MR STEVENS asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Why did the Premier sign off on using an interstate recruitment company to find two directors-general for the government’s new mega-super departments, the outsourcing of emergency services uniforms to China and the creation of the ‘Anna for Queensland’ election website by an interstate firm?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government’s State Procurement Policy has a strong focus on supporting local business and requires all government agencies to give competitive local firms a full, fair and reasonable opportunity to supply to the Queensland Government.

Approximately 90% of the Queensland Government’s expenditure on goods, services and construction is spent locally, however in some circumstances, interstate or overseas sourcing may be considered necessary. This may be where the goods and/or services are not available locally, or the local suppliers are not competitive. Where overseas sourcing requires significant local labour input, for example in the making of uniforms, tenderers must be able to demonstrate the integrity of their supply chain.

In the case of uniforms, this requires as a minimum, the suppliers’ compliance with the requirements of the Queensland Government ‘Code of Practice on Employment and Outwork Obligations for Textile Clothing and Footwear Suppliers’, and a declaration from the supplier that any overseas manufacturer used under this arrangement will comply with all local labour laws. Furthermore, directors of all intended overseas manufacturers are required to declare that they will (i) comply with local labour laws, (ii) not engage in any form of forced and compulsory labour, and (iii) provide a commitment to the effective abolition of child labour.

In relation to the current recruitment process for directors-general, a total of five executive search service providers, including Queensland based organisations, were invited by the Public Service Commission to submit a quote proposal to provide advertising, executive search services (both nationally and globally), and to assess applicants as part of the short listing stage of selection.

Following the receipt of the quotes, an evaluation of the proposals was conducted by senior officers of the Public Service Commission in accordance with the State Procurement Policy. I am advised that while all of the proposals were of a high standard, it was assessed by the Public Service Commission that the successful tenders displayed the best executive search capability, were well positioned in the field and offered the best value for money.

The Member should note that the ‘Anna4Qld’ website was paid for by the Australian Labor Party and not the Queensland Government. Questions regarding its design were answered by the State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party during the recent election campaign.