

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERPRETING SERVICES FOR HEARING
IMPAIRED PEOPLE

1232. Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan to the Minister for Health

- (1) Will the Minister list all general and specific services provided verbally by each department and agency within your portfolios, including services delivered by telephone, in person or by other electronic means?
- (2) Of these services, will the Minister list the ones that can be accessed by members of the deaf community using interpreting services provided free of charge by each respective department or agency?
- (3) Where interpretative services are not provided free of charge, will the Minister explain why?
- (4) What steps are being taken in each department and agency within your portfolios to improve access to interpreting services for deaf people?
- (5) In respect of each of your portfolios, is the provision of interpreting services for deaf people a State or Commonwealth responsibility and, if it is deemed to be a Commonwealth responsibility, why?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

The information being sought by the member is not readily available.

I would advise that information systems used in agencies are designed to address operational and statutory requirements and don't necessarily facilitate the ready provision of information being sought by the member.

However, if the member has a particular issue of concern, I would be pleased to consider arranging for the agency to provide information on that specific issue.