

FEDERAL BUDGET - PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

200. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Disability Services:

Can the minister inform the house what the federal budget means for people with disabilities in Western Australia and their needs?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am sure that people on my left are more interested in the questions they ask. However, it is rude to increase the level of noise to that which just came from the people on my left.

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

I am actually interested in the plight of people with disabilities and what the federal government is doing. This question can be very dramatically and simply answered by reference to a quote this morning from Mrs Sexton of Mt Lawley. She said of the budget that it shows utter contempt and disdain for, and a complete lack of understanding of, the most marginalised in our community. I hope that every member of this house accepts and understands that this budget offers nothing new for people with disabilities. The federal budget -

Several opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the members for Darling Range and Dawesville to order.

Ms S.M. McHALE: The federal budget has missed a great opportunity to listen to the plight and pleas of families, to take into account the intelligent discussion in the Senate report and to heed the evidence that we have provided as a government about the needs of people with disabilities. Given that it is a federal election year, one would have expected that people with disabilities would have been given, at the very least, scant attention in the federal budget. There is nothing of substance -

Mr J.H.D. Day: They are waiting for a plan from you. They said they would match dollar for dollar what you put in.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Darling Range to order for the second time.

Ms S.M. McHALE: There are no new dollars for growth or new services. Further, there is no commitment to indexation; the rate is a woefully inadequate 1.8 per cent. Our first analysis of this budget shows that the \$400 million that it being touted as new money comes from indexation and is money for existing commitments. Unless there is hidden money, that \$400 million has already evaporated.