

# WRITTEN QUESTIONS

## 7th Assembly

04/10/1995

69. Government Cost Agreements regarding Legal Action Hart v ABC and Wrenn

Mr. BELL to MINISTER for CHIEF MINISTER

### QUESTION

1. Has the Northern Territory Government concluded a cost agreement with the plaintiff in respect of the legal action involving Hart v ABC and Wrenn.

If the answer to question 1 is yes:

2. Under which statutory provision does the Chief Minister purport to make payments under the cost agreement to Mr Hart.

3. Has the Northern Territory Government paid any monies on this agreement to date; if so, how much.

4. If the answer to question 3 is yes, to whom were these monies paid under the agreement.

5. If the answer to question 3 is yes, what services were purchased by the Northern Territory Government under that agreement.

6. Was Andrew Wrenn eligible for a cost agreement under any implemented policy; if not, why not.

### ANSWER

Answered on 20/02/96

1. Yes.

2. Section 21 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act* entitled "ex gratia".

3. Yes. The Northern Territory Government has paid \$648,654.48 under this Agreement. It should be noted however that the Government has also recovered monies from Mr Hart and the ABC pursuant to an agreed settlement of the action, the terms of which are confidential.

4. In short, to persons providing legal services. This includes legal services provided by Ward Keller, Mildrens and Counsel.

5. Legal services were purchased by the Northern Territory Government under that Agreement.
6. Andrew Wrenn was eligible to request a cost agreement under section 21 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act* , and Police General Order L1.