

to employ an individual and then do nothing by way of improving that individual's skills. Staff development is central not only to a work force but to a more satisfied work force. Today, I will be introducing to the Assembly a piece of legislation which is consistent with our efforts to further develop human resource potential within the NTPS. The Public Employment (Mobility) Bill will allow easier transfer for individuals between jobs in the various areas of the public sector. I will not go any further into that because I will be introducing the bill shortly.

Further, my department has set in train the initiative of officer exchange between the public and private sectors. Such an interchange scheme has major potential to broaden the experience of individual officers with the NTPS while benefiting private sector organisations. Now that the Territory has its own university, we will be in a far better position, in the near future, to deal with one of the great dilemmas of Territory development - that of recruiting highly-skilled employees. The university will provide a valuable new recruitment avenue for departments seeking graduates.

Given that labour functions have only relatively recently been combined under one ministry, much still remains to be done in this most important of areas. But, I can say with confidence that, in its short existence, the Department of Labour, Administrative Services and Local Government has made significant inroads toward the development of a plan of management which will ensure the fullest possible development of the Territory's human resources. Such a plan of management will prove an integral tool in the building of the Territory's future.

Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly take note of the statement.

Debate adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 208)

Bill presented, by leave, and read a first time.

Mr PERRON (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this legislation is to bring the Legislative Assembly Members' Superannuation Act more into line with other parliamentary superannuation schemes and with current superannuation policy and practices. The parliamentary scheme came into operation in 1979 following self-government and has not been altered since that time. A review of the act in 1987 revealed that a number of provisions in the act did not cover some circumstances for which benefits should be paid as well as other provisions which are no longer regarded as appropriate.

The government has deferred acting on the review findings while assessing its recommendations against the provisions of other parliamentary schemes. The proposed amendments were also held over to take into account the Commonwealth new compliance requirements proposed in May 1988 to apply to public sector schemes. However, the Commonwealth has not yet finalised those requirements and, consequently, this government has decided to proceed with the amendments recommended in 1987. The amendments proposed do not alter the main benefits of the act nor do they provide undue or excessive benefits to members. In fact, the amendments bring the act into line with other parliamentary superannuation schemes without, on our actuarial advice, any additional cost over the long term.