

DISABILITY JUSTICE CENTRES

147. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the minister's media statement dated 12 May 2012 referring to disability justice centres, in which she stated —

New legislation will ... be introduced to allow the DSC to operate the secure centres, with a focus on rehabilitation and training, in a community, home-like environment.

- (1) What is this legislation?
- (2) Has the legislation been drafted, and when will it be introduced?
- (3) What consultation or liaison has the minister done with the WA community in general, and the Lockridge and Kiara communities in particular, about the alternative locations announced today?
- (4) Has any of the \$18 million committed in the 2012–13 budget for the establishment of these centres been spent so far; and, if so, on what has it been spent?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The proposed legislation is titled “Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Bill 2013”.
- (2) The legislation is in draft form and is expected to be introduced in the spring sitting of Parliament this year.
- (3) The establishment of disability justice centres as an alternative to prison for people with intellectual disability and cognitive impairment who are deemed unfit to plead to criminal charges has been the subject of extensive discussion in the community during the past two years. A lot of that, of course, has been via media, via talkback radio and through the Disability Coalition of WA and various other forums in which I participate. The need for these centres has been well established. It is the responsibility of the state government to make decisions about the location of significant infrastructure projects. The government acted on the advice provided by the WA Planning Commission and the Disability Services Commission regarding the most appropriate sites for the disability justice centres. On 11 June 2013, all residents in the suburbs of Lockridge and Kiara were sent a letter advising of the government's decision on the locations for the two disability justice centres. The letters to residents included details of community information sessions that will be held on 12 June and 15 June to inform residents about the centres. Additional information sessions will be scheduled as required. I am aware that that letter also included an opportunity to develop a community reference group if the community wants that.
- (4) Yes. At the end of May 2013, \$302 990 had been spent on the project. These funds were spent on the salaries for a small project development team, the development and drafting of legislation, architectural and design work for the centres, scoping the security and information technology requirements of the centres and developing the operational model and the job description forms for the positions required.