

LIQUOR RESTRICTIONS IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES — GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

3725. Mr M.P. Murray to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Community Services

I refer to the Minister for Racing and Gaming's media statement of 4 August 2010 in relation to liquor restrictions in Aboriginal communities, and ask:

- (a) what extra services falling within the Minister's portfolio, and over and above those in place prior to the establishment of liquor restrictions, will be put in place in these three communities to ensure their underlying problems are addressed;
- (b) what extra services, over and above those in place prior to the establishment of liquor restrictions, have been put in place in the other restricted communities in Western Australia; and
- (c) if no extra services have been put in place, why not?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

(a)-(b) None

- (c) The services delivered through the Community Services portfolio include parenting and child care support services. In the Halls Creek area an officer visits regularly to support the local child care provider to deliver a high quality service to the community. There are no plans to increase this service.

On a state wide level, to raise awareness of the dangers to unborn babies of mothers drinking alcohol whilst pregnant, I launched a community education poster relating to pregnancy and alcohol on 9 September, International Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day. This complements a Foetal Alcohol Booklet released through Parenting WA on 30 July 2010, for use by professionals working with families. Both are being widely distributed through-out the state, including the communities where new liquor restrictions are being applied.