide for the dispensation of the requirement for an adoption plan in special circumstances.

### Chapter 8: Child's representative

**Recommendation 29:** That section 134 be amended to provide the Director General with discretionary power to appoint a child's representative at any stage during the adoption process, commencing from the time when a birth parent first initiates contact with Family and Children's Services.

**Recommendation 30:** That a child of sufficient age and maturity be able to instruct a solicitor on the basis of his/her wishes.

**Recommendation 31:** That section 134 be amended to provide for the appointment of a child's representative, prior to the taking of consent in all cases where a child has a disability.

**Recommendation 32:** That the appointment of a child's representative be mandatory in all step parent and carer adoption applications.

**Recommendation 33:** That section 134 be amended to provide for a separate representative to be appointed to a birth parent where he/she is under 18 years and considering the adoption of his/her child.

**Recommendation 34:** That a small pool of people, with appropriate qualifications, be established by the Director General, to be available to undertake the role of child's representative when required.

### Chapter 9: Aboriginal adoptions

**Recommendation 35:** That the current Family and Children's Services' Aboriginal Child Placement Principles be included in the Adoption Regulations.

**Recommendation 36:** That in respect of an Aboriginal child, where a conflict of wishes exists between the birth parent and the Aboriginal community, the child's best interests must take precedence, with the final decision resting with the Director General, following consultation with an appropriate departmental Aboriginal officer.

**Recommendation 37:** That the legislation state that a departmental Aboriginal officer must be involved, at all times, in the adoption of an Aboriginal child.

### Chapter 10: Step parent adoptions

**Recommendation 38:** That prior to commencement of adoption proceedings, a step parent applicant must first make application to the Family Court for a determination that an adoption order is preferable to a parenting/guardianship/custody order.

**Recommendation 39:** That the Act state that Schedule 1 information to parents considering relinquishment of a child for adoption only be provided by the Director General.

**Recommendation 40:** That in step parent adoption applications the costs of a child's representative be met by the prospective adoptive parent unless otherwise determined by the Court.

### Chapter 11: Intercountry adoption

**Recommendation 41:** That the legislation provide for recognition to be given to the value of, and need for, cultural and ethnic continuity for a child being placed for adoption.

**Recommendation 42:** That section 52(1)(v) be amended to separate its two components in order to emphasise the importance of continuity of the child's cultural, religious or educational arrangements.

### Chapter 12: Overseas relative adoption

**Recommendation 43:** That the Minister initiate discussions with the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs regarding the provision of visas for non-orphaned relative children in defined circumstances, for the purpose of obtaining a parenting order under family law legislation.

**Recommendation 44:** That legislation include the provision for overseas relative adoptions where the applicant is:

a first or second degree relative, or it can be demonstrated that the applicant is the only family member able to provide the required care for the child;

and the child is:

orphaned, demonstrably abandoned, or at risk.

**Recommendation 45:** That recommendation 44 contain a sunset clause, applying until the matter is satisfactorily resolved with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

**Recommendation 46:** That the process for overseas relative adoption applications be provided for in Regulations.

### Chapter 13: Access to adoption information

#### **Information vetoes**

**Recommendation 47:** That with respect to adoptions granted under the *Adoption of Children Act 1896* the recommendation of the 1994 *Legislative Standing Committee on Legislation* relating to information vetoes be endorsed, so that the only restrictions on access to information relate to age.

**Recommendation 48:** That all provisions in the Act relating to the registration of information vetoes be repealed with the exception of section 83 which provides for an application to the Court to prevent the release of identifying information.

**Recommendation 49:** That where an information veto is already in place the person who has been the subject of the veto must attend a mandatory interview prior to the release of any identifying information to him/her.

#### **Contact vetoes**

**Recommendation 50:** That the current system of contact vetoes cease and be replaced with a no contact wish within a specified period not to exceed ten years from when the Act came into effect. That consideration be given to the development of a mechanism which will allow for safeguarding individuals against unsolicited contact.

**Recommendation 51:** That where a 'no contact' wish is registered, the person subject to the registration attend a mandatory interview before any identifying information is released to him/her, and that all parties be provided with counselling and support services.

**Recommendation 52:** That while contact veto provisions exist, the Act be amended to limit the placement of contact vetoes to instances where no authorisation for the release of identifying information has been made.

**Recommendation 53:** That the Director General continue to have discretion to initiate contact with a person who has placed a veto, when requested by a person whom the veto is placed against, but not more frequently than once every twelve months, except in special circumstances.

#### **Message box service**

**Recommendation 54:** That Regulation 65 be amended to allow perusal of a message, without altering the content or intent of a message, where this is necessary to determine the intended recipient, while retaining the confidentiality of the content.

**Recommendation 55:** That the Director General only be required to take 'reasonable steps' to advise a person affected by a veto that a message has been left and to notify the sender when the message is collected.

**Release of information to relatives**

**Recommendation 56:** That where a party to an adoption has died the relative should on request be provided with access to Court records.

**Release of adoption information in government files and records**

**Recommendation 57:** That the legislation be amended to allow access to prescribed information from departmental adoption files and adoption records.

**Notification of certain persons in the event of a death**

**Recommendation 58:** That section 80 be amended to provide for the inclusion of a discretionary power for the Director General not to proceed with the notification either in special circumstances, or where a person has registered a wish not to be advised of the death of another party to the adoption.

**Preservation of adoption records**

**Recommendation 59:** That adoption records be stored for a minimum of 100 years.

**Recommendation 60:** That the Director General take immediate action to examine ways of ensuring greater compliance with section 94(4).

**Recommendation 61:** That the definition of an ‘adoption service’ be expanded to include reference to any agency or body, including any hospital or hostel, associated with arrangements in relation to an adoption.

**Contact and mediation agencies**

**Recommendation 62:** That the reference in the legislation to ‘Contact and Mediation Agencies’ be changed to ‘Contact and Mediation Licensees’.

**Recommendation 63:** That section 131(2) of the Act be repealed to allow Contact and Mediation Agencies to have liability protection.

**Recommendation 64:** That amendments be made to the Code of Practice for Contact and Mediation Agencies to more clearly state the type of service and the manner in which services should be delivered.

**Recommendation 65:** That transitional arrangements be required for amendments to the contact veto provisions.

**Recommendation 66:** That at the time of licencing all Contact and Mediation Agencies be provided with a copy of the Code of Practice and that this be made available by the licensee, on request of the client.

**Self-help groups**

**Recommendation 67:** That Family and Children’s Services examines all options for adequately meeting the demand for post adoption services, including enhancing the role of self help and other community groups.

**Chapter 14: Private adoption agencies**

**Recommendation 68:** That the legislation provide for the monitoring of private adoption agencies.

**Recommendation 69:** That provision be made in regulations for the Director General to undertake an annual review of licenced private adoption agencies.

**Recommendation 70:** That the provisions relating to review and appeal procedures for decisions affecting clients be extended to private adoption agencies.

**Recommendation 71:** That once ratified the *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* be implemented by State law and that the criteria required for the accreditation of private adoption agencies be included in regulations and apply to all adoption agencies.

**Recommendation 72:** That the Minister be given discretionary power to appoint a private adoption agency’s principal officer as guardian of children awaiting adoption. This should only occur after two consecutive satisfactory annual reviews of the agency performance and provided criteria and monitoring guidelines are met.

**Recommendation 73:** That Regulation 6 be amended to provide for private adoption agencies to perform functions associated with dispensation of adoption plans.

**Recommendation 74:** That the legislation be amended to state that applications for a private adoption agency licence be made only when the Minister calls for expressions of interest.

#### Chapter 15: Other matters

#### **Birth name of a child**

**Recommendation 75:** That section 74 be amended to prevent the changing of an adoptee's first name except with the approval of the Family Court.

#### **Notice of filing for an adoption order where parent deceased or cannot be found**

**Recommendation 76:** That section 59 be amended to provide for written notice to be given to the birth parent, or in the case of an adoptee, the adoptive parent.

#### **Adult adoptions**

**Recommendation 77:** That prior to filing an application for an adoption order in respect of an adult, the birth parent must be notified of the intention to make the application.

#### **Release of court records**

**Recommendation 78:** That the Family Court have discretion, upon receiving written application from a party to an adoption, to release all or part of the Court Report and the Child's Representative Report, to that party.

#### **Appeals against refusal, revocation and suspension of licences for private adoption agencies, and contact and mediation agencies**

**Recommendation 79:** That the Regulations be amended to provide for appeals regarding the licencing of agencies to be heard in the Family Court.

#### **Transfer of responsibility of functions**

**Recommendation 80:** That the following sections be amended to provide for the Director General to undertake the relevant functions.

Section 18(1)(c) approval of consent form

Section 23(1)(a) approval of revocation form

Section 106 granting of a licence for a person to conduct contact and mediation services

Section 107(c) the publishing of the Code of Practice for Contact and Mediation Agencies

Section 107(d) consequential amendment resulting from the Director General being responsible for the granting of a licence under section 106

Section 108(3) provides for actions to be taken where a contact and mediation agency has committed an offence for not complying with the requirements of a contact veto.

#### **Offences**

**Recommendation 81:** That an offence be created where a person or agency, who is not a licenced private adoption agency, carries out functions prescribed in Regulation 6.

**Recommendation 82:** That Section 127(2) be amended to include officers of the Family Court in the prescribed list of those afforded protection while undertaking their duties relating to adoption.

**Recommendation 83:** That sections 135 and 137 be amended to make it an offence for anyone other than the Minister to undertake adoption program arrangements, other than day to day administration, with other States/Territories and countries.

**Recommendation 84:** That section 128 be amended to include provision for the matter of a prosecution under the Act to be referred to the Director General and/or the Commissioner of Police.

#### **Fees**

**Recommendation 85:** That Regulation 87 and 88 relating to the payment of a pre adoption fee be repealed, and there be no fees for pre and post adoption services.

**Recommendation 86:** That an administration and court report fee be charged for step parent adoptions.

## **ADOPTION ACT 1994 (WA): PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADOPTION LEGISLATIVE REVIEW FINAL REPORT.**

### **Background**

The *Adoption Act 1994* made many significant changes to the way adoption is regulated in Western Australia and to the procedures applying to the provision of adoption services. A requirement of Section 146 was to carry out a review of the operation and effectiveness of the Act. A Review Committee was established, comprising Family and Children's Services representatives, independent representatives with adoption knowledge and experience, and a Family Court representative.

The Final Report was tabled in Parliament on 27 November 1997, followed by a public comment period until the end of April 1998.

The Report contained 86 recommendations of which 76 are supported by Cabinet. It is anticipated that most of these will be well received by the community.

The concept that adoption is a service to children and that the paramount consideration must always be the welfare and best interests of children will be strengthened. The age criterion to be met when applying for adoption will be increased so that there will be greater opportunity for second adoptions and an adopted child to be brought up with siblings. With regard to step parent adoptions applications should first be made to the Family Court to ensure that an adoption order is preferable to other orders such as parenting or residency orders. It will be mandatory to have Aboriginal involvement in all cases where an Aboriginal child is being placed for adoption. Changes are required to resolve difficulties in the adoption of a relative child from overseas. Submissions to the Review emphasised the importance of preservation of adoption records and a Taskforce will be established to identify the records and examine issues of storage, security and access. Other refinements are required to ensure clear interpretation of some provisions and to remove some unintended consequences of others.

Of the ten recommendations not supported, eight relate to information and contact vetoes. Implementation of these recommendations would affect the privacy of parties to past adoptions, and because of the retrospective nature of these recommendations, they are not supported.

