

1. Departmental Motor Vehicles

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many cars at 30 June 2006 were:
- leased from a Government Finance Entity;
 - leased from State Fleet
 - leased from a Government Finance Entity and provided for the use of one individual; and
 - leased from State Fleet and provided for the use of one individual;

- ii) How many new cars were purchased in the following years:

- FY2005-06
- FY2004-05
- FY2003-04
- FY2002-03

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars acquired in each year.

- iii) How many new cars were leased in the following years:

- FY2005-06
- FY2004-05
- FY2003-04
- FY2002-03

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars leased in each year and when the lease expires.

- iv) How many cars owned and/or leased were powered by liquid petroleum gas (LPG) as at:

- 30 June 2006
- 30 June 2005
- 30 June 2004
- 30 June 2003

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars if available.

- v) How many cars owned and/or leased were powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) as at:

- 30 June 2006
- 30 June 2005
- 30 June 2004
- 30 June 2003

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars if available.

- vi) How many cars owned and/or leased have been modified for ethanol as at:

- 30 June 2006
- 30 June 2005
- 30 June 2004
- 30 June 2003

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars if available.

- vii) How many cars owned and/or leased were powered by petrol as at:

- 30 June 2006
- 30 June 2005
- 30 June 2004
- 30 June 2003

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars if available.

viii) How many cars owned and/or leased were powered by diesel as at:

- a. 30 June 2006
- b. 30 June 2005
- c. 30 June 2004
- d. 30 June 2003

Please provide details of the make, size and horsepower of the cars if available.

ix) How many refuelling stations does the Department operate as at:

- a. 30 June 2006
- b. 30 June 2005
- c. 30 June 2004
- d. 30 June 2003

Please provide details of the location of the station and availability of different fuel types at each station

x) Does the Department have a policy or strategy to reduce the fuel consumption of its car fleet, if so, can details be provided?

xi) What is the departments position on the use of ethanol fuel?

xii) What is the fuel efficiency rating of all the cars provided to the Department and/or departmental staff under the arrangement described above?

xiii) How does the actual fuel consumption and mileage compare with that rating?

xiv) Statewide, what operating savings would have been achieved for FY2005-06 if all cars provided to the Department and/or departmental staff under the arrangement described above were run on:

- a. LPG
- b. CNG
- c. ethanol?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

At 30 June 2006, the number of passenger vehicles in the New South Wales Government motor vehicle fleet was 17,140.

There were also 8,732 other vehicles including commercial vehicles, Ambulances, buses and other specialised vehicles such as handicapped transporters in the fleet.

The composition of the passenger fleet has changed significantly over the past twelve months with small and medium now comprising the largest segment of the fleet at 38% whilst large passenger vehicle numbers have reduced by 14% to now represent only 36%.

In 2005 new guidelines were announced committing the Government to the use of biofuels and other alternative fuels as part of the Government's overall *Cleaner NSW Government Fleet Policy*.

From 1 July 2006, all government owned vehicles are required to use E10 blends (or other alternative fuels) where this is practicable, available and cost effective. This

coincides with the commencement of a new whole-of-government fuel contract that includes biofuels.

Vehicles managed by the Department of Commerce's StateFleet are being issued with fuel cards specifically providing for the consumption of E10, where it is available.

Public sector officials who currently have Government owned vehicles as part of their remuneration package are also able to replace existing vehicles with hybrid vehicles when they are due for replacement.

Despite a change in the federal Department of Transport and Regional Services green vehicle guide rating system on 1 January 2006 the whole of government environmental performance score has increased from 9.55 at 1 July 2005 to 9.96 at 30 June 2006 against a target of 10. Without the change, the score would have been 10.

2. Diversity reporting

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Did the Department include in its annual report a report on outcomes achieved for clients from multicultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds for each of the following financial years:
 - a. FY2000-01
 - b. FY2001-02
 - c. FY2002-03
 - d. FY2003-04
 - e. FY2004-05
 - f. FY2005-06?
- ii) If not, did the Department otherwise publish a report on outcomes achieved for clients from multicultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds for each of the following financial years:
 - a. FY2000-01
 - b. FY2001-02
 - c. FY2002-03
 - d. FY2003-04
 - e. FY2004-05
 - f. FY2005-06?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

NSW Government agencies are required to implement the principles of multiculturalism in conducting their affairs. Public sector agencies incorporate these principles and objectives part in their core business through the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) Standard Framework.

EAPS provides a framework for agencies to address the needs of a culturally diverse society according to their charter and integrate these needs into the agency's core business and services.

Agencies are required to prepare EAPS plans and review them on an annual basis.

All agencies are required to report on the progress made in implementing EAPS in the past year and the key ethnic affairs strategies proposed for the following year/s.

The *Community Relations Report 2005* provides an account of the programs and initiatives pursued by NSW Government agencies in implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism.

The reports contains a selection of initiatives that have been submitted to the Commission as examples of how public sector agencies are providing services to our culturally diverse society. The report is publicly available from the Community Relations Commission website at www.crc.nsw.gov.au.

3. Diversity costs

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) What were the costs associated to the Department of providing culturally responsive and accessible services for each of the following financial years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ii) What was the budget at the start of the financial year for the estimated costs associated to the department of providing culturally responsive and accessible services for each of the following financial years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- iii) How much did the Department budget for this purpose for FY2006-07?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The NSW Government is committed to the Principles of Multiculturalism and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). The government recognises the benefits in employing staff from Non English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB).

New South Wales is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia with people from around 140 birthplaces and around 26% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

Through the EAPS Framework, the government is committed to responding to needs of a culturally diverse community when delivering programs and services.

The government recognises that a culturally diverse workplace can promote equity and enhances staff skills and agency success.

Community language skills and cultural competencies are valuable assets to an agency. Service delivery can improve when agency staff understand and can communicate skilfully with clients from a range of backgrounds.

The percentage of NESB employees is publicly reported in agency annual reports.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

4. Public information

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Which publications are being published, as at today, for public information purposes?
- ii) Which publications produced for public information purposes have had their publication suspended since 1 July 2003? Please provide details of when the last issue was published.
- iii) For the list of publications published for general public information purposes?
 - a. Which publications were produced in languages other than English and what languages were the publications published in?
 - b. From the above list, how many copies were printed?
 - c. From the above list, what was the total cost of the publication (i.e. translation, printing and distribution) of each of these documents?
- iv) For the period 1 July 2006 to date what are the details of all publications produced by agencies for which the Minister has responsibility, indicating in each case the:
 - a. title;
 - b. date of issue/distribution;
 - c. cost of production;
 - d. number printed;
 - e. name of printer; and
 - f. details of distribution, including numbers and cost and the purpose of production.
- v) For the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 what are the details of all publications produced by agencies for which the Minister has responsibility, indicating in each case the:
 - a. title;
 - b. date of issue/distribution;
 - c. cost of production;
 - d. number printed;
 - e. name of printer; and
 - f. details of distribution, including numbers, cost and the purpose of production.
- vi) For the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 what are the details of all publications produced by agencies for which the Minister has responsibility, indicating in each case the:
 - a. title;
 - b. date of issue/distribution;
 - c. cost of production;
 - d. number printed;
 - e. name of printer; and
 - f. details of distribution, including numbers, cost and the purpose of production.
- vii) For the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 what are the details of all publications produced by agencies for which the Minister has responsibility, indicating in each case the:
 - a. title;
 - b. date of issue/distribution;
 - c. cost of production;

- d. number printed;
- e. name of printer; and
- f. details of distribution, including numbers, cost and the purpose of production.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Under section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* agencies publish a list of publications and other promotional materials in a six monthly summary of affairs which appears in the Government Gazette and in an annual statement of affairs which are usually contained in publicly available annual reports.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

5. Staff with Non-English Speaking Backgrounds With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) What proportion of employees as at 30 June 2006 have a non-English speaking background?
- ii) What efforts has the Department made to identify employees from non-English speaking backgrounds and the languages in which they are fluent?
- iii) For each language other than English that the Department has identified employees with language skills, please indicate as at 30 June 2006 how many were identified as being:
 - a. Fluent in the respective language;
 - b. Proficient in the respective language?
- iv) Of the personnel with skills in languages other than English as at 30 June 2006:
 - a. How many have been identified as possessing accredited language skills to either translator or interpreter standard?
 - b. For each language, how many were identified as having accreditation as a translator and what was their respective level of accreditation?
 - c. For each language, how many were identified as having accreditation as an interpreter and what was their respective level of accreditation?
- iv) What was the cost of language training paid for by the Department in the following periods:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?

Please provide details of number of employees who received language training and in what language.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The NSW Government is committed to the Principles of Multiculturalism and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). The government recognises the significant benefits in employing staff from Non English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB).

New South Wales is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia with people from around 140 birthplaces and around 26% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

Through the EAPS Framework, the government is committed to responding to needs of a culturally diverse community when delivering programs and services.

The government recognises that a culturally diverse workplace promotes equity and can enhance staff skills and agency success.

Community language skills and cultural competencies are valuable assets to an agency. Service delivery can improve when agency staff understand and can communicate skilfully with clients from a range of backgrounds.

The percentage of NESB employees is publicly available in agency annual reports.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

6. Departmental staff – Community Language Allowance scheme

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Did any Departmental staff members receive an allowance under the Community Allowance Scheme in:
 - a. FY 2003-04
 - b. FY 2004-05
 - c. FY 2005-06
- ii) Of the Department's personnel who were in receipt of an allowance under the Community Allowance Scheme how many received the base level of allowance in:
 - a. FY 2003-04
 - b. FY 2004-05
 - c. FY 2005-06
- iii) Of the Department's personnel who were in receipt of an allowance under the Community Allowance Scheme how many received the highest level of allowance in:
 - a. FY 2003-04
 - b. FY 2004-05
 - c. FY 2005-06

ANSWER

I'm advised:

As part of the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) Standard Framework, agencies are required to employ strategies to ensure services are equitable and accessible to all sections of the community.

An agency's service delivery can improve when staff understand and can communicate skilfully with clients from a range of backgrounds. The community may also identify with and relate to agencies that reflect its level of diversity.

Community language skills and cultural competencies are valuable assets to an agency. The Personnel Handbook which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au makes provision for the payment of a Community Language Allowance Scheme (CLA).

To be eligible for the CLA, employees must pass one or both of two examinations and be nominated by their department.

They must also be:

- public contact staff, counter staff or other clerical staff who, owing to their language skills, are required to deal with public enquiries;
- prepared to be identified as possessing a non-English language skill for the purpose of the work of their department;
- available to use the language skill as required by the department; and
- recognised by their department as occasional or regular users of their language skill as an adjunct to their normal duties.

Further details on the policy is contained in the Personnel Handbook.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

7. Use of translators and interpreters With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- iv) How much was spent by each entity the Minister was responsible for on engaging language translators in each of the following periods:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- v) How much was spent by each entity the Minister was responsible for on engaging language interpreters in each of the following periods:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- vi) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for engaging:
 - a. language translators
 - b. language interpreters?
- vii) For each language in which a translator was engaged, how many engagements occurred in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- viii) For each language in which an interpreter was engaged, how many engagements occurred in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ix) What was the total cost (broken down according to language) of the engagement of translators in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06
- x) What was the total cost (broken down according to language) of the engagement of translators in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

As part of the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) Standard Framework, agencies are required to employ strategies to ensure services are equitable and accessible to all sections of the community.

These strategies may include the use of interpreters to communicate with agency clients. Service delivery can improve when agency staff understand and can communicate skilfully with clients from a range of backgrounds.

The Language Services Division of the Community Relations Commission provides an interpreter and translation service that is available to NSW public sector agencies. The Division works with government agencies to provide opportunities for the professional development of interpreters and translators and to improve availability of language services in Sydney metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

8. Print advertising With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

i) How much was spent on advertising or advertorial in the ethnic print media during each of the following years:

- a. FY2002-03
- b. FY2003-04
- c. FY2004-05
- d. FY2005-06?

ii) Please provide details of the name of the publication used in each instance, the language in which it is printed, the average circulation achieved by the publication and the Department's total annual spend on advertising and advertorial in each publication in each of the following years:

- a. FY2002-03
- b. FY2003-04
- c. FY2004-05
- d. FY2005-06?

iii) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for expenditure on advertising or advertorial in ethnic print media?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across NSW Government and issued new advertising requirements that came into effect on 1 July 2005.

These requirements applied to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Changes to the Government's advertising policy were announced in *Premier's Circular 2006-26 : Changes to Government Advertising Policy*.

To achieve savings, all advertisements will now be consolidated in a single government advertisement under the masthead NSW Government Noticeboard.

Those changes include:

1. Improving access to details of job vacancies by publishing the Government's composite recruitment advertisement in both The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph each Saturday; and
2. consolidating all important public information and statutory notices into a single government advertisement that appears each Wednesday in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph.

In 2005/2006, advertising expenditure by budget dependent and self-funded was \$55.3 million and comprised of Community Awareness advertising of \$39.3 million and Public Notices/Information advertising of \$19 million

I'm further advised the Howard Government has allocated at least \$250m in the 2006/07 Budget for 13 advertising campaigns including:

- \$52.1m Private Health Insurance Campaign claiming to increase consumer awareness of the incentives and benefits associated with private health insurance;
- \$47.3m Smartcard Awareness Campaign claiming to ensure all Australians are aware of the processes for registering for the card;
- \$36.1m Child Support Reforms to increase awareness of the changes; and
- \$15m Independent Contractors (AWA) communications campaign.

The \$250m is in addition to the \$130m advertising placement spent for the current financial year making a combined total of \$380 million.

The Howard Government has spent over \$1.1 billion on advertising since it came to office in 1996.

9. Radio advertising

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

i) How much was spent on advertising or advertorial on ethnic radio in each of the following years:

- a. FY2002-03
- b. FY2003-04
- c. FY2004-05
- d. FY2005-06?

ii) Please provide details of which radio station was used in each instance, the language in which it was broadcast and the Department's total annual spend on advertising and advertorial in each language at each radio station in each of the following years:

- a. FY2002-03
- b. FY2003-04
- c. FY2004-05
- d. FY2005-06?

iii) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for expenditure on advertising or advertorial on ethnic radio?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across NSW Government and issued new advertising requirements that came into effect on 1 July 2005.

Those requirements applied to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Changes to the Government's advertising policy were announced in *Premier's Circular 2006-26 : Changes to Government Advertising Policy*.

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The Howard Government has spent over \$1.1 billion on advertising since it came to office in 1996.

10. Intermediary Service Providers – Expenditure

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How much was spent on the services of an intermediary service provider, such as another level of government or a non-government organization, for delivery of Departmental programs or services in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - a. FY2004-05
 - b. FY2005-06?
- ii) Please provide details why the intermediary service provider was used in each instance and the nature of the services provided in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- iii) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for expenditure on the services of an intermediary service provider, such as another level of government or a non-government organization, for delivery of Departmental programs or services?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Each year the NSW Government acquires and builds significant assets, goods and services including computer and communication technology infrastructure and systems.

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) works with government agencies to develop significant strategies and plans to deliver value, minimise costs and manage risk in the construction and management of assets, procurement and management of information and communication technology and the procurement of goods and services.

Commerce also provides, as part of a broader government network, services to project manage emergency incidences and to deliver projects of state significance.

