

Question on Notice

No. 801

Asked on Thursday, 24 May 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions –

- (3) How many full-time and part-time prosecutors currently work for the office?
- (3) How many prosecutors have resigned over the last 12 months from the office?
- (3) When was the last audit undertaken into the operation of the office to investigate ways to improve staff job satisfaction and ways to encourage experienced barristers to work for the office?

ANSWER:

- (1) There are currently 64 full-time prosecutors and three part-time prosecutors working for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).
- (2) Five prosecutors have resigned from the Office in the last 12 months.

In addition to this, a new role of Principal Crown Prosecutor at Senior Officer level has been introduced with 11 new positions being established in both Brisbane and the regional chambers. These positions have been recently filled on a permanent basis.

The ODPP has also established a new consultant position in the Rockhampton chambers with the same salary as SES 2 (high).

These initiatives have been specifically designed to enhance the career opportunities for prosecutors within the ODPP and to attract and retain staff.

The ODPP has been able to implement these initiatives without an increase to funding through the careful financial management of existing resources.

- (3) On 6 November 2003, the Honourable Premier announced a review of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The review was entitled "Review into the Operations of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Its Interrelationship with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General" and was released in May 2004.

However, a key role of the Executive Director position, which was created as result of that review, is to work to improve processes and systems to enhance the quality of the work environment.