Of the two other recommendations not supported one relates to the requirement of a minimum exchange of information for new adoptions once per year between the birth parents and adoptive parents. This should be left to the discretion of the parties involved. The other relates to the granting of guardianship of prospective adoptees to a licenced private adoption agency. This is not supported because it would place Family and Children's Services in the untenable position of being held accountable, without having the responsibility, for the management of children. It would also create the only situation in the State where guardianship is outside the province of parents or the Director General of Family and Children's Services.

Attached are three schedules. Each provides details the nature of each recommendation, the degree of support for implementation and anticipated resource implications. Attachment A relates to the 65 recommendations requiring legislative change. Attachment B shows those requiring no legislative change and Attachment C lists the recommendations which are not supported.

### **Review Consultation**

Wide publicity was given to the Review through advertisements in the press, and press releases to all electronic media across the State. To assist those wishing to make comment an Issues Paper was prepared and 2,000 copies distributed. Two market research projects were commissioned; one a customer survey designed to provide information on the impact the legislative changes have had on people involved in adoptions, and the other a telephone survey of 400 people across the State to gauge the extent to which the general community was aware of the 1994 changes to adoption legislation.

The Review Committee received 108 submissions. All information was taken into account in the formation of the recommendations under consideration. Public comment was sought on these recommendations over a period of 5 months. There was very little public comment during this time with a total of only 27 submissions received.

### **Recommendations Approved By Cabinet**

Recommendations 1 to 20; 22 to 46; 53 to 56; 58 to 64; 66 to 71; and 73 to 86 of the Adoption Legislative Review Final Report

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked for details about which government and non government agencies are involved in the development of the Carers policy. Additional information to be provided was the list of stakeholders that would be involved at later stages.*

*Answer:* The list of stakeholders to be involved in the development of the Carer's policy follows:

ACROD Ltd  
 Advocare  
 Aged Care WA  
 AIDS Council of WA  
 Alzheimer's Association of WA  
 Association of Relatives and Friends of Mentally Ill  
 Australian Asian Association of WA  
 Australian Pensioner's League  
 Carer's Association of Western Australia  
 Cerebral Palsy Association of WA  
 Community Physiotherapy Services  
 Council of Developmental Disability WA  
 Council on the Ageing WA  
 Country Women's Association  
 Cystic Fibrosis Association of WA  
 Down Syndrome Association of WA  
 Headwest (Head injured Society of WA)  
 Health Consumer's Council WA  
 Injury Control Council of WA  
 Multiple Sclerosis Society of WA  
 National Council of Women of WA  
 National Seniors Association  
 Paraplegic-Quadriplegic Association of WA  
 Parkinson's Association of WA  
 People with Disabilities WA  
 Red Cross Carer's Support Program  
 Schizophrenia Fellowship of WA  
 Volunteer Centre of Western Australia  
 Volunteer Task Force  
 Welfare Rights and Advocacy Service  
 Aboriginal Affairs Department  
 Alcohol and Drug Authority  
 Department of Productivity and Labour Relations  
 Department of Transport  
 Education Department of WA  
 Equal Opportunity Commission  
 Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA  
 Guardianship and Administration Board  
 Homeswest  
 Ministry of Sport and Recreation  
 Ministry of Justice  
 Office of Health Review  
 Office of Multicultural Interests  
 Office of Freedom of Information Commissioner  
 Office of Youth Affairs  
 Public Trustee  
 WA Police Service

*Question: Hon Murray Nixon asked for information about the training process for volunteers staffing the Office of Seniors Interests Telephone Information Service.*

*Answer:* The Office of Seniors Interests has provided a Telephone Information Service staffed by seniors volunteers since 1994. Each prospective volunteer completes an application form, and is vetted by a member of staff. Each volunteer signs an agreement which includes an agreement to follow certain procedures and policy guidelines.

The training for the initial intake of volunteers in 1994 was conducted by professional trainers over two and a half days. This training included:

Greetings, first point of contact, face to face PR skills;  
 Not getting involved;  
 Providing the appropriate information;  
 Accountability as a public agency;  
 Awareness of limitations in time and knowledge base;  
 Completing a quantity of brief contacts rather than in-depth discussions;  
 Leaving a good impression; and  
 Skills building.



In 1994 35 volunteers joined the scheme and since then 25 of the initial group have remained with the Office. Since the initial intake 10 new volunteers have joined the scheme and the Office now provides all training internally. The Office of Seniors Interests has always recognised the importance of training.

New volunteers participate in an in-house induction program, and are “teamed” for practical experience with a suitable established volunteer as a “buddy. Ongoing training is arranged throughout the year to ensure volunteers are briefed on the latest developments and changes to information. Guest speakers from such diverse organisations as Centrelink and Silver Chain also attend to speak at the volunteer briefing sessions.

## WOMEN’S POLICY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked in relation to the domestic violence advertising budget “In relation to the Freedom from Fear Campaign, how much will that cost over the time frame?”*

*Answer:* The campaign advertising, developmental and support costs are outlined below:

### Advertising Budget (Scheduling) August 1998 – June 1999

Television, radio, newspaper and other press: **\$475,225**

### Associated Developmental and Support Costs from Inception to June 1999

Formative research; media production; advertising research and testing; evaluation; information resources (publications, mailouts, website); public relations & launch; worksites, men’s social activities etc; regional consultation & support: **\$497,500**

### Future Advertising Budget (Scheduling) July 1999 – June 2000

Television, radio, newspaper and other press: **\$500,000**

### Ongoing Developmental and Support Costs July 1999 – June 2000

Media production; advertising research and testing; evaluation; information resources (publications, mailouts, website); public relations & launch; worksites, men’s social activities etc; regional consultation & support: **\$310,000.**

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked in relation to the domestic violence advertising budget “Is it intended to evaluate that program”?*

*Answer:* In the first seven months, the *Freedom From Fear* campaign has achieved outstanding results in raising awareness of domestic violence. Furthermore, there are indications that beliefs and attitudes amongst men are also changing.

An independent evaluation report - '*Freedom From Fear*' Post Campaign Evaluation II. Donovan Research. Report to Domestic Violence Prevention Unit. Project number 99040, 1999 Unpublished - has concluded that the Campaign’s creative strategy has been "very effective in engaging the target audience, establishing credibility, and effectively communicating the desired messages. The media strategy has also been effective in achieving strong cut-through amongst the primary target audience".

Below are the key findings of the evaluation reports conducted at baseline (Benchmark Survey conducted in August 1998, prior to the launch of the Campaign), and post-campaign surveys conducted in October 1998 and April 1999.

	Aug '98	Oct '98	Apr '99
* Campaign awareness	0%	82%	<b>91%</b>
* Awareness of a phone counselling line	20%	43%	<b>69%</b>
* Aware of where violent men . . . can go for help	21%	31%	<b>52%.</b>
* Correct naming of the Men’s Domestic Violence Helpline	0%	10%	<b>28%</b>
* Changed the way men think about men being violent towards a female partner	9%	14%	<b>21%</b>

No changes in attitudes were expected at this early stage, however there is some indication that the campaign is having an effect in this area:

a significant increase in the proportion of men who feel that women never deliberately provoke being slapped (from 38% to **52%**).

some encouraging trends were noted in terms of a reduction in frequency with which men admit to: yelling loudly at the female partner; putting down or belittling their female partner.

some favourable shifts in beliefs re: Domestic Violence affects the whole family (from 21% to **58%**).

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked in relation to the domestic violence advertising budget “have Aboriginal callers (to the Helpline) been identified”?*

*Answer:* Data on calls to the Men’s Domestic Violence Helpline is collated and analysed by Family and Children’s Services, who house and provide the Helpline.

It is not possible to identify absolutely, the number of Aboriginal callers as this information will usually be disclosed on a voluntary basis when the caller is seeking a referral to a counselling agency.

Information on the number of calls and type of caller from August 1998 to April 1999 is summarised by Women’s Policy Development Office in the attached table.

NUMBER OF CALLS TO MEN’S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

	AUG '98	SEPT '98	OCT '98	NOV '98	DEC '98	JAN '99	FEB '99	MAR '99	APRIL '99	MAY '99	TOTAL
# (all) Calls	22	306	279	296	278	205	463	390	310		<b>2549</b> (100%)
# Calls from campaign target group **	7	183	178	183	178	199	310	227	200		<b>1585</b> (62% of all calls)
# Self-identifying perpetrators/men at-risk ***	6	93	95	120	102	87	217	147	125		<b>992</b> (39% of all calls)
# referrals to counselling	6	40	40	62	53	40	91	79	73		<b>484</b> (19% of all calls, 48% of self-identifying perps)
# victim callers	4	25	29	26	28	15	57	36	35		<b>255</b> (10% of all calls)

\*\* Campaign target group includes callers from 4 caller type categories (“adult with issues related to past experience of dv”; “other/relationship unclear” which includes third person disclosures; “perpetrator/at risk – self identifying”; person expressing interest – not identifying”). It is suggested that the campaign target group ‘men at risk of perpetrating domestic violence’ could include men from any or all of these categories.

\*\*\* Self-identifying perpetrators includes men who themselves disclose that they have experienced a current, recent or past episode of abuse towards their partner, or feel that they are at risk of doing so.

NUMBER OF CALLS TO MEN’S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

	JUN '99	JULY '99	AUG '99	SEPT '99	OCT '99	NOV '99	DEC '99	JAN '00	FEB '00	MAR '00	TOTAL
# (all) Calls											
# Calls from campaign target group **											
# Self-identifying perpetrators/men at-risk ***											
# referrals to counselling											
# victim callers											

\*\* Campaign target group includes callers from 4 caller type categories (“adult with issues related to past experience of dv”; “other/relationship unclear” which includes third person disclosures; “perpetrator/at risk – self identifying”; person expressing interest – not identifying”). It is suggested that the campaign target group ‘men at risk of perpetrating domestic violence’ could include men from any or all of these categories.

\*\*\* Self-identifying perpetrators includes men who themselves disclose that they have experienced a current, recent or past episode of abuse towards their partner, or feel that they are at risk of doing so.

## TREATMENT OUTCOMES OF OPIOID DEPENDENCE

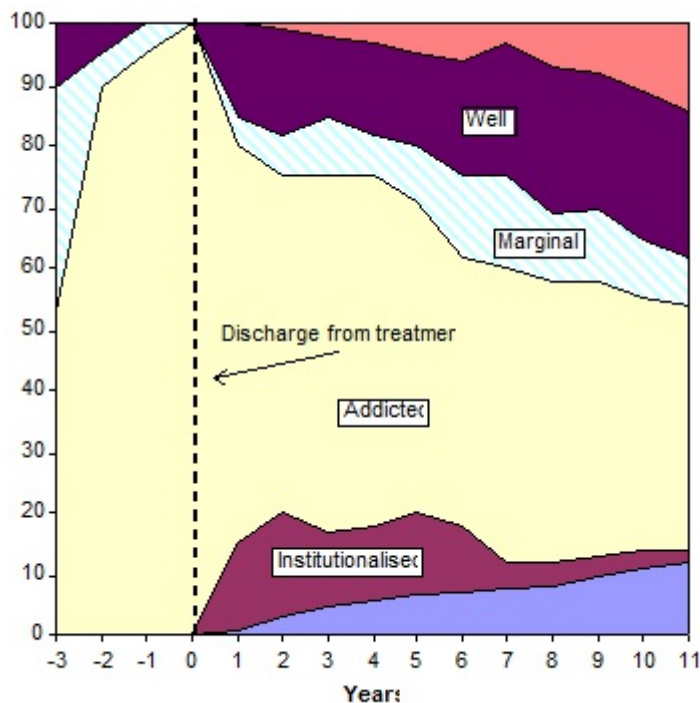
WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office  
June 1999

### Natural history of opioid use

There is some rather dated research by George Vaillant, based on long term studies on outcomes of opioid dependent individuals following their discharge from treatment. This and other research is concerned with the idea of 'natural history' of opioid use which suggests that as individuals age they 'mature out' of their dependence on heroin and other illicit substances.

