



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA

Addressed to: MR ANDREW BARR MLA, CHIEF MINISTER

In relation to: EXECUTIVE STAFF – DIFFERENCE IN FIGURES

Hearing: 12 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 10, 11

Transcript provided: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

Mr Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Mr Braddock: So, Chief Minister, I wanted to ask about executive staffing budgets. Last year, you tabled a letter dated 19 December, which stated the salaries and wages for executive staff was 8.25 million for 23-24 financial year. I am looking at the CMTEDD Annual Reports 2.2, page 18. It states for the same period as 15.87 million for employee expenses. I am just trying to understand what would be the reason for the differences between one answer from the annual reports.

Mr Barr: Sure. I imagine they would include all of the on costs, superannuation, and a range of other areas, but I will take that on notice for you.

Mr Braddock: Okay. Thank you for that. I have also noticed that the budget for executive staffing has increased a lot over the years. So for example, back in 2018-19 when we had eight ministers, the budget was 8.26 million, and now we are looking at above 15 million, where we still have eight ministers now. So I am trying to understand why the increase and in terms of why is use of public funds?

Mr Barr: Well, I imagine there would have been several EBA rounds, so wages and salaries would have increased. The executive budget would also include the salaries of the ministers themselves. So there would be a range of reasons why it would grow every year. I think the FTE number has been reasonably consistent throughout, but again, I do not have eight years of executive budget history in front of me, so I will take that on notice and provide some further information for you.

MR ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The \$8.25 million noted in the letter to the Clerk dated 19 December included base salary for staff only to ensure an accurate comparison with non-executive member staffing arrangements. The \$15.87 million reported in the 23-24 Annual Report differed to the above amount as it includes the salaries for Ministers, the allowances for staff as set out in the Enterprise Agreement and all on costs including superannuation and leave liabilities.
- (2) The increase in employee expenses from 2018-19 to 2023-24 is primarily due to:
 - An increase to support the addition of an 8th Minister and associated ministerial office and administrative expenses in 2019.
 - An increase to support the addition of a 9th Minister and associated ministerial office and administrative expenses in 2020 following the outcome of the 2020 election.
 - Pay increases under the *Legislative Assembly Members' Staff Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021*.
 - Pay increases under the *Legislative Assembly Members' Staff Enterprise Agreement 2021-2022*.
 - Pay increases and associated salary progression changes under the *Legislative Assembly Members' Staff Enterprise Agreement 2023-2026*.
 - Recalculation of provisions for Termination and Resettlement Payments following an actuarial assessment.
 - Recalculation of provisions for superannuation entitlements.

Financial Year	Fulltime Equivalent
2023-24	74
2022-23	74
2021-22	72
2020-21	70
2019-20	60
2018-19	54

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature: 

Date: **24.2.25**

By the Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA