

CONTINENCE MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE SERVICE

659. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the continence management and advice service.

- (1) How much government funding has the —
 - (a) Disability Services Commission; and
 - (b) Department of Healthreceived to jointly administer this service in 2008-09 and 2009-10?
- (2) Is the Disability Services Commission considering adjustments to the eligibility and subsidy amounts provided under this service; and, if so, what are the proposed adjustments and when are they expected to take effect?
- (3) How many people received the subsidy in —
 - (a) 2007; and
 - (b) 2008 to date?
- (4) Has any person been placed on a waitlist for the subsidy since the program commenced; and, if so, how many people and for what period?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank Hon Donna Faragher for some notice of the question, which I answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Disability Services. The minister provided the following answer.

- (1)
 - (a) The Disability Services Commission will receive \$2.571 million in 2008-09 and \$2.661 million in 2009-10.
 - (b) The Department of Health has advised that it will receive \$1.66 million in 2008-09 and \$1.66 million in 2009-10.
- (2) The Disability Services Commission is analysing the level of subsidy that can be provided within the available budget. It is proposed to increase the base level of subsidy in line with the indexed commonwealth continence aids and assistance scheme and to increase the subsidy for people with moderate to high needs to be more in line with subsidy levels in other states. It is anticipated that the new subsidy levels will be in place by October 2008. In July 2009 there will be a further adjustment when the continence management and subsidy scheme assumes financial responsibility for the children's service currently funded by Lotterywest.
- (3)
 - (a) For the 2006-07 financial year, from February 2007 to June 2007, 253 people received the subsidy.
 - (b) During 2007-08, the funding provided by the commission was not fully expended due to a lower than anticipated take-up rate for the subsidy component of the scheme. For the 2007-08 financial year, to 20 June 2008, 1 208 people have received the subsidy.
- (4) No-one has been placed on a waiting list since the program commenced.