Figure 1 is based on one of Vaillant's studies and provides follow up data at 12 years after treatment which indicates that over time a growing proportion of individuals become abstinent. Overall 11 years after treatment this research suggests about 12% die, about 25% become abstinent, a further 8% achieve a marginal improvement - if Vaillant's well group and marginal group are combined this suggests about one third of the original cohort achieve some degree of improvement in the functioning - and 40% were still dependent.

Figure 1: Outcomes 12 years after treatment



## Longitudinal studies of treatment outcome

There have been a number of comprehensive studies of treatment outcome in the United States including the:

- Drug Abuse Reporting Program (DARP) which involved a follow of a cohort who were admitted to treatment programs between 1969 and 1973;
- Treatment Outcome Prospective Study (TOPS) which involved a cohort who were admitted to treatment programs between 1979 and 1981;
- Drug Abuse Treatment Outcome Study (DATOS) which followed up more than 10,000 individuals who had been admitted between 1991 and 1993 to nearly 100 treatment programs in 11 cities; and
- Services Research Outcomes Study (SROS) which involved a study of a nationally representative survey of nearly 1,800 individuals five years after they had ceased treatment - This sample is representative of the 976,000 persons who were discharged from treatment in 1990 in the US.

The DATOS study involved a sample of nearly 3,000 individuals and was published in late 1997. There were quite similar results in relation to weekly and daily drug use 12 months before and 12 months after treatment for each group of subjects according to the four modalities of treatment that were studied, as indicated in the following table (Table 1).

An important point to bear in mind is that as individuals with a varying severity of drug problems attended different programs, this affected the measurement of outcome based on heroin use alone (Table 2).

Table 1: Drug use before and after treatment (DATOS study)

	12 months before treatment	12 months after treatment
Outpatient methadone programs	41.9%	21.7%
Long term residential programs	66.4%	22.1%
Outpatient drug free programs	41.7%	18.3%
Short term inpatient programs	66.8%	20.8%

Table 2: Heroin use before and after treatment (DATOS study)

	12 months before treatment	12 months after treatment
Outpatient methadone programs	89.4%	27.8%
Long term residential programs	17.2%	5.8%
Outpatient drug free programs	25.4%	8.5%
Short term inpatient programs	30.3%	10.5%

There is some relevant information contained in the paper by Thomas McLellan et al, "Evaluating the effectiveness of addiction treatments: reasonable expectations, appropriate comparisons", published in the *Millbank Quarterly* 1996 volume 74. From their extensive review of literature McLellan et al conclude that *"during the past 15 years that approximately 60 to 80 percent of patients who relapse following treatment do so within three to four months after discharge"*.

They also point out that when measuring treatment outcome it is important take account of not only improvements in alcohol and drug use measures but also other significant improvements in psychiatric, employment and family status measures. They also make the point that without random assignment of people to 'no treatment' control groups, it is not possible to make realistic evaluations of treatment outcome in the real world.

This paper reports that at a 12 month follow up period approximately 12% of all patients in a large national field study had reported they "were completely abstinent, employed and had committed no crime and were experiencing no psychiatric or family problems".

## Methadone research

There is a vast amount of research concerning outcomes of methadone treatment, including:

- Ward J et al. *Key issues in methadone maintenance treatment*. Sydney, University of NSW Press, 1992
- Cooper JR et al (eds). *Research on the treatment of narcotic addiction - state of the art*. Rockville, MD, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1983
- New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. *Methadone treatment works: a compendium for methadone maintenance treatment*. NY, Chemical Dependency Research Working Group, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, 1996.

However, there does not appear to be recent research specifically concerned with the issue of follow up of those who have completed treatment to estimate the rate of relapse, as the established approach is to provide open ended treatment.

This literature emphasises that improved outcomes are reported by patients who are older, remain longer in treatment, who receive higher doses and who undertake gradual detoxification. The research indicates particularly poor outcomes (eg higher mortality rates, infection with BBVs, higher crime etc) in relation to patients who are coerced into undertaking short term detoxification treatment compared to maintenance treatment. Since the mid 1980s the medical establishment has supported maintenance treatment.

### TRENDS IN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN AUSTRALIA BY JURISDICTION 1988-1997

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office  
June 1999

Table 1: Number of opioid overdose deaths by jurisdiction and year, persons aged 15-44, 1988-1997

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	TAS, NT, ACT	Australia
1988	201	99	15	12	18	0	0	2	2	347
1989	154	98	19	8	18	1	2	2	5	302
1990	193	78	8	18	14	5	0	0	5	316
1991	142	63	9	12	12	3	0	2	5	243
1992	178	77	18	28	21	0	1	4	5	327
1993	177	84	22	40	23	4	2	5	11	357
1994	201	91	34	32	38	4	5	1	10	406
1995	251	136	42	34	68	6	0	13	19	550
1996	244	142	27	30	61	5	2	15	22	526
1997	292	168	26	36	70	1	1	6	8	600
1988-1997	2,033	1,036	220	250	343	29	13	50	92	3,974
	51.2%	26.1%	5.5%	6.3%	8.6%	0.7%	0.3%	1.3%	2.3%	100.0%

Source: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

Note: Based on ABS data for deaths attributed to ICD9 codes 304.0, 304.7, E850.0 and E850.1.

Table 2: Rate of opioid overdose deaths by jurisdiction and year, persons aged 15-44, 1988-1997

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
1988	75.1	48.5	11.4	18.1	23.8	0	0	13.7
1989	56.6	47.2	14	12	23.2	4.7	22.2	13.5
1990	70.4	37.1	5.8	26.8	17.7	23.4	0	0
1991	51.5	29.8	6.4	17.8	15.1	14	0	13
1992	64.3	36.5	12.6	41.6	26.3	0	10.9	25.7
1993	64.2	40.1	15.1	59.9	28.8	18.8	21.9	31.9
1994	72.8	43.8	22.8	48.2	47.3	19	55.2	6.4
1995	90.5	65.7	27.7	51.6	83.7	28.7	0	82.8
1996	87.3	68.4	17.5	45.8	74.2	24.1	21.9	95.3
1997	103.8	80.3	16.7	55.6	83.6	4.9	10	38.7

Source: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

Note: Based on ABS data for deaths attributed to ICD9 codes 304.0, 304.7, E850.0 and E850.1.

Rate is per million at risk population aged 15-44.

Figure 1: Rate of opioid overdose deaths by selected jurisdictions and year, persons aged 15-44, 1988-1997

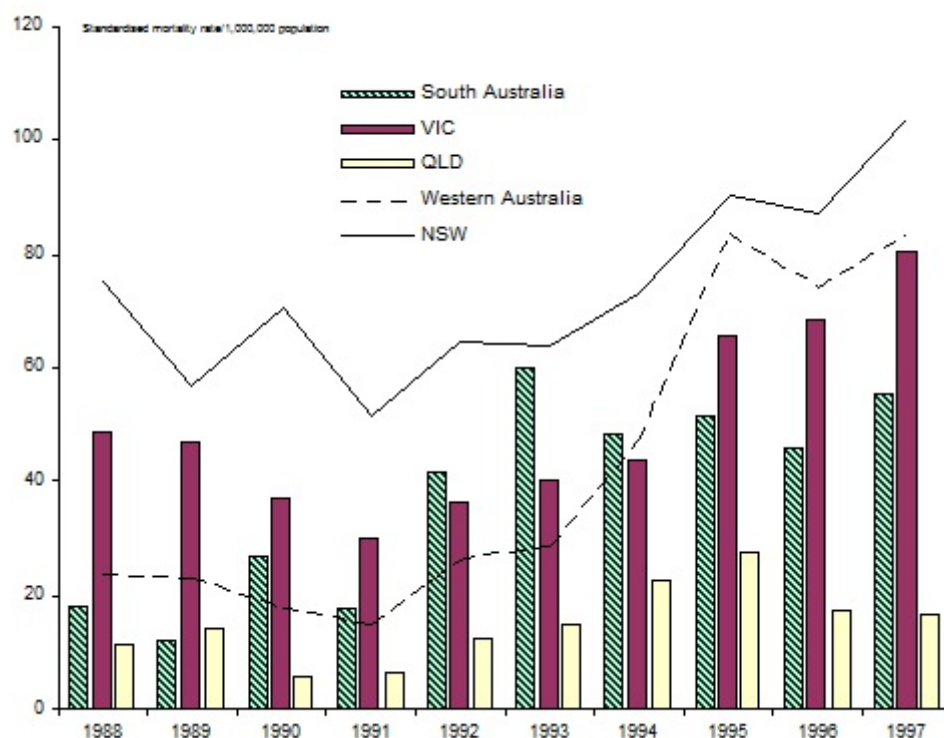


Table 3: Comparison of West Australian and Victorian “heroin related deaths”, 1996-1997

	Illicit opioid related suspected by police		Heroin/morphine related Identified by toxicological data and coronial determination		Opioid related ABS cause of death (ICD 9 codes 304.0, 304.7, 850.0, 850.1)	
	WA	VIC	WA	VIC	WA	VIC
1996	88	NA	45	169	61	142
1997	83	NA	76	168	70	168
1998	77	NA	70	268	NA	NA
1999 (to 8 June)	38	167	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: Only Victoria and WA publish preliminary estimates of suspected heroin related deaths from initial police investigations.

#### Variations in results

Data obtained from the NDARC study utilises a narrow set of ICD 9 codes to infer heroin related mortality. As these codes (304.0, 304.7, E850.0, E850.1) involve varying definitions (eg E850.0 refers to accidental poisoning due to ‘opiates and related narcotics’, E850.1 refers to accidental poisoning due to ‘salicylates’, 304.0 refers to drug dependence due to

'morphine type' and 304.7 refers to drug dependence due to 'combinations of morphine type drug with any other drug'), it is not possible to obtain congruent data.

Analyses which utilise toxicological data and other coronial information provide the most detail. For instance, the WA Coronial Database permits a distinction between opioid related deaths caused by heroin and deaths caused by other illicit opioids.

## FISHERIES

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson: What is the extent of legal fees incurred by Fisheries WA? Can it be broken down into representation and settlement for compensation?*

*Answer:* Legal costs incurred by Fisheries WA: It must be noted that the Agency generally obtains outside legal assistance in three distinct circumstances:

1. Advice and representation in prosecutions and civil litigation on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries; the Executive Director of Fisheries WA; or Fisheries WA generally are classified as "core work" by the Crown Solicitor's Office. The Crown Solicitor's Office provides advice and representation to the Agency free of any 'legal fees' in areas of "core work".
2. Representation of the Executive Director before the Fisheries Objections Tribunal, an independent tribunal established under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. The Executive Director is represented in Tribunal matters by a combination of the Crown Solicitor's Office; in-house legal officers; and consultants (ie, private legal practitioners).
3. Consultants may be engaged from time to time to provide advice on various, generally "non-core" legal matters, some of which may be in contemplation of litigation.

In providing information in response to the Honourable Member's questions, I have not addressed legal costs or the number of cases associated with the last two categories. I have also not considered the number of prosecutions commenced on behalf of the Agency in the last two financial years. It should be noted that in the last two financial years, no civil litigation involving the Agency has proceeded to trial. There are a connected series of legal actions (three separate actions) currently before the courts. These are the only present civil litigation actions involving the Agency. These actions are against the Executive Director and the State of Western Australia and have been commenced by an employee of the Agency. The Crown Solicitor's Office has instructed a senior Barrister to prepare the pleadings in these actions. The Agency is responsible for paying this Barrister's fees. This arrangement is a continuing arrangement. Some progress payments amounting to approximately \$5,000 have been made by the Agency. In the past two financial years, the only payments by the Agency that could be classified as "settlement for compensation" arising from litigation are as follows:

- (a) On 5 October 1998, a fisherman and his wife received the sum of \$2,000 to cover legal costs associated with withdrawing a Supreme Court action against the Executive Director;
- (b) On 20 April 1999, a fisherman and his wife received the sum of \$37,983 in exchange for the surrender of a fishing boat licence which had been the subject of possible litigation.

