



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ministerial Expenses

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (10.27 am): I wish to table the public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005. The public report gives maximum transparency to the community regarding the expenses of ministers, parliamentary secretaries and their offices. This report shows how my government continues to be efficient and yet frugal in its expenditure patterns. Expenditure has increased by only \$274,000 or 1.9 per cent compared to the same period last year. This increase is considerably less than the CPI of 2.8 per cent for the same period.

Compared to last year, there have been savings across a wide range of cost categories including communications costs, domestic travel, charter, domestic official duties and consumables. Only moderate increases in salaries costs have occurred principally due to enterprise bargaining, pay rises for all staff and incremental pay increases for some staff. Higher overseas travel costs reflect our strong presence in foreign markets with trips increasing in the comparative period from eight to 11. Increases in other administrative charges and a corresponding reduction in depreciation costs are the consequence of a change in asset costing methods being adopted across the public sector.

I believe that this report clearly shows that expenditure is being maintained at a reasonable level. I table the report.