Key procurement services provided include establishing and administering aggregated goods and services, standing period contracts, design and delivery of efficient and effective procurement systems and best practice guidelines, online procurement tools and services and the review of projects across their procurement lifecycle.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

11. Intermediary Service Providers - Accountability

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many Departmental programs or services were delivered using an intermediary service provider, such as another level of government or a non-government organization, in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ii) Did contracts with intermediary service providers used for delivering the Departmental programs or services identified above specify access and equity accountabilities (eg. collection and reporting of information on client characteristics) as part of their funding conditions?
- iii) For each of these, is the condition a standard clause? If so, can the Department supply a copy of the standard clause used in the contracts?
- iv) If the Department does not use a standard clause in these contracts, can the Department provide a copy of the various conditions used in its service contracts with intermediary service providers used for delivering the Departmental programs or services?
- v) Does the Department audit its contracts with intermediary service providers used for delivering the Departmental programs or services to ensure compliance with any funding conditions specifying access and equity accountabilities (standard clauses or otherwise)? If so, please supply details of the results of these audits.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Auditor General audits the expenditure of agencies as provided in the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*. The audit process provides an independent assessment of agencies financial situation. Internal audit procedures are guided by information supplied by NSW Treasury which is publicly available at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au, in particular Treasury Policy and Guideline Papers TPP95a (Statement of Best Practice – Internal Control and Audit) and TPP95b (Internal Control and Assessment) and Treasurer's Directions 720.01-.03 (Internal Control and Internal Audit).

Shared Corporate Services are leading practice for corporate services delivery, through the benefits of economies of scale, access to expert advice, better customer service, transparency of information and on-line access for users and clients. The NSW Government has endorsed a Shared Corporate Services Strategy to enable public sector agencies to significantly improve corporate services delivery, realise the benefits of technologies and reduce costs.

The Shared Corporate Services concept capitalises on recent developments in corporate IT applications, which eliminate much of the routine manual transactions and make remote provision of services an efficient and effective option.

Prospective Providers need to demonstrate that they are able to provide an efficient, effective and appropriate service without compromising their core business. Providers need to demonstrate their commitment to providing services over a period of time and in accordance with criteria developed to assist the transparent assessment of potential providers by central agencies, potential clients and the providers themselves.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

12. Engagement of contractors by the Department – need identification

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Please provide the following information concerning those occasions during FY2005-06 when the need for a contractor was established within the Department, thereby necessitating the engagement of a contractor or contractors to undertake and/or execute any project or task:
 - a. the name or names of the contractor or contractors engaged in each instance;
 - b. the project or task the contractor or contractors were engaged to perform in each instance;
 - c. the actual amount paid to the contractor or contractors in each instance, indicating where relevant the extent to which this amount exceeded the projected cost for the contract.
- ii) Please provide the following information concerning those occasions during FY2005-06 to date when the need for a contractor has been established within the Department thereby necessitating the engagement of a contractor or contractors to undertake and/or execute any project or task:
 - a. the name or names of the contractor or contractors engaged in each instance;
 - b. the project or task the contractor or contractors were engaged to perform in each instance;
 - c. the actual amount paid to the contractor or contractors in each instance.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The use of contractors is limited to areas in which the agency does not have the necessary skills or specific expertise to effectively and efficiently undertake a required project or task. As well as establishing a need, it is standard practise to forecast contractor costs in order to conduct a cost-benefit analysis prior to making a decision of engagement. Contractors' work is monitored and evaluated to ensure that objectives and milestones specific to the project are met within the agreed budget and time-frame.

The Auditor General audits of agencies expenditure as required by the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and this audit process provides an independent assessment of agencies financial situation. Internal audit procedures are guided by information supplied by NSW Treasury which is publicly available at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au, in particular Treasury Policy and Guideline Papers TPP95a (Statement of Best Practice – Internal Control and Audit) and TPP95b (Internal Control and Assessment) and Treasurer's Directions 720.01-.03 (Internal Control and Internal Audit).

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

13. Engagement of contractors by the Department – cost forecasting

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) During FY2005-06, was a cost-benefit analysis prepared within the Department prior to making a decision to engage a contractor or contractors in every instance?
- ii) In every instance during FY 2005-06 when a cost-benefit analysis was prepared within the Department prior to making a decision to engage a contractor or contractors, please provide the following information:
 - a. the estimated or forecast cost of engaging a contractor or contractors to undertake and/or execute the relevant project or task and a description of the project or task involved;
 - b. the name or names of the contractor or contractors engaged to undertake and/or execute the project or task and whether the work performed by the contractor or contractors met the objectives and milestones specific to the project within the agreed budget and time-frame
 - c. the extent to which the amount the contractor or contractors received exceeded the agreed budget and time-frame and/or any estimated or forecast cost in the cost benefit analysis prepared by the Department.
- iii) During FY2005-06, has a cost-benefit analysis been prepared within the Department prior to making a decision to engage a contractor or contractors in every instance?
- iv) In every instance during FY 2005-06 to date when a cost-benefit analysis has been prepared within the Department prior to making a decision to engage a contractor or contractors, please provide the following information:
 - a. the estimated or forecast cost of engaging a contractor or contractors to undertake and/or execute the relevant project or task and a description of the project or task involved;
 - b. the name or names of the contractor or contractors engaged to undertake and/or execute the project or task and whether the work performed by the contractor or contractors has met the objectives and milestones specific to the project within the agreed budget and time-frame
 - c. the extent to which the amount the contractor or contractors received exceeded the agreed budget and time-frame and/or any estimated or forecast cost in the cost benefit analysis prepared by the Department.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The use of contractors is limited to areas in which the agency does not have the necessary skills or specific expertise to effectively and efficiently undertake a required project or task. As well as establishing a need, it is standard practise to forecast contractor costs in order to conduct a cost-benefit analysis prior to making a decision of engagement. Contractors' work is monitored and evaluated to ensure that objectives and milestones specific to the project are met within the agreed budget and time-frame.

The Auditor General audits of agencies expenditure as required by the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and this audit process provides an independent assessment of agencies financial situation. Internal audit procedures are guided by information supplied by NSW Treasury which is publicly available at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au, in particular Treasury Policy and Guideline Papers TPP95a (Statement of Best Practice – Internal Control and Audit) and TPP95b (Internal Control and Assessment) and Treasurer's Directions 720.01-.03 (Internal Control and Internal Audit).

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

14. Credit Card Use With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many employees/staff carry, use or have been issued with a Departmental/Agency credit cards as at
 - a. 30 June 2006
 - b. 30 June 2005
 - c. 30 June 2004
 - d. 30 June 2003
- ii) What was the total amount of expenditure by staff on credit cards used within the Department/Agency in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- i) Please provide a breakdown on the credit limits for credit cards issued by the department/agency as at:
 - a. 30 June 2006
 - b. 30 June 2005
 - c. 30 June 2004
 - d. 30 June 2003
- ii) Provide details of the total amount of interest and fees paid by the Department/Agency in respect of the credit cards used within the Department/Agency in each of the following years:
 - e. FY2002-03
 - f. FY2003-04
 - g. FY2004-05
 - h. FY2005-06?
- iii) Provide a breakdown of the amount spent by Departmental/Agency staff using credit cards:
 - a. Reimbursement of meals and food related expenses
 - b. Reimbursement of accommodation expenses
 - c. Reimbursement of taxi and hire car expenses

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Credit cards for Ministers and public sector employees are issued and used in accordance with Directions to all government agencies. Credit cards are used for business purposes only and may be used to meet the costs of official out-of-pocket expenses from time to time in accordance with the Premier's policy guidelines. Credit cards are generally used for the purchase of low value goods and services.

Authorities must establish a business case for the use of credit cards including a cost benefit analysis for their agency.

Payment of expenses and or purchase of approved stores and services by credit card requires the normal procedures of acquiring approval to incur expenditure. Credit card accounts require the normal examination, certification and authorisation.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

15. Departmental staff

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:
Please provide data on the number of staff in the Department in each salary band?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 provides for a Department Head to establish or abolish any branch or part of the Department. Internal branch/unit structures of Departments are designed to ensure the most efficient and effective service is provided to the Minister and the people of New South Wales.

Under the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Reports) Act 1984*, agencies are required to set out their structure and business units in their annual report.

Accordingly information relating to staff and salary groups is publicly available in annual reports.

16. Ministerial staff

With respect to both the Department and the agencies constituted under it:

- i) How many departmental employees were seconded/assigned to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries as at:
 - a. 30 June 2002
 - b. 30 June 2003
 - c. 30 June 2004
 - d. 30 June 2005
 - e. 30 June 2006
- ii) To what Minister or Parliamentary Secretary outlined in part i) were they assigned?
- iii) What was the total cost of seconding/assigning department employees to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries for the following periods:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- iv) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for seconding/assigning department employees to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Ministers' office staff are employed by the Director-General of the Premier's Department under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

Departmental staff may be assigned to Ministers' Offices from agencies within the Minister's portfolio to assist the Minister's Office deal more efficiently with agency matters.

Conditions of employment and entitlements are regulated by the provisions of the Public Sector Act. Salary costs are included in the employee-related expenses of the home agencies.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

17. Departmental support for the Minister

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) As at 30 June 2006, does the Department have a staff members and/or a Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit whose duties involve any of the following:
 - a. Coordinating and processing correspondence,
 - b. Briefings,
 - c. Freedom of Information requests,
 - d. Reports to Parliament,
 - e. Answers to Questions of Notice,
 - f. Estimates briefings?
- ii) What is the official name of the unit or the section to which employees who are assigned who are involved in any of the following:
 - a. Coordinating and processing correspondence,
 - b. Briefings,
 - c. Freedom of Information requests,
 - d. Reports to Parliament,
 - e. Answers to Questions of Notice,
 - f. Estimates briefings?
- iii) How many employees are currently in the Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit (whose duties are outlined in part i) as at:
 - a. 30 June 2003
 - b. 30 June 2004
 - c. 30 June 2005
 - d. 30 June 2006Please provide details of salaries & job titles/descriptions of the employees counted above.
- iv) As at 30 June 2006, who in the Ministerial/Parliamentary Offices is able to authorise requests or commission work from the Department and/or Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit?
- v) As at 30 June 2006, to whom does the Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit report to within the department?
- vi) As at 30 June 2006 and to whom in the Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit?
- vii) What was the total cost of the Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit (whose duties are outlined in part i) for the following periods:
 - a. FY 2002/03
 - b. FY 2003/04
 - c. FY 2004/05
 - d. FY 2005/06
- viii) How much has been budgeted by the Department for the Ministerial/Parliamentary Liaison Unit for FY2006-07?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 provides for a Department Head to establish or abolish any branch or part of the Department. Internal branch/unit structures of Departments are designed to ensure the most efficient and effective service is provided to the Minister and the people of New South Wales.

Under the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Reports) Act 1984*, agencies are required to set out their structure and business units in their annual report.

This includes units that assist the Department and Minister in performing their roles. Accordingly this information is publicly available.

18. Professional development

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) What was the total expenditure on professional development for senior staff in the following periods:
 - a. FY 2002/03
 - b. FY 2003/04
 - c. FY 2004/05
 - d. FY 2005/06
- ii) Please provide a breakdown of the aggregate spent on professional development of senior staff over the last three years according to their classification as SES (Senior Executive Service) or Senior Officers other than SES.
- iii) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 to be spent on professional development of senior staff?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government's policy document *The NSW Public Sector Workforce Planning Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2004 – 2006* which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au, outlines key workforce issues across the NSW public sector.

A major focus of the plan is to align skill gaps with resources for training and development. The Government's Action plan outlines initiatives for building workforce capability including entry level and graduate recruitment and retention, leadership development and core public sector skill development.

The Government has established initiatives for developing leadership across the sector including the Executive Development Program, the Public Sector Management Program and study assistance scheme.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

19. Staff training & development

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) What was the total expenditure on in-house job-related training for the following periods:
 - a) FY 2003-04
 - b) FY 2004-05
 - c) FY 2005-06?
- ii) How many hours did staff spend on in-house job-related training for the following periods:
 - a) FY 2003-04
 - b) FY 2004-05
 - c) FY 2005-06?
- iii) What was the total budgeted expenditure on in-house job-related training for the FY2006-07?
- iv) What was the total expenditure on external job-related training for the following periods:
 - a) FY 2003-04
 - b) FY 2004-05
 - c) FY 2005-06?
- v) How many hours did staff spend on external job-related training for the following periods:
 - a) FY 2003-04
 - b) FY 2004-05
 - c) FY 2005-06?
- vi) What was the total budgeted expenditure on external job-related training for the FY2006-07?
- vii) What are the specific areas of focus for staff training due to be undertaken in this financial year and how does this differ from training programs undertaken in the previous two financial years?
- viii) Please provide a breakdown of the aggregate spend on in-house and external job-related training for staff over the last three years according to their classification and/or level.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government's policy document The NSW Public Sector Workforce Planning Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2004 – 2006, which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au outlines key workforce issues across the NSW public sector.

A key focus is to align any skill gaps with resources for training and development. The plan outlines initiatives for building workforce capability including entry level and graduate recruitment and retention, leadership development and core public sector skill development.

The Government has established initiatives for the delivery of training across the sector including the Aboriginal Employment Framework, which provides agencies with direction and guidance on planning, development and implementation of Aboriginal employment initiatives.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

20. Work practices

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Has the Department implemented any new policies or practices to assist employees to balance work and family responsibilities during FY2005- 06 and the financial year to date? If so, what are those policies and or practices?
- ii) Does the Department have any benchmarks against which it assesses the efficacy of new policies or practices introduced by it to assist employees to balance work and family responsibilities? If so what are those precise benchmarks?
- iii) If the Department has implemented any new policies or practices to assist employees to balance work and family responsibilities during the last four financial years:
 - a. has it sought employee feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives?
 - b. has there been any cost/benefit analysis performed to assess the effectiveness of such initiatives and, if so, what did that analysis indicate?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The NSW Government is committed to providing family friendly working conditions for staff. Employees under the *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2006* are covered by NSW public service wide initiatives such as:

1. The Public Employment Office (PEO) Premier's Department, Flexible Work Practices - Policy and Guidelines, provides a framework for implementing initiatives that assist employees to balance work and family responsibilities. This includes policies relating to part-time work and part-time leave without pay, job sharing and short-term absences for family and community service responsibilities. Other options include career break schemes, part year employment and varying hours.
2. Policy and Guidelines on employee sponsored childcare are an important part of the Government's commitment to a family friendly workplace.
3. The Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2006 also provides a range of entitlements to assist employees to meet their work and family responsibilities. In 2005/06 the PEO and the Public Service Association (PSA) agreed to include express provisions within the Award to provide greater certainty about entitlements for part time employees. Other entitlements include:
 - Flexible working hours
 - Paid maternity, adoption and parental leave
 - Part-time maternity, adoption and parental leave
 - Family and community services leave
 - Access to personal sick leave to care for an ill family member
 - Where leave entitlements are exhausted flexible access to leave without pay to meet caring responsibilities

21. Employment of people with a disability With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many people with a disability are employed by the Department in each NSW electoral divisions?
- ii) Please provide a breakdown of the Department's disabled workforce listing their employment status (permanent, casual, temporary), average remuneration rate by gender, age, gender and occupational group.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government has completed a program of strategic partnerships with the Motor Accidents Authority, the Public Trustee and the Department of Education and Training to offer public sector traineeships for job seekers with a disability.

This Traineeship Program provided on-the-job training in NSW Government agencies together with tertiary study opportunities for people with a disability. These opportunities lead to nationally accredited qualifications. On completion successful trainees have a nationally accredited qualification.

The three year traineeships program 2002-04 outcomes include 71 participants having completed the program. Twenty nine public sector agencies participated in the program and fifty successful trainees found permanent positions with these agencies.

Many agencies include high level information relating to the employment of people with a disability in annual reports, which are publicly available.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

22. Employment of mature age staff

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) what is the total number of male staff aged over 65 years and the total number of female staff aged over 60 years as at:
 - a) FY 2003-04
 - b) FY 2004-05
 - c) FY 2005-06?

- ii) As at 30 June 2006, how many men over 65 years and women over 60 years are employed by the Department in each NSW electoral division?