*How many legal cases has Fisheries WA been involved in over the last 12 months?*

Apart from prosecutions and Fisheries Objection Tribunal matters, in the last 12 months the Agency has been involved in 4 civil litigation actions in the courts - three of which were commenced by the same individual, an employee of the Agency, and do not involve issues relating to fisheries management.

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked: I received a letter from Senator Hill, copy of which I sent the Executive Director just the other day, in which he claims that Fisheries have not forwarded data to Environment Australia relating to block numbers, even though I believe this has been provided to Fisheries by the licensees.*

*Answer:* A copy of the information relating to the syngnathids which was provided to Environment Australia is attached. [Held by Committee Office.]

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked: Have there been any settlements in the workers compensation cases of former officers O'Donoghue, Thomas and Sutton?*

*Answer:* The Workers Compensation Claims for Mr Thomas and Mr O'Donohue have been settled with the insurers and they have since resigned from the Agency. Settlement for the Workers Compensation claim from Mr Sutton is currently being considered by the Insurers.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked: Will the Minister provide information on trends of sick leave and workers compensation payments over the past five years?*

*Answer:*

**Sick Leave - Average Hours**

1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
12	7	23	27.7	27.4

These figures are collected from the Public Service Census. Data collected before 1995 was not as reliable as data collected after 1995. This is reflected in the substantial increase in average hours from 1994/95 to 1995/96.

**Numbers of Lost Time Injuries**

1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
13	6	4	7	10

**Workers Compensation Premiums**

1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
\$0.163M	\$0.232M	\$0.479M	\$0.112M	\$0.170M

## HEALTH

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked: I note on page 678 that the inpatient mental health facilities at Osborne Park Hospital will be upgraded? How much money will be expended on this upgrade? By what date will this upgrade be completed?*

*Answer:* Yes. The Osborne Park Clinic and Lodge will be upgraded. \$450,000 is budgeted to be spent on upgrading air conditioning at Osborne Park Lodge. A further \$520,000 will be spent remodelling the Osborne Park Clinic and the Lodge. The remodelling and services upgrade is scheduled for completion by December 1999.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked: How much money has been allocated for the mental health services in the Armadale Health Service area specifically for long-stay residential accommodation?*

*Answer:* The 1997/98 cost for Whitby Falls was \$1.861M. This has not changed for this year. Revenue from produce and residents fees was \$217,541 for the same year.

*Question: Hon Simon O'Brien asked: A consultancy was engaged by the Armadale health district to report on Whitby Falls by the middle of May or the start of June. Has that report been completed and, if so may I have a copy?*

*Answer:* There is no report available at this time. The Whitby Falls project does not involve a consultancy but is being managed by a Steering Committee chaired by the General Manager, Armadale Health Service with representatives from the Disability Service Commission, the Mental Health Division HDWA, three carer/family representatives of residents, and the local Shire Council. The status of the project is that comprehensive futures planning with two individual residents in order to test the assessment and overall approach with residents and their families has commenced. The first resident has progressed well and the resident and his family are keen for him to leave Whitby and live closer to them in Albany in a home like environment with the required levels of support. The team is now addressing this. It is expected to complete all residents' futures planning by early October and reporting on this and implications for the future of Whitby Falls Hostel to occur before the end of December 1999.



*Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked: Is there anywhere I can see the costs of the administrative side of the board? I also wish to receive a comparison of the previous administrative costs and the administrative costs of the board. I would also like to be provided with any additional savings, such as those for the centralised wait-list bureau administered through the board.*

*Answer:* Regarding costs incurred by hospital Boards prior to the establishment of the Metropolitan Health Service Board (MHSB), this information cannot be provided as these costs were not separately recorded. They simply formed part of the administrative budget of each hospital. In addition it is difficult to compare the current structure to the previous one. By way of example, with the introduction of a more commercial focus the members of the current Board are remunerated. This was not the case in the past.

Regarding the cash costs incurred following the establishment of the MHSB on July 16, 1997. These costs totalled:

For the financial period ended June 30, 1998 - \$1.203m.

For the financial year ending June 30, 1999 - year to date - cash expenditure to 8 June 1999 \$1.309m.

The estimates for the year ending June 30, 2000 cannot be provided because the budget for the Metropolitan Health Service has not been developed for the 1999/2000 year.

The costs detailed above exclude those associated with the Central Wait List Bureau. The establishment of the MHSB as the employer, has enabled it to examine the corporate resources utilised by the metropolitan hospitals and health services. The MHSB has identified a number of areas where corporate rationalisation is possible, for example the supply chain has been rationalised to two sites and significant administrative reform is under way at both Princess Margaret/King Edward Memorial Hospitals and Royal Perth Hospital.

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked for information relating to a respite centre within the City of Cockburn that was operating an almost home away from home respite service that had to close "reportedly" because of lack of funding through the referrals from the ACAT team to keep it open.*

*Answer:* The Health Department of Western Australia has now ascertained that Ngalla Maya Cottage provided respite care in a facility located in the City of Cockburn until recently. The City of Cockburn built the facility with a view to running this respite service, however this did not eventuate and Bell Homecare & Healthcare commenced the service.

The service was operated (on the basis of a break-even proposition) by the 'for profit' organisation Bell Homecare & Healthcare. The facility was leased from the City of Cockburn. This service was offered at a cost of \$60.00 per 24-hour day per client. Referrals to and funding to purchase the service were predominantly through the Commonwealth Respite for Carers Program. However, due to lack of client numbers to maintain a viable service the service closed recently.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Respite Care is offered in Commonwealth funded Nursing Homes on a temporary basis for emergency or regular planned intervals and is available for ACAT approved clients for a maximum of 63 days per client per nursing home per financial year. The 63 days can be taken in one period or as an aggregate of shorter periods. This option of respite is provided with the appropriately skilled staff and backup supports covering 24 hours a day.

National Respite for Carers Program is an initiative designed to support and assist relatives and friends caring at home for people who, for reasons such as chronic illness, frailty and disability, are unable to care for themselves. One of the functions is to purchase organise or manage the delivery of respite care packages tailored to individual carers and the person for whom they care.

The Home and Community Care Program funding provides for numerous respite services throughout WA. These services are available in the form of community based day centres or can also be provided in the person's own home. In the South Metropolitan region there are 10 HACC funded Centre based respite services and 8 HACC funded In-Home respite services.

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked:*

- (1) *What is the total outlay for rural Western Australia; that is, the area outside the coverage of the MHSB?*
- (2) *What is the total outlay on rural and remote Western Australians; that is, the combination of the total spent in rural and remote Western Australia, and in the metropolitan area on rural patients?*

(3) *What is the total cost of:*

1. *hip prostheses,*
  2. *tonsillectomies*
  3. *appendectomies*
  4. *colonoscopies,*
- at*

1. *Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital*
2. *Geraldton Regional Hospital*
3. *Albany Regional Hospital*
4. *Royal Perth Hospital*
5. *Armadale Kelmscott Memorial Hospital*
6. *Swan District Hospital*
7. *Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital*

*Answer:*

(1)-(2) The total outlay for rural WA in the 98/99 Financial Year is as follows,

Revenue Source	\$ 98/99
Memorandum of Understandings (Rural)	308,267,900
Contracts/other funding through - Aged Care (HACC – State)	8,318,100
Rural patients treated in metro. (estimate only)	72,641,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>389,227,600</b>

In addition to this is other monies allocated to rural capital works and special projects that total an additional \$60,390,000

(3) At this stage, only metropolitan Teaching Hospitals have costing systems that can establish actual costs on a per case (and thus average per surgical procedure) basis. Other metropolitan non-teaching sites are presently implementing this system. A number of metropolitan non-teaching and rural Health Services also participate in a costing study that identifies their inpatient and non-inpatient costs at an aggregate level. The results of this cost study are then integrated with the Teaching Hospital data to calculate appropriate costs. This price gives a standard cost/price for uncomplicated procedures as follows:

	<b>Teaching</b>	<b>Others</b>
<b>Hip Prostheses,</b>	\$6,277	\$4,279
<b>Tonsillectomies</b>	\$1,127	\$768
<b>Appendectomies</b>	\$1,642	\$1,119
<b>Colonoscopies</b>	\$380	\$259

If the case is complicated it attracts a correspondingly higher cost/price.

In addition to these cost/prices, Health Services are also block-funded separately for Medical Costs, ICU (where applicable) and in the case of rural Health Services, by Rural and Remote Premiums that address the differential costs between providing similar services at country as opposed to metropolitan areas.

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked: What price index does the Health Department of Western Australia use to measure change in the cost of providing hospital service? Does the Health Department of Western Australia accept that the Australian Bureau of Statistics Hospital and Medical Services Index is the best available index for the measurement of change in the cost of providing hospital services? If no, which available indices are used by the Department?*

*Answer:* The Health Department of Western Australia uses a price index to allow for change in costs of providing health services based on the Gross State Product Implicit Price Deflator for Other Goods and Services, and a Wage Growth.

*Question: Hon J. A. Cowdell asked:*

1. *Are any areas of the (Peel Health) campus sublet by the Department from Health Solutions?*

2. *If so:*

(a) *what are those areas,*

(b) *for what purpose, and*

(c) *what is the cost of same?*

*Answer:*

1. Yes.

2. (i) The Community Health Block.

(ii) The space is utilised for the following services:

- (1) Health Promotion,
- (2) Child Health Nursing,
- (3) Community Health Nursing,
- (4) School Health Nursing,
- (5) Immunisation,
- (6) Aboriginal Health Worker,
- (7) Womens Wellness Clinic,
- (8) Aged Care Assessment,
- (9) Care Awaiting Placement Project Officer, and
- (10) Community Mental Health (both adult services and child and adolescent services).

(iii) The Health Department pays an availability charge in respect of the Campus as a whole. Consequently, no separate rental is paid in respect of the areas occupied by the aforementioned services.

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked: Can the estimates committee be provided with a copy of the plan that the Metropolitan Health Service considered which included the possible closure of Osborne Park Hospital?*

*Answer:* The report was prepared by an informal working party and the report has no status with the Board. It is therefore not an approved report of the Board and will not be released.

*Question: Hon Barry House asked: Can the minister provide an estimate of the proportion of the total Health budget allocated to capital works service delivery and administration, and the trend in that regard over the past 10 years?*

*Answer:* An estimate of the proportion of the total Health budget allocated to capital works, service delivery and administration, and the trend in that regard over the past 10 years is outlined in the following table.

**Estimated Proportion of Total Health Budget Allocated**

<b>FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>Administration (HDWA)</b>	<b>Service Delivery</b>	<b>Capital Works</b>
1990/91	2.39%	93.60%	4.01%
1991/92	2.58%	92.07%	5.35%
1992/93	2.51%	92.00%	5.49%
1993/94	2.59%	91.09%	6.32%
1994/95	2.64%	92.09%	5.27%
1995/96	2.59%	92.40%	5.01%
1996/97	2.52%	92.29%	5.19%
1997/98	2.50%	92.50%	5.00%
1998/99	2.52%	91.98% (a)	5.50%
1999/2000	2.31%	93.74% (a)	3.95% (b)

- (a) Budget Paper Budget Estimates adjusted for changed accounting treatment for Commonwealth Programs commencing in 1998/99. \$103.2m in 1998/99 and \$108.6m in 1999/2000.
- (b) Reflects \$20m of Minor Works transferred back to service delivery.

