



## Select Committee into Elder Abuse

### Answers to Questions Taken On Notice

#### Question 1 (page 5)

*How much does the health department, via HACC, fund the work of APEA?*

The Department of Health provides \$36,000 per year to Advocare for secretariat support for APEA:WA, the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Western Australia.

#### Question 2 (page 13)

- a) *Is the Department of Communities a member of APEA and also a member of WANPEA?*

The Department is a member of APEA:WA.

WANPEA, the Western Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, is an informal group of interested parties who engage with older people. The Department has not been a member for some time, however officers have attended WANPEA meetings to share departmental initiatives that address social isolation, a key risk factor in cases of elder abuse, and to hear first-hand the experiences of on-the-ground service providers.

- b) *What is the view of the department with regard to the benefit of both those organisations rather than a single organisation?*

WANPEA is a network of organisations that provide services to older people. WANPEA provides a forum for service providers to share their experiences of older clients that are at risk of, or victims of, elder abuse. The subject of discussions often centres around specific cases of elder abuse that members come into contact with in the course of their work. The last meeting of WANPEA occurred in September 2017, and Advocare (as facilitator) has indicated that it intends to resume WANPEA meetings later this year.

The benefit of having two groups ensures that adequate time and consideration are given to both strategic and operational responses to elder abuse. APEA:WA's focus is a whole-of-government, policy framework to prevent elder abuse, which is informed by the 'grass roots' experience and views of WANPEA (passed on to APEA:WA via Advocare). WANPEA provides an opportunity for service providers to collaborate and share learnings and ideas to inform the development of operational responses to prevent elder abuse.

### **Supplementary Information**

- Page 5 – in answer to the Chairman's question on the Department of Communities funding to agencies dealing with older people, the following additional information is provided:

	<b>Annual Recurrent Funding 2017–18</b>	<b>Number of Services</b>
Community and Neighbourhood Development Services: provide opportunities for people to develop skills and knowledge, build on their strengths to manage their own lives, build self-esteem and personal development, and enhance interactions within the neighbourhood.	\$ 6,457,888	52
Individual and Family Support Services: assist individuals and families to respond to specific issues or challenges that are self-identified by working with them one-on-one or in groups to support them to connect with community support networks and other resources within the department.	\$ 2,524,257	14
Grandcarers Services: provide assistance to grandparent carers in their role of caring for their grandchildren.	\$ 593,238*	3
Financial Counselling Services: enable people to be more financial capable and improve their ability to manage financial situations. Services include direct support and community education, and are provided on a state-wide basis.	\$ 6,432,254	24
Volunteering: services take a lead role in developing volunteer opportunities in their local community by working with individuals and groups/organisations state-wide.	\$ 656,214	15
Carers Services: support carers to build their capacity to care, as well as to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and their own wellbeing.	\$ 1,003,458	1
<b>Total recurrent funding for 2017–18</b>	<b>\$ 17,667,309</b>	

\*This figure includes a one-off grant of \$125,000 for Grandcarers Services that is due to cease on 30 June 2018.

- All mention of 'hotline' (pages 6, 7, 10) refers to the Elder Abuse Helpline 1300 724 679.
- Page 6 – the tender period is likely to commence in 2019, not later on in 2018.
- Page 7 – this is to confirm Mr Hollingworth's statement that Advocare's grant for the Elder Abuse Helpline expires on 31 December 2018.
- Pages 2, 17 – Age-friendly is a World Health Organisation approach to planning for an ageing population. In an age-friendly community, policies, services, settings and structures support and enable people to age actively.
  - For over 10 years, Western Australia has been recognised as a leader in age-friendly communities. The model in WA is one of partnership and collaboration between two tiers of government – State and Local. The community and private sectors are also engaged to build communities that value older adults.
  - In June 2017, the Government of Western Australia was named the first Australian affiliate member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, which is an exclusive network responsible for supporting age-friendly communities worldwide:  
<https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/network/government-of-western-australia/>.

- The Department of Communities supports local governments to adopt an age-friendly approach to planning, and encourages seniors to participate and remain active in their community. Over \$673,000 in grants have been provided to 75 local governments to identify priorities and develop age-friendly plans.
- A recent evaluation of the funding program has found that many other local governments have been undertaking this planning without funding: <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/about/projects-and-programs/age-friendly-communities-local-government-grants-program-evaluation-findings/>. This means that more than half of WA's local governments have committed to implementing age-friendly principles. Over seventy five per cent of people aged 60 years and over now live in a local government that has received funding for age-friendly planning.
- Ageism – community attitudes towards ageing are often negative. In 2017, the Department of Communities collaborated with Revelation Perth International Festival and Screenwest to run the short film competition “Life in Pictures” (<https://www.revelationfilmfest.org/life-in-pictures-competition>). The competition was endorsed and acknowledged by the World Health Organisation and the International Federation on Ageing as an excellent initiative to challenge ageism.

The films submitted challenged attitudes towards ageing and encouraged people to stop and think about how they view growing older. The winning films are being used to encourage positive community discussion about ageing.

The competition has commenced for 2018, with free film making workshops being run in April 2018, and \$20,000 in prizes to be won in three categories.