

Question on Notice

No. 1915

Asked on, Wednesday 14 November 2007

Mr McArdle asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Attorney-General's announcement earlier this year that as at 1 July 2007 fees paid to private practitioners who undertake criminal law work for Legal Aid would be increased by 19 per cent, from an average of \$84 to an average of \$100 per hour

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Will he advise, by way of comparative table, how the current rates paid to Queensland practitioners for such work compare with the rates paid to private practitioners in other Australian States and territories (each reported separately)?

ANSWER:

As I announced on 28 June, from 1 July 2007 fees paid to private lawyers were increased by 19% to an average hourly rate of \$100. The remainder of the Member's question relates to practice in other States, over which I have no jurisdiction.

Currently, around 70% of Legal Aid Queensland's casework is briefed out to private law firms around the state. That is why, in addition to this recent increase, I have also undertaken to review the hourly rate paid for criminal law work on an annual basis. This is part of a plan to bring the amount into line with the hourly rate of \$120 paid to lawyers doing family law work, set out in my press release of 28 June 2007.

The Queensland Government, through Legal Aid Queensland, ensures as many Queenslanders as possible have access to quality legal services.