

TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS — DISABILITY SUPPORT

**428. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Disability Services:**

I refer to the recent announcement of the South Australian government about extending disability support services to temporary visa holders.

- (1) What disability support services does the Western Australian government currently provide to families and individuals who are temporary visa holders?
- (2) As the Department of Communities is currently reviewing the state's disability legislation, will the government take this opportunity to follow South Australia's lead and extend disability support services to temporary visa holders?

**Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Disability Services.

- (1) Under the terms of the bilateral agreement between the commonwealth and Western Australia on the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the state is responsible for providing continuity of support for people under 65 years of age who do not meet the NDIS residency requirements and who were receiving state-funded disability-related supports. People who do not meet the NDIS residency requirements, including temporary visa holders, and who are seeking access to state-funded disability-related supports, may in some circumstances be eligible for Department of Communities support. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- (2) Delivery of the current continuity of support model is consistent with WA obligations under the Disability Services Act 1993. Consultation on the reform of the Disability Services Act is still underway. The South Australian government's announcement indicates that the recent funding commitment brings the state into line with most jurisdictions in Australia. This government has ensured multicultural Western Australians have continued to have access to disability-related supports since it commenced its transition to the Australia-wide NDIS.