



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
1998

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10 March 1998

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

HON JOHN HARMAN

Condolence Motion

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.02 pm]: I move -

That this House record its sincere regret at the death of Hon John Harman, and tender its deep sympathy to his family.

John Harman was born at Bassendean on 22 March 1932, and was educated at the York Convent, St Patrick's Boys School and St Charles Seminary. Mr Harman joined the Public Service as a junior clerk in the Lands and Surveys Department in 1950. He later joined the Native Welfare Department and was there from 1952 to 1968, serving at Broome, Derby, Port Hedland, Kellerberrin, Kalgoorlie and Perth.

Mr Harman became a member of the Australian Labor Party in 1960 and was first elected as member for Maylands in March 1968. He remained as member for Maylands for the next 18 years, until February 1986. During his maiden speech he concentrated, as one would expect from his background, on Aboriginal issues and the question of land rights for Aborigines. He also referred to the question of housing and land prices and the federal pastoral award.

Mr Harman was government Whip from 1971 to 1973, and Minister for Labour, Immigration, Prices Control, and Consumer Protection from 1973 to 1974. He was elected Speaker of this Legislative Assembly in 1983, and served in that office until his retirement in 1986. He served as a member and later chairman of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee. Mr Harman was a member of the honorary royal commission inquiring into the marketing and distribution of beef and sheep meat products between 1975 and 1976, and deputy chairman of a select committee inquiring into the offices of profit of members of Parliament and members' contracts with the Crown from 1980 to 1982.

I have fond memories of John Harman when he was Speaker of this House from 1983 to 1986. He was a cheerful Speaker and did his job well at a time when the Labor Party had come into government after a considerable period in opposition. Interestingly, I probably had more to do with John Harman after he retired from this Parliament because he then took a fairly active role in the corporate world. I had the privilege of opening a number of property developments with which he was associated. Those property developments have been successful in various parts of the State. Also, since coming to government five years ago, I have had much to do with his son Graeme, who is a very good officer working with the Minister for Transport. Of course, he must be a good officer to work with the Minister for Transport, who keeps him very busy! I have had more to do with John and his family since John left Parliament.

John is survived by his brother Frank and his sons, Douglas, Russell and Graeme. I extend to them the sympathies of the members of the Government. It was an honour and privilege to attend his burial service last week.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.06 pm]: I second the motion moved by the Premier. John Harman certainly earned the admiration and respect of all those he met, whether in his long career as a public servant from 1950 to 1968, as a member of Parliament from 1968 to 1986, or as a businessman from 1986 to his death just over a week ago. John was very much a man of his State, having worked as a field officer in the then Native Welfare Department in Broome, Derby, Port Hedland, Kellerberrin, and Kalgoorlie, as well as Perth.

Like so many Labor politicians of his generation, John's father was a railwayman with a deep interest in politics. John joined the Labor Party in 1960 and was a member of the Maylands branch when he was elected the member for Maylands in 1968. As member for Maylands, John was active in and a supporter of a range of community organisations. As his brother Frank said in the eulogy he gave last week, John's passions were his family, the Church, the Labor Party and sport. Frank told us a good story about when they were boys and the radio was turned on at 10.30 each Saturday morning in Sydney to hear the first race at Randwick. This rooted John's politics in the community and gave him a strong sense of social justice and social service.

For 12 months from May 1973 to April 1974 John was the Minister for Labour, Immigration, Prices Control, and Consumer Protection in the Tonkin Labor Government. He had to wait another nine years before Labor was elected to office again, and for its first term he was elected Speaker of this Assembly - a post he filled with distinction.

On retiring from politics John was a company director and businessman who saw the need to forge new links with

Asia. He was often seen at Parliament House sharing a drink and a story with his former colleagues. He often chatted to me about the political situation and how it was going. He was always most encouraging and helpful, a true gentleman and a committed Labor person to the end. Our sympathies go to his family on their sad loss.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [2.09 pm]: On behalf of the National Party, I support the comments made by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition with respect to the late John Harman. As those who have read the history of John Harman will be aware, he was a traditional Australian Labor Party member of the old school. However, he was not so firmly entrenched in the old school that he could not act as an intermediary on many occasions between the old school and the new young Turks who took over the ALP in the early 1980s. For that reason I think the ALP determined that he should be appointed Speaker because in a broader sense in that capacity he could balance all the different issues which came before him by acting as an intermediary between the two schools in the ALP at the time. I think he was able to do that particularly well. The Premier talked about the late Mr Harman being a cheerful Speaker. Without doubt, no matter how much pressure was imposed on him he always sought resolution so that both parties could find some accord, albeit perhaps begrudgingly, with his decisions. He made a significant contribution to this Parliament as a member of Parliament and as a Minister, as the Leader of the Opposition said, particularly on issues associated with social justice and, finally, as the Speaker.

Even after that he remained active in pursuing some of his own goals. On behalf of the National Party I extend condolences to his family.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [2.10 pm]: It was not until after I became the member for Maylands that I got to know John Harman. I am very glad I did; it was a privilege to know him. It is a tribute to the man that he was that at the last election he pounded the pavements for me. This was more than a decade after he had left Parliament; indeed, 28 years after he was elected. He is still held in high esteem in my electorate.

A while ago he dropped into my office. The telephones were ringing and someone needed attention at the front of the office; it was a mad house. Out of the corner of my eye I saw him pick up the telephone. I heard him say, "John Harman speaking." I was wishing he had said, "Member for Maylands speaking." However, it did not matter; the person knew John and was delighted that he was in my office. I think I gained from John Harman being in my office. It was a vote of confidence in me.

John is still remembered in Maylands for his community involvement and his commitment to the area. Perhaps most of all he is remembered as patron of a large number of sporting groups. On behalf of the people in the electorate of Maylands I extend my deepest sympathy to his sons, Graeme, Doug and Russell, his brother Frank and all his other family and friends.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [2.12 pm]: I knew John Harman only briefly as a politician but much more after he left politics when he was the Chairman and I was the Deputy Chairman of the Western Australian National Bicentennial Authority. He was a warm companion on our mutual excursions around the State encouraging people to become involved with that cause. He was a vigorous and energetic worker in persuading people to take seriously the bicentennial of Australia. He was also later a splendid and encouraging mentor to me as a candidate and a new member of Parliament. I will always be grateful for that.

I have an odd habit of visiting church graveyards here and when I travel out of the State. I once saw an epitaph in a churchyard, I think in France, on which it simply said of the person interred there, "He was a fine fellow." That was certainly the feeling I had about John Harman: A very hard working, serious man but a man who enjoyed companionship and who was a very good friend. I am very pleased to have known him and I extend my deepest sympathy to members of his family.

MR GRILL (Eyre) [2.14 pm]: I knew John Harman for many years and I am honoured to say that he was a friend of mine. As other members indicated, he came from a traditional Labor family. In many ways he was as traditional a Labor person as one could find. In the fine eulogy that his brother Frank delivered at the church the other day he mentioned that John had three abiding passions: Sport, the Australian Labor Party and the Church. However, he had a fourth passion and that was gardening. One could hardly talk to John in his later years without his talking about his garden.

My memories of John are of a decent and compassionate human being who was always reasonable and fair. He carried out his job as Speaker with fairness, dignity and respect for everyone in the Chamber.

He was a good friend to many people, and he was a good friend of mine. He was a good father and a very good husband. He suffered when he lost his wife, Gwen, to an illness several years ago. Sadly, he lost a daughter earlier in life - a traumatic event for him which I remember well. His son, Graeme, to whom the Premier referred as a fine government officer, worked for me for several years when I was in the Ministry. He was a very good officer. The Harman family, including John's brother Frank, have made a fine contribution to public life in Western Australia.

MR BRIDGE (Kimberley) [2.16 pm]: Sharing in this motion gives me the opportunity to express to the family of the late John Harman the sympathy of this Parliament, me and my family. I do so with a great deal of feeling because the time we shared with the late John Harman showed him to be a very good bloke and above all a great Australian.

Those qualities led him to fight for this country almost on a daily basis. We were recently confronted with the departure of our troops assigned to the war zone overseas. It was an important day on which we paid a lot of attention to that departure. At the time I said that individual Australians fight a war on behalf of their country every day of their lives by endeavouring to uphold the integrity of the nation and believing in the country's future and longevity. John Harman was such an individual. That was how he presented himself to the public of Australia, particularly through work in Parliament.

It was in that area that I found him to be a great friend. He came from a slightly different school of politics from the one in which I am involved today. It was a better school. When I came into this place 18 years ago I felt profoundly proud that I could enter an institution in which I could do something for my country. That profound belief was shared by the people of that era. We had a sense of responsibility, a measure of dedication and a duty to the tasks before us. However, we are frittering away those opportunities at present. As we think of the late John Harman I hope we will respect his time with us and that it will remind us of an era in this Parliament during which such responsibility existed.

He was my friend and great buddy who often shared with me Henry Lawson's poems. One song which John particularly liked, and which he often asked me to sing, was called "Leave him in the long yard". I hope the late John Harman can hear me say today, "Rest in peace John, and I hope you are in the long yard."

DR HAMES (Yokine - Minister for Housing) [2.20 pm]: I want to speak briefly about John, as much on behalf of people within my electorate as on my own behalf. It has not been mentioned in the speakers' contributions to this motion that one of John's passions was bowling. John was a keen bowler and a member of Yokine Bowling Club, which is in my electorate, and members of his family will be pleased to know that a strong turnout from that bowling club attended his funeral. Many of my patients were within John's electorate, and although I did not know John in those early days, I often heard very favourable comments about him and his work, and he certainly had enormous respect within the community when I was a general practitioner.

I did not know John until after he had left the Parliament and early in my time in the Parliament when we joined together as members of the parliamentary sports club to go to Queensland to play in the parliamentary lawn bowls team. That was my first year away to play with that team. I played lead and John played third, and he saved us on many occasions. At that time, John was very ill because he had just had chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer, yet he did a superb job and played a top game. We won that tournament, as demonstrated by the trophy in the other room, and we came second the following year.

We were very proud recently when John organised for the parliamentary bowling team to come to Yokine, and I recently had a beer with John and talked to him about various aspects of politics and life in general. We became good friends over that time. He did not ever hold against me the fact that I was a Liberal, and I hope that he respected me as much as I respected him. The one thing that I am sure we can all say about John is that he was an absolute gentleman.

Question passed, members standing.

BILLS (2) - APPROPRIATIONS

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills -

1. School Education Bill.
2. Agricultural Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill.

BILLS (20) - ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Bill.
2. Family Court Bill.
3. Public Notaries Amendment Bill.
4. Wills Amendment Bill.

5. Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill.
6. Sunday Observance Laws Amendment and Repeal Bill.
7. Acts Amendment and Repeal (Family Court) Bill.
8. Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill (No 3).
9. Commercial Arbitration Amendment Bill.
10. Maritime Archaeology Amendment Bill.
11. Pay-roll Tax Amendment Bill.
12. Road Traffic Amendment Bill.
13. Revenue Laws Amendment (Assessment) Bill (No 2).
14. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 3).
15. Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline Bill.
16. Interpretation Amendment Bill.
17. Fuel Suppliers Licensing and Diesel Subsidies Bill.
18. Acts Amendment (Franchise Fees) Bill.
19. Statutes (Repeal and Minor Amendments) Bill.
20. Osteopaths Bill.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 3)

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

WESFI FACTORY SITE ZONING - PETITION

Dr Gallop (Leader of the Opposition) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 335 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned petitioners condemn the Minister for Planning for ignoring the wishes of the local community and Town of Victoria in relation to the zoning of the Wesfi factory site and call on the State Government to review and reconsider his decision.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 131.]

ABORTION REFORM - PETITION

Ms Warnock presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 1 103 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned petitioners call for repeal of Section 199, 200 and 201 of the W.A. Criminal Code. We urge you to amend the law to reflect the view that the decision to terminate a pregnancy is one for the woman in consultation with her doctor.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 132.]

POLICE ACADEMY - PETITION

Mr Baker presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 552 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents and taxpayers of the Joondalup region, demand that the WA Police Service has the best police academy in Australia and that the new police academy be:

- . co-located with two of WA's best tertiary education institutions
- . located in close proximity to WA's most modern and best equipped Public & Private Hospital
- . located in a thriving regional City centre
- . located in Australia's fastest growing region
- . located in an area having excellent bus, rail and vehicular transport systems
- . located in an area having world class civic, cultural and recreational facilities

And therefore be located in Joondalup and not in Midland or Murdoch.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 133.]

RIGHT TURN SIGNAL, SHEPPERTON ROAD - PETITION

Dr Gallop presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 1 070 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned petitioners call on the State Government to provide a right turn signal for traffic exiting Shepperton Road into Mint Street, East Victoria Park.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 134.]

BULLSBROOK NEIGHBOUR CENTRE - PETITION

Mrs van de Klashorst presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 176 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned people of Western Australia ask that the Family and Children Services Funding, for the Bullsbrook Neighbourhood Centre, not be withdrawn, but be continued, for the benefit of the community of Bullsbrook and surrounding areas.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 135.]

TELEVISION OF PARLIAMENT - STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I have received requests from television stations to have access to the sound and vision from the footage of the cameras of the proposed second reading speech following the introduction of an abortion Bill today, and I have acceded to that request.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

On motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House), resolved with an absolute majority -

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to allow the Criminal Code Amendment Bill to be introduced without notice and to proceed up to and including the motion for the second reading at this sitting.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [2.33 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is presented by the Government, but is not strictly speaking a government Bill. It is presented in order to permit the House to discuss and decide upon the issue of abortion and provide a method, working within the standing orders, that allows the various concepts for an appropriate law relating to abortion to be discussed and voted upon without the necessity for amendments that require striking out and substituting alternative views. Of course, such amendments can be made, but it is hoped that the principal alternatives are set out and that, acknowledging that a Criminal Code is not an appropriate place for regulation and prescription of detail, the main thrust and prohibition of the law are set out.

Background: The Criminal Code has since its first enactment contained provisions relating specifically to abortion. These are sections 199, 200 and 201. They deal respectively with the person procuring the miscarriage, the woman whose miscarriage is procured and the supplying of things to procure the miscarriage.

Section 259 provides a general criminal exception to persons performing surgical operations in good faith and with reasonable care and skill, which operations would otherwise constitute grievous bodily harm. This section contains a specific reference to operations upon an unborn child.

These exceptions mitigate the general provisions relating to manslaughter - sections 280 and 287 - and of occasioning grievous bodily harm - sections 294, 297, 300 and 306 - which can or might apply to those persons procuring abortions. If a surgical procedure is carried out and causes grievous bodily harm or death, grievous bodily harm or manslaughter charges could be brought if the procedure is not within the exceptions created by section 259 of the code.

For the past 20 years, the medical profession has proceeded on the basis that the provisions relating to abortion are capable of further qualification due to judicial interpretation.

In 1969, *Menhennitt J in R v Davidson* [1969] VR 667 held the equivalent Victorian provisions which provide -

Whosoever . . . within intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman whether she is or is not with child unlawfully administers to her or causes to be taken by her any poison or other noxious thing, or unlawfully uses any instrument or other means with the like intent, shall be guilty of a felony, . . .

"Unlawfully" was not statutorily defined. On the face of it, this provision is almost identical to that applying in Western Australia. The Western Australian Criminal Code provides in section 199 -

Any person who with intent to procure the miscarriage of a woman, whether she is or is not with child, unlawfully administers to her or causes her to take any poison or other noxious thing, or uses any force of any kind, or uses any other means whatever, is guilty of a crime.

However, section 259 of the code provides a further excuse -

A person is not criminally responsible for performing, in good faith and with reasonable care and skill, a surgical operation upon any person for his benefit, or upon an unborn child for the preservation of the mother's life . . .

The provisions are sufficiently similar for them to be interpreted similarly, although Victorian cases are only persuasive authority, not binding on Western Australian courts. The fact that the code also has a defence in section 259 should not, as a matter of judicial interpretation, lead to the section which creates the offence being interpreted with greater severity. It does not necessarily contain all the instances in which it is lawful.

It was therefore reasonable to assume that *Davidson* applied in Western Australia. District Court cases in Queensland, which has a near identical provision to Western Australia, held that *Davidson* applied there.

In New South Wales, in a case in the District Court of *R v Wald* (1972) 3 DCR 25 per Levine DCJ, this test was extended to take into account economic and social consequences upon a woman's health. This was adopted by Helsham CJ in *Eq in K v Minister for Youth and Community Services* [1982] 1 NSWLR 311 @ 318.

The Western Australian Supreme Court has not been called upon to interpret our law.

This year, prosecutions were commenced against two people under the Criminal Code provisions relating to abortion. The House cannot discuss those cases, but it is clear that the commencing of those prosecutions has caused serious unrest in the community and concern as to the proper interpretation of the code. It may take a considerable time before the matter is resolved in the courts and in the meantime there is a public health issue that requires settling - whichever way it is settled. It is for this reason the Government has put this Bill forward.

The Bill: In the normal way that Parliament operates, a proposition is put forward and if it is not acceptable, it is defeated or else new provisions are inserted with or without the deletion of existing provisions. This process is not well suited to the abortion debate because there is a wide range of views which overlap in part. It is possible for the extreme views of "abortion on demand" and "right to life" to combine to defeat by deletion a provision which takes the middle road, and for another coalition of views to defeat whatever median view is put up to replace it. It would be quite easy for the debate to be lost in the confusion of procedural motions and for a result to be unsatisfactory to a majority in the Parliament.

In an attempt to avoid this, this legislation has been drafted as a progression along a spectrum from a position of no change - defeat the Bill entirely; of accepting the Davidson test - accept paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of section 201A; of accepting the Levine test - accept paragraph (c); or of accepting abortion on demand - accept paragraph (d). Although there are an infinite number of gradations, these represent the major steps in the spectrum.

I hope this will provide an adequate framework for discussion. I refer to my earlier remarks, that although amendments can be made, the Criminal Code is not a place for minute prescriptive detail or regulation. The Bill has been designed so that it can easily be amended by mere deletion. Of course, other matters can be inserted but I hope in proposing such amendments that members will keep in mind the basic role of the code.

There is also a school of thought that the provisions should be removed from the Criminal Code altogether. It is in part a philosophical belief that the matter should not be contained in the Criminal Code at all, but the medical profession in addition see this as important in protecting themselves from professional negligence liability. This is in part an illusory difference from just accepting paragraph (d). Taking abortion out of the Criminal Code does not make a doctor's behaviour beyond the reach of the Criminal Code. Doctors would still be liable for criminal neglect which resulted in the death of the mother or which negated the defence in section 259 of the code. There is also the problem of persons who are not medical practitioners. It seems appropriate that their conduct is handled under the code.

Government members, including Cabinet members, and that includes me, will have a complete freedom as to how they vote on this Bill.

Although our views differ on what should be the law we do agree that what we seek is some certainty in the law. A failed Bill leaves us nowhere in the absence of a court ruling. For some 20 years, the medical profession has used or at least unquestioningly assumed a very wide interpretation of sections 199, 200 and 201.

The specific provisions of section 201A: The Bill seeks to add a new section 201A to the Criminal Code after section 201. It provides an excuse. It is not specifically related to the sections that it follows and would have general application. This is necessary if it is to prevent prosecutions for manslaughter or grievous bodily harm. There is no amendment to section 259 because it is in addition to it.

I will be requesting the House to give a direction to the Committee of the Whole when we reach that stage that the various paragraphs of subsection (3) be voted upon progressively.

Subsection (1) deals with the case of the person procuring the abortion. In order to bring himself or herself within the defence it is necessary for that person to be a medical practitioner and for the abortion to be carried out with reasonable care and skill and for it to be "justified". It is the definition of "justified" in subsection (3) which sets the rules for abortion in Western Australia.

Subsection (2) deals with the situation of the woman undergoing the abortion. Obviously she is unaffected by the care and skill shown by the medical practitioner but she is also required to use a medical practitioner if she wishes to use the defence. It would be possible to delete this reference. It is possible for a medical practitioner who is negligent to be liable for prosecution but for the woman not to be.

Subsection (3) contains the progression: Paragraphs (a) and (b) contain the Davidson test. It is still open to interpretation. I see paragraph (b) as extending to those terminations where a foetus is determined to have a serious genetic defect, for in most cases the requisite test of harm to the mother would be satisfied.

Paragraph (c) provides the Levine test as proposed by Judge Levine in the Wald case but expanded to include the words "personal, family,". Assuming that there were any genetic defects that were not within paragraph (b), they should be capable of being caught by paragraph (c).

Paragraph (d) allows abortion where there is informed consent. It is almost abortion on demand apart from the fact that informed consent is required.

Obviously, in all of these, the medical practitioner must be willing to carry out the procedure and satisfy himself or herself that the tests are met. Likewise, the woman must also be satisfied. It thus becomes a decision that must be made by the woman and her doctor together.

Subsection (4) provides for informed consent to be given in all cases where practicable. It is possible in an emergency situation for the medical practitioner not to be able to gain that consent.

In the case of persons not of sound mind the appointment of another person to give that consent will be required for paragraph (d) and would, I expect, be sought in other cases. This may require further legislation.

Paragraph (d) differs from the remainder in that informed consent is required in every case. Subsection (4) will need amending consequentially if any change takes place to subsection (3). Alternatively, the House may wish to delete subsection (4) and rely on the ordinary law to require informed consent except in the case of emergencies.

Subsection (5) defines informed consent. This also may be deleted and the ordinary law relied upon. It would be unwise to place any greater detail – partly because it would set up a regulatory mechanism within the Criminal Code and also because based on previous rulings in this House it may lead to the need for a message.

Consequences of abortion law: Many of the letters received by us in the course of this debate are from people who remember when abortions were mostly carried out by backyard abortionists. Their major concern is the harm caused to women who either died or suffered significantly from septicaemia. If the medical profession does not feel confident in the law so as to carry out abortions then women must either go to the eastern States or, if they are not able to afford to fly east, go to backyard abortionists. There is certainly a history in this State of illegal abortions being carried out before the cases which placed a different interpretation on the law.

The Public Health Association of Australia in its publication "The Regulation of Abortion in Australia: Public Health Perspectives with respect to the Health Impact of Criminal Codes on Abortion" has said -

The location of abortion within Criminal Codes has meant that the procedure has received little serious attention in health policy development, in planning and co-ordination of the delivery of services, with profound impact on the circumstances in which abortion occurs.

It is not clear that mere removal of abortion from the code would overcome these difficulties. On the other hand, it is not always to the benefit of anyone to have such a highly prescriptive law that it is easy to overlook some provision either in performance or in anticipation of what may be required by the legislation.

This is not an easy area in which to make decisions. Each member will have to listen to the arguments carefully and understand the consequence of the provisions. Although it is clear that there is a desire among the public to make abortion much more within the decision of the woman, there is also a belief that protections should be in place. Whether these protections, and if so which of them, should be enshrined in the legislation is not so clear.

Whether one sees the debate as a straightforward moral issue or alternatively as a health issue, no-one would suggest that it is a matter to be taken lightly. Whoever makes the final decision is the person who must live with it and face the consequences.

For the information of members, it is the Government's intention that the Minister for Health in his capacity as Minister representing the Attorney General should facilitate the passage of this Bill through the House. I commend the Bill to the House.

It is the Government's intention that debate on the Bill proceed from next Tuesday, and be conducted in government time and in full.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cunningham.

TABLED PAPERS - STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I have received a request from the Auditor General to amend the Report of the Auditor General - Public Sector Performance, Report No. 8, which was tabled in the House on 13 November 1997. An error occurred at page 69 under the heading "Findings - nature and extent of sponsorship in the Public Sector", in which it was incorrectly stated that the West Coast Eagles football team was sponsored by Western Power. Accordingly, under the provisions of Standing Order No 233, I advise the House that I have authorised the necessary correction to be made and erratum slips will be inserted in the tabled report and in copies held by the Bills and Papers Office.

I have also received a request from the Minister for Fair Trading to amend the annual report of the Ministry of Fair Trading, which was tabled in the House on 25 November 1997. Page 27 of the report states that 563 complaints were received by the Real Estate Industries Business Unit during 1996-97. The correct number of complaints was 486. Accordingly, under the provisions of standing order 233, I advise the House that I have authorised the necessary correction to be made.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM - STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE HOUSE

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [3.06 pm]: Cabinet has approved a program of legislation for introduction in the 1998 autumn sittings of Parliament. This outline, which I will table in the House today, provides members with an overview of the legislative program the Government wishes to be dealt with over the course of the autumn sittings and Bills that it would like progressed and passed before the end of the financial year. This list should be regarded as indicative only, as other legislation may be introduced as the need arises. I table the document titled "Legislation proposed for introduction in the 1998 autumn sittings".

[See paper No 1222.]

SALE OF DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Minister for Energy) [3.07 pm]: I wish to inform the House of the progress that the Government has made with the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline.

In July 1996, Cabinet decided to proceed with the pipeline sale and authorised the establishment of the gas pipeline sale steering committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Ian Baker. In September 1996, the committee called for preliminary registrations of interest from the private sector. It also called for expressions of interest from strategic consultants who would assist the committee with the sale process.

The committee made a recommendation to me in May 1997 that the Government should call for expressions of interest for the purchase of 100 per cent of the pipeline, and Cabinet authorised the committee to proceed on that basis. In July 1997, registrations of interest in purchasing the pipeline were sought. This invitation to register interest was highly successful, with over 40 companies and consortia seeking registration.

The non-binding bids were lodged by 24 October 1997 and a recommendation was made to Government to proceed further with a short list of five groups. Those short listed bidders were: Australian Gas Light Co-CMS Energy Corporation; Epic Energy Australia; Nova Gas-Unisuper-Bankers Trust; Wesfarmers Energy-Williams International; and PG and E Gas Transmission.

During the months leading up to the lodging of final bids, two of the short listed bidders - PG and E Gas Transmission and Wesfarmers-Williams - chose to withdraw from the process.

Immediately following the closing of bids, the committee, its working group, other consultants and other relevant government officers set about a detailed assessment of the three remaining bids.

On Monday, 2 March 1998, the committee was able to make the recommendation to Government that it accept a bid lodged by Epic Energy Australia. Epic Energy Australia is owned by three Australian shareholders who hold between them a one-third share, and two major American pipeline companies - El Paso and CNG - each with one third. The American companies bring to this group vast experience in owning, operating and managing gas pipelines with ownership of over 22 000km of pipeline. This recommendation brought to a close the exhaustive and successful process of finding a preferred buyer for the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline. Indeed, this sale is the largest and most successful privatisation undertaken in the State's history. The State will receive \$2 407m for the sale of 100 per cent of the pipeline.

The Government is now working with the Epic Energy group to ensure the smooth transition of the pipeline into private hands and expects this process to be completed and final settlement to occur by the end of March. Significantly for Western Australia, the pipeline easement will remain in public ownership and will be widened from 30 metres to 100 metres to accommodate future pipeline operators. Under the transition access regime, pipeline tariffs will fall by approximately 20 per cent to \$1 per gigajoule by the year 2000 and from the year 2000 the National Access Code will apply to tariffs on this pipeline. Epic Energy Australia has also made a commitment to spend up to \$874m through to the year 2007 in order to double the capacity of the pipeline to meet the potential growth in demand for gas in the mid west and south west of the State. One hundred and thirty-three current employees of AlintaGas who work on the pipeline have decided to move to the new owner and this will ensure a high level of service is maintained.

As previously stated, I will provide a full and detailed report to Parliament once the transaction is concluded. Furthermore, I would like to put on record the Government's appreciation to all those who have been involved in the process of selling the pipeline and the companies which competed for its purchase.

In accordance with section 6(2) of the Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline Act 1997 a direction was given to the board of AlintaGas to sign the Asset Sale Agreement. It is a requirement that the text of that direction be laid before each House of Parliament and I table the Gas Pipeline Sale Process Direction 1998.

[See papers Nos 1223 and 1224.]

Mr BARNETT: In addition, Cabinet approved the Treasurer giving indemnities to the directors of AlintaGas for acts of the Gas Corporation, the board of directors of the Gas Corporation and the individual directors done in accordance with the direction given or purported to be given by the Minister under subsection 6(2) of the Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline Act, as the requirement to act in accordance with the Minister's direction varies from the normal performance of the directors' duties. I also table on behalf of the Treasurer a copy of the indemnities provided to the directors of AlintaGas.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1981

Statement by Minister for Family and Children's Services

MRS PARKER (Ballajura - Minister for Family and Children's Services) [3.13 pm]: I have pleasure in tabling the response of the Government to the interim report of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981.

The select committee was established by this House as a result of a motion moved by the member for Joondalup which was passed on 26 June 1997. It followed a number of shifts in the nature and seriousness of illicit drug problems since the release in October 1995 of the report of the Premier's Task Force on Drug Abuse. Included among these shifts were -

- an increase in the number of heroin related deaths in the first half of 1997;
- the growing availability of heroin;
- increased levels of drug related crime;
- significant reductions in commonwealth funding; and
- the changed and changing nature of effective drug law enforcement.

The interim report of the committee was laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 1997. Primarily, it addresses the committee's first term of reference, that is -

- . . . to inquire into and report upon the adequacy of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981, and associated state or federal legislation (and their inter-relationships), in achieving the objective of the detection, investigation, prosecution and sentencing of illicit drug dealers or traffickers in Western Australia and in particular, without derogating from the above, . . . to inquire into and report upon the efficacy of enacting or amending legislation so as to assist in attaining this objective.

- . . . and directed that relevant Ministers report to the Legislative Assembly within three months of the tabling of the report.

The Government is implacably opposed to drug abuse and commends the chairman and members of the select committee for their comprehensive and well researched report.

The proposals for reform are substantial and wide ranging. Given the seriousness of the drug problem in Australia and in particular in our own community, the Government is determined to take whatever legal and other action may be necessary to prevent and lessen the damaging impact of the abuse or use of illicit drugs. The Government through its agencies has given careful consideration to the recommendations of the report. With few exceptions they are supported. The response which I am tabling today includes a specific response to each of the recommendations.

The House will be reassured that action is already being or has been taken to address several of the matters identified by the select committee. In the case of some other issues, while acknowledging the merit of the recommendations and supporting them in principle, further examination of the most appropriate mechanism for implementation will be undertaken.

I look forward to receiving the final report of the committee on 21 May 1998.

[See paper No 1225.]

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, MIDLAND OFFICE

Statement by Minister for Family and Children's Services

MRS PARKER (Ballajura - Minister for Family and Children's Services) [3.17 pm]: This statement relates to the "Midland Case Management Inquiry: A Report of an Inquiry into the Management of a Case by the Midland District, Family and Children's Services; and Related Matters".

An independent inquiry was commissioned by the Director General of Family and Children's Services after the department's internal quality assurance mechanisms identified that the required standards of practice had not been met in this case. After senior staff had raised concerns about the handling of the case, the director general raised the matter with me and subsequently commissioned the inquiry on 8 September 1997. The inquiry examined the way in which the Midland office responded to information which indicated a concern about the care of a child. Members may be aware that a child of the family involved in this case subsequently died. The coroner found the cause of the child's death was sudden infant death syndrome. There is no suggestion that there is any link between the child's death and any action or inaction by the department or its staff. The purpose of this inquiry was to examine the way the department assessed and provided services to the family. The report has been depersonalised in accordance with legal advice and with the agreement of the authors.

It is clear that mistakes were made in the handling of this case. Practice guidelines clearly state that in the circumstances of this case a response was required within 24 hours. The report of the inquiry states, "It appears that individual failure to act as the systems require were the primary reason for lack of action in this case." These performance issues occurred in one of the work teams in the Midland office. In this context, the inquiry also closely considered the issue of workload. However, the report states that it was "... not able to find evidence to sustain the view that workload was the major contributing factor to the inaction in this case".

The inquiry found that "... the systems which existed in the Midland office were adequate". However, it did identify that there were some systems and process issues which the department needed to address. The nine recommendations made in the report have been accepted and implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

However, overall I would agree with the comments in the report that "... no amount of attention to systems can fully safeguard against the results of individual failures to act as required" and "we would agree that the best safeguard we can provide the public is through competent professionals exercising sound judgement and with systems which support rather than constrain them in doing this".

Advice has been received from both the department's senior adviser for social work services and the Public Sector Management Office. Having considered the explanations provided to him by the officers concerned, the director general has decided not to initiate action under section 81(2) of the Public Sector Management Act.

The fact that the inquiry was commissioned demonstrates the department's commitment to continuous improvement and identifying weaknesses in process or practice and its willingness to learn from those weaknesses. The Government and the community of Western Australia expect that services to families and children in this State are of the highest standard. As the Minister responsible, I will continue to seek confirmation and assurance from the director general that practice guidelines are complied with and that the professionalism of the staff is well supported by the department's senior management.

I table the Midland Case Management Inquiry report.

[See paper No 1226.]

[Questions without notice taken.]

PARLIAMENT HOUSE REORGANISATION

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Many members are aware that a reorganisation of administration is occurring in the Parliament. The principal aims of the reorganisation are to improve efficiency, to increase expertise in several areas, to provide a better coordination of ancillary services and to focus ancillary services more directly towards the Houses, the committees and members.

A major aspect of the reorganisation is the amalgamation of the joint areas of responsibility into one department. Heading up that department will be Mr Graeme Davy who has broad experience in a number of fields. He will commence work as Executive Manager, Parliamentary Services on 16 March this year.

An essential part of the reorganisation is the creation of a management executive committee. That Management

Executive Committee consists of the Presiding Officers, the Clerk of each House and the Executive Manager, Parliamentary Services. All major policy decisions will be made through that committee and will focus the delivery of services more closely on the Houses, committees and members. The vital role of that committee is to ensure the coordination of services, which has not been achieved until now, and to ensure all relevant parties are involved in the major policy and budgeting decisions. The significantly increased role of each of the Clerks will ensure coordination is better than has been possible until now.

A further aspect of the administration is the proposal to amalgamate the House, the Library and the Printing Committees into one committee - the Parliamentary Services Committee. That advisory committee will work in much the same way as does the Joint House Committee at the moment, but across a broader range of areas. A proposal to establish the Parliamentary Services Committee will be put to the Houses shortly.

Full integration of the joint departments will take place from 1 July 1998, but a de facto integration will occur as from 31 March 1998. A further statement will be made at an appropriate time.

RESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Today I received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following motion -

In relation to the resignation of the Director General of the Ministry of Justice this House condemns the Premier for his appalling lack of leadership in that he has tolerated a parade of deceit involving his chief of staff and/or the Attorney General thus undermining the credibility of the Government of Western Australia and calls upon him to explain his role in this affair before the upper House committee.

If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.57 pm]: I move the motion.

I begin my comments on this important matter by laying to rest once and for all the Government's view that the Byron resignation is just a minor matter that can be allowed to pass through to the wicket-keeper. That resignation is important for three major reasons. The first, of course, is that the resignation, in itself, has meant the much troubled Ministry of Justice is once again without leadership. I remind members that currently our prison system is facing major challenges. We see serious overcrowding in our prisons. We have deaths in custody that have led the Ombudsman to initiate an inquiry into the prisons system, and there is a health crisis in our prisons system, one that the Opposition spokesperson on justice matters, the member for Ashburton, has been raising consistently in this Parliament.

We have these major crises within the Ministry of Justice, but we do not have a director general of that department. Indeed, we have lost a director general who came to the position with an excellent reputation and who, even in the short time he was in that position, built up enormous respect. He was a senior court administrator in New South Wales and South Australia. He is the author of a leading legal text book on civil procedures. He is a qualified legal practitioner and a barrister of high standing and credibility who has been recognised nationally. He was sought by this Government to provide the leadership that this department so badly needed in the aftermath of the bungled amalgamation that saw the ministry come into existence. Currently we have a ministry with major problems and without any leadership. Responsibility for that vacuum must be established and accountability requirements applied. Everyone acknowledges the quality of Mr Byron, but he has left our system. Someone must be held to account for the loss of Mr Byron from his position as Director General of the Ministry of Justice.

The second reason this matter is of great importance is that it represents an insight into how Western Australia is being governed today. The picture that is revealed by the evidence that has come forward thus far is an ugly and an unpleasant one. That is not just for the public servants whose careers have been affected but also for our system of government generally and for the implications that has for the community of Western Australia. It is as if the importance of proper lines of management and accountability, so forcibly advocated by the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters and the Commission on Government, mean absolutely nothing to the Premier, his colleagues and his staff. The royal commission made it clear that proper lines of accountability with a proper separation of the political and administrative arms of government was necessary to govern properly.

The insight that we have been given by the evidence that has come forward following the resignation of Mr Byron indicates that it is chaotic at the centre of government in Western Australia. No clear lines of accountability exist. As a result, public servants in Western Australia today do not know where they stand with the Government. Whatever was said at the time of the passage of the Public Sector Management Act, the spirit and purpose of that Act is now being undermined on a continuing basis.

Thirdly, the resignation of Mr Byron has created a political problem for the Government which it has handled with the instincts of a Richard Nixon and the deftness of a Mal Colston. The Government's attempt to cover up is so transparent and so pathetic as to make even the most cynical of our media commentators sigh in disbelief. Western Australia has lost the Director General of the Ministry of Justice at a time when the ministry badly needs good leadership. We have had an insight into how the Government of Western Australia is operating today, and how that lines up with what the royal commission said was needed and the spirit and purpose of the Public Sector Management Act.

On top of that the Government tried to cover up what was occurring within that ministry. The Government did not get away with it this time, because of the integrity of Mr Byron. That is the one difference from so many other issues that has led to the facts coming out about what was going on.

All roads lead to the Premier and his lack of leadership and concern for basic principles of public administration and good government in Western Australia today. The Opposition will not accept the argument that this is not the main game, and we should let this issue pass and move on to the more substantial issues of government in Western Australia today. This is a major issue that is currently affecting the administration of one of our major departments of state. It is an insight into how the Western Australian Government is performing today. In the course of this issue being dealt with politically we have seen a major cover up by the Government of Western Australia.

Let us start with the involvement of the Premier in this affair, for which the Premier has yet to subject himself to scrutiny. I turn to the three page submission by the Premier to the Public Sector Standards Commission, which was asked to look into this affair. The Premier states that his first involvement came when his chief of staff, Mr Ian Fletcher, advised him that he had held discussions with the Minister for Justice about delays in the implementation of the Government's offender management program on 15 January 1998. Members should note that date. The Premier states that on that day Mr Fletcher recommended that the Premier speak to the Minister for Justice. That is strange, because Mr Byron's evidence to the upper House committee is that Mr Fletcher discussed the matter with him on 13 January and in so doing said that the Premier and the Attorney General had discussed the matter and decided that Paul Schapper should replace Kevin Payne.

I turn now to Mr Byron's detailed notes of his discussions with various members of the departments involved. Mr Byron's notes on a meeting he had with Ian Fletcher on 13 January 1998 state -

I asked Ian Fletcher if the Premier understood that the delays had not been caused by Kevin.

He is referring to Kevin Payne -

He said that the Premier did understand this and he said that he knew the delays had been caused by Peter Foss and that he was not making decisions. I asked Ian if he was telling me that the Attorney General had proposed this course of action and whether he was telling me this on his and the Premier's behalf. He said "Yes". He said that he was telling me what had been agreed between the Attorney and the Premier. He also said again that Peter Foss had "dug in his toes". He said that he becomes very determined when he digs in his toes and said that the same thing had occurred when he refused to work with David Grant. He would not back down and the Premier had to go along with him.

That discussion was on 13 January 1998. In his evidence to the upper House committee Mr Fletcher agreed that he had said to Mr Byron on 13 January that the Premier was concerned about delays and had spoken to the Minister for Justice. It would appear that we have the Premier's view as to when he raised the matter with the Minister and we have Mr Fletcher's view as to when that happened. Interestingly, Mr Fletcher's written submission to the Commission for Public Sector Standards makes no mention of a meeting with the Premier until 15 January. We have the Premier's account of what happened and two versions from Mr Fletcher, his chief of staff. We clearly do not have any certainty about who is telling the truth. We do know that the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Hon Peter Foss, thinks that Mr Ian Fletcher, the chief of staff of the Premier of this State, has a tendency to shoot his mouth off and is often indiscreet. One would hope that telling lies is not also part of the modus operandi of the Premier's chief of staff.

The only person who can clear up that matter is the Premier. The only way he can do that is to give evidence to the upper House committee. However, yet again, the Premier is missing in action. His silence is deafening. I was reminded of T.S. Eliot's poem "Macavity", the mystery cat. I will quote one part of Eliot's brilliant poem -

And when the Foreign Office finds a Treaty's gone astray,
 Or the Admiralty lose some plans and drawings by the way,
 There may be a scrap of paper in the hall or on the stair -
 But it's useless to investigate - Macavity's not there!
 And when the loss has been disclosed, the Secret Service say:
 "It must have been Macavity!" - but he's a mile away.

Our Premier is still a mile away. He still has not said anything about this fundamental issue, about the fact that his chief of staff has made statements that indicate that the Premier's submission to the Public Sector Standards Commission does not measure up to the facts of the matter. He still has not said whether his chief of staff is telling the truth in these matters. The time has come for the Premier to front up not only to the conflicting accounts of his involvement but also to the conflicts between the Attorney General and the Premier's chief of staff.

Let me remind members of the House what I am talking about. I am talking about a Legislative Council committee which has come into being to investigate certain matters. Giving evidence to a Legislative Council committee is a matter of great importance. Telling the truth to a Legislative Council committee is also a very important matter. Might I remind members opposite that just a few years ago the matter about which we are talking - that is, giving evidence to committees and inquiries - was regarded as a major issue of State, so major that the then Government decided to set up a royal commission.

Let us look at the standards that this Premier has set with his Attorney General and his chief of staff. According to Mr Byron, who kept detailed notes and whose credibility and integrity cannot be questioned in any way, Mr Fletcher, the chief of staff of the Premier of Western Australia, whose credibility must be a major concern for the Government, said that the reason for Mr Payne's removal was that the Attorney General insisted that he must go. Mr Fletcher told Mr Byron that the Attorney General had dug his toes in and that the Premier would not oppose him. He said that this was what had been agreed between the Premier and the Attorney General. Furthermore, Mr Byron's record showed that Mr Fletcher assured him he was acting on behalf of the Premier and the Attorney General. Not only did Mr Byron say that, but he also said that Mr Foss was lying when he denied involvement in this matter. Mr Byron is a man of great integrity who knows what it is to appear before a Legislative Council select committee and how important it is to tell the truth about these matters. He said -

I said words to the effect, 'Ian, just tell me one thing. Is the Attorney General lying to me'. He replied, 'yes'. I repeated the question and he repeated the answer.

The Premier is sitting here today while one of his former heads of department, when talking to the Premier's chief of staff, was told that the Premier's Attorney General lied. The Premier has done nothing about it; he has taken no interest in and has not been concerned about the fact that his chief of staff's story and that of the Attorney General are totally different. If the Public Service and the people of Western Australia are to talk to this Government about major issues of concern, they will need to know they will get an honest and truthful decision. We are talking about the whole credibility that our government system relies on. We have Mr Byron's version of what was said. "That is not so" says Mr Foss, the Attorney General and Minister for Justice. The Attorney General said that he worked well with Mr Payne and that he was a wonderful person. However, every time he had the opportunity he bagged him for inefficiency and incompetence.

Let us get it absolutely clear. What the Government is saying is a pathetic attempt at an explanation which I interpret as a cover up. In order to make any sense at all, and if we are to believe the Government, there must be two assumptions. The first is that Mr Fletcher misunderstood Mr Foss and the second is that Mr Byron misunderstood Mr Fletcher. That is a lot of misunderstanding to go on in the Government of Western Australia. The whole situation would be farcical if it were not so serious. In this matter of misunderstanding between people we are talking about the Attorney General, the chief of staff of the Premier and the former director general of the Ministry of Justice. They do not understand each other. Perhaps they are speaking different languages or come from another planet. The Government puts out such nonsense in the way it is tackling this issue.

The truth is that the Government has been caught out because Mr Byron stood up against it and insisted on the law and honour rather than expediency in government human resources management for which he was given responsibility. He stood up to those people. I wonder how often these things happen on a daily basis. We had a little hint with the Solomon and White affair and with a whole range of administrative changes. In this issue Mr Byron stood up against the Government because he knew he was being pressured to do the wrong thing, and he said so. He was fundamentally right in his judgment about what was going on. That has been confirmed by the evidence given to the Public Sector Standards Commission.

I will refer to three pieces of evidence which I believe establish without doubt that Mr Byron was right to say no and stand up to the Government of the day. The first evidence is on page 4 of the report of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards. Examination was occurring in his report about where inefficiencies lay in government. Do

members know where the report found them? It was where everyone said that inefficiencies lay, not in the offender management program but in the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's office. Those were the only inefficiencies that were established on the basis of the evidence that came before the commissioner's inquiry.

The second absolutely incredible conclusion contained in the report of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, which needs to be stressed, is on page 5 where the commissioner says that the reports of substandard performance against Mr Payne cannot be sustained. Further, on page 3, the commissioner says that, had the proper procedure been followed, Mr Byron and Mr Payne should have been asked for a formal response to concerns about performance.

Let us put those three pieces of evidence together: The only inefficiencies were in the Attorney General's office; reports of substandard performance against Mr Payne cannot be sustained; and Mr Byron and Mr Payne should have been asked for a formal response to concerns about performance. Logically it follows that attempts to remove Mr Payne were highly improper. Based on the outcome of that inquiry one must ask, if the only inefficiencies were in the Attorney General's office, why was Mr Payne being targeted? If the allegations could not be sustained, why was he being targeted? Why was the department not given the chance to respond formally to concerns about performance? The answers to those questions must lead one to the conclusion that Mr Payne was the scapegoat and the poor bunny who was chosen to take the rap for what the Government was not doing according to its so-called program of privatisation in our prisons. Subsequent efforts by this Government to cover up what really happened only serve to further illustrate the contempt this Government has for proper government in Western Australia today.

It is our view that this is a serious matter of public administration. There is a huge question mark over the credibility of Mr Fletcher and the Attorney General, or one or the other; but we cannot have it both ways. One of those people has no credibility and we cannot have a Government in which senior people, either ministerial or administrative, have no credibility. The Premier has some very serious questions to answer on that matter because one of the issues related to Mr Fletcher's credibility concerning what Mr Fletcher said about the Premier's involvement and what the Premier said about his involvement and what in fact has been revealed in other evidence in the committee.

The Premier has been put right in it by Mr Fletcher and he has a responsibility to indicate to this House and to the Parliament when he first became involved in this matter and whether what Mr Fletcher was saying to Mr Byron was truthful, and if it was not truthful, what he intends to do about it. There is a huge discrepancy between what the Attorney General and Mr Fletcher have said, and as I have indicated, not only that, but also the Attorney General has made comments about Mr Fletcher which could only lead us to have concerns about Mr Fletcher's integrity as a senior official of government in Western Australia. We are left with a leaderless Ministry of Justice, major problems in our prisons, doubts over the integrity of senior members of the Government, and a Premier who says and does nothing in relation to these events.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [4.22 pm]: I listened to the Leader of the Opposition's comments with some interest. Why has the Leader of the Opposition moved a motion requesting me to appear before an upper House committee when he is a member of the same House as I and could use the processes of this House to question me, to move motions of this kind and to do what is allowed under the standing orders of this House? Why does he want to hide behind the activities of the upper House committee? Why does he not just ask me the questions?

Dr Gallop: You answer the question.

Mr COURT: But why would the Leader of the Opposition move a motion requiring me to go down to the upper House and answer the question? Is this House not good enough for him? Secondly, the Leader of the Opposition mentioned a cover up. What is a cover up?

Dr Gallop: The cover up about what really happened in relationship to this matter, and you know it.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition just spoke for 20 minutes and he did not mention anything about it.

In relation to the openness of these matters, the matter has been investigated by the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards.

Dr Gallop: No, it has not. He has no jurisdiction over Ministers and you know it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, please allow the Premier to make his speech as he allowed you to make yours.

Mr COURT: If he has not investigated the matter, why did he table a report in the Parliament?

Mr Kobelke: Read the first sentence: "Under the . . . Act, I am not able to inquire into the activities of Ministers". Have you not read the first sentence of his report?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! This is not a cross-examination.

Mr COURT: I, as the Premier, and the Minister gave information. An inquiry was carried because a complaint was made to the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards by the member for Burrup. Conclusion 8 of his findings states -

Because no breaches of the public sector principles, the standards, Code of Ethics or MOJ code of conduct have occurred, I am not justified in appointing a special inquirer under s.24 or taking any further action associated with my functions under s.21.

It seems to be quite irrelevant to the Leader of the Opposition that he cannot have it both ways. We have an independent body that reports to this Parliament and the Leader of the Opposition is now trying to beat something up as if the commissioner did not report. The Leader of the Opposition cannot just say that he did not report because he has.

Dr Gallop: I quoted from his report; deal with the three issues.

Mr COURT: Why did the Leader of the Opposition say the commissioner did not carry out the investigation?

Dr Gallop: Because the investigation was not into you and your role, nor the Attorney General's role.

Mr COURT: One of my main functions as the Minister for Public Sector Management is to promote the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector, having regard to the principles set out in section 7 of that legislation. I have the responsibility for employing CEOs and overseeing the executive service. There are approximately 100 CEOs and some 400 in the special executive service. In relation to the matter of Mr Byron and Mr Payne, I wanted to discuss an issue with the Minister in relation to the running of that operation and I wanted to discuss the matter with the CEO of the Ministry of Justice; and, as I said, as the employer of that CEO, that was quite appropriate and that is spelt out in the commissioner's report. This is the part that the Leader of the Opposition has not mentioned. I met with the Minister on a Monday morning and we agreed to arrange a meeting.

Dr Gallop: But Mr Fletcher said he met you before the 13th.

Mr COURT: No, he did not. The Minister was on leave and I met with the Minister on the Monday morning and we agreed to meet with the CEO.

Dr Gallop: Which Monday was that?

Mr COURT: The Monday that Mr Byron handed in his resignation. There is one thing that the Leader of the Opposition has conveniently ignored, and that is the fact that before I had the opportunity to discuss these matters with the CEO, he handed in his resignation.

Dr Gallop: That is right, he stood up against you.

Mr COURT: How could one stand up against someone if one has not sat down and talked through any of the issues?

The one thing with which I have difficulty is that I would have thought it appropriate for a CEO, regardless of who he is, who is concerned about something to the point of wanting to resign, to discuss that matter with the Minister and with the Minister responsible for employing that person. I want to explain what happened with that resignation. The "confidential" letter of resignation handed to me was in the hands of the media before I received the letter. I want to read that part of the report by the commissioner. It states -

Public Release of Mr Byron's Resignation Letter

Under s.9(b), public sector bodies and employees "are to act with integrity in the performance of their official duties and are to be scrupulous in the use of official information, equipment and facilities." Mr Byron's letter and everything related to it was undoubtedly "official information".

It was unfair to Mr Byron and the Premier that a person or persons copied the letter and made it available publicly. In doing so, those involved were very far from "scrupulous" in their conduct and, in addition, their behaviour did not comply with the Act and the Code of Ethics.

When asked by the Premier to withdraw his resignation, the principal reason advanced by Mr Byron for feeling unable to do so was the fact that his letter was in the public domain. The person or persons who wilfully released Mr Byron's letter therefore pre-empted, and probably frustrated, genuine efforts by the Premier and the Attorney-General to persuade Mr Byron to stay.

My inquiries have indicated that Mr Payne briefed some 20 senior staff from Offender Management some time on Monday morning, 19 June before the Premier had received Mr Byron's resignation letter. At that time the resignation letter may have been available to some staff. The timing of this briefing and the release

of the letter to the media was inappropriate. By releasing the letter, the person or persons involved reflected ill credit on themselves and the MOJ.

Dr Gallop: Attack the messenger!

Mr COURT: It is very difficult. The Leader of the Opposition is talking about meetings that happened here and meetings that happened there. No meetings were held between me and the CEO, because a resignation letter came in, which was made known publicly, before that was possible. I cannot answer that question. I do not know why the CEO did not have discussions with the Minister and me. That is his choice. I think all members would agree that that makes it very difficult to handle the matter. If one is not talking to someone about an issue, how can it be handled? It is all very well for the Leader of the Opposition to talk about who said what at different meetings, but the Minister responsible and I did not have a meeting with Mr Byron before that letter came in. If members think it is inappropriate for a confidential letter of resignation to me to be made public before I have received it, I think they will understand why Mr Byron found himself in a difficult position. I know that he was embarrassed by the fact that that letter -

Mr Kobelke: Did you check whether someone on your staff leaked the letter?

Mr COURT: It was a bit difficult for it to be leaked by someone on my side because we did not have the letter.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned a cover up. The problem is that it was reported in *The West Australian* that I had approved a payout offer to Mr Payne to buy his silence. I take this opportunity to thank *The West Australian* for publicly apologising, because its story was based on a draft letter that was tabled in the committee as part of the documents that were tabled, and it was assumed incorrectly that it was a draft letter signed by Mr Mal Wauchope. No management initiated retirement package was approved.

Dr Gallop: Who authorised the drawing up of that letter?

Mr COURT: I will go into that, because the Director General of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Mal Wauchope, has been maligned. It was further reported in *The West Australian* that the head of the Public Service, Mal Wauchope, was prepared to offer a grubby deal to silence Mr Payne and that Mr Wauchope had signed an offer to Mr Payne dated 29 January 1998. As I said, I appreciate that apology from *The West Australian*, because those events did not occur. The allegations against Mr Wauchope are without foundation. Mr Wauchope and I have taken the strongest possible exception to any suggestion that the draft letter to Mr Payne was prepared for the purpose of buying his silence.

The documents to which the media referred were released by the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations. Those documents show that Mr Gary Byron had raised the possibility of a management initiated retirement package for Mr Payne at a meeting on 20 January. It is quite appropriate for the CEO to do that. Mr Payne then told me that he would seek a management initiated retirement package and consultancy work.

Retirement packages were introduced by the previous Government for the purpose of encouraging senior officers to leave when a position was no longer available for them in government. We were not happy with that process, and when the Public Sector Management Act 1994 was introduced, a restriction on the compensation payable on early termination of employment of one year's remuneration was put in place because we believed that excessive payouts were being made.

Mr Wauchope discussed with the Crown Solicitor Mr Payne's request for a retirement package. Draft correspondence was prepared by the Public Sector Management Office on 23 January. However, before progressing that correspondence, Mr Wauchope asked the Public Sector Management Office for advice about the likelihood of Mr Payne being redeployed on an ongoing basis in the public sector. The advice was that it would be difficult to place Mr Payne into an ongoing senior position at his equivalent level, and draft papers to facilitate the payment of the MIR to Mr Payne were attached to the advice.

I have not approved that package, and Mr Wauchope has not signed correspondence saying that I have approved it. The extracts of the draft that were used in the media were taken from the draft on which Mr Wauchope had marked a change to the manner in which his name and title should be written. The handwritten words "No bold" next to his title had been deleted, leaving only the printing of his name, and it was not his signature. The lesson to be learnt from this matter is that both under freedom of information and in the Parliament many documents are tabled - drafts, memos, yellow stickers, etc - and members need to be very careful when they use those documents.

Mr Wauchope is well known to members on both sides of the House. He has a distinguished record in the public sector. I have total confidence in his professionalism, as I do in that of Mr Fletcher.

Dr Gallop: What about Mr Foss?

Mr COURT: I have confidence in him too. I have total confidence in Mr Wauchope's integrity and professionalism in all the matters that come before him. The statements that appeared in the media were totally without foundation, and I appreciate the opportunity to put the facts on the record.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about a cover up. It has been far from a cover up. The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards has conducted an investigation. The people involved have appeared before a parliamentary committee. As the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly said, the proper procedure that must be followed with regard to a senior officer whose performance is not satisfactory is that the matter is discussed with the CEO -

Dr Gallop: Does Mr Fletcher's credibility matter to you? Does your chief of staff tell the truth?

Mr COURT: What destroys the Leader of the Opposition's story is that the meeting -

Dr Gallop: Does he tell the truth or is he an inveterate liar? Answer that question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop: The evidence is there! He told Mr Byron on 13 January that the Premier and the Attorney General had discussed the matter!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Leader of the Opposition gets into interjection mode, instead of just making his interjection he becomes involved in a cross-examination and argument.

Dr Gallop: You are spot on!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the forum for cross-examination. This is a forum to listen to the Premier giving his explanation, and members must allow him time to do that.

Mr COURT: The problem with the story that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to promote is that there was no meeting between me, the Minister and Mr Byron to discuss the matter before the letter of resignation arrived -

Dr Gallop: Why did he say there had been?

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition is missing the point.

Dr Gallop: No, I am spot on!

Mr COURT: There is a difference between officers and me and the Minister. We did not have that meeting with Mr Byron before the letter of resignation came in. That is the proper process. As to the issue of a confidential resignation letter to me being made public before I received it, I find that a difficult one to handle. I cannot give an explanation for it, but it would have put Mr Byron in a very difficult position.

The Leader of the Opposition has claimed that the Ministry of Justice is a ministry without leadership -

Dr Gallop: It has no director general.

Mr COURT: It has a director general -

Dr Gallop: He is an acting director general.

Mr COURT: Yes, and he is a very good public servant. Alan Piper has taken on responsibility for the ministry. He has a proven track record, and the Leader of the Opposition should think twice before claiming that such a person is not doing his job, because the Ministry of Justice is a large responsibility. Alan Piper has accepted that responsibility and he is doing a good job. The Leader of the Opposition adds nothing to the debate by claiming that the ministry lacks leadership, because we have a competent and capable person running it.

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [4.43 pm]: The Premier began his explanation by asking why he needs to appear before an upper House committee when he can explain all. Subsequently he answered that question by outlining his version of events after Mr Byron's resignation was tendered. He neatly avoided telling Parliament what happened prior to that, and who was telling the truth. The report by the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards outlines different versions of what was said. There is the Byron version, the Fletcher version and the version from the Attorney General. The Attorney General's version is different from the version provided by the Premier's chief of staff. The Premier says that is not a problem. He says that the fact that his chief of staff said something different from the Attorney General, that the two of them did not agree on what happened, that the chief of staff said that the Attorney General wanted Payne to be removed, and that he said that to Byron and then denied it, indicates that people are not telling the truth.

The Premier said that he was aware of the comments allegedly made by his chief of staff; he also said that he had not questioned his chief of staff. The Premier accepted that the evidence of his chief of staff was contrary to that of the chief law officer in this State - but he did not question him. If this man were a chief executive officer of a company he would be long gone! He would have disappeared through the door in three seconds flat because he has not checked out the situation. The Premier has not discussed the matter here today and has deliberately avoided telling Parliament what happened, for one of two reasons. Either the Premier knows that Gary Byron was right and that causes him and his Attorney General great embarrassment, because they have been caught lying and the Premier does not want to tell the Parliament that, or the Premier is simply not interested and does not give a cuss about the proper administration of the Government of this State. Whatever the reason, the Premier stands condemned on this issue.

This is not an insignificant matter. It does not involve some low level clerk who has decided that he has had a tiff with the management and will resign. This involves the chief executive officer of the Ministry of Justice. This is a person who was head hunted by the State Government to take over what has been a shambles for a long time in the Ministry of Justice. This person needed great skills to overcome the complete mess and waste of taxpayers' funds that has occurred in the Ministry of Justice for a long time.

The Premier's chief of staff conveyed to him what would happen in the Ministry of Justice, and it is certainly contrary to the spirit of the Public Sector Management Act. Did we not hear the hue and cry from the government benches supporting the policy that Ministers should not interfere with management; that they should remain at arm's length; that the management of departments should rest with the CEOs; that the Public Sector Management Act - introduced by the Government - would deliver that outcome? That was absolute rubbish! We all know what the Act has delivered. People are allowed to get away with telling untruths, and we have a compliant Commissioner for Public Sector Standards who has not investigated the issues, on the basis that Ministers are unable to be touched under the legislation.

The Premier must appear before the parliamentary committee to answer questions, because he certainly did not answer questions today. He went on with claptrap about the date the resignation was tabled, and what happened thereafter. The Premier has avoided the issue; he does not have the courage to defend his chief of staff. We have not seen too much of that. The Premier may defend his Attorney General, but we have not seen too much of that, and that indicates that the Premier and this whole episode are very suspect.

Why did the Premier not explain the issues to Parliament? He has failed abysmally. If ever there has been a need for a Minister to attend a parliamentary inquiry to answer questions, it is now. The Premier will be judged by his own words - the Government will be open and accountable - and by whether he appears before that inquiry. If the Premier fails to appear he can never again say that his Government is open and accountable, because this has been the greatest cover up of all time. We expected the Premier would have the courage of his convictions -

Mr Court: What was that about a cover up?

Mr BROWN: It is the Premier's failure to explain.

Mr Court: It is your failure. You have conveniently ignored the important facts.

Mr BROWN: The Premier has had his opportunity. We are happy to move the suspension of standing orders to allow the Premier to speak again and explain, but I bet he does not have the guts to do it.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.50 pm]: It is extraordinary that the Opposition has moved a matter of public importance on the first day of the autumn session without first reading the standing orders. If members opposite had examined the standing orders they would have found that there is a process by which members of another place can invite a member, including Ministers, to appear before a committee. Given that members opposite have a majority on the committee in another place, they might have persuaded the chair of the committee to follow the practices of the House.

It amazes me that the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues come charging into this place and conveniently ignore the standing orders. I am sure that they had a reason for doing so. The only conclusion one can reach is that they expected to put forward such a persuasive argument to the Premier that he would automatically agree to appear before the committee. Given that, this motion could be regarded as an attempt to convince the Premier to volunteer to present himself to that committee. By now there can be no doubt on the part of any member of the House that the Premier will not appear before the committee, nor should he.

Dr Gallop: Why did he not answer the questions asked of him in this place today?

Mr COWAN: Because he has made it abundantly clear that the first he heard about this incident was on the Monday that he received notification from the Attorney General that Mr Byron had submitted a letter of resignation. I do not think anyone could be more explicit than the Premier has been in making that case.

Dr Gallop: If that is the case, why did Mr Fletcher say on 13 January that the Premier and the Attorney General had met and that they were behind the move to remove Mr Payne?

Mr COWAN: I am not speaking for the chief of staff; I am speaking for the Premier.

Dr Gallop: Do you not believe the chief of staff?

Mr COWAN: One of the problems we have with the Leader of the Opposition is that the moment he is permitted to interject he wants to take over the debate. One of his few attributes is that he can understand that people have the right to state their own case and that he will not put his words into anyone's mouth, least of all mine.

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr COWAN: I will not respond to the Leader of the Opposition because he will want to take over the debate. In the first instance -

Dr Gallop: He will not answer my question!

Mr COWAN: It does not deserve an answer. That nonsensical allegation is made by the Leader of the Opposition on the pretext that he believes it to be correct. It does not deserve an answer.

Several members interjected.

Mr COWAN: It does not deserve any respect at all. The Leader of the Opposition appears to have forgotten that there are standing orders in this place. He has not been able to prevail upon his colleagues in another place to go through the normal processes of this House to request the Premier to appear before that committee. Given that, one can assume that this MPI is seeking to have the Premier volunteer to appear, and he has made it abundantly clear that he will not do that, nor should he.

One of the things that I find interesting in this debate - it is very short because of the way in which an MPI is structured - is that the Opposition has produced no more evidence than that which has appeared in the Press and electronic media in Western Australia. I do not know what has happened to members opposite and their personal capacity for research or that of the researchers they employ, but they are not getting value for money. This motion deserves to be rejected.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.55 pm]: It is by convention that members of the Legislative Assembly have not appeared before Legislative Council committees. To my knowledge there is no previous occasion on which a member of this House has appeared before such a committee.

The Premier, like all Ministers, is accountable in this Chamber and it is up to the Opposition to ask questions and the Premier to answer them. Opportunities exist for that to happen.

The account the Premier has given is that he had no knowledge of the events leading up to Mr Byron's resignation. There is clearly a difference of view of those events between Mr Byron and Mr Fletcher, and both have appeared before the Legislative Council committee. Whether that committee can decipher those differences and come up with a conclusion, who knows?

Dr Gallop: That is why we need a royal commission.

Mr BARNETT: The one thing this State certainly does not need is another royal commission.

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr BARNETT: No, it does not; we have had enough.

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr BARNETT: I have no more knowledge of these events than what I have read in the newspapers. The Premier has answered the questions; he has said that he did not know. It is not up to the Premier or any other Minister in this House to appear before Legislative Council committees and, as Leader of the House, I do not support their doing so. It is up to the Opposition to ask questions. If it wants to pursue this matter, it can. I suspect the truth will never be known.

Several members interjected.

Mr BARNETT: I do not think it ever will. There are differing views of those events. I do not think anyone will know, and I am not sure I care.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (18)

Ms Anwyl	Mr Graham	Mr McGinty	Mrs Roberts
Mr Brown	Mr Grill	Mr McGowan	Mr Thomas
Mr Carpenter	Mr Kobelke	Ms McHale	Ms Warnock
Dr Edwards	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Ripper	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr Gallop	Mr Marlborough		

Noes (32)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Cowan	Mr Kierath	Mr Pandal
Mr Baker	Mr Day	Mr MacLean	Mr Shave
Mr Barnett	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Marshall	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Dr Hames	Mr Masters	Mr Trenorden
Mr Board	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr McNee	Mr Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Mrs Holmes	Mr Nicholls	Dr Turnbull
Dr Constable	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Court	Mr Johnson	Mrs Parker	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)

Pair

Mr Riebeling

Mr Prince

Question thus negatived.

SCHOOL EDUCATION BILL*Second Reading*

Resumed from 26 November 1997.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.03 pm]: In preparing the Opposition's response to this legislation, I went back to the 1928 *Hansard* when the Act was passed which this School Education Bill will replace. I was amazed to discover that only two speeches were given in the Legislative Assembly on the 1928 legislation, and the then Opposition's response, given by Sir James Mitchell, lasted a mere two minutes! Sir James Mitchell's main concern seemed to be that the legislation might somehow get in the way of the efficient administration of the department. He said -

Generally I think the department is very well handled. That its efficiency will not be impaired by anything provided in this Bill is something to be thankful for.

It has been said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. I have learnt from history and the Opposition's response on this occasion will take a little longer than that delivered by Sir James Mitchell in 1928! Also, I hope the House will give more consideration to this Bill than it gave to the 1928 Act, and that consequently we will end up with less troublesome legislation than the 1928 measure.

I give the Minister some praise because he adopted the process of introducing a Green Bill, followed by a consultation process, followed by a final version of the Bill. It was a good process which should be adopted when dealing with other legislation. That is not to say that the reports on the consultation process were uniformly positive: Some people thought that the meetings were overly dominated by home education issues, and others thought they had insufficient chance to put their point of view. Nevertheless, we had a much better consultation process and longer consideration time than would have been the case if the normal process of introducing a final version of the Bill had been followed.

The Labor Party broadly supports the Bill and will vote for it at the second reading stage. However, the Bill requires more consideration and significant amendment, and the Opposition will move a significant number of amendments during Committee.

Some discussion has ensued about whether the Committee stage should be conducted in the Committee of the Whole House or within a legislation committee. As a member of the Select Committee on Procedure, which recommended the introduction of legislation committees, I generally support shifting Bills to legislation committees for Committee stage debate. However, I do not support sending the School Education Bill to a legislation committee. Legislation committees were recommended by the Select Committee on Procedure for circumstances where one had a reasonably small number of members in the House who had a specialist interest in the progress of a Bill. If only half a dozen members are experts on a particular topic, shifting the debate to a legislation committee while the House gets on with other business makes sense. However, this is a significant Bill on which a large number of members will want to

make comment, and we can expect considerable participation in Committee debate. If we send this Bill off to a legislation committee, members who would otherwise have an opportunity to contribute to Committee debate will be shut out of the process. I hope the Minister for Education will indicate that the Bill will be considered in Committee rather than be referred to a legislation committee.

It is not my habit to pay considerable attention to debate in the other place, but I looked at the record of debate in the other place when researching the 1928 *Hansard*. It was illuminating regarding the attitudes at the time. I was particularly taken aback by the contribution by Hon Sir Edward Wittenoom, who was concerned about what he regarded to be the problem of over-education. He felt that if young men in the State were given too much education, they would develop a distaste for manual labour and for serving in the country. Consequently, these young men would head up what he regarded to be the blind alleys of the city rather than going out into the country to perform the manual labour necessary to develop the State. He said -

If we consider what has been going on in Egypt and India, we will realise that nearly all the troubles in those countries have been caused by over-education.

Ms MacTiernan: Which party was he from?

Mr RIPPER: He was not from the Labor Party; he was a conservative, and no doubt was a reactionary in those times!

He also made some comments about the education of successful people in the State. He said -

I am safe in saying - and I intend no offence to anybody - that most of the successful men in this State have never had higher education. When I speak of higher education, I mean the education imparted by the high schools and the University.

Sir Edward was trenchant in his scepticism about the value of education. Clearly, he did not think that the annual budget of £750 000 in 1928 was being that well spent. Fortunately, we place a much different value on education today. Across the House, we appreciate the social and individual value of education. We appreciate the role of education in developing an individual's self-knowledge, social understanding and tolerance. We appreciate the role of education in helping individuals to find fulfilment, and we appreciate the role of education in developing a quality of community life in the future.

I argue that in the future we must place an even higher value on education than we do today. Of course, every child has a right to a quality education and that alone justifies a substantial investment by the State in its education systems. In addition to individual rights and the development of a quality community, there are urgent practical and economic reasons for investing more in education. We must now compete in an economy that is becoming increasingly globalised. The rise of free market ideology has devalued traditional government intervention to support economic growth. Many of the mechanisms that were applied by Governments in the past to improve the economic standing of the communities for which they were responsible are viewed with suspicion.

Globalisation and a free market ideology raise the question as to what Governments can do to promote the economies for which they are responsible. In current circumstances there are only two answers: Governments can invest in infrastructure and education. Increasingly, those Governments that invest in education will preside over successful regional and national economies, and those that neglect to do so will lose out in the global competition of the modern economy. Government has a key role in investment in education. That key government role arises not only because education is both an individual and a public good, but also because of the need to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities. Huge forces in modern society are driving us towards greater social inequality. In the future we face a serious risk of one group having access to full time, permanent jobs with all the associated privileges, and another group being marginalised in the labour market and restricted to part time, casual work, lower incomes and greater insecurity.

Education is one of the keys to community growth and individual security. Today many people, even those who are employed, have great fears about their security of employment. They know that technological change, restructuring within their organisations, and competition from rivals of the organisations for which they work can lead to the sudden loss of their prospects and employment. It is acknowledged that, during their working lives, people will need to engage in more than one career - probably more than two or three. People are being subjected to more change and more insecurity than they were in the past.

What can Governments do to promote a greater sense of security? They can equip people with the skills to respond to those demands for change; in other words, through the education system they can equip people to look after themselves in this much more uncertain world. The best way to help individuals face technological change, restructuring, competition, and the demand to share work among more people, is to invest in the education system and to give them more opportunities within that system. For individuals, nations and communities the key to

prosperity and security is investment in education. Many of our parents recognise this. I detect among parents considerable insecurity and anxiety about their children's future. If the world is to divide into the haves and the have-nots, parents want their children to be among the haves in the community. When I consider the prospects for their children, I recognise there is considerable reason for their concern.

Recently I read in a book entitled *Turning Point - The State of Australia and New Zealand*, a chapter written by John Freeland. He has analysed unemployment data, and considered not only those who are officially unemployed but also those he described as discouraged job seekers who would not otherwise appear in the statistics. He has developed joblessness to population ratios: For males between the ages of 15 and 19 years the ratio is 25 per cent; for males between 20 and 24 years it is 15.4 per cent; for females between 15 and 19 years it is 22 per cent; and for females between 20 and 34 years the figures are between 17 and 18 per cent. When parents look ahead to the future for their children, they can see considerable risks and threats. If this country is ever to return to full employment it has a much more formidable problem than it had in the past. When this country had what people are pleased to describe as full employment, it was providing jobs for about 40 per cent of the population. If it is to achieve anything like that golden age of full employment today, it must provide jobs for between 50 and 55 per cent of the population. The country faces a very serious task, and in my view the education system has a very important role to play in dealing with that task. It is one of the few levers available to Government with which to tackle that problem.

Mr Barnett: I agree. Of course, parents are placing increasing importance on education, and I think the community is. However, I am not sure it is driven by a sense of insecurity for the future but rather it is getting back to basics and the realisation that there is a fundamental need.

Mr RIPPER: The Minister may have that view. It is of no importance as to why parents have that view; it is the case that, for whatever reason, the community's demand for investment in education will be higher than in the past.

Mr Barnett: And for a well working education system. They are looking for performance from education and results.

Mr RIPPER: Naturally, quality, relevance and equity are important concepts in education. Not only will people need to be well equipped when they leave the education system, but also they must be equipped to continue to learn throughout their lives as occupational demands change and as they are required to develop new careers.

I have mocked some of the debate held in this Parliament in 1928, but *Hansard* records one very good statement on educational philosophy delivered by Hon A.J.H. Saw as follows -

Education is not intended to make a man merely a money-making machine. It is designed not only to lay the foundations on which may be erected the superstructure that will qualify a man for his avocation in life, but also to extend a man's mental outlook and to multiply the avenues of his rational enjoyment, as a means whereby he may cultivate all his faculties, and, above everything, education should teach a man that it does not end when he leaves school but that it should be continued throughout the rest of his life.

Mr Barnett: Women did not get much of a look in in 1928.

Mr RIPPER: It would have been nice if Hon A.J.H. Saw had considered the educational needs of women as well but, that consideration aside, his statement of educational philosophy still holds true today.

Given those considerations, how does this Bill measure up? Some have described it as a school administration Bill rather than an Education Act. That is a correct description. The Bill provides an administrative framework that is lacking educational philosophy. I can see why it would appeal to bureaucrats, because it provides a neutral framework that will allow them to implement changing policies, according to the directions of the Government of the day, without the need to continually come to the Parliament for amendments to the Act. I do not agree that the Parliament should necessarily endorse what the bureaucrats think is a good administrative framework unencumbered by too much philosophy. It seems to me that many people in Parliament have ideas about how education should be conducted and have philosophies they want to see applied to the education system. This Parliament should give more direction to educational philosophy when it considers this Bill. Some of the Opposition's proposed amendments are aimed at incorporating more principle into a value free administrative framework developed by the education authorities.

Mr Barnett: Will you add your amendments to the Notice Paper in advance of the Committee stage?

Mr RIPPER: I intend to do that. Some delay has occurred in developing our amendments because interest groups have responded fairly late to the appeal for consultation on some matters. They have had to do their own work on what they think should be amended. I will try to give the Minister as much notice as possible. We want him to accept our amendments and he might need time to think about whether he will accept them in full or in part.

Mr Barnett: We are willing to accept amendments in principle if they improve the legislation.

Mr RIPPER: Under clause 3 "Objects" (1)(a) reads -

to recognize the right of every child in the State to receive a school education;

That does not go far enough; no mention is made of equity, quality or relevance. It should include principles which reflect those values. Similarly, object (1)(c) reads -

to provide for government schools that meet the educational needs of all children;

That underplays the very important role of the government school system in providing for equality of educational opportunity. Government schools should be the Government's priority response to the educational needs of our community. I am not attacking government support for non-government schools; that plays an important role in our overall educational program. However, the first responsibility of the Government should be to provide for a school system open to all and designed to promote the equality of opportunity and which, in itself, is internally equitable.

Mr Baker: Are you saying you should discriminate with priorities?

Mr RIPPER: No; I am saying the first priority should be the provision of a quality public school system underpinning equality of opportunity. I made a very important point about the need for the public school system to be internally equitable. Forces in our education system are tending to produce two classes of school. One is those that are well resourced, are perceived to have congenial teaching environments and have fewer problems among the students who present for enrolment. Other groups of schools are not as well resourced, for which money cannot be raised from the community, where children present with more problems and where the teaching environment is seen to be less favourable. We must be very careful in our consideration of this Bill to reinforce the role of the public school system in promoting equality of opportunity and to ensure fairness and equity inside the system.

Equally, the objects outlined in the Bill say nothing about the importance of a link between schools and communities. Schools are very important community institutions. The role of schools in reinforcing and reflecting community life should be considered in this Bill.

I am not alone in thinking that it should have more space for objects and principles. In its newsletter update published for December 1997 to January 1998 the Disability Services Commission has an article headed "Concerns about Bill despite amendments". It reads -

However, there remain a number of significant concerns that have not been addressed. These include the following:

- a set of key principles has not been included in the Bill as suggested by the DSC;

It is quite unusual for one government agency to comment like that on a Bill prepared by another government agency. It indicates significant concern by the Disability Services Commission.

Clause 2 deals with the commencement of the operation of the Bill. One of the problems in considering all the issues raised by this Bill is that we do not have the detail. The devil will be in the detail and the detail will be in the regulations. The Opposition would like to see some of the regulations before this Bill is passed through Parliament. Failing that, the Opposition would like to see some policy statements from the Government indicating what will be in the regulations.

Mr Barnett: Work is progressing on the regulations now.

Mr RIPPER: That is good. The Minister might say that regulations are presented to the Parliament and disallowance motions can be moved. However, the Opposition knows that, at least in this House, we have an inadequate procedure for dealing with disallowance motions. No requirement exists for a disallowance motion to be brought on for debate or resolution. Plenty of scope exists for a Government to introduce a regulation with inadequate parliamentary scrutiny. Many people want to make up their minds about aspects of this Bill on the basis of the detail in the regulations, rather than on the basis of its provision of broad powers.

Part 2 of the Bill deals with enrolment and attendance. When the Green Bill came out this is one of the areas that aroused controversy within the community. Many sections of the community were outraged at the scale of the penalties proposed in the Bill. The Government has responded to that community concern and to the views of the Opposition by significantly reducing the proposed penalties. Some people were uncomfortable with the idea of a penalty at all. Some argued that laws and the criminal justice system and penalties are not the way to respond to truanting or people avoiding compulsory education. The Opposition has considered that point of view. However, it is persuaded by the argument that if compulsory education means anything, penalties must apply. The Opposition will be proposing in Committee further reductions in a range of the penalties. However, it accepts the Government's argument that some penalties must be in place.

In dealing with compulsory education and truancy it is important to adopt a policy approach. Despite my acceptance of the penalties I do not believe that we should be reliant on the law or on the criminal justice system and penalties. The education system needs a good comprehensive policy and sensitive administration which recognises the social, economic, cultural and educational circumstances of children who have not been enrolled at school or who are truanting from school.

An approach is needed which recognises some of the factors at the school which may not be contributing to a child's enrolment or regular attendance, and factors to do with the family of a child which are inhibiting his or her regular attendance at school. Some of those factors in the school are perhaps less relevant to some groups of students than others. Some attention must be given to the family support systems within our community so that a family with serious problems can be assisted and so that children can be prevented from falling into a pattern of non-attendance.

In some circumstances penalties can make things worse. In some Aboriginal communities attendance is sometimes less than ideal. Some of the people living in those communities have very little money, as you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Sweetman), will know, as some of them are in your electorate. If penalties are to be applied for the non-enrolment of children in those communities, the parents will not have the ability to pay the fines. They then may lose their drivers' licences. Perhaps they will continue to drive. There are penalties for driving without a driver's licence, and they may end up incarcerated. The end result of the application of penalties will not help to get a child to attend school more regularly in those circumstances. While it is necessary to have a penalty in the Bill, it is even more vital to have a sophisticated policy and a sensitive administration which will tackle the school, social and family circumstances which contribute to non-enrolment or truanting from school.

Mr Tubby: With an acknowledgment that there is a great deal more detail to this legislation about all the processes that should be gone through before it ever gets into the courts with regard to making sure children attend school.

Mr RIPPER: I acknowledge that this Bill is more sophisticated in its approach than the 1928 Act. I am concerned that it must be backed up by the sophisticated administration and policy development I have been talking about. If we rely solely on the provisions of the Bill, I do not think the result will be as positive as it could otherwise be.

Clause 12 provides for the appointment of authorised officers who can check enrolment matters when children are of compulsory education age and not enrolled. Clause 33 provides for the appointment of school attendance officers who can check on those children who are truanting. The Bill allows the Government to avoid the responsibility of appointing specialist officers in those areas. Principals and teachers could be designated as authorised officers or as school attendance officers. I can see an argument for that happening in some country and remote areas. If principals and teachers are not able to undertake these tasks, no-one else may be available to check on a child's non-attendance at school. However, the main burden should be borne by specialist officers appointed and paid for by the Government. The Government must invest in the appointment and training of specialist officers to deal with attendance matters.

The interest groups with whom we have consulted on this aspect of the legislation - the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations and the State School Teachers Union - do not agree with principals and teachers doing this type of work. I am tempted to move an amendment along those lines, except for the problem of dealing with truancy in remote areas.

Mr Tubby: For those reasons we left the section in the legislation. In this legislation we must cover all possibilities across the length and breadth of the State. The Minister must have that authority to appoint officers to do that job, otherwise it becomes very cumbersome to fly people out of Perth to the remote areas to do a small job, and then fly them back again.

Mr RIPPER: I appreciate the problem, but surely the Parliamentary Secretary can see the way the interest groups look at the situation. We do not want the proviso for remote areas to become the policy for the whole State. We may give the authority to do this for the remote areas, but we worry that the Government will take advantage of the legal authority given by the Parliament and do away with specialist school welfare officers and simply give the job to the principals and teachers. That would be a very unwelcome development.

Mr Tubby: You will find we have transferred most of the provisions for the school welfare officers to the new Act. It is a different name, but with the same functions. We cannot make policy decisions within the legislation to dictate how many, or how the system will operate. That is up to the Government.

Mr RIPPER: It is one more example of the argument I put a moment ago about the Bill being an administrative framework which allows for a wide variety of policy approaches. Some people do not want all of that variety of policy to be possible. Some people want some restrictions so that a Government is required to work with specialist school attendance officers, rather than to have the ability to do it on the cheap and give the job to the principals and teachers.

Mr Tubby: If we had loaded the legislation with our philosophy and ideology, would you have supported it?

Mr Brown: To the end, where it concurred with ours.

Mr RIPPER: The member for Morley has it exactly right.

Mr Tubby: I think you will find that the legislation allows when there is a change of government in the future for the new Government to have some flexibility about the policies it wants to pursue, without having to come back to the legislative process.

Mr RIPPER: Despite that advantage for an incoming Labor Government, which the member for Roleystone has outlined, right now we want to put some educational principles and philosophy into this Bill.

Clause 13 provides for considerable powers for authorised persons who are charged with the responsibility of investigating the non-enrolment of people of compulsory education age. I am quite concerned about the extent of those powers. They resemble those of a royal commission and there may need to be some additional safeguards in that part of the legislation for parents and guardians of children.

Clauses 18 and 117 of the Bill basically provide that in dealings with parents the principal of a school can deal with only one parent. Regarding enrolment, clause 18 says that where a parent lodges a duly completed application for enrolment with the principal, the principal need not inquire whether there is any other person who in relation to the child is within the definition of parent in clause 4, or if there is such a person whether he or she concurs with the lodging of the application or the information included. I can understand the administrative convenience for schools of having to deal with only one parent. However, these two clauses of the Bill ignore the increasing complexity of family relations. Many children now have two parents who are not living together, but who are nevertheless both responsible for the day to day care of their children as well as the protection of their long term interests. I am not sure of the terminology under the new amendments to the Family Law Act, but the old terminology was joint custody. In some circumstances schools could be dealing with not just one parent, but both. School administrative practices should recognise the increasing prevalence of joint custody. In any case, even when children are not in joint custody, school administrative practices should reinforce children's ties with both parents.

To be realistic we are talking not only about fathers who are cut off from contact with their children but also about fathers who, of their own volition, are not participating in their children's lives. Our laws and administrative practices should aim to draw those fathers back into their children's lives. We should encourage schools to communicate with both parents, particularly where both parents have responsibility for the day to day care of their children.

Clause 21 of the Bill sets out the circumstances in which a child can be removed from the enrolment register of a school. Clause 21(f) provides that the Minister can authorise removal on the ground that inquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child have not been successful. We should not allow children to fall through the gap. The Education Department or another government agency should have responsibility to follow up those circumstances where children's whereabouts cannot be determined. We should not allow a child to be removed from the register and then forgotten about; something else should happen. These children should be referred to Family and Children's Services or the police, or the Education Department should take more action. Children fall through the gaps because every agency of government has an excuse, for one reason or another, to wash its hands of the problem. The Opposition will move to that effect during Committee.

Division 6 deals with home education. This part of the Bill was the subject of a vigorous campaign by home educators. The consultation meetings on the draft Education Bill in some cases were dominated by the concerns of home educators. The Opposition respects the commitment of home educators to the education of their children. We understand that some home educators engage in home education because of the experience of their children at school; some children have been bullied, or simply failed to progress at school. We understand that some home educators have a philosophical commitment to home education. We also appreciate the huge diversity among home educators. There are those who undertake home education on the basis of a religious philosophy, and a new breed of home educator is responding to developments like the Internet. Some are highly qualified professional people, including teachers, who recognise that information resources are available to people at home that have not been available in the past.

It is difficult to respond to this diversity in the home education field. Although the Opposition has received plenty of letters asking us to amend various parts of the Bill related to home education, there is no uniform view or representative group to tell us what would be acceptable to a broad range of home educators.

One argument put forward by home educators that I cannot accept is that parents have the sole responsibility for their children's education. All providers of education, including home educators, must be accountable for the quality of the education they provide. The Opposition cannot accept that the State has no right to scrutinise the quality of

education offered by any education provider, including a home educator. Parents have a tremendous right and interest in their children's education, but the community also has a right to be interested and involved in the provision of education for children. It is a matter of balancing rights. Parents do have a right to home educate provided that does not impinge on a child's right to a quality education.

I regard the original proposals on home education put forward by the Government as being draconian, and I am pleased that it has responded to home educators' concerns by making the proposals less draconian. I am not sure the Government has got it right entirely, and I am sure there will be more consideration of the detail during Committee.

I recognise the casualties in the school system. We would not want to lose sight of the fact that some children fall through the gaps in the school system and fail to progress. We should not have a more intensive focus on what happens to individual children in home education than we have on individuals in our school system. In the final analysis, just as there are some parents who should not be allowed to retain day to day care of their children for welfare reasons - it is regrettable that should be the case but it is the case in some circumstances - some parents should not be able to continue as home educators. It is all about balance and the Opposition will look at the detail of that balance when we consider this part of the Bill.

I would like to see the government school system take a more sympathetic approach to home educators. Scope exists for cooperation between home educators and the government school system. It may be that the government school system can offer some parts of its program to children who are being educated at home. After all, a parent probably will not have a chemistry laboratory in the home, and a child might become involved in team sports that would not be available at home. Some scope exists for a more sympathetic approach and more cooperation with home educators.

Clauses 56 to 59 deal with the amalgamation and closure of schools. It is noteworthy that these clauses give parents very few rights. The Minister cannot be challenged in court about the way in which he or she determines parents' views on school closures. That is a pragmatic approach to the Bill. Perhaps it is an approach which the Government likes, given its experience of local area planning. It is an approach which ignores the very important role of schools as community institutions. It is my view that parents have been sold a pup with local area planning. They were told by the Minister for Education that their crucial role in planning education would be recognised. They find with local area planning that a predetermined agenda to close their school will prevail. They have options they would like to see for the future of their children's school, but they are told those options cannot proceed to the consultation phase because they do not meet the planning criteria set out by the Education Department in the local area planning education framework.

By May this Government will close at least five senior high schools. I expect the announcement in the next couple of months. Those schools will be closed over the protests of parents in those communities who want to see their schools retained. The protests are not insignificant: 100 people at Maddington; 150 at Cannington; and 40 people at Scarborough attended a routine meeting. Significant community resistance exists to local area planning outcomes, because people have not been given the input which the Minister's press releases indicated they would be given.

This Bill will continue the circumstances in which parents have very few rights in the closure and amalgamation of their children's schools and where insufficient consideration is given to the important community role schools play.

Mr Tubby: Do you think the Minister should have responsibility under the legislation to close schools?

Mr RIPPER: In the end the Government is responsible to the Parliament for the administration of the education system. It cannot be administered by people outside. I simply point to the lack of rights for parents in this process and the lack of focus on the role of schools as community institutions. We on this side of the House place more value on small schools, pastoral care and the role of schools as community institutions than does the planning framework.

Dr Hames: When you were in government did you not close schools?

Mr RIPPER: If members look back at the record of the Labor Government, they will see very few schools were closed. Certainly there was never a circumstance in which a Minister was contemplating closing five senior high schools in the metropolitan area. We will talk more of that at the Committee stage.

Local intake arrangements again bear on the identification of a school with a community. We regard schools as local community institutions and we want to reinforce that by making absolutely certain that local students have priority in enrolling at their local school.

Mr Barnett: How do you reconcile that with the inevitable trend that schools are becoming quite different from each other? That will happen regardless of what we do.

Mr RIPPER: We are not opposed to schools developing a specialist focus. We do not want the link between schools

and communities to be undermined. Local enrolment must take priority in balancing those two competing requirements.

Mr Barnett interjected.

Mr RIPPER: If I may develop my argument, I will answer the Minister's question. Clause 78 gives a right to enrol at a local intake school to a student in the local intake area. Clause 60 of the Bill does not require the Government to declare any school to be a local intake school. I can understand the desire for the administrative flexibility which has led the Government to insert that clause into the Bill. However, it opens up a potential situation where we have very few local intake schools in this State and where the majority of our schools have some sort of specialist focus. If that occurred, the very important connection between schools and communities would be undermined. It would also raise the possibility of inequities developing. I do not want to see a ghetto effect where in a suburb with a mixed socioeconomic composition all the middle class students disappeared to selective schools in other, more favourable suburbs leaving the local community school with a concentration of children from families with lower incomes and perhaps more significant problems.

Mr Barnett: That implies a definition of community which is geographic. If you look at non-government schools where children may come from a wider area, there is no loss of community in those schools. Your proposition should be questioned. It is not obvious that community is geographic.

Mr RIPPER: Certainly there are different conceptions of community, which is something we could perhaps debate at the Committee stage. I regard the geographic definition of community as being an important conception. I want to see that geographic conception bolstered. One of the reasons we have so many social problems at the moment is that we have a declining sense of community. Governments should be taking every opportunity to bolster the sense of community people experience in their residential areas. If we can do that and support families on a community basis, we will have fewer social problems in the future. Our schools provide a very important mechanism for that.

Mr Barnett: I do not suggest it is a moral but Singapore is interesting in the sense that even at primary school level children travel right across Singapore in opposite directions to go to the schools of their choosing. We must have fairly open minds about some of these issues. Traditionally everyone went to the local school at the end of the block. Those days are probably going.

Mr RIPPER: We do not necessarily agree. We strongly support local intake schools. We want to use them to bolster the sense of community. We want also to recognise that our public transport system is not satisfactory enough for children to be travelling all over the metropolitan area. Many people have work obligations which will prevent them taking their children to school. Only a certain number of people could take advantage of those specialist schools which the Minister has been talking about.

Mr Tubby: Some 45 per cent of the student population of senior high schools comes from outside the school's boundary.

Mr RIPPER: There will be plenty of occasions for Government members to contribute to the debate. Given my time, perhaps I should move on.

The Bill provides for the suspension and exclusion of children who have created a discipline problem at the school. The level of suspensions in a school system reflects on the students but it also reflects on the performance of the school. The extent of suspensions indicates that the government school system is not satisfactorily dealing with that minority of students. Suspended and excluded students must still be supervised or in some program provided by either another part of the Education Department or another government agency. We should not take our most troublesome children, exclude them from school and then provide them with less supervision and involvement in programs than well behaved children who remain at school. If we do that, we are asking for an increase in our crime problem. The school discipline advisory panels provided for in clause 93 should look at factors in the school which are contributing to the suspension and exclusion rate as well as factors relating to the students' personality or family background. When Aboriginal students are suspended or excluded, an Aboriginal representative should be on the panel. I am also concerned that the exclusion provisions for students above the compulsory education age give few rights to students. Basically the principal can move them out of school on the basis of his or her judgment.

Mr Barnett: That would be an issue with the common youth allowance.

Mr RIPPER: That is the point I was about to make. These students will not be able to access unemployment benefits. To receive the common youth allowance, they will be required to be enrolled in an education program. If they are denied that right on inadequate grounds, they will be very significantly disadvantaged. This level of education is now vital; it is not an optional extra. Federal government policy is reflecting that. Given these new circumstances, we should be providing students with more rights than are contained in this Bill.

One of the very significant debates on this Bill when we reach the Committee stage will be on fees and charges. Clause 98 provides the power to charge fees in government schools for materials provided and later for services and facilities for use in or associated with the provision of an educational program. They will be too high to allow for proper equity in education. I will give an example. I went to enrol my son in year 11 at Kewdale Senior High School. By the time I had paid the fees, the levies, the book list and so on I wrote out a cheque for \$481. That should not worry me on the salary of a member of Parliament but many other people in the community would find it a considerable imposition. That was not by any means the highest charge that was reported to me. I have had reports of people paying between \$600 and \$700 for the enrolment of their children at secondary schools by the time they have covered all the charges. Such a level of charges undermines the role of the state school system in providing equality of opportunity. If we genuinely want to invest in education and make it available to people regardless of their families' income or circumstances, we must keep government school fees and charges down. This Bill will allow them to go up.

Mr Barnett: Do you agree that there should be fees and charges?

Mr RIPPER: Let me finish. I have only four minutes left. We will debate that later. Some communities can afford to meet such levels of charges. They will get the level of facilities in their schools that that income will provide. Other communities will keep the fees and charges down because they know what parents in their community can afford. However, they will miss out on the facilities for their children. In answer to my questions in Parliament the Minister has already said that the Government will not be making up the shortfall in school budgets. A school in a wealthier suburb will be able to charge the maximum fees and enjoy the facilities but a school in a poorer suburb will not be able to charge the maximum fees because of parent resistance and the parents' inability to pay the charges. As a result parents will have to put up with a lower standard of facilities for their children.

It is very important that we recognise this threat to equality of educational opportunity and that the correct response from a Government is to keep the fees very low or to have no fees at all for students at government schools. The responsibility of government is to provide for an educational system; that is what our taxes pay for. Parents should not be asked to pay twice.

Sitting suspended from 6.03 to 7.30 pm

Mr RIPPER: I have two minutes remaining in my speech on the School Education Bill. I want to indicate the Opposition's attitude regarding a number of issues. Clause 113 provides powers for the Minister to establish a procedure or system for dealing with disputes and complaints. We would like to see the detail of that proposed system.

One issue which needs to be taken account of is the need to protect parents complaining against teachers and principals from the threat of legal action. Under the current system and regulation 135, parents are open to defamation writs if they lodge complaints against teachers.

I am opposed to school councils being involved in the hiring and firing of principals. I am unhappy with clauses 124 and 125 of the Bill which provide scope for school councils to be given additional powers, including those matters related to hiring and firing. I do not want to see the centralised staffing system in the Education Department undermined because I believe that centralised staffing system is a mechanism by which the teaching talent can be spread fairly across a very large State with a wide variety of schools.

Regarding the clauses related to parents and citizens associations, the Council of State Schools of Western Australia should be recognised as the peak parent body in the Bill. The Western Australian Council of State School Organisations has made approaches to us suggesting that no parent group other than parents and citizens associations should be allowed in schools; in other words, all of the specialist parent groups should be in some way or another committees of the P & C association in the school. I was originally inclined to be sympathetic to that argument but I am concerned about the situation of Aboriginal parent groups and I would like to see them continue in existence and they may have some difficulty in being part of the P & C association.

We intend to vigorously oppose other areas of the Bill; namely, those related to advertising and sponsorship in the school system. We look forward to the Committee stage. We thank the Minister for allowing his officials to give the Opposition extensive briefings and we thank the officials for their willingness to brief us fairly extensively on the provisions of this legislation.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [7.34 pm]: I welcome the opportunity to discuss the School Education Bill. The members on this side of the House were very pleased to see the efforts of public consultation that have gone on by way of a draft School Education Bill being released last year and we are more impressed with the fact that a direct and personal interest has been shown in this matter by many Western Australians; parents of school age children, teachers, school administrators and members of the community have all shown a very

great interest in this legislation. As the member for Belmont has already indicated, the Opposition has some specific comments to make, and amendments will be moved during Committee as a result of that consultation process in which we as well as the Government were engaged.

One of our major difficulties is the amount of detail to be included in the proposed regulations, particularly in respect of school fees. Without such detail, any comments made by us to a large degree will be based on assumption. By moving amendments during Committee we will seek to ensure that the principles of public education that we hold dear will become part and parcel of the legislative framework.

My starting point will be the four key objectives of the Bill: The right of all Western Australian children to receive a school education; the right for that education to be given by a government or non-government school or at home; the responsibility of parents to work in partnership with schools; and the need for the government schooling system to be able to provide for the educational needs of all children. On the face of it it is difficult to disagree with these objectives, but I would say that each of them - which are intended to be the fundamental base, the underlying philosophy of our education system - are too minimal in the way they describe our state education system.

Our education system will play a pivotal role in how we face the challenges of the twenty-first century - challenges of new technology, of globalisation, of the changing nature of work in our society - and these will all be vital determinants of our economic success and social wellbeing. We cannot afford to be shortsighted in the way that we view our education system and the philosophies that underpin it.

I would argue that rather than merely saying that every child has a right to receive a school education, the Bill should in fact go much further by acknowledging the State's principal responsibility to provide a public education for all children and that every child has the right to be enrolled in their local government school, unless it is clearly demonstrated why this cannot be the case. In other words, we should accept that as a Government, we have a responsibility to provide education for all citizens who wish to access it. We need to reaffirm the importance of the government school system as being integral to the success of our education system and genuinely recognise the principle of equity without ignoring the rights of people in respect of a choice for a non-government or home schooling education. Obviously people have that right to choose, but unless it is underpinned by a fundamental commitment to government provision, our society will suffer.

Another limitation on the objectives that the Minister has outlined is that government schools are required to meet only "the educational needs of all children". I believe this ignores the fact that education is more than just a government service to be delivered in an efficient manner. Rather, education underpins students' fundamental opportunities and chances throughout their whole life and therefore should be of the highest quality for all children, regardless of the type of schooling they are receiving. We need to avoid setting the standard of our educational needs for government so low that what evolves is only a second tier educational system. It goes to the heart of an equitable system, a system that provides quality education and education that is relevant. We must understand that education is not just a factory-like function. We must educate for broad citizenship and social values as well.

These general comments highlight my concern that the coalition, at the state and federal levels, lacks a genuine political commitment to the public education system. It is easy to pay lip service to the public system but I would argue that the basic principle of equity in our school system is gradually and relentlessly being undermined. We need only look at federal coalition policy to see how committed the conservatives are to government schools. It is an indictment that even coalition state Ministers had to criticise their Federal Minister David Kemp's enrolment benchmark adjustment as being wrong and unfair and that the cuts to government school funding were based on a method of calculation that was fundamentally flawed.

The situation is even more severe when we consider the inevitable increase in student enrolments as a result of the abolition of youth unemployment benefits. Schools will have to cope with more 16 and 17 year olds staying on, with the added stress for teachers who must cope with students who in many cases would prefer to be working. Even the Federal Government realised the extent of the problem and the Prime Minister did yet another policy backflip and belatedly offered some additional funding earlier this year. However, it was too little, too late and still left the State shortchanged by \$100m.

It is all too easy to forget that education is an investment in our future and should be seen as a public investment of the highest priority not only for individual students but also for the community as a whole. The reality is that the system is offering parents subtle inducements to leave the public education system and to shoulder the financial burden of educating their children. It is a slick, cost shifting exercise resulting in less funding for public education and more responsibility for parents to pay for their children's education. Glib phrases such as "parental participation" or "devolving more responsibility to a local level", which in themselves are positive principles, can mask a more unpleasant reality; that is, the shift of the financial burden onto parents. It leads to fewer opportunities for students from poorer areas and backgrounds whose parents cannot afford to pay because the community cannot afford to pay.

Mr Barnett: How does this sit with Bob Pearce's performance as Education Minister?

Dr GALLOP: The Minister should judge the Labor Party's performance on education by its policies over the period 1983 to 1993. The Labor Government's model of school based decision making, endorsed by the teaching population, was a reasonable and sensible model that devolved within the system rather than devolving the system itself. That is a fundamental difference of principle. We need only consider that between June 1993 and June 1997 almost 30 schools sold some of their excess assets to pay for essential facilities and services such as upgrading of classrooms and the provision of ventilation, extra toilets and resources for students at risk. Although I agree that it makes sense to make use of excess assets, we could find ourselves in danger of having sold off land and buildings prematurely and needing the facilities in the future. A school should not be so strapped for cash that it feels compelled to sell its basic infrastructure.

Point of Order

Mr BARNETT: I do not want to be too petty here, but as a former Education Minister, the Leader of the Opposition should be contributing to this debate without reading his speech.

Mrs ROBERTS: The Opposition does not believe there is a point of order. Unfortunately the Leader of the House is being unduly petty.

Mr Barnett: You know the conventions of the House.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The standing orders indicate that people cannot read speeches, but they can refer to copious notes.

Debate Resumed

Dr GALLOP: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

My, my, the Minister for Education is very sensitive. He cannot cop it; he does not like hearing it. We on this side of the House will defend our public education system and the rights of parents to have a good system wherever they live in this State because we want an egalitarian and socially cooperative attitude between people. We do not want a class society or the society that the Minister's people, such as the Minister for Fair Trading, want to introduce where one system is available for people with low incomes and another for people with high incomes.

This leads me to the very important principle of fees. The principle of equity is also inherent in my concerns about the provisions in the Bill relating to fees for government schools. Clause 98 provides that charges can be made for certain materials and services. In the government sector, primary schools can charge a \$9 voluntary contribution and high schools a compulsory fee of no more than \$225. Unfortunately the proposed new charges to be set by regulation have not been announced, although the Minister has indicated that those fees could treble. The issue of fees is more than an issue about the amount to be charged. Equally important is knowing exactly what will be covered by such fees and by implication what parents are responsible for paying above that amount.

A low school fee is almost irrelevant if parents must spend \$700 on personal items. As all parents know, school fees do not include the sometimes very high cost of supplying their children with personal items essential for school such as pens, rulers, calculators, diaries and school uniforms. Parents often face an additional burden when some schools insist that they buy items with brand names that are more expensive than other items. Parents are usually unaware that they are under no obligation to comply with the school's request to buy brand name items.

Mr Barnett: Will you clarify for me your comment that I said school fees will treble?

Dr GALLOP: The Minister will have his chance. We will deal with that issue. Is he denying it?

Mr Barnett: Yes; school fees or charges will not treble.

Dr GALLOP: The Minister should table what they will be.

Mr Barnett: Perhaps as a person of some standing in the community you might say where you got that information from. You just accused me of saying that school charges would treble.

Dr GALLOP: *The West Australian* reported on 18 December last year that some primary schools have been so strapped for cash that they have been asking parents to supply photocopying paper, whiteboard markers, computer disks and so on. It is one thing to ask parents to supply equipment for their child's personal use and quite another to get parents to stock schools with essential equipment because the schools do not have sufficient funds to pay for such things. If ambiguity exists about what should be included in the school grants and if Governments do not recognise their responsibility to provide reasonable school facilities, some schools will continue to face deteriorating

standards through no fault of their own or the teachers', but simply because they are situated in lower socioeconomic areas and parents are unable to pay.

Mr Barnett: Are you going to tell us who wrote the speech?

Dr GALLOP: The Minister should be only too aware that I write all my speeches.

Mr Barnett: As a reasonably intelligent man, had you written that you would not need to read it.

Dr GALLOP: I often read second reading speeches.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Barnett: This is not your second reading speech; it is your speech to the second reading debate.

Dr GALLOP: Did the Minister write his speech? Of course not. It was given to him by his department.

Mr Barnett: No, I did not; that is quite different.

Dr GALLOP: He comes in here prattling away about speeches.

Mr Barnett: You have been here for yonks and you still do not understand a second reading debate.

Dr GALLOP: I understand it very well and I am putting on the record the Opposition's views on education.

Mrs Roberts: The Minister should stop wasting our time.

Mr Barnett: It is appalling that an Education Minister cannot speak off-the-cuff about education.

Dr GALLOP: I can speak off-the-cuff on any topic the Minister wants to bring into this Parliament. However, this is a very important issue and I want to make sure that my comments get home to the Minister; therefore my speech is all written out.

Mr Barnett: Tell us who wrote it.

The SPEAKER: I am sure that if the Leader of the Opposition addresses his remarks to the Chair we can cut down on the interjections.

Dr GALLOP: I turn now to the very important educational area in our State today of information technology. It is one area on which we must focus because it is so important for our future. Whether it involves companies providing secondhand personal computers to schools or parents being asked to pay fundraising fees so that schools can buy computers it is a fundamental issue being addressed by parents today. It is essential that the Government recognise the importance of information technology in providing a true quality and relevant education. We are moving into the twenty-first century. No longer is education about the three Rs of reading, writing and arithmetic. Students must be computer literate in order to access the increasing volumes of information available to them.

It is important to remind members about the dismal performance of this Government on information technology in schools. As demonstrated by a national survey published last year, the coalition's computers in classrooms program was based on the inadequate amount of \$20m with a proposed computer-student ratio of 1:20 for high school students. It is even worse for primary school students, with a ratio of 1:50. We need only compare this with the other States to see the inadequacy of the Government's commitment. Tasmania's ratio is 1:10 and Victoria's is slightly above that; Queensland's is 1:12; New South Wales' is 1:14 and even South Australia's is 1:15. Western Australian students are being denied the skills to properly participate in the new information economy - something for which we will be paying far into the future. It is inequitable to condemn those students who have not been given any reasonable opportunity to acquire information technology. An information underclass could well be developing in our community. Very little is being done to ensure there is reasonable access for all students to a computer and that teachers in all schools are making use of the full educational potential of the computer. I wonder whether the Minister has been visiting schools lately and talking to teachers about the educational backup that is available for the use of computers in our schools, the research and development possibilities for teachers, and the training of teachers in relation to information technology. If he did, he would realise very quickly the second rate commitment this Government has given in those areas. Merely purchasing computer hardware and technology is useless if teachers are not given adequate support, especially in training and ongoing professional development. Teachers must be given the skills and resources to use this information technology in front of students who often will learn more quickly than them, and to feel confident enough to use information technology in a way that supports the learning processes. This must also include technical assistants who can provide a high level of expertise to maintain complex computer systems. The teachers should not be expected to do that. We must address some fundamental issues in respect of information technology.

Another issue which I will not have sufficient time to go into in detail relates to non-mainstream services in schools. Students with learning or physical disabilities, family or behavioural problems in our education system provide the most profound challenge for teachers in our schooling system. As I moved around the State conducting a regional audit of government services last year, the constant feedback to the Opposition was that the education system was failing in being able to provide for the non-mainstream students, if I can use that expression; those with a physical disability, with behavioural problems, with learning disabilities.

Mr Omodei: What did you do when you were in government? Absolutely zip.

Dr GALLOP: History moves on. Those opposite are in government now. Let us look at what they are doing for people with special learning difficulties who live outside the metropolitan area. Those opposite are reducing the level of services available in our education system, reducing access for teachers and staff in those schools to the resources they need to deal with those students and the problems they have. My colleague, the member for Belmont, raised an example in a grievance last year; that is, the lack of such services in Exmouth, which is part of the Gascoyne health region. In the entire Gascoyne health region there was one occupational therapist and one speech therapist, although a pilot program run late last year clearly demonstrated a much greater need for therapy than had been recognised. This is a fundamental area that must be addressed, and the Government is failing dismally in that issue. An article in "The OECD Observer" dealt with education and social inclusion and addressed the problems of exclusion in learning in our education system. It states -

There has to be a broad understanding of inclusion and exclusion, so that individual initiatives to help the disadvantaged are not isolated examples, nor individual policies unwittingly in conflict with others. The benefits of economic growth and dynamism can easily be squandered if the complementary goal of social cohesion is not assured.

Second, the importance of laying the foundations for life-long learning, on which later involvement in learning activities of all sorts so depends, re-emphasises the pivotal role of initial education and training. It is also where there is widest scope for action by education authorities themselves. Combatting social exclusion calls for an improvement in the quality of schooling, focused especially on the students and communities where achievements are currently weakest.

The provision of information technology, the level of fees and charges, the students with special learning difficulties throughout our education system, the trick that is being encouraged by the Federal Government towards private schooling - all add up to a society that is not underpinned by a strong public education system. Of course, that means the sorts of divisions we see in other communities will start to filter into our social practice, and that is the last thing we want in Australia as it enters the twenty-first century.

From our point of view, the objectives that are outlined in this Bill are minimal. We believe there should be a much stronger statement and commitment for the public education system. In respect of the issues of the day, our very strong view is that the Government of Western Australia is letting issues drift, particularly in respect of support services, school fees, information technology and education outside Perth generally. For that reason, we can assure this House that the Opposition will be making education a number one issue in politics in Western Australia in the next 12 months.

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [7.55 pm]: I, too, wish to make a few observations on this Bill. This is probably one of the most important Bills that will come before the Parliament this year. It deals with a fundamental requirement on government to provide and give access to a decent education to all school aged children in the State. It is important from my perspective that our education system is strong in every respect; that is, it has an excellent curriculum and ensures all students, whether they have parents of meagre financial resources or very substantial financial resources, have access to an education which enables them to develop to the absolute maximum of their potential. That is important in an equity sense for each individual, and it is also important in an economic sense. The day when students with high IQs and with particular talents are not given an opportunity in our school education system to develop those talents is a day when we deny opportunities not only to those students but also in providing the economic advancement to this State that those students may ultimately bring.

I am sure all people accept that a good education is vital, and it has never been as vital as it is in 1998. The latest research indicates that young people leaving school today need a sound base education that will take them through a variety of career changes in their working lifetime. It has been estimated that young people commencing in the work force today will change their occupation and vocation perhaps five or six or even seven times. In many instances they will find it impossible to do that unless they have the skills and experience that come from a sound education.

The directions for Western Australia for tomorrow are influenced by the type of education system we have in this

State today. This Bill, as other speakers have said, is basically an administration Bill. It does not deal so much with the philosophy of education or with educational outcomes, but rather with a whole range of administrative matters which are important in providing a sound education system. I wish to discuss some of those matters during the brief time available to me, and I will take up other matters in the Committee stage. The first matter I will raise, which has been referred to by other speakers, relates to fees and charges.

I am particularly conscious of that issue, having travelled to schools throughout my electorate, as I am sure members have in their electorates, to see the nature of the facilities in different schools. It is fair to say that all the parent groups try to provide the best possible resources for their schools. Sometimes, however, despite the best efforts of parent groups and the funding available through government and the Education Department, that is impossible. For example, in my electorate I could take members to schools that are fully airconditioned. Other schools have virtually no airconditioning. Some schools in my electorate have sophisticated, up to date information technology; other schools are struggling. I could take members to schools that have a range of facilities and others which do not. That means the educational opportunities are different for children, not because of the quality of the teachers, the principals or the curriculum but because of the access students have to those facilities.

I was reminded by a person who went to study some years ago in the United States that when he attended lectures and tutorials he sat alongside American students who were versed in computer technology. The Australian had pens and pencils and the American students had laptop computers. The students proficient in technology and with laptop computers were able to take in and record the lecture and process the information provided much more efficiently than could students who did not have access to those skills. In those circumstances two students might have had the same intellect and capacity but one had access to information technology and computers at an early age and an opportunity to work with and become familiar with those tools. That student had an educational advantage that would be reflected in the outcomes.

In the State school system we have an obligation - by "we" I mean this Parliament and this Government, or any future Government - to provide those opportunities. We all know that dealing with information is only one issue today and it has become more complex. Someone said to me there is more information in the Saturday edition of *The Washington Post* than there was in the first seven years' curriculum of primary school 30 years ago. Managing and understanding information is critical to schooling today.

I raise that matter in the context of fees and charges. Provision exists for government to make funds available to schools, but there is still a significant imbalance between schools in the provision of information technology. We also see that imbalance in a variety of other areas. Students who are disadvantaged must be encouraged to remain in school. A student might be struggling with a curriculum but be able to work in an office at home and be provided with materials by parents who are well educated. That student will have an advantage compared to a student who lives in a smaller house and may not have access to technology at home and is limited to the experience he can get in the classroom. It has been particularly worrying for some students to see a number of commonwealth programs disappear which were in place to assist some schools which struggle to meet their financial obligations. For example, at a national level the priority schools program funded by the Federal Government was recently scrapped and the money used for other purposes. In a high school in my electorate the funds from that program were used to provide educational opportunities for students whose parents did not have the funds to provide certain educational opportunities and experience.

The issue of fees and charges is an important one and it concerns me. If fees and charges are too high students, not parents, cannot participate fully in the school program. That can have a negative impact. After all, when we talk about education and its cost, we should be looking at the State's interest. It is to ensure we have the highest level of education possible. That means a commitment by taxpayers, not a shifting of the commitment to those people who have chosen to have children. We should be very careful about shifting the burden too much to families. The extent to which we shift the burden to families and say it is not a community responsibility will be reflected in serious equity problems in schools and educational outcomes. I express my concern about the ultimate outcome of this Bill and the regulations to be made under it dealing with fees and charges if it creates those inequities.

The telling factor should be the talent, ingenuity and capacity of the student. That should be nurtured and cherished. The only limitation should be the individual's talent and capacity. There should be no economic restraint, because it disadvantages the individual and the community; if not today, then certainly tomorrow. A whole range of studies indicate that.

Mr Tubby: I appreciate what you are saying but most parents are always going to want to raise money and provide more for their kids. That will make a difference from one school to another. There is not a lot we can do about that apart from differential funding.

Mr BROWN: I accept what the member says. I am quite amazed at the parent involvement in schools. It is terrific

compared to what it was 20 or 30 years ago. It is not unusual now to go to a school assembly and find 100 parents there. A primary school principal in my electorate asked me to come around for morning tea and meet the volunteers. I thought that sounded pleasant and that there would be 15 or 20 people present. There were over 100 people in the library. There will always be people who want to get involved in their school and who are prepared to commit time and resources. That is commendable.

However, there are some base standards, and we are dealing with the question of providing the extras or achieving the base standards. I am concerned that ultimately we may have a fee structure that is more geared to meeting the base standards than providing the extras. We might want to send our children on school trips - one school is sending students to Korea or Japan - but I would be the last to say that the State should underwrite an overseas trip for every student in every primary or secondary school. If the parents want to support a band, sports group or whatever then they should be commended, as should the school. However, when it comes to access to computers and other equipment, there must be a base and we must maintain it.

A parents and citizens group in my electorate has raised the provisions in the Bill dealing with the closure and amalgamation of schools and how that is to occur. The Bill imposes on the Minister a requirement to consult with the parents of students who are enrolled at the school and also with the parents and citizens association. School closures and amalgamations will always be an emotive issue, particularly when the parents have had an involvement with the school for a long time. One school was recently provided with funds to construct a proper undercover assembly area. Some years ago, the parents had raised money for an undercover area, although it was not as good as the new structure. Education Department policy states that a school can have only one undercover area. Because a new facility was to be provided, the school had to demolish the old one. The parents were not impressed that the structure, which they had provided and which was still workable - it was not dangerous - now had to be demolished because of a departmental policy.

Parents invest in the school not simply for their own children but because it is an important piece of infrastructure for their children and other children. Many parents have an attachment to the school. Closing a school is not like closing a street. Whether it involves students or former students; whether it is a convenience or part of the community; whether people have a financial or other investment in a school, a closure will always be an emotive issue.

The Bill makes provision for consultation by the Minister with the P & C association and the parents. The concern raised by the John Forrest Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association is whether there is any guarantee that that consultation will be meaningful. The P & C association believes that the legislation should set out how the consultation will take place or allow the Minister's decision on the manner of the consultation to be challenged. We have all seen how the word "consultation" has been used and misused. Those who do not have the power envisage consultation as timely, detailed and informative and involving the other side. Sometimes those who have the power envisage consultation to mean, "This is what we will do. What do you think? Thank you very much for your thoughts. We will now do it and we have consulted you." The P & C association wants meaningful, thorough and detailed consultation. It suggests that a process be included in the legislation to ensure that a non-consultative Minister is not encouraged to go through the formality but do very little.

The P & C association also raised the provisions that enable the Minister to exempt a school or a class of schools from this Bill. We have a set of administrative arrangements in a very lengthy piece of legislation, which has over 200 clauses and schedules, and regulations will follow. However, the Bill also allows the Minister to make an exemption.

John Forrest Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association makes the following observations -

The draft Bill didn't include any such provision. The wording of this Section is so open that it amounts to giving the Minister a "blank cheque" to exempt schools from the Act. What is the point of having a legislative framework if schools can be exempted from the Act so easily? If there is any need for schools to be exempted from provisions of the Act, the circumstances should be tightly regulated in the legislation.

I understand why the P & C association is questioning this very broad provision for the Minister to say that this or that school or class can be exempted from some or all of the provisions of the Act when this Parliament, the Government and the community have gone through an extensive consultation process. That matter will be taken up in Committee, but there is a fair degree of logic in what the P & C association has said.

The third matter that the P & C association raised relates to the review of decisions made under the Act. The legislation contains provisions which enable decisions to be made by a person performing a function that is for the purpose of school education or which enable people to make decisions concerning an individual student. The Bill also provides for such decisions to be reviewed. However, the nature of the review is very limited; that is, it is not

a review of the merit of the decision - it is much narrower. The Bill provides that a review can be undertaken in only two circumstances: First, where the decision was made without compliance with an applicable procedure - where a procedure must be followed in arriving at a decision and one can show that that procedure was not complied with; and, second, the procedure used was unfair, defective or inadequate. Neither of those review mechanisms enables one to get to the heart of the matter. The John Forrest Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association stated -

Allowing a review of decisions is commendable, but this Section of the Bill is too vague. The Bill says that the Minister may review the procedure (but doesn't have to); he/she may delegate to somebody else the power to conduct the review (but doesn't have to); and the decision itself can't be reviewed, but only the manner in which it is made. The Bill should require the appointment of an Educational Ombudsman who is able to review the actual decision as well as the procedures.

The P & C association's concern is that the review mechanism should be capable of dealing with the merit of the decision, rather than simply looking at its procedure.

The Bill provides for compulsory education, with which I agree 100 per cent; equally, I agree that if one is to provide for compulsory education, the Government has a compulsion to provide appropriate facilities.

Let me give some examples of this Government's policy in schools in my electorate. I refer to Hillcrest Primary School, which previously had an offsite preprimary centre which worked extremely well. However, the Government decided to put the preprimary centre onto the primary school site. Hillcrest Primary School is located on a main road, Coode Street, has two side streets and is located on the brink of a hill. No parent parking was provided for in this momentous decision to relocate the preprimary school. I do not know what it was like at the school this morning with the first rainy school day following this change. As a result of this lack of provision, major parking problems are faced by parents, particularly those dropping off young children at the preprimary centre.

The Government's decision to place the preprimary centre on the primary school site may have been a good decision, but no money was allocated for parking. In fact, the local authority was not told about the decision, and the Education Department is now insisting that a dollar for dollar contribution be made by the local authority for this parking.

Consequently, we have been going around in circles for six months trying to resolve the matter, so much so that the P & C association has invited the Minister out to see the site for himself. We are concerned this problem will continue to move up and down the management chain and remain on the merry-go-round for ever.

Also, we have invited the Minister to look at the music class at Hillcrest. The school has limited classroom capacity, and music is conducted in an undercroft area with a low ceiling with pipe work passing through it into the undercroft area. This situation is informative if one wants to know each time someone uses the ablution block. The kids in the class know each time someone uses the ablution block; in fact, they had a competition to pick out what people were using the ablution block for! It is an appalling state of affairs. The answer to the problem was, "We can put some binding around the pipes to camouflage the noise." It is hopeless. We have raised these matters for a long time. They go into the department and then to the school. The principal says he cannot fix the problems, and refers it to the district office. The director at that office says he does not have the power to fix them, and refers them to the director general. She sends them back to the district office, which refers them to the principal, and so on. It is a pass the parcel game which will never finish.

This matter has caused considerable frustration. Despite the school administration Bill, we should at least be able to deal with some normal, uncomplicated issues like parking and classroom accommodation. We do not need a Bill with over 200 clauses in order to deal with basic issues. I raise that issue in this speech to implore the Minister, who is not listening, and the Parliamentary Secretary, who is listening, to at least fix these matters causing considerable frustration. Despite all the representations made, we have not been able to resolve the difficulties.

MR MARSHALL (Dawesville - Parliamentary Secretary) [8.25 pm]: After the previous speakers, it is about time something positive was said about this Bill. I remind previous speakers of the old slogan which comes to mind: If the pupil has not learnt, the teacher has not taught. Therefore, if members opposite do not understand this Bill, it is our job to reassure them that it is a great Bill!

As a former sporting educator who is married to a physical education teacher, and having mixed with teachers for most of my life, I have a keen interest in education. I commend the new School Education Bill to the House.

Mr Ripper: Didn't you notice that we actually support the Bill?

Mr MARSHALL: Yes, but some negativity and pin picking has been heard. The Bill ensures that every Western Australian child has a right to school education, and gives the parents the right to choose the sort of education which best suits their child's needs as well as a chance to work together with the school's administration. Most importantly,

this Bill has made changes to the previous Act which fit the demands of modern society. The Bill embraces enrolment and attendances, and has recognised the need for home education. Also, it defines fines and penalties with new criteria, especially regarding absenteeism, and provides clarification in the establishment, amalgamation and closure of government schools.

Other areas covered by the Bill include curriculum, as should be the case under recent changes, and the suspension and exclusion of students from government schools. However, the area of refinement which pleases me most relates to the education of children with disabilities. A lad living next door to us 30 or 35 years ago played with our children. When he was aged four or five years he had a speech disability; he had therapy to learn to speak, but he developed a stutter. As he gradually overcame that difficulty, his mother sent him over to play with our children and I discovered that he could not catch a ball. I said to him, "This is how you catch: Thumbs together, eyes behind the ball and clasp." He would miss it every time and the ball would hit him in the face. I told his mother to tell the teacher that the student had a coordination problem. I said that she should ask the headmaster to have him checked by people from the health education system.

That lad is now 35 years of age. He came to me aged 9 years to learn to play tennis, and eventually became a B class tennis player with not the best of styles seen; but he became better coordinated, able to make his mark in the community as a result of tennis. However, not one teacher discovered that he should have been using a thick crayon to write and hold his pen correctly. Thanks to the determination of that lad, he has caught up in secondary education as an adult, and he went on to tertiary education. He has a place in society, but his lack of progress was through no fault of his at the time.

Members may recall that in the Estimates Committee in 1993 I challenged the education sector about why money was not available for attention deficit disorder. The person in charge said there was no such thing. I was disgusted to hear that. Two years later an amount of \$1m was put in the pot for ADD investigation - not that that was sufficient; it should have been \$10m, but at least it was an acknowledgment. However, what Government has that kind of money? I am very pleased that this Bill will allow for further consideration of children with a disability. The Bill provides an administrative framework for decision making about the educational programs for children with a disability.

This will give parents a clear idea of the relevant procedures and their entitlement to receive information about such decisions. If a child with a disability is enrolled at a government school, the principal is required to consult with the parents and to take their wishes into account in determining the content and implementation of the child's educational program. At long last, disability education will be catered for more intimately, and I feel very strongly about that section of the Bill.

Finally, I am pleased about the parent and community involvement in government schools which is provided for in this Bill. I have an excellent example of that type of involvement in my electorate. The coastal corridor of Dawesville is the fastest growing area in Western Australia. After the change in boundaries in 1996, there were 12 000 people living in that area and 18 months later there are 15 000 people in that area. The Falcon Primary School is overflowing and a new school is needed south of the Dawesville Channel. The three primary schools in that area feeding the Mandurah Senior High School are Halls Head, Glencoe and Falcon. In 1997-98 the construction of a new high school in Halls Head was suggested and highly recommended.

In the interim parent consultation was introduced and discussions took place between parents, teachers and P & C association representatives. With the help of the steering committee they considered the possibility of constructing a senior campus in the area. That was good forward thinking for the provision of education in the area. In the area at the moment are the Mandurah and Coodanup Senior High Schools with 80 to 90 TEE students in each, and it is not possible to provide the full range of subjects for those students. The demands of some students at those schools in various categories of commerce, trade or profession may not be catered for. If the students from years 11 and 12 in those schools, and possibly those from a new high school, were combined to produce sufficient students with an interest in specific subjects, a broader education could be provided.

The steering committee came up with this idea and has put two recommendations to the Education Department. The first is for a senior campus to be established and the second is to develop a junior high school, as was suggested in the first place. I think a junior high school at Halls Head would be the best approach. It would alleviate the overcrowding at the Mandurah Senior High School, and would allow more time for a senior campus to be developed. Of course, my opinion will not count, but the opinions of the community, the parents of the children and the educators will be paramount. The steering committee has put those two proposals together, and they are being debated in open forums at PCA meetings and in various educational areas in Mandurah. When the proper procedure has been followed, the matter will be referred to the Education Department and the Minister for Education.

It gives me great encouragement for the future that the Bill contains this provision. The provision for school councils

allows for greater flexibility in the way government schools are managed, and it also provides for P & C associations to continue to be the mainstream of community support to schools. This Bill has been thoroughly researched to meet the demands of modern day education. I commend the Bill to the House.

MS McHALE (Thornlie) [8.35 pm]: I would first like to correct a misunderstanding by the member for Dawesville about the Opposition's comments. The Opposition supports the Bill but it proposes amendments and clearly is offering the Government constructive criticisms rather than carping. The Opposition hopes the Government will listen to its suggestions and take on board some of its comments so that better legislation may be provided that sets the scene for education in at least an administrative sense.

I will make a few general points and then will canvass a number of concerns of the Opposition about this Bill. Clearly, fewer things are more important to the community than the education of its children. It may be said that that is a truism, but in resource, quality and investment terms, a sound education system is paramount to the quality of the lives of members of the community and the economy of the State. It is true to say the community demands and deserves access to a quality education, knowledge that will equip children for a changing market, and a nurturing environment in which children can grow and learn. That quality of, and access to, education should not be restricted by income or a person's social or economic background.

We all know that society is rapidly changing. People talk fairly glibly about a global economy, but it has significant ramifications for our education and the political fabric. There is also a changing labour market. Within that context, a flexible, comprehensive and quality education system is essential. Given that framework we must look at where this Bill is coming from. There are still several key educational indicators that suggest the school system is failing elements of the community.

Since 1995-96 there has been a 2 per cent drop in retention rates, and the retention rates for Aboriginal students continue to be of great concern. I will elaborate on that with some statistics from the 1995-96 report of the Education Department. For male Aboriginal students the retention rate from year 8 to year 12 is 14.8 per cent; in other words, of the cohort of Aboriginal students who start in year 8, only 14.8 per cent continue through to year 12. There may yet be a glimmer of hope because that figure is a 2 per cent increase on last year's figure. However, the retention rate for female Aboriginal students has dropped by 4 per cent; that is, of all Aboriginal female students who start their secondary education in year 8, only 16 per cent continue to year 12. That is clearly unsatisfactory. The whole compulsory schooling system for Aboriginal students remains at an unsatisfactory level. I quote these statistics because in my electorate of Thornlie, according to the Education Department statistics, I have 430 Aboriginal students who make up 10 per cent of the Aboriginal community in the metropolitan area. When I see retention rates of 14 per cent and 16 per cent I have grave concerns about the Aboriginal students in my electorate. We need to pay attention to that critical trend and deal urgently with that unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Members on this side of the House acknowledge the process that the Government has undertaken in updating the Education Act. The Government issued a Green Bill for the community to scrutinise, and it set up a number of community meetings. I understand that about 1 200 community members attended those meetings and that the Government received over 300 submissions. We had hoped that consultation would occur on a matter as critical as a review of the Education Act, and we commend the Government for undertaking that consultation.

We acknowledge also that following that consultation, the Government took on board and reflected to some extent the concerns of the community and the major stakeholders by amending the Green Bill, which resulted in the Bill that is now before the House. The Government has come quite a long way, and the Opposition is prepared to support this Bill, but only with amendments which we believe will further reflect and build upon the concerns of the community and will result in greatly improved legislation.

In the time available to me, I cannot do justice to all the concerns of the Opposition and all the amendments that we will pursue vigorously in Committee; therefore, I will not do an omnibus analysis of the Bill but will merely focus on several of our key concerns and the concerns that have arisen in our community liaison and consultation.

To take the Bill in a logical sequence, in our view the Bill lacks clarity with regard to the fundamental elements of our education system. The Opposition spokesperson on education referred to this Bill as an administrative Bill. This Bill does not set out the philosophy or principles of our education system. We believe that the lack of clear, relevant educational principles is a deficiency in this Bill. Therefore, we will recommend that the objects of the Bill be amended and that it include a set of principles.

I acknowledge that the object of the Bill is to recognise the right of every child to receive a school education. However, that begs a fairly significant and fundamental question which goes to the heart of our concerns; that is, what should be the nature and, more importantly, the quality of that education system? We believe that the Bill can be improved significantly by amending it to refer in clear terms to providing an education which is of the highest quality.

We believe also that it is pertinent for a Bill of this nature to state clearly the role of government or the principal responsibility of the State in the education of our children. We believe that role or responsibility is to provide a public education which is as free as possible, is of the highest quality, and is subject to a number of other principles. We will endeavour to include a set of principles. Those principles will not, in our view, be party political. Members need not think that every time there is a change of government, we need to change this Act.

The Education Department believes that based on its experience and traditions, the four principles that underpin the education system are access, equity, relevance and excellence. The most recent Education Department annual report states that those principles arise from the historical commitment of the Education Department and also from international and national best practice in education. I do not think we will have any debate about what the principles that underpin our education system should be, because they are already stated in a public document of the Education Department. However, we believe that those principles are so germane to a quality education that they should be enshrined in the Education Act. We do not believe that that will in any way diminish the Act or move away from its principal objects. The lack of principles in the Bill is a critical omission, and we will deal with that matter in more detail in Committee.

Another issue which is of grave concern to the Opposition and the key stakeholders, and which the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations has raised with the Government, is advertising and sponsorship. The relevant clause is clause 209, which is a new and an interesting inclusion in the Bill. This clause allows the Minister to encourage sponsorship or donations. The Minister can then delegate that power to his or her CEO, who can then delegate that power to the principal. In effect, a school principal can be approached by companies, or can solicit sponsorship or donations. We are not opposed to donations or sponsorships in their entirety, and we accept that sponsorship does take place. Parents and citizens organisations spend enormous amounts of time seeking sponsorship for various activities for their schools. However, we believe that this clause is too loose with regard to sponsorship or donations and provides insufficient protection.

Schools should be able to solicit and receive donations, but we are concerned about the extent to which those donations and sponsorships might be acknowledged. When companies or others provide donations some acknowledgment should be made but, in general, that acknowledgment should be reasonably modest. It would be a dangerous precedent if schools could be used by corporations and companies to gain some form of commercial benefit for those organisations. We would not wish to see schools being used for propaganda or as pawns in a desire to increase a company's market or audience. We foreshadow that if sponsorships and donations are unfettered the consequences will be significant and prove to be negative for the school community. For instance, the result could be some form of corruption in the curriculum. I mean corruption in the same sense as one would use it in computer language, not in the commercial corruption sense. Bias could be introduced, depending on the extent of the sponsorship.

We are very concerned about creating further inequities in our education system through sponsorships and donations. For instance, we know that some schools have greater buying power because their parents are more affluent than those at schools in other areas. Therefore the affluent schools may be targeted. The corollary to that is that often there may be better business connections with certain schools and, therefore, those schools will gain an advantage, and the schools who do not have that greater buying power or those good business connections - or for some other reason - will be unable to attract sponsorships or donations. Donations and sponsorships are already part of the school environment, and some modest acknowledgment should be made, but it should be managed so that it is not unfettered or misused. Some system should be established to give effective management to this proposal.

We would like the Government to consider, for instance, setting up something equivalent to the New South Wales' Public Education Foundation, by which the management of sponsorship and donations can be undertaken in an effective and equitable manner rather than it being subject to the vagaries about which I have spoken, and therefore cause unequal outcomes through the sponsorship notion. Fundamentally it is the Government's responsibility to adequately fund schools. Sufficient resources should be available to provide the quality education which we think is fundamental to the education system, and any sponsorship or donation should never be an alternative to appropriate funding. I emphasise that point because it is an important one to be debated at the Committee stage: Sponsorship should not be allowed to fund the provision of a standard education; any funds derived from sponsorship or donation should benefit school communities in addition to the funding required and to the school program.

I turn now to the issue canvassed by the member for Dawesville. We recognise that this Bill provides some mechanism for the management of children with disabilities and their parents' concerns. It sets up a number of provisions for community representation, and a mechanism for dealing with exclusion by reference to a disabilities advisory panel. Therefore, the Bill provides some benefits for children with disabilities, but we are very cognisant of the concerns expressed by the Disability Services Commission. I would like to place those concerns on the record and ask the Minister to respond either at the end of the second reading debate or during Committee. No provision

has been made to ensure that children with disabilities have a right to attend their local school. Considerable onus remains on parents to indicate why enrolment of the children should not be cancelled. Before excluding a child from a school on behavioural grounds there remains no obligation for the school to show it has attempted to address the child's behaviour at the school or in the classroom environment. To some extent the Bill does address the management of children with disabilities but concerns have been raised by the authority that deals with our community with disabilities, and they should be addressed by the Minister during the passage of this Bill.

I turn now to the penalties to be imposed. We have already recognised the consultation process. The Minister was out of the Chamber when I acknowledged the process the Minister had undertaken and recognised that as being entirely appropriate, and as a result the Minister has made some amendments. Although we recognise that some amendments have been made to the penalty provisions in this Bill we still believe that the penalties are excessive.

Mr Barnett: They are maximum penalties. They are not prescribed penalties.

Ms McHALE: We will query whether the maximum penalties will be imposed or whether there will be some gradation. The Minister should be aware - and I am sure he is - that a number of organisations have expressed concern about the excessiveness of the penalties. We intend to move amendments to try to reduce them. This point is very pertinent for Aboriginal students, and the Aboriginal Legal Service has made a number of comments on the Bill. The ALS believes that many Aboriginal families would not be in a position to pay those penalties were they imposed. The perception is that those who will pay the penalty - both literally and metaphorically - are those who are already disadvantaged. In a way it is a double disadvantage for students from low income families. I have grave concerns for Aboriginal children and families who, for a number of reasons, suffer in our education system, and those who are absent from school through truancy and who would be, therefore, the people on whom the penalties will be imposed. We should be very conscious of that, and consider those penalties again.

I am sure we have all been canvassed by the home educators. I have had a number of meetings with home educators in my electorate. They are a disparate group of our community. No one view is expressed, but they all have concerns about the Bill, particularly the Green Bill. The Bill before the House tonight will not allay those concerns.

I recognise that the Education Department and the Minister have revised the division in the Bill relating to home education and have, in particular, dealt with the concerns about invasion of their privacy and their homes. Once the Opposition has had a better look at this division, and if we feel for one reason or another that it does not address community concerns in relation to either home educators or other stakeholders, we may propose amendments.

Clause 210 relates to the power to exempt. The Opposition is concerned about the application of that clause, which introduces a wide ranging power to exempt a school community or a group of schools from the application of the Act. We understand that it is an innovation to deal with diversity. We respect that. However, it should not, for instance, enable the establishment of charter schools or other such schools which the Opposition believes are not appropriate to the public education system.

The Opposition has indicated its general support for the Bill. We recognise that a Bill, written in simple language, to upgrade and provide a framework for our education system as we move into the twenty-first century is long overdue. We are disappointed that the Bill lacks the principles which underpin our education system. The Bill needs that overarching framework of principles or philosophy to ensure that we provide not merely public education but quality education, a system which is culturally sensitive and which provides both equal access and equitable outcomes. To achieve equitable outcomes we will sometimes require differential inputs.

Above all else is the issue of resourcing to ensure that the infrastructure is in place and this Bill can be implemented. The community's primary concern is not with the Bill, but with the education of children. It is essentially about the prospect of a secure future and an education system that delivers sound skills and learning outcomes. My plea to the government benches is that we deliver that. We will not necessarily deliver it if the Government will not listen to the Opposition's amendments. We certainly will not deliver it if we do not have the appropriate resourcing to ensure that the educational needs of our diverse community are met.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [9.04 pm]: I note that the Opposition is not opposing the Bill. That is not conducive to my speaking in any detail.

Mr Barnett: It is as close as they come to enthusiastic support.

Mr TRENORDEN: My point is that I do not need to defend any part of Bill. However, as the member for Thornlie pointed out, there will be concerns under the encompassing umbrella of principle and the practicalities of delivering education. I have concerns about my electorate and beyond. The wheatbelt has demonstrated a poor attitude towards education. My mother told me about my grandfather's argument that if one wanted to spoil children one had only to educate them. It is interesting that that argument prevailed.

Mr Kobelke: How do you class yourself?

Mr TRENORDEN: That was my father's father. My father was not educated; nonetheless he was a successful individual, like many of our parents. I would like to be more educated than I am, but one cannot change yesterday.

I would be happier if the attitude in the wheatbelt toward not only education but also training were stronger. They are fundamental issues not only to the welfare and wellbeing of individuals but also to the economic driving power of the wheatbelt. I doubt anyone would disagree that better skilled people will have better outcomes.

Education will be caught up in the information revolution. The only thing about which one can be certain in education is change. The future will bring much better standards of education for country children. Schools and other institutions will be able to purchase education packages of a high standard. That will not mean that teaching will be unnecessary; the information revolution will enhance the role of teachers. There will not be fewer teachers; they will be more focused on enabling children to learn through the information package on the subject that is being taught. That will bring great change and improvement to rural education.

It will also enhance the argument that the State Government will go on line. The State Government will deliver on line services through hospitals, information booths in towns, telecentres, and local government offices. Schools will have easy access to that mainstream of information. Several speakers in this debate have referred to the information revolution. In the future, teachers will need to sift through that information to enable our children to grasp that information as quickly as possible. The future is looking good.

Since the days of the former Minister for Education, Bob Pearce, teachers and schools have been experiencing constant change. This Bill may bring some alteration in the speed of change and signal some of the roads that will be taken.

I have a great admiration for the teachers I have met in my electorate and the manner in which they have handled change and got on with the job. If we were being honest, all of us would admit that change is not an easy thing to live with, particularly when we are dealing with the complex issues of children, administration and teaching. As I attend schools in my electorate and keep my consciousness up on the education issues, I find that the issues schools are battling with are not necessarily core issues. Many of the serious issues that teachers speak to me about entail dealing with children who are involved in community juvenile problems and drugs, hungry children, angry children and children with health and social problems. All of those are growing issues that schools must deal with. It is not that schools have not dealt with those issues for decades and decades but the sharpness of those problems is increasing in most schools, including a lot of country schools. It is a very difficult area for schools to get a handle on. It certainly puts a lot of stress on teachers and on the maintenance of a conducive atmosphere for learning, because disruptive children are one of the worst elements in a school class.

The maintenance of schools is an ongoing problem, although this Government has definitely caught up with it to a large degree. I have had major education building programs in my electorate. Most of the schools in my electorate have had sizeable works or will receive sizeable works in the future. Some three or four years ago I had the experience of the Toodyay school burning down and the absolute trauma that it caused for the Toodyay community. A fantastic effort was made by the community and the Education Department to put that school back, and a magnificent school it is. One person involved in that process I would particularly like to praise is Peter Pustkuchen. I have never seen a better public servant. His dedication was absolutely outstanding in that area and many others.

For some 15 years or more the York community has been seeking the amalgamation of a high school and a primary school. That is now definitely on the agenda. For a long time Bakers Hill school has been seeking minor alterations which will make a major difference in administrative areas. It will get better than it expected, which is excellent. Schools have given outstanding performances, like the Wundowie school which in the past three years has taken an enormous leap forward, mainly through the efforts of the teachers but with considerable help from parents. Most of the motivation in the early days in the change to that school came from the teachers, to their credit. I was very pleased when the Minister for Education visited late last year and announced that Wundowie school would get a covered area, which is of substantial importance to the school. Those sorts of developments in my electorate have removed some of the pain.

There are also future issues like airconditioning in schools, which the Government is now delivering, and also computers. An issue not directly related to the Education Department is airconditioning on school buses. Many of those matters are being improved, which is great to see. There are still some major maintenance lags. A few days ago I visited Brookton school. The condition of the carpeting in the rooms I was inspecting was outrageous. Some of the toilet facilities were archaic. We still have a long way to go to meeting all the needs for resources. I suspect it has never been any different. As the local member I am happy to do my role and get in there and fight for the allocation for those schools. This Bill does not cover them but those issues are biting in my electorate.

As you, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms McHale), said a few moments ago, the rewrite of this Bill was necessary and overdue. That is why most members are supporting it. This is one of the few occasions on which we can come into this place and say that a Bill has received, not 100 per cent support but fairly strong support nevertheless.

There are still some areas where I will continue to lobby and have a high interest. They involve more resources to regional high schools. I believe there is a community service obligation-type argument for regional high schools. It must be remembered that government schools in country areas have an added disadvantage because they must supply education to students and therefore they take a lot of the difficult students when private schools need not take them. Some of those disability factors should be recognised, including the fact that children are in buses for an hour or an hour and a half. There are some difficult issues with schools assisting children to learn. Regional schools need a greater resource. There are the questions of not being able to give full size classes and not being able to offer some of the subjects. If the schools do not have the confidence of the community, parents will dig deep into their pockets and send their children elsewhere. That is one of the difficulties. I received only recently a letter from within my electorate from a member of the teachers union, complaining bitterly that too many resources were going to private schools and not enough to public schools. I wrote back to that person saying that I had no difficulty with supporting the parents' desires about the best education for their children. There is no question that if we follow the past decade of Australia's political activity, children are number one. I will not go to my electorate and tell parents that children should be anything else. If parents believe they need to take their children to a private school, that is their choice. A reasonable proportion of money must follow that choice because they are the taxpayers. However, as I have just mentioned, disabilities must be recognised within the system because government schools must provide compulsory education and cannot turn children away. We must deal with more leakages within schools and recognise that some schools, like the Northam Senior High School, do not have a lot of industries surrounding them with which they can interact with applied activities. Those schools need extra funding to compensate for that.

I also have a very strong sympathy with the living philosophies being taught. Some decades ago at least I was looking at a program which Communist China was running with its primary school children to teach them about the value of themselves, of interacting with other people and of their community and nation. Whether that comes within religious studies is a debate. However, I have no objection to anyone going into schools and teaching those basic living philosophies. Because of the so-called multicultural argument we have backed away from that area when we should not have. It does not matter what the message is as long as the message is strong about how people should live and interact with each other.

Better quality housing is a major issue. I congratulate the Minister for Housing for visiting my electorate and talking about some programs which will make a difference to housing. We all know that some country teachers live in appalling accommodation, particularly single teachers with a short tenure.

I have some concerns about linkages between schools in the wheatbelt area which I have been working on and telling my electorate about for some time. I have been talking about a committee process which I have developed with the Minister. I would like to see the system settle down a little, with some continuity of teachers because they need a bit of a break. We need to achieve more certainty in the direction of education because that improves the education process. To have excellent education we must have happy workers on both sides of the equation; that is, we need a combination of happy students and happy teachers.

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle) [9.23 pm]: It is not my intention to talk about covered assembly areas, the need for a new classroom, the removal of a demountable or those sorts of issues. I rise to contribute to this debate as the parent of three products of the state education system. My children went to the local state primary and high schools because I believe in the state education system, and I want to contribute to this debate tonight because I want to see the system improved. It is something about which I am constantly looking for ideas to achieve this improvement in the state education system and it is unfortunate that I have to say that I see nothing in this Bill that will improve the quality or standard of education for those three-quarters of the population who send their children to the state education system.

This Bill is about structures; it is about the machinery of administration of education. The Minister by way of interjection a few minutes ago said that he was seeking from the Opposition some enthusiastic support for his Bill. If we are less than enthusiastic, the reason is that it is basically a very boring Bill.

Mr Trenorden interjected.

MR MCGINTY: Let me tell the member for Avon what would make me enthusiastic if this Bill contained it. What I want to speak a little bit about are ways in which the state education system can be improved so that every one of us would be very proud to send our children to the state education system.

In looking for ways in which our state education system could be improved, I recently read the White Paper put out

by the new British Government from the Department of Education and Employment dated July 1997 and I must say that the policy issues that confronted the British Government and its response to those issues touched the right sort of chord with me. If we really wanted to do something positive about improving the state education system in Western Australia, we would do well to look at what was contained in that White Paper and at the policies that are now emerging in Britain because in many senses the problems that have beset the British education system over the years have their counterparts or their parallels with what we face here in Australia.

It is the case, although we may not like to admit it, that far too many of our students attending the state education system fail to realise their full potential and it is no different in the UK from what it is here, and that is an unacceptable state of affairs. In the British White Paper from the Department of Education and Employment, it was observed that in Britain today only 60 per cent of 11 year olds reached the standard that was appropriate for their age in maths and English. It was not all that long ago in Australia that the Federal Minister for Education and Employment mentioned a similar figure in respect of literacy standards among students in Australia.

The report went on to say that well over one-third of 14 year olds in the English education system were not achieving at the standard appropriate to their age in English, maths or science. That again is an appalling statistic.

The paper went on to observe that the excellence that was achieved by a small number of people at the top in the British education system was not being matched by high standards for the majority of children attending schools in the UK. The White Paper states -

The problem with our education system is easily stated. Excellence at the top is not matched by high standards for the majority of children. We have some first-class schools and our best students compared with the best in the world. But by comparison with other industrialised countries, achievement by the average student is just not good enough.

It then goes on to deal with the historical reason for that in the UK -

These problems have deep and historic roots. We failed to lay the foundations of a mass education system at the end of the 19th century as our competitors - France, Germany and the USA - were doing. They recognised that a strategy for national prosperity depended upon well-developed primary and secondary education for all pupils, combined with effective systems of vocational training and extensive higher education.

The White Paper then goes on to observe the failure of the British education system to deliver a mass education system that really did achieve standards of excellence for every student participating in it. The paper observed -

The school-leaving age remained at 15 until the 1970s and the focus was still on selecting a small proportion of young people for university. That determined the structure of the school system: selection at 11 followed by further specialisation at 16 for those who stayed on.

The paper then made an observation which I think is pertinent to our education system -

The demands for equality and increased opportunity in the 1950s and 1960s led to the introduction of comprehensive schools. All-in secondary schooling rightly became the normal pattern, but the search for equality of opportunity in some cases became a tendency for uniformity. The idea that all children had the same rights to develop their abilities led too easily to the doctrine that all had the same ability. The pursuit of excellence was too often equated with elitism.

I think that is a problem that we have in our state education system today: Not enough emphasis is placed on the achievement of excellence by all students participating in the system and we see nothing in this Bill which would work towards the achievement of that objective.

The report noted that in the UK, an independent audit agency which scrutinises the operations of all schools reported that between 2 and 3 per cent of the schools in the UK were failing completely. They went on to say that about 10 per cent of the schools had serious weaknesses in particular areas and about one-third were not as good as they should be.

My observation about the education system in Western Australia is that one could say the same about the system which this Bill is designed to regulate. We have some remarkably good schools, a proportion of schools that are abysmally poor, and a very large proportion of schools that should be doing a lot better.

The question is not so much to stand here and criticise and share anecdotes about the education system, but rather to look at what it is that we can do to achieve the sorts of objectives that we all want for the state education system. The British White Paper identified six policy principles to form the basis of the new British Government's education

philosophy or policy. They were, first, that education was to be at the heart of government. It is interesting to note that that principle saw its application by the Government introducing two education Bills in its first few months in office in Britain. One was to immediately reduce class sizes in the lower levels, in particular for 5, 6 and 7 year old students. Secondly, it introduced legislation designed to advance the achievement of educational standards throughout the entire British educational system. In addition the White Paper went on to say -

Already education has taken centre stage and it will remain there through this Parliament and beyond. A clear sign of this is our pledge that over the lifetime of the Government we will increase the proportion of national income spent on education as we decrease it on meeting the bills of past social and economic failure.

Where do we see a commitment of that nature in this legislation or in the speeches that have accompanied it? It is simply not there. That is one of the reasons for what has been described as lack of enthusiastic support for this legislation.

The Bill is devoid of the important policy objectives designed to raise standards and pursue excellence in our government schools. It is merely a mechanical Bill for the regulation of the existing education system.

As I said at the outset, six policy principles have been adopted in Britain. The second is as follows -

Policies will be designed to benefit the many, not just the few.

That speaks for itself. The third is that standards matter more than structures. That might sound like a good throw away line, but this Bill is about structures. It is not about standards, which are close to the heart of every parent whose children attend the state education system. This Bill should be about those standards rather than the structures with which we seem preoccupied.

The White Paper went on to say the following about the standards and structures -

The preoccupation with school structure has absorbed a great deal of energy to little effect. We know what it takes to create a good school: a strong, skilled head who understands the importance of clear leadership, committed staff and parents, high expectations of every child and above all good teaching. These characteristics cannot be put in place by altering the school structure or by legislation and financial pressure alone. Effective change in a field as dependent on human interaction as education requires millions of people to change their behaviour. That will require consistent advocacy and persuasion to create a climate in which schools are constantly challenged to compare themselves to other similar schools and adopt proven ways of raising their performance.

As these principles unfold we see what I believe to be an element of an education system and Act which is essential to the achievement of high quality education for all Western Australians; that is, the notion of accountability, the drawing up of benchmarks and the establishment of standards which schools are required to meet. That emerges in the standards issue as part of the centrepiece of policy issues affecting British education.

The fourth principle is that intervention will be in inverse proportion to success. The paper observes -

The main responsibility for improving schools lies with the schools themselves. Where schools are evidently successful, we see no benefit in interfering with their work, although all schools need to be challenged to improve. Schools need a constant supply of good data about how their performance compares with other schools, a clear understanding of the Government's strategic priorities and recognition of their achievement.

An issue is now emerging that has been the subject of much criticism by educational people here in Western Australia. In seeking to use objective data to compare schools and discuss the level of academic achievement or underachievement, too many people here in Western Australia are saying it is unfair to make those comparisons. If we are to have accountability in our education system we must have objective yardsticks by which education can be measured. We must have an independent, external audit authority and we must subject schools to the same sort of rigour as that to which we are increasingly subjecting every other element of government operations. Somehow schools seem to escape the accountability measures in place everywhere else. We must demand the achievement of those higher standards. Schools and the Education Department must be accountable for policies and activities in their area.

In Britain, if a school is performing it should be left alone. If a school is not performing and on any objective assessment is not delivering what the parents and the local community require for their children, intervention is appropriate. That is not encouraged through the centralised system perpetuated by this legislation.

The fifth of the six principles which now form the centrepiece of British educational policy is an interesting notion and reads -

There will be zero tolerance of underperformance.

In Western Australia we have too much acceptance of the culture of underperformance affecting too many of our schools. To be frank, we all know in academic terms that country schools perform abysmally. Where are the measures and initiatives in this Bill to address that question? We also know that schools in the lower socioeconomic areas in Western Australia also dramatically underperform. There is a very demonstrable geographic and economic separation in performance levels of our schools. We tolerate that by saying that it is a country school or in a poorer area and we do not have the same expectation. I do have that expectation; I do not find that to be an acceptable response from the Education Department or from people associated with education here in Western Australia.

The White Paper said on zero tolerance of underperformance -

Our aim is excellence for everyone. If this is to be more than rhetoric, then persistent failure must be eradicated. Hence our commitment to zero tolerance of underperformance. We shall seize every opportunity to recognise and celebrate success in the education service, and we shall put in place policies which seek to avoid failure. But where failure occurs, we shall tackle it head on.

This is very interesting -

Schools which have been found to be failing will have to improve, make a fresh start, or close. The principle of zero tolerance will also apply to local education authorities. Our policy will be driven by our recognition that children only get one chance. We intend to create an education service in which every school is either excellent, improving or both.

There is recognition in the United Kingdom that some schools are failing their students. We do not have that recognition here in Western Australia and that is a significant shortcoming.

The final principle which forms the basis of the British educational policy is that the Government will work in partnership with all those committed to raising standards. The constant drive now apparent in the UK to raise standards to create the right framework is running very much through the notion of partnership and working with local communities; whereas unfortunately inherent in this Bill is the continuation of the centrally regulated education system as we have known it in the past.

The UK has established a new standards and effectiveness unit which has responsibility for driving the achievement of those educational standards in the UK. It is unfortunate that the same priority is not placed on the issues closest to the hearts of parents here in Western Australia.

The issue that emerges from what I have said so far about the British education system is that education is the top priority of government. It places great emphasis on raising standards, on achieving excellence, and on making schools and education authorities accountable for the achievement of those standards, because they face quite severe action if they do not perform in an accountable way and deliver that which they are expected to achieve. They are the issues of concern to parents here. That is why I said at the outset that the policy that has emerged from the British Labour Government would strike a responsive note with parents in Western Australia in the same way as it has struck a responsive chord in me.

I turn to the question of accountability at two levels: First is the accountability of the Education Department. There is nothing in this Bill to enhance the responsibility of the department to its customers and their parents. That is a significant shortcoming. I urge the Minister to look at what occurs in the United Kingdom, at the need to establish an independent external audit authority to make sure schools develop their own education plans. Schools not achieving those plans are given assistance and a measure of persuasion to achieve those objectives, and the schools are held accountable for them. We cannot expect schools to be accountable when there is a continuation of centralised authority, with the schools feeling relatively powerless to control or influence their own direction. It is necessary to place the onus on schools and let them be accountable for what they undertake to do and the way in which they do that.

This is absent from the Bill and there is nothing in it to make either the Education Department or individual schools more accountable. Until we get that, parents in Western Australia will not be happy with the education system. That mechanism will give parents a greater input into the schools. It will also see standards rising and the pursuit of those issues in the United Kingdom which we have heard about this evening.

The White Paper refers to an external audit agency known as OFSTED. I urge the adoption of something similar to that in this State. The White Paper states -

We need to improve the combination of pressure and support which central and local government apply to schools to stimulate constant improvement and tackle underperformance. There is already regular high quality external inspection by OFSTED of schools. To complement this, schools must have annual plans for improving their performance which are focused on better teaching and learning, and are based on the results they are already achieving.

The report goes on to say -

One of the most powerful underlying reasons for low performance in our schools has been low expectations which have allowed poor quality teaching to continue unchallenged. Too many teachers, parents and pupils have come to accept a ceiling on achievement which is far below what is possible.

That is particularly the case in country schools and those schools located out of the middle and upper middle class areas and is applicable particularly in Western Australia. The report goes on to observe -

Schools often fail to stretch the most able; and they have not been good at identifying and pushing the modest or poor performers, or those with special educational needs. In some cases the excuse has been that "you cannot expect high achievement from children in a run-down area like this".

That sounds fairly familiar. It goes on -

Even more often, schools in comfortable circumstances have complacently accepted average performance when they should be aiming for excellence.

In my view the measure of a school is whether it seeks to achieve that excellence; whether it pushes its students to achieve that standard. Any school that achieves that measure of excellence in a particular area - whether it be through special programs or whatever - stands out as an example for the students at that school and other schools in the area, as something to be admired, to be looked up to. That is an essential element in a vibrant system.

In Britain from September all schools will be required to challenge targets for improvement. The schools are to take direct responsibility for establishing new targets, which are to be developed in an educational development plan. Against that educational plan, a local education area is required to be accountable for the achievement of the educational and other objectives within the school. In that sense I think this external audit process is fundamentally important. We must look at changing the way in which our educators approach the question of education, each of whom should be saying, "I am accountable to the local community. This is what I will seek to achieve with the students." That may be in terms of the tertiary entrance examination scores, entry to technical and further education courses, or bullying at the schools. Objective standards must be set and the schools held accountable for achieving them.

If the schools fail, we should do what will occur in Britain - close the school. We should make it quite clear to the community that we expect these schools to set their standards and to achieve them. If the schools do not achieve them, we should look at ways to encourage them to do so. At the end of the day there is the reasonably significant issue of what happens to the schools that underperform.

Mr Johnson: They must have the right to take on the schools locally.

Mr McGINTY: I do not know whether I agree with that.

Mr Johnson: What you have been quoting tonight as the policy of the United Kingdom Labour Government is basically the policy the Conservative Government had for many years. The Labour Party has now said that it agrees with streaming children, with the grammar school system. For years it was totally opposed to that. All it wanted was a comprehensive system of education so that all kids had access to it.

Mr McGINTY: Perhaps the member might make a contribution to the debate later. The issue of who employs the teachers raises a fundamentally important equity issue. I do not want changes introduced to our education system that will see those schools in the higher socioeconomic areas advantaged to the detriment of others, such as the priority schools which my children attended. There is a problem with that issue. However, if it will bring about a measure of accountability in the schools, it is time we tried a similar approach to that being applied in Britain.

Parents, particularly those in middle class and upper middle class areas, are voting with their feet. We are starting to get different standards of education in Australia. We are reverting to the problems I mentioned at the outset, which have bedevilled the education system in Britain for a long time. Once again I refer to the White Paper which reports on what happens when schools fail to achieve their targets. The report states -

There are currently 300 schools in England which have been identified by OFSTED as failing to deliver an acceptable education. Some are well supported by their LEA and are showing substantial signs of recovery.

However, where schools show insufficient evidence of recovery it may be necessary to consider a "Fresh Start".

A fresh start may take different forms. In some cases the most sensible course will be closure and the transfer of pupils to nearby successful schools. Alternatively, an LEA might be authorised to allow one school to take over the underperforming school to set it on a new path. Another option would be to close the school, and re-open on the same or a different site with a new name and new management. The change would have to be more than superficial. It would need professional leadership of the highest calibre and would need to be seen by everyone as a clean break, and an attempt to create a new and ambitious sense of purpose.

We are seeing in the United Kingdom the introduction of a true measure of accountability. If a school does not measure up to accountability standards, it faces some fairly dire consequences. I say from personal experience that something must be done to address the issues confronting our education system - not in our primary schools; my experience of primary schools in my electorate is that I would be more than happy to send my children to any of them. They are a bit old for it now, but in the past I would have done so. The same cannot be said of the high schools. We recommend the British experience to the Minister, at least superficially, because I have not had the opportunity to study the matter in depth. It seems to me to provide a number of answers. I urge the Minister to consider developments in the UK, especially the notion of an independent external audit designed to achieve improved standards, the pursuit of excellence and, most importantly, accountability.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [9.51 pm]: I want to reflect on a few matters in the Bill. I congratulate my colleague the member for Fremantle for drawing to our attention the British White Paper on education. It raises some interesting issues for us as we debate this new education Bill, the first in many years dealing with this important subject. For members on this side, and no doubt members opposite, education comes immediately after food, shelter and health in any equation about the quality of life or any discussion about what is important to every member of the community. We are philosophically committed to free, secular and universal education in this country. In any discussion about education it is important to restate those principles, particularly as some people believe those principles have been lost sight of in recent years.

We are also committed to a high quality universal education and we deplore any move, subtle or blatant, to defund public education to the advantage of private education. All students, wherever they live, whatever their parents' economic background, deserve a high quality education. We are determined not to allow those standards to fall. All members will be concerned about education, not only in relation to our own children, but also because of the time we spend visiting schools and advocating on behalf of schools and students in our electorates.

I have been incredibly impressed in the past nearly six years with the old inner city public schools in my electorate. I visit them regularly. Some are very under-resourced compared with neighbouring private schools. Nevertheless, they have turned out many enthusiastic, well qualified students with very good moral and civic values. We have an obligation as members of Parliament to make sure that those schools continue to have adequate resources to educate every student well and that some schools are not scrabbling to find the funds for educational essentials.

I have been lobbied about that, as I am sure members on both sides have, in relation to this Bill. It is not good enough to have schools scrabbling to find educational essentials. Australia needs a well educated population and it needs young people who are responsible, concerned about their fellow human beings and enthusiastic about work and their future and who have good moral values. People must have the expectation that their children will gain from school those strong moral values about which I have spoken, the best education available and a sense of responsibility to the community. The best public schools in our community can and must provide that as well as the private and religious schools do.

I am also a great believer in the value of education in changing one's life path and opening all of us up to opportunities which may not at first be obvious from our family backgrounds. Not everybody in this House has a background where both sides of the family going back generations have had tertiary education. I venture to say a majority of members in this House come from families in which they are the first people to be tertiary educated. Many of the advantages I have had have resulted from the quality of education I received and the teachers I had. I am a great supporter of strong literacy and numeracy.

There have been a number of arguments in newspapers and magazines about this issue in recent years. Since the 1960s it has been a serious issue in relation to what people require from education. There seems to be a return to the idea that literacy and numeracy are number one and should be provided to all students. I agree strongly with that. An undereducated person is under-resourced for life. Although I appreciate the remarks of one of the members opposite, and there are certainly members of my family who were under-resourced educationally but have nonetheless been very successful, if we have the opportunity to give such an education to our children, and to our neighbours'

children if one is a member of Parliament, we have an obligation to do so. In a wealthy community such as we have in Australia there is no excuse for us to underprovide for the next generation.

Like other members I have received approaches from schools, parents and members of different lobby groups about education. Sometimes it has been along more philosophical lines - a discussion about what they believe education represents. Sometimes they have lobbied me strongly about corporate sponsorship, special education for children with disabilities, or home schooling. To echo the words of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, they seem to have been well organised. I was going to say "lobby group" but a whole group of individuals have approached us about home education without being part of a lobby group. They certainly have had a great deal to say about it.

I refer briefly to corporate sponsorship because a number of people have raised concerns with me. A group of people in Mt Lawley recently came to me with their concerns about the ever-increasing idea of corporate sponsorship in schools. They had visions of the McDonald's logo over the door of the school and were concerned about what that might mean to the educational values in that school. They were also concerned that if the Government thought a corporate sponsor could be found, it might use that as an excuse not to provide the necessary funds to the schools. This group of people were very hot under the collar about this issue and put together a submission for me about the idea of corporations having control of finances and curriculum content, as well as setting the social climate in which children learn. They were very upset about that matter. They said the argument that schools need to link with industry and the wider community had little or nothing to do with who pays for the education of our youth. Although they were susceptible to the argument that parents and citizens associations have been raising funds from corporate sponsorship for many years - I have sat in on many discussions of that kind - they believed core education funding through corporations was not a good idea. They said that equal access to quality and unencumbered education for all children was critical to the future of Australia. Other groups have raised the same issue with me and their comments have mirrored those in that submission. They believe that sponsorship, if it is to be sought, should be allowed on the basis that it provides additional benefits to the standard school program and that it does not merely help to fund the provision of basic education. That appears to be the major concern of those who have spoken to me about corporate sponsorship. The Government must fund core education and sponsorship should be the cream on the cake. That is the essence of the message they wanted me to relay to the House this evening.

The issue of home education is more problematic. My colleague the shadow Minister has spoken at some length about this issue, the number of submissions that he has received and the meetings he has attended about this subject. I have also received letters about this issue. People have a number of reasons for wishing to educate their children at home. Sometimes it is because the child has a special problem, they have not liked the education the child has been getting at a nearby school, or the child has been bullied or has not fitted in. Perhaps the parents work from home, have a high education standard and feel they have the opportunity and skills to educate their child and would prefer to do so.

I am sensitive to the issues that these people have raised with me. However, as many members have mentioned, our public school system has a basic standard of education and we must have quality control. I have a great deal of concern about not only home schooling but also privately funded schools which have unusual education philosophies and which might seek to avoid the quality control that most of us feel is appropriate in a community that wants a highly educated population. We must be sensitive to the issues that the home schoolers have raised, but we need a strong standard of quality control in any public education system and I would not like to see the standard reduced in any way.

Another matter raised with me is that of indigenous education and the values which we should be prepared to encourage in our schools and which are the background of the indigenous communities. We should be prepared to supply culturally appropriate and relevant learning experiences for the indigenous members of our community. At the end of the twentieth century we should also make a point of including the cultural values and an understanding of the history of the indigenous people of Australia in any general education system. We should ensure that the school curriculum adequately covers Aboriginal studies and the history of all Australians. That was absent from my own education. I am glad that the situation has improved, but we could do a lot better than we are at the moment and I hope we continue to develop in that direction.

My colleague the Deputy Leader of the Opposition discussed truancy and penalties applied to students who are not regular attendees at classes. That is very problematic, particularly for indigenous students with different cultural values. We must be very sensitive to that while at the same time ensuring that we emphasise the importance of universal education, which is such an important standard in our community. We must work much harder to improve the participation of indigenous children and their retention rate in education at all levels in our community. We must focus on literacy and numeracy - I cannot emphasise too much the importance of that issue. As we do with other members of the community, we must make particular efforts to include Aboriginal parents and families in discussions and decision making about education.

Many other issues have been brought to my attention, and some have been discussed by my colleagues already. I am very much aware that we will have an opportunity to raise issues in Committee.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [10.06 pm]: I am pleased to be able to make a small contribution to this debate. The importance of education is something on which there is general agreement on both sides of the Chamber. In the community at large there is an expectation that people will seek to achieve the highest possible education because it is so important for them individually, for their future prospects and for the community at large.

The member for Avon quite rightly commented that there are people in our community who do not hold high expectations of education. We must address that issue if we are to provide equity in our community. Achievement educationally is often determined by the expectations of the student and their parents. That is one of the major factors that we must address if we are to ensure that all children have access to the education they require to reach their full potential. When we talk about what we mean by "education" perhaps we will find that there is not accord between all members as to what we hope to achieve from education as a community or what we individually might hope to gain from it.

Education is important because it very much involves the development of each of us as individuals. It starts in the home and goes through to the formal education that is addressed in this Bill. In that sense, it is a whole of life enterprise.

Schools play a most important role in our education as individuals, giving us the opportunity to develop our full human spirit, to be inspired to do our best, to understand the achievements of the human spirit and mind and to seek to make a contribution to our community. If education lacks that sense of excellence and inspiration, it is not education. It might be training, but it is not education.

Education is also very important in our schools for the sense of belonging that it gives and for the role it plays in socialisation. That can involve ensuring that our students have an understanding of themselves and their place in our community, and of other students in their school and the wider community, and that they not only understand but also respect students from different backgrounds and, through that, gain a more complete understanding of their place in our community and what it is that they will be able to contribute.

Education is also important because as we move into the next millennium we are very much trying to build a learning society. We must be able to handle the huge growth in knowledge to cope in a rapidly changing technological society, as individuals and for the continuing economic success of our society. We must develop even greater emphasis on education and learning to be able to fill our place in society. That leads one to having a view of learning as being a life-long endeavour, not something that one does only in schools. If this Bill, which relates to schools, is to be successful it must encapsulate in the system a desire for life-long learning, so that students do not think when they leave school that that is the end of their education but that it is but one important part of their formal education.

The national goals of Australia cannot be achieved unless they are tied to our education system. Education has an important economic contribution, not only as an industry itself which is worth billions of dollars but also by contributing to other areas of economic enterprise in Australia. The information society, to which I have alluded, is a huge growth area and an industry in itself. However, without education the door is closed to people wanting to access the information society.

There has been much discussion, particularly led by the federal Minister for Education, about standards of literacy and numeracy in our community. The federal Minister has done a great disservice to education in Australia by his very poorly founded attack on literacy. The educational research is quite clear. In many research project reports the overall view is that there has been no reduction in literacy or numeracy standards in Australia over recent years. There have been problems and areas where we should have done better, but measuring in a broad sense levels of literacy now against those of 10 to 30 years ago gives no well-founded scientific evidence to show there has been a reduction in standards. The important issue is that expectations have grown. Whereas it was acceptable 20 to 30 years ago that students came up to a certain level of literacy and they could then expect to get a job and play a full part in our community, that is no longer the case. The demands are so much higher. Today for young people to become full citizens, to gain employment and to contribute to our community they are expected to have a much higher level of literacy and numeracy. The demand is greater. The federal Minister is correct when he intimates that we need to improve our literacy and numeracy standards. His attack on those standards as slipping backwards is not founded on any scientific basis and does education a great disservice.

The standards achieved in education in Western Australia can be seen from a whole range of comparative studies which have been conducted in different subjects and across ranges of subjects and which have compared the Western Australian education system with the systems of other States and then Australian States' systems with those in other countries. Although there are mixed results, any review of that literature would show that Western Australia, on a

whole range of those international comparisons of numeracy and literacy, has achieved standards near the top or at least above average. Ample proof exists of the high quality of the education given to students in both private and government schools in Western Australia.

Mr Tubby: In science and maths we are second only to Singapore.

Mr KOBELKE: I thank the member for the interjection. I did not want to allude to specific studies because we could get tied down to exactly what they covered. Studies have shown that our standards are in the top two or three internationally in some subjects through to a whole range of other subjects which show that we are generally average or well above average.

It is not often made clear that we have economically a very efficient education system. The dollars we contribute to education in Western Australia are well below average internationally. The figures fluctuate from year to year. The last figures I was able to obtain are several years out of date and relate to 1994. A cost comparison was made of the contribution per student by government to government schools. It showed that Western Australia in that year was below the national average, yet we achieved comparable or better results. It is more startling when one compares the amount spent on education across the whole of Australia per primary and secondary student, because we languish very poorly behind the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries. The figures from about four years ago show that our expenditure on primary education was well below the average for OECD countries. For that abysmal expenditure on primary education we achieved top results.

That is a very clear measure that we have a very efficient, high quality education in our schools in Western Australia. Any Government needs to be careful when it starts to think that it can have cost savings here or cut costs in another area to try to get greater efficiency in our system. We are already seeing plenty of evidence where those attempts to achieve efficiencies or cut costs have directly impacted on a reduction in quality in education in some of our schools. The clear message I wish to give to the House is that we can be very proud of our students, teachers and administrators who have helped to put together an education system that has achieved those sorts of results.

We must ensure that we are talking about equity and about ensuring that students are given equal access to our education system so that they may achieve their full potential. We do not expect them to achieve equally, because they are all different. One of the strengths of our education system is its dual nature. We have very strong government and private systems of education, which allow for some experimentation; their diversity allows them to cater for different needs. One system can learn and copy from the other. We need to be very careful that some of the changes being put forward in this Bill and with the Curriculum Council do not try to sit too much uniformity on our whole school system. We need standards, but if a central bureaucracy seeks to put all those systems into the same mould, it could threaten or destroy some of the strengths we have in the diversity of the system.

People must have expectations of quality in both systems. If we see further undermining of the government school system, which has clearly taken place in the past three or four years, we may see many parents taking students out of government schools and seeking to educate them in private schools because they have formed a negative view about the quality of education in government schools. The Government has seen a slight shift in the number of students going into private education. If that goes too far the whole strength of the dual system will collapse. We will end up with a two tier system of good schools and schools that are seen to be inferior and to which parents will send their children because they cannot afford better. We and many people we know have sent children to government schools. People have done that for their own philosophical reasons and because of their quite well-founded firm belief that the quality of education in our government schools is comparable to or even better in some cases than that which students would get in a non-government school to which they might be able to send their child. We must maintain that comparison. If we erode the number of students going to government schools and change the public expectation of their standards, the whole system could be shattered.

If government has a prime responsibility for the funding of public education, it cannot regard public education as schools to which it gives a little money to be out there competing in the education system. For the maintenance of our whole schooling system, the Government must ensure that government schools are comparable to non-government schools in every way possible in the standard of education provided.

Competition could be referred to at length - I refer to it briefly. A level of competition between schools and between school systems is healthy, as schools can assist each other in trying to do things better by applying new methods. If, through economic and other means, the Government forces schools and school systems into outright competition to survive, as suggested through some models of funding, we will destroy the quality of education.

I return to where I started: Education is all about developing individual students to their maximum potential; we need to promote human endeavour; we need to inspire young people and to create a better human spirit. If education turns into an economic issue concerning competition to survive, those important principles will be threatened. We must

be careful about how far we let competition go. At the moment in Western Australia we are reasonably healthy in that regard, but we need to note some danger signs.

In his second reading speech, the Minister said that "This Bill marks the culmination of a defining year in education in Western Australia." I will come back to that point as some evidence in the speech does not stand up to scrutiny. I accept that this Bill is a very important landmark for education in this State. We need this most welcome update to the legislative base for school education in Western Australia. I commend the Minister for undertaking the process of consultation involved with this measure. This has been a proper and due process to arrive at a whole new legislative framework for schooling in this State, for which the Government deserves commendation.

However, the spirit of the legislation falls well short of the mark. One hoped that more of the spirit of inspiration and outlining of the goals one wants to achieve through education would be embodied in the Bill. Very little sign of that appears. The Bill's tone is about improving the management of the system, but not working out what it wants to achieve in the system.

We see a failure to achieve the potential of this legislation. The principle of inspiring young people and gaining the maximum benefit from this legislation is not outlined. The Bill does not espouse that social justice should be a central principle of education. I am not saying that the Government should do that - although I would do so - but we need some founding principles outlined in the legislation. It could be that one wants education to be fundamental in fostering a democratic society and to ensure that we enhance participation in our democratic community. No mention is made of that. The conservative side of politics may want the principle of the free enterprise spirit in the legislation so young people develop new businesses. No mention is made of such principles. The Bill says that we want to manage the schools well, but we should have gone further and outlined the spirit of what we want to achieve in our school system.

It is not as though education philosophy is something new: Plato and Socrates had well developed views on education. We have not really achieved the potential of this legislation in that regard. Governments in the past have developed education philosophy. I am a strong critic of the failures of the Menzies Government. I pose the following question to Liberals and others who think highly of the Menzies Government: What were the major achievements of that Government over its 20 years in power? People usually cannot list any achievements, although that is often more a memory issue than anything else. However, the Menzies Government was responsible for a huge expansion in education in the mid-1960s, for which I am thankful. Previously, my parents' expectation for me was to get a trade, or maybe a clerical job if I were lucky. However, I and many people of my age were able to continue in education into the final years of school, and go on to universities through the scholarship scheme brought in by the Menzies Government. It was seen to be a huge expansion in education which was needed for national development; this dictated in the 1960s that we needed higher education for the work force. I and others benefited from the Menzies Government's clear vision. The Schools Commission was established during the Whitlam years, which directed huge amounts of funding into schooling, and there was a proper recognition of non-government schools. Funding was provided. Free tertiary education was a driving force to see the development of education, Australians and the nation to their individual potential. The Fraser Government, of course, did nothing.

The Hawke and Keating Governments saw the school retention rate double from 35 to 70 per cent or more. Those Governments wanted young people to continue at school so they had an education to suit tomorrow's world. Those Governments had an ambition and a goal, and they saw a huge increase in the number of places provided in tertiary institutions.

Since the Court Government came into office, we have seen no ambition with education: We have seen squabbles with the teachers union, school closures, cost cutting and rationalising. It is all management.

Mr Barnett: Which costs have been cut?

Mr KOBELKE: Prior to the Minister assuming the portfolio, we had school closures to save money, which the Minister has continued. I am talking about the life of the last Government. No ambition was displayed and no objectives were established.

I refer to the second reading speech which, as I agreed, said the Bill is most important. I congratulated the Minister for the way the Bill was handled. However, one could achieve more in terms of its spirit and intent, rather than just the management of the system. The Minister spoke about the defining year in education with the establishment of the Curriculum Council. That is a most important issue and I hope the Minister's initiatives will bear fruit, but time will tell. The curriculum must be continually upgraded. I will not comment on the structure of the council; however, as in all such things, people will make it work. The Minister has involved some excellent people in that process and, on that basis, I have confidence that it will succeed and achieve its goals. The Minister then stated -

The current realignment of the Education Department's central and district offices will more closely focus and strengthen services to schools and students at a local level.

I do not think that is true. In large part it is change for the sake of change. Since this Government came to power it has used educational districts as the method of local administration, and the number was about 30. The Government then restructured them and had a smaller number of slightly larger districts. Now there will be mega districts with more people in them. It is change for the sake of it, and people are sick of that. This is about administering the dollars, and it will not improve educational outcomes. The proposal runs the grave risk that many areas will slip through the net, and services will no longer be provided adequately under the new system. The Minister also said -

The Government initiated major reform in the area of early childhood education.

That referred to preprimary and kindergarten programs. However, he did not say that the program for five-year-old children was instituted by the previous Labor Government. This Government stopped that program, and four years later it has achieved a result that the previous Labor Government was well on its way to achieving.

The next point I make, because I do not have time to go through the objectives of the Bill, which indicate that lack of spirit, is that the Bill is about administration and does not deal with clear goals for education. Without those goals and values, education is next to useless. On a number of occasions recently the Governor has talked about putting values back into education. I agree with him but I disagree with his method. I do not think values can be taught as a subject. It is meaningless to talk about teaching values. Values are learned when they are part of the system. They should be inculcated in the whole system. To teach democratic values it is necessary to have a democratic school structure. To teach respect for individuals and others in the community, it is necessary to practise it in the school. There is much to be done in that area and the system has underachieved in that area. How can our schools inculcate values in education when no values are set out in the Bill? There is no indication of what the values should be. It is not an easy exercise. It is difficult in a multicultural, secular society to put values in place, but it is a challenge that must be faced. If that can be achieved, the quality of education will be improved.

I now refer to the absenteeism issue which the Minister covered in his second reading speech. He mainly alluded to the penalties to be used to ensure students attend school. I fully support compulsory education, and I support the Minister in his proposal to establish legal penalties for those who do not comply. However, those legal penalties are simply the backstop; they will not make kids go to school. Fear of the imposition of a fine will not make the recalcitrants and the truants go to school. A system is needed to ensure that those students are placed in schools with which they can cope and where they feel they are getting something from the education system. That small number of students who prove to be a problem will need some penalty, but there must be in place guidance officers, welfare officers and services to ensure that those who are causing problems in, or opting out of, schools find a meaningful place in the education system. The Minister said in his second reading speech -

Although we should acknowledge that a number of schools provide successful alternative programs or truancy intervention strategies, cases will arise where, despite the best efforts of schools and parents, children stay away.

Those alternative and intervention programs for truancy are totally insufficient for the needs in the system. Before the last election when I put forward the policy paper for the Labor Party, I spoke to many of these groups. When I was a teacher many years ago I was keen to specialise in those areas where young people who opted out of school were regarded as difficult. I enjoyed teaching the difficult kids and taking on that challenge. I have some personal experience in this area. For two years I also ran a centre for dropouts. I have some idea of the difficulties, and the present system is not catering for them. The department's regionalisation policy means there is no central structure to keep tabs on these students. Computers can be used to log them all, but this problem cannot be dealt with if there are no people visiting homes and schools.

There must be special out of school programs or special centres within schools, and there must be people to provide the services to these students so that they do not drop out of the system. It is not happening at the moment. The regionalisation has destroyed what was already a meagre set of services for those students. It is totally inadequate, so the penalty will not work unless a system is reinstituted to help students who do not achieve in the current system and who are at risk of falling out of the education system.

I congratulate the Minister on many of the improvements proposed for the education system but it is a pity that the potential has not been achieved and that inspiration and values have not been included in the objectives of the legislation. We shall have a chance to talk about those things in more detail in Committee.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mrs van de Klashorst (Parliamentary Secretary).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

RACECOURSE DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Cowan (Deputy Premier), read a first time.

House adjourned at 10.38 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to questions are as supplied by the relevant Minister's office.

LEGISLATION - INTRODUCTION

1910. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) When is it intended to introduce the Telecommunications (Interception) Western Australian Amendment Bill to the Legislative Assembly?
- (2) When is it intended to introduce the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill to the Legislative Assembly?
- (3) When is it intended to introduce the Surveillance Devices Bill to the Legislative Assembly?
- (4) Has the Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 been briefed as to the above proposals?
- (5) If yes to (4) above, when and by whom?
- (6) If no to (4) above, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) It is intended to introduce the Telecommunications (Interception) WA Amendment Bill into the Legislative Assembly in 1998.
- (2) The Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in November 1997.
- (3) The Surveillance Devices Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in October 1997.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) The Committee did not seek information on these matters from the Minister.

DRUG PUSHERS - PENALTIES

1915. Ms ANWYL to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Premier ask the Attorney General to re-assess the issue of tougher penalties for drug pushers?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) Did the Premier or Attorney General consult the Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981?
- (4) If so, when, and who was spoken to?
- (5) If no to (3) above, why not?
- (6) Is the Premier aware that the issue of penalty is being considered by the Select Committee into Misuse of Drugs Act 1981?
- (7) Will the Premier direct the Attorney General to liaise with the Committee on this issue?
- (8) Is the Premier aware of the nature of the existing penalties and what is the nature of any reassessment?
- (9) Does the Premier attend the meetings of the Ministerial Council for the Strategy Against Drugs and, if so, on what dates?
- (10) Has the issue of a reassessment of penalties been raised at the Ministerial Council?
- (11) If so, when?
- (12) If no to (10) above, does the Premier intend to do so?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 17 August 1997.

- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) This question made an assumption that is incorrect. No, but the Attorney General has spoken to the chairman about all aspects of the committee's reference.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This also makes an assumption. In any event such a direction would be inappropriate under the laws of Parliament.
- (8) Yes. Consideration is being given to setting firm sentencing guidelines via a matrix. This is a process used in the United States of America where a presumptive sentence can be obtained by reading off from a matrix showing the nature of the offence on one axis and the antecedents of the offender on the other.
- (9) No.
- (10) No, not at this stage. The Attorney General is currently considering options and the Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act is continuing its inquiries.
- (11) The Ministerial Council will consider this issue in the near future.
- (12) At the appropriate time, in conjunction with the work of the Attorney General and the select committee.

GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION - REIMBURSEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

1934. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier stand by the comments he made in *Hansard* earlier this year (p.597) that if Global Dance is not held this year, the money must be refunded?
- (2) What steps has the Government taken to obtain a return of Government funds?
- (3) Have letters of demand been issued to Global Dance Foundation or any of its Directors or Agents?
- (4) When were the letters of demand issued?
- (5) Have any summonses or legal action been taken?
- (6) If so, what action?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Under the Sponsorship Agreement dated 26 May 1995, Global Dance Foundation ("GDF") was obliged to hold the World Dance Congress in August 1997. Under clause 10.5 of the Sponsorship Agreement, if the World Dance Congress does not commence or is not completed by reason of a breach by GDF, GDF is obliged to repay all funds paid by Western Australian Tourism Commission ("WATC").
- (2) The Crown Solicitor's Office was instructed by the WATC to take appropriate action with a view to seeking repayment, if possible, of money paid under the contract. Negotiations took place with Mr Reynolds for that purpose.
- (3)-(6) The Crown Solicitors Office is about to institute appropriate legal proceedings.

HOMESWEST - BUILDING PROGRAM IN NEWMAN

1940. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With regard to the chronic housing shortage in the town of Newman, how many Homeswest houses have been sold off in the last five years (since January 1993)?
- (2) How many Homeswest houses have been built over the same period?
- (3) How many Homeswest houses are currently being rented in Newman?
- (4) Can the Minister outline the Homeswest building program for Newman for the next three years?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) 1 property has been sold. The sale of a further 2 properties to the tenants in occupation are currently under consideration.

- (2) 16. Including 4 spot purchase acquisitions.
- (3) 50.
- (4) There is no construction programme for Newman in 1997/98, however, I have previously asked Homeswest to review the building programme for this area in the September budget and programme review. The following matters will be considered in this review:
 - possibility of additional pensioner accommodation in Newman.
 - further family rental units in Newman.
 - possibility of a Maintenance Support Program in Pumijina.
 - possibility of transient accommodation in Pumijina.

STUDENTS AT RISK - EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER TRAINING

1964. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the total budget allocated to address the needs of students experiencing difficulty in learning, or students at risk?
- (2) Do teachers receive special training to implement Education Department and policy guidelines regarding students at risk?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Specifically, \$3.471 million is allocated to programs which directly support students with difficulty in learning. With regards to students at risk, which represent approximately 20% of the student population at any one time, \$150 million is provided for programs and resources dedicated to prevention, identification and intervention.
- (2) Yes. A professional development program focussing on students at risk has been provided during 1995-1997 to district staff, class teachers and school administrators. Consultation has commenced on the draft Students at Educational Risk Policy and Guidelines which incorporates the policy for educating students experiencing difficulties with learning.

HILTON POLICE STATION - CLOSURE

1970. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has any decision been made to close the Hilton Police Station?
- (2) Is yes, why and when will that closure take place?
- (3) If no, can the Minister guarantee the long term future of Hilton Police Station?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) How many officers are attached to the Hilton Police Station?
- (6) What is the maximum number of officers on duty at any one time?
- (7) What is the minimum number of officers on duty at any one time?
- (8) What are those respective times?
- (9) What are the geographical boundaries of the area covered by the Hilton Police Station?
- (10) Approximately how many households fall within those boundaries?
- (11) How many offences were reported within the area covered by the Hilton Police Station in -
 - (a) 1996;
 - (b) 1995;
 - (c) 1994;
 - (d) 1993;
 - (e) 1992?

(12) What was the nature of these offences?

(13) How many of them were solved?

Mr DAY replied:

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) I have previously outlined to the member for Willagee that, while there is currently no proposal to change the operations of the Hilton Police Station, operations at all surrounding stations will be reviewed in light of the new Murdoch Police Station, which is due for commissioning later this year.

(4) I cannot pre-empt the impact of the implementation of the Murdoch Police Station. However, changes to the operation of any Police Station, including Hilton, will only be undertaken if an equal or better service can be provided under the new arrangements.

(5) 14 officers - 13 sworn and 1 unsworn.

(6)-(7) Maximum number of officers on duty is five on day shift and four on afternoon shift. Minimum number of officers on duty for both day and afternoon shifts is two. For the night shift, one officer combines with an officer from the Palmyra Police Station.

(8) Day shift is from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm. The afternoon shift is from 2.00 pm to 12.00 am and involves flexible shift rostering. Night shift hours are 10.00 pm to 6.00 am. Shift times can vary depending on workload.

(9) The Station covers the postal districts of Coolbellup, Hilton, Kardinya, North Lake, O'Connor and Samson.

(10) Approximately 9,000 households.

(11-13) [See paper No 1203.]

STEPHENSON AND WARD INCINERATOR SITE - POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENOL CONTAMINATION

1980. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) In relation to the Polychlorinated Biphenol (PCB) contamination at the Stephenson and Ward/Medi-Collect incinerator site, is there a PCB plume underneath the site?

(2) What is the extent of this plume?

(3) Is the plume travelling towards residential areas?

(4) Have all residents whose ground water may be at risk of contamination in the future been fully informed of this?

(5) If not, why not?

(6) What steps is the Department of Environmental Protection taking to eliminate the plume?

(7) What long term monitoring of the ground water will be undertaken?

Dr HAMES replied:

(1)-(3) No. Sampling has indicated that soil and ground water beneath the site contains PCBs, but because of the dense nature of the contaminants, there is slow diffusion around the edges rather than a clearly developed plume.

(4) There is no unacceptable risk to public health.

(5) Not applicable.

(6) The Department of Environmental Protection, has undertaken risk assessment environmental investigations on the site and adjacent lands, and prepared a draft Work Plan for site remediation, that is currently being considered by the EPA. It is planned that the site remediation will occur over the summer/autumn period of 1997/98

(7) A long term monitoring plan for the site and adjacent lands has been proposed in the site remediation plan.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING - KALGOORLIE-BOULDER

1985. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) I refer to your media statement dated 30 July 1997 entitled "Kalgoorlie Region" and ask, what amount has been allocated to Aboriginal housing in the 1997-98 Budget?
- (2) What new Aboriginal housing will be built in Kalgoorlie-Boulder?
- (3) Can you state how many Aboriginal people are currently waitlisted for housing?
- (4) Can you advise how many non-aboriginal people are currently waitlisted for housing?
- (5) How many bedrooms does each of the 16 rental units to be built in Kalgoorlie-Boulder have?
- (6) Is any allocation made to the Warta Kutju complex?
- (7) If so, how much and in what time frame?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The total expenditure budget allocation to the Aboriginal housing construction programme in 1997/98 is \$15.26 million of which \$0.782 million is to be spent in the Kalgoorlie region. This is broken down as follows:

Kalgoorlie/Boulder	\$0.243m
Esperance	\$0.056m
Ngaanyatjarra	\$0.483m
Total	\$0.782m

\$5.6 million has been allocated towards the maintenance and management of remote Aboriginal communities. Of this, \$0.761 million is allocated to the Kalgoorlie region in 1997/98. In addition, \$4.7 million has been allocated to the construction of mainstream rental housing in the Kalgoorlie region. \$1.7 million of this funding will be spent in 1997/98 resulting in the construction of 55 units. This accommodation is available to all applicants including Aboriginal people.

- (2) 2 x 3 bedroom family units
1 x 4 bedroom family units
- (3)-(4) There are currently 12,799 applicants waitlisted for Homeswest accommodation. 1415 of these applicants have identified themselves as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. There are 304 applicants waitlisted for accommodation in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area. 99 of these applicants have identified themselves as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Note: This does not include transfer applications.

- (5) 4 x 2 bedroom family units
9 x 3 bedroom family units
3 x 1 bedroom singles units
- (6) No funds have been allocated to this complex during 1997/98 however, Homeswest has spent \$9,412, from its Aboriginal Housing Budget, on unscheduled maintenance at the complex in July.
- (7) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - MAINTENANCE BACKLOG

1991. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What would it cost to eliminate the current backlog in the school maintenance program this year?
- (2) What amount is allocated in the 1997-98 Budget for recurrent maintenance spending?
- (3) What amount is specifically set aside in the 1997-98 Budget for maintenance?
- (4) When is it anticipated that the maintenance backlog will be eliminated?
- (5) What data is available on the amount spent by schools and P & C organisations on maintenance items?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) \$53.12 million.

