

CHILD PROTECTION — WOMEN'S REFUGE — DJARINDJIN COMMUNITY

4183. Ms J. Farrer to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the women's refuge at Djarindjin community, and I ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware that the refuge is facing imminent closure due to being defunded by the Federal Government;
- (b) will the Minister commit to lobbying, seeking and securing funds to ensure the refuge remains open;
- (c) will the Minister meet with women and leaders in Djarindjin community to discuss solutions to ensure the refuge remains open; and
- (d) if yes to , when will you meet?

**Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:**

- (a) The Djarindjin Women's Shelter is a Commonwealth Government funding initiative through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy that provided capital for the building and one year's operational seed funding to 30 June 2015.
- (b) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support was not involved in the initial discussions regarding establishment or implementation of funding for the refuge, however the Department has strongly encouraged the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to provide ongoing funding for the facility. The Commonwealth Government has recently announced further funding of \$750,000, over three years, will be provided to keep the service operating.
- (c) Leaders of Djarindjin community have not requested a meeting with me. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support have been liaising with Save the Children who are working with the Djarindjin community to establish the shelter, and representatives from the Department have agreed to become involved in an Advisory or Steering Group for the shelter.
- (d) Not applicable