

**Question on Notice
No. 1012
Asked on Tuesday 7 August 2007**

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$12m Staff Support Package announced on 22 May 2007 that included support for employment of interim CEOs for new councils, assist the management of the change to new arrangements for employees, and support the provision of voluntary early retirements (VERs) as a last resort and where an employee wishes to retire early and now that the Commission has released its report and the effects of the changes are known—

Will he outline the (a) total budget allocated for the interim CEOs (reported separately for each of the next three financial years) and outline how long the interim CEOs are to be employed for, (b) total budget allocated to assist in the management of the change to new arrangements for employees (reported separately for each of the next three financial years) and (c) total budget allocated to support the provision of VERs as a last resort and where an employee wishes to retire (reported separately for each of the next three financial years)?

ANSWER:

(a) \$2.17 million has been allocated to fund the costs of interim CEOs. All of this funding is for the 2007/2008 financial year. The interim CEOs are to be employed only up to the March 2008 local government elections.

(b) & (c) The affected councils and new councils that receive funding support have discretion as to the use of the funding. The councils can determine the best use of the funding package to support the staff in transitioning to the new local government system. All funding to councils will be paid for the entire transition period in the 2007/2008 financial year, with payments made both before and after the March 2008 election.

A key recommendation of the Local Government Association of Queensland, accepted by the State Transition Committee, was that discretion be provided to Councils in the expenditure of transition funding.