- (2) \$15.8 million.
- (3) \$45.6 million.
- (4) Successive Labor Governments allowed school buildings to run down to an unacceptable level due to inadequate and irregular allocations of maintenance funding. This resulted in a large maintenance backlog. The Coalition has allocated significant funding to address this situation. This effort is ongoing and is hoped to be completed by 2001. However, routine maintenance will always be required by schools.
- (5) None.

SCHOOL LAND SALES - REVENUE DISTRIBUTION

1993. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the total amount raised by school land sales in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (2) How was this money applied and distributed?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)

1995-96	\$3 827 521.00
1996-97	\$5 861 557.27
1997 to date	Nil - several major sales are imminent, but none has yet been finalised in the current financial year.
- (2) Proceeds of sales were distributed through a negotiated process. The schools participating in the excision program would receive approximately half of the sale proceeds, with the remainder being channelled back into other schools through central office. Revenue generated from the sale of schools went into capital improvements for the participating school(s), with any surplus funds being distributed to system-wide initiatives.

CHILD ABUSE - NUMBER OF REPORTS

1995. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

In each of the last five years -

- (a) how many reports of alleged child maltreatment were made to the Department of Family and Children's Services;
- (b) how many FTEs were available to respond to the reports;
- (c) what was the average length of time taken to investigate a report;
- (d) how many reports were substantiated;
- (e) how many reports were referred to the police and/or the DPP for investigation and/or criminal prosecution; and
- (f) how many reports lead to families being offered support of some kind?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (a)

1996/97	2099
1995/96	3720
1994/95	6237
1993/94	7749
1992/93	5570

It is to be noted that the substantial decrease from 1994/95 to 1995/96 and 1996/97 is due to the State wide implementation of the New Directions policy with the introduction of the concept of a Child Concern report in May 1996. In addition to the number of allegations in 1995/96 and 1996/97, 2,539 and 5,793 Child Concern reports respectively were received.

- (b)

1996/97	data not available
1995/96	270
1994/95	270
1993/94	248
1992/93	data not available
- (c) Accurate data pertaining to average time is not available.

- (d) 1996/97 982
 1995/96 1050
 1994/95 1430
 1993/94 1718
 1992/93 1519
- (e) 1996/97 805
 1995/96 896
 1994/95 1159
 1993/94 1502
 1992/93 1369
- (f) All reports made to the department involve the provision of a service, whether that be assessment or further family support services.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - TARGET

2020. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for the Environment:

In each of the last five years -

- (a) what has been the percentage rise in Western Australia's greenhouse gas emissions;
- (b) what was the target for greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) what was the total State funding of research into and development of renewable energy resources; and
- (d) what was the total State funding of research into and development of non-renewable energy sources?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(d) Although detailed greenhouse inventories have been completed in some major sectors, such as energy, there has been no all-sector inventory completed at State level since 1990. However, there has been a commitment, as part of the draft National Greenhouse Strategy, for State and Territory inventories (based in the *National Greenhouse Gas Inventory*) to be compiled at least every 5 years, with the Commonwealth using information provided by each State and Territory to develop a national inventory. A National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (1995) was published in 1997. Under the draft National Greenhouse Strategy, State and Territory inventories for the year 1995 will be published in 1998. Parameters for data collection are currently being negotiated and the timing of the next set of State inventories will be determined by the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Committee.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - INDEMNITIES

2040. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Have any agencies or departments for which the Minister is responsible offered any form of indemnity or remain liable under any indemnity?
- (2) If any such indemnity has been offered then -
- (a) to whom has it been extended;
- (b) what is the reason for the indemnity;
- (c) what is the maximum potential liability that could be called on through this indemnity?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) There are two sources of power for the Government to offer a guarantee or indemnity. They are either:
- (i) offered pursuant to a specific statutory power to do so, in which case they are characterised as a Statutory Guarantee or Indemnity or,
- (ii) if there is no specific statutory provision, the guarantee or indemnity is referred to as a Surety.
- Some common guarantees and indemnities, generally those which are not offered pursuant to a statute, referred to above as "sureties", are:
- (iii) incidental to another function, such as the purchase of a good or service (for example a contract where the purchaser indemnifies the supplier of software against any unauthorised use of that

software or a contract for advertising where the advertiser indemnifies the publisher against legal action arising out of the publication of the advertisement) or,

- (iv) granted to persons or officers in the performance of their duties for the State or for any public authority or public body of the State (some of which are statutory).

All Statutory Indemnities, Guarantees and Sureties which are either (iii) or (iv) are excluded from the operation of Treasurer's Instruction 821 (TI 821). TI 821 requires all indemnities and guarantees which are not of the excluded types, statutory and otherwise, to be entered in a register. They are then included in the Treasurer's Annual Statements which are tabled in Parliament. For details of all such guarantees and indemnities as at 30 June 1996 see the Treasurer's Annual Statements 1995-96. TI 821 does not apply to indemnities falling with (iii) and (iv). This is appropriate as the nature of these indemnities means that they arise as part of the everyday affairs of government.

- (2) Researching contracts entered into in order to ascertain whether there is an incidental indemnity in each contract would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. It would also not be a particularly useful exercise because:
 - (a) in many instances the contract has already been successfully completed;
 - (b) circumstances surrounding a contract and an arising claim may give rise to an implied obligation to indemnify even where there is no express obligation; and
 - (c) it would be impossible to state any maximum potential liability.

SANDALWOOD EXPORT - REVENUE

2078. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) I refer to the sandalwood exports from Western Australia and ask, what quantity of Crown land sandalwood was exported from Western Australia in the financial years -
 - (a) 1994-95;
 - (b) 1995-96;
 - (c) 1996-97?
- (2) What was the gross value of the exports in each of the years listed above?
- (3) What was the return to the Government in each of the financial years after the payment of production expenses?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(3) The information is present in the following table

	Tonnes exported	Value of exports	Return to Government
1994-95	1568	\$12 912 000	\$9 304 000
1995-96	1827	\$13 201 000	\$9 258 000
1996-97	1073	\$7 530 000	\$4 982 000

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - STUDENT SERVICES STRUCTURE

2089. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Under the proposed new student services structure for the Education Department -
 - (a) what are the new positions;
 - (b) at what public sector level will they be classified;
 - (c) what qualifications will be required for each position;
 - (d) in what districts will the positions be located;
 - (e) how many FTEs will staff student services;
 - (f) what will the ratio of students to FTEs be; and
 - (g) what will the budget be?
- (2) Under the existing student services structure -
 - (a) what are the existing positions;
 - (b) at what public sector level are they classified;
 - (c) what qualifications are required for each position;
 - (d) in what districts are the positions located;

- (e) how many FTEs staff student services;
- (f) what is the ratio of students to FTEs; and
- (g) what is the existing budget?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) The proposed new Student Services Structure for the Education Department has not yet been finalised. The actual structure will be finalised in early 1998. The following information pertains to proposals to date. These may change when the final structure is decided.

Position	Location	Level
Director, Student Services	Central Office	Level 9
Senior policy Officer, Student Services	Central Office	Level 7
Senior Policy Officer, Disabilities	Central Office	Level 7
Manager	Centre for Excellence for Disabilities and Learning Difficulties	Level 8
Project Manager, Students at Educational Risk	Central Office	Level 7
Project Officers, Students at Educational Risk (5 positions)	Central Office	Level 6
Manager, Student Services (4 positions)	Districts	Level 8
Coordinator, Student Services (20 positions)	Districts	Level 7
Positions will be created on a needs basis from within existing resources	Schools	Education Act

- (c) Each position will require relevant academic and experiential qualifications.
- (d) Managers and two Student Services Coordinators will be placed in all four metropolitan districts. All other districts will have a student services coordinator.
- (e) The total number of FTEs in Student Services is still being determined. At this stage, the total is anticipated to be 950, and is likely to be organised as follows:

Location	Number of Staff
Central Office, including Centre for Excellence for disabilities and learning difficulties District Offices - on a needs basis Schools - on a needs basis but including:	Approximately 80 Between 220 and 310
Nurses	97
Chaplains	63
Youth Education Officer	86
Police	26
Year Coordinators	52
Third Deputy	23
Career Teachers	15
Visiting Teachers	26
Aboriginal Ed. Workers	280

- (f) There are approximately 250 000 students. Therefore, the ratio of FTEs to students is approximately 1:260.
 - (g) Current accounting practices do not separate these items under a student services banner. When the structure has been finalised the budget will be allocated accordingly.
- (2) (a)-(b) Under the existing structure are the following positions and levels at which they are classified:

Position	Location	Public Service	Level	Education Act
Director Student Services	Central Office	Level 9		
Managers Student Services, Disabilities and Learning Difficulties, Aboriginal Education Consultants (9 positions)	Central Office	3 x Level 8		
(9 positions)	Central Office	Level 6		E03
(6 positions)	Central Office	Level 5		E02
Administrative Assistant	Central Office	Level 4		E01
Teacher Aide	Central Office	3 x Level 3		
Visiting Teachers		2 x Level 2		
Senior Psychologists	District Office			62 x 23TT
Senior Social Workers	District Office	5 x Level 5		29 x L 3
Social Workers	District Office	4 x Level 2/4		
Welfare Officers	District Office	16 x Level 2		
School Psychologists	District Office			155 x L 2Py
Aboriginal Education Officer	District Office	22 x Level 2		
Youth Liaison Officer	Schools			86 x 23TT
School Nurses	Schools			97 x Nurses
School Based Police	Schools			26 x Police
Year Coordinators	Schools			52 x 23TT
Career Ed Teacher	Schools			23 x 23TT
3rd Deputy	Schools			15 x 4.3
Aboriginal Ed. Workers	Schools	280 x L1-4		
Chaplains	47 x Churches Commission			

- (c) All Education Act positions require relevant teaching qualifications and experience. All Public Service positions require relevant qualifications and experience. Specialist positions require appropriate degrees, eg Consultant Student Welfare requires a degree in Social Work and the Principal Psychologists require registration with the Psychology Board.
- (d) All Districts have a Senior Psychologist Position; a School Psychologists; and access to Welfare Officers. Some Districts choose to have Social Workers. Districts have Aboriginal Education Workers and Aboriginal Liaison Officers as appropriate.
- (e) Approximately 950 FTEs staff student services.
- (f) The ratio of students to FTEs is 1:260.
- (g) The approximate budget for Student Support Services including Commonwealth funds and staffing is \$150.8m.

REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES - POLICE PATROLS

2098. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Which remote Aboriginal communities north of the 26th parallel have received visits from police patrols since 1 January 1997?
- (2) How long was each visit to each community?
- (3) What mode of transport was used by each patrol for each visit?
- (4) What services are provided by the police on visits to remote Aboriginal communities?
- (5) When is the next patrol scheduled for each community?
- (6) Which remote Aboriginal communities have a permanent police presence?
- (7) What police facilities are in place in each community?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Noonkanbah, Ngurtuwadaa, Junjuwa, Kurnangka, Mindi Rardi, Daringunaya, Muludja, Bayulu, Joy Springs, Wangkatjungka, Mr Pierre, Moongardi, Yiyili, Cherraban, Yakaoarra, Bililuha, Milidjidi, Looma Community, Gibb River Station (Ngallanguada), Imintji Community, Tirralintji Community, Mr Barnett

Community (Kupungarri), Mt Elizabeth (Kayungugu), Yulumbu, Djaridjan Community, One Arm Point, Beagle Bay, Bidiyadanga, Balgo (Wirrimanu).

- (2) Police patrols were conducted between 1-3 days.
- (3) Station 4 wheel drive vehicle (dedicated to outback patrols) and Police Air support depending on climatic and road conditions.
- (4) General policing, licensing, inquiries, investigations, liaison and traffic education programs and warden training.
- (5) Depending on operational requirements and Community availability/occupancy, frequency of patrols range from fortnightly for populated communities to three months for transient communities.
- (6) None.
- (7) Bidiyadanga and Balgo Aboriginal Communities have equipped police posts. There are no other dedicated facilities in communities, but administration offices, etc are used where appropriate. However, the Regional Commander for the Northern Region has negotiated for communities in the Dampier Peninsular to provide facilities.

PILBARA/KIMBERLEY LIFE EDUCATION CENTRE - FUNDING

2101. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What has been the Budget allocation for the Pilbara/Kimberley Life Education Centre for -
 - (a) 1988-89;
 - (b) 1989-90;
 - (c) 1990-91;
 - (d) 1991-92;
 - (e) 1992-93;
 - (f) 1993-94;
 - (g) 1994-95;
 - (h) 1995-96;
 - (i) 1996-97?
- (2) Does the 1997-98 Budget contain funding for the Pilbara/Kimberley Life Education Centre?
- (3) If no to (2) above, why not?
- (4) If yes to (2) above -
 - (a) in dollar terms how much was allocated to the centre;
 - (b) in dollar terms how much was actually provided to the centre?
- (5) At what level of funding does the Government plan to continue to fund the centre?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Funding by the Health Department commenced in the 1992/93 financial year. The following amounts were allocated:

1992/93	\$40,000
1993/94	\$40,000
1994/95	\$40,000
1995/96	\$40,000
1996/97	\$40,000
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4)
 - (a) A total of \$20,000 has been included in the budget for 1997/98.
 - (b) A first quarter payment of \$5,000 has been made to the Centre.
- (5) Not applicable. The future funding of Life Education WA will be subject to a joint review by the Health Department of Western Australia, the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office and Life Education WA representatives. Tabled herewith is copy of letters of advice on the funding provided for the Life Education Program. [See paper No 1204.]

PORT KENNEDY RESORTS PTY LTD - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

2137. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has Port Kennedy Resorts Pty Ltd submitted their annual monitoring report for the Port Kennedy development area?
- (2) If so, when was it submitted?
- (3) Will the Minister table a copy of this report?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 27 June 1997.
- (3) No.

POLICE OFFICER GLENN MURRAY - COMMITTEE'S FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2147. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Committee which was formed to make the financial recommendations relating to injured police officer Glenn Murray still operational?
- (2) When will the committee report, who to, and in what format?
- (3) Has the committee taken into consideration other police officers who have been injured while in the execution of their duty, boarded medically unfit and left to pay their own medical expenses?
- (4) If so, what was the consideration?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No committee, performing the function which you describe has been established. The level of compensation offered to Glenn Murray was recommended internally by the Western Australia Police Service and approved by Cabinet.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE - TRAVELLING EXPENSES

2148. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What were the travelling expenses, including all costs and all allowances, for the Commissioner of Police for each of the following periods -
 - (a) 1995;
 - (b) 1996;
 - (c) January 1997 to 31 August, 1997?
- (2) For the same periods which non-police personnel accompanied the Commissioner, if any?
- (3) Have the non-police personnel accompanying the Commissioner received any paid travel, travelling costs, allowances or remuneration?
- (4) If so, what are the details of those expenses?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)

(a) 1995/96	\$23,408.64
(b) 1996/97	\$23,773.43
(c) 1997/98 to 10 October 1997	\$18,676.78
- (2) Mrs Falconer has accompanied the Commissioner on a number of occasions.
- (3) Mrs Falconer's travelling costs are met where appropriate.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------------------------|------------|
| (4) | (a) | 1995/96 | \$4,801.73 |
| | (b) | 1996/97 | \$2,933.40 |
| | (c) | 1997/98 to 10 October 1997 | Nil |

POLICE - PURSUIT DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAMS

2149. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What additional pursuit driver training programs, if any, have been implemented since the Delta program commenced?
- (2) What specialised high speed driving training do general police officers have and what is the duration of any such training?
- (3) What are the costs associated with the pursuit driver training programs?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The number of pursuit driving training courses remained static during the implementation of the 500 Plan component of the Delta Program. As that component has been finalised training resources can be redirected to additional pursuit courses. In the 1996 calendar year, there was a total of 5 Advanced Car Courses (Pursuit Courses) conducted with a total of 80 members being trained to Pursuit Standard. In 1997 there will be 10 Advanced Car Courses conducted with a total of approximately 190 members being trained.
- (2) All police recruits, as part of their Academy training undertake a two week Standard Car Course which covers all vehicle handling skills at speed (120km/h). The course is very intensive and includes normal on road driving techniques and also equips drivers with the necessary skills to operate police vehicles under most operating levels. Successful completion of the course qualifies a member to respond to Priority 2 requests under existing guidelines. Upon graduation from the Academy and posting to an operational area that is equipped with 'Police Special' vehicles members will attend a Driver Training Unit to undertake training on the three week Advanced Car Course which upon successful completion will authorise that member to respond to Priority 1 responses and engage in Pursuit.

- (3) Costs for the Pursuit driving program are as follows:

Annual Hire of training venue - Wanneroo Raceway	\$45,000.00
Training Pylons per annum	\$ 2,000.00
Shift Allowances per course (20 students, 10 instructors)	\$ 4,000.00
Meal Allowances per course (20 students, 10 instructors)	\$ 3,500.00
Fuel costs per course for ten cars	\$ 4,600.00
Tyres per course for ten cars	\$ 4,400.00
Incidental expenses per course includes stationery consumables, cleaning gear (20 students)	\$ 400.00
Wages (staff and students at Senior Constable rate of \$21.00 per hour) per 120 hour course	\$78,000.00
Vehicle costs, unable to ascertain an exact costing due to time constraints, however this would include purchase of vehicles, depreciation, registration, police radios, repairs and ongoing maintenance, brakes, oil, rims and accident damage. Also included are Wages for a mechanic who attends this area 2.5 days per week.	
Other costs, i.e. utility costs, power/water/telephone/building maintenance/equipment maintenance/repairs etc, are not included.	

KARRI REGROWTH TIMBER

2155. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With regards to the call for expressions of interest from parties interested in purchasing regrowth forest timber, advertised in *The West Australia* on 6 September 1997, over how many years will one million cubic metres of karri regrowth be available?
- (2) How many cubic metres will be available each year?
- (3) From which forest blocks will the regrowth be extracted each year?
- (4) Is there any requirement that the logs be used in Western Australia or can they be exported?
- (5) Are there any estimates of how much of this karri regrowth will be sawlogs and how much will be chiplogs?
- (6) If yes, what are the estimates?

- (7) For each financial year from and including 1994-95, what amounts of chiplogs were obtained from -
- (a) mature jarrah and karri forests;
 - (b) regrowth forest?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) 6 years with a possible 4 year extension.
- (2) 1,000,000 averaged over the contract period.
- (3) From regrowth forests in accordance with the Forest Management Plan and harvesting plans prepared from time to time.
- (4) The expressions of interest calls for proposals which will be analysed. Preference will be given to adding value in Western Australia.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable
- (7)

(a)	1994/95 (tonnes)	1995/96 (tonnes)	1996/97 (tonnes)
	814,833.20	793,643.60	744,387.11

The quantities of chiplogs harvested from jarrah mature and regrowth forest are not recorded separately

- (b)

1994/95 (tonnes)	1995/96 (tonnes)	1996/97 (tonnes)
5,974.96	5,592.80	2,397.00

The quantities of chiplogs refer to regrowth karri forest only.

SAWMILLS REGISTER

2156. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1521 of 1997, in reply to which the Minister stated the "the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has no requirement to maintain a register of sawmills or employees in sawmills", despite there being no requirement, does CALM in fact keep such a register?
- (2) If yes, since the formation of CALM in 1985 -
 - (a) which sawmills have closed;
 - (b) in what year did they close;
 - (c) how many employees worked at each of them at the date of closure;
 - (d) what was their sawlog quota (species, grade and volume) at the date of closure?
- (2) If no, which department or government agency keeps a register of sawmills and numbers of employees as required under the Timber Industry Regulations 1969?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) It is unlawful for the owner of a sawmill to use it unless the sawmill is registered in accordance with Regulations under the Timber Industry Regulation Act 1926-1969 (TIR Act). The Regulations require that application for registration of a sawmill be made to the "controlling officer" appointed under the TIR Act. The Minister for the Environment was responsible for the administration of the TIR Act until October 1990 when responsibility was transferred to the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations. CALM, as a service to Worksafe, has continued to maintain a pre-existing system to ensure mills are registered.
- (2) (a)-(d) The information required to be supplied by a sawmill owner when registering a mill consists of the name and location of the mill and the number of persons proposed to be employed during the year at the mill. The information does not indicate which or when mills may have closed during a particular period, how many people worked at the mill or details regarding any "sawlog quota".

A list of registered sawmills and the number of employees for each calendar year from 1990 to 1997 is tabled. Annual Reports provide some information for the period 1985 to 1989 on the operations of the Timber Industry Regulation Act, including the number of registered sawmills and for some years the total number of persons employed each month for all mills. See tabled papers.

- (3) See answer (1).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE SERVICE - OPERATING BUDGET

2162. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the Police Service's operating budget in 1996-97?
- (2) What is the budget provision for the Police Service's operating budget for 1997-98?
- (3) With respect to the Police Service's 1997-98 budget how much is it estimated that each of the following will cost -
 - (a) gun buy-back;
 - (b) fuel immobiliser subsidies;
 - (c) work done by Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International;
 - (d) money due to the Federal Police?
- (4) How much extra money is required in 1997-98 as a result of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement?
- (5) What estimated savings will be made by reductions in overtime?
- (6) What other estimated savings will be made by other reforms?
- (7) What are those reforms and what is the saving for each initiative?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) \$378m including capital expenditure.
- (2) \$399m including capital expenditure.
- (3)
 - (a) \$5m (Commonwealth funding)
 - (b) \$2.250m
 - (c)-(d) allocation is dependent on required policing needs.
- (4) Nil, apart from that which was included as part of the initial budget process (\$10.76m).
- (5)-(7) Police Service Command initiated several corporate expenditure reduction strategies before allocations were made to portfolios. This action was deemed necessary to enable the Police Service to remain within budget and fund some additional essential matters. In line with the Delta Program, portfolios establish and distribute funding in line with their established priorities. The corporate expenditure reduction strategies may be therefore varied to some degree by each portfolio depending upon their individual priorities and demands.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - NORTH WEST

2182. Mr GRAHAM to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) What departmental staff in departments under the Premier's control are located in the following towns -
 - (a) Port Hedland;
 - (b) South Hedland;
 - (c) Tom Price;
 - (d) Paraburdoo;
 - (e) Telfer;
 - (f) Marble Bar;
 - (g) Nullagine;
 - (h) Karratha;
 - (i) Halls Creek;
 - (j) Wiluna;
 - (k) Dampier;
 - (l) Roebourne;
 - (m) Wickham?
- (2) What are the classifications of those staff?

- (3) What programs are currently being funded in the towns listed in (1) above, in the departments under the Premier's control?

Mr COURT replied:

Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet

(1)-(2) Nil.

- (3) The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet supports two Parliamentary Electorate offices in Karratha and one in South Hedland as part of program 2 - State Administration. Not applicable to any other agencies/ departments under the Premier's control.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - NORTH WEST

2190. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) What departmental staff in departments under the Minister's control are located in the following towns -

- (a) Port Hedland;
- (b) South Hedland;
- (c) Tom Price;
- (d) Paraburdoo;
- (e) Telfer;
- (f) Marble Bar;
- (g) Nullagine;
- (h) Karratha;
- (i) Halls Creek;
- (j) Wiluna;
- (k) Dampier;
- (l) Roebourne;
- (m) Wickham?

- (2) What are the classifications of those staff?

- (3) What programs are currently being funded in the towns listed in (1) above, in the departments under the Minister's control?

Dr HAMES replied:

Water & Rivers Commission:

- (1)-(2) (h) 7 staff Level 6 x 1
 WIW Level 4 x 1
 Level 4 x 1
 Level 3 x 2
 Level 2 x 2

- (3) Management and measurement of water resources in the Pilbara and administration of Water and Rivers Commission activities for the North West Region.

Water Corporation:

- (1)-(2) (b) 22 staff C11 Fitter x 1
 C8 + Fitter x 7
 C6 Electrician x 1
 Level 5 x 1
 WIW Level 4 x 4
 Level 4 x 1
 WIW Level 3 x 2
 Level 3 x 1
 Level 2 x 3
 Level 1 x 1
- (h) 73 staff Level 7 x 3
 Level 6 x 3
 WIW Level 6 x 3
 Level 5 x 6
 WIW Level 5 x 1
 Level 4 x 13
 WIW Level 4 x 4
 Level 3 x 8
 WIW Level 3 x 7

Level 2 x 12
 WIW Level 2 x 3
 Level 2-4/5 x 1
 Apprentice x 1
 Level 1 x 4
 Reporting Level 3 x 1
 C8 x 2
 C7 x 1

WIW + Water Industry Worker
 C8/C7 etc = Mechanical/Electrical trades person

- (3) Provision of Water and Wastewater Services: Port Hedland, South Hedland, Karratha, Halls Creek, Roebourne and Wickham.

Provision of Water Services only: Marble Bar, Nullagine and Wiluna.

Provision of Bulk Water Supply only: Dampier.

Homeswest:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| (1)-(2) (b) | 17.5 staff | Level 7 x 1
Level 5 x 1
Level 4 x 1
Level 3 x 5
Level 2 x 3
Level 1 x 6.5 |
| (h) | 7 staff | Level 4 x 1
Level 3 x 3
Level 2 x 1
Level 1 x 2 |

- (3) Programmes under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement including:

Crisis Accommodation Programme
 Community Housing Programme
 Aboriginal Rental Housing Programme
 Rental Programme
 Home Ownership Programmes (Keystart, Good Start, Right to Buy, Aboriginal, Real Start and Access for people with disabilities)
 Housing Access Loan Programme
 Supported Housing Assistance Programme
 Land Development Programme
 Management Support Programme
 Mobile Maintenance Programme
 Estate Improvement Programme

Government Employees Housing Authority:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------------------------|
| (1)-(2) (b) | 3 staff | Level 4 x 1
Level 1 x 2 |
| (h) | 3 staff | Level 4 x 1
Level 1 x 2 |
- (3) "Safe as Houses" Program in Port Hedland, South Hedland and Karratha. Construction of one house in each of Nullagine and Wiluna.

Aboriginal Affairs:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| (1)-(2) (a) | 5 staff | Level 8 x 1
Level 6 x 2
Level 5 x 1
Level 2 x 1 |
|-------------|---------|--|
- (3) Support for Community Management through the Town Reserves program in: Port Hedland and South Hedland - 2 communities; Halls Creek - 4 communities; Roebourne - 1 community
- Funding support to Community Justice Patrols in: Port Hedland, Halls Creek, Wiluna.
- Funding for Regional Aboriginal Justice Councils in: Pilbara, East Kimberley and West Kimberley regions cannot be tied to individual towns as these are regional advisory bodies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - PILBARA REGIONAL OFFICES

2204. Mr GRAHAM to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) In which town is the Pilbara Regional Office of each department under the Premier's control?
- (2) How long has the regional office been in that town?
- (3) Where was the previous location of the regional office?
- (4) How many people are employed in the regional office?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) Not applicable to any agency / department under the Premier's control.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - PILBARA REGIONAL OFFICES

2209. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) In which town is the Pilbara Regional Office of each department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How long has the regional office been in that town?
- (3) Where was the previous location of the regional office?
- (4) How many people are employed in the regional office?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Family and Children's Services: The Regional Office was located in Port Hedland. With the implementation of the department's recent restructure, there are ten service delivery units in the Pilbara as indicated below:

Zone Office - Karratha
Onslow
Roebourne
Weeriana Hostel (Roebourne)
Tom Price
Paraburdoo
South Hedland
Port Hedland
Marble Bar
Newman

Seniors: Not applicable.

Women's Interests: Not applicable.

- (2) Family and Children's Services: The Regional Office which was located in Port Hedland was operational from 1985 until August 1997. The Zone Office (Karratha) has been operational since August 1997.

Seniors: Not applicable.

Women's Interests: Not applicable.

- (3) Family and Children's Services: Not applicable.

Seniors: Not applicable.

Women's Interests: Not applicable.

- (4) Family and Children's Services: The Zone Office (Karratha) employs 14 people.

Seniors: Not applicable.

Women's Interests: Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - PILBARA REGIONAL OFFICES

2212. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) In which town is the Pilbara Regional Office of each department under the Minister's control?

- (2) How long has the regional office been in that town?
- (3) Where was the previous location of the regional office?
- (4) How many people are employed in the regional office?

Dr HAMES replied:

Homeswest:

- (1) South Hedland.
- (2) Homeswest's regional office has been in Port or South Hedland since 1974 when Homeswest implemented its regional management policy.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) 19 staff members.

Rural Housing Authority:

- (1)-(4) Not applicable.

Government Employees Housing Authority:

- (1) The Government Employees' Housing Authority operates two offices in the Pilbara. They are located at Karratha (servicing the West Pilbara) and South Hedland (servicing the East Pilbara).
- (2) The Karratha office has been in operation since 1992. The South Hedland office has been in operation since 1995.
- (3) The Authority had not previously had an office in the Pilbara prior to 1992.
- (4) Three people are employed in the Karratha office. Two people are employed in the South Hedland Office.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1)-(4) The Office of Water Regulation has no regional offices.

Water Corporation:

- (1) The North West regional office of the Water Corporation is located in Karratha.
- (2) 11 years.
- (3) The Region was administered from Perth prior to regionalisation.
- (4) There are 49 staff currently in the regional office.

Water and Rivers Commission:

- (1) Karratha.
- (2) Since 1 January 1996.
- (3) Not applicable as the Water and Rivers Commission did not exist prior to 1996.
- (4) Six.

Swan River Trust:

- (1-4) Not applicable.

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) The Aboriginal Affairs Department's (AAD) Pilbara Regional Office is located in Port Hedland.
- (2) The AAD came into being on 1 November 1994 as a result of an amalgamation of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, Office of Traditional Land Use and the Department of Aboriginal Sites. At that time AAD took over the premises previously used by the Department of Aboriginal Sites in Port Hedland.
- (3) The Department of Aboriginal Sites was located in Port Hedland from 1992 to 1994 and in Roebourne from 1989 to 1992.

- (4) There are currently five staff in the Pilbara Office.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - ADVERTISING SCHEDULES AND COSTS

2228. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Family and Childrens Services:

- (1) Will the Minister table video and audio tape copies of all television and radio advertisements run so far during 1997 by the Department of Family and Childrens Services along with the schedules for the placement of those advertisements with commercial television and radio stations in Western Australia?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What was the total cost of the development of these particular advertisements?
- (4) What was the cost for the broadcasting of these advertisements?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) \$15,691 in 1997.
- (4) \$195,287 in 1997.

OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS - REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

2263. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

Which occupations and professions operate in Western Australia under a system of registration or licensing administered by an agency within the Minister's portfolio?

Dr HAMES replied:

Nil.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE - PRIMARY CHILDREN

2283. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What specific funding was allocated to education programs for primary aged children with English as a second language in each of the last five years?
- (2) What specific funding was allocated for special programs for children with difficulties in learning literacy skills in each of the last five years?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- | | | |
|-----|------|-------------|
| (1) | 1993 | \$3 266 100 |
| | 1994 | \$3 149 610 |
| | 1995 | \$3 285 200 |
| | 1996 | \$2 516 000 |
| | 1997 | \$2 952 600 |

(2)

Year	Programs	Funding
1993	Learning Assistance Program	\$ 150 000
	Chidley Education Centre	\$1 200 000
	Reading Clinics (4)	\$ 218 000
		<u>\$1 568 000</u>
1994	Chidley Education Centre	\$1 200 000
	Reading Clinics (4)	\$ 218 000
	Implementing the Shean Report	\$ 106 728
	Learning Difficulties Professional Development Program	\$ 250 000
		<u>\$1 774 728</u>

1995	Chidley Educational Centre	\$1 200 000
	Reading Clinics (4)	\$ 218 000
	Implementing the Shean Report	\$1 493 723
	Learning Difficulties Professional Development Program	\$ 250 000
	Early Literacy Project	\$ 662 800
		<u>\$3 824 523</u>
1996	Chidley Educational Centre	\$ 880 000
	Reading Clinics (4)	\$ 218 000
	Implementing the Shean Report	\$1 507 993
	Learning Difficulties Professional Development Program	\$ 250 000
	Early Literacy Project	\$ 672 800
		<u>\$3 528 793</u>
1997	Chidley Educational Centre	\$ 880 000
	Reading Clinics (4)	\$ 218 000
	Implementing the Shean Report	\$1 907 838
	Learning Difficulties Professional Development Program	\$ 250 000
	Early Literacy Project	\$ 783 000
		<u>\$4 038 838</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$14 734 882</u>

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT - ADMISSION FEES

2284. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for the Environment:

In each of the last five years in Western Australia -

- what was the total revenue received by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) from fees charged for admission to places under its auspices;
- what were the places in respect of which admission fees were charged;
- what was the total cost associated with the collection of the fees; and
- under what legislative or other authority does CALM impose the admission fees?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- Total revenue received by the Department of Conservation and Land Management from admission fees over the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	Amount
1992/93	\$612 200
1993/94	\$657 000
1994/95	\$931 000
1995/96	\$1 201 000
1996/97	\$2 322 000

- In 1993, admission fees were charged at the following national parks: Yanchep, John Forrest, Walyunga, Serpentine, Nambung, Kalbarri and Purnululu. In 1994, admission fees were charged at all of the above plus the fee was introduced at Gloucester, Warren, Beedelup, Stirling Range, Porongurup, Stokes, Cape Le Grand, Cape Arid, Karijini, Cape Range, Millstream-Chichester and Francois Peron National Parks. In 1995, 1996 and 1997, admission fees applied at the same national parks as in 1994. From 1996, admission fees have also applied at the Tree Top Walk in State forest.
- The total cost associated with the collection of admission fees is as follows:

Financial year	Amount
1992/93	\$86 000
1993/94	\$113 000
1994/95	\$410 000
1995/96	\$328 000
1996/97	\$376 000

The figure for each year includes the initial costs associated with the collection of fees, that is, the infrastructure costs. The higher relative cost in 1994/95 reflects the cost of roading, pull off bays and ticket

dispensing facilities for the additional national parks. The lifespan of most fee collection infrastructure will be at least 15 years, therefore only maintenance costs should be necessary in the succeeding years. The employment cost responsibilities associated with fee collection is also included in this figure. These staff have responsibilities other than fee collection such as the provision of an information service, safety, the collection of camping fees, and providing a presence in the park.

- (d) Regulations made under Part X of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 provide for the payment of admission fees to land to which the Act applies. Section 57(1) of the National Parks Authority Regulations allows for the Minister to levy fees for vehicle admission to national parks. Section 128(b) and (c) of the Forest Management Regulation 1993 (Schedule 2A) prescribes the entry fees for State forest, timber reserves and Tree Top Walk.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERS' APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION

2289. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) With reference to the Minister's question on notice 35 of 1997, who are the current members and chairpersons of the Boards and Committees noted in your answer?
- (2) When was each member appointed and for what period of time?
- (3) How much remuneration is each member paid?

Mr DAY replied:

(1)-(3) Police Appeals Board (Disciplinary)

Member	Appointed	Expiry	Payment
P Heaney (Chairperson)	01/07/97	30/06/99	Nil
Superintendent W B Dawson	01/07/97	30/06/99	Nil
Sergeant M Dean	01/07/97	30/06/99	Nil

Community Policing Crime Prevention Council of Western Australia (Inc)

J Hudson (President)	01/07/94	31/10/98	Nil
Commissioner R Falconer	06/04/95	31/10/98	Nil
Asst Commissioner M Hay	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
Superintendent M Jones	20/11/97	31/10/98	Nil
Sergeant W Bentley	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
C Kerr	25/08/97	31/08/98	Nil
A Barber	01/09/97	31/08/98	Nil
A Brinkworth	01/07/94	31/08/98	Nil
W Barnes	07/10/97	31/08/98	Nil
G Eichhorn (Vice President)	25/10/97	31/10/98	Nil
M Day	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
J Fairclough	31/08/97	31/08/98	Nil
S Serna	27/02/97	31/10/98	Nil
S Lewis	10/07/97	31/08/98	Nil
R Kean	01/07/93	31/10/98	Nil
G Martinet	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
S McKay	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
P Morris	01/07/94	31/08/98	Nil
Fr B Newing	01/07/94	31/08/98	Nil
E M Roadnight	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
H Ryan	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
M Stidwell	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
T Telenta	01/07/94	31/08/98	Nil
B Mathews	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
T Brown	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
P Walsh	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
L Wienhofen	01/07/94	31/08/98	Nil
J King	06/08/97	31/08/98	Nil
M Carlson	05/06/97	31/08/98	Nil
R Steffens	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
E Earle	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
D Fairclough	31/08/96	31/08/98	Nil
M Petters	03/11/97	31/10/98	Nil
K Wilkie	31/08/96	31/10/98	Nil
M Binning (Treasurer)	25/10/97	31/10/98	Nil
J Haunold	15/05/97	31/08/98	Nil

Police Minister's Council on Aboriginal, Police and Community Relations

P Walsh (Chairperson)	October 1996	October 1998	\$19,600 pa
Inspector J Gibson	October 1996	October 1998	
J Hudson	October 1996	October 1998	\$131 (full day sitting)

M Haynes	October 1996	October 1998	\$131 (full day sitting)
J Bridge	October 1996	October 1998	
D Eggington	October 1996	October 1998	
K Colbung	October 1996	October 1998	\$131 (full day sitting)
L Whitby	October 1996	October 1998	\$131 (full day sitting)

STATE DEBT

2293. Dr CONSTABLE to the Treasurer:

What sum does the State presently owe as a debt?

Mr COURT replied:

Net debt for the total public sector was \$6.991 million at 30 June 1997. This data is only compiled annually (*see Analytical Information in Support of the Treasurer's Annual Statements 1996-97*).

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES - TITLES OF PERSONNEL

2309. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

What are the titles of all personnel providing student support services (such as school psychologist, social worker; welfare officer; and school chaplain) and in respect of each category, what were/are the FTE to student ratios -

- (a) in each of the last five years; and
(b) for the current year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

TITLE	FTE/STUDENT RATIO (1: __)					
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Director Student Services	○	○	○	248847	251001	255085
Manager Student Support	○	○	○	248847	251001	255085
Manager Disabilities and Learning Difficulties	○	○	○	248847	251001	255085
Manager Aboriginal Education	○	○	○	248847	251001	255085
Consultant (Level 6)	○	○	○	15552	19307	15942
Education Officer	○	○	○	6129	6435	9447
School Development Officer	○	○	○	○	○	28342
Administrative Assistant	○	○	○	62211	50200	51017
Teacher Aide	249236	248434	124481	124564	125500	127542
Visiting Teacher	20769	20702	20746	14696	14764	15005
School Psychology Service	1319	1300	1312	1293	1329	1294
School Social Worker Service	24923	24843	24896	24984	25100	28342
Welfare Officer	17802	17745	16062	16656	16959	17352
Aboriginal Liaison Officer	419♦	448♦	468♦	589♦	556♦	561♦
Youth Education Officer	3314	3268	3224	3274	3302	3036
School Nurse	2569	2561	2566	2565	2587	2629
School-Based Police Officer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8635	8228
Year Coordinator	○	○	○	○	○	4905
Career Education Teacher	9969	9937	5532	5078	4048	4251
Third Deputy Principal	16615	13801	13103	11849	12550	12146
Aboriginal Education Worker	1:71#	1:59#	1:38*	1:41*	1:35*	1:34*
School Chaplain	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5837	5932

○ Position not created

♦ This ratio represents the number of Aboriginal students per Aboriginal Liaison Officer (staff employed)
N/A Data not available to the Department

This ratio represents the number of Aboriginal students per Aboriginal Education Worker (FTE)

* This ratio represents the number of Aboriginal students per Aboriginal Education Worker (staff employed)

These are centrally provided allocations and schools may supplement this according to their needs.

POLICE OFFICERS - RATIO TO POPULATION

2310. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many police officers are there in the Western Australian police service per head of the Western Australian population?
- (2) What are the available figures for each other State and Territory of Australia?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) As at June 30, 1997 there were 263.4 police officers per 100,000 population in Western Australia.
- (2) The available figures per 100,000 population for the other States and Territories relate to June 30, 1996.

New South Wales	210.2
Victoria	219.7
Queensland	188.2
South Australia	234.0
Tasmania	212.1
Australian Capital Territory	199.0
Northern Territory	442.9

FREMANTLE HOSPITAL - CARDIAC SERVICES UNIT

2317. Dr CONSTABLE to the Premier:

- (1) Further to the Premier's answer to question on notice 1626 of 1997, given that -
 - (a) the report by Professor Hickie, Professor Baird and Dr Keaney in 1992 recommended that Royal Perth Hospital should increase annual cardiac surgery cases, initially to 1400 cases per year, and stabilising at approximately 900 cases per year after the second public cardiac surgery unit was established at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital; and
 - (b) case loads at Royal Perth Hospital cardiac surgery unit were 1186 in 1991-92, 1023 in 1992-93; and down to 707 in 1995-96;

how does the Premier justify establishing a fourth cardiac surgery unit at Fremantle Hospital which, according to the Minister for Health, will take approximately 350 cases per year from Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) Will the Premier confirm that the report -
 - (a) after considering the relative merits of establishing a second public cardiac surgery unit at either Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital or Fremantle Hospital, decided in favour of the former;
 - (b) never considered, let alone recommended, the establishment of a third public cardiac surgery unit at Fremantle Hospital; and
 - (c) considered the argument that a cardiac surgery unit at Fremantle Hospital would improve the geographic accessibility for cardiac surgical services in the Southern Corridor to have little weight, given that any part of metropolitan Perth can be reached by car in approximately 30 minutes?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Prior to the 1993 State Election, substantial community support was expressed for the establishment of a cardiac surgery unit south of the river. In response, the present Government made a pre-election commitment to the establishment of a heart surgery unit at Fremantle Hospital. The Government has now fulfilled this commitment.
- (2)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) The advantages and disadvantages of establishing a third cardiac surgery unit at both Fremantle Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital were considered. However in the judgement of the consultants, the balance between the advantages and disadvantages of the two sites favoured the Sir Charles Gairdner site.
 - (c) The consultants stated that "This argument, although it had some validity, did not seem to the Committee to have great weight as any part of metropolitan Perth can be reached within 30 minutes by car or public transport".

Under the direction of the Metropolitan Health Services Board the cardiothoracic surgeons have agreed to form a Metropolitan Cardiothoracic Surgical Service Group. This group will be a joint working arrangement across the 3 public cardiothoracic teaching hospital units and include - provision of after-hours emergency service, cross-cover for leave; coordination of transplantation services; provision of paediatric service; and manpower planning.

HOSPITALS - WARD CLOSURES

2324. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

In each of the last three years, with respect to all public hospitals in the Perth metropolitan region -

- (a) for how many days were wards closed;
- (b) which wards were closed; and
- (c) what savings, if any, were achieved by closing wards?

The answer was tabled. [See paper No 1136.]

WATER RESOURCES - CHARGES

2327. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Minister aware a view exists in the community that charges for water services should be based on a more equitable system of calculation than gross rental value (GRV) which varies according to suburb, region, local government authority and individual property size and standard?
- (2) What consideration has been given to determining a water unit charge similar to gas and electricity tariff units, which are unrelated to property values?
- (3) Have any changes occurred along the lines of the implementation of meter size based service charges as opposed to valuation based water charges?
- (4) If so, what has been the outcome in terms of cost to, and effects on, consumers?
- (5) How specifically would meter sized service charges operate compared to the general GRV assessment?
- (6) Is there any intention to extend or consider alternative ways of assessing water service charges other than by GRV?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In the case of residential customers there was no need to consider such changes as a State-wide fixed water service charge applies to all residential properties irrespective of property size, value or location. The 1997/98 charge amounts to \$126.30. A tariff reform programme for commercial properties to replace valuation based charges for the water service with water meter based water service charges, has been undertaken. This commenced in 1993/94 in the metropolitan area and in 1995/96 in the country. In addition to the charge for the service availability, all customers pay for water consumption (kilolitres of water used).
- (3) Phasing-in of the meter size based charges for businesses in the metropolitan area was completed in July 1997. The country phase-in programme will be completed in 2000/01.
- (4) In the metropolitan area, over 18,600 (69%) business customers experienced a reduction in their water service charges. The remaining 8,400 (31%) business customers whose valuation based charges were less than the charges based on the meter size, have had increased charges. The tariff reform resulted in a substantial reduction in the amount of revenue raised from the business sector. In the period from 1993/94 to 1997/98 the total amount of charges has been reduced by \$27.1 million (51%).

In the country, 5,000 (54%) businesses experienced reductions to their charges. The amount of revenue raised has already been reduced by \$2.3 million.
- (5) The minimum meter based charge of \$374.40 (20mm meter) is equivalent to the minimum charge that would apply under the GRV rating system. Charges based on the meter size vary between \$374.40 for a 20mm meter and \$84,240.00 for 300mm meter.
- (6) At present, vacant land properties are the only properties where valuation based water service charges apply. Alternate methods of charging these properties for the water service are being assessed by the Water Corporation.

MARKETFORCE - DATES AND VALUE OF CONTRACTS

2335. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Since February 1993, has the Deputy Premier and/or any department or agency under the Deputy Premier's control engaged the company Marketforce?
- (2) How many contracts has the company received?
- (3) What is the value of each contract?
- (4) When was each contract let?
- (5) What has been the total amount paid to the company each financial year since that time?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) Yes. Marketforce Productions has been appointed to an agency-specific period panel contract by the Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (2)-(4) One contract with the Department of Commerce and Trade let on 25 September 1997 on a fee-for-service basis only. However, Marketforce (also trading as Media Decisions) is on a whole-of-government master agency contract for buying media space, and is also used by the Department of Commerce and Trade under this contract.
- (5) Nil under the Department of Commerce and Trade contract. The following under government master agency contract.

1993/94	\$ 90,407.38
1994/95	\$222,405.02
1995/96	\$226,326.07
1996/97	\$227,190.23
1997/98	\$ 28,234.21

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) The Small Business Development Corporation has not engaged Marketforce in any capacity in the period from February 1993 other than as a booking agent for advertising in accordance with a whole of government contract.
- (2)-(4) Marketforce (also trading as Media Decisions) is on a whole-of-government market agency contract for purchase of media space and is used by the Small Business Development Corporation under this contract.
- (5)

1992/93 (Since February 1993)	\$17,203
1993/94	\$49,977
1994/95	\$41,566
1995/96	\$48,585
1996/97	\$31,763
1997/98 (To November 1997)	\$ 3,526

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) The Gascoyne Development Commission only uses Marketforce under the Government contract for advertising services.
- (2) The Commission has used Marketforce's services four times.
- (3)-(4)

(a) \$457	(a) 22/4/97
(b) \$791	(b) 31/5/97
(c) \$699	(c) 30/6/97
(d) \$1354	(d) 3/10/97

- (5) 1996/97 financial year: \$1,947
1997/98 financial year: \$1,354

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Eight.
- (3)-(4) (a) \$1,270.44 (a) April 1997
(b) \$1,648.24 (b) April 1997
(c) \$ 680.20 (c) April 1997
(d) \$1,629.51 (d) August 1996
(e) \$ 795.05 (e) August 1996
(f) \$ 476.66 (f) September 1996
(g) \$3,585.73 (g) June 1996
(h) \$ 696.00 (h) September 1997
- (5) 1995/96 \$3,585.73
1996/97 \$6,500.10
1997/98 \$ 696.00

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) The Kimberley Development Commission has only engaged Marketforce under the whole of Government Newspaper Advertising contract to place advertisements for job vacancies.
- (2) Marketforce has received no direct contracts from the Kimberley Development Commission.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) 1993/94 Nil
1994/95 Nil
1995/96 Nil
1996/97 \$5189

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) In July 1996 the Department of Premier and Cabinet appointed Marketforce as the contractor for non-campaign advertising for use by government agencies.
- (2) Four.
- (3)-(4) (a) \$ 910.46 (a) February 1997
(b) \$ 363.01 (b) January 1997
(c) \$ 484.02 (c) December 1996
(d) \$ 150.50 (d) August 1996
- (5) 1996-97 \$1907.99
1997-98 Nil to date.

Peel Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Two.
- (3)-(4) (a) \$306.12 (a) April 1997
(b) \$1,796.00 (b) February 1997
- (5) 1996/97 \$2,102.12

Pilbara Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Ten.

(3)	(a)	\$107.04	(a)	28/08/97
	(b)	\$1019.70	(b)	06/09/97
	(c)	\$130.00	(c)	03/09/97
	(d)	\$301.40	(d)	25/06/97
	(e)	\$356.20	(e)	04/06/97 & 11/06/97
	(f)	\$886.94	(f)	07/06/97 & 11/06/97
	(g)	\$1,296.84	(g)	26/04/97 & 23/04/97
	(h)	\$767.98	(h)	21/09/96, 25/09/96 & 02/10/96
	(i)	\$301.40	(i)	21/08/96
	(j)	\$70.80	(j)	07/08/96
(5)	(i)	1997/98		\$1,256.74
	(ii)	1996/97		\$3,625.36

South West Development Commission

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable

Wheatbelt Development Commission

(1) Yes.

(2) Four.

(3)	(a)	\$ 122.10	(a)	October 1996
	(b)	\$ 379.40	(b)	March 1997
	(c)	\$ 537.80	(c)	March 1997
	(d)	\$1,054.60	(d)	April 1997
	Credit \$ 149.90			

(5)	1993/94	Nil
	1994/95	Nil
	1995/96	Nil
	1996/97	\$1944.50
	1997/98	Nil

MARKETFORCE - DATES AND VALUE OF CONTRACTS

2342. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Since February 1993, has the Minister and/or any department or agency under the Minister's control engaged the company Marketforce?
- (2) How many contracts has the company received?
- (3) What is the value of each contract?
- (4) When was each contract let?
- (5) What has been the total amount paid to the company each financial year since that time?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(5) The member should be aware that it would require considerable resources to go back over five years of archives to obtain the information sought. It would be unreasonable to expect the resources to be committed but if the member has a specific question about any particular contract with Marketforce, I will consider providing that information.

MARKETFORCE - DATES AND VALUE OF CONTRACTS

2350. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Since February 1993, has the Minister and/or any department or agency under the Minister's control engaged the company Marketforce?
- (2) How many contracts has the company received?
- (3) What is the value of each contract?

- (4) When was each contract let?
- (5) What has been the total amount paid to the company each financial year since that time?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following response:

- (1)-(5) The member should be aware that it would require considerable resources to go back over five years of archives to obtain the information sought. It would be unreasonable to expect the resources to be committed but if the member has a specific question about any particular contract with Marketforce, I will consider providing that information.

MARKETFORCE - DATES AND VALUE OF CONTRACTS

2354. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Since February 1993, has the Minister and/or any department or agency under the Minister's control engaged the company Marketforce?
- (2) How many contracts has the company received?
- (3) What is the value of each contract?
- (4) When was each contract let?
- (5) What has been the total amount paid to the company each financial year since that time?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following response:

- (1)-(5) The member should be aware that it would require considerable resources to go back over five years of archives to obtain the information sought. It would be unreasonable to expect the resources to be committed but if the member has a specific question about any particular contract with Marketforce, I will consider providing that information.

ACTIV FOUNDATION - EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TENDER

2361. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared on page 2 of *The West Australian* on 3 September 1997 concerning the Activ Foundation losing a contract with the Education Department?
- (2) Is it true, as reported, that the contract provided work for a number of intellectually disabled people and the chance for them to show their talents to the wider community?
- (3) Why did the Activ Foundation lose the contract?
- (4) Was the Activ Foundation's tender price for the contract higher than the successful tenderer's?
- (5) What was the difference between the two contract prices?
- (6) Did those who examined the tenders and made the decision on allocation take into account the fact that the Activ contract provided employment for intellectually disabled people?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The Activ Foundation tender did not represent best value for money.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Outdoor: \$6,520 - 81% higher
Indoor: \$1,584 - 8.4% higher
Overall: \$8,104 - 30% higher

- (6)-(7) Yes, it was considered, however no Government Supply Policy exists which would enable the Education Department of Western Australian to provide a preference to organisations which provide employment to intellectually disabled persons.

POLICE OFFICER - SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

2372. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Shire of West Arthur is currently seeking a permanent police presence in the Shire?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) does the Minister have any plans to locate a police officer in the area; and
 - (b) when will this occur?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. However, in order to address the needs of the Darken community, two officers have been located to Williams to provide an improved highway patrol capacity which also incorporates patrols into and through the West Arthur Shire on a regular basis. Williams Police sub-district has the responsibility of Police services to the Shire of West Arthur which includes the main townsite of Darkan. Police have also attended Darkan on six further occasions in the last twelve months to chair meetings of the Local Emergency Management Advisory Committee. Although the establishment of a Police Station in Darkan is desirable from a community perspective, operational priorities do not support this at this time.

SECURITY AGENTS - LICENCES

2379. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the claims that the waiting list to obtain a license under the Securities and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996 stands at six weeks and that security companies are having to turn down business because they can not get their prospective staff licensed quickly enough?
- (2) Are these claims valid?
- (3) If not, what is the case?
- (4) What additional resources, if any, have been given?
- (5) What further resources can the Minister commit to alleviate the demand on this department?
- (6) Will the Minister give an undertaking to examine the number of license applications awaiting processing?
- (7) How many applications are waiting to be processed?
- (8) What is the longest time that an applicant has had to wait?
- (9) What is the average time?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) Many claims of loss of business have not generally been substantiated. Recent investigation of claims of delays of seven weeks have indicated the action time to obtain a licence is less than three weeks.
- (4) Five additional staff.
- (5) Further additional resources are not considered necessary and have not been requested.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) One hundred normal applications are waiting to be processed, in addition to this number a further fifty to one hundred applications are awaiting further documentation to be supplied by the applicants prior to the completion of processing.
- (8) An estimated four to five weeks during the peak period August and September caused by an influx of applications from the crowd control industry.

- (9) Seven working days, if correct documentation is supplied at the time of application.

OMEX SITE, BELLEVUE - SIMILARITIES TO KINGSTON SITE, QUEENSLAND

2380. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of similarities between the Omex site in Bellevue and the Kingston site in Queensland?
- (2) If not, will the Minister undertake to make herself aware of the Kingston site and its similarities with Bellevue?
- (3) Does the Minister acknowledge that land values are affected by proximity to contaminated sites?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the Minister for Finance has advised that the Valuer-General considers that property values in Bellevue are affected by the "stigma" of being in proximity to the Omex pit?
- (5) Will property devaluation be considered as part of the remediation strategy?
- (6) Is consideration being given to the purchase of properties in the vicinity of the pit and the relocation of affected persons?
- (7) Will any such consideration go beyond just one or two properties that are advantageous for access to the pit?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Will the Government take responsibility for any deterioration of health of persons affected by living close to the pit because of the Government's failure to act expeditiously?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware of some similarities with these two sites, but the Kingston site was also an operating goldmine, and houses were built on top of the contaminated pits there.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) I understand there is potential for land values to be affected by proximity to contaminated sites, but this in general terms only occurs where there is a direct effect of the contamination on the property.
- (4) I am aware of an issue relating to one property, which was addressed by the Minister in an answer to a question in another place. I am also advised that the Valuer General has corresponded several times with the Bellevue Action Group in respect to land values in the area of the Omex site and particularly in relation to the issues of gross rental and unimproved land value.
- (5) The remediation strategy for the site will be based on technical information, which will ensure that an acceptable strategy is implemented that takes into account the protection of the environment and human health and results in the land being compatible with surrounding landuses. The relative property values in the area are irrelevant in the development of the strategy, and market forces will dictate property values after the clean-up.
- (6) Property purchase and the relocation of people in the area is one of several actions being considered at this time. The need for such an action will be dictated by the clean-up strategy, which has yet to be finalised.
- (7) Any relocations will be dependent upon the remedial strategy adopted and the assessment of the potential risks that the strategy poses to residents. While access to the property is one consideration that may be taken into account, the prime determinant for moving people would be risk.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) I reject any accusations of this Government failing to act "expeditiously". Since coming to power this Government has taken the lead in data collection and analysis, and has spent a great deal of money to establish what is on the site and what risk if any it may pose to the public. The Government has paid for a cover to be placed on the pit to prevent air emissions, and has recently allocated funding for a total clean-up of the site. These actions have been taken in response to data as it has come to hand, with the single aim of protecting the environment and human health.

SEXUAL ABUSE COMPLAINTS - STATISTICS

2383. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Have statistics of complaints of sexual abuse as defined in the answer to question on notice 787 of 1997 been compiled?
- (2) If so, what are they for each of the categories in that question?
- (3) Why has there been a marked decrease in the number of complaints between 1994 and 1996?
- (4) Has any research been undertaken with respect to the source or referral of complaints?
- (5) If yes to (4) above, what research has been undertaken?
- (6) If no to (4) above, why not?
- (7) What notifications have police forwarded to the child protection register?
- (8) What access do individual police officers have to the register?
- (9) How many referrals were made to the Department for Family and Children's Services from the child sex abuse unit for each of the following calendar years -
 - (a) 1994;
 - (b) 1995;
 - (c) 1996;
 - (d) 1997?
- (10) What is the substantiation rate;
- (11) How many charges have been laid?
- (12) How many charges of sexual abuse, including -
 - (a) incest;
 - (b) indecent assault;
 - (c) sexual penetration;
 - (d) aggravated sexual penetration;
 - (e) indecent dealing;
 - (f) aggravated indecent assault,
 have been laid for each of the following calendar years -
 - (i) 1994;
 - (ii) 1995;
 - (iii) 1996;
 - (iv) 1997;
- (g) how many convictions for each of the said charges have been recorded?
- (13) How many notifications have been made to the child abuse register kept by the Department for Family and Children's Services?
- (14) Will the Minister arrange a briefing for me on this issue?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3) A combination of factors which include, public education programs, awareness campaigns and media attention highlighting child abuse in the community could and a strong working relationship between the Police Child Abuse Unit and child interest groups.
- (4-6) No.
- (7) When a complaint is substantiated the Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) will forward a notification to the Child Protection Services Register. Notification to the Register can be effected by a verbal or written report. However, in all instances where the initial notification is verbal in nature it is confirmed in writing. WAPS written notifications are by way of a printed form.
- (8) Approved Officers only, are able to access the Child Protection Services Register. At present the implementation and maintenance of the Child Protection Services Register is facilitated by protocol. There

is no enacted legislation governing access to the Register. However, release of information from the Register is based upon the principles embodied within the Freedom of Information Act 1992. The level of access to the Register by "Approved Officers" is determined by the nature of the inquiry or operations requirements.

- (9) Statistics of this nature are not kept by the Child Abuse Unit.
- (10) 1996/97 fiscal year, 627 complaints were substantiated from 809 complaints received at the Child Abuse Unit.
- (11) For the fiscal year 1996/97, 162 arrests were effected by the Police Child Abuse Unit resulting in 981 charges being preferred. In most instances, each arrest has resulted in multiple charges being preferred.
- (12)

(a)-(f)	1994	1380
(a)-(f)	1995	1472
(a)-(f)	1996	1240
(a)-(f)	1997	981
(g)	These figures are not individually retained by the Western Australia Police Service.	
- (13) The exact number of referrals forwarded by the Western Australia Police Service to the Child Protection Services Register in any given year is indeterminate as only substantiated cases of child abuse are referred to The Register.
- (14) Yes, if requested by the member.

MR C. FERNIE - INTERNAL AFFAIRS BRANCH'S INVESTIGATION

2393. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any request by a Mr C Fernie of Forrestfield for his case to be investigated by Internal Affairs Branch of the Western Australian Police Service?
- (2) Will the Minister undertake to investigate Mr Fernie's complaints that Internal Affairs Branch did not investigate the case fully?
- (3) Did Detective First Class Constable Fucile interview Mr Fernie on 13 January 1995?
- (4) If so, when did the interview take place?
- (5) If not, on what date did Detective First Class Constable Fucile interview Mr Fernie and where did the interview take place?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Police Service has advised me that Mr Fernie made a complaint addressed to the Commissioner of Police. Officers of the Internal Affairs Unit are addressing the issues contained within the complaint.
- (2) The responsibility for investigations into complaints against police officers is vested in the Commissioner of Police, actively oversighted by the Parliamentary Commissioner or the ACC, as applicable. Within the Westminster Parliamentary system there is no process for a Minister to investigate complaints of this nature.
- (3)-(5) Detective Fucile spoke to Mr Fernie by telephone and again in person at the then Midland CIB office in late 1993 or early 1994. The exact dates are not known, however, Mr Fernie alleges that he contacted Detective Fucile by telephone on 13 January 1994.

ANTIQUE FIREARMS - LICENSING

2395. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it correct that in all States and Territories of Australia other than Western Australia antique firearms need no form of licensing and that by definition they are not firearms?
- (2) If not, what is the case?
- (3) Does somebody who has a 200 year old broken firearm without a licence run the risk of being charged and prosecuted by the police?
- (4) Are there any exemptions at all for antique firearms in Western Australia and, if so, what are they?
- (5) Is it an offence to keep ammunition manufactured prior to the 1900s?

- (6) Are there any proposals to accommodate the concerns of people who collect antique firearms?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) For firearms manufactured prior to 1900 for which ammunition is not commercially available, no licence is required in the following:
- Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
New South Wales (NSW)
Victoria (VIC)
Tasmania (TAS)
- This also applies in South Australia, however, prohibited types of firearms (Category C and D) are excluded from this.
- In the Northern Territory, a Collectors Licence is required.
- In Queensland, no licence is required for non-cartridge firing firearms which were manufactured prior to 1900. For cartridge firing firearms, a licence is currently required, however, it is proposed to amend this legislation to fall in line with ACT, NSW, VIC and TAS.
- (3) Yes, however, a prosecution would have to be in the public interest.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes, it is an offence to keep ammunition manufactured prior to the 1900's unless an Ammunitions Licence is held.
- (6) I will refer this issue to the Firearms Advisory Committee when it is established in the near future.

