

AGED AND DISABLED PENSIONERS — FUNDING

**321. Mr R.C. KUCERA to the Premier:**

On 5 July more than 500 aged and disabled pensioners held a rally at Perth Town Hall to express their anger that they had been ignored in both the state and federal budgets. Ten proposals for change were formulated for the state government to alleviate the diminishing standard of living that pensioners are now experiencing.

- (1) Has the Premier received that list of proposals headed “The Ten Commitments”?
- (2) If not, is he prepared to accept a copy? I am happy to provide that now if he wishes to.
- (3) Will the Premier give an assurance that he will act immediately to examine those proposals, given that his budget offered nothing for pensioners?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Before I answer it, I take the opportunity now, which I missed earlier when I was on my feet answering a question about gas supplies, to thank the executive director of the Office of Energy, Jason Banks, for the work that he has undertaken in the past two weeks. It has been a superhuman effort by that individual. A lot of work obviously goes on behind the scenes, but the state has a lot to thank Jason Banks for. I am very grateful on behalf of the government.

- (1)-(3) In relation to the issues that the member for Yokine has raised, the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering is, as we speak, fashioning a response from the government, and that process will take its due course. Of course we take these issues very seriously. I believe that the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering is an outstanding minister.

**Mr T. Buswell:** Why didn't they go to the rally?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** It is quite amazing. I did not want to do this. On a day like this, the Leader of the Opposition behaves in this way in the chamber. He has learnt nothing. On a day like this for the Liberal Party, he has come into this place and behaved like this.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Quite frankly, it is amazing that he remains in the position that he is in and, what is more, that he remains in the chamber today.

The Minister for Seniors and Volunteering is dealing with the issue as is appropriate.