

**BROOME WOMEN'S REFUGE — COUNSELLING SERVICES**

2381. Ms J. Farrer to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the fact that the Broome Women's Refuge does not have a counsellor either on site or even visit the centre. There is a 6 week waitlist to see a counsellor at Boab Mental Health in Broome. I ask:

- (a) are there any Department of Health funds that could be utilised for counsellors to service the women's refuge in Broome to support the clients, women, children and victims of domestic violence who frequent the centre; and
- (b) what funding is available to extend this further so that women in all refuges throughout the Kimberley region have easy access to counselling services within the refuge centre?

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

- (a)–(b) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) funds Family and Domestic Violence Women's Refuges to provide accommodation and support to women and children escaping family and domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Women's Refuges are provided with funding to employ support workers who provide informal counselling and support to women accommodated at the service and to link women to other more specialised support services as required.

If women require more specialised counselling, they should be referred and prioritised by the specialist WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Kimberly mental health and drug service.

The Department of Health has advised that WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has no available funds that could be utilised for counsellors to be employed specifically to service the women's refuge in Broome.