These estimates indicated that between 1990/91 and 1999/2000 the respective proportions have not varied to any material effect. They are summarised as follows:

	<b>1990/91</b>	<b>1999/2000</b>
Administration	2.39%	2.31%
Service Delivery	93.60%	93.74%
Capital	<u>4.01%</u>	<u>3.95%</u>
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer MLC asked: I note on page 682 that upgrading of existing inpatient facilities at Osborne Park hospital will proceed through the Capital Works Program. Is this upgrade confined to mental health facilities? If not, what other inpatient facilities will be upgraded at Osborne Park Hospital? How much money will be spent on each of these other upgrades? By what dates will each of these other upgrades be completed?*

*Answer:* Yes, the reference to Osborne Park Hospital is for the air conditioning upgrade of the Psychogeriatric facility at an estimated cost of \$450,000. The scheduled completion date is August 1999. Funds have also been allocated for the remodelling of the Osborne Clinic at a cost of \$520,000. The scheduled completion date for this work is December 1999. Funds have also been allocated from the *Metropolitan Health Service Developments – Various Capital Works* project for Anaesthetic Equipment (\$60,000) and refurbishing of the Admissions area (\$50,000). Scheduled completion dates have not yet been determined.

*Question: Hon John Halden asked: There is an increase of approximately \$27m in the line item of salary and allowances between 1998-99 and 1999-2000. What components make up the increase and how much is each component? Can the same break up be done for the 1999-2000 to 2000-01?*

*Answer:*

	<b>Estimate 1999/2000 (\$'000)</b>	<b>Estimate 2000/01 (\$'000)</b>	<b>Estimate 2001/02 (\$'000)</b>	<b>Estimate 2002/03 (\$'000)</b>
<b>Total salaries &amp; wages expense as per Budget</b>	<b>1,102,952</b>	<b>1,131,259</b>	<b>1,153,960</b>	<b>1,177,117</b>
Increases in the accrual position is as follows:-				
Value of cash 'cost of award' increase per annum	24,873	32,730	22,475	22,924
Change in provision movements +/(-)				
- annual leave	-733	-2,054	105	108
- accrued payroll	482	-427	22	22
- long service leave	2,191	-1,941	99	102
<b>Increase in expense over previous period</b>	<b>26,812</b>	<b>28,308</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>23,157</b>

## JUSTICE

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked: What is the proportion of Aboriginal offenders in the juvenile justice teams relative to the overall statistics, and how does the success rate for Aboriginal juveniles compare with the overall rate?*

*Answer:* According to an independent evaluation of the Young Offenders Act 1994 completed in February 1998, the referral rate of Aboriginal youth to the Juvenile Justice Teams is 16 per cent of all referrals in the metropolitan area and up to 50 per cent in the country. It is difficult to compare these rates to the overall rate of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Children's Court appearances because of gaps in the recording of ethnicity in Children's Court records. Thirty-five per cent of Aboriginal referrals to the teams were returned to the referring police officer or court as unsuitable/unsuccessful compared with 17 per cent of non-Aboriginal referrals. The evaluators recommended that the ministry look at ways to engage Aboriginal families with team processes. A joint Ministry of Justice/Police Service working party has been established to address the recommendations of the evaluation.

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked: Can the \$700 000 contract be allocated into amounts related to lock-up improvements; staff; motor vehicles, and any other significant contract commitments?*

*Answer:* The amount to which the honourable member refers is possibly an amount of \$7m shown in the estimates funding for the Core Functions Project. It is not possible to provide a final breakdown of cost allocations until after a contract is signed with the proposed service provider. The values included in the budget are a provision only as the final form of the contract cannot be concluded until after the Parliament has finalised its consideration of the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill 1998 and the Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill 1998.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths asked: Why is it that the Family Court's timeliness target for cases to be finalised in the present year and forthcoming financial year is set at 50 per cent when other courts have a much higher timeliness target?*

*Answer:* The Family Court has five timeliness indicators -

Dissolutions	10 weeks
Direct track	6 months
Standard track (child)	10 months
Standard track (financial)	11 months
Complex track	12 months

For the purpose of reporting we opted to aggregate the results achieved into one indicator.

The Family Court's 1998-99 estimated timeliness result - it is not a target as expressed in the question - is based on performance levels achieved historically. The 1999-2000 target of 50 per cent is a conservative one due to existing workloads and anticipated judicial availability.

*Question: Hon John Halden requested a breakdown of the increase in salaries and allowances for Acacia Prison staff for the financial years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01.*

*Answer:* Salaries and allowances for Ministry of Justice staff directly involved in the Acacia Prison project for 1998-99 is estimated to be to \$193 000.

Salaries and allowances for Ministry of Justice staff directly involved in the Acacia Prison project for 1999-2000 is estimated to be \$115 000.

Salaries and allowances for Ministry of Justice staff directly involved in the Acacia Prison for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 have not been determined and are subject to contracts being entered.

*Question: Hon John Halden requested details of the budget provision for Casuarina Prison for the 1998-99 financial year.*

*Answer:* The full accrual cost of operating Casuarina Prison for 1998-99 is approximately \$30m. This is based on an average of 500 prisoners per day.

*Question: Hon John Halden requested a breakdown of the projections for total muster numbers between 3 150 and 3 250 for the financial year ended 30 June 2000. In addition, could information on the new mechanism for predicting incarceration rates be provided?*

*Answer:*

Projected Prisoner Population  
as at June 1999

Month - Year	Lower	Upper
July - 1999	2985	3074
August - 1999	2937	3040
September - 1999	2949	3067
October - 1999	2924	3056
November - 1999	2999	3148
December - 1999	3033	3200
January - 2000	3022	3203
February- 2000	3044	3242
March - 2000	3045	3258
April - 2000	3098	3330
May - 2000	3139	3390
June - 2000	3130	3396

Information on the new mechanism for predicting incarceration rates is as follows -

#### SHORT TERM PRISONER POPULATION PROJECTION MODEL

Since June 1998, there has been an unprecedented and sustained growth in the WA prisoner population. In the seven years to June 1998, the prison muster had grown by 20 per cent. In only 10 months since June 1998, the prison muster has grown by over 20 per cent due mainly to harsher sentencing legislation and the delayed effects of the Fines Enforcement System and as yet there are no clear signs that this rate of growth is abating.

This is an important issue for the ministry and Government in terms of their ability to accurately plan, budget and anticipate future accommodation and resource needs. To this end a Research and Statistics Unit has been established within the ministry's Policy and Legislation Division with responsibility for the information driven forecasting of prisoner populations.

A short term prisoner population forecasting model has been developed which predicts both remand and sentenced prisoner populations on a monthly basis for the next two years and spanning the expected opening of Wooroloo South. The model examines relationships between key lead indicators for which information is currently available. The main features of the model are highlighted below -

- Incremental model where the start point is the known muster at the end of the previous month.
- Based on monthly analysis of expected exits and receivals.
- Model updated monthly with the latest 12-24 months data. This latest available data is important in the early identification of emerging trends.
- Parameter driven and reviewed continually so that certain new parameters/variables may be added as likely political, legislative, administrative and judicial changes become known.
- Estimates the impact of additional resources in the Higher and Magistrates Courts.

#### Methodology:

The prisoner population at any moment in time can be broadly described as a function of exits and receivals.

ie Prisoner population  $\Rightarrow f$  (Receivals, Exits (Sentence Lengths))

This forms the basis of the methodology behind the short term model and this analysis of prisoner exits and receivals is described below -

#### Exit Analysis:

The monthly analysis of expected exits considers a last known sentenced muster and by examining known earliest release dates of offenders within this muster and predicting the exits of prisoners serving short terms based on sentence lengths, the model is able to forecast relatively accurately the number of sentenced prisoners likely to exit over the two year period.

#### Receivals Analysis:

The analysis of sentenced receivals into prison is modelled around probability distributions of recidivist offenders, new receivals from the superior and Magistrates Courts based on latest profiles of the court systems, fine defaulters and offenders who breach early release orders such as parole, home detention and work release. The remand receivals are predicted by examining trends in the bail status of offenders.

*Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked: In regard to the Office of the Public Advocate, what part of this year's increase of \$360 000 for the guardian of last resort and next financial year's increase of \$368 000 for the same output, can be attributed to the commonwealth nursing home policies?*

*Answer:* The detail of this is not available. The data collected does not indicate the reason for the appointment of the Public Advocate as guardian beyond the broad issue of accommodation decisions being required.

*Hon Ken Travers asked the following questions -*

1. *Is the increase in funding for the native title unit based on an expected increase in litigation by that unit as opposed to the negotiation of native title claims?*

*Answer:* The increase is to fund current litigation, some of which is listed for hearing, negotiations and mediations and general advice.

2. *Is it intended to increase the number of staff in that unit?*

*Answer:* The Crown Solicitor's Office recently recruited a lawyer from another State and expects to replace another shortly. Additional support staff will also be required; for example, research assistants, historians and anthropologists.

3. *Who will prepare briefs for counsel?*

*Answer:* Counsel are briefed by the lawyers from within the Crown Solicitor's Office.

4. *What is the structure of the Crown Solicitor's Office - native title unit, or if it is not a unit as such, the structure within the Crown Solicitor's Office for dealing with native title matters?*

*Answer:* The Crown Solicitor's Office has a group of lawyers with varying levels of seniority who represent Government in matters of land claims. These lawyers specialise in providing legal advice and representation in this area of law. They are assisted by historians, anthropologists and administrative support staff.

5. *Have you specifically recruited anybody for native title purposes?*

*Answer:* Yes, the Crown Solicitor's office has recently recruited an experienced lawyer from outside Western Australia.

6. *Has any restructuring taken place of the native title unit following the amendments to the Native Title Act last year?*

*Answer:* No, but additional assistance will be required.

7. *How many staff are employed in the Crown Solicitor's Office on native title matters?*

*Answer:*

Public Servants -

2 x Legal Officers Class 3

1 x Legal Officer Class 1

3 x Legal Officers Level 7/8

2 x Legal Officers Level 4/5

1 x Senior Managing Law Clerk Level 6

1 x Secretary Level 2

1 x Senior Law Clerk Level 3

Non-Public Servants -

2 x Para-legals (equivalent Level 3)

3 x Clerical (1 equivalent Level 1 level, 2 equivalent Level 2)

3 x Historians

1 x Receptionist

3 x Research Assistants

Anthropological assistance from time to time.

8. *What is the Public Service level and tasks of each of these positions within the NTU?*

*Answer:* Answered by 7.

9. *Is the Crown Solicitor's Office planning any retrenchments or recruitments for people dealing with native title matters over the next year?*

*Answer:* Neither is planned and the situation will be monitored.

10. *If so, how many recruitments and retrenchments and at what level?*

*Answer:* Answered by 9.

