

GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN, SUPPORT PROGRAM

1063. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth

I refer to the recent announcement that in recognition of the need to provide practical support to grandparents caring for their grandchildren, the State Government has allocated \$33,000 per year over three years to fund a metropolitan service, to be provided by Wanslea Family Services, that will offer practical assistance, informal counselling and advice, and links to other community resources and support networks, and I ask -

- (a) how much of the proposed \$99,000 over three years is to be spent on programs in the North West of the State;
- (b) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (c) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (d) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (a) The Grandparents service is based in the metropolitan area. The service includes an 1800 number, country callers using this number are provided with information, advice and can be referred to regional community resources.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) The Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering is responsible for administering the fund.
- (d) GrandCare commenced operations in September 2002.