

WANSLEA FAMILY SERVICES — GRANDCARERS SUPPORT SCHEME

**986. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Community Services:**

I refer to the grandcarers support scheme administered by Wanslea Family Services in conjunction with the Department for Communities. Last year, Wanslea organised for grandcarers to receive a \$50 Coles voucher to assist them with extra costs at this time of year to put something special on the table at Christmas. Can the minister confirm that Wanslea has been told by the department to not give vouchers this Christmas and to tell grandcarers to go to St Vincent de Paul or Good Samaritans if they require assistance over the Christmas period?

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:**

I thank the member for her question about the grandcarers support scheme. What a fantastic scheme it is! It is an initiative that was put forward by this government. Again, Western Australia is the only state in Australia that recognises grandcarers in our community. There have been 1 200 grandparents who have applied for funding of \$400 for the first child and \$250 for the second child for whom they take responsibility. Coming to government last term, we gave Wanslea Family Services the contract to administer the grandcarers support scheme. Part of that administration process was money to administer the scheme and also to put money on the table to help with respite for grandcarers, so they can access some money to get a break from their day-to-day life—they are at a time in their life when they should be out travelling the world—and this scheme can give them a break. Wanslea has been very good at administering the grandcarers support scheme. To be honest with the member, I do not have any details on how they administer that money. I am unaware of any of those changes.

**Ms S.F. McGurk:** Maybe you should make yourself aware, minister.

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** I will now that the member has raised it with me. I will make myself very aware of Wanslea to see what it is doing with the money in terms of supporting our grandcarers in the metropolitan area and the wider state to make sure they continue to do the great job that they do.