11. *What have the staffing levels been in the unit in each year since its inception and what has been the Public Service level and tasks of each of those positions in previous years?*



*Answer:*

1993 -

1 x Consultant Lawyer (no level)  
1 x Legal Officer Class 3  
1 x Legal Officer Level 6/7  
2 x Secretaries Level 2  
1 x Anthropologist (no equivalent level)  
4 x Historians (no equivalent level)  
1 x Office Manager

1994 -

1 x Consultant Lawyer (no level)  
1 x Legal Officer Class 3  
1 x Legal Officer Level 6/7  
2 x Secretaries Level 2  
4 x Historians (no equivalent level)  
1 x Anthropologist  
1 x Office Manager  
2 x Clerical Support (Level 1)

1995 -

1 x Consultant Lawyer (no level)  
2 x Legal Officers Class 3  
2 x Legal Officers Level 6/7  
2 x Briefed Lawyers  
2 x Secretaries Level 2  
4 x Historians (no equivalent level)  
1 x Anthropologist (no equivalent level)  
2 x Clerical Support (Level 1)  
IT Support (no equivalent level)  
1 x Office Manager

1996 -

1 x Legal Officer Class 3  
1 x Legal Officer Class 1  
3 x Legal Officers Level 6/7  
1 x Legal Officer Level 4/5  
2 x Briefed Lawyers  
2 x Secretaries Level 2  
1 x Senior Managing Law Clerk Level 6  
3 x Historians (no equivalent level)  
1 x Receptionist (Level 1)  
1 x Para-legal Support (Level 3)  
3 x Clerical Support (Level 1 and 2)  
IT Support (no equivalent level)

1997 -

1 x Legal Officer Class 3  
1 x Legal Officer Class 1  
3 x Legal Officers Level 6/7  
2 x Legal Officers Level 4/5  
1 x Briefed Lawyer  
1 x Secretary Level 2  
1 x Senior Managing Law Clerk Level 6

3 x Historians (no equivalent level)  
 3 x Clerical Support (Level 1 and 2)  
 2 x Para-legals (Level 2 and 3)

1998 -

1 x Legal Officer Class 3  
 1 x Legal Officer Class 1  
 3 x Legal Officers Level 6/7  
 1 x Legal Officer Level 4/5  
 1 x Secretary Level 2  
 1 x Senior Managing Law Clerk Level 6  
 3 x Historians (no equivalent level)  
 3 x Clerical Support (Level 1 and 2)  
 2 x Para-legals (Level 2 and 3)

12. *What are the specific litigation projects that the Crown Solicitor's Office is currently involved in?*

*Answer:*

Major matters -  
 Miriuwung-Gajerrong appeal  
 Ngaluma Injibandi Federal Court hearing  
 Nganawonka Federal Court hearing  
 Anaconda Nickel "future act" application

Minor matters -

There are current 10 ADJR applications in the Federal Court  
 There are over 250 native title claims in the Federal Court

13. *What are the numbers and Public Service levels of the staff allocated to these projects?*

*Answer:*

Miriuwung-Gajerrong appeal	1 x Legal Officer Level 6/7, 1 x Para-legal
Ngaluma Injibandi Federal Court hearing	2 x Legal Officers Level 6/7; 1 x Legal Officer Level 4/5; 1 x Para-legal; 3 x Historians; 2 x Researchers
Nganawonka Federal Court hearing	1 x Legal Officer Class 1 and 1 x Legal Officer Level 4/5
Anaconda Nickel "future acts" applications	1 x Class 3 Legal Officer, 1 x 7/8 Legal Officer
ADJR applications	2 x Class 4 Legal Officers, 2 x Class 3 Legal Officers
Native Title Claims in the Federal Court	A combination of all of the above officers will be used.

Counsel from the private bar are engaged in the Miriuwung-Gajerrong, Ngaluma Injibandi and Nganawonka matters.

14. *What specific litigation projects is the Crown Solicitor's Office proposing to undertake in the next year?*

*Answer:* Answered by 13.

15. *What are the numbers of staff and the Public Service levels of the staff that the Crown Solicitor's Office expects to allocate to each of these projects?*

*Answer:* Answered by 13.

16. *If so, what are the expected areas of expertise of the people allocated to each of these projects?*

*Answer:* Knowledge of native title law and litigation experience.

17. *Does the Crown Solicitor's Office have a budget for hiring consultants?*

*Answer:* The Crown Solicitor's Office engages barristers, anthropologists, historians and support staff. Expenditure for these for 1998-99 was \$1 126 400. Estimate for 1999-2000 is \$1 350 000.

18. *If so, how much is allocated for this purpose and how much of this allocation is for hiring anthropologists, counsel at the bar, or other positions?*

*Answer:* Answered by 17.

19. *How many applications have been or are expected to be made for review by the Federal Court of national Native Title Tribunal decisions for claims under the registration tests of the Native Title Act?*

*Answer:* Currently five applications have been made to date by the State and the State is responding to five lodged by native title parties.

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked: Further to the response to my question without notice 254 -*

(1) *Have the Ministry of Justice negotiations with GE Capital IT Solutions to outsource information technology services been completed?*

(2) *If so -*

(a) *What is the expected cost of the contract?*

(b) *What are the expected savings from the contract?*

(c) *How many permanent staff have not accepted the offer of employment by the contractor, and what arrangements have been made for their continued employment?*

(d) *How many contract staff have not been made offers of employment by the contractor?*

(e) *What security arrangements have been made in respect of access to information?*

(f) *What security arrangements have been made in respect of access to prisons by the staff of the contractor?*

(g) *Will the minister provide a copy of the agreement to the committee?*

*Answer:*

(1) Yes. The contract commenced on Wednesday 26 May 1999.

(2) (a) The expected cost of the contract is \$9.3m over three years and \$589 000 in contract set-up and staff transition costs.

(b) The quantifiable savings estimated to the ministry is estimated to be \$313 000 over the three-year period of the contract.

(c) Two of the 22 permanent staff that were offered employment with GE Capital IT Solutions have not accepted the offer. Those two people will be redeployed within the ministry.

(d) Seven of the 17 contractors were not made offers of employment with GE Capital IT Solutions.

- (e) The contract contains specific provisions for confidentiality and security of information. In addition, the contractor's staff have been processed and cleared through the ministry's security clearance procedures.
- (f) Access to prisons by staff of the contractor will be as contractors not as ministry staff members, and they will be subject to the special security procedures that the ministry has in place for visitors and contractors.
- (g) Yes.

## MAIN ROADS

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked with respect to the Kwinana Freeway project and for any other projects where the commitment for covering tendering costs would have been \$100 000 or more, to be advised of the total cost of those commitments.*

*Answer:* The total commitment to cover costs of unsuccessful tenderers for contracts where the reimbursement would be \$100 000 or more, is \$1 260 000.

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked if the term maintenance contract with Macmahon Contractors for the Wheatbelt North, Mid West and Metropolitan Regions, contains a clause allowing for an extension of the contract. He also enquired for what period the contract could be extended and whether a ten year term maintenance contract would be awarded to replace this contract at its expiration.*

*Answer:* Yes, the contract contains a clause for extension and has been extended to October 29 1999. The Term Maintenance contract will be replaced with the Term Network Contract of ten years duration.

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked whether the contract with Boral Contracting Pty Ltd for term maintenance in the Pilbara and Mid West Regions contain an extension clause. If so, for what period can it be extended and when will a ten year term maintenance contract be awarded to replace that contract?*

*Answer:* Yes, the contract contains a clause for extension and has been extended to January 29 2000. The Term Maintenance contract will be replaced with the Term Network Contract of ten years duration.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked with regard to the sealing of Mowen Road at Nannup, whether the \$2 million to be provided by Main Roads through the Regional Forrest Agreement is part of what has already been proposed or whether it is additional.*

*Answer:* Main Roads is in the process of clarifying with the Department of Conservation and Land Management the origin and application of the \$2 million mentioned in the Regional Forrest Agreement.

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked whether funds have been allocated in the budget to upgrade the road linking Servetus Street and West Coast Highway.*

*Answer:* No.

*Question: Hon Ken Travers asked with respect to the extension of the Mitchell Freeway to Hodges Drive (page 874 of the Budget papers), for a breakdown of the expenditure to date of \$11 million and estimated expenditure for this year of \$10 million. He also queried why the contract figure is \$12 million. The Member then asked about where any surplus Federal funds would be spent, what restrictions exist on the reallocation of any surplus and what the surplus is estimated to be.*

*Answer:* Expenditure to date in 1998/99 is \$10.89 million, comprising:

\$3 million	Land
\$0.31 million	Design and preconstruction
\$0.58 million	Contribution to Hodges Drive
\$7 million.	Contract payments and contract management

Estimated expenditure for 1999/2000 is \$10.959 million.

Contract 44/98 covers extension of the Freeway from Ocean Reef Road to Hodges Drive and widening of the existing Freeway between Karrinyup Road and Hepburn Avenue. The overall contract price is \$15.83 million, with \$12 million being for the extension and \$3.83 million being for the widening works. As negotiations regarding the cost of land are still continuing with Landcorp, it is not possible to determine if there will be, or the extent of, any surplus.

Funding provided under the Federal Government's Roads of National Importance (RONI) program, has to be spent on roads considered to be of national importance. Therefore, any surplus funds would need to be spent on additional work on the Mitchell Freeway or on the Goldfields Highway (Wiluna to Mt Keith) which is the other recognised RONI project in Western Australia.

*Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked for confirmation of the estimate by Main Roads that traffic (both general and a corresponding number of trucks) on the Cottesloe North to Fremantle corridor will increase by 50 per cent over the next three years. The Member also asked for the current volume of traffic each day through the corridor, what proportion of that traffic is made up of heavy vehicles and how is the estimated high increase in heavy traffic over the next 25 years substantiated.*

*Answer:* Main Roads estimates that traffic will increase by 50 per cent over the next twenty five years. Current traffic volumes vary between 42 000 and 53 000 vehicles per day, depending on the specific location in the corridor. Approximately four to five per cent of this traffic is heavy vehicles. This is forecast to grow generally in line with growth in other traffic, in order to serve increases in population and development.

## POLICE SERVICE

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths requested advice on the following:*

1. *The number of cases reported to Child Abuse Investigations in the past year.*
2. *The number of cases of child pornography and child prostitution reported to Child Abuse Investigations.*
3. *The current authorised staff in Child Abuse Investigations.*
4. *Whether relevant positions had been filled.*
5. *If some positions are unfilled, which positions are unfilled.*
6. *What is the current position with respect to the analyst to be stationed from the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.*
7. *When the analyst position was filled and whether it has remained filled.*

*Answer:*

1. During the 1998 calendar year, a total of 766 cases were reported to Child Abuse Investigations. During the 1999 calendar year to date (4 June 1999), a total of 262 cases were reported.
2. Regarding child pornography, during the 1998 calendar year, a total of 31 cases were reported to Child Abuse Investigations and during the 1999 calendar year to date (4 June 1999), a total of 35 cases were reported.

Regarding child prostitution, Child Abuse Investigations has advised that no reports of this nature were received in either the 1998 or 1999 calendar years. However, the Vice Squad received two reports of child prostitution during 1998.

3. From March 1, 1999 the allocation of permanent "sworn members" assigned to centralised child abuse investigation was elevated from 11 to 19 which represents a 72% increase in sworn personnel. This brought the personnel level to 25 sworn members with the continuance of 6 interviewing officers on a 12 month rotational secondment from each metropolitan police district. Additionally, Child Abuse Investigations employs three unsworn members including a Level 5 Crime Analyst.

4. Yes. Following the restructure of the Crime Support Portfolio, on 1 March, 1999, Child Abuse Investigation was moved into the Major Crime Division of the Crime Support Portfolio. Subsequently, a substantive Divisional Superintendent was appointed to head the Major Crime Division and two substantive Divisional Inspectors were appointed to assist Major Crime Division Operations. One of these Assistant Divisional Officers has direct carriage over Child Abuse Investigation.
5. There are currently two positions vacant at Child Abuse Investigations:
  - (a) The position of Officer in Charge, Child Abuse Investigation is currently vacant due to the recent promotion of the former occupant to the position of Assistant Divisional Officer, Major Crime Division.
  - (b) One position of Detective Sergeant is vacant due to a recent transfer of an officer to a District Office.

