

MEN'S MEETING PLACE INC, FUNDING

88 Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What funding has been provided to the Men's Meeting Place Inc?
- (2) Is it intended to provide these funds on an ongoing basis?
- (3) Has the minister visited the service?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) Does the minister consider that the service is providing a worthwhile service to the men of the Kwinana district and surrounding areas?
- (6) Is the minister aware that significant numbers of men are accessing this from elsewhere?
- (7) Has the minister received applications for funding from any other men's health or crisis service provider?
- (8) Is any Family and Children's Services funding allocated for services which focus on the needs of men?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (1) The Health Department of WA has provided \$47 800 per annum to the Men's Meeting Place for the past two years. Safer WA has provided \$50 000 per annum for the two years 1999-2000 and 2000-01. As well, Family and Children's Services provided MMP non-recurrent funding of \$30 000 for the purpose of back payment of staff for services engaged during the 1999-2000 financial year.
- (2) A condition of the funding from the HDWA was that an evaluation be conducted. Subsequent to the evaluation HDWA has recommended that the service continue to be funded at the present level of \$47 800 on an annual renewable basis. Safer WA funds are not ongoing and will cease following the 2000-01 financial year. Family and Children's Services funds were non-recurrent. The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet requested that Family and Children's Services conduct an examination of funding requirements for MMP. This report has recently been finalised and submitted to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. Inclusive in the report are recommendations regarding ongoing funding of the service. The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet are considering this report.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) 9 March 2000.
- (5) The recent evaluation of MMP undertaken by the Centre for Mental Health research indicated the service provided assistance to men in crisis referred to the service. MMP is developing experience and expertise in responding to men with mental health issues and the range of other service needs.
- (6) According to the reports provided by MMP to the HDWA approximately 78 per cent of men accessing the service are from the local area, 20 per cent are from the wider metropolitan area and 2 per cent from regional areas.
- (7) The Mental Health Division of HDWA has not received any other applications from other crisis or health service providers specifically targeting men. Family and Children's Services has received applications for funding from Men's Health and Wellbeing Association Inc and Dad's Landing Pad Incorporated.
- (8) In response to a recent review of Family and Children's Services family and parent support services for men, the department is developing strategies to ensure family and parent support services are more responsive to the needs of men. Family and Children's Services funds services specific to the needs of men utilising various service delivery strategies including -  
a men's domestic violence help line;  
a family support service for men;  
men's counselling services; and  
supported accommodation services for single men.

Additionally, one-off grants are to be made available to assist funded family support and parenting non-government organisations to improve services to men. The majority of departmental service provision and non-government funded service provision is non-gender specific and accessible to both men and women. Service delivery outlets of Family and Children's Services offer extensive parenting and family support services that are accessible to men, as well as specialised crisis support and help line services.

Additionally, Family and Children's Services funds over 270 service providers with services accessible to men in the non-government sector.