

FEDERAL BUDGET, DISABILITY SERVICES INCREASE

**1000. Mr OMODEI to the Minister for Disability Services:**

I refer the minister to the 2002-2003 federal budget that was announced yesterday, which included an additional \$547.5 million for disability support services.

- (1) Does the State Government intend to match the increase in Western Australia's portion of the commonwealth disabilities services funding with new money, above and beyond the business plan prepared by the previous Government?
- (2) Will the minister guarantee that the 238 families in critical need, who were rejected for disability accommodation funding in the last round, will receive their fair share of the increases?

**Ms McHALE replied:**

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for his question; however, I am surprised that he has not looked closely at the federal budget. If I were to match the increase, the contribution from the State Government would be zero, because there is no increase for growth in the federal budget. I will explain this very carefully. There is no money in the federal budget for growth, and the Commonwealth has confirmed that.

Mr Omodei interjected.

Ms McHALE: I will answer the question. The problem is that the member does not like the answer.

There is a component in the federal budget for indexation. That is the only increase in the federal budget. The federal budget is appalling; it is a disgrace, and it certainly does nothing to help the plight of families. If the member were serious about this issue, he would have looked at the federal budget.