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY - INITIATIVES

2400. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1448 of 1997, will the Minister advise how the \$500 000 allocated to the Crime Prevention Strategy in 1996-97 was spent?
- (2) What initiatives have been taken by any of the Community Policing Crime Prevention Committees?
- (3) Have any of the Community Policing Crime Prevention Committees come up with any new initiatives or ideas which are proving successful?
- (4) What ideas and initiatives are proving successful?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The \$500,000 allocation to the Crime Prevention Strategy in 1996/97 has been used to fund the initial 23 new Crime Prevention strategies through various Community Policing Crime Prevention Committees in Western Australia. These 23 individual strategies have all been implemented and are currently being managed by the respective Community Policing Crime Prevention Committees through which these grants were awarded.
- (2) Initiatives undertaken by Community Policing Crime Prevention Committees include:
- Juvenile Action Group which targets anti-social behaviour in the streets of Albany;
 - The establishment of a Computerised Community Broadcast Alert System which enables recorded messages to be broadcast to the community via the telephone;
 - The establishment of programs for students identified as at risk of committing criminal offences;
 - The development of leadership camps for juveniles aimed at team building, assertiveness, leadership training and conflict resolution;
 - The establishment of a "Trader Safe Program" in the Perth Central Business District networking traders, security surveillance and Police;
 - The development of a Liquor Industry Accord in the Perth Central Business District;

- Personal safety and home security program for Seniors;
 - The introduction of media campaigns for people to report suspicious activity to Police as well as to encourage parents to know where their children are;
 - The encouragement of children to attend school through provision of early morning activities and breakfast for students prior to the commencement of school;
 - The encouragement of the community to engrave their property;
 - The establishment of a Respite Centre for displaced males after domestic violence incidents;
 - The establishment of programs targeting the needs of Aboriginal families.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Initial progress reports received indicated many of the projects were proving successful. Successful projects included:-
- The Albany JAG program which involved an inter-agency approach in dealing with anti-social behaviour by juveniles in the streets of Albany. Success indicators included the extension of the project to the towns of Katanning and Esperance and interest by the Town of Albany to continue the program. Other outcomes included a reduction in Children's Court charges in the great Southern region.
 - The expansion of the "PC Cops" Crime Alert System from a pilot program to the launch of the program throughout the metropolitan area. Other outcomes for this project include interest shown by other state jurisdictions and Federal funding to expand the program statewide.
 - The Students at Risk Program (STAR) coordinated by the Armadale Committee has identified positive results in dealing with students with behavioural problems. Success indicators for this program include the Principals of 4 high schools identified as chronic truants, being at risk of offending or suffering from behavioural problems. The STAR program involves an inter-agency approach linking to other resources within the same Education District.
 - The Perth Accord involves 230 licensed liquor outlets operating under the Accord's Code of Practice. Indicators of the success of the Accord have been the reduction in property damage of 21% in its first three months of operation.
 - The Trader Safe Program has proven to be successful through the support of the traders in the Perth Central Business District. Traders feel more safe at night, particularly during late night trading, and there has been significant reduced response times in Police attending incidences where traders have been identified as under duress.
 - The Geraldton "Early Bird Program" which involves the provision of breakfast and organised activities prior to the commencement of the school day has resulted in a reduction in truancy.
 - Truancy Programs established in the Rockingham area have resulted in improved attendance rates in high schools from 89% to 96% over a 6 week period. The VIP Program operating in the Victoria Park area has resulted in 15 children identified as chronic truants or having behavioural problems attending classes regularly and receiving assistance in developing numeracy and life skills. Some of the students are completing TAFE courses and one student has been referred to an employment program.

SWAN PORTLAND CEMENT PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2425. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Swan Portland Cement project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The projects nominated in the questions 2425-2444, 2446-2448, 2450-2470 are mostly resource development projects and it is appropriate therefore that I answer them as Minister for Resources Development. The member has asked, in respect of each project, for details regarding either local content or workforce skills availability or both.

However due to the confidential nature of the information requested from the project developers, it is not possible to respond individually for each one. Consequently, I am providing the member with one answer which addresses the matter of local content generally and a second answer which addresses the general issue of workforce skills availability.

- (1) Local Content: Overall, the Government is satisfied that its present policy, announced in July 1996, and the efforts made to date by project developers have generated acceptable results in terms of maximising the achievable levels of local content in the nominated projects. The Government's approach to maximising Australian industry involvement in such projects has resulted from a comprehensive assessment of the various options and a period of extensive consultation with all relevant parties to achieve this. The outcome is reflected in the Local Content Policy brochure released last year and in the Local Content clauses in all new State Agreements. It is important to note that while some projects are subject to State Agreements, which require developers to provide Department of Resources Development with historic project data, there are many other projects throughout the State that are not subject to a statutory reporting requirement. Consistent with the local Content Policy, the Government expects all major project developers and operators will:
- recognise that local industry participation is important to the development of the Australian economy and that they will provide local industry with every possible opportunity to participate in all phases of their projects being undertaken in the State;
 - try to achieve the highest level of procurement of goods, labour, materials and services from local manufacturers and suppliers subject to being competitive on price, quality and delivery requirements;
 - formulate specifications, tenders and documentation in such a way as to give local industry and business the opportunity to participate in the supply of goods and services to projects;
 - keep the Government informed by providing reports on the level of Australian industry participation in the development and operation of resource projects and advise the Minister for Resources Development of the reason why goods and services have been sourced outside Australia;
 - incorporate the policy into contracts entered into with third parties to supply goods or services.

The principle of full, fair and reasonable opportunity for local suppliers to compete with outside suppliers ensures that the application of this policy will not affect investment decisions by project developers. The State Government has endorsed more funding for the Industrial Supplies Office (ISOWA) so that it can continue its work aimed at increasing industry participation in WA-based resource development projects and Australia-wide, the ISO network has helped to make local content an integral part of the resource development industry's culture by fostering a better understanding of the skills, industry expertise and manufacturing facilities available in each State.

Oversight of the local content policy is the task of the Local Content Advisory Group (LCAG), which I chair. LCAG combines both public and private interests. It comprises representation from both the demand and supply side of industry and the Trades and Labor Council as well as the Departments of Resources Development, and Commerce and Trade. Its task is to provide a forum in which to consider major local content policy issues and address impediments to local industry participation in development projects.

A Local Content Task Force implements the policy as it applies to resource development projects within WA and maintains the linkages between government, ISOWA and industry.

- (2) Workforce Skills Availability: In 1995/96 the Departments of Training and Resources Development jointly commissioned Worley Limited to undertake a study to assess the *Skill Requirements of Major Resource Development Projects Design and Construction Phase 1996-2000*. This study was completed in May 1996 and the findings widely disseminated across industry and government sectors. In October 1996 the Department of Training commissioned Worley Limited to undertake a *1997 Update on Skill Requirements of Major WA Resource Development Projects*. In addition to providing an up-to-date assessment of the design and construction labour requirements arising from resource development projects during 1996-2001, the study was expanded to include the long-term skill requirements associated with the operations phase of projects.

The commissioning of the 1996 and 1997 Worley studies forms part of a range of strategies which have been initiated across the vocational education and training sectors to identify and address future skill requirements. These include:

- Increased training provision in high demand skill areas - Training provision has been significantly increased in high demand areas such as automotive, building, construction, metals, engineering, mining and utilities trades. Para-professional training places have also been increased in areas such as drafting, design and engineering. Since 1994 the Department of Training has increased its investment in training across these areas by almost 60%.
- \$2.1 million in skill centre funding - The Department of Training worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assist it to develop and forward an application for national skill centre capital funding to the Australian National Training Authority. This application was successful and the Chamber was awarded approximately \$2.1 million to assist with the establishment of a \$3 million, 24-hour metals and engineering centre in Kwinana.
- Accelerated apprenticeships and skills upgrading programs - Within the Department of Training's Industry Specific and Priority Skill Enhancement tendered programs, training providers have been encouraged to bid for the delivery of innovative training programs (eg accelerated apprenticeships, skills upgrading programs) which target priority skill areas.
- Training infrastructure - The Department of Training has allocated more than \$14 million in capital work funds for equipment and facilities for metals and engineering training over the period from 1992/93 to 1996/97.
- Promotional campaign - In 1997 the Department of Training commenced a major employment-based training promotional campaign '*Hands on Trainers*' to raise awareness about the value of apprentice and trainee training.

Further Assessment of WA Resources Sector Skill Requirements: The Department of Training has tendered a study similar to that conducted by Worley Limited. The study will assess both the supply and demand for skills associated with the design, construction and operational phases of major new resource development and infrastructure projects planned in the State over the next five years.

No 2 SODIUM CYANIDE PLANT PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2427. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the No 2 Sodium Cyanide Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

SWAN PORTLAND CEMENT PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2429. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Swan Portland Cement project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

RED HILL PIONEER QUARRY EXPANSION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2430. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Red Hill Pioneer Quarry Expansion project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

No 2 SODIUM CYANIDE PLANT PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2431. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the No 2 Sodium Cyanide Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

PREMIER COAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2432. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Premier Coal Development project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

WESTERN POWER'S CONVEYOR BELT PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2433. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Conveyor Belt Western Power project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

STAG OIL FIELD PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2434. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Stag Oil Field project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

ALINTAGAS - COMPRESSOR STATIONS PROJECT

2435. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Compressor Stations AlintaGas project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

NORTH CAPEL PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2436. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Expansion of North Capel Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

MURRIN MURRIN NICKEL PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2437. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Murrin Murrin Nickel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

CAWSE NICKEL PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2438. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Cawse Nickel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

BULONG NICKEL PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2439. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Bulong Nickel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FINUCANE ISLAND-NELSON POINT TUNNEL PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2440. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Finucane Island Nelson Point Tunnel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

BHP CAPACITY EXPANSION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2441. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the BHP Capacity Expansion project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

300 MEGAWATT COAL-FIRED POWER STATION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2442. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the 300 Megawatt Coal Fired Power Station project?

- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

YANDICOOGINA IRON ORE PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2443. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Yandicoogina Iron Ore project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

LAMINARIA MODULES PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2444. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Laminaria Modules project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

CSBP UPGRADE PLANT PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2446. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the CSBP Up Grade Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FLUOR DANIEL KWINANA POWER STATION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2447. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Fluor Daniel Kwinana Power Station project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FLUOR DANIEL MUJA POWER STATION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2448. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Fluor Daniel Muja Power Station project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

BHP HOT BRIQUETTED IRON PLANT PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2450. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the BHP Hot Briquetted Iron Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

WORSLEY EXPANSION PROJECT - WORKFORCE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

2451. Mr BROWN to the Ministe for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Worsley Expansion project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (9) of question on notice 2428 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

PREMIER COAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2452. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Premier Coal Development project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

WESTERN POWER' CONVEYOR BELT PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2453. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Conveyor Belt Western Power project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

STAG OIL FIELD PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2454. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Stag Oil Field project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

ALINTAGAS - COMPRESSOR STATIONS PROJECT

2455. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Compressor Stations AlintaGas project?

- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

NORTH CAPEL PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2456. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Expansion of North Capel Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

MURRIN MURRIN NICKEL PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2457. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Murrin Murrin Nickel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

CAWSE NICKEL PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2458. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Cawse Nickel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

BULONG NICKEL PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2459. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Bulong Nickel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

BHP CAPACITY EXPANSION PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2460. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the BHP Capacity Expansion project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FINUCANE ISLAND-NELSON POINT TUNNEL PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2461. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Finucane Island Nelson Point Tunnel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

300 MEGAWATT COAL-FIRED POWER STATION PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2462. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the 300 Megawatt Coal Fired Power Station project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

YANDICOOGINA IRON ORE PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2463. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Yandicoogina Iron Ore project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

LAMINARIA MODULES PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2464. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Laminaria Modules project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2465. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Northbridge Tunnel project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) I assume the question relates to the Graham Farmer Freeway project.
- (2) The estimated cost in November 1995 was \$335 million and the current estimated cost is \$351 million. This project is being undertaken by design and construct contracts and the issues raised are matters for the contractors to determine.

CSBP UPGRADE PLANT PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2466. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the CSBP Up Grade Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FLUOR DANIEL KWINANA POWER STATION PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2467. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Fluor Daniel Kwinana Power Station project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FLUOR DANIEL MUJA POWER STATION PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2468. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Fluor Daniel Muja Power Station project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

FORRESTFIELD SILOS CBH PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2469. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Forrestfield Silos CBH project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

WORSLEY EXPANSION PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2470. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Worsley Expansion project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

BHP HOT BRIQUETTED IRON PLANT PROJECT - COST AND AUSTRALIAN CONTENT

2471. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the BHP Hot Briquetted Iron Plant project?
- (2) If so, what is the answer regarding the above project as detailed in part (2) to (15) of question on notice 2424 of 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) Please see answer to question 2425.

DR FRANK PODGER - EMPLOYMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND
MANAGEMENT

2477. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is Dr Frank Podger employed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management?
- (2) If yes, what is his position?
- (3) If no, what was his remuneration for work compiling the report on dieback and when was this paid?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) CALM is contracted to Environment Australia to prepare a draft National Threat Abatement Plan for *Phytophthora* spp. Dr Podger is sub-contracted to CALM to write the draft in consultation with representatives from each State. Dr Podger also provides general advice to CALM on dieback related matters.
- (3) Invoices received to date amount to \$15,000.

NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES - KARRI FOREST

2483. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

Further to question on notice 458 of 1997, for each of the National Parks listed below -

- (a) Beedelup;
 - (b) Brockman;
 - (c) D'Entrecasteaux;
 - (d) Gloucester;
 - (e) Leeuwin-Naturaliste;
 - (f) Mt Frankland;
 - (g) Porongurup;
 - (h) Scott;
 - (i) Shannon;
 - (j) Sir James Mitchell;
 - (k) Walpole-Nornalup;
 - (l) Warren,

what is or will be -

 - (i) their area as they currently exist and when all approved additions have been gazetted; and
 - (ii) the area of logged and unlogged karri forest when all approved additions have been gazetted?
- (2) Is there any karri forest in Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 section 5(g) reserves?
- (3) If yes to (2) above -
 - (a) where are the reserves;
 - (b) what is the area of each;
 - (c) how much logged and unlogged karri forest does each contain?
- (4) What is the definition of karri forest used here?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

(1)	(i)	Existing area (hectares)	Area when approved changes have been gazetted (hectares)
	(a)	1 786	1 786
	(b)	49	49
	(c)	116 668	128 750
	(d)	875	875
	(e)	19 037	20 850
	(f)	30 830	30 830
	(g)	2 511	2 511
	(h)	3 273	3 273
	(i)	52 598	52 598
	(j)	497	nil

(k)	15 861	18 800
(l)	2 982	2 982

When reviewing the answer to question 458 to prepare the answer to this question, it was discovered that two national parks outside the main karri belt were omitted from the answer to 458. The information omitted was:

William Bay	1 734	1 734
West Cape Howe	3 517	3 517
(ii)	Karri area logged (hectares)	Karri area unlogged (hectares)
(a)	80	880
(b)	nil	40
(c)	60	7 880
(d)	690	70
(e)	3 760	nil
(f)	90	6 360
(g)	120	1 520
(h)	nil	70
(i)	5 460	15 540
(j)	nil	nil
(k)	1 000	5 480
(l)	910	1 980

National Parks omitted from response to question 458

William Bay	nil	170
West Cape Howe	nil	20

(2) No. However there is a proposal in the Forest Management Plan 1994 to create a 5(g) reserve.

(3) In respect to the proposal mentioned in (2) above:-

(a)	Mt Roe
(b)	When created the reserve will be about 74 100 ha
(c)	Logged karri nil
	Unlogged karri 110 ha

(4) Karri in pure stands or in mixture with other species. Mixed stands with more than 20% karri are included.

FERRO-CYANIDE COMPLEXES - TOXICITY TO AQUATIC LIFE

2487. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Water Resources:

(1) What is the toxicity of ferro-cyanide complexes to aquatic life?

(2) What levels are considered to be unacceptable for marine and aquatic life?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Under normal environmental conditions ferro-cyanide is relatively stable and therefore has a low aquatic toxicity. Lethal concentration for 50% of test animals for Rainbow and Brook trout is 35 milligrams per litre.
- (2) Environmental limit for free cyanide set by "Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters" is "should not exceed 5 micrograms per litre". No environmental limit for ferro-cyanide has been developed.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT - TIME LINE

2492. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With reference to the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process in Western Australia, when was it officially begun?
- (2) What is the current deadline for the signing of the RFA in Western Australia?
- (3) Will a Draft RFA be released for -
- (a) assessment by the Environment Protection Authority;

- (b) public comment?
- (4) If yes to (3) above, when will it be released and for how long for each of (a) and (b)?
- (5) If no to (3) above, why not?
- (6) Has an extension of time been considered?
- (7) If yes -
 - (a) for how many months;
 - (b) why was it rejected;
 - (c) have some scientists expressed concern about the short time line;
 - (d) have some scientists stated the short time line have an adverse impact on the quality of projects?
- (8) Given the importance of this process for the future of forest use and management in Western Australia, will the Minister grant an additional six months until June 1998 to allow sufficient time for the work to be done as it should be?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) A Scoping Agreement was signed by the Premier and the Prime Minister on 11 July 1996. Some RFA projects commenced in September 1996.
- (2) The Commonwealth and State governments recently agreed to complete the RFA by 28 February 1998.
- (3) (a) The decision of the Commonwealth to engage in a process leading to a RFA with Western Australia will require an environmental impact assessment under the Administrative Procedures of the Commonwealth's Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974. The governments have agreed to cooperative environmental impact assessment of the draft RFA or 'Options Report' which is in accordance with the principles of the draft national agreement on environmental impact assessment and meets the statutory requirements of both Governments.
- (b) Yes.
- (4) (a)-(b) An Options Report is due to be released in December 1997. The report will be available for public comment for a period of eight weeks.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes, the governments have extended the deadline to the end of February 1998. However, the final Agreement will not be signed until the public submissions received have been taken into account.
- (7) (a) 2.
(b)-(d) Not applicable.
- (8) The agreed timeline provides sufficient time for the Comprehensive Regional Assessments to be completed in full and for the required period for public consultation and submissions to be met.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT - CONTRACTS

2493. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With reference to the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process in Western Australia, have all contracts for RFA projects been let?
- (2) If no to (1) above, for which projects has the contract not yet been let?
- (3) For the contracts that have been let -
 - (a) what date was each project let;
 - (b) to whom were they let;
 - (c) what are the completion dates for each project;
 - (d) does each of the contracts allow sufficient time to completion for the work to be done adequately?

- (4) Is it a fact that some projects are merely literature reviews, with no collection of new data or collation of old data?
- (5) If yes, which are these projects?
- (6) Is it a fact that in other states a period of six months was allowed for the a, only six week integration of data whereas in Western Australia only six weeks will be allowed?
- (7) In comparison with other states, are there any sets of data not being collected for the RFA in Western Australia?
- (8) If yes, which are they?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) All of the contracts for projects agreed to date by the RFA Steering Committee have been let.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Some RFA consultancies and contracts of service are arranged directly by Commonwealth Government agencies. Other projects are managed by Western Australian government agencies, with funding from the Commonwealth. In some cases the WA Government agencies have subsequently contracted work to consultants. For details of 'Contracts of Service' let to date see tabled paper. [See paper No 1140.]

Details of 'employment contracts' for staff engaged to work in government agencies on RFA projects are not included.
- (4) Three RFA projects include a review of past work, published in the literature. In some cases information relevant to the RFA is already published and need not be repeated.
- (5) Projects which include a significant literature review are:
 - * Review of Species Responsible to Disturbance (Biodiversity Assessment)
 - * Value adding development opportunities for wood-based forest industries (Economic Assessment)
 - * Post-Impact Studies Analysis (Social Assessment)
- (6) No. For the East Gippsland RFA the integration of data was completed in a period of about six weeks. No RFA in Australia has allowed six months for the integration of data.
- (7) Yes. Data collection for RFAs varies from region to region, depending on the circumstances. In each region the data being collected for a Comprehensive Regional Assessment must enable a proper assessment of the values specified in the Scoping Agreement signed by both governments.
- (8) A 'Wild Rivers' assessment was conducted in the Tasmanian RFA. The Scoping Agreement for the WA RFA does not specify the completion of an assessment of wild rivers.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT - NATIONAL TRUST
CONVENANTING SYSTEM

2494. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Does the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) support the National Trust's proposed covenanting system?
- (2) What advice has CALM given the Lotteries Commission about this proposal?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The Department of Conservation and Land Management is implementing Government policy to create a nature conservation covenanting program to be administered by the Department.
- (2) CALM wrote to the Lotteries Commission on 25 July 1997. CALM also met with the Chairman of the National Trust, representatives of the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation and the CEO of the Lotteries Commission to discuss CALM's nature conservation covenanting proposal and to seek details of the National Trust proposal. CALM can only provide advice, it is not part of any decision making process and therefore decisions by the National Trust, Gordon Reid Foundation and Lotteries Commission with respect to this matter are decisions for those bodies.

- (3) See tabled document. [See paper No 1207.]

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - CODE OF CONDUCT

2497. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) How many public sector agencies -
 - (a) have;
 - (b) have not,implemented a Code of Conduct under the Public Sector Management Act 1994?
- (2) Has a date been set when all public sector agencies must have implemented a Code of Conduct?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What mechanisms are in place to ensure agencies comply with their Code of Conduct?
- (5) Are agencies required to have an independent assessment or overview of the degree to which the Code of Conduct is complied with?
- (6) Exactly how is compliance with the Code of Conduct measured?
- (7) Are there any mechanisms in place to measure the degree to which public sector agencies comply with the spirit and the intention of the Code of Ethics?
- (8) What mechanisms are in place to assess the degree of compliance?
- (9) Has the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards received any reports/complaints since the 1 July 1997 relating to the compliance or non-compliance by any agency of a -
 - (a) Code of Conduct;
 - (b) Code of Ethics?
- (10) What is the name of each agency that has had a complaint lodged?
- (11) Has the Commissioner found that any agency has not complied with its -
 - (a) Code of Ethics;
 - (b) Code of Conduct?
- (12) What is the name of the agency?
- (13) What was the nature of the complaint upheld by the Commissioner?
- (14) Has the Minister received any report or reports from the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards about the non-compliance with Codes of Ethics or Codes of Conduct since the 1 July 1996?
- (15) What reports have been received?
- (16) What was the nature of those reports?
- (17) Is the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards pressing departments or agencies to develop and implement -
 - (a) Code of Conduct;
 - (b) Code of Ethics?
- (18) If not, why not?
- (19) Has the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards made any overtures or approaches to the Ministry of Justice about the development and implementation of a Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics?
- (20) Has the Ministry of Justice developed a Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct for each of its divisions?
- (21) If not, has the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards sought and/or obtained any advice from the Ministry of Justice as to when such codes will be developed and implemented?
- (22) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards has advised me as follows:

- (1) (a) 60
- (b) 65
- (2)-(3) No. Assistance to Public Sector bodies to develop Codes of Conduct is the responsibility of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards. The Commissioner has advised that there is an expectation that Public Sector bodies will develop codes of conduct consistent with the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics, which became operative on 1 July, 1996. The Commissioner's Office has conducted numerous training workshops for staff in departments and agencies. Most agencies have now had staff participate in this process, and have also requested the assistance of the Commissioner in the development of their codes. The Commissioner expects approximately 80 public sector bodies to have finished their codes of conduct by December 31, 1997, and the remainder to have finished by June 30, 1998.
- (4) All Public Sector bodies and employees under Section 9 of the Public Sector Management Act of 1994, must comply with the Code of Ethics and any codes of conduct applicable to them. A member of a Public Sector body or employee who breaches the provisions of a Code may be committing a breach of discipline. They may be liable to disciplinary procedures in the Act or to other provisions governing their conduct. In accordance with the Act, Chief Executive Officers and Chief Employees are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the codes within their organisations.
- (5) No. The Commissioner has advised that while agencies themselves are not required to have an independent assessment, the Commissioner under Section 21 of the Act has a responsibility to monitor the extent of compliance with the Codes.
- (6) The Commissioner has advised that the assessment of compliance with a code of conduct is measured by the:
 - (i) Number of reported complaints of alleged breaches of the code, which are substantiated.
 - (ii) Commissioning of agency system reviews, employee surveys and focus groups which assess the perception of the level of compliance with the code of conduct within individual public sector agencies.
 - (iii) Content on the compliance statement made by Chief Executive Officers or Chief Employees in their Annual Report.
- (7)-(8) The Commissioner has advised that the following methods are used to measure compliance with the Code of Ethics:
 - (i) Level of awareness raising undertaken within the agency about the Code of Ethics.
 - (ii) Development of agency-specific codes of conduct consistent with the Code.
 - (iii) Establishment of grievance and review procedures which support compliance with the Code.
 - (iv) Numbers of reported complaints of alleged unethical behaviour, which are substantiated.
 - (v) Perception of ethical compliance within the agency as determined from survey findings and focus group feedback.
- (9) Seventeen. Breaches of an agency's Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics are considered together for recording purposes.
- (10) - Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Board (1)
- Department of Conservation and Land Management (1)
- Department of Land Administration (1)
- Education Department (3)
- Equal Opportunity Commission (1)
- Fremantle Hospital (1)
- Health Department (1)
- Homeswest (1)
- Department of Minerals and Energy (1)
- Ministry of Justice (1)
- Department of Productivity and Labour Relations (1)
- Department of Training (1)

- WorkCover (1)
 - WorkSafe (2)
- (11) Yes, one agency. Although inquiries into some of these complaints have not yet been concluded.
- (12) Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Board.
- (13) That an employee of the Board had been denied natural justice and a breach of the Code of Ethics occurred in relation to openness and respect.
- (14)-(16) The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards reports on non-compliance with the Code of Ethics or codes of conduct to Parliament in his Annual Compliance Report. No reports on individual cases have been forwarded to me since 1 July 1996.
- (17)-(18)
- (a) Yes.
 - (b) While it is the responsibility of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards to develop the Code of Ethics, the Commissioner has made it clear to Chief Executive Officers and Chief Employees, that they have the responsibility to implement the Code of Ethics and develop and implement their code of conduct, in their departments or agencies.
- (19) Yes, concerning code of conduct development.
- (20) The Commissioner has advised that the Ministry of Justice is not required to develop its own Code of Ethics, as his Office is responsible for the development of the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics. Within the Ministry, Codes of Conduct have been developed for the Public Trust Office and the Office of the Public Advocate. Work is underway within the Offender Management (Prisons) Directorate and some preliminary work is also being undertaken in the Juvenile Justice and Courts' Directorates.
- (21)-(22) The Commissioner has advised that on September 25, 1997, he formally requested the Director General of the Ministry of Justice to advise as to the extent that codes of conduct have been or are being planned for the Ministry.

WATER CORPORATION - DIRECT BILLING OF TENANTS

2499. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has it been the practice of the Water Corporation to bill landlords for water use charges, rather than tenants?
- (2) Does the Water Corporation now intend to bill tenants for water use charges?
- (3) If so, when will the new system commence?
- (4) Will landlords still be liable for any debts incurred by tenants for water usage where the tenant does not meet the full cost of the charges?
- (5) If so, why?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The Water Corporation is making changes to its system for mailing accounts, which will allow water consumption bills to be posted directly to tenants. This is to be a 'postal service' only, and only where the owner requests it.
- (3) The new service will be progressively implemented from July 1998 as owners request it.
- (4) The owner remains liable for payment of all water consumption accounts.
- (5) The Corporation has made no changes to its bills system, the option that allows water consumption bills to be posted directly to tenants is a change to its mailing system. The owner of a property remains liable for Water Corporation charges incurred against that property.

SCHOOLS - RECYCLED COMPUTERS

2510. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government have a policy or is the Government encouraging schools to use computers that are no longer required by Government departments and/or the private sector?
- (2) Has the Government developed a formal policy on this matter?
- (3) If not, what is the practice?
- (4) Who is responsible for the policy or practice?
- (5) Is the Government aware how many schools have received recycled computers formally used by Government departments and/or the private sector?
- (6) Have any of the supplied computers been provided outside the formal policy or practice?
- (7) Have any of the provided computers been tested -
 - (a) to ensure they meet the minimum standards before being put into operation in schools;
 - (b) for operational and safety certification;
 - (c) to ensure the computers are compatible, suitable and meet school curriculum requirements including requisite features like Windows?
- (8) If so, what minimum standards have been set for the utilisation of such recycled computers?
- (9) Have all the donated computers now in operation met those minimum standards?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Government has a *Disposal Policy* which allows Government agencies the option to transfer assets within government. No specific policy on the transfer of computers currently exists. The Education Department does encourage schools to use computers that are no longer required by Government departments and/or the private sector.
- (2) The Education Department is currently working with the State Supply Commission to establish a formal process for the transfer of computers, which are no longer required by Government departments and/or the private sector, to government schools. This process should be in place in early 1998.
- (3) The current practice involves one of the following:
 - (3.1) Schools approach Government departments and/or the private sector for surplus computers.
 - (3.2) Government departments and/or the private sector donate surplus computers directly to schools.
 - (3.3) Government departments and/or the private sector donate surplus computers to the Education Department, which identifies schools in need and facilitates the exchange.
- (4) The Education Department's Contract and Supply Services Division.
- (5) No. This information is only available at the school level.
- (6) Formal policy is currently being established.
- (7) (a)-(c) As schools are accessing computers directly from donors, minimum standards, operational and safety certification and compatibility are determined by the recipient school.
- (8) Minimum standards are currently being developed by the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia to enable a suitable contract for a service provider to be established.
- (9) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2511. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) In each department or agency under the Premier's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?

- (2) What was the cost of the advertisements?
- (3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -
 - (a) the person acting in the position;
 - (b) a person from the re-deployment pool;
 - (c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?
- (4) How many of these positions were filled by women?
- (5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Premier's control?
- (6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?
- (7) If so, what is that strategy?

Mr COURT replied:

Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet

- (1) 7 (2 not filled)
- (2) \$19 262.07
- (3) (a) 2
(b)-(c) Nil
- (4) 3.
- (5) 5.
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

Anti-Corruption Commission

- (1) 1996-97 financial year: two positions.
- (2) Total cost of advertisements for two positions was \$16 557.35 - made up as follows:

(a)	\$13 321.15	For the position of Director of Anti-Corruption Commissioner Investigations: Advertisements were placed in The Weekend Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The West Australian, the Evening Post (Wellington NZ) and the Auckland Herald (Auckland NZ);
(b)	\$3 236.20	For the position of Principal Investigator (Level 8): (advertised with several Level 6 investigator positions) advertisements were placed in The Weekend Australian and The West Australian.
- (3) (a)-(b) None.
(c) Two.
- (4)-(5) None.
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

Office of the Auditor General

- (1) Five Level 8 positions and Two Level 7 positions - advertised within Public Service and Australia wide.
- (2) \$6 835.49
- (3) (a) Two
(b) Nil
(c) Two.
- (4)-(5) None
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner

- (1) One.

- (2) \$7 651.03
- (3) (a)-(c) Nil.
- (4)-(5) Nil.
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

Treasury

- (1) 14 (3 not filled)
- (2) \$21 648.90
- (3) (a) 4.
(b)-(c) Nil.
- (4)-(5) 3.
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

Governor's Establishment

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

Graffiti Program

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable
- (6)-(7) See addendum.

All Agencies / Departments

- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2515. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment; Employment and Training:

- (1) In each department or agency under the Minister's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?
- (2) What was the cost of the advertisements?
- (3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -
 - (a) the person acting in the position;
 - (b) a person from the re-deployment pool;
 - (c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?
- (4) How many of these positions were filled by women?
- (5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?
- (7) If so, what is that strategy?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Perth Zoo

- (1) None.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4)-(5) None.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden

- (1) None.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4)-(5) None.

Department of Environmental Protection

- (1) Three positions.
- (2) \$9,570.
- (3) (a) One position.
(b)-(c) Nil.
- (4) One position.
- (5) One woman.

WA Department of Training

- (1) 3
- (2) \$2,670
- (3) (a)-(c) Not applicable.
- (4) 1
- (5) 2

TAFE Colleges

Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre

- (1) 5
- (2) \$3,410
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

CY O'Connor College of TAFE -

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

Central Metropolitan College of TAFE -

- (1) 4
- (2) \$3,200
- (3) (a)-(b) Not applicable.
(c) 1
- (4) 1
- (5) 2

Geraldton Regional College of TAFE -

- (1) 1
- (2) \$3,943
- (3) (a)-(b) Not applicable.
- (c) 1
- (4)-(5) 1.

Great Southern Regional College of TAFE -

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

Hedland College -

- (1) 1
- (2) \$11,914
- (3) (a)-(b) Not applicable.
- (c) 1
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

Karratha College -

- (1) 1
- (2) \$1,323
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

Kimberley College of TAFE

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

Midland College of TAFE -

- (1) Nil
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) Nil.

North Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) 1

Pundulmurra College

- (1) 2
- (2) \$6,000
- (3) (a)-(b) Not applicable.
- (c) 2

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Nil.

South East Metropolitan College of TAFE -

(1) Nil.

(2)-(4) Not applicable.

(5) Nil.

South Metropolitan College of TAFE -

(1) 3

(2) \$1,748

(3) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

(4)-(5) 2

South West Regional College of TAFE -

(1) 3

(2) \$6,290

(3) (a) 1
(b) Nil.
(c) 2

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Nil.

All Colleges, and Departments

(6)-(7) The Government, as part of the 1996-98 Two Year Plan for Women, is committed to fostering the development of competencies in public sector senior management so as to promote diversity and to fully utilize the potential of women in the public sector.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2519. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

(1) In each department or agency under the Minister's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?

(2) What was the cost of the advertisements?

(3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -

- (a) the person acting in the position;
- (b) a person from the re-deployment pool;
- (c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?

(4) How many of these positions were filled by women?

(5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?

(6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?

(7) If so, what is that strategy?

Dr HAMES replied:

(1)	Water Corporation	17
	Office of Water Regulation	7
	Water & Rivers Commission	5
	(including the Swan River Trust)	
	Homeswest	1
	Government Employees Housing Authority	Nil

Rural Housing Authority
Aboriginal Affairs

Nil
7

(2) \$79,266.07.

(3) (a) 10.
(b) Nil.
(c) 19.

(4) 9.

(5) 10.

(6) Yes.

(7) This Government has launched the following -

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2520. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

(1) In each department or agency under the Minister's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?

(2) What was the cost of the advertisements?

(3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -

(a) the person acting in the position;
(b) a person from the re-deployment pool;
(c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?

(4) How many of these positions were filled by women?

(5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?

(6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?

(7) If so, what is that strategy?

Mr OMODEI replied:

With respect to the Department of Local Government -

(1) None.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

(6) Yes.

(7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

With respect to the Fremantle Cemetery Board -

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

(6) Yes.

(7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

With respect to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council -

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

With respect to the Disability Services Commission -

- (1) 5 in 1996/97
- (2) \$3885
- (3)
 - (a) 3
 - (b) None.
 - (c) 2
- (4)-(5) 3
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

With respect to the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board -

- (1) One.
- (2) \$806.70.
- (3) (a)-(c) Nil.
- (4)-(5) One.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2526. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) In each department or agency under the Minister's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?
- (2) What was the cost of the advertisements?
- (3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -
 - (a) the person acting in the position;

- (b) a person from the re-deployment pool;
- (c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?
- (4) How many of these positions were filled by women?
- (5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?
- (7) If so, what is that strategy?

Mr DAY replied:

Western Australia Police Service

- (1) 5
- (2) \$4,900
- (3)
 - (a) 1
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) 2

(4)-(5) 2

Bush Fires Board

(1)-(5) Nil.

Fire & Rescue Service

- (1) 11
- (2) \$25,364
- (3)
 - (a) 2
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) 3

(4)-(5) Nil.

State Emergency Service

(1)-(5) Nil.

(6) Yes.

(7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2529. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In each department or agency under the Attorney General's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?
- (2) What was the cost of the advertisements?
- (3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -
 - (a) the person acting in the position;
 - (b) a person from the re-deployment pool;
 - (c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?
- (4) How many of these positions were filled by women?

- (5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Attorney General's control?
- (6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?
- (7) If so, what is that strategy?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

Office of the Information Commissioner

- (1)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

Solicitor General

- (1)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

Director of Public Prosecutions

- (1) In 1996/97 three legal officer positions were jointly advertised outside the public sector in the alternative range of Level 4/5 and Level 6/7.
- (2) \$551.56.
- (3) Only one of three positions was filled at Level 6/7. In relation to that position:
 - (a)-(b) Nil.
 - (c) One.
- (4) One.
- (5) Two women legal officers were reclassified to Level 6/7 through the application of criteria progression principles.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

Law Reform Commission

- (1) No Commission positions at or above Level 7 were advertised outside - or within - the Public Service in the 1996 financial year.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.

- (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

Legal Aid

- (1) Two (both positions were for lawyers).
 (2) \$465.99
 (3) (a)-(b) None.
 (c) Two.
 (4) Two.
 (5) Nil.
 (6) Yes.
 (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

Equal Opportunity Commission

- (1) None.
 (2)-(4) Not applicable.
 (5) None.
 (6) Yes.
 (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

Crown Solicitor

- (1)-(5) Not applicable.
 (6) Yes.
 (7) This Government has launched the following:

A managing diversity policy which involves creating a workforce which accurately reflects the diversity of the customer base and achieving contributions from a diverse range of people to key decision making bodies. A two year plan for women which aims to achieve an increased percentage of women in senior positions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - LEVEL 7 POSITIONS AND ABOVE

2531. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In each department or agency under the Minister's control, how many level 7 positions and above were advertised outside the Public Service in the 1996 financial year?
 (2) What was the cost of the advertisements?
 (3) How many of the positions so advertised were filled by -
 (a) the person acting in the position;
 (b) a person from the re-deployment pool;

- (c) a person recruited from the advertisement outside the Public Sector?
- (4) How many of these positions were filled by women?
- (5) In the same financial year, how many women have been appointed to senior positions, level 7 and above, in each of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (6) Does the Government have a strategy in place to increase the number of women in senior positions?
- (7) If so, what is that strategy?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) 16 positions.
- (2) Approximately \$26, 000. Invoices for four of the advertisements could not be located within the time frame allowed as all records are kept manually.
- (3)
 - (a) 3
 - (b) Not applicable.
 - (c) 5
- (4)-(5) 5
- (6) In relation to the Ministry of Justice, there are strategies in place to increase the number of women in senior positions.
- (7) Within the ministry equity principles are being built into all Human Resource policies as they are developed and/or revised. Job descriptions are being amended so that Managers are required to not just demonstrate an understanding of equity principles but are required to put these principles into practice as part of their management strategies. The ministry also has a working party of senior women who meet regularly to look at strategies to promote the representation of women at all levels within the ministry. The ministry has also piloted a mentoring scheme for women.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - FUNDING OF INTERPRETERS

2544. Ms WARNOCK to the Treasurer:

In light of the recent funding cuts to ethnic organisations in this State by the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, will the State Government -

- (a) allocate extra funds to State Government departments and instrumentalities to meet the extra demand for interpreters by state service deliverers;
- (b) make representations to the Prime Minister to restore these grants in the 1998-99 year;
- (c) place the problems created by these cut-backs on the agenda of the next meeting of the Prime Minister with Premiers and Chief Ministers?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a) This matter will be considered as part of the 1998/99 budget formulation process.
- (b)-(c) The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs informed the House on 12 November 1997 that there have not been cuts in the level of Commonwealth funding to migrant organisations. In fact, he advised the House that there has been an 18 per cent increase from \$1 474 995 in 1996/97 to \$1 716 380 in 1997/98. There are now 42 successful grant in aid applications in Western Australia, 29 of which have a specific component of their work targeted at women and their special needs. This is a result of the Commonwealth Government changing the emphasis this year to programs dealing with refugee and humanitarian grounds.

ETHNIC GROUPS - IMPACT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FUNDING CUTS

2549. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Has the Minister's department undertaken an impact assessment on services to culturally and linguistically diverse background clients as a result of recent cut-backs in federal funds by the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs?

- (2) Will the Minister make this assessment available for public comment?
- (3) Will the Minister allocate extra funds to -
 - (a) meet the demand for increased interpreter services;
 - (b) ensure continuation of programs available for those of culturally and linguistically diverse background in the areas of -
 - (i) child care services;
 - (ii) women;
 - (iii) aged;
 - (iv) domestic violence?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Information provided by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs indicates that the overall level of funding for settlement and migrant services in Western Australia has not been reduced.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) It is too early to predict whether there will be increased demand for funds required for interpreting.
(b) Not applicable.

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT - REVIEWERS OF REPORTS BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

2552. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Has the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, the Public Sector Management Office, and/or the Education Department appointed a number of people to act as reviewers of reports emanating out of the Education Department relating to public sector management?
- (2) Who are the reviewers appointed by?
- (3) Was a selection panel involved in selecting the reviewers?
- (4) What agencies and departments participated in the selection panel?
- (5) What qualifications and attributes are sought in people appointed to the position?
- (6) Who were the people appointed to the positions?
- (7) In appointing the reviewers, was the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, Public Sector Management Office, and/or the Education Department confident that these people had the qualifications and attributes to carry out the position?
- (8) Have any of the independent reviewers reviewed any of the reports emanating out of the Education Department?
- (9) How many recommendations have been made by the independent reviewers in respect to any report?
- (10) Has the Education Department adopted any recommendations?
- (11) How many recommendations has the Education Department not accepted?
- (12) What were the reasons for the Education Department rejecting the recommendations?
- (13) Did the Education Department overrule or otherwise dismiss the recommendations of the independent reviewers?
- (14) Has the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards or the Public Sector Management Office had any discussions with the Education Department about the implementation of such recommendations?
- (15) If so, what discussions?
- (16) Has the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards or the Public Sector Management Office overruled the independent reviewers recommendations?
- (17) If so, why?
- (18) Given that the recommendations of independent reviewers has been overridden, what is their worth?

- (19) Is there little accountability under the Public Sector Management Act 1994 if people appointed to independent review decisions under the Act may be overridden or have their recommendations dismissed?
- (20) Have any independent reviewers been removed or dismissed from office?
- (21) What were the circumstances giving rise to those events?
- (22) Given these events, how do they reflect the accountability mechanisms of the Public Sector Management Act 1994?

Mr COURT replied:

The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards has advised me as follows:

- (1) Thirty persons were appointed as independent reviewers for the purpose of undertaking reviews of breach of standard claims lodged under the Public Sector Management (Review Procedures) Regulations 1995. Of these, eight are allocated to undertake reviews in the Education Department.
- (2) The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No agencies or departments participated in the selection process. The selection panel was made up of senior staff of the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner.
- (5) Independent reviewers are persons with broad management or administrative experience at senior levels, who have an appreciation of public sector processes gained from working in the sector or providing a consultancy service to a public sector agency involving human resource management.
- (6) The eight independent reviewers allocated to the Education Department are:
 - Ms Joan Harris
 - Mr Bob Pollard
 - Ms Christine Lewis
 - Mr Phillip MacGregor
 - Mr Bernie McKenna
 - Ms Sandra McKnight
 - Ms Marli Wallace
 - Dr Michael Wood
- (7) Yes.
- (8) 95 reports were submitted in the 1996/97 financial year.
- (9) Of the 95 reviews undertaken, 27 found that breach of standards had occurred and recommendations concerning the correction of those breaches were made.
- (10) 21 of the 27 breach recommendations were accepted by the Education Department.
- (11) Six.
- (12)-(17) The reasons for non-acceptance of an independent reviewer's findings vary from case to case. In five of the six cases the Department was able to provide additional information to the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner to justify the non-acceptance of the reviewer's findings. In the remaining case the Department was able to satisfy the Commissioner that the appointment decision should stand.
- (18)-(19) The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards has statutory authority to establish public sector standards in human resource management and to monitor and report on public sector employer and employee compliance with the standards. Independent reviewers act on behalf of the Commissioner in reviewing claims made about non-compliance with the standards. However, neither the Commissioner nor the independent reviewers have the power to make a final determination about a matter. The Public Sector Management Act 1994 establishes the chief executive officer or chief employee of an organisation as the decision maker about human resource management matters. Such decisions must reflect the general principles of human resource management and the standards established by the Commissioner. The review procedures established by the Regulations are one means of assisting the Commissioner to carry out his monitoring and reporting responsibilities. Where an independent reviewer has found a breach has occurred, it lies with the chief executive officer of the relevant organisation to consider the findings and

recommendations made by the reviewer. Where a chief executive officer does not accept the findings of an independent reviewer, the chief executive officer must advise the Commissioner of the reason for not doing so. It has been the general practice to date for chief executive officers to consult with the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner before confirming a final decision. This consultation process allows the Commissioner to assess whether the proposed final decision will result in continued non-compliance with the standard or for the chief executive officer to reassess his or her position on the matter. If the Commissioner is not satisfied with the final action taken by the Chief Executive Officer he will include this fact in his Annual Compliance Report to Parliament, or if the matter is serious enough the Act enables him to report to Parliament or the responsible Minister at any time.

(20) No.

(21)-(22)
Not applicable.

PAYROLL TAX - UNIFORM DEFINITIONS

2559. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the State entered any discussions with the Commonwealth Government and/or other States about developing uniform definitions of the payroll tax base, including a common definition of employee?
- (2) Is the State Government working with the Commonwealth and other State Governments to try and achieve national consistency of payroll tax laws?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Some discussions have been held at officer level, including at Heads of Treasuries meetings. The matter has arisen partly as a consequence of recommendations in the Commonwealth's Small Business Deregulation Task Force report.
- (2) Some preliminary work had been done although other State tax issues, particularly those arising from the High Court decision on State franchise fees, have been given priority. The Government would support moves towards more uniform definitions in the payroll tax base that would reduce compliance cost for small business.
- (3) Not applicable.

KINGSTREAM PROJECT - INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

2570. Mr GRILL to the Premier:

- (1) Would the Premier indicate where the money for the \$400m infrastructure costs for the Kingstream steel mill is coming from and what provision the Government made in their accounts for this project?
- (2) Has the stated timetable for company funding and Government approvals under the agreement now slipped?
- (3) Will the State Government's inability to determine the source of the Government's share of funding together with this latest proposal for a further \$70m to upgrade transport links to the existing Geraldton port undermine the company's attempts to obtain equity and debt financing for this critically important project?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Infrastructure costs for the Oakajee Industrial Estate associated with the An Feng Kingstream Steel (AFKS) steel mill are yet to be finalised. Provision for funding of the land purchase, water supply and road improvements will be provided from the budgets of the respective agencies. At this stage, AFKS have indicated it wishes to build a standard gauge railway directly from its mine at Talling Peak to Oakajee. In this case, the Agreement requirement for Westrail to build the railway from Narngulu to Oakajee may not be required in the first instance. Electricity needs of the Oakajee Industrial Estate are likely to be met by on site private generation. With respect to the Oakajee Port, the State and AFKS are examining development options for a private sector "finance build own operate" arrangement, with the State financial involvement being confined to only that needed to underwrite the interests of future third parties.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) The State funding of transport links to the Geraldton port is not relevant to the An Feng Kingstream Steel project financing.

WANDOO PROJECT - LOCAL CONTENT

2571. Mr KOBELKE to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Did the Deputy Premier, speaking at the Western Australian Jobs Forum on Friday, 19 September 1997, indicate that the Wandoo Project had 70 per cent local content?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide detailed figures to illustrate how the 70 per cent local content was achieved on the Wandoo Project?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) The information was provided to the State Government by the project developer on a confidential basis, as is the case with all projects not covered by a State agreement. In regard to the Government's approach to the Local Content Policy, I refer the member for Nollamara to the answer provided by the Minister for Resources Development to questions 2425-2444, 2446-2448, 2450-2471 which were asked by the member for Bassendean.

ASBESTOS WATER PIPING - HEALTH HAZARDS

2576. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) How widespread is the continued use of asbestos piping in servicing properties with water?
- (3) What health hazards are known to be associated with asbestos water piping, given that health dangers have been well recognised where asbestos has been used for other purposes?
- (4) What programs of asbestos pipe replacement are underway or planned?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The installation of Asbestos Cement pipes ceased in 1986.
- (3) Water Corporation staff are equipped with approved tools and protective equipment and trained in their use for work on Asbestos Cement pipes. Disposal of old pipe sections is strictly controlled. With regard to release of asbestos fibres into the water supplied to customers, health authorities do not recognise this as being hazardous to health. In addition a recent State-wide survey of 54 locations where Asbestos Cement pipes of various ages are installed showed there to be no asbestos fibres in the water above the minimum detectable threshold.
- (4) Asbestos Cement pipes, as with all other pipes, are replaced when their performance or condition no longer meet Corporation's standards.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES - REVIEW OF GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

2577. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) I refer to funding for educational support services and ask, is a review of grants and subsidies to educational support service organisations underway or being planned?
- (2) If so, has the review resulted in delays of funding to some organisations?
- (3) Why was the review initiated?
- (4) Do terms of reference exist for the review?
- (5) If so, what are those terms?
- (6) How is the review being conducted?
- (7) Will affected organisations be given an opportunity to contribute to the review?
- (8) How will decisions be made concerning implementation of the review's outcome?

(9) When will decisions on current application for grants and subsidies be made?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) All Education Department grants and programs are subject to ongoing review with the Department continually assessing the viability and effectiveness of programs in deciding whether the grants will continue from one year to the next.
- (2) There have been no significant delays to funding of organisations as part of this process.
- (3) The review forms part of the normal budgetary processes of the Education Department undertaken on a yearly basis.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6)-(9) The review is being conducted through a sub committee of the Education Department's senior executive. Information is provided on an annual basis by the participating organisations and when additional information is required there will be the opportunity for organisations to contribute to the review. In accordance with normal practice of the Education Department, should an adjustment be required to an organisation's grant, there will be official advice in writing which will outline the basis for the decision and the effective date of the adjustment.

ETHNIC GROUPS - IMPACT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FUNDING CUTS

2592. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Minister's department undertaken an impact assessment on services to culturally and linguistically diverse background clients as a result of recent cut-backs in federal funds by the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs?
- (2) Will the Minister make this assessment available for public comment?
- (3) Will the Minister allocate extra funds to -
 - (i) meet the demand for increased interpreter services;
 - (ii) ensure continuation of programs in the areas of -
 - (a) youth and culturally linguistically diverse background;
 - (b) community policing;
 - (c) domestic violence?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) Ethnic Affairs Unit has undertaken an impact assessment in consultation with its strategic partners in the community.
- (2) The impact assessment is an internal document to be used by the WAPS to ascertain the need for changes to its service.
- (3) The budget for 1998/99 will be announced by the Treasurer in due course. Funding for particular programs is determined by the WAPS.

OAKAJEE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - IMPACT ON FISHING INDUSTRY

2593. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Has an impact study in relation to the fishing industry been carried out at the proposed Oakajee site?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If yes, who was this study conducted by?
- (4) Will the impact study be released publicly?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) The study into commercial fishing at Oakajee is currently being carried out by LeProvost Dames & Moore.
- (4) Yes.

FUEL TAX - QUEENSLAND'S POSITION

2594. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) I refer to the *Australian Financial Review* on 14 October 1997 in which it was reported that a deal between Queensland and Canberra was struck to allow Queensland to remain as the only State to not impose a special tax on fuel sales, I refer in particular to the Prime Minister's comments on the issue and ask, has the Premier been approached by the Prime Minister with a proposition to compensate Queensland for its financial loss that the Prime Minister claims it will incur?
- (2) If yes, to what magnitude will Western Australia be contributing?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) No, I have not been approached by the Prime Minister.
- (2) Not applicable.

HEALTH - STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE NORTH WEST

2608. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has a strategic health plan been completed for the north west of Western Australia?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) to whom will the plan be made available; and
 - (b) when will the plan be released?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) No. Planning for a North West Health Service Plan has begun. It is envisaged the plan will be completed by 30 May 1998.

HOMESWEST - WYNDHAM

2612. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the Homeswest stock of properties in Wyndham in the following years -
 - (a) 31 January 1994;
 - (b) 31 January 1995;
 - (c) 31 January 1996; and
 - (d) 31 January 1997?
- (2) What is the Homeswest sell off program in Wyndham over the next three years?
- (3) What is the Homeswest building program for the next three years?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Homeswest does not keep records based on calendar years, however figures are provided as at 30 June of each year -
 - (a) 111
 - (b) 107
 - (c) 103
 - (d) 97
- (2) Homeswest does not have a specific program to sell properties in Wyndham. Homeswest will continue to sell off older stock where there is no demonstrated demand rather than leave properties vacant and be subject to vandalism.
- (3) There is no building program for Wyndham in 1997/98. Further building programs will be formulated in consideration of demand for rental accommodation in Wyndham.

MR FRANCIS M. ELLIS - ISSUE OF DRIVE'S LICENCE

2618. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Why was Francis M. Ellis issued with a motor vehicle driver's licence in late November 1995, if at that time he had outstanding fines?

- (2) Does the Police Service have any record of Mr Ellis attending the Waroona Police Station on 21 November 1995 to inquire whether there were outstanding fines in his name?
- (3) Was police access to information regarding fines impeded between 21 and 23 November 1995 because data was being transmitted to, or upgraded by, the licensing authority?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Fines Enforcement Registry has advised that from July to December, 1995 there was an internal program moratorium suspending all information relating to outstanding fines. While the details of this particular incident are not available, it is presumed that this restriction of information led the Police Service to believe that Mr Ellis was eligible to renew his driver's licence. However, it would appear that at the time of the application Mr Ellis was in fact under fine suspension.
- (2) No. This information is not usually recorded.
- (3) Refer (1) above.

PRIMARY STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES - TEACHER ASSISTED TIME

2621. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

What are the criteria for the allocation of teacher assisted time to students with learning difficulties in primary schools?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Schools are staffed according to the K-12 teacher staffing formula on the basis of student enrolments. The formula takes into consideration a range of student and school factors. Principals deploy staff resources to meet the needs of all students including students with learning difficulties. On request from schools, districts provide additional support to assist students with learning difficulties.

POLICE - HOUSING IN DERBY

2623. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Can the Minister advise the current circumstances relating to police living in Government Employees Housing Authority (GEHA) housing in the Derby region, where eight houses currently occupied by police officers and their families have been identified as requiring maintenance and the conditions have been described as totally unsuitable?
- (2) Will the Minister advise if this matter has been reported to the Executive of the Police Service and what the foreseeable future is there for the police officers and their families employed and working north of the 26th Parallel?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Western Australia Police Service (WAPS) has an allocation of 16 Government Employee Housing Authority (GEHA) houses in Derby. WAPS advised GEHA in March 1997 of the need to replace 6 houses. Since that date one house has been replaced. All maintenance requirements are forwarded to GEHA which is the responsible agency.
- (2) Yes. The families employed north of 26th parallel will continue to be looked after and properly housed, however, for detailed information regarding government housing the member should contact the Minister for Housing.

POLICE - SCOTTISH EXPERTS

2624. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Can the Minister advise the contractual arrangement relating to the Scottish experts who have been invited to this State?
- (2) What is the anticipated length of stay in Western Australia by these experts from Scotland?
- (3) What is the purpose?
- (4) What is the total cost to the Western Australian taxpayer in this matter?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Commissioner, in his press release stated that to improve the level of service to the people of Western Australia and assess the overall effectiveness of the organisation and, as part of this process, they have embarked upon a comprehensive review of police investigative practices. To achieve the most impartial and expert assessment, some independence is needed and this is best provided by outside practitioners. This is a practice that is common in most large organisations where program evaluation is part of good management.
- (2) 5-6 weeks.
- (3) To provide expert assistance to the Western Australia Police Service in a Review of Investigation Practices currently being conducted by the Professional Standards portfolio. The review will examine police handling of crime investigation from initial response to the presentation of cases before the courts. Existing training, supervision and management elements relating to crime investigation will be covered in the review.
- (4) \$19,570.

POLICE - HAND GUN CHOSEN FOR FUTURE USE

2625. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Can the Minister advise what type of hand gun has been chosen for future use of the Western Australia Police Service?
- (2) What difference in price is there between the Sigma branch and the Glock hand gun?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The current general issue handguns are the Smith & Wesson .38spl calibre revolver and the Smith & Wesson .40S & W calibre Sigma pistol. There are no plans to replace these with other handguns, at this time.
- (2) Smith & Wesson - \$468 each with a lifetime frame guarantee, 12 years free spare parts, a unique serial number and identified with Western Australia Police Service insignia. Glock - \$479 each, plus the option of spare parts for ten years, at an additional 10% on the purchase price.

CANNINGTON EDUCATION DISTRICT - STAFF

2629. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many staff were allocated in total to the district offices of the three former districts which now constitute the Cannington Education District?
- (2) How many staff are now allocated the district office of the Cannington Education District?
- (3) How many of these staff are -
 - (a) social workers;
 - (b) school psychologists?
- (4) How many schools are in the Cannington Education District?
- (5) How many students are enrolled in these schools?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The combined allocation to Armadale, Perth South and Thornlie Education Districts (now the Cannington Education District) was 49.9 full-time equivalent (FTE) Staff.
- (2) The allocation to the Cannington Education District for 1998 is 56.4.
- (3) (a) there are 3 social workers allocated for 1998.
(b) 19.6 FTE has been allocated for school psychologists.

Note: The actual allocation of the FTE provision will be finalised in early 1998.

- (4) 86 government schools.

- (5) 31 114 primary and secondary students.

COUNTRY HOSPITALS - BUDGET ALLOCATION

2632. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What was the individual budget allocation for all country hospitals for the years -
- (a) 1995-96;
 - (b) 1996-97; and
 - (c) 1997-98?
- (2) What was the actual expenditure for each of these hospitals for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years?
- (3) What was the estimated income from private health insurance for each of these hospitals for the above financial years?
- (4) What was the actual income from private health insurance for each of these hospitals for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(4) Separate tables are attached that provide the information requested. [See paper No 1201.]

Notes:

1. The Health Department does not allocate budgets to individual hospitals. The information provided for question 1. relates to funding allocations made to Health Services.
2. Hospital information provided in responses to question 2 to 4 have been completed by the individual Health Services. There is potential for the responses to be interpreted differently and generally no attempt has been made in the collation process to verify the information provided.
3. Some health services have not been able to differentiate between receipts received from private health insurance funds/associations from other private fees income. Total patient fees income from all sources have been provided in lieu. eg Vasse Leeuwin Health Service
4. Gascoyne Health Service has provided patient fees actual information related to accounts raised by the hospitals. Actual receipts are not provided.

BURGLARIES IN SOUTH PERTH

2639. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Minister's answer to question on notice 1762 of 1997 about police clean-up rates for South Perth burglaries and the Minister's comments by way of interjection to me in the House on Thursday, 16 October 1997, will the Minister now arrange for parts (2) and (3) of the original question to be answered?

Mr DAY replied:

The answer originally supplied referred to the locality of South Perth only. The following figures refer to the South Perth Police District, which encompasses the suburbs of South Perth, Como and Kensington.

- (1) In the South Perth District, how many reported break-ins were there in each month from October 1996 to present?

Oct 1996	Nov 1996	Dec 1996	Jan 1997	Feb 1997	Mar 1997	Apr 1997	May 1997	June 1997	July 1997	Aug 1997	Sept 1997	Oct 1997
149	128	148	141	100	107	108	106	129	142	148	149	116

- (2) How many arrests and/or convictions have resulted?

Oct 1996	Nov 1996	Dec 1996	Jan 1997	Feb 1997	Mar 1997	Apr 1997	May 1997	June 1997	July 1997	Aug 1997	Sept 1997	Oct 1997
2	1	6	15	1	19	9	5	0	3	4	1	0

- (3) What number or percentage of such break-ins remains unsolved?

Oct 1996	Nov 1996	Dec 1996	Jan 1997	Feb 1997	Mar 1997	Apr 1997	May 1997	June 1997	July 1997	Aug 1997	Sept 1997	Oct 1997
147	127	142	126	99	88	99	101	129	139	144	148	116

A number of strategies are planned to target burglary and related offences in South Perth. District Intelligence Units will target current hot spots within the South Perth Police sub-District and direct resources to those areas which have a high rate of offending. Known criminals in the area will be targeted by District Detectives assisted by specialist units. Greater use of the Mobile Policing Facility assisted by the Independent Patrol Group is planned in peak periods with saturation patrols being conducted at critical periods. In addition, the Traffic Operations Group and visible mounted patrols will provide a presence in nearby streets and laneways at relevant times. Operational orders and arrangements are currently being drafted for this campaign.

EXPLOSION - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK, 1993

2641. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:

- (1) In the *New York Times* 27 January 1997, there appeared an extensive article looking at the investigations undertaken by a United States Senate Committee into a mysterious explosion which occurred in the Western Australian outback at 11.03 p.m. on 28 May 1993, in the vicinity of an large property then owned by the Aum Shinrikyo Sect. The enquiry took place following reports that the sect had acquired nuclear weapons and it was feared that the explosion in 1993 was, in fact, a small nuclear explosion. Was the Premier aware that this US enquiry had taken place?
- (2) The *New York Times* article claims that "preliminary searches" were undertaken to find the site of the explosion but it does not say by whom the searches were undertaken. Will the Premier explain what searches have already been undertaken, by whom, when and where?
- (3) Will the Premier explain why it was left to a United States Senate Committee to investigate fully the circumstances surrounding the 1993 explosion?
- (4) Even if the event were simply a meteorite strike, as was suggested at the time, was it not of scientific significance and thus worthy of investigation?
- (5) Has the Western Australian Government mounted any investigation into locating the site where the explosion occurred?
- (6) If no to (5) above, why not?
- (7) If yes to (5) above, will the Premier table the findings of the investigation?
- (8) If no to (7) above, why not?
- (9) Has any local investigation been made into the circumstances of the sale of Banjawarn Station to the representatives of the Aum Shinrikyo sect?
- (10) Will the Premier table all details of the sale of Banjawarn Station to the representatives of the Aum Shinrikyo organisation in 1993, including when the vendor agreed to sell the property to the organisation?
- (11) Will the Premier table the movements of the two key sect members Kyohide HAYAKAWA and Yoshihiro INOUE in and out of Western Australia during 1993?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the United States Senate Committee investigating this matter. I am advised that the Police Officer representing the Western Australia Police Service during the Aum Sect Investigation has never been approached by any committee investigating the alleged explosion of May 28, 1993.
- (2) Mr Harry Mason, Consulting Exploration Geologist of Jarrahdale, WA, advised police of his suspicions surrounding the alleged explosion and that he had conducted a comprehensive air search over the area in question with negative results.
- (3) I am advised that the Australian Federal Police Task Force Commander and the Western Australia Police Service representative in the Aum Sect investigation have never been approached by any committee regarding the alleged explosion of May 28, 1993.
- (4) The Mundaring Seismic Observatory have officially recorded the events of May 28, 1993 as an earthquake.

At this stage, they have not discounted a meteorite causing the tremor, however, there is not evidence forthcoming to suggest this may be true.

- (5) The Western Australia Police Service is not aware of any official investigation taking place concerning the events of May 28, 1993.
- (6) There is no evidence to suggest that the events of May 28, 1993 were other than a natural phenomenon. Therefore, no investigation is warranted unless significant physical evidence to the contrary is forthcoming.
- (7)-(8) Not applicable.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) This is a matter of public record and the details of the sale of Banjawarn Station can be accessed through the normal channels.
- (11) Records indicate that Kyohide Hayakawa arrived in Australia on April 22, 1993 and departed on April 30, 1993. Hayakawa returned to Australia on September 3, 1993 and departed again on September 19, 1993. Yashihiro Inoue arrived in Australia on April 22, 1993 and departed on April 30, 1993. Inoue returned to Australia on September 9, 1993 and departed again on September 17, 1993.

THORNLIE EDUCATION DISTRICT - SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

2642. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many school psychologists have been allocated to the new education district of Thornlie?
- (2) What is the school psychologist to student ratio in this district?
- (3) What was the ratio of psychologist to students in the old district of Thornlie?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Thornlie district has been incorporated in the new Cannington Education District. The school psychologist allocation to the new district for 1998 will be 19.6 FTE. In addition, there will be three social workers, two welfare officers, two Aboriginal Liaison Officers, an Aboriginal Education Consultant and a Manager of Student Services. These will combine into a student services team to assist schools with the social and psychological needs of their students.
- (2) On the current information, the school psychologist to student ratio in the new district will be approximately 1:1550. The student services team to student ratio will be approximately 1:1100. Final figures will not be known until early 1998 when district staffing structures are finalised.
- (3) The school psychologist to student ratio in the district of Thornlie was 1:1430.

