

LOTTERIES COMMISSION FUNDING, RETIREMENT FACILITIES

1121. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Will the minister confirm that the Lotteries Commission has stopped funding of \$3 500 per new bed licence for furniture and equipment for residential retirement facilities?
- (2) If so, why has this policy been changed?
- (3) Is the minister concerned about the negative impact of this change on many facilities, particularly in country areas?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(3) The board of the Lotteries Commission has changed its policy on the provision of funds for matters concerning aged care. It is a very important issue, and one that deserves a detailed and considered answer. I am advised by the Lotteries Commission that the changes have significant support in the aged care industry, although I am aware that a number of people associated with the industry have complained about the change in policy, and I have sought further explanation from the Lotteries Commission on some areas of specific complaint. It is a very important issue that needs to be addressed carefully. Therefore, I invite the member to place the question on notice or give some notice of it so that I can give a full and considered answer at a later stage.