Both vacant positions are expected to be filled in the next 6 to 10 weeks.
6. A level 5 Crime Analyst was appointed to Child Abuse Investigations in October, 1998. Additionally, a second Crime Analyst (level 4) has been utilised by Child Abuse Investigations as required.
7. The position was filled (permanently) in October 1998 and has remained filled.

*Question: Hon N.D. Griffiths requested advice on:*

1. *The current position with respect to the implementation of the Wood Royal Commission Recommendations which are yet to be decided upon.*
2. *What funds have been allocated for the implementation of those outstanding recommendations.*

*Answer:*

1. Forty-seven recommendations were identified as requiring implementation of which 21 recommendations have been completed. The remaining 26 recommendations are ongoing (many of which relate to either the finalisation of the project into a joint agency approach to child abuse and/or legislative issues such as the Surveillance Devices Bill).
2. Funding allocations for the 1999/2000 financial year have not been finalised. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide the information sought at this time.

*Question: Hon John Halden asked to be provided with an explanation of the increase in salaries and allowances expenses between the years 1999/2000 and 2000/01.*

Answer: The following table summarises the increase of \$3.434m in salaries and allowances between the years 1999/2000 and 2000/01:

		<b>\$'000</b>
Funding for EBA increase		7 153
Less decrease in funding carried forward		<u>(3 950)</u>
		3 203
Salary increase (net of increments, overtime and attrition)		2 188
Increase in accrued salary provision	1 724	
Decrease in employee liabilities		(1 881)
Decrease in Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Project salaries (awaiting confirmation of funding for 2000/01)		(1 700)
Provision for 27th pay accrual		<u>( 100)</u>
		<u>3 434</u>

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly sought details of the average time taken to respond to urgent calls for police assistance, based on last year's figure of 14 minutes.*

*Answer:* The Western Australia Police Service is presently in the process of developing a computer system which will enable this type of information to be easily extracted. At present, the information can only be obtained via a lengthy search of Police Service records. This information is presently being collated and it is anticipated that the figures will be available in the near future. Should Mr Kelly wish to obtain the information at a later time, the Question should be placed on notice.

*Question:* In reference to single officer police stations, Hon Tom Stephens sought the following information –

1. *What is the total area in square kilometres under the responsibility of the police station?*
2. *What is the nearest populated centre that provides backup police support to the police station?*
3. *What is the distance by road for police support to assist the police station in relation to:*
  - (a) *Yalgoo Police Station;*
  - (b) *Gascoyne Junction Police Station;*
  - (c) *Broomehill Police Station;*
  - (d) *Bencubbin Police Station;*
  - (e) *Dubmleyung Police Station;*
  - (f) *New Norcia Police Station;*
  - (g) *Dwellingup Police Station;*
  - (h) *Wickepin Police Station;*
  - (i) *Trayning Police Station?*

*Answer:*

(a) **Yalgoo Police Station**

1. 36 000 square kilometres
2. (i) Mt Magnet  
(ii) Mullewa
3. (i) 126 kilometres  
(ii) 122 kilometres

(b) **Gascoyne Junction Police Station**

1. 46 602 square kilometres
2. Carnarvon
3. 180 kilometres

(c) **Broomehill Police Station**

1. 1 376 square kilometres
2. Katanning
3. 21 kilometres

(d) **Bencubbin Police Station**

1. 10 134 square kilometres
2. (i) Mukinbudin  
(ii) Koorda  
(iii) Trayning
3. (i) 40 kilometres  
(ii) 40 kilometres  
(iii) 40 kilometres

**(e) Dumbleyung Police Station**

1. 2 553 square kilometres
2. Wagin
3. 40 kilometres

**(f) New Norcia Police Station**

1. 2 563 square kilometres
2. Wongan Hills
3. 57 kilometres

**(g) Dwellingup Police Station**

1. 700 square kilometres
2. Pinjara
3. 24 kilometres

**(h) Wickepin Police Station**

1. 1 989 square kilometres
2. Narrogin
3. 37 kilometres

**(i) Trayning Police Station**

1. 2 777 square kilometres
2. Wyalkatchem
3. 45 kilometres

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly requested details of the ownership proportions and purchase price of the land for the new Police Academy at Joondalup.*

*Answer:* Current ownership proportions of the land are:

	%
Edith Cowan University	21.6
Department of Training/West Coast College of TAFE	12.9
Department of Conservation and Land Management	38.7
Department of Land Administration	18.9
LandCorp	7.9

The purchase price of the Police Academy site at Joondalup is still subject to negotiation, however, it is anticipated it will be in the order of \$5 million.

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly requested details of the breakdown of the \$45 million budget estimate for the new Police Academy at Joondalup.*

*Answer:* The \$45 million budget estimate comprises:

	<b>\$'000</b>
Land	5 000
Construction/Furniture and Equipment/Professional Fees	40 000

The purchase price of the Police Academy site at Joondalup is currently under negotiation.



*Question: Hon Barry House stated that he was aware of a proposal to outsource forensic services that would be made available to members of the Police Service at Bunbury. He understood that it was investigated and subsequently rejected and asked why it was rejected.*

*Answer: Whilst the proposal to outsource forensic services in Bunbury has been examined, the concept was considered not to be viable and, as a result, was rejected.*

*Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport sought details of the number of Restraining Orders issued this year, to date, in comparison to the same time last year.*

*Answer: The implementation of the Restraining Orders Act 1997, in September 1997, saw a 49% increase in applications for Restraining Orders. The recording of Restraining Orders is undertaken by the Ministry of Justice and no distinction is made for Restraining Orders resulting from domestic violence incidents. The following statistics, supplied by the Ministry of Justice, refer to all Restraining Orders issued within the time period.*

#### Restraining Orders

VRO	(1999 YTD)	VRO	(1998)
January	573	January	623
February	605	February	570
March	636	March	590
April	559	April	478
May	485	May	478
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2858</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2739</b>
		June	468
		July	482
		August	493
		September	521
		October	526
		November	477
		December	597
<b>VRO</b>	<b>2858</b>	<b>VRO</b>	<b>6303</b>
<b>MRO</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>MRO</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>TVRO</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>TVRO</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL (YTD)</b>	<b>3046</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6916</b>

**MRO** Misconduct Restraining Order.  
**TVRO** Telephone Violence Restraining Order.  
**VRO** Violence Restraining Order (same as TVRO) but applied through court without use of telephone.

*Question: In reference to surveys, Hon N D Griffiths sought advice on the amount that is being spent on customer surveys and next year's budget for surveys of community attitudes.*

*Answer: The surveys are conducted under the umbrella of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, Population Survey Model). The contribution by the Western Australia Police Service was \$33 950 for the 1998/99 financial year. Many Districts conduct their own customer surveys utilising existing resources and a program to assist in local analysis and reporting of the data is being developed and will be made available State-wide. The cost of these surveys is therefore absorbed within the budget allocation of individual Districts. It is anticipated that costs associated with the COAG survey for the 1999/2000 financial year will be approximately \$34 000.*

*Question: Hon N D Griffiths asked if there was a media unit within the Western Australia Police Service and what is the budget allocation for that activity.*

*Answer: The media unit is part of the Media and Public Affairs Directorate. The 1998/99 budget allocation for the Directorate is \$209,700. This allocation is for operating expenses, excluding salary costs.*

**PREMIER AND CABINET**

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether the State has taken any steps to enforce legal rights at any time in relation to the use of knowledge acquired by former government employees.*

*Answer:* Any action taken in this regard would be instigated by individual agencies. Hence it is not possible for the Ministry to confirm whether this action has been taken.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether Peter Conran or Mike Groves were working in their positions in the six-month period ended 30 June 1998.*

*Answer:* It is confirmed that neither Peter Conran nor Mike Groves were working in their positions in the six-month period ended 30 June 1998.

*Question: Hon Ljiljana Ravlich asked whether Agriculture Western Australia would be breaching the Public Sector Management Act or any other Act by giving an instruction linking the clearance of leave to employees' performance.*

*Answer:* The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet has not instructed agencies to link the clearance of leave to employee performance. The Premier required agencies to reduce their leave liability by 10%, compared to the figures published in the 1998/99 Budget Papers, by the end of June 1999.

It is understood the matter the member is referring to involved a discrete number of staff within Agriculture Western Australia being advised that clearance of leave liability would be incorporated into individual performance appraisals.

Leave liability and staff performance appraisals are two separate matters. It is understood that Agriculture Western Australia later clarified that there was never any intention to link leave clearance with performance assessments. As such, it does not appear that any specific breach of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* has occurred.

It is suggested that any specific questions in relation to this matter should be directed to the Director General, Agriculture Western Australia for his response.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked:*

- (1) *What distinguishes a private consultant from the consultants who are currently in receipt of media summaries from the Government Media Office?*
- (2) *What is the organisation called "Central" which receives regular media summaries from the Government Media Office?*
- (3) *Why consultants are included on the list of people to whom the Government sends media summaries on a regular daily basis?*

*Answer:*

- (1),(3) As advised in Questions 892 and 1192, the practice is to provide monitoring services to all ministers' offices and to some government agencies upon request.
- (2) Central is not an organisation. It is the name used to describe the central storage location for all media summaries.

*Question: Hon Helen Hodgson asked for a breakdown of the estimated cost of \$4m for native title agreements infrastructure.*

*Answer:*

1999/00 -	\$ 550 000
2000/01 -	\$ 650 000
2001/02 -	\$1 150 000
2002/03 -	\$1 650 000

*Question: Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked whether it was possible to provide aggregated costs across government of representing the State's interests in native title processes.*

*Answer: The figures are as follows:*

NATIVE TITLE EXPENDITURE (as at 25 May 1999)

	1993-4	1994-5	1995-6	1996-7	1997-8	1998-9 (to date)	TOTAL
Office of Traditional Land Use	0.69	0.28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.97
Dept of Minerals and Energy	n/a	0.24	1.6	2.48	2.83	2.62	9.77
Dept of Land Administration	0.52	0.47	0.99	1.50	1.82	1.52	6.82
Crown Solicitor's Office	0.73	0.75	1.87	2.32	3.96	1.84	11.47
Native Title and Strategic Issues, Premier and Cabinet	1.39	0.57	0.98	0.76	0.69	0.76	5.15
Other	0.30	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.71	0.73	2.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>7.41</b>	<b>7.47</b>	<b>36.93</b>	

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked for information on each expenditure under those five categories that is over \$20 000 and a more detailed breakdown of payments to West Coast Field Services.*

*Answer: Details of payments over \$20 000 are:*

Organisation	Amount	Description
Salmat	\$41 126	Distribution of budget pamphlets throughout WA
West Coast Field Services	\$91 000	Attitude Monitoring Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 1998
West Coast Field Services	\$91 000	Attitude Monitoring Survey 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 1998
Swan Broadcasters	\$23 862	Production of interactive CD ROM promoting features of WA, eg, mining, tourism

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether it is possible to have tabled for the Committee the results of the research on native title and Wik that was carried out by AMR Quantum Harris.*

*Answer: The Premier has indicated that he will table the native title research performed by AMR Quantum Harris.*

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether it was possible to table the internal directory of the ministerial officers who are associated with the Cabinet.*

*Answer: The internal telephone directory is a confidential listing of contact numbers for relevant persons, prepared for the convenience of Ministers. Ministerial officers can be contacted through listed numbers.*

*Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked to be provided with a list of all appointments and reappointments for Beryl Morgan, the President of the Shire of Busselton, the name of the position, and the remuneration?.*

*Answer: Cr Beryl Morgan has been appointed to the following boards which received endorsement through the Cabinet process:*

- (1) South West Development Commission as a member from July 1997 for a term of three years. Approved remuneration of \$186 per day. Cr Morgan resigned in September 1998.
- (2) Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Advisory Committee as a member to 30 June 1999. Approved remuneration of \$131 per day.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked why the full-time equivalents on Page 1124 are estimated to rise by two to 78, what are the extra positions that make up this increase, and what will be the level of pay for these positions. In reference to the community's level of awareness of centenary initiatives, by what method is it intended to raise the Western Australian community's level of awareness and what is the anticipated cost of achieving that outcome?*

*Answer:* The increase by two FTEs in Output One for 1999/00 reflects the expected return to approved FTE levels following understaffing by one FTE in both the European Office and Premier's Office during the 1998/99 year.