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT - IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2648. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

- (1) Which recommendations of the Commission on Government does the Government claim to have implemented -
 - (a) fully;
 - (b) partially?
- (2) Which recommendations of the Commission on Government, not yet implemented, does the Government intend to implement?
- (3) For each such recommendation which is the timetable for implementation?
- (4) Which recommendations of the Commission on Government has the Government rejected?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) The Commission on Government made 263 recommendations, many of which had numerous parts. In total the Government needed to consider 1017 parts. The Government formally responded to the COG recommendations in the Government Response to Commission on Government Reports Numbers 1 - 5, tabled in Parliament on 31 October 1996. That response document itself was 34 pages long. At that time the Government had agreed to over 85% of the recommendations made. The recommendations that the

Government accepted have been assigned to appropriate Ministers or agencies to progress. Implementation is being periodically monitored by Cabinet.

Given the considerable amount of part recommendations and number of parties involved in the implementation of COG recommendations, to provide the information in the format requested by the Member would take a substantial amount of time and resources. It is suggested that the Member refer to the Government's Response tabled in October 1996 and any particular queries be directed to the appropriate Minister.

WOODMAN POINT WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT - UPGRADE

2650. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When will the Government upgrade the level of treatment of wastewater at the Woodman Point Treatment plant pumped out through Point Peron?
- (2) What level of treatment will that be?
- (3) How much will the cost be?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The level of treatment of wastewater at the Woodman Point Wastewater Treatment pumped out through Point Peron will be upgraded by the year 2002.
- (2) The level of treatment that will be used is enhanced treatment, possibly to advanced secondary.
- (3) The cost will be in the order of \$100 million.

HOMESWEST - INCREASE IN RENTAL CHARGES

2651. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Why is the Government increasing rent charges for Homeswest tenants?
- (2) What are the rental charges being imposed upon Mr and Mrs Bader of 12 Limosa Glade, Warnbro?
- (3) Are these rental charges higher than 21.5 per cent per week of their weekly income?
- (4) If so, why?
- (5) Does this breach the Governments own commitment to Mr and Mrs Bader when they entered the tenancy that rents would not increase above 21.5 per cent?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Homeswest's rent charges are assessed according to a tenant's capacity to pay and these are reviewed annually.
- (2) \$68.70 per week as from 3 November 1997.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) State and Commonwealth Housing Ministers have agreed to move toward a common rent structure as part of a national housing reform agenda. The increases have also been made necessary due to a declining revenue base for public housing with Commonwealth funding being reduced by \$9m per year for the next 2 years. Homeswest announced in July 1997 a change in the rate of assessment for rent. For tenants who receive a rental subsidy, rents are calculated as a percentage of gross assessable household income. The base percentage of income can vary according to policy changes, the date of the occupation of a property and the type of property.
 - (i) Tenants who occupied prior to August 1992 are assessed at 21.2% of income. This rate is being increased to 22.5% of income over several years for pensioners and two years for other households.
 - (ii) Tenants who occupied between August 1992 and July 1997 are assessed at 22.5% of income.
 - (iii) Tenants who occupied from July 1997 are assessed at 25% of income.

- (5) There was no commitment given to Mr and Mrs Bader that their rent would not increase above 21.5% of their income.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS - WRITTEN CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

2652. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing:

With reference to question on notice 1921 of 1997, will the Minister advise when a response to this question can be expected?

Dr HAMES replied:

The answer to question on notice 1921 appears on page 7576 of *Hansard* dated 11/12/13 November 1997.

PARENT INFORMATION CENTRES - QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS

2653. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What qualifications and experience are volunteers at Parent Information Centres required to have?
- (2) What training are the volunteers required to undertake, and who provides the training?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Volunteers at Parenting Information Centres are required to be experienced parents.
- (2) Volunteers undertake initial training prior to commencing with the Parenting Information Centres. Additional training will be provided to volunteers to further develop their skills as the need arises. The Community Skills Training Centre of Family and Children's Services coordinates the training for the volunteers, which is delivered by the Coordinators once they have been appropriately trained. The training includes orientation to Parenting Information Centres, understanding volunteering, child development, understanding families, understanding parenting, communication skills and community resources.

"LIFE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA" DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM - FUNDING

2662. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister's or any other State Government department provided funding for the drug education program conducted by "Life Education Australia"?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what sum of money has been provided to the program during each of the last three financial years?
- (3) If funding has previously been provided, is it to be abolished or reduced in the near future?
- (4) If so, what is the rationale for the funding cuts?
- (5) If the State Government has not previously funded the program, will the Minister undertake to give consideration to doing so, given that without some Government subsidy "Life Education Australia" will have difficulty continuing its education program?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes, Life Education funding by the Health Department of Western Australia commenced in the 1992/93 financial year.
- (2),(4) The funding was \$40,000 to the Pilbara Kimberley Life Education and \$40,000 to Midwest Life Education each year. In 1996/97 \$20,000 was provided for caravan towing in the metropolitan area.
- (3) The funding for future years is subject to a review of the Life Education program in light of the new WA Drug Strategy being conducted by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office.
- (5) Not applicable. The future funding of Life Education WA will be subject to a joint review by the Health Department of Western Australia, the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office and Life Education WA representatives. Tabled herewith is copy of letters of advice on the funding provided for the Life Education Program. [See paper No 1205.]

WHITE-TAILED BLACK COCKATOOS - BREEDING PROGRAM

2670. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is any person, organisation or agency in Western Australia conducting a breeding program for white-tailed black cockatoos?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) who is conducting the program;
 - (b) where did the eggs or birds used as the breeding source originally come from;
 - (c) what are the objectives of the program; and
 - (d) if successful, what will be done with the progeny?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) There are two cooperative programs under way where the Department of Conservation and Land Management is involved in the breeding of white-tailed black cockatoos. There are also a number of people who privately hold white-tailed black cockatoos under wildlife conservation regulation licences and who are therefore permitted to breed, raise and trade in, these birds. The two programs are:
 - (i) a program being coordinated by CALM and the Perth Zoo involving breeding from derelict white-tailed black cockatoos (i.e. incapacitated or injured birds rescued from the wild for treatment, which have survived, but are unsuitable for release back to the wild); and,
 - (ii) a program to remove eggs and nestlings from the wild for captive raising and introduction into aviculture and future breeding in captivity, entitled the CALM/aviculturists Carnaby's Cockatoo Raising and Breeding Program.

The Carnaby's Cockatoo program commenced in 1996 following advertisements calling for expressions of interest in 1994. I announced details of the results from the first year of the Carnaby's Cockatoo program on 29 August 1997. Because this program involves private aviculturists and valuable birds, it is not appropriate for me to list the individual aviculturists names. The owner of the Rainbow Jungle parrot wildlife park at Kalbarri is, however involved in the Carnaby's Cockatoo program and has indicated that he is happy for the park's association with the program to be made public.

- (b) The white-tailed black cockatoos for the CALM/Perth Zoo program are derelict birds (either Baudin's White-tailed Black Cockatoo or Carnaby's White-tailed Black Cockatoo species). These birds have historically been kept by individuals or wildlife treatment centres under the provisions of Wildlife Conservation Regulation 28(2), or other appropriate regulations. The birds for the Carnaby's Cockatoo program were taken from the wild by a CALM officer under a program approved by the previous Minister for the Environment.
- (c) The objectives of the CALM/Perth Zoo program are to conserve the genetics of derelict birds which would otherwise have no chance of breeding, and to maintain a proper captive species stud book of provenanced birds. Private individuals caring for derelict cockatoos may join in this program or pass their birds to Perth Zoo. Without this program, most derelict cockatoos live out their lives without contributing anything to the conservation of the species. A regulated breeding program involving these birds should provide a structured means of preserving genetic diversity across the captive populations of each cockatoo species.

The objectives of the Carnaby's Cockatoo program are to raise eggs or nestlings taken from the wild in order to increase stocks in aviculture, without detrimentally impacting on the conservation of the species in the wild. Eventually a larger avicultural population of the species should be established, which will broaden the genetic base of the species in aviculture, lessen the value of the birds and reduce the rate of poaching. After the first year of the program, 57 cockatoos were raised in captivity and a further 42 young birds were successfully fledged to the wild from eggs/chicks left in nests targeted under the program. The wild fledging results are equivalent to

the average documented wild fledging success for the species. The year one results therefore demonstrated that the controlled harvest had no detrimental impact on the conservation of the species in the wild, because most birds lay two eggs, only one of which normally survives to fledging.

- (d) Birds bred under the CALM/Perth Zoo program are to be shared between the Perth Zoo, other zoos across Australia, and any aviculturists holding derelict white-tailed black cockatoos who participate in the program. Birds bred under the program will also be registered in the national stud book for the species involved. The adult derelict birds brought together for the program remain the property of the Crown, in the care of Perth Zoo or private individuals. Birds raised under the Carnaby's Cockatoo program are shared between the aviculturists involved and CALM. All of CALM's birds are to be disposed of by tender to raise funds for further conservation programs. Birds under both programs are transponder micro-chipped and DNA profiled as standard security measures.

EDUCATION ACT - REVIEW

2671. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

What are the details of the new complaints resolution process outlined in the Consultation Report on the review of the Education Act 1928?

Mr BARNETT replied:

In the Consultation Report on the *School Education Bill 1997*, which I tabled on 23 October 1997, reference was made to a complaints resolution process agreed between the Education Department and the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations (Inc). This process is to be implemented from the beginning of 1998. A four stage process is to be used. The first two stages, which will occur at school level, provide for immediate resolution of complaints by individual staff members, or internal review or investigation at school level under the responsibility of the school principal. In the third stage the school District carries out an independent review and may exercise a mediation role. The fourth stage involves a formal investigation carried out by the Central Office of the Education Department. To support these stages, schools, Districts and the Central Office will establish sets of procedures for managing and reviewing complaints. Training is to be provided to assist school and district staff in the use of appropriate actions to resolve issues. Information will be available for parents about methods for communicating effectively with their school, including how to make a complaint.

PROGRAMS FOR THE PROTECTION AND CARE OF CHILDREN

2672. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

In each of the last five years and in the current year -

- (a) what programs were dedicated to the protection and care of children;
- (b) what were the budgets for each program;
- (c) how many FTEs staffed each program, and
- (e) what were the essential objectives of each program?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (a) Family and Children's Services operated the following sub-programs:

1997/98, 1996/97, 1995/96 and 1994/95
Protective intervention and treatment
Supported care

1993/94
Child Protection
Out of Home and Alternative Care

1992/93
Child Protection
Out of Home and Alternative Care

- (b) The budgets for each program are as follows. (Note that the figures are the actual expenditure for each year as reported in annual reports, except for 1997/98 which is the estimated expenditure as reported in Budget Statements).

1997/98	
Protective intervention and treatment	\$19 246 000
Supported care	\$38 988 000
1996/97	
Protective intervention and treatment	\$14 105 902
Supported care	\$34 947 032
1995/96	
Protective intervention and treatment	\$13 951 326
Supported care	\$31 991 529
1994/95	
Protective intervention and treatment	\$11 031 484
Supported care	\$28 399 901
1993/94	
Child Protection	\$ 9 133 903
Out of Home and Alternative Care	\$25 696 698
1992/93	
Child Protection	\$ 7 017 711
Out of Home and Alternative Care	\$25 914 247

- (c) The numbers of FTE which staffed each program are taken from 1997-98 Budget Statements and previous years' Program Statements. The method of calculating FTE in 1997-98 has changed from previous years as a result of the introduction of Output Based Management.

1997-98	
Protective intervention and treatment	305 FTE
Supported care	337
1996/97	
Protective intervention and treatment	207
Supported care	288
1995/96	
Protective intervention and treatment	192
Supported care	299
1994/95	
Protective intervention and treatment	187
Supported care	210
1993/94	
Child Protection	162
Out of Home and Alternative Care	229
1992/93	
Child Protection	132
Out of Home and Alternative Care	This information is not available

- (d) The essential objectives of protection and care programs for 1997-98 and those of the last 5 years are:

To identify and prevent child maltreatment and minimise the effects of child maltreatment.

To ensure children under guardianship, and those in placements supported by the department, receive quality care and are prepared for living, where appropriate, with their families or independently.

CHILD MALTREATMENT AND FAMILY CONCERN REPORTS

2677. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

In each of the last five years, what percentage of child maltreatment and family concern reports were renotifications of earlier concerns?

Mrs PARKER replied:

Child Concern Reports are reported for 1996/97 only, as the New Directions policy, which introduced the concept of a Child Concern Report, was implemented in May 1996. In the figures provided, earlier concerns may not be the same as, or related to, the current concern.

In 1996/97: 38% of Child Maltreatment Allegations involved children for whom previous Child Maltreatment Allegations had been received by the department. 44% of Child Concern Reports involved children for whom previous Child Maltreatment Allegations or Child Concern Reports had been received by the department.

In 1995/96: 44% of Child Maltreatment Allegations involved children for whom previous Child Maltreatment Allegations had been received by the department.

In 1994/95: 41% of Child Maltreatment Allegations involved children for whom previous Child Maltreatment Allegations had been received by the department.

In 1993/94: 40% of Child Maltreatment Allegations involved children for whom previous Child Maltreatment Allegations had been received by the department.

In 1992/93: 36% of Child Maltreatment Allegations involved children for whom previous Child Maltreatment Allegations had been received by the department.

FOSTER CARERS - RANDOM AUDITS

2679. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) When were random audits of foster carers first introduced?
- (2) Who conducts the audits?
- (3) How many audits have been conducted in the last three years, and in the current year?
- (4) Will details of abusive foster parents be recorded on the State child abuse register or any other register, and if so, which one?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Auditing of foster care files has not been introduced. However, departmental case audits which look at the quality of case practice may, if the child is in care, include foster care file audits regarding the quality of care a child has received. Departmental case audits began in July 1994.
- (2) A senior casework supervisor and a senior officer from within the department's Quality Assurance Unit.
- (3) 248 random case audits have been conducted since July 1994. 80 random case audits have been conducted this current year.
- (4) Details of anyone who has been convicted of harming a child is recorded on the State Child Abuse Register. Provision has been made for foster carers who have harmed a child to be recorded on the Central Carer Register as a deregistered carer. The Central Carer Register is currently being put in place.

CHILD ABUSE - SEPARATION OF CHILD FROM ABUSER

2681. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Are children who have been subjected to sexual abuse and who are the subject of a child maltreatment report separated from the source of the abuse in all cases?
- (2) If no to (1) above, in what circumstances would the child or the perpetrator stay in the home?
- (3) In what percentage of cases are victims of sexual abuse and perpetrators separated?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) When child sexual maltreatment is substantiated the child is separated from the source of abuse in most cases. The decision not to separate a child from the person responsible for sexually maltreating him/her is made on the basis of an assessment of the physical and emotional risks to the child. An example is where a child is sexually maltreated by an older sibling but the family acts to ensure the vulnerable child's physical and emotional wellbeing.
- (3) A research project would need to be conducted to provide this information.

CHILD ABUSE - POLICY OF WA POLICE SERVICE

2684. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the Police Service automatically advise the Department of Family and Children's Service of allegations of child abuse made to the Police Service?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What is the policy of the Police Service in relation to informing the Department of Family and Children's Services of allegations of child abuse?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes, a reciprocal reporting agreement between the Western Australia Police Service and The Family and Children's Service is in place which provides for information on child abuse matters to be shared.

CHILDREN REPORTED MISSING - NUMBER RETURNED HOME

2691. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

In each of the last four years, in relation to children aged 16 years or under -

- (a) how many children were reported missing;
- (b) how many children reported missing were returned home;
- (c) how many children reported missing were not returned home based on allegations of family relationship problems; and
- (d) how many children reported missing were not returned home based on allegations of sexual abuse?

Mr DAY replied:

An average of 47 persons are reported missing per week equalling 2,444 reports per year. To answer this question would require a manual search of all missing persons reports over the past four years. I am not prepared to authorise the use of resources for this purpose.

UNIVERSITIES - LAND OWNERSHIP

2694. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Who is the legal owner of the following land -
 - (a) The University of Western Australia, Nedlands Campus;
 - (b) Curtin University of Technology, Bentley Campus;
 - (c) Curtin University of Technology, Western Australian School of Mines;
 - (d) Murdoch University, Murdoch Campus;
 - (e) Murdoch University, Rockingham Campus;
 - (f) Edith Cowan University, Claremont Campus;
 - (g) Edith Cowan University, Churchlands Campus;
 - (h) Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley Campus;
 - (i) Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus,
 - (j) Edith Cowan University, Bunbury Campus?
- (2) If the land referred to in each of the above is owned by the relevant institution -
 - (a) when was the land acquired; and
 - (b) how was the land acquired?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) In respect of questions (b) to (d), (f) to (h) and (j) the sites are owned by the Crown and leased or granted to the universities in trust for the purposes noted in their Acts.
 - (a) The Nedlands Campus is owned freehold by the University of WA, however, the main Crawley Campus is leased to the University.
 - (e) The site is currently vested in the City of Rockingham but a process is underway to vest it in the Minister for Education.
 - (i) The Joondalup Campus site is owned freehold by Edith Cowan University.

- (2) (a) The Nedlands Campus was acquired in 1990 as part of complex deal with the WA College of Advanced Education (now Edith Cowan University) and the State Government to enable the College to acquire the National Safety Council land at Mt Lawley and build new facilities at Mt Lawley to replace those at Nedlands.
- (b) The Joondalup Campus was acquired freehold in 1985 at market price from the Joondalup Corporation.

MR ROSS EMERSON - EMPLOYMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING

2697. Mr CARPENTER to the Ministry of Fair Trading:

- (1) Does the Ministry of Fair Trading employ a Mr Ross Emerson as an investigator?
- (2) Has Mr Emerson interviewed a Ms Judy Bell in relation to the sale of a unit at Parkside Mews, Ashford Avenue, Rockingham?
- (3) Did Mr Emerson tell Ms Bell that he was a former New South Wales policeman?
- (4) If yes, why?
- (5) Is Mr Emerson a former policeman?
- (6) Is he a former New South Wales policeman?
- (7) If yes, what was his service record as a New South Wales policeman?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Yes. Please refer to answer to Parliamentary Question 2717(2)-(3).
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5)-(6) Yes.
- (7) Mr Emerson joined the NSW Police Service in September 1973 and was medically discharged (as a result of an "on-duty injury") in August 1989. Mr Emerson was a Detective Senior Constable with the Internal Affairs Branch when he left the NSW Police Service.

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE - REPORT

2700. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Further to question on notice 2118 of 1997, can the Minister advise if the final report from the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Review Committee is expected before Parliament rises at the end of November 1997?
- (2) If not, when is it expected?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure a copy of the report is provided as soon as it becomes available?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) In the first week of December.
- (3) Yes. The Opposition is represented on the Committee and will have a copy of the final report when it becomes available.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EFFECT ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WORKERS

2701. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Government employ CTC consultants to carry out a report on contracting for services in the Western Australian Public Sector in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) Where work performed in the public sector in the 1994-95 financial year was contracted out to the private

sector in the 1995-96 financial year, was a comparison made of the terms and conditions of employment applicable to public sector workers in 1994-95 and private sector workers employed under the contracted out work in 1995-96?

- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Is it true that some of the savings achieved through the contracting out of services have been achieved as a consequence of contractors employing staff on terms and conditions of employment which are lower than the terms and conditions of employment such employees would attract in the public sector?
- (5) Is it true, as the Minister for Transport has admitted, that bus drivers employed by private bus companies are paid a lower rate than bus drivers employed by MetroBus?
- (6) Does the Government carry out any analysis on the degree to which contracting of services in the WA public sector has contributed to the lowering of terms and conditions of employment of employees engaged to carry out that work?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) Has the Government carried out or does the Government plan to carry out any analysis or survey to determine the extent to which work contracted out to the private sector can be done more economically by that sector as a consequence of employees being paid less than the rates of pay and employment conditions that would apply to such work in the public sector?
- (9) If not, why not?
- (10) Does the Government carry out any analysis to determine the degree to which wages and/or employment conditions have changed for employees carrying out work that has been transferred from the private to the public sector?
- (11) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The survey focussed on strategic level information about broad contracting for services outcomes in the public sector - such as the number and value of contracts let and value-for-money factors, including the impact of CTC on the cost and quality of services delivered. Survey parameters therefore did not include any comparison of the terms and conditions of employment for private sector employees delivering services previously provided by public sector staff. While the Government does not exist to provide superior working conditions for staff, in accordance with its CTC policies, agencies are required (when evaluating tenders for services) to give substantial weight to the number and quality of job offers from potential private sector service providers for public sector staff working in areas being market tested. At the end of the day, however, it is not the Government's role to interfere in the relationship between employers and employees.
- (4) The identification of savings achieved through the application of CTC policies has not specifically included an assessment of whether contractors are employing staff on terms or conditions of employment less favourable than those enjoyed by staff in comparable public sector positions. In its major 1996 review of competitive tendering and contracting by public sector agencies, the Federal Government's Industry Commission found that while the limited information available suggested that the wages and conditions for staff undertaking a function were sometimes lower after the application of CTC, there are also cases where higher wages were paid to staff employed by successful contractors. Significantly, the Industry Commission also concluded that:
 - although CTC may result in changes to career structures, it can also lead to greater development opportunities for individuals working for specialised employers and through exposure to different work environments; and
 - protecting the employment of public sector employees by not engaging in CTC provides no long-term guarantees for their job security.
- (5) The Government does not consider it appropriate to interfere in the relationship between private sector bus contractors and their employees. However, it is understood that former public sector bus drivers now with private sector companies are receiving a total remuneration package which is closely comparable to the

level of remuneration they received within the public sector. This is believed to be, in part, due to differences in the way shifts are organized and the penalty rates that apply.

- (6) The terms and conditions of employees are underpinned by industrial awards, and the application of CTC is not impacting on those terms and conditions. In contrast, the introduction of workplace and enterprise agreements is seeing employees opt to change the conditions of their employment in exchange for increased remuneration packages.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) No.
- (9) Competitive tendering and contracting is about the search for best value-for-money for taxpayers dollars, and the reassessment of which activities should properly be undertaken by the public sector in the light of competitive markets for the provision of a wide range of services. It is not about the preservation of particular terms and conditions of employment. The Industry Commission has also noted that CTC offers economies beyond labour efficiencies, including: improvements in management and work practices; more efficient and productive use of capital; the development of innovative service solutions (particularly associated with the use of a wider knowledge base and new technology); a likely increase in overall employment, over time; and long-term economic benefits through the more efficient use of resources.
- (10) The Government is not seeking to transfer work from the private to the public sector.
- (11) Not applicable.

MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING - COMPLAINT BY MR R.A. CATONI

2702. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Did the Ministry of Fair Trading receive a complaint from one R A Catoni relating to LPG purchases he made at two service stations in August 1997?
- (2) Does the Ministry of Fair Trading intend to ensure that a second and independent calibration is carried out of the questioned LPG dispensing equipment?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Yes. A complaint was received by the Trade Measurement Unit alleging that LPG purchases made during August 1997 by Mr Catoni at two roadhouses North of Perth, were short measure. Inquiries were instituted by an Officer from the Trade Measurement Unit to the management of both service stations named by Mr Catoni. The response from one roadhouse was that they recalled one complaint during late July or early August and the management of the other roadhouse have said no complaints had been received.
- (2) Not at this stage.
- (3) I have been advised that the Trade Measurement Unit receives approximately ten complaints per year in relation to LPG sales. Their experience has been that some of the complaints are caused by influences during the filling process. For example faulty valves in the vehicle tank or the purchasers' filling technique (reopening the nozzle after it has automatically shut off). LPG tanks fitted to vehicles have a safety shut off valve that ensures the tank only fills to 80% of the total capacity. On some occasions these valves become faulty and allow more LPG to be delivered into the tank. I understand that this matter has been discussed with Mr Catoni and it was recommended that he have his tank checked by a registered gas fitter. As no further complaints have been received in respect of the roadhouses concerned, the ministry will monitor the next test results to establish the performance of the instruments. Inquiries made with the servicing companies responsible for the testing of the flowmeters indicate that one roadhouse was calibrated in May 1997 and is due for retesting in approximately six months. The other was calibrated in December 1996 and is due for retesting in about two months.

WA POLICE SERVICE - INFILTRATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

2703. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on Tuesday 7 October 1997 concerning community outrage following revelations that the Victorian Police Intelligence Units had infiltrated community organisations and kept dossiers on many people?

- (2) Is the Minister aware the article reported *The Age* newspaper report that Victorian Police had infiltrated and spied on community organisations including the Council for Civil Liberties, the Uniting Church and individuals such as former Independent MHR Phil Cleary?
- (3) Has the Western Australian Police Service been involved in similar activities?
- (4) If so, what activities and when were such activities undertaken?
- (5) Are any like or similar activities being undertaken today?
- (6) If so, why?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(5) The Western Australia Police Service maintains general information on some groups and individuals for liaison purposes only. Further, some personal particulars are maintained on members of Parliament and their families at the Protective Services and Counter Terrorist Intelligence Unit so that appropriate protection may be offered to State Ministers and members of Parliament should an incident arise where their security or safety is, or is likely to be in danger.
- (6) For liaison purposes and for the safety and security of the particular group or individual in question should an incident arise where their security or safety is, or is likely to be, breached.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE LAWYERS - PRIVATE-PLATED GOVERNMENT VEHICLES

2704. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Did you approve the use of private-plated Government vehicles for public lawyers (Class 3 and above)?
- (2)
 - (a) If yes, how and when was this arrangement administered;
 - (b) what was the total cost involved?
- (3) Why isn't the Ministry of Justice disclosing any information about this arrangement?
- (4) Why was this arrangement administered?
- (5) Why are Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid lawyers not enjoying the same benefit?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (1)-(5) The Minister for Services determines access to privately plated vehicles by government officers.

GERALDTON FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - EQUIPMENT

2707. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Geraldton Fire and Rescue Service do not have the following equipment -
 - (a) jaws of life;
 - (b) hydraulic ram?
- (2) Will the Minister advise if and when this essential equipment will be provided to the Geraldton Fire and Rescue Service?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) The Fire & Rescue Service of WA currently provides motor operated Lukas Hydraulic Cutters and Spreaders known as the "Jaws of Life" and manually operated hydraulic rescue equipment known as the Ritch C50 with includes a hydraulic ram at the Geraldton Fire Station.

CHILDHOOD LITERACY SKILLS - TEACHERS AND AIDES

2708. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the current level of teachers and/or aides employed improving childhood literacy skills in the public education system in Years One, Two and Three?
- (2) Does the Government propose to increase the number of teachers and/or aides employed in this way?

- (3) How many teachers and/or aides are employed in improving childhood literacy skills at Charthouse Primary School, Waikiki?
- (4) Does the Government propose to increase the number of teachers and/or aides employed in improving literacy skills at Charthouse Primary School?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Does the Government recognise the large number of students at Charthouse and the fact that it does need some special attention because of these large numbers of students?
- (7) When is the Government proposing to establishing another primary school in that vicinity to alleviate the numbers of students in that area?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Department does not collect information from schools as to how they deploy their staffing establishments. Many schools, for example, may elect to have split grades or to channel more teacher Full Time Equivalent (FTE) into support teacher time than into direct classroom teaching time. In addition, all primary teachers have responsibility for improving literacy skills. As there are 7 874 FTE in primary schools in 1997, it is reasonable to assume that approximately three-sevenths of this number, or 3 374 FTE, are engaged in teaching Years One, Two and Three. There are 173.3 aides employed in the junior primary area.
- (2) Teachers and aides will be increased in accordance with the staffing formula.
- (3) There are 9 teachers at Charthouse Primary School teaching Years One, Two or Three. There are 2 teacher aides employed at 0.4 FTE and 1 teacher aide employed at 0.2 FTE at Charthouse Primary School in the junior primary area.
- (4) If student enrolments increase, then adjustments will be made to the staffing allocation of the school in accordance with the staffing formula.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) The allocation of staff to schools is based on student enrolment. Therefore large schools like Charthouse have a correspondingly greater number of staff than do schools with less student enrolment.
- (7) The proposed establishment of a school in Waikiki Gardens (the only other site available in the area) will reduce the pressure on Charthouse Primary School to some extent. However, numbers at Charthouse Primary School have peaked and are expected to decline significantly over the next few years.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL - TERMS OF REFERENCE

2712. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

I refer to the Family and Children's Advisory Council and ask -

- (1) What are the terms of reference of the Council?
- (2) What advice has the Minister sought to date from the Council?
- (3) What policy and legislation has been discussed to date?
- (4) What research has been identified as needed in Western Australia?
- (5) What steps are being taken to organise the next Family Week in 1998?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The Terms of Reference for the Council are to:
 Provide advice to the Minister on issues pertaining to families and children;
 Provide a forum to discuss relevant policy and legislation;
 Identify research to further the knowledge and understanding of families and children in Western Australia;
 and
 Oversee the operation of Family Week (held in May each year).

- (2) Further action required in relation to the recommendations of the report of the Taskforce on Families in Western Australia *WA Families-Our Future*; the issue of gambling and the Council's view on Grandparents Day.
- (3) The Council has discussed many issues including the Child Welfare Act, the Model Criminal Legislation (National), Sexual Offences Against the Person, Together Against Drugs - The WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse Action Plan, and the National Inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.
- (4) None.
- (5) Members of the Council are participating on a joint working party with Family and Children's Services to oversee Family Week (WA) 1998.

POVERTY TASK FORCE REPORT

2714. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

I refer to the Poverty Task Force and ask-

- (1) What is the anticipated date of reporting of this committee?
- (2) Will the committee report be made available to me?
- (3) What is the name and occupation of each committee member?
- (4) Have any members of the committee left the task force since its inception?
- (5) What are the terms of reference of the task force?
- (6) How often has the task force committee met?
- (7) What were the dates of each such meeting?
- (8) How will recommendations be implemented?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) 31 December 1997.
- (2) Release of the report will be considered after I have received it.
- (3) Committee members:

Mr Ian Carter, Anglicare
 Mr Shawn Boyle, Western Australian Council of Social Service Inc
 Ms Anne Hawkins, Financial Counsellors Association
 Major Laurie H Venables, The Salvation Army
 Mr Brian Gordon, Meerilinga
 Mr Willem Bouwer, United Nations
 Mr Doug Robertson, Wesley Mission
 Mr David Colvin, Disability Services Commission
 Ms Sue Patterson, Office of Seniors Interests
 Ms Joan Malpass, Women's Policy Development Office
 Ms Karen Milligan, Office of Youth Affairs
 Mr Tony Wilshire, Aboriginal Affairs Department
 Ms Liz Bredemeyer, Education Department
 Ms Leanne Strommen, Centrecare Marriage and Family Service
 Ms Anne Harris, One World Centre
 Ms Joy Johnston, Homeswest
 Rev George Davies, Youth Affairs Council
 Ms Carlene Smith, Yorganop Child Care Aboriginal Corporation
 Ms Lynda Wennstrom, Fremantle Community Legal and Advocacy Centre
 Ms Lorraine O'Halloran, Department of Training
 Ms Lesley van Schoubroeck, Family and Children's Services

In addition Mr Lyndon Rowe, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA was coopted as a member in late 1996.

- (4) Yes. Ms Elaine Olley resigned to become Chairperson of another advisory body.
- (5) The Terms of Reference are:

- (a) Develop strategies to strengthen responses to poverty in Western Australia.
 - (b) Develop briefs for the research to be undertaken for International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.
 - (c) Develop proposals for community education events to be undertaken during International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1996.
- (6) 11.
- (7) 22 May 1996
20 June 1996
25 July 1996
22 August 1996
20 September 1996
8 November 1996
29 April 1997
22 May 1997
26 June 1997
31 July 1997
18 September 1997
- (8) Once the final report has been presented the recommendations of the Taskforce will be considered by the Government.

POLICE RANGERS - TRAINING MANUALS

2716. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) I refer to the Western Australian Police Ranger's training manuals and ask -
- (a) how many manuals exist;
 - (b) who prepared the manuals;
 - (c) what was the cost of preparation of these manuals;
 - (d) who authorised the preparation of those manuals;
 - (e) was the Commissioner for Police consulted;
 - (f) was any other member of the Police Service consulted;
 - (g) if so -
 - (i) whom;
 - (ii) and on what date?
- (2) Have complaints been received from those working within the Police Rangers system?
- (3) If so, what is the nature of the complaints?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) (a) 50;
(b) Mr Keith Jackson;
(c) \$3,480;
(d) The Director of The Federation of WA Police and Citizens' Youth Clubs (Inc);
(e) No;
(f) Yes;
(g) (i) Sergeants Bill Collidge and Bob Terms
(ii) Over a period of four months up to December 1996.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Western Australia Police Service has received one formal, written complaint relating to the content, style and grammatical construction of the manual. As a consequence of that complaint, a special meeting was called by Superintendent, Community Services to address concerns users of the manual may have had. Since then, amendments have been made to the manual, and Rangers have been asked to provide feedback to ensure the content is current and appropriate.

MINIM COVE - COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT

2719. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Lands:

With respect to the Minim Cove land development being undertaken by LandCorp, what has been -

- (a) the cost to LandCorp of all planning, environmental studies and other studies or consultancies required so far with respect to this project;

- (b) the cost of all work undertaken on this site other than that covered in No 1;
- (c) the total cost of all work either done or committed to at this stage of the development;
- (d) the anticipated cost of all further work yet to be let or brought to account;
- (e) what is the current agreed dollar contribution to be made by Octennial Holdings as their part of the joint development of Minim Cove;
- (f) What is the amount of money actually receipted by LandCorp from Octennial Holdings or any other company on behalf of Octennial Holdings as part of their contribution towards the costs of the Minim Cove development?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (a) \$1,336,713.
- (b) \$5,892,355 includes cost of foreshore clean-up \$1,051,917.
- (c) \$7,428,988 includes cost of foreshore clean-up.
- (d) \$5.3 million.
- (e) Octennial Holdings will pay the proportion (calculated by volume) which the quantity of contaminated soils obtained from their land and places in the cell bears to the total quantity (calculated by volume) of contaminated soils obtained from the whole of the land and placed in the cell.
- (f) Octennial Holdings has provided a payment of \$186,358 together with a bank guarantee for \$256,500.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - REVIEWS, INQUIRIES AND WORKING PARTIES

2720. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier:

- (1) How many reviews, inquiries or working parties were established by all Government agencies or departments in the first four years of the Court Government from the start of 1993 to the end of 1996?
- (2) For each review, inquiry or working party -
 - (a) what was its title or name;
 - (b) when was its formation first announced;
 - (c) was there are call for public submissions;
 - (d) what was the date of its report or findings;
 - (e) has the report or findings been made public in full;
 - (f) if yes to (e) above , then on what date was it released?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) The detail sought by the Member is not readily available. I am not prepared to divert resources to extract this information, however, if the Member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS - EFFECT OF ABOLITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR YOUTH

2728. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have secondary schools been surveyed to determine the number of additional enrolments for 1998 arising from the Federal Government's abolition of unemployment benefits for 16 and 17 year olds?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What is the total number of additional secondary enrolments expected as a result of the Federal Government's decision?
- (4) How many extra teachers will be needed to teach these students?
- (5) How will provision of these extra teachers be funded?

- (6) What assistance will be given to schools to develop special programs for these students who have previously been unwilling to enrol?
- (7) Has the State Government approached the Federal Government to provide additional funding for these teachers and programs?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) If yes, what has been the response of the Federal Government?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Data has been supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training.
- (3) The actual number of additional secondary enrolments will be dependent upon individual student choice, but it could be up to 3 500 students.
- (4) This could require an additional 175 teachers.
- (5) Provision will be funded from normal enrolment based funding for increased enrolments and from funds allocated from the Commonwealth General Purpose Grant.
- (6) Most students affected by the changes are likely to need assistance to improve basic skills or access to vocational programs. Fortunately Western Australian schools has an array of such programs to offer students, for example Fast Track. These programs are accessed on a needs basis. Teaching training and program outlines will be provided to assist schools in the delivery of these programs.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) The Federal Government has indicated that the supplementation to the General Recurrent Grant should be used for this purpose.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS - VISA COSTS

2730. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that visa costs for overseas fee paying students studying in Australia are significantly more expensive than for those studying in competing destinations?
- (2) What representations has the Minister made to his Federal colleagues to have these visa fees reduced?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The current cost for an Australian visa is significantly higher than for those of our major competitors in the overseas student market. The non-refundable application charge for a student visa to Australia is \$A285 while Canada in late 1996 was charging \$A125, USA \$A147, UK \$A69 and New Zealand \$A172.
- (2) I have written to Hon Phillip Ruddock, the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, and sent a copy of the correspondence to the Hon David Kemp, Federal Minister for Education. The Department of Education Services, through its International Education Consultative Committee, has also raised concerns about the visa costs with the Chairman of the Australian International Education Foundation.

EDUCATION BUDGET - SHORTFALL

2732. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister or the Director General of Education been advised that there is a potential shortfall in the Budget of the Education Department for 1997-98?
- (2) What is the size of the shortfall?
- (3) Will the Government provide additional funds to the Education Department?
- (4) If not, what activities or functions will be cut to accommodate the shortfall in funding?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(4) The Education Department budget is under pressure and the Director-General is identifying strategies to overcome those difficulties. I am meeting with the Premier and Under Treasurer to discuss budget matters relating to all of the agencies for which I am responsible and the Education Department budget will form part of those discussions.

ITALIAN LESSONS IN SCHOOLS - FUNDING

2736. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the State Government provide any special funding for the teaching of Italian in government and non-government schools?
- (2) If yes, how much funding is provided annually?
- (3) Will this level of funding be maintained?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Education Department of Western Australia & Department of Education Services

- (1) Yes. Funds are provided to the Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Centre (Inc.) to enable them to conduct Italian language classes in government and non-government primary schools.
- (2) In 1997 \$347,130 was provided for classes in government schools and \$635,285 for classes in non-government schools.
- (3) Funding levels for non-government schools will be maintained. Funding for government schools will be gradually phased out by the year 2000.
- (4) Special funding for government schools will be phased out because the Education Department will take direct responsibility for providing these classes itself through employing teachers direct, as is the case for all other languages other than English programs in its schools.

PARKERVILLE AMPHITHEATRE CAR PARK - FORFEITURE OF LEASE

2739. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) On 18 August 1995 did the Department of Land Administration issue a notice of forfeiture over Special Lease 3116/10644 held by Mr John Joseph Jones and used as a car park for the Parkerville Amphitheatre?
- (2) Prior to the notice being issued, did the Minister enter into a pre-forfeiture agreement with the Shire of Mundaring to vest the lease in the Shire on the unconditional guarantee that a licence of use would be issued by the Shire to Mr Jones on terms set by the Minister, the details to be negotiated with the Shire of Mundaring within three months, vesting in the Shire to occur after the licence is endorsed by the Minister for Lands?
- (3) If so, did the Minister inform Mr Jones that he had entered into such a pre- forfeiture agreement with the Shire of Mundaring?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Prior to entering into any pre-forfeiture agreement with the Shire, did the Minister inform Mr Jones that he was endeavouring to reach such an agreement with the Shire and/or invite Mr Jones to participate in any negotiations or discussions with the Shire?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Did the Minister receive from Mr Jones an appeal under section 23 of the Land Act 1933 in which he (Jones) claimed unjustifiable forfeiture of the lease?
- (8) Did the Minister write to Mr Jones refusing to hear an appeal and giving as his reason the fact that he had authorised the forfeiture of the lease and could not therefore hear an appeal against his own decision?
- (9) Did the Minister meet with Mr Jones accompanied by the Hon Derek Tomlinson MLC and Mr Alan Bodger to discuss the contents of the appeal lodged by Mr Jones?

- (10) If so, at that meeting did the Minister advise Mr Jones that he could not hear the appeal because he had authorised the forfeiture and that Mr Jones should further appeal to His Excellency the Governor under section 27 of the Land Act 1933?
- (11) Did the Minister say or otherwise indicate that he would not forward to the Governor the appeal lodged by Jones to the Minister?
- (12) Did the Minister discuss the contents of the ministerial appeal in the meeting with Jones, Tomlinson and Bodger and retain a copy of the appeal and document?
- (13) Did the Minister disclose at the time of that meeting that he had made a pre-forfeiture agreement with the Shire of Mundaring?
- (14) If not, why not?
- (15) Was the Minister called upon to tender advice to the Governor to assist him in reaching a just verdict in respect to the special appeal made by Mr Jones?
- (16) Did the Minister provide such advice?
- (17) Did the Minister inform the Governor that unbeknown to Jones he had entered into a pre-forfeiture agreement with the Shire to vest the lease in the Shire on the understanding that a licence would be issued to Mr Jones?
- (18) If not, why not?
- (19) Was the Governor provided with full and frank information on the Jones appeal?
- (20) If so, was the Governor advised of the pre-forfeiture agreement that had been entered into?
- (21) If not, why not?
- (22) Was the information provided to the Governor incomplete and did it not meet the standard of impartiality?
- (23) Why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. During negotiations in 1992 in which it was proposed to allow public access through this former lease area, the Shire of Mundaring was requested to provide a written undertaking that it would allow the continued use of the land for carparking purposes during performances at the Amphitheatre. These negotiations broke down in 1994 as Mr Jones refused to allow public access. Subsequent inspections revealed that the lease was not being used to the extent required under the lease conditions and the continued alienation of the public, who used the surrounding area extensively as a walk trail, was not warranted. Prior to forfeiture of the lease being recommended to the Minister for Lands by the Department of Land Administration, the Department sought confirmation from the Shire of Mundaring whether its previous undertaking to allow Mr Jones access to the land for Amphitheatre client parking, as required, would still stand. This was confirmed by the Shire. This was undertaken to ensure that any future operations of the Amphitheatre would not be hindered due to a lack of parking, while also allowing public access through this area.

At a post-forfeiture meeting on 31 August 1995 between Department of Land Administration Officers, Mr Jones, his Son, his Consultant and his Solicitor, it was decided that to ensure that the Shire of Mundaring honoured its commitment to allow Mr Jones to use the land for parking, an agreement (in the form of a license), would be sought from the Shire of Mundaring. The Shire of Mundaring was not involved in this resolution being reached.

- (3)-(6) Not applicable.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) No. In a letter to Mr Jones dated 2 November 1995, the then Minister for Lands advised Mr Jones that the only formal avenue of appeal against forfeiture of his lease existed with the Governor. The Minister further advised Mr Jones that, while not wishing to impede his right of appeal, it would not be appropriate for him (the Minister) to forward an appeal against himself to the Governor. Accordingly, Mr Jones was requested to forward the appeal to the Governor directly.

- (9)-(10) Yes.
- (11) Yes, refer question (8).
- (12) Yes.
- (13) No, as no pre-forfeiture agreement with the Shire of Mundaring was made. Refer question (2).
- (14) Not applicable.
- (15)-(16) Mr Jones made 2 appeals to the Governor. The first was an appeal to Governor to grant him leave to lodge a formal appeal to the Governor. The Governor then requested the former Minister to provide him with relevant information. The Hon George Cash, MLC, the then Minister for Lands, responded by letter on 19 January 1996. The Governor subsequently granted Mr Jones leave to lodge a formal appeal. Mr Jones then lodged a second formal appeal and the Minister was again requested to provide the Governor with further information. This was however, provided in the form of an Executive Council Minute by the Hon Graham Kierath MLA, the then Minister for Lands. However, advice was then received from the Governor's Official Secretary that the Governor was not in a position to read all the information provided and requested that DOLA officers meet with him to brief him. A follow up meeting was also held with Mr Jones on site at the request of the Governor. A resultant Executive Council Minute recommended to the Governor's Office that Mr Jones's formal appeal be dismissed.
- (17)-(18) No as no pre-forfeiture agreement with the Shire of Mundaring was made.
- (19) Yes.
- (20) No, as no pre-forfeiture agreement was made. However the Governor was advised that the Shire of Mundaring had given an undertaking to allow Mr Jones to utilise the former lease area for parking purposes, as required.
- (21) Not applicable.
- (22) No, all information was provided to the Governor and in a proper manner.
- (23) Not applicable.

NATIONAL PARKS - INCREASE IN FEES

2740. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Government announced changes to the visitor fee system for national parks?
- (2) Will there be an increase in daily visit fees for private vehicles to \$8?
- (3) On what date does the increase apply from?
- (4) What parks/areas does the fee apply to?
- (5) What amount was charged prior to the \$8 payment?
- (6) When was that amount introduced?
- (7) Will the new fees apply to caravans and/or tents in those parks/areas where camping/overnight stays have been permitted?
- (8) If so, has the Government taken into account the effect these changes will have on tourism?
- (9) If not, why not?
- (10) If so, what will be the impact on tourism?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Seniors Card and aged pension cardholders will continue to pay \$3 per vehicle.
- (3) 1 January 1998.

- (4) Yanchep, John Forrest, Walyunga, Avon Valley, Serpentine, Nambung, Kalbarri, Purnululu, Gloucester, Warren, Beedelup, Stirling Range, Porongurup, Stokes, Cape Le Grand, Cape Arid, Karijini, Cape Range, Millstream-Chichester, Francois Peron, Mirima, Shannon, D'Entrecasteaux and Fitzgerald River National Parks. Visitor fees at Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park will be implemented following advice from a taskforce established by the Minister for the Environment.
- (5) \$5.
- (6) The \$5 fee applied from:-
 1990 for Yanchep and John Forrest National Parks.
 1994 for Walyunga, Serpentine, Nambung, Avon Valley, Kalbarri, Gloucester, Shannon, Warren, Beedelup, Stirling Range, Porongurup, Stokes, Cape Le Grand, Cape Arid, Karijini, Cape Range, Millstream-Chichester, Francois Peron.
 A separate visitor fee which was a combined entry/camping fee applied at Purnululu at this time.
- (7) Park entry fees apply to private vehicles and commercial tour operators. They will be additional to camping fees that are collected in some of the parks for overnight stays in tents or caravans.
- (8) Yes. The Government believes that the overall impact will be positive. This has been the experience from the introduction of visitor fees in 1994.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) Revenue from fees is used to improve and develop tourist facilities and services in parks, leading to improved visitor experiences.

FIREARMS APPLICATIONS - DISCLOSURE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

2744. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) When a person seeks to licence a high powered firearm, are they required to disclose on the application form complete details of any criminal convictions?
- (2) If so, was this disclosure requirement introduced -
 (a) before 1980; or
 (b) after 1980, (if so, what year)?
- (3) Do the police -
 (a) check to see if the information on the application form is correct; and/or
 (b) check if the person has criminal convictions other than those stated on the application form?
- (4) Is a thorough and detailed check made of the applicants criminal convictions?
- (5) Where a person seeks to add an additional high powered firearm to an existing licence, are the same procedures that apply to new licences followed?
- (6) When such an application is made, do the police carry out a further thorough check to determine which, if any, criminal convictions the applicant has?
- (7) Do the police -
 (a) refuse to issue a licence; and/or
 (b) draw to the applicants' attention,
 to any discrepancies between what the applicant has disclosed on the application form and the official police records of that person's criminal convictions?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Before 1980.
- (3) (a) The information is checked as fully as possible
 (b) Yes.
- (4)-(6) Yes.

- (7) Discrepancies, if any, are drawn to the attention of the applicant and, if applicable, an application may or may not be refused. Offences are provided for people who give false information.

DAMPIER TO BUNBURY PIPELINE - COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

2746. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) When the Dampier to Bunbury national gas pipeline is owned, partially owned or operated by a private operator(s), will the Government ensure that the operator -
 - (a) pays local government rates in respect to the land utilised by the pipeline;
 - (b) complies with State and local laws;
 - (c) complies with maintenance and public liability issues;
 - (d) maintains, allocates and uses appropriate buffer zones?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that local government is involved in any negotiations or discussions leading to "in principle agreements" with Alinta Gas?
- (3) Will the Government ensure local government is properly consulted before any agreements are struck with any private owner or operator?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Will the Government ensure that any private owner or operator is obliged to meet the same obligations as any other private company operating and involved with local government?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(6) See answer to parliamentary question on notice 2745.

KUNUNURRA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL - ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

2748. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the number of Aboriginal students currently enrolled in years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 at the Kununurra District High School?
- (2) What is the current retention rate of these students?
- (3) Does the Education Department have a target for retention of Aboriginal students?
- (4) If this target is not being met, what action is being taken to remedy this situation?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Number of Aboriginal students currently enrolled at Kununurra District High School is:

Year 8	-	26
Year 9	-	21
Year 10	-	11
Year 11	-	3
Year 12	-	0
Total		61

- (2) The retention rate for all Aboriginal students at Kununurra District High School during 1997 was 61%. Students who left Kununurra District High School in 1997 have left for the following reasons:

	Aboriginal Male	Aboriginal Female
○ to a Kimberley School	5	2
○ to a government school outside Kimberley	2	2
○ to a Private School Western Australia	1	1
○ to a Private School NT	8	6
○ other states	1	1
○ employment	1	5
○ unknown	2	2
Total	20	19

- (3) Yes. The targets are twofold:
- to increase retention rates for Indigenous students in Years 10 - 12 by 2% per annum through to 1999; and
 - to maintain the current levels of enrolment of Indigenous students from Kindergarten to Year 12.
- (4) 1997 targets will be evaluated in December.

MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RECORDS LEGISLATION

2749. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Arts:

- (1) I refer to the Government's intention to draft new legislation on the Management of Public Records and ask, which professional bodies have been consulted?
- (2) Have the following bodies been specifically consulted -
- (a) Records Management Association of Australia;
 - (b) The Australian Society of Archivists;
 - (c) The Australian Computer Society;
 - (d) The Institute for Information Management?
- (3) If yes, when?
- (4) If the above Associations have not been consulted, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The Professional Historians and Researchers Association WA (Inc), Australian Library and Information Association, Australian Society of Archivists, Records and Information Management Liaison Group and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.
- (2) (a)-(b) Yes.
(c)-(d) No.
- (3) 1994/5.
- (4) I issued a Discussion Paper on new public records legislation in July 1994 which was circulated and publicized widely. Neither the Australian Computer Society nor the Institute for Information Management made submissions. Both the RMAA and the ASA submitted comprehensive responses.

CHILD CARE AND FAMILY DAY CARE CENTRES - CLOSURES

2755. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What action has been taken by the Department for Family and Children's Services to support child care centres and family day care schemes facing threat of closure due to financial difficulties in Western Australia?
- (2) How many child care centres and family day care schemes have closed in Western Australia since -
- (a) 1 January 1996;
 - (b) 1 July 1996;
 - (c) 1 January 1997;
 - (d) 1 July 1997?
- (3) What are the names and addresses of each of the child care centres and family day care schemes that have closed?
- (4) Have any further centres or schemes advised the Department of Family and Children's Services that they are likely to close?
- (5) If yes to (4) above, what are their names and addresses?
- (6) Are any records kept with respect to the number of employees in each centre and if so, what trends can you report?

- (7) Have any staff been made redundant and if so, how many and from what centres?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Children's Services Officers continue to work at a local level to support child care centres and work closely with community managed services. Family and Children's Services, in conjunction with Ministry of Fair Trading and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ran a seminar in June 1997 for community management committees focussing on their legal responsibilities.
- (2) No family day care schemes have closed in Western Australia. The following numbers of child care centres have closed

(a)	January 1996 to present:	22
(b)	July 1996 to present:	21
(c)	January 1997 to present:	14
(d)	July 1997 to present:	6
- (3) Bentley Child Care Centre, 7 Queen Street, Bentley
 Rhema Day Care Centre, 1 Thoroughgood Street, Victoria Park.
 Ngala Bluebird Child Care Centre, 14 Orchard Avenue, Armadale
 Kay Cees Day Care Centre, 123 McDonald Street, Kalgoorlie
 Midland Enterprise Centre, Viveash Road, Midland
 Jennifer Lockwood Child Care Centre, 386 Lord Street, Perth.
 Kinder Inne Child Care Centre, 378 Roberts Road, Subiaco (reopened as Subiaco Station Child Care)
 Scarborough Child Care Centre, 144 Westview Street, Scarborough (reopened as Ruth's Child Care Centre)
 West Perth Child Care Centre, 38 Cleaver Street, West Perth.
 West Perth Day Care Centre, 58 Thomas Street, West Perth.
 Balga Campus Child Care Centre, 18 Loxwood Road, Balga.
 Diannes Homestead, 483 Fitzgerald Street, North Perth.
 Balcatta Child Care Centre, 334 Albert Street, Balcatta.
 Harvey Street Day Care Centre, 49 Harvey Street, Mosman Park.
 Claremont Day Nursery, 2 Alfred Road, Claremont.
 Glendalough Neighbourhood Centre, 29 Jugan Street, Glendalough.
 Catherines Day Care Centre, 1 Mansell Street, Morley.
 Nedlands Child Care Centre (Edith Cowan), 57 Leura Street, Nedlands.
 Forrestfield Child Care Centre, 12 Anderson Road, Forrestfield.
 Kiddywink Child Care Centre, 10 Mella Court Midland.
 Tumbletikes Child Care Centre, 2 Mercy Mews, Queens Park.
 The Glory Day Child Care Centre, Lot 83 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6)-(7) This information is not required to be kept for licensing purposes.

RALLY AUSTRALIA - FUNDING

2756. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the Rally Australia project funded by the Department of Family and Children's Services and ask -
 - (a) for how many years has the department provided funding for this project;
 - (b) how much funding is made available;
 - (c) what are the recipients' names and addresses for each financial year since the year ending 30 June 1993?
- (2) What are the names of each organisation that submitted an expression of interest for the years referred to in question (1) above?
- (3) What are the names of all participants who were involved in the Rally team for each of the years referred to in question (1) (c) above?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)
 - (a) The department has provided funds to this project since 1993.
 - (b) The department provides \$15,000 to each youth team each year.
 - (c) Host organisations since inception have been:

Whitfords Youth Service Inc
21 Endeavour Road
Hillarys

Koondoola and Girrawheen Youth
Unit 6, 54 Caserley Avenue
Girrawheen

Town of Bassendean
48 Old Perth Road
Bassendean

Northam Youth Outreach
100 Duke Street
Northam

City of Melville
Almonbury Road
Melville

Town of Narrogin
89 Earl Street
Narrogin

The Industrial Vocation Enterprise Centre
Level 3, Victoria House
14 Victoria Avenue
Perth

Karawara Community Project Inc
Karawara Community Centre
Walanna Drive
Karawara

Mandurah/Murray Community Policing Crime Prevention Committee
Mandurah Police Station
Pinjarra Road
Mandurah

- (2) I have been advised that other than the organisations listed in (1)(c) above State Supply Commission policy requires that details of unsuccessful offers remain confidential.
- (3) This information is not kept by the department but is maintained by the Host Organisations. The department can provide numbers of participants in each year. Number of young people in youth rally teams:

1993	42
1994	69
1995	63
1996	57
1997	88

TUART PARK, GERALDTON - LAND SUBSIDENCE

2759. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the problem of subsidence being faced by the residents of Tuart Park in Geraldton?
- (2) Is the Government aware of which party is responsible for the subsidence of that land?
- (3) Will the Government undertake some investigations into who is responsible for that subsidence?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Is the Government prepared to assist residents of that area in relation to their loans and in particular in relation to their Keystart loans?
- (6) Will the Government assist in freezing Keystart loans?
- (7) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Liability is in dispute.
- (3) Keystart is assisting the process.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The Keystart Scheme has assisted borrowers by making a one off "ex-gratia" payment to the Group.
- (6) An ex-gratia payment was made in lieu of freezing the loans.
- (7) Not applicable.

HOMESWEST - LANGFORD REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2763. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Homeswest redevelopment of Langford and ask -

- (a) how many companies submitted expressions of interest for the project management of the Langford redevelopment;
- (b) how many companies were invited to submit feasibility studies;
- (c) what were the criteria used to determine the preferred candidate;
- (d) who is the preferred candidate;
- (e) what assurances will the Minister give that full community consultation will occur;
- (f) what strategies were included in the winning submission to effect full community participation?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) Eight registrations of interest were received.
- (b) Three companies were invited to submit detailed written submissions by 1 September 1997. The three companies were:
 - BGC Australia Pty Ltd
 - The Alcock Homes / Brown-Neaves Group of Companies
 - The Lo Family Group of Companies/Welmont Holding Pty Ltd

It should be noted that The Alcock Homes/ Brown-Neaves Group of Companies withdrew on 9 July 1997.

- (c) The selection process had the following milestones and selection criteria:
 - Homeswest Board approval to proceed obtained 20 November, 1996.
 - Ministerial approval to proceed obtained 15 January, 1997
 - Registration Of Interest invitation advertised in the "West Australian", "Australian" and "Financial Review" newspapers in March, 1997 with a closing date of 28 April.
 - Estates Improvement Selection Panel including 2 Homeswest Commissioners, 2 Homeswest Directors, Senior Homeswest Officers, a representative from the relevant Local Authority and a Housing Industry representative, conducted short listing on 23 May, 1997.
 - Expressions Of Interest were assessed using predetermined selection criteria on a weighted scale but on a value for money basis taking into account past performance and experience to assure the ability of the proponent to deliver their promised outcomes (see selection criteria below).
 - A probity audit of the process was completed by KPMG.
 - Homeswest Board endorsed the short list selection at its meeting of 18 June, 1997.
 - Written submissions were then invited from the short listed applicants in June 1997, with the closing date being 1 September, 1997.
 - Three firms were invited to submit proposals for financial assessment and comparison. Jones Lang Wootton Advisory (JLW) was selected to complete the financial review on a value for money basis.

- The selection panel then met to consider presentations by the applicants on 2 October 1997 using the predetermined and weighted selection criteria. This process was observed by auditors KPMG. The submissions were assessed against the following weighted selection criteria: Concept; Methodology; Marketing; Experience; Track Record; Fee Proposals; Financial Capacity; Feasibility and Method and Timing of Payments.
 - Homeswest Board approved the preferred tenderers at its meeting of 16 October, 1997.
 - Contract negotiations commenced with the selected tenderers on 29 October, 1997.
 - The process was overseen by Homeswest internal auditors - KPMG.
- (d) BGC Australia Pty Ltd.
- (e) Community consultation is an integral element which will ensure the success of the Langford project. I will ensure that the community embrace and assist in the development of the Langford project through input, participation, involvement and promotion.
- (f) The successful candidate intends:
- Detailing a Community Development Strategy
 - Providing Community Information Kits
 - Conducting regular meetings with the local Council, community and peak groups
 - Producing a community newsletter
 - Initiating local employment, youth, sporting and other community programs.
 - Engaging Creating Communities as the community planning consultant.
 - Establishing a permanent office in Langford.

214 WILLIAM STREET, NORTHBRIDGE - REDEVELOPMENT

2764. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) I refer to 214 William Street, Northbridge (Lot No 2 on the Perth Town Lot of Y34, Diagram 4669) and owned by the Department of Land Administration and ask, is the Minister aware that a person is interested in leasing the property, pending its redevelopment?
- (2) When is it intended to sell or demolish the building concerned?
- (3) Will the Minister request the department to review its previous refusal to lease the building?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The Department of Land Administration is aware of an interest to lease this building. Although the building at 214 William Street, Northbridge is vacant, the management of this site and other adjoining buildings has been assumed by the Perth Cultural Centre Development Committee under the control of the Hon Minister for the Arts.
- (2) It is understood the Perth Cultural Centre Development Committee is intending to redevelop the existing buildings in early 1998 according to a heritage plan.
- (3) No, as the Department of Land Administration has been asked by the Perth Cultural Centre Committee not to issue any new leases for these buildings in view of this proposed redevelopment. Other adjoining building leases are presently on a monthly basis for this reason.

WEST MIDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL - FOUR YEAR OLD PROGRAM

2765. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister move immediately to ensure that a four year old program can be offered at West Midland Primary next year?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that a pre-primary classroom is vacant and available for use for the four year olds?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that there is already a waiting list of twenty two children?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that there are no places available at neighbouring primary schools such as Guildford and Caversham?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) I am not able to ensure that a kindergarten program for four year old children will be offered at West Midland Primary School in 1998. This Government will not be able to guarantee every child a place in a kindergarten program until 1999.
- (2) I am aware that during 1997 the Education Department purchased two buildings, one of which is a preprimary facility, on a site adjacent to the West Midland Primary School.
- (3) I am aware that 22 expressions of interest in a kindergarten program at West Midland Primary School have been received. Only 14 of these are from children within the West Midland Primary School boundaries. Several of the "out of boundary children" have already been placed at neighbouring schools.
- (4) Although the kindergarten programs at several primary schools in the vicinity of West Midland are full, additional teaching time has been allocated to Guildford Primary School to allow them to offer kindergarten places to children on waiting lists. There are also vacancies in the kindergarten program at Midvale Primary School.

BLACKADDER CREEK CONTAMINATION

2767. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What was the extent of the contamination of Blackadder Creek after a sewer main burst at Midland Caravan Park?
- (2) Are there any concerns for children swimming or playing in the creek?
- (3) What actions are being taken to ensure such an event does not reoccur?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Bacteriological results taken on 6 November 1997 have indicated that the spill extended to approximately 350m downstream from the Midland Caravan Park. Most of the sewage was recovered by a suction tanker. Some of the affected areas were disinfected and the contaminated soil removed. No observed impact was seen in the creek about 500m downstream from the caravan park or in the river located about 2.5km away.
- (2) The creek is not easily accessible and it is not often used for recreation purposes. There was little flow in the creek at that time and the health officers from the Shire of Swan did not indicate any concern on the matter.
- (3) The Water Corporation repaired the fractured sewer line caused by a stormwater drain from the adjoining property eroding the soil supporting the sewer main. The Shire of Swan has directed the open drain to be piped into Blackadder Creek. This will prevent further soil erosion. The Water Corporation intends to relocate the sewer line further away from the creek sometime this year.

STATE DEBT - INCLUSION OF DAMPIER TO BUNBURY PIPELINE DEBT

2772. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the nett State debt as at 30 June 1996?
- (2) Does the nett State debt figure include moneys owed on the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline?
- (3) How much was owed on the pipeline as at 30 June 1996?
- (4) Does the Government expect the nett State debt to be reduced by the sale of the pipeline?
- (5) If so, by what amount?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) \$6 758 million as at 30 June 1996.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) \$950.9 million.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) This amount will not be known until the sale has been finalised.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - AIRCONDITIONING

2775. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to air condition primary schools?
- (2) What primary schools in the metropolitan area will be provided with air conditioning in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (3) Have plans been made to air condition the Anzac Terrace Primary School?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(5) In response to parent concerns earlier this year about children working on very hot days in schools without air-cooling, a review of the air-cooling policy has been undertaken. All schools will be advised of the outcome of this review after the recommendations have been considered.

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK - IMPACT OF ROAD

2778. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Minister received advice as to the potential impact of a road through the Fitzgerald River National Park?
- (2) If so, what advice has been received?
- (3) Has this advice been communicated to the Minister for Transport?
- (4) Has the Minister received a request for advice as to the impact of a road through the Fitzgerald River National Park from the Minister for Transport?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) No. However, I am well aware of the conservation significance of the Park.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) No. There is no formal proposal for a road through the Park.

BUCKLAND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL - BORE CONTAMINATION

2780. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Minister requested monitoring of the bore in the North West corner of the Buckland Hill Primary School due to concerns over mobility of cyanide complexes in the Minim Cove containment cell during the winter months and the subsequent possibility of contamination?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Has advice been provided to Buckland Hill Primary School on the potential for contamination of the bore in order to allay any concerns of parents and teachers?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Can the Minister give an assurance to the teachers and parents of Buckland Hill Primary School that mobility of cyanide complexes in the wettest months will not result in contamination of the school bore?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) LandCorp has already included the bore at Buckland Hill Primary School within their monitoring network.
- (3)-(4) No. Monitoring results to present has indicated that likely contaminants, including cyanide, are in most cases below detection and well within National Health and Medical Research Council Drinking Water Guidelines.

