

DISABILITY JUSTICE CENTRES — LOCKRIDGE AND KIARA

617. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's decision to locate two disability justice centres in Lockridge, which by his own criteria require sites to have local government support, and to last night's unanimous decision by the City of Swan to oppose these sites.

- (1) Is the Premier's intention now to go against his own criteria and force these centres on the City of Swan and to its residents against their wishes?
- (2) Now that the City of Swan has unanimously voted against these centres, does this not provide the Premier with clear community opinion on this subject?
- (3) Will the Premier now show respect to the City of Swan and to its residents by withdrawing these sites and finding locations that actually meet his own criteria.

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(3) On planning matters, that question should have been properly addressed to the Minister for Planning. That is what it is about.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You're running the show, Premier!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Thank goodness for that!

The question should have been directed to the Minister for Planning. The member might take up that opportunity. With respect to those two sites, I have met with residents, as has the Minister for Disability Services; I am not sure whether the Minister for Planning has. The government has taken note of the City of Swan's view. Our intention is to proceed with the first of those locations, which I think is the Lord Street site of an existing disability facility. When that is completed, we will consider whether we will progress with the second one.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Have you ignored the City of Swan?

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It made its resolution and we take note of that.

At least half the people in mental health institutions, if not more, do not need to be there and should not be there—over half. I understand the sensitivity. In my own electorate I had concerns as the local member several years ago when a centre was established in Mt Claremont. It does not have the level of security that is proposed in the member for Bassendean's electorate. I visited that centre last week and I have to say it is a great success. It is working well, the neighbours are happy and people have a high degree of independence and greater living skills. As a prosperous, wealthy society, that is what we should provide. There needs to be different levels of care and, if members like, different levels of security for people within that system. There needs to be a psychiatric institution such as Graylands Hospital right through to facilities for living totally within the community. It is proposed that these two new centres will at all times have a strict level of security and full-time staff. As I and the minister said, it is intended that the first one will go ahead, but we will not proceed with the second one until the first one is completed and operating—and operating well.