

CARERS' COMPANION CARD, INTRODUCTION

**99. Dr J.M. WOOLLARD to the Minister for Disability Services:**

- (1) In 2004 the government announced that it would introduce a carers' companion card early in 2005. Has the card been introduced; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Will carers have to pay a fee for the companion card?

**Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for her question, which I think is the first question that she has asked since her return to the house. I congratulate the member on her re-election. It showed that all local members who work hard in their seat can triumph. I say well done to the member for Alfred Cove.

**Mr J.A. McGinty:** She had a helping hand; Kierath was running against her!

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** Exactly. We realise that the member had Darth Vader around at the same time. I welcome her back.

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for her question and also for her efforts in dealing with disability services in her seat. The simple answer is that the Disability Services Commission is engaged in negotiations with ACROD on this issue. The specifics have not yet been dealt with by ACROD, nor has ACROD put to us what the final costs will be. I offer the member for Alfred Cove a briefing with Dr Ruth Shean, Director General of the Disability Services Commission. The negotiations have not yet been finalised, but if the member would like to deal with the director general, I am more than happy to offer her a personal briefing.