- iii) As at 30 June 2006, please provide a breakdown of roles and salaries of all men over 65 years and women over 60 years are employed by the Department?

- iv) What policies are in place within the Department to encourage employment of staff older than retirement age?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government's policy document *The NSW Public Sector Workforce Planning Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2004 – 2006* outlines key workforce issues across the NSW public sector.

The Government is committed to ensuring that it attracts and retains skilled and valuable employees to meet changing policy and service delivery needs. The Government is keenly aware of the impact that an aging population will have on the labour market in terms of skills shortages and the recruitment and retention of staff. The Government's Action Plan outlines a range of initiatives to improve the retention of older public sector employees.

The recently released *Retirement Intentions Survey: Report and Findings* will help the Government plan and manage the ageing Public Sector workforce to ensure that experience and expertise is retained by agencies.

All employment decisions within the NSW public sector must satisfy the principles of merit selection including fair practices that are free from discrimination and value and deliver diversity in the workplace.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

23. State Government funded programs With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Does the Department administer any State funded programs for which community organisations or businesses can apply for funding? If so, what are these programs?
- ii) Does the Department advertise these funding opportunities?
- iii) For each of the programs listed in part i) above, please provide a breakdown of the following by electoral division and year (that is, for each of FY2003-04, FY2004-05 and FY2005-06 to date):
 - a. the name and postal address of each organisation that sought funding from the State;
 - b. the purpose of the funding sought in each case; and
 - c. for successful applications, the level of funding provided.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Lists of grants are provided in agency annual reports which are publicly available.

I'm further advised NSW Government grants programs are listed on the Government's Community Builders website at www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au. The website contains all the NSW Government grants programs together with some Commonwealth Government and corporate philanthropic programs. All NSW Government grants are currently being added to this site.

24. Departmental public relations and media staff With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many media and/or communications advisers were employed by the Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Employment & Management Act 2002 during FY2005-06?
- ii) What was the total cost to the Department in FY2005-06 of media and/or communications advisers employed by the Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Employment & Management Act 2002?
- iii) How many media and/or communications advisers are currently employed by the Department?
- iv) What is the estimated total cost to the Department in FY2006-07 of media and/or communications advisers employed by the Department?
- v) How many media and/or communications advisers were employed as contractors by the Director General of the Department during FY2005-06?
- vi) What was the total cost to the Department in FY2005-06 of media and/or communications advisers employed as contractors by the Department?
- vii) How many media and/or communications advisers are currently employed as contractors by the Department?
- viii) What is the estimated total cost to the Department in FY2006-07 of media and/or communications advisers employed as contractors by the Director General of the Department?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Governments are required to communicate a wide variety of information to the public including public health, community welfare and safety, public education and training, environmental and rural support, arts, tourism and business development.

Governments use a variety of channels and media to communicate this information including print, radio and television media, advertising, marketing and promotional activities, publications, website and community liaison.

Agencies may employ staff to carry out media and/or communication functions to communicate important information including the department's activities to members of the public. Section 9 (2) of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 (PSEM Act 2002) provides for department heads to create, abolish or otherwise deal with any positions in their department other than the position of department head.

Under the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Reports) Act 1984*, agencies are required to set out their structure and business units in their annual report. This includes units that provide communications services to the public.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

25. Departmental advertising

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Did the Department submit any campaign advertising plans to the Advertising Peer Review during FY2005-06?
- ii) Please provide a detail of all campaign advertising plans submitted by the Department to the Advertising Peer Review during FY2005-06.
- iii) How many and which campaign advertising plans submitted to the Advertising Peer Review during FY2005-06 were:
 - a. Rejected;
 - b. Sent back for further work;
 - c. Forwarded onto Cabinet Sub-Committee;
 - d. Approved by the Cabinet Sub-Committee;
- iv) What was the total actual advertising expenditure by the Department in FY2005-06?
- v) How has the total advertising expenditure by the Department varied over the last three financial years?
- vi) Please provide a monthly breakdown of total actual advertising expenditure by the Department in FY2005-06.
- vii) Please provide a breakdown of total actual advertising expenditure by the Department in FY2005-06 on the following categories of advertising
 - +a. community awareness
 - b. public notice
 - c. public information
 - d. employment related advertising
 - e. non-employment related advertising.
- viii) In relation to actual advertising by the Department in FY2005-06, please provide a list of each campaign cost, which firms were involved and the actual amount spent by the Department on "media buy" and advertising agency fees.
- ix) What has been the actual total advertising expenditure by the Department during FY2006-07 to date.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across government and issued new advertising guidelines on 1 July 2005.

These requirements apply to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Further amendments to the Government's advertising policy were made in *Premier's Circular 2006-26: Changes to Government Advertising Policy* which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

To achieve savings, all advertisements will now be consolidated in a single government advertisement under the masthead NSW Government Noticeboard.

Changes include:

- Improving access to details of job vacancies by publishing the Government's composite recruitment advertisement in both The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph each Saturday and,

- Consolidating all important public information and statutory notices into a single government advertisement that appears each Wednesday in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph.

In 2005/2006, advertising expenditure by budget dependent and self-funded was \$55.3 million and comprised of Community Awareness advertising of \$39.3 million and Public Notices/Information advertising of \$19 million

I'm further advised the Howard Government has allocated at least \$250m in the 2006/07 Budget for 13 advertising campaigns including:

- \$52.1m Private Health Insurance Campaign claiming to increase consumer awareness of the incentives and benefits associated with private health insurance;
- \$47.3m Smartcard Awareness Campaign claiming to ensure all Australians are aware of the processes for registering for the card;
- \$36.1m Child Support Reforms to increase awareness of the changes; and
- \$15m Independent Contractors (AWA) communications campaign.

The \$250m is in addition to the \$130m advertising placement spent for the current financial year making a combined total of \$380 million.

The Howard Government has spent over \$1.1 billion on advertising since it came to office in 1996.

26. Departmental advertising & public information

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Please list all advertising or public information projects currently being undertaken or expected to be undertaken in FY2006-07 where the cost of the project is estimated or contracted to be \$10,000 or more and indicate:
 - a. The purpose and nature of the project;
 - b. The intended recipients of the information to be communicated by the project;
 - c. Who authorised or is to authorise the project;
 - d. The manner in which the project is to be carried out;
 - e. Who is to carry out the project;
 - f. Whether the project is to be carried out under a contract or contracts;
 - g. Whether such contract or contract was or is to be let by tender;
 - h. The estimated or contracted cost of the project.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across government and issued new advertising guidelines on 1 July 2005.

These requirements apply to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Further amendments to the Government's advertising policy were made in *Premier's Circular 2006-26: Changes to Government Advertising Policy* which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

To achieve savings, all advertisements will now be consolidated in a single government advertisement under the masthead NSW Government Noticeboard.

Changes include:

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- consolidating all important public information and statutory notices into a single government advertisement that appears each Wednesday in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph.

In 2005/2006, advertising expenditure by budget dependent and self-funded was \$55.3 million and comprised of Community Awareness advertising of \$39.3 million and Public Notices/Information advertising of \$19 million

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- \$15m Independent Contractors (AWA) communications campaign.

The \$250m is in addition to the \$130m advertising placement spent for the current financial year making a combined total of \$380 million.

The Howard Government has spent over \$1.1 billion on advertising since it came to office in 1996.

27. Departmental advertising & public information – effectiveness tracking mechanisms With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How does the Department evaluate the effectiveness of the advertising and/or public information projects being undertaken during FY2006-07 where the cost of the project is estimated or contracted to be \$10,000?
- ii) What are the precise benchmarks against which the projects are being assessed?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across government and issued new advertising guidelines on 1 July 2005.

These requirements apply to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Further amendments to the Government's advertising policy were made in *Premier's Circular 2006-26: Changes to Government Advertising Policy* which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

To achieve savings, all advertisements will now be consolidated in a single government advertisement under the masthead NSW Government Noticeboard.

