

NORTHCLIFFE FAMILY CENTRE - FUNDING

506. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Community Development

I refer to my statement in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 30 June 2005 in relation to the Northcliffe Family Centre (see Hansard page 3778), and ask -

- (a) will the Minister commit to secure recurrent family support program funding for the Northcliffe Family Centre so that the centre may continue to stay open; and
 - (i) if not, why not;
- (b) is the Minister aware of the unique geographical and demographic situation in Northcliffe and the importance of early intervention to protect families in the area;
- (c) given the budget surplus being experienced by the State Government, will the Minister ensure that isolated community groups like the Northcliffe Family Centre receive sufficient family support programme recurrent funding so that they can continue to service the community;
- (d) if the Minister is not prepared to provide sufficient recurrent funding to the Northcliffe Family Centre, what action does the Minister intend to take to stop the following incidences that are likely to occur as a result of inadequate family support programme funding for this centre -
 - (i) family breakdown;
 - (ii) domestic violence;
 - (iii) mental health issues; and
 - (iv) child abuse; and
- (e) will the Minister agree to meet with the Northcliffe Family Centre to discuss the financial difficulties facing the centre and community of Northcliffe; and
 - (i) if not, why not?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (a)-(b) The Northcliffe Family Centre receives recurrent funding of \$31,443 per annum to coordinate services and activities with and for members of the community with a focus on services for children. The Service Agreement is for the period 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2007.
- (c) The Department for Community Development is committed to continue funding of the Northcliffe Family Centre to enable delivery of services to the community, in partnership with other services.

In the event of any new recurrent funding, the needs of Northcliffe will be considered alongside the needs of other small communities and regional areas across the state.
- (d) See response to (a)
- (e) I receive regular reports from the Department for Community Development on their meetings with the Northcliffe Family Centre.