- (5) I am unaware of any approach from the staff or the student body from the Buckland Hill Primary School expressing concern and seeking assurances. I draw your attention to my response to questions (1) and (2) from Questions With Notice 2783 tabled this date. Monitoring to present indicates that there is no reduction in ground water quality, including cyanide, that could be attributable to site activities associated with the management of contaminated materials. Water quality in the bore will continue to be monitored. The risk of bore water presenting a health hazard to students and staff at the school is low given that its use is limited to irrigation. The Water Corporation recommends that no untreated water be used for domestic purposes.
- (6) Not applicable.

BUCKLAND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL - BORE CONTAMINATION

2781. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Health Department sought advice on the need for monitoring of the bore at the Buckland Hill Primary School due to the presence of mobile cyanide complexes in the Minim Cove containment cell?
- (2) If not why not?
- (3) If so, what advice was received
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the school is on a drainage contour from the Minim Cove containment cell?
- (5) Has the Health Department requested monitoring of the school bore?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Has the Health Department been in communication with Buckland Hill Primary School to provide information as to the potential for contamination of the bore?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Monitoring of the bore is being undertaken by LandCorp. This has shown that the bore water meets the very strict National Health and Medical Research Council Drinking Water Guidelines.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Health Department has been made aware that the school is adjacent to the flow of groundwater from the containment cell.
- (5) No.
- (6) LandCorp is monitoring the bore and results are being provided to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Education Department. These Departments seek the advice of the Health Department as and when necessary.
- (7) No.
- (8) The Education Department is being informed as to the status of the bore.

MINIM COVE - TESTING ON MOBILITY OF CYANIDE COMPLEXES

2783. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Further to the answers provided to question on notice 1171, has testing on the mobility of cyanide complexes been carried out during winter to determine a more complete range of values for cyanide complex mobility?
- (2) Why was testing on the mobility of cyanide complexes undertaken in one of the driest months when this would produce a result most likely to show low values of mobility?
- (3) What is the pH of the cell?
- (4) By what date is the cell cap expected to be in place?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) Column leach tests to determine the mobility of cyanide complexes from soils taken from the McCabe St site were undertaken in controlled laboratory conditions. There is no recognised method for conducting these tests in-situ. Accordingly the matter of the season of the testing is irrelevant.
- (3) Water samples for the determination of pH have not been taken from the cell. If sampling was undertaken and in the case that soil moisture was detected, I am advised that the pH will be dependant on the type of material from which the sample was taken. Samples collected from pyritic wastes would likely have a higher pH than those derived either from limestone or calcium carbonate layers within the cell. Monitoring of groundwater at bores established to determine the performance of the containment cell has been undertaken. Results show that there is no significant acid leachate reaching groundwater.
- (4) I am advised that the cell cap will be installed as soon as practicable, and certainly prior to next winter.

PLANT EXTRACT LIBRARY - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

2789. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) How many expressions of interest in access to the plant extract library has the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) received from commercial enterprises?
- (2) How many respondents have been shortlisted against the selection criteria?
- (3) Does this number of suitable respondents mean that direct negotiations will be conducted?
- (4) Without naming the respondents or their extracts of interest, what was the minimum price offered from each of the shortlisted respondents?
- (5) How many of these expressions of interest have indicated a desire to establish a screening or pharmacological facility in Western Australia?
- (6) How many expressions of interest have been received requesting the screening of samples from the extract library?
- (7) Where will this screening be carried out?
- (8) How many expressions of interest have been received relating to commissioning the collection and processing of further extracts?
- (9) How many expressions of interest have been received indicating a desire to establish a centre to collect, inventory and screen the microflora of Western Australia?
- (10) How many expressions of interest have requested the exclusive rights to flora?
- (11) What conditions would be attached to the granting of exclusive rights?
- (12) What is the range of royalty shares being offered by respondents where no further screening or development is required?
- (13) What is the range of royalty shares being offered by respondents where further screening is required?
- (14) Will a tender be awarded for specific plant extracts or for areas of pharmacological interest?
- (15) Does the awarding of a tender for a specific plant extract subsequently exclude the awarding of tenders for the same plant extract by other interested parties looking at different areas of pharmacological interest?
- (16) Is the data contained in the plant extract library available to non-profit research and community organizations?
- (17) If not, why not?
- (18) If so, under what conditions can the library be accessed?
- (19) What steps have been taken to ensure that pharmaceutical companies do not obtain genetic material from Northern Hemisphere botanical gardens for commercial gain instead of accessing the plant extract library?
- (20) Does the plant extract library contain references to use of our native plants by Indigenous people?
- (21) If not, why not?

- (22) Has the compilation of data in the plant extract library been influenced by the historical use of Western Australian plants by Indigenous people?
- (23) What steps have been taken to acknowledge Indigenous intellectual property rights in relation to the use of native plants?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Eleven.
- (2)-(15) The expressions of interest received are still being considered and discussions are being held with some respondents. As with all calls for expressions of interest, this is a confidential process. The outcome will be announced at the conclusion of the process.
- (16)-(18) The plant extract library is a collection of freeze-dried chemical extracts stored in labelled glass containers. The labels identify the plant species from which the contents were extracted, as well as the date the plant material was collected and the location of the collection. The samples have not been analysed. A voucher specimen of each is stored in the CALM Herbarium where they have added significantly to existing knowledge on variation, distribution, habit requirements and flowering time. Bona fide researchers and community groups can access this information.
- (19) Plant material has been collected from Western Australia since 1699 and grown in botanical and private gardens around the world since the early 1800s. It is not possible to control pharmaceutical companies' access to this material.
- (20) No.
- (21) Bioprospecting relies on the scientific identification of plant samples in order to obtain further quantities of promising samples and to patent any valuable discoveries. Knowledge about Indigenous people's use of native plants does not usually include the plants' scientific names, so it is very difficult to collect exactly the same species used by Aboriginal people. The absence of scientific identification also means it is not possible to link traditional knowledge with taxonomic data held by the Herbarium.
- (22) No.
- (23) Western Australia is a signatory to the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, which acknowledges Indigenous biological knowledge. CALM is currently assessing its role in implementing the strategy, for example it is addressing the problem of linking scientific names of native plants to Aboriginal names and uses.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT - DEFINITION OF "KEY STAKEHOLDERS"

2790. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) By what definition are organisations determined to be key stakeholders in the July 1997 Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) Newsletter list of key stakeholders?
- (2) Why has the Conservation Council not been included?
- (3) Why have the Friends Of Jane been included in the list of key stakeholders in Newsletter 2, July 1997, of the Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) when they have written to the RFA Steering Committee on 21 November 1996 expressly stating that they would not take part in the RFA process?
- (4) What were the reasons given by the Friends Of Jane to not take part in the RFA process?
- (5) Why has the Denmark Environment Society been listed as a key stakeholder when no such organisation exists?
- (6) Why have the Friends of Giblett been included in this list of key stakeholders in the RFA process?
- (7) Why have the Balingup Friends of the Forest been included in the list of key stakeholders in the RFA process?
- (8) How many of the conservation groups listed as key stakeholders in the July 1997 RFA Newsletter 2 have since requested they be withdrawn from the RFA process?
- (9) Which groups have requested their withdrawal?

- (10) What were the reasons given by each group for their withdrawal?
- (11) Why is the RFA process failing to gain the support of a significant number of conservation organisations?
- (12) Does the Minister agree that without the participation of the majority of conservation groups listed as key stakeholders in the July 1997 Newsletter 2 the process is not inclusive?
- (13) If not, why not?
- (14) Why have the Friends of Jane been included in the RFA Key stakeholders Mailing list, last updated on 29 October 1997, when written advice has been sent to the RFA Steering Committee on 21 November 1996 and 19 September 1997 expressly requesting their withdrawal from the RFA process?
- (15) Why has the WA Forest Alliance been included in the RFA key stakeholders mailing list, last updated on 29 October 1997?
- (16) Has the WA Forest Alliance requested, either verbally or in writing that they be withdrawn from any involvement in the RFA process?
- (17) When did they make this request?
- (18) What reasons were given for withdrawing from the RFA process?
- (19) Does the Minister concede that conservation groups are being misrepresented by their inclusion as stakeholders in the RFA process when they have expressly requested their withdrawal from the process?
- (20) If not, why not?
- (21) Has the Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement Newsletter published an updated list of key stakeholders since the July 1997 issue?
- (22) If so, which conservation groups have been included in this list?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) A list of key stakeholders was drawn up by the State and Commonwealth governments soon after the RFA process commenced in July 1996. The list was compiled from submitters to the 1992 Draft Forest Management Plan, the 1995 Deferred Forest Assessment and submissions to forest inquiries. The list, published in the July 1997 RFA Newsletter, is very different to the original list. Many groups were added and some groups deleted. Any group which nominated itself as a key stakeholder group was accepted.
- (2) The Conservation Council made it known to the governments on many occasions before July 1997 that they did not wish to be considered a participant in the RFA process.
- (3) The Western Australian Government has no record of the letter sent by the Friends of Jane to the RFA Steering Committee on 21 November 1996.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The Denmark Environment Society is the name of a group which may have existed at one time. The contact person for this group was Mr Alex Syme, RMB 1020, Denmark 6333. RFA material was sent to this address in 1996 and 1997 and never returned. Mr Syme did not contact either the State or Commonwealth government to advise that this group no longer exists. In October 1997 when CALM telephoned Mr Syme to provide information about a Stakeholder Reference Group meeting, Mr Syme requested that the group be crossed off the key stakeholder list.
- (6) See (1). Dale Foord, a Committee member of the Friends of Giblett, registered interest in the RFA in September 1996 by completing details on a RFA brochure. The group has not indicated to the governments that they wish to be removed from the Stakeholder list.
- (7) See (1).
- (8) Five.
- (9) Augusta Margaret River Friends of the Forest
Denmark Environment Society (Mr Alex Syme)
Friends of Jane
Leeuwin Conservation Group
South Coast Environment Group

- (10) Reasons given included:
- * a suggestion that the RFA outcomes were predetermined;
 - * representation on the Steering Committee;
 - * the accreditation of stream and road zones in the reserve system;
 - * deferral of additional areas of forest from logging.
- (11) This question should be directed to the conservation organisations themselves. It may be that many conservation groups do not accept the National Forest Policy which was signed by all State and Territories and the Commonwealth in 1992 and which sets national goals and objectives for forest management. This is the policy upon which the Regional Forest Agreements are based.
- (12) No.
- (13) The Key Stakeholders Reference Group includes over 60 groups, including several conservation groups.
- (14) Mr John Taylor, who was the official contact person for the Friends of Jane, wrote to CALM in September 1997 requesting that the group be removed from the Stakeholder list. This was done immediately. Another person, Ms Wendy Goodall, was also listed as representing Friends of Jane. Ms Goodall's name was not removed immediately but has subsequently been removed from the list.
- (15) See (1).
- (16) The Western Australian Government has not received such a request.
- (17)-(18) Not applicable.
- (19) No.
- (20) All requests by groups wishing to withdraw from the process have been dealt with expeditiously. It should be noted that most of the requests for withdrawal from the process followed an explanation by the WA RFA Manager, Mr Alan Walker, to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development on 27 August 1997 as to how the Stakeholder Reference Group list was developed and maintained.
- (21) No.
- (22) Not applicable.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT - WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

2791. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How many workshops and seminars on the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process have been held outside the metropolitan area?
- (2) When were these workshops and seminars held?
- (3) Which conservation groups were represented at each of these workshops and seminars?
- (4) Has there been communication with the conservation groups who attended the workshops and seminars regarding the RFA process since the workshops and seminars were held?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) If so, with which of these conservation groups has communication on the RFA process continued since their participation in the workshops and seminars?
- (7) What was the cost involved in holding each of the workshops and seminars?
- (8) What professional qualifications are held by those people who have undertaken the workshops and seminars?
- (9) What correspondence has been sent to the Denmark Shire Council in relation to the RFA process?
- (10) When was this correspondence sent?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) 22.

- (2) 9 August 1996 Manjimup
 3 June 1997 Collie, Denmark
 4 June 1997 Manjimup, Margaret River
 5 June 1997 Pinjarra, Mundaring
 6 October 1997 Busselton, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 7 October 1997 Pinjarra, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 8 October 1997 Northam, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 9 October 1997 Narrogin, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 10 October 1997 Mt Barker, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 11 October 1997 Collie, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 13 October 1997 Manjimup, Aboriginal Consultative Workshop
 14 October 1997 Mundaring, Community Heritage Workshop
 15 October 1997 Nannup, Community Heritage Workshop
 16 October 1997 Collie, Community Heritage Workshop
 20 October 1997 Denmark, Community Heritage Workshop
 21 October 1997 Pemberton, Community Heritage Workshop
 22 October 1997 Manjimup, Community Heritage Workshop
 23 October 1997 Dwellingup, Community Heritage Workshop
 25 October 1997 Margaret River, Community Heritage Workshop
- (3) Attendance and representation at these workshops was not recorded in all cases. Attendance at the Community Heritage Workshops will be listed in a report of the workshops, due to be published in December.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Warren Environment Group
 Quinup Community Association
 Busselton Naturalists Club
 Walpole Nornalup National Park Association
- Representatives of other conservation groups who attended Community Heritage Workshops may have communicated with heritage consultants following the workshops, but details are not known.
- (7) 9 August 1996 \$550
 3-5 June 1997 \$800
- Community Heritage Workshops and Aboriginal Consultative Workshops were facilitated by consultants who were contracted directly to the Commonwealth Government.
- (8) Diplomas, Bachelors degrees, Honours degrees, Masters degrees, Doctor of Philosophy degrees in various disciplines. The consultancy team for the Aboriginal Workshops was headed by Professor Alan Black of the Centre for Social Research at Edith Cowan University. The consultancy team for the Community Heritage Workshops was headed by Ms Deborah Pearson of the Training and Development Group.
- (9) Materials sent out to members of the Stakeholder Reference Group were sent to the Shire of Denmark on 11 occasions. Two letters were sent to Council.
- (10) Stakeholder Reference Group information:
- 13 September 1996
 1 November 1996
 21 April 1997
 26 May 1997
 16 June 1997
 29 July 1997
 16 September 1997
 18 September 1997
 6 October 1997
 20 October 1997
 6 November 1997
- Letters:
 6 October 1997 Letter from Executive Director of CALM
 19 October 1997 Letter from Minister for the Environment

READING RECOVERY PROGRAM - REPORT BY MR BRUCE SHORTLAND-JONES

2793. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Education:

With respect to the report on the reading recovery program compiled by Bruce Shortland-Jones and commissioned by the Education Department -

- (a) what were the report's terms of reference;
- (b) when was the report completed;
- (c) what was the cost of the report;
- (d) will the Minister table a copy of the report;
- (e) if not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) The terms of reference were to:
 - review the implementation of *Reading Recovery* in other states.
 - make recommendations to the Education Department regarding the implementation of the *Reading Recovery* program.
- (b) The report has yet to be submitted for endorsement to the Education Department Senior Executive.
- (c) Dr Shortland Jones has not yet submitted an account for his work, however, the estimated cost for the report is less than \$1 000.
- (d) A copy of the report will be tabled once it is available.
- (e) Not applicable.

MINIM COVE - TESTING ON TOM PERROT RESERVE

2794. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1171 of 1997 and the testing conducted on wastes near, or on, the Tom Perrot Reserve were the tests repeated in winter?
- (2) If yes, when and what were the results?
- (3) If no, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Sampling of ground water under Tom Perrot Reserve was repeated after the initial testing, although not specifically in the winter months. It was considered that the critical time to test was after the winter rain.
- (2) Sampling was undertaken on the following dates with the following results for total cyanide:

29 January 1996	0.48 milligram	per litre
20 May 1996	0.30 milligram	per litre
17 September 1996	0.41 milligram	per litre
20 March 1997	0.90 milligram	per litre
25 September 1997	2.4 milligram	per litre
- (3) Not applicable.

NORTH WEST RIVERS - REPORT

2796. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Who is compiling the report on the state of the North West Rivers?
- (2) When will it be released?
- (3) Who is overseeing this project?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Allocation Branch of the Water and Rivers Commission.
- (2) January 1998.
- (3) Director Policy and Planning of the Water and Rivers Commission.

MINIM COVE - CLEAN-UP OF TOXINS

2801. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the estimated amount of -

- (a) lead;
- (b) mercury;
- (c) arsenic;
- (d) cyanide;
- (e) cadmium;
- (f) ferrous iron;
- (g) ferric iron,

in -

- (i) the containment cell;
- (ii) stored on site,

at Minim Cove, Mosman Park?

- (2) What statistical advice has been sought and given to ensure 100 per cent cleanup of toxins on land potentially for purchase?
- (3) Will the Minister table the source and detail of those reports?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The calculation of the mass of the specified metallic, non-metallic and inorganic elements and compounds identified has not been undertaken. The Department of Environmental Protection has advised that this is not necessary as following completion of the cell, there is no pathway by which these materials may enter the environment, and averaged over the site, the mass amounts of contaminants indicated become meaningless. Accordingly the clean-up criteria follows accepted protocols in its determination on the basis of the concentration of the element or compound remaining on site.
- (2) Verification testing at the McCabe St site is an exacting requirement that must demonstrate 100% compliance of clean-up criteria for samples taken at 12.5 m grid spacing across the site. A further visual inspection is undertaken by Department of Environmental Protection officers, prior to the placement of a minimum of 1.0 m of clean fill. Accordingly no statistical treatment of interpretation of the results is necessary.
- (3) Validation reports comprising a diagrammatic representation of the subject land and relevant analytical results are held in Department of Environmental Protection files. I would be happy for the member to view this material should she wish to do so.

EAST MAYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL - ASBESTOS IN ROOF

2803. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What type(s) of asbestos have been detected in the roof at the East Maylands Primary School?
- (2) When will this roof be replaced?
- (3) Why has replacement been delayed?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Chrysotile and Amosite.
- (2) Within the next five years.
- (3) The replacement of the asbestos-cement roofs has not been delayed. This Government has increased the budget from \$1 million to \$5 million each year for the next five years in order to accelerate the replacement of asbestos-cement and other roofs.

WUNNGAGATU PATROL - FUNDING

2805. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) I refer to the Wunngagatu patrol and ask, is Minister aware that the patrol is without funds?
- (2) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that the service continues?
- (3) What police hours are currently spent driving for or staffing the patrol?
- (4) Has the patrol been responsible for a reduction in crime and, if so, what are the types of crime that have been affected?

- (5) Has the Minister made representations to any other Government agency for funding?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The patrol has funding of \$36,000, through the Aboriginal Affairs Department, for operations in 1997/98. It should be noted that the continued Government funding for the operation of this and other similar patrols around the state is predicated on 'top-up' financial support from Local Government and local business.
- (2) The Aboriginal Affairs Department, as the host agency, will soon be reviewing the operations of all Aboriginal patrols throughout the state, with particular regard to their funding requirements.
- (3) The Wunngagatu Patrol is staffed by a police sergeant, two police constables and two civilian Aboriginal males. The Police Officers of the Patrol operate outside of police working hours and on an unpaid basis. At present the sergeant works 10 hours and the two constables 4 hours each per week. In addition there is a management committee which comprises a police sergeant, his wife and two others. This committee operates on a voluntary basis also.
- (4) While there exists no statistical evidence to demonstrate that the patrol has assisted in the reduction of criminal activity in the City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder, anecdotal evidence suggests that the removal of intoxicated persons from public places is a contributing factor in minimising the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly that which is associated with intoxication.
- (5) Not applicable.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - RESTRUCTURING

2806. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the restructure of the Department of Family and Children's Services and ask, when will it be announced?
- (2) What will its main effects be?
- (3) Will any staff lose their employment?
- (4) Will there be any changes to the number of staff in regional offices and, if so, which regional offices will be affected?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the Social Workers of Australia Association has sought details of the restructure, and will you respond to that request?
- (6) If so, when?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The broad structure was announced to all staff in June, 1997 followed by the detailed structure in October 1997.
- (2) Increased flexibility in the use of resources to respond to the diverse clients of the department, increased capacity in service delivery through the redirection of resources and streamlined management and administration.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes. North Country (Port Hedland), South Country (Bunbury), Metropolitan (Fremantle).
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The Premier has recently written to the Australian Association of Social Workers.
- (7) Not applicable.

PARKERVILLE AMPHITHEATRE CAR PARK - FORFEITURE OF LEASE

2808. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Further to question on notice 2739 of 1997, did the Minister receive a letter from Mr Jones immediately subsequent to the forfeiture and following publication in *The Hills Gazette* of the licence proposal of which

at the time Mr Jones had received no advice, in which letter Mr Jones strongly requested that the licence proposal be set aside until the appeal which he intended to lodge was heard and decided?

- (2) If the Minister did receive such advice from Mr Jones why did the Minister continue to persuade Mr Jones to negotiate for a licence and yet not inform Mr Jones that he (the Minister) had made a deal with the Shire of Mundaring?
- (3) Did the Minister have knowledge of the intended visit to the Parkerville Amphitheatre of Mr Kevin Skipton, Personal Secretary to the Governor, to be joined on site by Mr Christopher Williams, Director of Land Operations, Department of Land Administration (DOLA), and Mr Max William, CEO Shire of Mundaring?
- (4) If so, did the Minister instruct DOLA that Mr Jones had an appeal currently before the Governor awaiting the Governor's pleasure, who had also been informed by Mr Jones that he would not consider a licence proposal until the Governor's decision on his Special Appeal for re-instatement of his lease had been handed down because such consideration would be pre-emptive of the due process of appeal?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Was the Minister aware that the intention of the Shire of Mundaring to resume the Special Lease 3116/10644 was not proceeded with following a valuation made by Mr Michael Chartres, Licensed Valuer, and that advice was given by DOLA officers to the Shire that the Shire should not proceed with a resumption order?
- (7) If so, why did the Minister not inform Mr Jones of the reasons for the cessation of the resumption process or of the valuation given by Mr Michael Chartres and of the rationale used to arrive at that valuation?
- (8) Will the Minister now provide the House with the valuation made and the rationale used by Mr Michael Chartres, together with the reasons given by DOLA officers for their advice to the Shire to discontinue resumption?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(2) No and the following information is provided to qualify my answer. The former Minister for Lands hon George Cash, MLC received a letter from Mr Jones' solicitor immediately after notification to Mr Jones of forfeiture. There was no mention of an appeal but a request for a meeting between all parties in order to reach a resolution. This was agreed to. An article was published by the Hills Gazette on 30 July 1995, but this related to the Department of Land Administration's request to the Shire of Mundaring for confirmation that the Shire would allow Mr Jones access to the land for Amphitheatre parking purposes. The agreement for a management plan (in the form of a licence) was first suggested at the post forfeiture meeting held on 31 August 1995 as a means to ensure the Shire honoured this commitment, as I indicated in my reply to Question 2739(2). There was no deal with the Shire of Mundaring and the Shire was not involved in making this decision. Mr Jones advised the former Minister on 4 September 1995 that he agreed to negotiate a management plan (licence) with the Shire of Mundaring. He further advised on 17 September 1995 to note that his agreement to participate in discussions did not waive any right of appeal he may have.

On 15 November 1995, Mr Jones advised the former Minister that he had appealed to the Governor seeking special leave to lodge a formal appeal to the Governor, and requested that no action be taken to vest the former lease in the Shire of Mundaring until his request had been determined. The former Minister agreed to his request by letter on 5 December 1995. On 10 December 1995 the Hills Gazette published an article detailing the proposal to issue Mr Jones with a "licence".

The Shire of Mundaring forwarded a copy of a proposed licence to the Department of Land Administration on 11 December 1995 for the Ministers endorsement and advised that the Council considered the licence represented an appropriate mechanism for Mr Jones to continue with his activities.

Mr Jones wrote to the former Minister on 14 December 1995 concerning the contents of the article in the Hills Gazette. The Minister responded advising that the Department of Land Administration had given an undertaking to Mr Jones that it would liaise with the Shire in an effort to broker an amicable solution. However, it was stressed that the Minister would not endorse any licence until Mr Jones' appeal to the Governor was finalised and he had the opportunity to negotiate the details of the proposed licence with the Shire.

The Department of Land Administration responded to the Shire on 5 January 1996 advising that the former Minister had agreed not to endorse the licence until Mr Jones' appeal was determined, and Mr Jones was

given the opportunity to negotiate or provide comment in regard to the contents of the proposed licence. Mr Jones was advised on 7 February 1996 by the Governor's Official Secretary that his appeal to lodge a formal appeal to the Governor was granted. He subsequently lodged a formal appeal on 6 March 1996.

The Acting Minister for Lands, the Hon Paul Omodei, MLA informed Mr Jones on 31 July 1996 that the Governor had dismissed his appeal. At the same Mr Jones was again advised Ministerial endorsement of the licence agreement would not occur, until such time as he had been given a fair and reasonable opportunity to discuss the contents of the document with the Shire.

- (3) Yes and the purpose of this on site visit was at the request of the Governor as part of his investigations into Mr Jones' appeal.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes, however it should be noted that the resumption process is undertaken by the Department of Land Administration and not the local authority. In this instance it was determined by the Department that this action was not necessary as the lease was in a forfeitable condition.
- (7) This was not necessary as the lease was in a forfeitable condition and forfeit action was taken.
- (8) This information should be sought from the Shire of Mundaring as Mr Michael Chartres was commissioned by the Shire to provide this report. The Department of Land Administration made the decision that there was no need to pursue resumption action as the lease was in a forfeitable condition.

DRUG STRATEGY - BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE

2811. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the undated media release sent to me by the Minister with respect to the Western Australian Drug Strategy and ask -
 - (a) what are the six country regions set to benefit from the new initiatives;
 - (b) what is the breakdown of the \$2.3 million spending referred to;
 - (c) what amounts did it cost to run the Alcohol and Drug Authority offices already in existence in each of those places;
 - (d) how will the Community Drug Service teams help coordinate service delivery from Government and private sector groups;
 - (e) what local community action is occurring in each such region to prevent alcohol and drug abuse that will be supported by the Team;
 - (f) what amounts will each of the three full time workers be paid;
 - (g) what expertise does Centrecare have in the provision of services relating to alcohol and drugs in the Goldfields;
 - (h) what rank will the member of the new team to be deployed full time in Kalgoorlie-Boulder be;
 - (i) what rank will the other two persons sharing their time across other districts be;
 - (j) which districts is the Minister referring to;
 - (k) what steps are being taken to ensure that the existing Alcohol and Drug Authority worker will be employed by the new service?
- (2) What is the membership of the Kalgoorlie Drug Action Group?
- (3) Is the Minister referring to the Goldfields Drug Action Group?
- (4) Did the Goldfields Drug Action Group existed long before the Minister's appointment as Minister responsible for WA Drug Strategy and any announcements you may have made since that time?
- (5) If so, why does the Minister's claim credit for that group?

- (6) What number of "mums and dads" make up the local action group in Kalgoorlie-Boulder?
- (7) I refer to the article in *The West Australian* dated 7 November 1997 where the Minister states that country resources will treble and city resources will double and ask what is the rationale for this claim?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) (a) The six country regions are: Great Southern, South West, Goldfields, Gascoyne/Murchison, Pilbara and Kimberley.
- (b) Four metropolitan teams (\$272,000 each) - \$1,088,000
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Great Southern | \$162,000 |
| South West | \$157,000 |
| Goldfields | \$183,000 |
| Gascoyne/Murchison | \$193,000 |
| Pilbara | \$238,750 |
| Kimberley | \$238,750 |
- (c) In the metropolitan regions, the Community Drug Services Teams comprising 24 staff replace 12 Alcohol and Drug Authority staff, which cost approximately \$616,000. In the country regions, each Community Drug Service Team comprising 3 staff replaces a single Alcohol and Drug Authority staff member, which based on Alcohol and Drug Authority estimates cost approximately as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Great Southern | \$56,000 |
| South West | \$55,000 |
| Goldfields | \$45,000 |
| Gascoyne/Murchison | \$58,000 |
| Pilbara | \$67,000 |
| Kimberley | \$71,000 |
- The Alcohol and Drug Authority in each region has also had an Aboriginal community development worker. These positions are being transferred to the Office of Aboriginal Health but maintained in the region.
- (d) The WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse Action Plan 1997/99, Together Against Drugs, anticipated with respect to regional co-ordination that - "co-ordination at the local level will be achieved through bodies including senior regional representatives or Police, Health, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Family and Children's Services and Justice, integrated where appropriate with existing structures such as Alcohol and Drug Committees or District Crime Prevention/Community Policing Committees". The essential steps for Community Drug Service Teams to assist in regional co-ordination will be for these regional committees to:
- include a representative of the Community Drug Service Team as a member;
place alcohol and drugs as a permanent item on their agendas; and
for the Community Drug Service Team to assist the committees to develop and implement regional alcohol and drug plans.
- (e) Local Drug Actions Groups are being formed throughout the State. 28 are currently established and a further 7 are currently in development. Local Drug Action Groups undertake a variety of projects such as developing activities for youth, establishing self-help support groups for parents, working with local businesses to reduce the supply of cigarettes, alcohol and solvents to young people, working with schools and promoting public education programmes. These Local Drug Action Groups are a primary avenue for community action and their establishment and continuing work will be supported by the Community Drug Service Teams.
- (f) The budgets for the Community Drug Service Teams are based on indicative costings that included salaries based on the Social and Communities Services Award. The actual salaries will be at the discretion of the employers and will vary according to the position and seniority of the staff.
- (g) Centrecare provide a range of counselling and family support services which includes dealing with clients who also have alcohol and drug problems. The skills and experience of management and staff include expertise in alcohol and drug issues due to both their current work and previous experience. Centrecare also provide related services such as an employment assistance programme, counselling for the Ministry of Justice, and a gambling programme.

- (h)-(i) The specific "rank" of the members of the Community Drug Service Team will be determined by the employer and be dependant upon their qualifications and experience.
 - (j) The Goldfields covers the same region as is currently being serviced by the Alcohol and Drug Authority stretching north to Leonora, east to Eucla and south to Esperance. Some discussions are continuing between the various regional providers to ensure that the boundaries between the teams are optimal.
 - (k) All successful tenderers for Community Drug Service Teams are committed to offering former employees of the Alcohol and Drug Authority positions with the new Teams.
- (2)-(3) The Goldfield's Drug Action Group membership is predominantly comprised of professionals and representatives of service providing agencies including a local general practitioner who is the Chairperson and, I am advised it also includes the Member for Kalgoorlie.
- (4) The Goldfield's Drug Action Group has been established for some years. I understand that the member for Kalgoorlie wrote to the Local Drug Action Group Secretariat at the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office in August of this year pointing out that the Goldfields group had been omitted in a publication referring to Local Drug Action Groups. Subsequently, the Goldfields group has been formally invited to join the Local Drug Action Group network and has been included when reference is made to those areas which have a Drug Action Group. It is not yet included in the figure of 28 groups indicated earlier given that its decision to join the statewide network is pending.
- (5) This is, therefore, a case of giving credit where credit has been requested.
- (6) The Goldfields Drug Action Group does not have a broad representation from the general community or "mums and dads". A major advantage of the group joining the statewide Local Drug Action Group network would be the support of service clubs and the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office to bring in and support a membership beyond professional workers in the area.
- (7) As indicated in previous answers, metropolitan Community Drug Service Teams replace 12 Alcohol and Drug Authority positions with 24 positions, and country Community Drug Service Teams each replace a single Alcohol and Drug Authority position with 3 positions.

SCHOOLS - PRIORITY LISTS FOR MAINTENANCE

2812. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Education Department maintain priority lists or other similar documents ranking schools in order of their needs for various forms of maintenance or upgrading?
- (2) If not, how does the department determine which schools to upgrade or refurbish each year?
- (3) If yes, will the Minister table these documents?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The building condition report on all schools is completed annually listing the preventive maintenance requirements of each school.
- (2) Preventive maintenance priorities for schools are decided at the district level, usually by committees of principals.
- (3)-(4) The list is made up of estimates of costs and matched to existing funds and as such the list is dynamic. Additionally, urgent and unforeseen matters arise during the year and these schools must be included. Due to possible changes to the maintenance priorities list at each district even within a financial year, it would not be appropriate to table this information.

SCHOOLS - SALE OF ASSETS

2813. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

Of all the schools which have sold assets to pay for refurbishment or upgrades since February 1993 how many have been -

- (a) priority or disadvantaged schools;
- (b) schools not in receipt of priority schools assistance?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Education Department records indicate that between 1993 and 1997, the number of schools classified as "priority schools" that sold assets for reason of refurbishment or upgrade is as follows:

1993	3 schools.
1994	1 school.
1995	1 school.
1996	1 school.
1997	Nil.

- (b) The number of schools not classified as priority that sold assets for reason of refurbishment or upgrade is as follows:

1993	2 schools.
1994	1 school.
1995	Nil.
1996	3 schools.
1997	6 schools.

The above sites do not include "former school sites" sold by the Education Department.

SCHOOLS - MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADING PROGRAM

2814. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Which Government schools does the Government plan to significantly upgrade or refurbish in -

- (a) 1998;
- (b) 1999;
- (c) 2000;
- (d) 2001?

- (2) In each case what is the nature and projected cost of the work proposed?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The announcement of schools to be included in future capital works programs for upgrades and refurbishment occurs within the context of release of the State Budget. Information is not available ahead of this announcement.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - DISTRICT AND HEAD OFFICE EXPENDITURE

2816. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

With reference to the Minister's answers to questions on notice 2634 of 1997 and 2635 of 1997 what is the total budget allocation for expenditure on Education Department district office staff and activities and Education Department head office staff and activities in 1997-1998?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The budget allocations for Education Department district and central offices are in the process of being adjusted to reflect the movement of responsibilities from head office to districts. The budget allocations will be available when this task is completed.

CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT - DECREASE IN NUMBER OF REPORTS

2817. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 2087 of 1997, can the Minister explain the decrease in the number of reports of child sexual assault between 1992-93 and 1996-97?

Mr DAY replied:

A combination of factors can account for the decrease in reported offences between 1994 and 1996. These include public educations programs, awareness campaigns and media attention highlighting child abuse in the community and a strong working relationship between the Police Child Abuse Unit and child interest groups.

CONFERENCE ON ROAD TOLL - REGISTRATION FEES

2818. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

- (1) I refer to the public forum sponsored by the Government to reduce Western Australia's road toll and the booklet in which the Premier provides a message and ask, is the Premier aware that registration fees for the conference, which is to be held at the Hyatt, run to \$120?
- (2) Could such a fee be a barrier to many people who would otherwise wish to attend such an important conference?
- (3) Will the Premier instruct the Ministers and departments to take registration costs into account for future Government sponsored conferences, and choose less expensive venues which might ensure that fees are commensurately lower?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Costs have been subsidised by sponsorship and kept to a minimum. I appreciate that cost will always prevent some people from attending such conferences; however, the cost compares very favourably with high profile conferences of a similar standard for which registration is frequently over \$1 000.
- (3) Registration costs are always considered by Government departments. In this instance, the choice of venue was determined mainly by the need for a facility which could accommodate 15 concurrent sessions providing a wide range of subject choice for delegates. In any event, for this worthwhile conference of great community significance, the Hyatt Regency has waived charges for the hire of all venues.

ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - REPORT
ON MUSIC EDUCATION

2819. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a report been submitted in respect to music education at the Academy for Performing Arts and the University of Western Australia?
- (2) If so, has the report been made public?
- (3) Will the Minister table a copy for the information of members?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No, however a Tertiary Music Education Working Group is meeting with a view to reporting by about March of next year.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES REGISTER - RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS

2820. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

Further to Part (d) of the answer to question on notice 2004 of 1997 -

- (a) why are there no formalised reciprocal arrangements between Family and Children's Services and non-government agencies in respect to the child protection services register;
- (b) what, if any, informal arrangements are in place; and
- (c) how do relevant non-government and government agencies exchange important information about children who have been assaulted or maltreated, and the services provided to them by non-government organisations?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (a) The Child Protection Services Register provides an 'across government' mechanism to coordinate services to children who have been maltreated. The Register records details relating to substantiated child maltreatment provided by participating government agencies and departments.

- (b) None.
- (c) Information cannot be exchanged between the Child Protection Services Register and non-government agencies. Separate to the Register, procedures have been developed for selected non-government providers to assist them in providing information to Family and Children's Services about Child Maltreatment concerns. Procedures are being negotiated with all non-Education Department schools and the Children, Youth and Family Agency Association (representing the residential child care facilities). Reciprocal Child Protection Procedures exist between Family and Children's Services, Education Department of WA, Ministry of Justice, Health Department of WA, King Edward Memorial Hospital/Princess Margaret Hospital, Alcohol and Drug Authority, Disability Services Commission, Western Australia Police Service and the Coroner's Office, which facilitate the exchange of information relating to child maltreatment including allegations and services provided. Case conferences and case reviews involve government and non-government agencies in reviewing services provision to children who have been maltreated or at risk of maltreatment.

CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE - NUMBER

2821. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

Further to the answer to question on notice 1996 of 1997, are the children identified in paragraph (a) included in the figures set out in paragraph (c)?

Mrs PARKER replied:

Yes.

CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE - CARER PER CHILD RATIO

2822. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

In each of the last five years, what was the carer per child ratio for children placed in care?

Mrs PARKER replied:

In formulating the response to this question only those children placed by the department in departmental foster care are included, and only those departmentally registered foster carers who had an active placement at some time during the year are included. The number of children represents the number who have had a placement at any time during the whole of the year and is not a count of children in care as at a specific date. Therefore during 1996/97 there were: 717 registered departmental foster carers who had an active placement during the year and 1180 children in care at some time during the year providing a ratio of 1.64 children per carer during 1996/97. During 1995/96 there were: 699 registered departmental foster carers who had an active placement during the year and 1194 children in care at some time during the year providing a ratio of 1.7 children per carer during 1995/96. During 1994/95 there were: 762 registered departmental foster carers who had an active placement during the year and 1220 children in care at some time during the year providing a ratio of 1.6 children per carer during 1994/95. The data available for the 1993/94 and 1992/93 is not comparable with data from the above years due to changes in the department's electronic recording system which was introduced at the time.

CHILD ABUSE UNIT - REFERRAL OF CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS

2823. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

What, if any, protocols exist between the child abuse unit and the general police force for referring allegations of child sexual assault to the child abuse unit?

Mr DAY replied:

All officers of the Western Australia Police Service must adhere to the Commissioner's Orders and Procedures in relation to the reporting of child abuse matters. These procedures specify that all members must treat information as confidential. In the metropolitan area, information received is referred to the Child Abuse Unit for investigation. In country areas, information received is referred to the Detectives in the locality where the child resides.

CHILD ABUSE UNIT - PRIORITISATION GUIDELINES FOR CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS

2824. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

Further to Part (e) of the answer to question on notice 1767 of 1997, are the prioritisation guidelines only applicable

to the child abuse unit, or are they applied equally by the general police force when dealing with allegations of child sexual assault?

Mr DAY replied:

In the metropolitan area, the Police Service Child Abuse Unit is responsible for all intra-familial investigations and prioritisation guidelines are applicable. In country areas these guidelines do not apply, however, investigations into child abuse are conducted on a priority basis.

POLICE OFFICERS - TRAINING FOR CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS

2825. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

Further to your answer to question on notice 2087 of 1997 -

- (a) What, if any, special training do general police officers, not attached to the child abuse unit, receive to assist them in dealing properly with reports of child sexual assault;
- (b) how many police officers currently working in stations where they may be required to deal with reports of child sexual abuse have been attached or seconded to the police child abuse unit at some time?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Part of recruit training for all police personnel encompasses basic principles of law in relation to child abuse matters. A presentation by Child Abuse Unit Officers is part of recruit training. Specific training courses are regularly conducted for selected police officers in relation to dealing with children as victims of abuse, and to ensure correct procedures are adhered to. These courses are ongoing and include officers from country and metropolitan areas. All police officers may apply for a Detective Training course where more comprehensive training is conducted.
- (b) 135 personnel have been identified as having been attached to the Child Abuse Unit since its inception in 1984.

SCHOOLS - PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION TIME ALLOCATION

2826. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the minimum weekly time allocation for -
 - (a) physical education and
 - (b) health education,
 in each year of primary and secondary school under the new Education Department curriculum?
- (2) How do these time allocations compare to those allocated under the previous curriculum?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There is no policy describing weekly time allocation for physical education and health education. Under the new outcomes-based model of curriculum delivery, schools are responsible for setting their own time allocations for each learning area.
- (2) Not applicable.

DRUG OVERDOSES - NUMBER OF DEATHS

2827. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) How many deaths from drug overdose occurred in Western Australia in each of the last five years?
- (2) How many have been recorded so far in 1997?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Deaths due to opiate or combined drug toxicity were as follows:

1996	65
1995	81
1994	46
1993	28
1992	26

- (2) 72 deaths that are suspected to be due to opiate or combined drug toxicity (many being subject to Coronal determination) were recorded up to 25 November 1997.

PRESCHOOLS TRANSFERRED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS - ADVICE TO COUNCILS

2832. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Where preschool 5 year old programs will transfer from council owned preschools to primary school sites, has the Education Department formally advised the relevant councils?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) When five year old pre-primary children transfer from Council owned facilities to those on a school site and the Education Department no longer has need for Council premises, the lease is terminated and the local authority is informed accordingly. In many cases, however, leased Council facilities are retained to cater for four year olds. This is an administrative and operational matter and does not require advice to Councils.
- (2) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - FUNDING FOR PRE-PRIMARY PARKING

2833. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Education Department fully funding the additional parking facilities required at primary schools when pre-primary programs are transferred to the school sites from off site premises?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The Education Department does not provide on-site parking facilities for parents at schools. However, funding is available on a shared basis in conjunction with local authorities to provide street embayment or off-site parking. Schools should liaise with the Education Department and their local authority regarding parking projects.

PRESCHOOLS TRANSFERRED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS - OWNERSHIP OF EQUIPMENT

2834. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Where preschool 5 year old programs are to transfer from council owned preschool centres to primary schools, is ownership of the stock and equipment retained by the parent committee which paid for it?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There is a distinction between off-site pre-primary centres and pre-school centres.
- (a) Equipment in Council owned off-site pre-primary centres is the property of the Education Department.
- (b) Equipment in pre-schools, which are operated by parent management committees, is the property of the management committee.
- (2) (a) Parent committees for off-site pre-primary centres are sub-committees of Parents and Citizens' Associations. Equipment provided to schools by Parents and Citizens' Associations becomes the property of the school.
- (b) If a pre-school transfers to a primary school the equipment is distributed according to the terms of the pre-school constitution.

PERTH ZOO - ANIMALS FROM THE WILD

2835. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) In the past 12 months, has the Perth Zoo accepted for display purposes animals taken from the wild in Western Australia?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) what species;
 - (b) what number of each species; and
 - (c) why were the animals taken?
- (3) In the past 12 months, has the Perth Zoo taken or initiated the taking from the wild in Western Australia of animals for display?
- (4) If yes, for each animal taken, was an application to take animals from the wild reviewed by any ethics committee in Western Australia?
- (5) If no, why not?
- (6) Did those who took the animals have a licence to take each animal?
- (7) If yes, for each licence would the Minister indicate who issued it and the purpose of taking?
- (8) If no, why not?
- (9) Were the animals taken of any species not endorsed by a national recovery plan?
- (10) If yes, which species and what was the justification for taking the animals?
- (11) Were any of the animals taken during their breeding season?
- (12) If yes, how was it established either -
 - (a) that no off spring were abandoned; or
 - (b) that these animals were not breeding?
- (13) As the Water Corporation and Alinta Gas were advertised as corporate sponsors of the Perth Zoo, have the relevant Ministers been advised that the zoo is exhibiting animals taken from the wild for display purposes?
- (14) If yes, do those relevant Ministers support this practice?
- (15) If no, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) Tachyglossus aculeatus ineptus (Echidna).
 - (b) 6.
 - (c) Display purposes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Perth Zoo's Animals Experimentation Ethics Committee is constituted under the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. "The Code encompasses all aspects of the care and use of animals for scientific purposes in medicine, biology, agriculture, veterinary and other animal sciences, industry and teaching. It includes their use in research, teaching, field trials, product testing, diagnosis and the production of biological products." (Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, Commonwealth of Australia, 1990). None of the animals collected in the past 12 months are used for scientific purposes.
- (6) Yes. In one instance verbal approval was given by CALM for Zoo officers to collect one more specimen that the licence allowed on the proviso that the Zoo released one of the animals after sexing.
- (7) The Department of Conservation and Land Management. The licences were issued for the purpose of collecting animals for Perth Zoo display.

- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) See table 1.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) (a) Reptiles do not exhibit maternal nurturing behaviour and abandon their own eggs/offspring and the marsupials were pouch checked. A Water Monitor and a Bearded Dragon were discovered to be gravid, however as already stated, they do not care for their young. The eggs are being cared for by Perth Zoo.
- (b) The birds taken were of sub-adult, non-breeding age.
- (13) The Water Corporation are sponsors of the Western Swamp Tortoise exhibit to be opened in June 1998. All animals involved in that exhibit will be bred at Perth Zoo. AlintaGas are sponsors of the Alinta Reptile Encounter, neither AlintaGas nor their Minister would be advised of the accession details of animals in that exhibit.
- (14) Not applicable.
- (15) The collection of native animals is not under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Resources Development, Energy, Education.

Table 1.

Taxon name	Common name	Purpose
<i>Tiliqua occipitalis</i>	Western Blue-tongues Skink	Display
<i>Varanus caudolineatus</i>	Stripe-tailed Monitor	"
<i>Oedura marmorata</i>	Marbled Velvet Gecko	"
<i>Ctenophorus ornatus</i>	Ornate Dragon	"
<i>Acanthodraco minor minor</i>	Dwarf Bearded Dragon	"
<i>Acanthodraco minor mitchelli</i>	Dwarf Bearded Dragon	"
<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	Australasian Grebe	"
<i>Gemmatophora longirostris</i>	Agamid Lizard	"
<i>Varanus pilbarensis</i>	Pilbara Rock Monitor	"
<i>Acanthophis abditus</i>	Pilbara Death Adder	"
<i>Aspidites melanocephalus</i>	Black-headed Python	"
<i>Aspidites ramsayi</i>	Woma	"
<i>Antaresia perthensis</i>	Pygmy Python	"
<i>Chlamydosaurus kingii</i>	Friiled Lizard	"
<i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i>	Northern Blue-tongued Skink	"
<i>Litoria caerulea</i>	White's Tree Frog	"
<i>Litoria splendida</i>	Magnificent Tree Frog	"
<i>Boiga irregularis</i>	Brown Cat Snake	"
<i>Gehyra australis</i>	Northern Detella	"
<i>Diplodactylus eiliares</i>	Spiny-tailed Gecko	"
<i>Emydura victoriae</i>	Victoria Short-necked Turtle	"
<i>Varanus mitchelli</i>	Mitchell's Monitor	"
<i>Heleioporus</i>	Frog	"
<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus ineptus</i>	Echidna	"
<i>Litoria adelaidensis</i>	Slender Tree Frog	"
<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>	Pink-eared Duck	"
<i>Anas rhynchotis rhynchotis</i>	Australian Shoveler	"
<i>Fulica atra australis</i>	Eurasian Coot	Display
<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	Dusky Moorhen	"
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Australian Blue-billed Duck	"
<i>Platalea flavipes</i>	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	"
<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill	"
<i>Cacatua pastinator pastinator</i>	Western Long-billed Corella	"
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Little Pied Cormorants	"
<i>Anhinga melanogaster novaehollandia</i>	Australian Darter	"
<i>Litoria moorei</i>	Western Green and Golden Bell Frog	"
<i>Cacatua leadbeateri mollis</i>	Western Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	"
<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	Western Grey Kangaroo	"
<i>Chelodina oblonga</i>	Oblong Turtle	"

VIDEO DRAW POKER MACHINES - INSTALLATION IN HOTELS AND TAVERYS

2837. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that video draw poker machines (VDP) have been installed in many Perth hotels and taverns and that they are turning over hundreds of thousands of dollars, none of which goes to either the Government (through tax or licence fees) or to community charities?
- (2) If so, what does the Minister propose to do to stop this activity?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) I refer the member to the proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* on 5 December 1997 prohibiting the use or possession of gaming equipment other than gaming machines for which permits have been issued under the Gaming Commission Act 1987.

LEN TAPLIN DAY CARE CENTRE, PORT HEDLAND

2838. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Has approval been granted for capital work at the Len Taplin Day Care Centre in Port Hedland?
- (2) If no to (1) above, why not?
- (3) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) when was the funding approved;
 - (b) what is the amount of funding approved;
 - (c) for what purpose is the funding approved;
 - (d) how much of the funding is from the State Government;
 - (e) how much of the funding is from the Federal Government;
 - (f) from what date is the funding available;
 - (g) on what date was the centre advised that the final funding had been granted?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Approval was granted in principle, but was subject to further investigation and service viability.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)
 - (a) In principle funding was approved in February 1996. The establishment of a private child care centre in Port Hedland impacting on the utilisation rates of this centre resulted in the decision being reviewed. The Len Taplin centre would not have been eligible for Disadvantaged Area Subsidy.
 - (b) The estimated cost at the time was \$300,000 but the pre-tender estimate was \$470,000.
 - (c) Capital funding was to enable the centre to accommodate an additional 22 long day care places. However, the centre increased the licensed places without the need for this capital funding.
 - (d)-(e) The Commonwealth State Agreement is for a State component of 100% for new long day care places.
 - (f) Capital funds are dependent on a final decision being reached following the changes referred to in answer 3(a).
 - (g) Final funding advice has not been given.

MIDLAND UNIVERSITY - FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT

2839. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the State Government requested the Commonwealth Government to provide funds for the establishment of a university or university campus at Midland?
- (2) Has the State Government requested such funds be provided from the Commonwealth Government in the -
 - (a) 1997;
 - (b) 1998;

- (c) 1999,
calendar year?
- (3) Exactly what representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government in this respect?
- (4) Does the State Government still support the development of a university or university campus at Midland?
- (5) Has the State Government backed up that support with direct submissions being made to the Commonwealth for funds to be provided for this purpose?
- (6) How much has been sought from the Commonwealth Government?
- (7) Have the funds been sought for the -
 - (a) 1997;
 - (b) 1998;
 - (c) 1999,
 year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(7) The State Government has sought Commonwealth funding for the provision of university facilities at Midland. Universities are funded on a rolling triennium basis and capital funding typically involves a three year lead time. Funds were requested in the 1997-1999 triennium for 1999 (as capital funds for 1997 and 1998 were already committed elsewhere) through the bi-lateral forum of the Joint Planning Committee. Some \$11.5 million in capital funding was sought for major works. Some funding will be available in 1999 for electronic links between university campuses in Perth to be upgraded and this will include Midland. University provision at Midland is expected to grow in response to proven demand.

ELLE CAMPAIGN - RE-OPENING OF INQUIRY INTO FILMING INCIDENT

2840. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 28 October 1997 which reported the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards may re-open the investigation into the fracas that marred the filming of the Elle McPherson tourism advertisements?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in the article Mr Saunders is reported as admitting that he had not spoken to a key witness, Ms McPherson's bodyguard, because the Western Australian police have an arrest warrant for him?
- (3) Is the Minister also aware the article reported the Commissioner's judgement did not give Hampton's side of the story?
- (4) Can the Minister advise if the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards intends to re-open the inquiry or conduct further inquiries?
- (5) If the Commissioner intends to take no further action, why not?
- (6) What is the nature of any further inquiries that will be conducted?
- (7) Why didn't the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, in his report, report on the information and/or evidence provided to him by Hampton?
- (8) Is the report of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards satisfactory insofar as properly reporting on the evidence provided to the inquiry and the conclusions reached?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.

Relative to questions (2)-(7), The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards has advised me as follows:

- (2) Ms McPherson's bodyguard was not interviewed, as he left the State and it was considered that a reasonable view of events could be obtained from interviews with the other parties involved.
- (3) Mr Hampton was interviewed and his views taken into consideration in the Commissioner's findings, as were the contents of his written statement to the Police. The Commissioner's role was to address the

questions put to him by Dr Gallop in his letter and, in addition, to determine whether any public sector body or employee had contravened the Public Sector Management Act, 1994. The Commissioner was not responsible for presenting Mr Hampton's side of the story.

- (4)-(6) The Commissioner has advised that the inquiry would only be re-opened if additional factual information was received, which contradicted evidence gathered during the inquiry.
- (7) Answered by (3).
- (8) I understand this investigation was instigated as a result of an enquiry from the Leader of the Opposition and that the Commissioner provided a direct response to him following his investigation. As an independent statutory officer reporting to Parliament, the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards is able to undertake such inquiries as he sees fit, independent of my Office. If individual members have concerns about any specific investigations undertaken by the Commissioner, they may approach him direct on the matters concerned.

COMMUNITY DRUG SERVICE TEAMS - LOCATION AND RESOURCES

2841. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Did the Minister issue a media statement on 31 October 1997 dealing with the Western Australian Drug Strategy?
- (2) In the media statement did the Minister say that ten community drug service teams would shortly be established in the country and metropolitan areas?
- (3) Will any of the drug service teams be established in -
 - (a) Bassendean;
 - (b) Beechboro;
 - (c) Bayswater;
 - (d) Shire of Swan;
 - (e) City of Bayswater; and
 - (f) Town of Bassendean?
- (4) If so -
 - (a) when; and
 - (b) where?
- (5) What resources, in terms of funds and staff will be provided to the community drug service team/s to be established in these areas?
- (6) When will the teams be established?
- (7) What trained staff will be available for each team?
- (8) Will the trained staff be engaged by each team or seconded from other departments and agencies or elsewhere?
- (9) What agencies will such staff be seconded from?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Ten Community Drug Service Teams are being established, four teams comprising six staff in the metropolitan area and six teams comprising of between three and seven staff in country regional centres.
- (3) A Community Drug Service Team is being established by Holyoake to offer services to communities in the north-eastern suburbs. A Community Drug Service Team is also being established by the St John of God Community Services Health Group for the northern and north-western suburbs. Staff for both teams have been appointed and appropriate premises have been secured from which services are being provided. In addition to establishing office locations in Midland and Joondalup respectively, sessional services are being provided throughout the regions. Services are accessible to residents of all suburbs of Perth.
- (4) (a) At this time the north-eastern team is temporarily based at Holyoake in Newcastle Street, Northbridge, until such time as the new premises in Midland are refurbished.

- (b) The north-eastern team office premises will be at 152 Cope Street, Midland and sessional services throughout the region are currently being negotiated with allied agencies.
- (5) Each of the four metropolitan Community Drug Service Teams is funded \$272,000 per year, which allows the employment of six full-time staff. In addition to the recurrent funding the W.A. Drug Abuse Strategy Office is providing one off establishment costs to assist with the setting up of new offices and the purchase of furniture and equipment.
- (6) Since the announcement by the Minister on 31 October 1997 the successful tenderers have been working towards establishing the teams. This has meant advertising, interviewing, selecting and appointing staff. All staff for the metropolitan Community Drug Service Teams have now been appointed and have commenced providing services to the community.
- (7) Each team advertised to appoint staff with professional counselling qualifications and experience in the addictions field. All teams have advised that they have been successful in appointing suitably qualified staff.
- (8) The teams were required to accept redeployees from the WA Alcohol and Drug Authority until such time as they were successfully placed in the public sector. These people are experienced in the alcohol and drug field and will contribute to the successful establishment of the teams. In all, there are eight staff members who are WA Alcohol and Drug Authority redeployees who are attached to the metropolitan and country teams.
- (9) The WA Alcohol and Drug Authority. No other agencies are involved in the secondment of staff.

POLICE - POLICY ON WARNINGS AND CAUTIONS

2845. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the Police Service have a policy on the number of warnings or cautions that should be given by officers to young people that may have committed or appear to have committed a misdemeanour or minor offence?
- (2) Does the policy stipulate how many warnings or cautions are to be given before a charge is to be preferred?
- (3) What is the number of warnings or cautions officers are required or advised to give?
- (4) Has the policy on cautions or warnings changed over the last twelve months?
- (5) If so, how many changes have been made?
- (6) What was the nature of each change?
- (7) Are officers now advised to give young people five warnings or cautions before preferring a charge?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) Police Officers are advised, during training, that there is no limit set on the amount of formal cautions which may be issued. Training officers from the Community Services Command (Juvenile Justice Unit) recommend that about six cautions be issued before consideration to refer a young person to a Juvenile Justice Team or to the formal Judicial System. Officers are reminded, however, to consider all diversionary options when dealing with an offending youth and to take into account the time place, circumstances and seriousness of the offence. Police Officers are trained to issue verbal warnings for very minor offences or offences where the young person has peripheral involvement. However, verbal warnings are not recorded.
- (4)-(6) Not applicable.
- (7) See (1) above.

UNION DUES - ADVICE ON CESSATION OF PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

2846. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labor Relations:

- (1) Did the Government seek advice from any departmental industrial relations officers on the Government's decision to cease deducting union contributions from the salaries of union members?
- (2) Did the Government seek any such advice before making the decision?

- (3) What advice did the Government seek?
- (4) Did any or all of the departmental industrial relations officer's recommend against this course of action?
- (5) How many recommendations were received against this course of action?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that by refusing to deduct union contributions a number of organisations are now unable to arrange special levies which were used for the benefit of union members families (eg levies paid to the family of a deceased member) ?
- (7) Was the Minister and/or the Government aware the decision to cease to deduct union contributions will detrimentally effect union members families?
- (8) Did the Minister and/or the Government make any enquiries about this consequence before reaching the decision to cancel payroll deductions?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(5) The Government's decision to cease the deduction of union dues arrangements resulted from the initiatives in the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act 1997, which provided that the issue of union dues is no longer an "industrial matter" for the purposes of the Industrial Relations Act, 1979. Current legislation also provides that individual employees are free to decide whether or not to join or be associated with a union. The collection of union dues is the responsibility of unions and a matter between the individual member and their union. The Government's decision to cease the deduction of union dues arrangements from 1 January 1998 is consistent with the Government's belief in freedom of association and the timing provides unions and members with adequate notice to make alternative arrangements.
- (6)-(7) I have not been made aware of any reasons why unions cannot continue to provide such benefits to their members if they make alternative arrangements for the collection of union dues.
- (8) Not applicable.

EAST KIMBERLEY POWER SUPPLIES - BACKUP UNITS TO COVER "OUTAGES"

2847. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) On how many occasions and for what duration has the supply of power in the East Kimberley been interrupted by "outages" from the hydro power station at Lake Argyle?
- (2) Has back up power been supplied from Western Power owned diesel powered power stations?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, has Western Power been compensated for this cost and if so how much has been paid?
- (4) Is it intended to retain backup units in the East Kimberley locality, if not, what will happen to consumers' supplies in the event of "outages" at the hydro power station?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There have been 17 outages, lasting a total of 311 minutes, since 22 August 1996 when Ord Hydro established "reliable operation" under the supply contract with Western Power.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Power Purchase Agreement does not provide for such payments.
- (4) Yes. The Kununurra Power Station is being retained to provide back up supplies to Western Power customers in Kununurra and Wyndham. Options are being explored with the Western Australian Tourist Commission to retain the Lake Argyle Power Station as back up at Lake Argyle.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - RESTRUCTURING

2848. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the major restructure occurring in the Department of Family and Children's Services and ask, does the Minister have any intention of announcing details of that to this Parliament?
- (2) What action has the Minister taken as a result of the low level of morale within the department?
- (3) Why have no steps been publicly announced to deal with the crisis of confidence in the department and the department's ability to protect children?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The department's restructure was successfully implemented during November/December 1997 after extensive consultation with staff across the agency. There has been no significant change to the department's focus nor closure of any service delivery offices across the state. I would be happy to arrange a briefing for the member by the Director General of the department.
- (2) A joint departmental/Union committee was established to address any disputes regarding placement of staff in the new structure. Not one grievance was submitted to that Committee. I do not share the member's assertion of a low level of morale within the department. While change can be challenging for any organisation I believe that through a thorough consultation process, staff within the department are in agreement with what the restructure tries to achieve, that is, better service delivery for the department's customers.
- (3) Not applicable.

CADETS PROGRAM - NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDING

2849. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Youth:

- (1) I refer to the cadets program and ask, does the program receive funding from any non-government sources?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what is -
 - (a) the amount;
 - (b) the source of that funding?
- (3) In reference to the police rangers, does the Police Service contribute any funds, human or other resources and, if so, what are the contributions?
- (4) In reference to the navy cadets, does the Navy contribute any funds, human or other resources and, if so, what are the contributions?
- (5) In reference to the army cadets, does the Army contribute any funds, human or other resources and, if so, what are the contributions?
- (6) In reference to the airforce cadets, does the Airforce contribute any funds, human or other resources and, if so, what are the contributions?
- (7) In reference to the emergency services, do the Emergency Services contribute any funds, human or other resources and, if so, what are the contributions?
- (8) What plans exist to extend the cadets program and to which schools and areas and when?
- (9) What is the per capita cost of providing a cadet place for each participant?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) A one off start up grant of \$5,000 is provided to schools establishing a Cadets WA unit.
 - (b) The Lotteries Commission of Western Australia.
- (3) School-based, crime prevention, Police and Citizens' Youth Club and general duties police officers provide assistance and support to Police Ranger units in their areas. The level of assistance and support provided varies from unit to unit.
- (4)-(6) The Commonwealth Government through the Department of Defence provides uniforms, training aids, support for annual camps and Defence Force staff to supervise activities.
- (7) Members of the emergency services agencies provide assistance and support to Emergency Services Cadet Corps units in their areas. The level of assistance and support provided varies from unit to unit.
- (8) It is the intention ultimately to offer the Cadets WA program to all secondary schools in the State.
- (9) \$450.00 per annum is provided for each cadet and adult instructor participating in the program.