The focus on the Centenary of Federation awareness program has been on building networks particularly in regional Western Australia, visiting community centres, holding promotional displays at shopping centres and major regional activities, and generally providing information about the State program and the progression of the WA 2001 Community Centenary Project assisting community based celebratory activities.

The National Council Communications Action Plan came into effect in early 1999. Advertising in magazines and on billboards has commenced in the first half of 1999 and is to be expanded to public transport and aircraft, in cinemas, and to television at a later stage. The opportunity will be created for the promotion of particular programs and activities such as the announcement of a high profile event in the print media.

The estimated cost of the Centenary of Federation Unit (excluding grants) for 1999/00 is \$577 000. The direct cost budgeted for the awareness program in 1999/00 is \$83 000.

## TOURISM COMMISSION

*Question:* Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked what the estimated financial returns to the State are for Rally Australia, the Heineken Classic and the Hopman Cup.

*Answer:* The projected economic impact of these events for 1999/2000 is as follows:

	\$m
Rally Australia	16
Heineken Classic	5
Hopman Cup	1

NB: the projection from Hopman Cup was developed prior to receiving the research for 1998/99 below.  
The estimated economic impact of these events in 1998/99, based on research completed, was:

	<u>\$m</u>
Rally Australia	21.2
Heineken Classic	7.1
Hopman Cup	5.6

*Question:* Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked if the West Australian was the only newspaper in which advertisements were placed calling for expressions of interest in providing advertising agency services to the WATC. If so, what policy led to using only one newspaper.

*Answer:* Advertisements were placed in the West Australian Saturday editions of 3<sup>RD</sup> and 10<sup>TH</sup> April 1999. The availability of the Tender was also listed on the CAMS website for the period of its invitation. Additionally, all 30 companies accredited on CAMS contract 110697 as creative advertising service providers were individually advised of tender availability. By advertising, in addition to accessing the CAMS contract, the WATC has gone further than was required under the CAMS panel contract process. State Supply Commission advertising policy, under open and effective competition, requires advertising in a newspaper with state wide circulation.

*Question:* Hon Norm Kelly, referred to page 29 of the Annual Report of the Western Australian Tourism Commission, which indicated that the estimated economic impact for events had trebled from \$11 million in 1996/97 to \$28.8 million in 1997/98. He asked how those figures were calculated and what was the basis of those calculations.

*Answer:* The figure the honourable member quotes of \$11million is in fact the TARGET for the year 97/98. It is not the figure for 96/97. The reason the actual value exceeds the target is the fact that in that year EventsCorp secured the Heineken Classic golfing event for a further four years. The value of that contract in terms of economic impact is \$7million per year. The calculation in this particular case forms an integral part of the feasibility study and is based on actual independent economic research conducted on the 1997 Heineken Classic event.

The \$28.8 million in estimated impact from bids from 1997/98 is based on:

	<u>\$m</u>
Rugby Test (Australia v South Africa)	0.8
Heineken Classic (4 year contract) \$7 million per year	28.0
	<u>28.8</u>

It might be interesting to note that the estimate for the economic impact of the Australia versus South Africa rugby test match was based on calculations made within EventsCorp. This was difficult since it was the first time an international rugby union test match was held in Perth. It proved to be extremely conservative because the event itself was independently researched and in fact injected \$8.4million into the State's economy.

*Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked what research has been done to reach the conclusion that the Perth Convention Centre is expected to generate \$2.2b in revenue in the first 10 years and create 600 full-time and part-time jobs.*

*Answer:* The Minister responded that a study was done by Pannell Kerr Forster Consulting Pty Ltd in the early 1990s. This referred to the Reports "A Feasibility Study to Determine the Viability of a Dedicated Convention and Exhibition Centre for Perth, Western Australia", prepared by Pannell Kerr Forster Consulting Pty Ltd in 1994 and a subsequent update "Dedicated Convention Exhibition Centre Perth Feasibility Update", prepared by Tourism Co-ordinates. Copies of these reports are available in the Parliamentary library. Alternatively, copies can be forwarded by the WATC.

## TRANSPORT

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: I refer to output measures at page 1444 in reference to bus service-passenger-place-kilometres. I note in the full-page taxpayer funded advertisement in the West Australian on Thursday that you claim to have increased bus services by 21 per cent or some 7 million kilometres.*

- (a) *Does it take into account services that have been abandoned?*
- (b) *Over what period has the 21 per cent increase occurred?*
- (c) *The costs involved in placing that advertisement in the West Australian including all costs associated with the advertising agent as well as any other costs associated with the placement of that advertisement."*

*Answer:*

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Between September 1995 and the present.
- (c) The portion of the page used for the Minister for Transport's open letter cost \$4,550.00 inclusive of agency fees and charges.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: There is no mention of bus patronage levels in the performance indicators, yet that same advertisement to which I have referred says that there are now more than 46 million boardings on Transperth buses each year. Can the minister confirm how many boardings there were on Transperth buses for 1997-98?*

*Answer:* 46.7 million bus boardings.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: Re; Funds for airstrip on the Dampier and Peninsular, when will work on the airstrip be completed and what will be the total state government contribution?*

*Answer:* It is expected that sealing and runway lighting for the airstrip at Lombadina will be completed by October 1999. The total State Government contribution is \$500,000 of which Aboriginal Affairs Department is contributing \$250,000 and Transport \$250,000 through the Regional Airport Development Scheme.

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: On page 1457 it is said that 130 new buses will be introduced into the Transperth system by the end of the financial year. In the advertisement to which we earlier referred I notice that you are anticipating that by the end of December, 80 of the 840 new buses ordered will be on the road. Do you accept that the number of buses it is claimed will be on the roads in comparison with the number claimed previously is effectively becoming a movable feast? In April 1998 the claim was that 1333 buses would be purchased in the next financial year and that 60 would be provided thereafter, which meant that in the first two financial years of the program we would see 193 new buses. It appears that this has been downgraded to a claim of 80 buses in the first 18 months. Are you in a position to provide us with the following precise information:*

- (a) the number of new buses that have been provided thus far;*
- (b) the number that have been manufactured in the eastern States;*
- (c) the number manufactured in Western Australia; and*
- (d) the total order that can be expected by the end of June 2000?*

*Answer:*

- (a) Seven buses in service.
- (b) All buses delivered have been manufactured in Melbourne.
- (c) Presently there are 20 buses in various stages of assembly in the Malaga facility. The first completed bus is expected by the end of June.
- (d) Total number of buses by June 2000 will be 153.

*Question: Hon Ken Travers asked: Will any increase in wage costs for bus drivers employed by the private bus operators be met by the operators or will they be able to claim extra funding from the government to meet these costs under their contracts?*

*Answer:* The Contractor may request a special review due to award wage increases from National or State wage decisions of the Australian or Western Australian Industrial Relations Commissions within one (1) month of such charges being applied. Increases sought as a result of a National or State across the board determination shall be limited to the direct effect of that decision.

For agreements reached outside Industrial Relations Commission arbitration, such as EBAs, WPAs or Enterprise Agreements the level of reimbursement is limited to the level of wage increase allowable under the Transport Workers (Passenger Vehicle) Award 1984 (Part III Victoria) enterprise bargaining agreement to which 700 employer organisations are party to.

## **TREASURY**

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked how many public sector employees will be affected by the current state wage case.*

*Answer:* If the West Australian Industrial Relations Commission gives effect to the April 1999 National Wage decision, 0.8% of the State public sector workforce, or approximately 640 persons (on a full time equivalent basis), would be directly affected. The remaining 99.2% are on some form of over-award agreement.

*Question: Hon Kim Chance asked for an indication of the global cost of the increase, over the next few years, in lease rentals for vehicles leased under the State's fleet leasing contract.*

*Answer:* The total estimated lease costs for the current year and three forward years are:

1998/99	\$25.75 m.
1999/2000	\$38.58 m.
2000/2001	\$45.66 m.
2001/2002	\$46.58 m.

The above figures are based on current rental levels, as applying from December 1998, and include the additional cost recovery charges (for costs formerly borne by CAMS and State Supply Commission) as from May 1999. The rental adjustments phase in over about two years because the new rentals apply only as vehicles are replaced and new vehicles enter the transaction. The figures are for the leased fleet as a whole, including the fleets of self-funding agencies outside the Consolidated Fund.

## WESTRAIL

*Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked: How much does Westrail pay in diesel excise for its rail operation?*

*Answer:*

Diesel excise paid is of the order of \$16 million

Rebate received is of the order of                      \$1.5 million

Net diesel excise paid is of the order of              \$14.5 million

*Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: On page 1457 the capital works program makes various references to passenger rail -*

- (a) How many passenger railcar sets have been purchased since March 1993 for the urban passenger network?*
- (b) What has been the total cost of those purchases?*
- (c) In view of the massive overcrowding at peak hour services is there any plan or allocation of funds to purchase more passenger rail car sets in the capital works budget? If yes, have these been ordered, and what is the timetable for delivery; and, if not, why not?*

*Answer:*

- (a) Five two-car trains, which were introduced into service earlier this year.*
- (b) \$34.2 million.*
- (c) It is accepted that peak hour services are well patronised; however, there is not massive overcrowding of trains.*

There are no present plans to purchase new rollingstock. Earlier this year Westrail introduced an additional five two-car trains to meet the higher than expected patronage levels resulting from the popularity of the electric train service.

In conjunction with the introduction of the additional trains, timetables were adjusted to meet preferred demand.

Westrail is utilising its total available railcar fleet to operate the morning and afternoon peak services. While there are no further railcars available to operate additional services during peak periods, Westrail is re-examining its mix of two-car and four-car trains in an endeavour to further improve their effective utilisation.

Also, Westrail has been trialing a train with longitudinal seating which has proved successful in easing congestion during peak loading times. With the loss of only four seats, the modification has created significantly more standing room by encouraging people to move down the aisle and away from the doorway area.

Based on the success of the trial, Westrail intends to modify around sixteen of its two-car trains to longitudinal seating, predominantly for use during peak travel periods.

*Question: Hon Ken Travers asked: The question relates to the construction of the Hepburn Avenue station on the northern suburbs railway line, which is mentioned at page 632, works in progress, for the Western Australian Government Railways Commission.*

- (a) When will the Hepburn Avenue railway station be completed?*

- (b) *Why was the decision made to build that as a split-platform station and not a single-platform station, when all international experience is that single-platform stations are safer?*
- (c) *Will that station be staffed?*
- (d) *If the decision to build that station as a split-platform station was made because of cost, what extra cost would be involved in making it a single-platform station?*
- (e) *Was the Minister advised of the safety issues involved before he signed off on this station being a split-platform station, because it appears that he was not advised?"*

*Answer:*

- (a) Construction is anticipated to be completed in mid 2000.
  - (b) A single platform would require both of the railway tracks to be realigned out towards the freeway. However, the proposed location for the station is in a narrow portion of the freeway/railway reserve with the result that the provision of a single platform is not practically achievable.
  - (c) No.
  - (d) Not applicable – see response to (b) above.
  - (e) There is no known difference in safety.
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