

DEAF SOCIETY OF WA, RECURRENT FUNDING ASSISTANCE

**149. Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN to the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Will the minister confirm that he has had numerous approaches from the Deaf Society of W.A. requesting a personal meeting regarding the society's need for recurrent funding assistance?

Mr Kucera: I can't hear him; the member will have to speak up!

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN: Sorry, the minister fell ripe for that one.

- (2) Is the minister aware that without financial support a range of services, including medical interpreting services for deaf people, will need to be cut, effective this Sunday, 1 July?
- (3) Given that the Deaf Society of W.A. first wrote to him about this on 1 March, why after almost four months has he not had the courtesy to reply to the Deaf Society let alone to personally meet its members or to help resolve its problem?
- (4) In view of his lack of action can he understand why the deaf community is represented in the public gallery here today to hear his response before deciding whether to organise a protest march on Parliament?

**Mr KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for this question.

I understand that approaches have been made to my office. I have not met with the society because, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is well aware, as with other processes, a meeting with them is a matter of timing.

Several members interjected.

Mr KUCERA: In response to a remark by the Leader of the Opposition about our not being up by nine o'clock he obviously has not got out of bed yet.

- (1)-(2) The Deaf Society has made approaches to my office. However, as occurs with the many hundreds of organisations requiring funding, the budget process is proceeding. The Deaf Society will be advised of its funding as part of the usual budget convention when its funding has been decided. There are no problems with that.
- (3)-(4) A meeting with the society will be decided in due course, as occurs for all people who approach my office. The difference between this Government and the previous Government is that it is listening; it has been listening and it was listening last year when in opposition, which the coalition Government was not doing.