HEROIN TRIALS - GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT

2850. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the Minister's answer to question on notice 1986 of 1997 and ask -
 - (a) do the Swiss Heroin Trials need to be measured in terms of improved health outcomes and reduction in criminal activity for recipients as well as abstinence;
 - (b) who in the State Government made the decision that no support for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) trial would be forthcoming;
 - (c) what contact has the Minister had with other Ministers responsible for drug strategy;
 - (d) which States and Territories supported the ACT trial and what was the rationale behind that decision?
 - (e) which States and Territories rejected the ACT trial and what was the rationale behind that decision;
- (2) I refer to information provided with respect to the budgets of the Alcohol and Drug Authority, non-government organisations and sobering up centres for the financial year ending 1996-1997 and ask for detail of the financial year ending 30 June 1998?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)
 - (a) It is appropriate to measure the outcomes of the Swiss heroin trials against a range of criteria. The impacts on individuals' health and criminal activity are relevant as are the extent of continuing drug abuse or movement towards recovery and abstinence. It is also relevant to assess the outcomes of the Swiss heroin trials in terms of their impact on society and the overall illicit drug market and this has not been attempted. Reported outcomes by the Swiss heroin trial in terms of improved health outcomes and reduction in criminal activity are also not very reliable in view of the absence of any control group.
 - (b) The decision of the State Government to not support the proposal by the Australian Capital Territory for heroin on prescription was made following consultation with relevant Ministers and senior officers in the field. The primary responsibility rests with myself as Minister Responsible for the WA Drug Strategy together with the Ministers for Health and Police as the representatives of the Government to the National Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy.
 - (c) Within Western Australia, a State Ministerial Council on Drug Abuse Strategy which comprises the Ministers for Health, Police, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Youth and Family and Children's Services meets on a regular basis. As Minister Responsible for the WA Drug Strategy I maintain liaison with a range of Ministers from other states in various portfolios with responsibility for drug abuse strategy.
 - (d) The Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania supported the trial proposed by the ACT. The rationale for their support varied, but was, I believe, based on two primary issues: first, a quest for new approaches, and second, the reported improvements in health and criminal activity outcomes for individuals.
 - (e) Western Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth Government rejected the proposed ACT trial. The key issues for this decision were: first, that the reported outcomes for individuals participating in the Swiss heroin trials are similar to those achieved by methadone maintenance; second, the unknown impact on society and the overall illicit drug market of this social experiment; third, a preference for alternative pharmacotherapies (such as naltrexone, buprenorphine and LAAM), which do not pose the same social risks as the provision of legal heroin in our community.
- (2)

Alcohol and Drug Authority	\$7,482,035
Non-government Alcohol and Drug Agencies	\$4,790,970
Sobering-Up Centres	\$2,370,000

CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE - METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION

2851. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the answer to question on notice 1996 of 1997 and ask -
 - (a) on what basis was each child classified as in need of care and protection within the definition of section 4(1) of the Act;
 - (b) were any such applications made pursuant to the definition provided in 4(1)(j);
 - (c) is a breakdown of the age of each child placed in care available and, if so, would the Minister provide a summary;
 - (d) were any applications for care and protection made but rejected by the court for each of the five years in question and, if so, how many?
- (2) In each of the last five financial years, what amount has been spent on the parenting advertising campaign?
- (3) Will the Minister release details of evaluation reports prepared by independent market research companies and how many of those have been prepared and at what cost for each?
- (4) How is the \$265 000 currently allocated for the campaign to be spent (ie in what media)?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) (a) A child can be classified as in need of care and protection under multiple grounds specified in section 4(1) of the Act. The most frequently used provision in every year is section 4(1)(k) Mental, physical and moral welfare in jeopardy. Other commonly listed additional categories are 4(1)(d) Unfit Guardian and 4(1)(i) Ill-treated.
- (b) This provision is very rarely used.
- (c) Age of children (wards and non-wards) placed by the department and in care at 30 June 1997, 1996, 1995:-

Age in years	30/6/97	30/6/96	30/6/95
O-5	297	223	185
6-12	484	462	442
13-18+*	310	365	393
Total	1091	1050	1020

Note: (a) These data exclude children in placement not organised by the department; (b) A few children in care were eighteen or older as at 30 June each year and are therefore included here; (c) Development of the department's new client information system to record out of home and alternative care information occurred during 1993/94 thus data prior to this time is not provided.

- (d) Care and Protection applications recorded by the department's client information system as dismissed by the Court:-

1993	0
1994	2
1995	6 (2 from one family)
1996	4 (2 children from two families)
1997	2

Two of these children with dismissed applications were later committed to the care of the department by the Court.

- (2)

1993/94	Not applicable
1994/95	\$181,288
1995/96	\$326,764
1996/97	\$380,338
1997/98	\$179,788 (to end January 1998)
- (3) Details have been released in the Family and Children's Services Annual Reports.

1995/96:	1 report at \$9,695
1996/97:	1 report at \$11,319
1997/98:	1 report at \$12,674

- (4) Expenditure to end January 1998:

Television (production and scheduling)	\$158,554
Press (production and scheduling)	\$ 21,234

Proposed allocation February to June 1998:

Radio	\$45,212
Press	\$40,000

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - ADVERTISING BUDGET AND GENERAL EXPENDITURE

2852. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What was the total advertising budget for each of the last five financial years?
- (2) What is the breakdown of major heads of expenditure (ie major campaigns etc) during the financial years ending 30 June 1997 and 30 June 1998?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The department does not budget for advertising as a separate item, however, expenditure for advertising is available for the past three financial years:

1994/95	\$741,434
1995/96	\$532,510
1996/97	\$615,388

- (2) Major heads of advertising expenditure for the financial years ending 30 June 1997 and 30 June 1998 are listed below:

	1996/97	1997/98
Parenting Campaign	\$380,338	\$264,788 (estimated)
General advertising	\$235,050	\$240,000 (estimated)

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE - MONITORING OF TRENDS

2853. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the Minister's answer to question on notice 2110 of 1997 and ask, what data is currently available on the trends in the number of families and children seeking financial assistance, the number of young people seeking the Homelessness Youth Allowance, and the number receiving support through the Supported Accommodation Assistance program?
- (2) How will changes in trends in these items be monitored?
- (3) Has any allocation of funding been made in anticipation of the introduction of the Youth Allowance changes?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The following data is collected through the department's client information system:-

The number of families/individuals who make application for financial assistance and the purpose for granting financial assistance.

The number of young people referred under the Homeless Youth Protocol to the department from Centrelink, their age, ethnicity and sex.

Supported Youth Accommodation Agencies provide the department with six monthly progress reports on the number of young people accommodated.

- (2) Data will be collated and monitored six monthly and compared with previous reporting periods.
- (3) No.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL - MEMBERSHIP

2854. Ms ANWYL to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Who are the current members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, and what are their occupations and business addresses?
- (2) What is the expertise of each of the persons responsible for selecting external members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council?
- (3) Is it appropriate that an Executive Officer has a part in that decision making process?
- (4) What expertise did Ms Christine Wallace have in relation to juvenile justice?
- (5) What relevant expertise or experience does the Member for Southern River have in relation to juvenile justice?
- (6) What relevant expertise or experience does the Member for Swan Hills have in relation to juvenile justice?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) Mr W H Blundell (Chairman)
Managing Director Consultancy Business

Mr Peter Edwards (Member)
Freelance Training Consultant

Ms Sigrid Van Fondern (Member)
Chief Executive Officer - Guides Western Australia (Inc)

Ms Gail Della Torre (Member)
Student

Ms Robyn McSweeney (Member)
TAFE Lecturer

Ms Esther Roadnight (Member)
Office Administrator

Ms Marilyn Green
Manager Geraldton Streetworker Aboriginal Corporation

Mr Mark Cornell
Businessman
- (2) Mrs June van de Klashorst MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice

Mr David Brewster - Executive Officer to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council and Justice Coordinating Council.

Mrs Monica Holmes MLA Justice of the Peace and a member of the Justice's Association of WA, member for Southern River CPCPC.

Mrs Christine Wallace - Electorate Officer to the member for Swan Hills assisting the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)-(6) See (2).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT - IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2855. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Women's Interests:

- (1) Why has the Implementation Advisory Committee of the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit not met since June 1997?
- (2) How many times has the committee met this year?
- (3) What is the membership of the committee?
- (4) When is the next meeting intended to occur?

- (5) Will the Minister arrange for me to have a briefing in relation to the expenditure of the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit budget?
- (6) What proportion of the funds have now been allocated from the \$2.6m budget for the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit?
- (7) What proportion of funds were rolled over from the 1996-97 budget and what purpose is it proposed those funds be spent?
- (8) I refer to Estimates Committee on Wednesday 21 May 1997 and the supplementary information provided on how the \$2.6m budget of the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit would be spent and ask whether those budget estimates are still applicable?
- (9) If not, what is the current situation?
- (10) If yes, when will that money be spent?
- (11) Is the Minister aware that no such information has been provided to me as was promised?
- (12) Will the Minister now provide that information?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The Implementation Advisory Committee was established for a period of twelve months from December 1995 to December 1996. The period of appointment was subsequently extended to June 1997.
- (2) Three times.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) I am considering recommendations regarding the role and the membership of a similar body. At this time I am unable to advise when the first meeting will take place.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Of the \$1.4 million allocated for Grants and Contracts within the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit budget, approximately two thirds of this amount has been expended, contracted or committed for 1997/98.
- (7) Approximately one third, which will be directed towards the development and management of new regional initiatives, purchase of services and the domestic violence community education strategy.
- (8) Yes, however, the date of commencement of the contracts will affect the actual expenditure for 1997/98.
- (9)-(10) Refer to answer (6).
- (11) The supplementary information requested at the Estimates Committee on Wednesday, 21 May 1997 has been provided. Please refer to pages E629-E630 of Hansard dated Tuesday, 20 May 1997 to Friday, 23 May 1997 (Legislative Assembly Estimates Committees A & B).
- (12) Refer to answers 6 and 11.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF WA REFORMS

2858. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware the Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented at its October Annual General Meeting a report entitled "Annual Review"?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the review reported the chamber is maintaining a close watch on workers compensation claim levels as there appears to have been a return to levels experienced prior to 1994 when the reforms advocated by the chamber were introduced to reduce employer's exposure to common law claims?
- (3) Were the changes to the workers compensation arrangements in 1993-1994 in line with the reforms advocated by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry?
- (4) How much was paid out to injured workers in common law claims in the 1996-97 financial year?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am sure all stakeholders have a keen interest in monitoring the cost of the workers' compensation scheme.
- (3) The 1993/94 changes to the workers' compensation arrangements were the Government's initiatives following consultation with all stakeholders including the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Trades and Labor Council.
- (4) \$102,006,000.

WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS - EFFECT ON UNFAIR DISMISSAL CLAIMS

2860. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware the Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented at its October Annual General Meeting a report entitled "Annual Review"?
- (2) Is the Minister aware the review reported registered workplace agreements have been used in the real estate industry to reduce areas of unfair dismissal claims?
- (3) Is the Minister aware how workplace agreements may be used to reduce the risks of unfair dismissal claims being successful?
- (4) If so, how do workplace agreements contribute to that objective?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) What the Chamber of Commerce and Industry's October 1997 Annual Review actually states on this matter is:

In the real estate industry, where unfair dismissals claims have been on the rise, the use of properly developed and registered workplace agreements appears to be reducing the risks of successful claims.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Workplace Agreements encourage greater communication between the employer and employee and provide a means of clarifying the expectations of both parties. A workplace agreement cannot remove the employee's right to make a claim for unfair dismissal.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION - CLAIM PAYMENTS

2862. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) What are the claim payments, in actual dollars, for workers' compensation and rehabilitation for each of the years from 1986-87 through to and including 1996-97 in each of these categories -
 - (a) fatal;
 - (b) redemptions;
 - (c) 2nd Schedule;
 - (d) vocational rehabilitation;
 - (e) other treatments;
 - (f) hospital;
 - (g) legal;
 - (h) doctor;
 - (i) Common Law;
 - (j) weekly;
 - (k) others;
 - (l) total of all payments?
- (2) Can these claim payments be given as for (1) above, but in real 1996-97 dollar figures for each category for each year?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) [See paper No 1202.]
- (2) No.

PREPRIMARY STUDENTS - ACCESS TO SPEECH PROGRAMS

2863. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) I refer to the program under which the State provides special assistance for preprimary pupils with speech development difficulties and ask, what number of places are specifically available to such children this year?
- (2) What numbers are planned for the 1998 school year?
- (3) Can the Minister outline what other options are available, including provision of assistance in regular preprimary classes which allow for a teacher to integrate that assistance with normal duties?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Education Department provides support for pre-primary pupils with speech difficulties at the following Language Development Centres: Carlisle; Carawatha; North West Metro; and North East Metro. The 1997 pre-primary enrolment figures will be available when the centres resume in 1998.
- (2) The enrolment figures for pre-primary students at the Language Centres will be available during the first week of February 1998.
- (3) The other options available are provided through the Student Services Manager or Co-ordinator located in the District Offices or through Visiting Teachers from the Learning Difficulties and Disabilities District Service Centre.

NARROWS BRIDGE AND KWINANA FREEWAY - CLEANING CONTRACT

2864. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it correct that an outside contractor has responsibility for keeping the Narrows Bridge and the Kwinana Freeway clean?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what steps, if any, are taken to ensure that that task is carried out to the Department of Transport's specifications?
- (3) How many complaints has the department received in the past two years over any general untidiness of the bridge and freeway?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(3) Main Roads is aware of only one complaint having been received over the past two years and that was through the Member for South Perth's office in November 1997. Regular maintenance, including removal of rubbish and trimming of vegetation, is undertaken by contractors along the freeway on behalf of Main Roads. The member will be interested to know that immediately following the approach from his office, Main Roads arranged for the removal of any debris and overgrown vegetation from this location. This was completed by late November 1997.

NORTH ALBANY AND ALBANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS - RESTRUCTURING

2865. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) With regard to the proposed restructuring of the North Albany Senior High School and the Albany Senior High School, will full consultation with the community take place before any decision is made in relation to the restructuring?
- (2) Should the community decide to retain the current status of two senior highs schools, will their wishes be observed?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The review of secondary education in the town of Albany is now proceeding under the Local Area Education Planning process. As stated in the Local Area Education Planning Framework released on 23 September this year there will be extensive community consultation on any options recommended in the draft Local Area Education Plan.

- (2) The District Director (Schools) is expected under the Local Area Education Planning process to develop a Consultation Report which will:

- outline all the views of parents, students, staff, employers and other interest groups;
- respond to the community comments on the draft Local Area Education Planning in relation to the principles, planning indicators and other information; and
- outline the impact of the recommendation on the wider community, particularly in country areas.

The Consultation Report will be an open document and be a basis for decision making. While the views of the community will be fully entertained, the decision will be the Minister's responsibility.

ALBANY DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE - STAFFING LEVELS

2866. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the current staffing levels at the Albany District Education Office?
- (2) Will these staffing levels be increased for the 1998 school year?
- (3) If so, by how much will the staffing levels be increased?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The current staffing level for Albany District Education Office is 17.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The 1998 staffing allocation to the district is 18 FTE. However, the district's boundaries have been realigned resulting in a reduction to the district of two schools and approximately 700 students. This equates to 1 FTE of district support. In addition, 1.5 FTE of the district's current profile has been used for cleaning and gardening purposes. This function will now be covered by a budget allocation, leaving that staffing allocation to be used for curriculum or student services support. In real terms, the district's increase from 1997 to 1998 will be 2.7 FTE.
- (4) Not applicable.

ALBANY SCHOOLS - PROGRAMS FOR PROBLEM STUDENTS

2867. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

What alternative education programs are available to problem students, such as chronic truants, within the town of Albany?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The town of Albany has the following programs catering for the needs of problem students:

- A Juvenile Action Group is a joint police and other agencies' initiative. It apprehends truants and returns them to school. This group provides follow up support to the student at the school.
- A new program is being set up with the cooperation of North Albany Senior High School, the District Education Office, Family and Children's Services, Police Service, Ministry of Justice and Young House. It is anticipated that this program will be operational in 1998, targeting alienated youth aged 12-15 years.
- A 0.5 School Welfare Officer works with students and parents to return students to school. This process includes a school psychologist team to address specific issues of concern. The Aboriginal Liaison Officer is available to provide support to Aboriginal students.
- 'PAR FOUR' is a joint Education Department and Police Service initiative to keep students of the streets.

FORESTS IN DENMARK SHIRE - LOGGING PLANS

2868. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Department for Conservation and Land Management prepared logging plans for forests within the boundaries of the Denmark Shire?

- (2) If yes -
 - (a) in what areas has logging been planned; and
 - (b) when will the logging begin for each area?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The Department has prepared logging plans for the whole Southern Forest Region.
- (2) There is no logging scheduled for 1998 within the boundaries of the Denmark Shire.

DENMARK HIGH SCHOOL - SITE

2869. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister made a decision as to which site the high school in Denmark will be built on?
- (2) If yes, which site was chosen?
- (3) If no, when can the community expect the Minister's decision on this matter?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is anticipated that an announcement regarding the high school site in Denmark will be made within the next three months.

"FIX AUSTRALIA - FIX OUR ROADS" CAMPAIGN - FUNDING

2870. Dr GALLOP to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) I refer the Minister to the campaign known as "Fix Australia - Fix Our Roads", does the State Government contribute financially toward this campaign?
- (2) If yes, what was the Government's contribution for -
 - (a) the 1996-97 financial year; and
 - (b) the estimated contribution for the 1997-98 financial year?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes. The following groups are members of the Fix Australia Fix the Roads Steering Committee that co-ordinates the campaign.
 - Australian Road Federation Bikewest
 - Chamber of Mines and Energy Civil Contractors Federation
 - Department of Transport Farmers Federation
 - Livestock Transporters Association Main Roads Western Australia
 - Motor Traders Association Pastoralists & Graziers Association
 - Petroleum Retailers Association Road Safety Council
 - Royal Automobile Club Tourism Council of Australia
 - Transport Workers Union West Australian Road Transport Association
 - Western Australian Municipal Association

Throughout the course of the campaign, the Steering Committee has received outstanding support from its constituent members such as financial contributions, distribution of campaign material, publishing articles in journals, media appearances, attending and running information booths and many other promotional activities. Additional support has also come from other organisations that are not members of the Committee.

The Campaign is also gathering support in other States. The Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils in northern New South Wales has recently launched a local campaign involving press advertising, roadside campaign signs using the Fix Australia Fix the Roads logo and running the most recent four

television advertisements as community service announcements. The Committee is currently drawing up plans for a local campaign centred on Canberra that will involve similar activities to Road Awareness Month conducted last October. The Committee is also attempting to make representation to the Federal Transport Minister, to discuss the Planning Not Patching Report on Federal road funding tabled in Federal Parliament last November.

- (2) (a) \$128 814.74.
- (b) \$371 185.26.

CONSTITUTIONAL MUSEUM - TEACHERS/ PRESENTERS

2871. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) How many people were appointed as casual teachers/presenters at the Constitutional Museum by the Electoral Commission?
- (2) What were their academic qualifications?
- (3) What is their experience in the relevant areas as per the selection criteria?
- (4) What is the age range of the people appointed?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The Western Australian Electoral Commission has offered casual employment to a further seven casual teachers/presenters at the Electoral Education Centre as a result of the recent recruitment drive.
- (2) The academic qualification of the seven successful applicants were as follows:
 - 1) Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education
 - 2) Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws (current studies)
 - 3) Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Education
 - 4) Diploma of Teaching
 - 5) Bachelor of Science
 - 6) Teachers Certificate, Teachers Higher Certificate
 - 7) Bachelor of Commerce, Graduate Diploma in Education Studies.
- (3) The seven successful applicants were able to clearly demonstrate substantial experience and/or high order proficiency in respect of each of the advertised essential selection criteria. All seven provided evidence of their ability and significant experience at conducting presentations to a diverse range of groups, but particularly primary and secondary school students. All had very relevant experience in the development and implementation of educational programs.
- (4) The age range of the successful applicants is 27 to 59.

CARE AND PROTECTION APPLICATIONS - NUMBER

2872. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) How many care and protection applications have been taken out by the Department for Family and Children's Services during the last three years?
- (2) What was the age of the children in each case?
- (3) What are the current protocols in place at the Federal level for fifteen year olds in relation to issues of protection?
- (4) Can the Minister advise what changes may or will occur to the Department of Social Security in relation to the protocols relating to fifteen year olds?
- (5) What tightening of procedure is to occur?
- (6) What resources are available for family reconciliation?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) 659 care and protection applications were granted in the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1997.
- (2) The ages of the 659 children, the subject of care and protection applications granted in the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1997 are listed below -

Age (Years of Age)	Financial Year			Total
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	
Less than 1	49	26	35	110
1	21	8	15	44
2	19	12	20	51
3	25	13	13	51
4	26	12	11	49
5	15	14	4	33
6	18	11	12	41
7	26	8	21	55
8	15	7	10	32
9	22	6	7	35
10	13	13	10	36
11	10	10	8	28
12	12	7	14	33
13	9	12	6	27
14	6	5	8	19
15	4	4	4	12
16	1	2	0	3
Total	291	170	198	659

- (3) The Commonwealth/State Protocols for Services to Homeless Young People Aged Under 18 Years in Western Australia specifies that where a homeless young person 15 years of age claims income support they will be interviewed by a Centrelink (DSS) Social Worker and offered a referral to Family and Children's Services. If the young person does not consent to being referred to Family and Children's Services and the young person is considered to be at serious and imminent risk of harm, then permission is sought from senior Centrelink officers to release information in the public interest to the department. Family and Children's Services responds to such referrals according to its policies and procedures.
- (4) Centrelink is considering change in two areas: The first concerns an amendment to the Commonwealth/State protocols to require Centrelink to refer to Family and Children's Services all homeless 15 - 17 year olds where there are reasonable grounds for believing that they have been subject to abuse or violence. The second area of change concerns a review of Centrelink's practices relating to situations where a young person's parents or guardians wish to remain involved with the young person and there are no risk issues for the young person in their family home.
- It is proposed that in such situations a condition of payment of income support at the independent homeless rate to the young person will be that they have contact with an agreed independent adult. The intent of this proposal is to ensure that the parents or guardians are able to remain informed of their child's circumstances and to work towards a reconciliation. For example, this independent adult may be a family friend or a counsellor.
- (5) Centrelink have advised Centrelink Social Workers to endeavour to have independent face-to-face contact with parents or guardians when assessing a young person's homeless claim. This is to ensure that all relevant information about each side of the problem is obtained and that parents are given the opportunity to present their views more fully.
- (6) A range of services are available in the community. Family and Children's Services directly provides and also funds parent/child conflict services. The department's direct service delivery is provided through its service delivery offices. The department funds seven youth counselling services in the Perth metropolitan area. Examples of these funded services are the Parent Teen Link Service and the Parent and Adolescent Conflict Counselling Service. Other services are provided independently of the department. For example, the Youth and Family Support Service through the Catherine McAuley Centre seeks to work with families where young people are at risk of becoming homeless.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - SALE OF PROPERTIES

2873. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 1921 of 1997, would the Minister advise, were any other properties held by Industrial and Commercial Employees Housing Authority (ICEHA) sold during the period ending -
 - (a) 30 June 1995;
 - (b) 30 June 1996?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) which properties were sold;
 - (b) to whom was each property sold;
 - (c) for what price;
 - (d) who was -
 - (i) the selling agent (salesperson);
 - (ii) the selling agent's Real Estate Agency name?
 - (e) did the selling agent receive commission for each of these sales;
 - (f) if no to (2)(e) above, why not;
 - (g) if yes to (2)(e) above, what commission was paid to the selling agent on each property;
 - (h) what was the date of the sale of each property;
 - (i) what was the name of the settlement agent acting on behalf of -
 - (i) ICEHA;
 - (ii) the purchaser,

in relation to each sale?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) Yes.
- (2) (a)-(h) (i) (ii) Relevant details extracted from available records is tabled. [See paper No 1208.]
 - (i) (i) Homeswest was the settlement agent for ICEHA.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 6 EDNEY WAY, KARRATHA

2874. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 1636 (6 Edney Way) Karratha had been sold by the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority (ICEHA) and a commission of \$4 000 was paid to the selling agent, why does the Certificate of Title for this property show that this property has never been owned by ICEHA?
- (2) What property was in fact sold by the ICEHA to Boford Holdings Pty Ltd, the purchaser named by the Minister in his reply as having purchased Lot 1636 (6 Edney Way) Karratha?
- (3) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to the purported sale by ICEHA of this land?
- (4) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) 6 Edney Way, Karratha is Lot 1638 and not Lot 1636 as advised in the response to question on notice 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a typographical error. The commission was paid to the selling agent for selling Lot 1638 (6) Edney Way, Karratha. When responding to question on notice number 1921 of 1997 I tabled

details relating to the 38 properties sold by ICEHA (No 879/97). There were some typographical and clerical errors in those tabled details. I now table a new schedule setting out amended details which I understand are based on available records. The corrections are shown in bold.

- (2) Lot 1638 (6) Edney Way, Karratha.
- (3) Copy of Offer and Acceptance is tabled. [See paper No 1209]
- (4) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 1 HIGHAM STREET,
KARRATHA

2875. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 2220 (1 Higham Street) Karratha was sold to T.O. Dods, why does T.O. Dods not show on the Certificate of Title as the purchaser?
- (2) Why was commission paid on the sale to T.O. Dods when this sale obviously never proceeded?
- (3) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to the sale of this property?
- (4) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The property was sold to Colin Bruce Dods and Gail Francis Dods and not to T.O. Dods as advised in the response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a clerical error.
- (2) Commission was paid to the selling agent for the sale to C.B. Dods & G.F. Dods.
- (3) Copy of Offer and Acceptance is tabled. [See paper No 1210.]
- (4) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 14 MIRFIN WAY,
KARRATHA

2876. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 1629 (14 Mirfin Way) Karratha was sold to Boford Holdings Pty Ltd and commission of \$4 000 paid to the selling agent, is the Minister aware that the property was re-sold, the transfer for both sales being registered on the same day?
- (2) Was the selling agent who was paid commission on the sale to Boford Holdings Pty Ltd also involved in the sale of the property to Mark Jeffrey and Sharon Elizabeth Mayo?
- (3) If yes, what commission was paid to the selling agent for the sale to the Mayos?
- (4) What is the name of -
 - (a) the selling agent;
 - (b) the Real Estate Agency business the salesperson/agent works for?
- (5) Who handled the sale -
 - (a) to Boford Holdings Pty Ltd;
 - (b) M.J. and S.E. Mayo?
- (6) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to both sales?
- (7) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) ICEHA was not a party to this transaction. However, Homeswest's settlement file indicates that the selling agent was not Residential Equity Solutions and Investments (RESIWA) Pty Ltd, the selling agent that received commission for the sale to Boford Holdings Pty Ltd.

(3)-(4) Not applicable.

(5) Assuming "handled" to mean selling agent:

- (a) Residential Equity Solutions and Investments (RESIWA) Pty Ltd
- (b) Ray White & Co (Karratha)

(6) Copy of Offer and Acceptance for sale from ICEHA to Boford Holdings Pty Ltd is tabled. [See paper No 1211.]

(7) As the settlement for the on sale by Boford Holdings Pty Ltd was not conducted by Homeswest, I am unable to provide a copy of that Offer and Acceptance.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 41 NEWMAN STREET,
CARNAMAH

2877. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 41 (41 Newman Street) Carnamah was sold to T. & H. Walton Stores Pty Ltd and commission of \$909 paid to the selling agent, why does the Certificate of Title in relation to this property not show that the property was sold to T. & H. Walton Stores Pty Ltd?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to the sale of the property to T. & H. Walton Stores Pty Ltd?
- (3) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The Offer and Acceptance for Lot 41 Newman Street, Carnamah shows the purchaser as T & H Walton Stores Pty Ltd and/or Nominees. The nominee, Scott Francis Walton, is referred to on the second page of the Offer and Acceptance. The land was transferred to the nominee (copy stamped transfer attached). It was a clerical error that the details provided in response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 were incorrect.
- (2) Copy Offer and Acceptance is tabled. [See paper No 1212.]
- (3) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - LOT 282, KATANNING

2878. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 282 (37 Marri Drive) Katanning was sold and a commission of \$2465 paid to the selling agent, is the Minister aware that Lot 282 Katanning is in fact Avon Street Katanning and not 37 Marri Drive Katanning as advised by the Minister?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that no such address as 37 Marri Drive Katanning exists?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority has never owned Lot 282 Katanning?
- (4) Will the Minister provide the correct information in relation to the sale of the property listed in the Ministers answer?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(4) The House number for Lot 282 Marri Drive Katanning is 35 Marri Drive, and not 37 as advised in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a typographical error. Lot 282 is located in Marri Drive as shown in the copy relevant Certificate of Title which is tabled. [See paper No 1213.]

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - LOT 297, KATANNING

2879. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 297 (26 Casuarina Drive) Katanning was sold and a commission of \$2 555 paid to the selling agent, is the Minister aware that Lot 297 Katanning is in fact 8 Carlisle Street Katanning and not 26 Casuarina Drive as advised by the Minister?

- (2) Is the Minister aware that no such address as 26 Casuarina Drive Katanning exists in Katanning?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority has never owned Lot 297 Katanning?
- (4) Will the Minister provide the correct information in relation to the sale the property listed in the Ministers answer?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(4) The house number for Lot 297 Casuarina Drive, Katanning is 28 Casuarina Drive and not 26 as advised in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a typographical error. Lot 297 Katanning is located on the corner of Casuarina Drive and Mallee Court as shown in the copy relevant Certificate of Title which is tabled. [See paper No 1214.]

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 1456 WILGA WAY,
KUNUNURRA

2880. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 1456 (1456 Wilga Way) Kununurra was sold to Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd and a commission of \$3 967 paid to the selling agent, why was this sale never registered on the Certificate of Title?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to the sale of this property to Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd?
- (3) If the sale to Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd was never a completed and registered sale, why was the commission on the sale paid to the selling agent?
- (4) Will the Minister take the necessary steps to have the commission repaid to the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Lot 1456 Wilga Place, Kununurra was sold to B.G. & B.C. Spackman Pty Ltd and not Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd as advised in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a clerical error. B.G. & B.C Spackman Pty Ltd trade as Tuckerbox Stores which is a registered business name owned by it. The correct address is lot 1456 Wilga Place, and not Lot 1456 Wilga Way as advised in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a typographical error.
- (2) Copy Offer and Acceptance is tabled. [See paper No 1215.]
- (3) Commission was paid to the selling agent for the sale to B.G. & B.C. Spackman Pty Ltd.
- (4) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 7 WILGA PLACE,
KUNUNURRA

2881. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 2206 (7 Wilga Place) Kununurra was sold to Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd and a commission of \$3 995 paid to the selling agent, why was this sale never registered on the Certificate of Title?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to the sale of this property to Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd?
- (3) If the sale to Tuckerbox Stores Pty Ltd was never a completed and registered sale, why was the commission on the sale paid to the selling agent?
- (4) Will the Minister take the necessary steps to have the commission repaid to the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Lot 2206 (7 Wilga Place) Kununurra was sold to B.G. & B.C. Spackman Pty Ltd and not Tuckerbox Stores

Pty Ltd as advised in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a clerical error. B.G. & B.C. Spackman Pty Ltd trade as Tuckerbox Stores which is a registered business name owned by it.

- (2) Copy Offer and Acceptance is tabled. [See paper No 1216.]
- (3) Commission was paid to the selling agent for the sale to B.G. & B.C. Spackman Pty Ltd.
- (4) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - 1916 MELALEUCA DRIVE, KUNUNURRA

2882. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997 the Minister advised that Lot 1916 (1916 Melaleuca Drive) Kununurra was sold to a B. Spackman and a commission of \$5 687 paid to the selling agent, why was this sale never registered on the Certificate of Title?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of the offer and acceptance in relation to the sale of this property to B. Spackman?
- (3) If the sale to B. Spackman was never a completed and registered sale, why was the commission on the sale paid to the selling agent?
- (4) If the Minister aware that \$5 687 is in excess of the commission due under the schedule set by the Real Estate and Business Agents Act 1978 on this sale?
- (5) Will the Minister take the necessary steps to have the commission repaid to the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Lot 1916 Melaleuca Drive, Kununurra was sold to Celliston Nominees Pty Ltd, and not B. Spackman as advised in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997. The mistake was a clerical error. Bernice Christina Spackman is a Director of Celliston Nominees Pty Ltd.
- (2) Copy Offer and Acceptance to Celliston Nominees Pty Ltd is tabled. [See paper No 1217.]
- (3) Commission was paid to the selling agent for the sale to Celliston Nominees Pty Ltd.
- (4) The sale price for Lot 1916 was \$175,000 as shown on the Offer and Acceptance. The response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997 which specified the sale price as \$43,750 was a clerical error in that there are 4 dwelling units on the property, each valued at \$43,750. The total value of \$175,000 should have been shown. The commission paid is therefore in accordance with the fee schedule under The Real Estate and Business Agents Act 1978.
- (5) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - SETTLEMENT AGENTS

2883. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

Further to question on notice 1921 of 1997 and the Ministers response, will the Minister provide the names of the settlement agents who acted for the purchasers in relation to each sale as requested in (4)(v) and not provided?

Dr HAMES replied:

Details of purchasers' settlement agents extracted from available records are tabled. [See paper No 1218.]

DAMPIER TO BUNBURY PIPELINE - MEETINGS BETWEEN ALINTAGAS AND ACCC

2884. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) I refer to the Minister's answer to question without notice No. 839 of 25 November 1997 in which you stated that several meetings were held between the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and AlintaGas during the negotiations regarding the Alinta-Epic deal, how many meetings were held between AlintaGas and the ACCC?

- (2) When were these meetings held?
- (3) Who attended the meetings?
- (4) Did you have any meetings with the ACCC?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Four.
- (2)
 - (a) 30.1.97
 - (b) 16.10.97
 - (c) 30.10.97
 - (d) 13.11.97
- (3)
 - (a) John Langoulant, Under Treasurer
Rohan Skea, Solicitor
 - (b) Rohan Skea, Solicitor
David Williams, General Counsel, AlintaGas
 - (c) John Langoulant, Under Treasurer
Rohan Skea, Solicitor
Ian Baker, Chairman, AlintaGas
 - (d) Rohan Skea, Solicitor
David Williams, General Counsel, AlintaGas
- (4) No.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - FORMER MANAGER

2885. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1921 of 1997 and the Minister's response would the Minister advise, what is the name of the former Manager of Industrial and Commercial Employees Housing Authority (ICEHA) as mentioned in answer (3)?
- (2) What action was taken against the former Manager of ICEHA in relation to the breach of policy?
- (3) When did the former Manager of ICEHA leave ICEHA?
- (4) Does the former Manager of ICEHA still work within Government?
- (5) If yes -
 - (a) where;
 - (b) in what position;
 - (c) on what level;
 - (d) when did the former Manager of ICEHA commence duties in his new position?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) William Reginald Blackburn.
- (2) The matter was referred to the Crown Solicitor's Office.
- (3) 22 December, 1995.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - DETAILS OF SALE
PROPERTIES

2886. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

Further to question on notice 1921 of 1997 and the Minister's response would the Minister advise -

- (a) what was the date of the offer and acceptance in the case of each sale;
- (b) what was the date of settlement in the case of each sale;
- (c) what was the name of the salesperson who signed the offer and acceptance for each sale (not the company RESIWA Pty Ltd but the actual salesperson);
- (d) did this salesperson act as agent in the case of each sale;
- (e) who provided the provided the valuations used as the basis for the sale of each lot;
- (f) was the full asking price achieved in the case of each sale;
- (g) if not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) Dates extracted from available records are tabled. [See paper No 1219.]
- (b) Settlement dates extracted from available records are tabled. [See paper No 1219.]
- (c) Charles O'Leary.
- (d) The sales representative was Mr. O'Leary. The real estate agent shown on the Offers and Acceptances was Residential Equity Solutions & Investments (RESIWA) Pty Ltd.
- (e) Details of valuers extracted from available records are tabled. [See paper No 1219.]
- (f) The full asking price was the amount of the valuation. In some cases the properties were sold for the amount of the valuation. In other cases they were sold either for more than valuation or up to 5% less than valuation.
- (g) Mr Blackburn has authority to negotiate sales for no less than 95% of valuation.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - RECOVERY OF COMMISSION ON SALES

2887. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In respect to the Minister's answer to question on notice 1921 of 1997 referring to the sale of 38 Industrial and Commercial Employee's Housing Authority (ICEHA) properties, which led to the Auditor General giving the ICEHA a qualified audit, I ask what action has been taken by ICEHA to recover the \$128 000 commission to which the selling agent was not entitled?
- (2) Why was the commission ever paid in respect to properties -
 - (a) Lot 1455 (9 Everlasting Crescent) Kambalda; and
 - (b) Lot 1389 (17 Leonard Way) Karratha?
- (3) Given the Minister felt able to assure the House last week that the sale of all 38 properties was authorised by ICEHA Board, why has the Minister to date been unable to table the documents to support his claims?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The matter has been referred to the Crown Solicitor's office.
- (2) (a) The response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997 referred to Lot 1455 (Number 7) Everlasting Crescent, Kambalda. It should have referred to Lot 1456 (Number 9) Everlasting Crescent, Kambalda which was sold to Peter Bowman Nominees Pty Ltd. There was confusion in Shire records and ICEHA records between 9 & 7 Everlasting Crescent, with incorrect Lot numbers attributed to the street numbers. This has now been rectified. The Offer and Acceptance for 9 Everlasting Crescent, which shows the incorrect Lot number is tabled. [See paper No 1220.]. A search of the Certificate of Title [See paper No 1220.] indicate that the correct Lot number (1456) was sold. Lot number 1455 (Number 7) Everlasting Crescent was sold on 3 July 1997 in a transaction unrelated to the transactions mentioned in question 1921 of 1997.
- (b) The Lot number for 17 Leonard Way referred to in response to question on notice number 1921 of 1997 is Lot 3570 and not 1389 as referred to in this question. Due to a typographical error, the

details provided in response to question 1921 of 1997 incorrectly shows Lot number 3589 instead of 3570.

- (3) The ICEHA Board approved the sale of the properties at up to 95% of valuation. Relevant Board Minutes are tabled. [See paper No 1220.]

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY - AUTHORISATION OF SALE OF PROPERTIES

2888. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1921 of 1997 and the Minister's response would the Minister advise, were any of the 38 properties sold marked as not to be sold or not for sale?
- (2) If so, why were these properties sold?
- (3) Who authorised the sale?
- (4) Under -
- (a) what;
- (b) whose,
- authority was this authorisation given?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

QUALITY OF TEACHER HOUSING

2889. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What measures are taken to ensure the quality of teacher housing is maintained to adequate standards?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that teacher housing in -
- (a) Wyndham;
- (b) Port Hedland;
- (c) Meekatharra,
- is less than satisfactory?
- (3) If yes, what action is the Minister taking to overcome this problem?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The responsibility for provision and maintenance of teacher housing lies with the Government Employees' Housing Authority (GEHA) and Homeswest, for which the Minister for Housing has responsibility.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Education Department is working closely with GEHA to upgrade and improve the quality of teacher housing through:
- the sale of GEHA properties, with disposal funds being used to construct and purchase additional and replacement quality accommodation.
 - the construction of new houses by developers in return for guaranteed long term lease arrangements.
 - the replacement of old properties owned by GEHA with modern leased accommodation.

In the case of Wyndham, which has a significant decline in demand for housing, the Education Department has upgraded the quality of its houses through acquisition from other government agencies. The issue of teacher housing generally will be discussed at a consultative forum on staffing involving teachers, the Education Department, GEHA, administrators, professional associations, union groups, universities and key interest groups. The forum will be held on Friday 12 December, 1997.

REMOTE SCHOOLS - NON-TEACHING STAFF

2890. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

What are the current salary and working conditions for non teaching staff employed in schools in remote areas?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Education Department employs a number of different categories of non-teaching employees, in remote areas. The categories of non-teaching staff, and the award and/or agreement under which their employment conditions are covered, are as follows:

- Cleaners (Cleaners and Caretakers Award 1975)
- Gardeners (Gardeners Award 1986)
- Education Assistants - including teachers aides, Aboriginal Education Workers and Home Economic Assistants (Teachers Aides Award 1979, Cleaners and Caretakers Award 1975, Education Assistants Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 1996)
- Registrars (Public Service Award 1992, Government Officers Salaries Allowances and Conditions Award 1989, Education Department Ministerial Officer Salaries Allowances and Conditions Award 1983- all these employees are covered by the 1996 and 1997 CSA/EDWA Enterprise Bargaining Agreements)
- School Officers (Education Department Ministerial Officers Salaries Allowances and Conditions Award 1983 - all these employees are covered by the 1996 and 1997 CSA/EDWA Enterprise Bargaining Agreements)

These awards and agreements which specify the salaries and working conditions of employees covered by them, are published in the Western Australian Industrial Gazette. They are too numerous to be able to detail here.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY - DETAILS OF SALE OF PROPERTIES

2891. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

(1) In relation to the sale of properties owned by the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority will the Minister advise, were any other properties sold by -

- (a) Residential Equity Solutions and Investments Western Australia Pty Ltd;
- (b) Suresale Systems Pty Ltd,

other than those mentioned in the Minister's response to question on notice 1921 of 1997?

(2) If yes, what were the details of the properties sold including -

- (a) name the purchaser;
- (b) give location and details of the property;
- (c) purchase price;
- (d) name of the settlement agent who acted for the purchaser;
- (e) name of the salesperson from RESIWA Pty Ltd or Suresure Systems Pty Ltd who handled the transaction;
- (f) commission paid on each property;
- (g) date of the sale?

Dr HAMES replied:

(1) Available records indicate that there were no other sales involving Residential Equity Solutions & Investments (RESIWA) Pty Ltd. Available records do not indicate any sales involving Suresale Systems Pty Ltd.

(2) Not applicable.

HOMESWEST'S LOWSTART LOAN SCHEME - MANAGER

2892. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

(1) Who was the successful tenderer for the management of the Homeswest Lowstart Loan Scheme, and are they still managing that scheme on behalf of Keystart?

- (2) If not, on what basis was the firm who is managing the scheme selected and appointed?
- (3) Earlier this year, the Minister informed the House that he was setting in place a rescue scheme to assist borrowers experiencing difficulty making repayments on their Keystart home loans; has this scheme been set in place and, if so, how does it operate?
- (4) Earlier this year, the Minister said that all borrowers, through the Keystart Scheme, received financial counselling from qualified financial counsellors prior to them accepting the loan or executing the documents. Who are the financial counsellors who have been engaged to perform this work?
- (5) Are these counsellors paid by Keystart?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(2) See answer to your question number 1900, August 27, 1997.
- (3) Yes, I can arrange a briefing on the mechanics at your convenience.
- (4) People who are granted Keystart Loans receive counselling prior to taking out their loan. This counselling is performed by experienced loan officers employed by the Keystart Retailers.
- (5) As outlined in answer (4).

HEPATITIS C VIRUS - INCLUSION ON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REGISTER

2893. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are people with the Hepatitis C virus (HVC) included on the notifiable diseases register?
- (2) If not, what data is collected?
- (3) What number of notifications have occurred for each of the last five years?
- (4) What data is available with respect to the age of those contracting the HCV and can the Minister give a breakdown of current infections according to age?
- (5) Are there any recorded cases of schoolchildren contracting the HCV and, if so, in what circumstances?
- (6) What data is available about the source of infection in HCV cases and is data available as to the number of cases contracted by intravenous drug users?
- (7) What are the other recorded means of contracting the HCV?
- (8) What programs are being undertaken by the Western Australian Health Department to prevent transmission of the HCV and what is the cost of each?
- (9) Has the Minister costed the economic impact of each HCV case to the Western Australian taxpayer?
- (10) If yes to (9) above, what is the cost?
- (11) If no to (9) above, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) Hepatitis C was first notifiable in March 1993. The figures are as follows:

1993:	1,133
1994:	1,358
1995:	1,213
1996:	1,239
1997:	1,090 Provisional - duplication may exist.
- (4) Age breakdown is available from the Notifiable Diseases Database. This shows that some 25% of all cases are aged 35 to 39 and 67% of cases are aged 20 to 39.
- (5) There have been eight children aged five to 14 in the past two years. From the information available some have received blood products prior to 1990 and some have been infected vertically, i.e. mother to child.
- (6) Further data is collected on a proportion of hepatitis C cases and in those some 75% are due to injecting drug use.

- (7) Other means of transmission are receiving blood products prior to 1990, vertical transmission (mother to child), sexual transmission, though this is uncommon, and skin penetration, either from tattooing or from sharing of razors, etc.
- (8) The following programs are addressing the transmission of blood-borne viruses including hepatitis C.

Program	Cost 1997-98
Needle and Syringe Availability Programs	
• WA AIDS Council	162,300
• Perth Aboriginal Medical Service	90,000
• Rural Hospitals	10,000
Hepatitis C Council of WA	115,000
Western Australian Substance Users Association (*Oct 97 - Jun 98)	125,000
Production of materials promoting harm reduction practices among people who already inject drugs	12,000
Senior Project Officer Salary	42,000
GP and community education on blood borne viruses in general	10,000
WA Alcohol and Drug Authority Blood Borne virus program	60,000
TOTAL	\$626,300

- (9) No.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) This is an issue that is being looked at on a national basis to determine the economic impact on hepatitis C.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MAIN ROADS EMPLOYEES - LEAKING OF DOCUMENTS

876. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) Why has the Commissioner for Main Roads issued notices of suspected breaches of discipline to three of his employees whom he claims "had an opportunity to have a number of contacts during work time utilising Main Roads facilities with a specific member of the Opposition and thus provided them with an opportunity to discuss issues and disseminate information confidential to Main Roads"?
- (2) Surely it is not an offence under the Public Sector Management Act for public servants to be in a position where they might have had the opportunity to leak documents without actually leaking anything.
- (3) Is this nothing more than a McCarthyist tactic designed to intimidate our public servants?

The SPEAKER: Order! Standing orders state that questions should not go into a great deal of argument.

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) The Leader of the Opposition knows it is improper and in fact illegal for public servants to leak information. I understand an investigation has been conducted into those matters. I will make inquiries through the proper authorities and reply to the Leader of the Opposition.

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCES

877. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister for Transport still advocating the introduction of a licence system for operators of certain recreational fishing vessels?
- (2) If so, why and what are the particulars of the proposal?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(2) The Minister for Transport has providing the following response: At this time no decision has been made to introduce a boat driver licensing system for recreational vessels in Western Australia. WA and Victoria are the only two States without such a requirement. In accordance with the 1997 intergovernmental agreement which established the national marine safety regulatory regime, all Australian marine authorities

are working to develop nationally consistent principles for the issue of boat drivers' licences. These will form the basis of reciprocal recognition arrangements between those States without a requirement for such boat drivers' licences.

CONTRACTING OUT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

878. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the Minister's New Year's Eve confession that the "State Government had hurt workers and their families in its rush to contract out public services". I refer specifically to this quote: "I think there have been a few examples of rushing into things which have come unstuck." To which examples did the Minister refer?

Mr BARNETT replied:

It was a general comment. When one has changes in ownership, it is important to take great care with the conditions and positions of individual employees. As members opposite know, as a number of them wrote to me in this regard, a recent example was with the pipeline when a superannuation issue arose. The Government honoured in full the superannuation entitlements involved and, consequently, the 133 employees will happily go across to Epic Energy. The general observation I made was that it is important to have workers' support in privatisation in terms of not only equity, but also enthusiasm for the change.

Several members interjected.

Mr BARNETT: I was not having a go; I was making a general observation about privatisation. I made a general comment that privatisation needs to be handled with care.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS, MANDURAH

879. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Transport:

Money was allocated in this year's Budget for the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Peelwood Parade and Old Coast Road, Mandurah. Also, the intersection was recently listed in the black spot classification for federal funding. Can the Minister give the House a firm date on when these traffic lights will be erected?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response, about which I am sure the member for Dawesville will be happy: The exact installation date will depend on a number of factors, including the completion of the intersection layout modifications to be undertaken by the City of Mandurah. However, there is no reason at this time why the scheduled installation timing of May 1998 cannot be met.

NATURAL GAS COST SAVINGS

880. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Resources Development:

I refer to the Minister's claim that the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline will result in cheaper gas for domestic and commercial customers.

- (1) What provisions does the sale contract contain to guarantee reduced transmission rates after the year 2000?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that AlintaGas has already rejected his claims of cheaper gas by claiming that any savings from lower transmission costs will not be passed on to customers?
- (3) Has the Minister given Epic Energy any assurances, or does the agreement involve any such assurances, that there will not be a second pipeline in the foreseeable future, thereby guaranteeing Epic's monopoly position?
- (4) Will the Minister table the contract with Epic Energy if it has been finalised, and if not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(4) Four distinct questions were asked in that burst. Regarding the contract provisions, the sale agreement on the pipeline, with which all bidders complied, was for the transportation tariff to fall from \$1.19 to \$1 by 1 January 2000. The first step with a reduction to \$1.09 is already contained in regulations in this Parliament.

Mr Grill: It is still too high, don't you think?

Mr BARNETT: Hang on. The member asked four questions, which I will try to answer fairly. The sale provision addresses the issue of what happens to transport charges post-1 January 2000. A schedule requires that any increases will be below the consumer price index. Therefore, one will continue to see falling real transport charges.

Also, on 1 January, this area all comes under the national access code, and any application for an increase in charges would need to be justified, and a justification, to my understanding, would not include the price paid for the pipeline. People may be assured of that.

Regarding the impact on AlintaGas, an industrial user such as Alcoa essentially buys gas at the market price of maybe \$2, and it costs \$1 to transport the produce. Therefore, transport charges are important. If one gets down to the householders and small business level, the proportion of total delivered gas price attributed to the gas transmission function is about 10 per cent or less of the total price. Therefore, changes in gas transmission charges will have a limited effect on the price of gas for householders.

Regarding the future direction of gas prices, one modest increase has occurred since 1991, which was primarily executed to introduce a fixed and variable price structure which was necessary after the splitting of the State Energy Commission of WA. Some gas consumers, admittedly smaller users of gas, paid more, and some larger gas consumers actually paid less.

Mr Grill: Do you agree that it will lead to a price reduction?

Mr BARNETT: The member has asked four questions, which I will attempt to answer fairly.

Future gas prices have yet to be determined and announced. I can indicate that the trend will be for falling real gas prices for energy consumers, be they householders or industrial or business users in this State. These are significant achievements.

Regarding Epic's position, no guarantee has been given to Epic about any future second, third or fourth pipeline. This issue has been widely misunderstood. Under the purchase arrangement, Epic's bid included a commitment of \$874m for progressive expansion by looping and compression to duplicate the pipeline on the existing easement through to 2007, or earlier if so desired.

First, there will be the progressive construction of a second pipeline. Under the Kingstream agreement Act, which was passed last year, Kingstream, or the mid west iron and steel project, could, if it so wishes, build another pipeline right now - nothing precludes it. If it acquires an easement, it can build one. People forget about the policy decisions and have focused on the technical sale process. One of those policy decisions was that the easement be retained in public ownership. It will be vested in the Department of Land Administration. The Government will use some pipeline sale proceedings to expand that easement from 30 metres to 100 metres, which will allow for other pipeline operators in the future. Indeed, we have committed during the course of the calendar year to inviting proposals for anyone else who wants to build a pipeline. Therefore, one could have three pipelines; namely, the Epic expanded pipeline, a mid west iron and steel pipeline, and a third party pipeline. Importantly, whether a new pipelines will be constructed will be determined and driven by economics. I hate analogies, but the appropriate analogy is that the pipeline is like a highway going north and south. The competition is between the trucks transporting products. To increase transport competition, one does not necessarily build a second highway but rather makes sure there is competition within the contracting for the pipeline and that there is sufficient capacity.

Two weeks ago the Leader of the Opposition said we should call off the sale process. Can members imagine how the deal would have been organised under a Labor Government? It would have been done by a friendly merchant banker along St Georges Terrace; 1 or 2 per cent would have been taken off the top - an amount of \$24m or \$48m; there would have been a success fee of \$50m; and the bag man would have been around a month later for the Labor Party. That is the difference between this Government and the previous Labor Government.

NATURAL GAS COST SAVINGS

881. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Resources Development:

Does the Minister intend to table the agreement and if so, when?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I apologise, the member for Eyre asked that question previously. As I indicated in the brief ministerial statement this afternoon, I will present a full report to the Parliament on the sale and the nature of the agreement once it is concluded.

Mrs Roberts: That sounds like no.

Mr BARNETT: Not at all. I will not table the full sale documentation, unless I am advised it is appropriate to do so, because it contains a great deal of information which is confidential to the bidder and other bidders. I will give a full account. I am not privy to the details. It relates to commercial information of Epic Energy about its expansion plans and strategy.

PINJARRA COURTHOUSE CLOSURE

882. Mr BRADSHAW to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is there a move to close the Pinjarra courthouse?
- (2) If yes, why?
- (3) Are any steps being undertaken to maintain the services in Pinjarra carried out by the clerk of courts?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) The Auditor General has suggested, in the context of his report "Order in the Court, Management of the Magistrates' Court", that the level of workload and usage of some regional courts, including the Pinjarra courthouse, requires review of their operation. A number of factors need to be taken into account when the future of any service to regional areas is considered. The department has reviewed these courts and the Pinjarra courthouse, despite all other considerations, stands out as requiring further justification for its retention. Accordingly, the views of stakeholders and interested parties are being sought as part of this process. In particular, the Minister for Justice has received representations from the member for Murray-Wellington, and will carry out further investigation before a decision is made.

GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION - RECOVERY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS

883. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's media statement of 2 February which stated that the Western Australian Tourism Commission was considering advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office in relation to options for the recovery of government funds from the Global Dance Foundation, and ask -

- (1) When was that advice provided to the WATC?
- (2) What options are being considered?
- (3) When is the WATC expected to make a decision?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) I am advised that, acting on legal advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office, the Western Australian Tourism Commission has resolved to commence legal proceedings. Those proceedings will be instituted shortly.

MEMBERS' SUPERSEDED COMPUTER EQUIPMENT - DONATION TO SCHOOLS

884. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister authorise or permit members of Parliament to donate their superseded computer equipment to local schools in their electorates? If so, when can such donations be effected?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The State Supply Commission has a policy on the disposal of unneeded or outdated computer equipment and as long as members comply with that policy, they can donate that equipment to schools in their electorates. I commend members for doing so. I make the obvious point that any confidential information, particularly that relating to constituents, should not be on any files or records associated with the equipment. Also members should make sure that the manuals and necessary documentation are in place. Members well know that schools welcome outdated or outmoded computer equipment.

SKYWEST AIRLINES PASSENGER NUMBERS

885. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the average passenger numbers for the Skywest Airlines Pty Ltd government subsidised flights between Busselton and Perth?

- (2) What is the extent of the government subsidy payable to the airline for the period 1 October 1997 to 28 February 1998?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) A total of 1 113 passengers were carried on 258 flights from 1 October 1997 to 28 February 1998. The average is 4.31 passengers per flight, but on a number of flights 10 or 11 passengers were carried.
- (2) The total subsidy paid was \$110 733, but this was shared on a one-third/two-thirds basis with the Shire of Busselton. The shire's share was \$36 911 and the State's share was \$73 822.

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

886. Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

The Assistant Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council said, in commenting on industrial reform, that unemployment was at a high. This is a continuing claim by some union officials. Is this assertion borne out by information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Some people in the trade union movement and some members opposite appear to be disappointed that their predictions of doom and gloom following the industrial relations reforms have been spectacularly wrong. In this case they are 100 per cent wrong. When this Government came to office in 1993, thanks to the then Labor Government this State's employment record was the basket case of the country. That should be compared with the current figures.

The ABS figures for January indicate that Western Australia had the lowest unemployment rate in Australia. It had the second highest employment growth in Australia, and the lowest youth unemployment in the country. That is a beautiful set of numbers - first, second and first in the three key areas. The Assistant Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council describes this news as reeling from the IR changes. The TLC cannot bear to hear the good news. Despite predictions from members opposite and from the trade union movement that there would be an increase in the number of part time jobs, I am pleased to report that the figures indicate an increase in full time employment and a decrease in part time employment. In January Western Australia also had the highest level of job vacancies of any State in Australia, at a time when traditionally most States have done very poorly. As a result of the policies of this Government, including its industrial relations reforms, this State has a very proud record on job creation, and the people of this State - those who were unemployed and who now have jobs and the young people who now have jobs - have this Government to thank for it.

POLICE AIR WING

887. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What are the plans for the future operation and development of the police air wing?
- (2) Is it true that \$250 000 was taken from the police training budget this financial year to keep the air wing's aircraft flying?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) As the member for Midland will be aware, the operations of the police air wing have been under review for the past 12 months. Various recommendations were made to the Commissioner of Police about how air transport services for the Police Service should be provided in future. Without making inquiries I am not aware of the outcome of the recommendations, but I will seek that information.
- (2) I am not aware of funds being diverted from the police service training budget to the air wing. I am sure the member for Midland would be complaining if the air wing had not been adequately resourced.

INQUIRY INTO THE CITY OF WANNEROO

888. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Local Government:

Will the Minister please provide the House with a brief report concerning the progress of the Local Government Act inquiry into the City of Wanneroo?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The panel inquiring into the Wanneroo City Council has completed its report, which I have referred to the Solicitor General for advice on a number of matters. I am awaiting that advice. It is not appropriate to comment at this stage. Sections 8.22 to 8.24 of the Local Government Act 1995 set out how such a report should be handled.

POLICE CORRUPTION INQUIRY**889. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

Last year the Minister advised this House that a joint Western Australia Police Service-Australian Federal Police inquiry into corruption allegations by former detective Frank Scott had been completed.

- (1) What is the outcome of that investigation?
- (2) Will the Minister table that report in Parliament; if not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

I thank the member for Midland for some notice of this question.

- (1) I am seeking legal advice about the implications of making this report public, particularly from the perspective of natural justice and procedural fairness. I have requested that the matter be concluded as soon as possible. Subject to that legal advice I hope to table the report in the near future.

Mrs Roberts: It must be four months now.

Mr DAY: I requested that advice some time ago and I am still waiting for it.

QUINNS-MINDARIE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB RELOCATION**890. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the recommendations of the Quinns Coastal Process Study jointly commissioned by the Department of Transport and the City of Wanneroo which recommended, in part, sand renourishment of the Quinns Beach stretch of coastline and construction of a sea wall. In view of the consequential need to relocate the Quinns-Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club -

- (1) What is the proposed new site for the club?
- (2) What is the nature and extent of financial assistance to be provided by the Transport Ministry to effect the relocation?
- (3) When will the relocation be effected?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) The proposal was submitted by the Quinns-Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club to the City of Wanneroo. The Ministry of Transport has not been requested to review the proposal. However, it has been given to understand that the proposed site is the reserve located south of Quinns Road.
- (2) No financial assistance will be given.
- (3) The Ministry of Transport has not been advised of the proposed relocation date.

RETAIL TRADING HOURS REVIEW**891. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:**

- (1) Will the review of retail trading hours to be undertaken later this year be conducted in an open and transparent manner?
- (2) Will public hearings be held?
- (3) Who will undertake the review?
- (4) Will the review have the authority to make recommendations that do not conform to government policy?

Mr SHAVE replied:

(1)-(2) Yes.

(3) The people undertaking the review have not been appointed yet. I assume they will include people from the Ministry of Fair Trading.

Mr Brown: Will they be independent people?

Mr SHAVE: Certainly.

(4) Yes.

MILLENNIUM BUG EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

892. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

Will the Minister please inform this House of any steps taken by the State Government to inform and mobilise the business sector about the potential drastic economic consequences of the millennium bug, particularly on manufacturing industries in this State?

Mr COWAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

Several members interjected.

Mr COWAN: I am pleased to learn that at least one member of the Opposition has heard some of the radio advertisements.

Mr Brown: About \$350 000 worth of taxpayers' money is being spent.

Mr COWAN: It is about that amount, and it will be money well spent.

Following a survey of business conducted last year the Government was somewhat horrified by the response of business to the year 2000 problem. Approximately 90 per cent of businesses surveyed were aware that they had a problem, but very few were prepared to do anything about it. As a result the Government formed a year 2000 industry awareness task force which includes the Department of Commerce and Trade, the Small Business Development Corporation, the Ministry of Fair Trading and the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. That task force has the responsibility of raising awareness and understanding of the effects on business of the year 2000 date change problem. It has prepared a range of resource material to provide information to industry on the problem.

As I said, the task force is involved in a major campaign to disseminate that information throughout Western Australian businesses. Newspaper and radio advertising has commenced and has been coupled with other mechanisms for informing businesses, such as articles in the business and trade press, the publication of a dedicated web site, speaking presentations to industry associations or mail-outs to industry lists and displays at trade exhibitions.

The Western Australian campaign is now being coordinated with the national industry awareness strategy which in many ways follows the lead set by the Western Australian Government in undertaking a major campaign to alert Australian industry to the serious consequences accruing from failure to effectively deal with this problem.

I table this document titled "Year 2000 Business Ready WA" which gives advice to businesses should they ask for it.

[See paper No 1229.]

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY - RURAL MINISTERIAL OFFICE

893. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Primary Industry:

How does the Minister justify the expense to taxpayers of establishing a second ministerial office in his electorate? Is this not merely a rort designed to minimise political fallout from the fact that the Minister no longer lives in his electorate?

Mr HOUSE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

Some of the actions taken by the Labor Government when it was in office were worth copying and some were not. Some of the Labor Ministers established rural ministerial offices. I thought that was a very good precedent. They provide a very good service to rural people and I make no excuse for my action because part of what a Government should be about, particularly the National Party, is providing a service to rural people. If the member would like a primary industry ministerial office in his electorate I can arrange it for him.

ALINTAGAS ASSET SALES AGREEMENT

894. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Resources Development:

Why was it necessary to give a direction to the Board of AlintaGas to sign the asset sales agreement and why did the board members need an indemnity?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

That was one of a host of issues that had to be handled in the past week or so. The instruction was given because in the first instance it was a decision of the Government, not of the board, to sell the pipeline. The directors of AlintaGas operate under the Companies (Western Australia) Code. They did not go through a due diligence process of deciding whether they should sell the pipeline, because they did not have the authority. As it was a government decision to sell the pipeline it was necessary that the responsible Minister formally instruct and direct the board to sell the pipeline. The board therefore needed to be indemnified against any personal liability. It was a proper process determined by lawyers representing AlintaGas and Crown Law.

REGIONAL PURCHASING WORKSHOPS

895. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Works; Services:

- (1) Has the Minister recently conducted a series of workshops throughout country regions on contracting to government departments?
- (2) If so, will he please advise the House of their purpose and outcome?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for some notice of this question. The issue of regional purchasing has been of considerable interest, particularly to those in country areas. Members will be aware of the regional purchasing policy adopted by the State Supply Commission throughout government over the past few years. That policy has been reviewed and, as a result, a new buying compact has been brought down by the commission and adopted by the Government.

The purpose of regional seminars has been to inform small and medium businesses, in particular, of the opportunity to access some of the large amounts of money the Government procures from the private sector each year in goods and services, and infrastructure. Small and medium businesses have been concerned that they may not have access to government contracting. The Government is keen to ensure these businesses are fully aware of the opportunities available to them to access government contracts. With that in mind, over the past month the State Supply Commission and the Department of Contract and Management Services have taken the opportunity to go to many regional areas - Bunbury was only one in question - and to indicate to small and medium businesses the extent to which government is contracting in regional areas and that we are very keen to make sure these businesses have access to government contracting so that as many resources as possible can be kept in the regional areas.

AGRICULTURAL REGION - CLOSURE OF GRAIN FREIGHT LINES

896. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Does the Minister share the concerns of farmers and rural shires over Westrail's plans to close seven grain freight lines within the agricultural region?

Mr HOUSE replied:

This issue was first raised by the member who has asked the question about a week ago. I would have thought that by now she may have got the statement right and read some of the press releases that she has been putting out, which have since been corrected by the Minister for Transport. There is no proposal by Westrail to close any rural railway

lines - none at all. This is what has been done: Members of the grain industry have been looking at the efficient movement of grain around Western Australia. They have come up with a report which they have given to the Minister for Transport for his consideration and also that of the industry. No proposal has come from the Government, the Minister, or Westrail. This proposal has been the subject of discussion among some industry members.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member that it is highly disorderly to interject while I am on my feet.
