

**Question on Notice
No. 569
Asked on 20 April 2006**

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL)

QUESTION:

With reference to the several changes in contractual arrangements with Telstra and Optus which have occurred in his portfolio between 2000 and 2006 for the provision of services including mobile phones and CDMA's, 1300 numbers, 1800 numbers, servicing, maintenance and replacement costs, call out costs and internal department costs—

(1) What was the duration and the cost of each contract with each provider for the period of their respective contracts during the abovementioned period?

(2) In respect of the contracts in (1) what was the breakdown of costs (reported separately) for each of the components, i.e. CDMA's, mobile phones, 1300 numbers, 1800 numbers, servicing, maintenance and replacement costs, call out costs and internal department costs?

ANSWER:

(1) During this period, the Department of Emergency Services has entered into a range of contracts for the services in question. Our major contracts are typically of three (3) years duration and are established in accordance with whole-of-Government directives and arrangements. The department also utilises the Mobile Telephone Products & Services Panel for the procurement of mobile telephone products and services. These Panels are two (2) of the three (3) Government Information Technology Conditions (GITC) Panels of Pre-Qualified Suppliers established to assist agencies in the selection of suppliers that best meet the department's telecommunications needs.

(2) The manner in which the department's financial systems record and apportion the costs for telecommunication products and services across the Corporate and Operational Divisions does not provide the requested breakdown of the costs of the services in question.