Changes include:

- Improving access to details of job vacancies by publishing the Government's composite recruitment advertisement in both The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph each Saturday and,
- consolidating all important public information and statutory notices into a single government advertisement that appears each Wednesday in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph.

All departmental expenditure is subject to annual audits by the Auditor-General who tables those reports in Parliament.

28. Departmental research projects

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Please provide a list of all research projects currently being undertaken or expected to be undertaken by the Department or agency in the course of FY2006-07?
- ii) How many of these research projects are expected to be completed by the end of this financial year?
- iii) What are the specific areas of focus for projects due to be completed in this financial year and how does this differ from projects undertaken in the previous three financial years (ie. FY2003-04, FY2004-05, FY2005-05)?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Agency research and development initiatives are provided in annual reports, which are publicly available, as part of the general reporting on programs and initiatives.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

29. Departmental break-ins

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many break-ins did the Department report to the NSW Police in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ii) How many break-ins did the Department not report to the NSW Police in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- iii) For each incident:
 - a. What was the location and cost of the damage associated with each break-in?
 - b. What was the cost of damage incurred because of the break-in?
 - c. What was the subject of theft in each break-in?
 - d. What was the cost of any theft associated with each break-in?
 - e. Was anyone apprehended and charged in relation to the break-in (please indicate if the relevant individual/s was employed by the Department)?
 - f. Was anyone convicted in relation to the break-in (please indicate if the relevant individual/s was employed by the Department)?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

These matters are reported to NSW Police and are dealt with accordingly.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

30. Departmental property theft With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

i) How many thefts of Departmental property occurred in each of the following years:

- a. FY2002-03
- b. FY2003-04
- c. FY2004-05
- d. FY2005-06

ii) For each incident:

- a. What was stolen in each instance?
- b. What was the value of the stolen item/s?
- c. From where were the relevant items stolen?
- d. Was anyone apprehended and charged in relation to the theft (please indicate if the relevant individual/s was employed by the Department)?
- e. Was anyone convicted in relation to the break-in (please indicate if the relevant individual/s was employed by the Department)?
- f. Were any of the items recovered?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

These matters are reported to NSW Police and are dealt with accordingly.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

31. Departmental fraud With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many incidents of fraud were detected against the Department in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06
- ii) For each incident:
 - a. What was the subject of the fraud in each instance?
 - b. What was the value of the fraud?
 - c. Which administrative unit was the subject of the fraud?
 - d. Was anyone charged in relation to the fraud (please indicate if the relevant individual/s was employed by the Department)?
 - e. Was anyone convicted in relation to the fraud (please indicate if the relevant individual/s was employed by the Department)?
 - f. Were any of the defrauded items recovered or was any of the defrauded money recovered?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

These matters are reported to NSW Police and are dealt with accordingly.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

32. Departmental property loss With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many incidents of loss (excluding theft, accident, breakage and vandalism) of Departmental property were reported to the Department in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ii) For each incident:
 - a. What was the loss in each instance?
 - b. What was the value of the loss?
 - c. Which administrative unit lost the property?
 - d. Were any of the lost item/s recovered?
 - e. Was anyone disciplined over the loss?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Details of insurance claims are provided in agency annual reports which are publicly available.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

33. Computer equipment & security

- i) Have there been any desktop computers, laptop computers or any other item of computer hardware, lost or stolen from the possession of any staff member during the FY2005-06 and the current financial year to date; if so:
 - a. what and how many have been lost;
 - b. what and how many have been stolen;
 - c. what is the total value of these items;
 - d. what was the replacement value per item; and
 - e. were these items been recovered or replaced.
- ii) Were the police been requested to investigate any of these incidents? If so: how many were the subject of police investigation;
 - a. how many police investigations have been concluded;
 - b. in how many cases has legal action commenced; and
 - c. in how many cases has this action been concluded and with what result?
- iii) How many of these lost or stolen items had departmental documents, content or information other than operating software on their hard disc drives, floppy disc, CD Rom or any other storage device?
- iv) How many of the documents or files in (iii) were:
 - a. confidential, classified for security or for limited distribution for any other purpose;
 - b. if any, what was the security classification involved and how many have been recovered?
- v) What Departmental disciplinary or other actions have been taken in regard to the items in (i) or in relation to the documents or files in (iii) or (iv)?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Most government agencies have appropriate insurance arrangements through the Self Insurance Corporation (SIC) or other appropriate insurance arrangements.

Thefts are referred to NSW Police according to particular fund manager requirements and agency policy.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

34. Motor vehicle accidents

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

i) How many Department motor vehicle accidents were involved in accidents in each of the following years:

- a. FY2002-03
- b. FY2003-04
- c. FY2004-05
- d. FY2005-06?

ii) For each incident:

- a. What was the value of the damage?
- b. To which administrative unit was the vehicle attached?
- c. Was anyone charged over the incident (please specify the charges involved)?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Most government agencies have appropriate insurance arrangements through the Self Insurance Corporation (SIC) or other appropriate insurance arrangements.

The number of insurance claims for motor vehicles for government agencies is published in agency annual reports which are publicly available.

The details and cost of damage and theft of motor vehicles for the public sector was released to *The Daily Telegraph* under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 and published on 4 September 2006, which noted the total number of claims for 2005-2006 was 8,708 at a cost of \$24.43 million.

35. Departmental transport costs

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) What was the total expenditure by the Department on taxi, limousine and hire car services (including Cabcharge) for the following periods:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06?
- ii) What is the budget for expenditure by the Department on taxi, limousine and hire car services (including Cabcharge) for the FY 2006-07?
- iii) Please provide a breakdown of the aggregate spend by staff on taxi, limousine and hire car services (including Cabcharge) according to their classification as SES (Senior Executive Service), Senior Officers other than SES and the remaining staff classifications.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The policy established by the Greiner Government is contained in Information Sheet No. 91-13 which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

The policy prescribes the circumstances under which taxi fares may be reimbursed and cabcharge vouchers may be issued.

Expenditure on taxi fares is either for official travel to ensure staff can attend meetings or to return home after late or shift work.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

36. Departmental function costs

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) What was the total expenditure by the Department on functions (such as staff training, "in-services" and entertainment related functions) held at external venues (including hotels and public venues) for the following periods
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06?

- ii) In relation to each of the functions held by the Department at an external venue during FY2005-06, please provide the following information:
 - a. The purpose and nature of the function;
 - b. The intended audience for the function and the number of people actually in attendance at the function;
 - c. Who authorised the function;
 - d. Whether food or refreshments were supplied at the function and the amount of the final total cost of the function indicating the cost of venue or room hire and the costs of catering food and beverage for the function.
 - e. Whether alcoholic beverages were served at the function;
 - f. Whether the provision of services (venue, catering etc) was carried out under a contract or contracts;
 - g. Whether such contract or contract was let by tender.

- iii) What is the amount budgeted for this purpose (that is, spend by the Department on functions such as staff training, "in-services" and entertainment related functions) in FY2006-07?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Employees may attend training courses and professional development courses in line with the policy contained in the Personnel Handbook. These courses and activities must be of benefit to the agency and may also benefit employee career development within the Public Service.

With regard to entertainment expenses, Premier's Memorandum M2005-12 outlines sector-wide requirements, prohibiting the expenditure of State funds on any event that could provide predominantly personal benefit to NSW public sector employees.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

37. Conference or training attendance by Departmental staff

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many fee-paying conferences did staff members attend in
 - a. FY 2003-04
 - b. FY 2004-05
 - c. FY 2005-06?
- ii) Please provide the following information concerning each occasion during FY2005-06 when attendance by a staff member or staff members at a conference was approved:
 - a. the name of the conference and where it was held;
 - b. the number, title and name of the employees who attended the conference;
 - c. the amount of the conference fees;
 - d. the total cost to the Department of the attendance at the conference of the staff member or members.
- iii) How many fee-paying conferences have staff members attended in FY2006-07 to date?
- iv) Please provide the following information concerning each occasion during FY2006-07 to date when attendance by a staff member or staff members at a conference has been approved:
 - a. the name of the conference and where it was/will be held;
 - b. the number, title and name of the employees who attended/will attend the conference;
 - c. the amount of the conference fees;
 - d. the total cost/total estimated cost to the Department of the attendance at the conference of the staff member or members.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Attendance at conferences is recognised as a training and development activity with benefits for employees and agency's effectiveness in delivering services. Conference attendance is determined on a case by case basis depending on the relevance to the agency.

The policy is contained in the Personnel Handbook which is available on the Premier's Department Website at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

38. Business Consultations With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How many business consultations and/or information sessions directed to the business community did the Department conduct in:
 - a. FY 2003-04
 - b. FY 2004-05
 - c. FY 2005-06?
- ii) Please give an indication of the broad industries that the Department consults.
- iii) Please give an indication of the specific business sectors and/or industries from which, as a matter of course, the Department seeks input on policy and legislative initiatives.
- iv) Were any consultations made outside the Sydney Metropolitan area in:
 - a. FY 2003-04
 - b. FY 2004-05
 - c. FY 2005-06?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government cooperates closely with all stakeholders, including for example business and farming communities to develop appropriate policies and programs for the people of NSW.

In rural and regional NSW, the Government has established a range of mechanisms to encourage participation and develop a collaborative approach to policy making and service delivery.

In 1996, the Government established the Regional Communities Consultative Council to ensure the Government is informed on the issues facing people in rural and regional NSW. In 1997, the Government appointed a Minister for Regional Development and a Minister for Rural Affairs to give rural and regional communities a stronger voice in Government decision making.

Another key component of these efforts is the Regional Coordination Program. The Program has placed 10 Regional Coordinators across metropolitan and regional New South Wales, providing Government and communities with a strong network for the strategic management of projects and issues.

The Government has relocated several government agencies and numerous staff into rural and regional NSW to improve services in these areas and increase employment opportunities.

Extensive consultation has also been undertaken by the Government in the development of the State Plan launched on 8 August 2006.

Up to 2,500 members of the public were invited to attend Community Forums across NSW attended by the Premier, Ministers and senior public servants.

The Community Forums provide valuable feedback on important challenges and priorities across NSW. Full analysis of the detailed outcomes from the Community and other regional stakeholder forums will inform the development of the final State Plan.

The people of NSW also have an opportunity to provide comment and submissions on the Draft State Plan through the website at www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

39. Regional NSW - print advertising

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How much was spent on advertising or advertorial in the print media in regional NSW in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ii) Please provide details of the name of the publication used in each instance, the subject matter of the advertising or advertorial concerned and the total annual spend on advertising and advertorial in each publication in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- iii) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for expenditure on advertising or advertorial in the print media in regional NSW?

ANSWER:

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across government and issued new advertising guidelines on 1 July 2005.

These requirements apply to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Further amendments to the Government's advertising policy were made in *Premier's Circular 2006-26: Changes to Government Advertising Policy* which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

To achieve savings, all advertisements will now be consolidated in a single government advertisement under the masthead NSW Government Noticeboard.

Changes include:

- Improving access to details of job vacancies by publishing the Government's composite recruitment advertisement in both The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph each Saturday and,
- Consolidating all important public information and statutory notices into a single government advertisement that appears each Wednesday in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph.

In 2005/2006, advertising expenditure by budget dependent and self-funded was \$55.3 million and comprised of Community Awareness advertising of \$39.3 million and Public Notices/Information advertising of \$19 million

I'm further advised the Howard Government has allocated at least \$250m in the 2006/07 Budget for 13 advertising campaigns including:

- \$52.1m Private Health Insurance Campaign claiming to increase consumer awareness of the incentives and benefits associated with private health insurance;
- \$47.3m Smartcard Awareness Campaign claiming to ensure all Australians are aware of the processes for registering for the card;
- \$36.1m Child Support Reforms to increase awareness of the changes; and
- \$15m Independent Contractors (AWA) communications campaign.

The \$250m is in addition to the \$130m advertising placement spent for the current financial year making a combined total of \$380 million.

The Howard Government has spent over \$1.1 billion on advertising since it came to office in 1996.

40. Regional NSW - radio advertising

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) How much was spent on advertising or advertorial on radio in regional NSW in each of the following years:
 - a. FY2002-03
 - b. FY2003-04
 - c. FY2004-05
 - d. FY2005-06?
- ii) Please provide details of which radio station was used in each instance, the subject matter of the advertising or advertorial concerned and the total annual spend on advertising and advertorial at each radio station in each of the following years:
 - e. FY2002-03
 - f. FY2003-04
 - g. FY2004-05
 - h. FY2005-06?
- iii) What is the amount budgeted in FY2006-07 for expenditure on advertising or advertorial on radio in regional NSW?

ANSWER:

I'm advised:

The Government completed a review of advertising practices across government and issued new advertising guidelines on 1 July 2005.

These requirements apply to the advertising of recruitment, tenders, statutory and regulatory notices, important public information and campaign advertising.

Further amendments to the Government's advertising policy were made in *Premier's Circular 2006-26: Changes to Government Advertising Policy* which is publicly available at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

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The \$250m is in addition to the \$130m advertising placement spent for the current financial year making a combined total of \$380 million.

The Howard Government has spent over \$1.1 billion on advertising since it came to office in 1996.

41. Freedom of Information – Departmental Procedures

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) When did the Department last update its policies and/or procedures for dealing with Freedom of Information applications received by the Department?
- ii) Who has responsibility within the Department for dealing with Freedom of Information applications received by the Department?
- iii) Please provide details of the policies and/or procedures followed within the Department for dealing with Freedom of Information applications received from the public?
- iv) Please outline the step-by-step process (giving details of the consultation between members of Departmental staff and external agencies, where applicable) which, in practice, is followed by the Department upon receipt of a Freedom of Information applications received from the members and staff of the NSW Opposition?
- v) Has the Department sought to ascertain whether the staff member or staff members tasked with handling with FOI applications received by the Department is or has previously been a member of any political party/organization?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The policy and procedures on the processing of Freedom of Information applications are detailed in the publication *FOI Procedure Manual* which is available on the Premier's Department website at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au. The web site contains other useful information for agencies and the public including:

- application forms;
- Guidelines for Using FOI in NSW;
- Summary of Affairs;
- Statement of Affairs;
- The Freedom of Information Act 1989;
- Information on Review and Appeals.

In collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman and The Cabinet Office, Premier's Department is in the process of finalising a new FOI Manual.

Section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* prescribes the information that must be published by an agency in its Statement of Affairs and its Summary of Affairs. This specifically includes the procedures and contact officers for FOI requests in the agency for members of the public. The Statement of Affairs is usually published in an agencies annual report.

The Premier's Department Personnel Handbook, which is publicly available provides that public servants may be members of political parties as long as this position does not conflict with their primary duty. The Handbook also ensures appointments to positions within the public sector adhere to a competitive merit selection process.

42. Sick leave

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Did any Departmental staff member make sick leave applications relating to a workers compensation claim citing stress as an element or reason for their leave application in the following periods
 - a. FY2003-04,
 - b. FY2004-05 and
 - c. FY2005-06,
- ii) How many sick leave applications relating to a workers compensation claim citing stress as an element or reason for their leave application were made by staff of the Department in the following periods
 - a. FY2003-04,
 - b. FY2004-05 and
 - c. FY2005-06,
- iii) In each of FY2003-04, FY2004-05 and FY2005-06, how many Departmental staff members took sick leave relating to a workers compensation claim citing stress as an element or reason for their leave application where the period of sick leave was:
 - a. less than one month;
 - b. greater than one month but less than three months;
 - c. greater than three months but less than six months;
 - d. greater than six month but less than 12 months;
 - e. greater than 12 months?
- iv) Please provide the following information concerning each occasion during FY2003-04, FY2004-05 and FY2005-06, when a staff member has been granted sick leave relating to a workers compensation where stress was an element or reason for the sick leave application:
 - a. the total cost, in terms of wages etc, of the leave taken by the employee;
 - b. the total amount of leave taken by the employee in terms of full-time equivalent days.
- v) In FY2006-07 to date, have any Departmental staff members made sick leave applications relating to a workers compensation claim citing stress as an element or reason for their leave application?
- vi) In FY2006-07 to date, how many sick leave applications relating to a workers compensation claim citing stress as an element or reason for their leave application were made by staff of the Department?
 - vii) In FY2006-07 to date, how many Departmental staff members have taken sick leave relating to a workers compensation claim citing stress as an element or reason for their leave application where the period of sick leave was:
 - a. less than one month;
 - b. greater than one month but less than three months;
 - c. greater than three months but less than six months;
 - d. greater than six month but less than 12 months;
 - e. greater than 12 months?
 - viii) Please provide the following information concerning each occasion during FY2006-07 to date when a staff member has been granted sick leave relating to a workers compensation where stress was an element or reason for the sick leave application:
 - a. the total cost or cost to date, in terms of wages etc, of the leave taken by the employee;
 - b. the total amount of sick leave or the amount of sick leave taken to date by the employee in terms of full-time equivalent days.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The *NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* aims to protect the health, safety and welfare of people at work, by providing general requirements to be met at every place of work in NSW. The Act covers employees as well as employers and self-employed people.

NSW government agencies are required to identify the causes of work related injury and illness affecting their employees, conduct a risk assessment of the workplace hazards, work practices or other identified causes of workplace injury and illness and develop and implement the appropriate prevention and control policies dealing with work-related injury and illness.

The Government has released its *Working Together – The Public Sector OHS and Injury Management Strategy for 2005-2008*, which is a three year strategy to secure improvements in the public sector's health and safety performance with a specific focus on injury management. It builds on the progress made since the release of the Government's OHS and injury management policy and guidelines *Taking Safety Seriously*.

The Personnel Handbook, which is publicly available, outlines the policy for managing absences due to sickness to ensure that absences are for genuine illness and employees are allowed the necessary time to properly recover before returning to work. The Policy requires managers to regularly monitor and review absences due to illness within the agency.

To check each leave application form would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

43. Departmental staff – compensation for private property With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

i) Did any Departmental personnel receive compensation for damage to or loss of personal property in the course of employment under the *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award 2002*, clause 50,

Compensation for Damage to or Loss of Employee's Private Property during:

- a. FY2003-04
- b. FY2004-05
- c. FY2005-06
- d. FY2006-07 to date?

ii) How many claims for damage to or loss of personal property in the course of employment under the *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award 2002*, clause 50, Compensation for Damage to or Loss of Employee's Private Property were made by Departmental personnel during:

- a. FY2003-04
- b. FY2004-05
- c. FY2005-06
- d. FY2006-07 to date?

iii) What was the total value of claims for damage to or loss of personal property in the course of employment under the *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award 2002*, clause 50, Compensation for Damage to or Loss of Employee's Private Property were made Departmental personnel during:

- a. FY2003-04
- b. FY2004-05
- c. FY2005-06
- d. FY2006-07 to date?

iv) Please provide the following information concerning each claim for damage to or loss of personal property in the course of employment made by Departmental personnel in FY2003-04, FY2004-05, FY2005-06 and FY2006-07 to date:

- a. the item of personal property in respect of which the claim was made;
- b. the nature of the loss or damage to the item of personal property which the staff member claimed;
- c. the amount of the compensation claimed for loss or damage to the item of personal property by the staff member;
- d. whether a claim was lodged under the Injury Management & Worker's Compensation Act 1998 and/or under any insurance policy of the Department covering the damage to or loss of personal property of the employee and whether the relevant claim was accepted or rejected by the insurer; and
- e. if the claim was rejected by the insurer, whether the compensation paid to the employee was the amount necessary to repair the item or an amount for replacement of the item.

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The policy on compensation for loss or damage to private property is contained in the Personnel Handbook which is available on the Premier's Department Website at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au.

If damage to or loss of the employee's private property occurs in the course of employment, a claim may be lodged under the Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998, or under any insurance policy of the department covering the damage to or loss of the personal property of the employee, or both of the above.

If the claim is rejected by the insurer, the department head may compensate an employee for the damage to or loss of private property, if such damage or loss:

- is due to the negligence of the department, another employee, or both, in the performance of their duties; or
- is caused by a defect in the employee's material or equipment; or
- results from an employee's protection of or attempt to protect departmental property from loss or damage.

Compensation is limited to the amount necessary to repair the damaged item. If the item cannot be repaired or is lost, the department head may pay the cost of a replacement item, provided the item is identical to or only marginally different from the damaged or lost item and the claim is supported by satisfactory evidence as to the price of the replacement item.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

44. Departmental staff – private vehicles damaged on official business or other approved travel

With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:

- i) Did any Departmental personnel receive reimbursement of an insurance policy excess in respect of a private vehicle damaged while being used for work during:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06
 - d. FY2006-07 to date?
- ii) How many claims for reimbursement of an insurance policy excess in respect of a private vehicle damaged while being used for work were made by Departmental personnel during:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06
 - d. FY2006-07 to date?
- iii) What was the total value of claims for reimbursement of an insurance policy excess in respect of a private vehicle damaged while being used for work were made by Departmental personnel during:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06
 - d. FY2006-07 to date?
- iv) How has the number and total value of claims for reimbursement of an insurance policy excess in respect of a private vehicle damaged while being used for work were made by Departmental personnel varied over the last four financial years?
- v) Please provide the following information concerning reimbursements made by the Department for the cost of repairs to a broken windscreen on private vehicles used for official business or other approved travel:
 - a. how many times was such a reimbursement made in each of FY2003-04, FY2004-05, FY2005-06 and FY2006-07 to date;
 - b. what was the total value of such reimbursements in each of FY2003-04, FY2004-05, FY2005-06 and FY2006-07 to date?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Personnel Handbook, which is publicly available on the Premier's Department Website at www.premiers.nsw.gov.au, provides that if a private vehicle is damaged while being used for work any normal excess insurance charges prescribed by the insurer must be reimbursed by the department, provided that:

- the damage is not due to the negligence by the employee; and
- the charges claimed by the employee are not charges prescribed by the insurer as punitive excess charges.

Motor Vehicle insurance claims are also reported in agency annual reports.

- 45. Departmental staff – cost of travel to and from work** With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:
- i) Did any Departmental personnel receive assistance for the cost of travel to and from work under *the Public Sector Employment & Management (General) Regulation 1996, Part 5, Division 6* during:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06
 - d. FY2006-07 to date?
 - ii) How many applications for assistance to Departmental personnel for the cost of travel to and from work under *the Public Sector Employment & Management (General) Regulation 1996, Part 5, Division 6* were made by Departmental personnel during:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06
 - d. FY2006-07 to date?
 - iii) What was the total value of assistance provided to Departmental personnel for the cost of travel to and from work under *the Public Sector Employment & Management (General) Regulation 1996, Part 5, Division 6* during:
 - a. FY2003-04
 - b. FY2004-05
 - c. FY2005-06
 - d. FY2006-07 to date?
 - iv) How has the number of staff in receipt of assistance and the total value of assistance provided to Departmental personnel for the cost of travel to and from work varied over the last three financial years?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The *Public Sector Employment and Management (General) Regulation 1996, Part 5, Division 6* provides that an employee must bear the cost of travel to and from work, unless the department head otherwise determines or the following provisions apply:

- If the employee is directed to report for duty at a locality other than the locality at which the employee reported for duty at the beginning of the day; or
- if the employee is directed to report for duty on any day or days at a locality other than the locality at which the employee is normally required to report for duty; and
- if the employee has already incurred expenditure in relation to travel on that day or those days to the locality at which the employee is normally required to report for duty, then
- the cost of travel on that day or those days - up to five days - to the locality at which the employee is directed to report for duty is to be borne by the department.

If the department head is satisfied that special circumstances exist, the department head may approve a period of assistance longer than the 5 days specified.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.