

CARE ASSOCIATIONS, OPERATING AND CAPITAL GRANTS

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

- (1) Are care associations, including those providing services to people with disabilities, being advised that their operating and capital grants from the State Government will be reduced?
- (2) Will cuts to operating and capital grants for those organisations be in the order of two per cent for the coming financial year?
- (3) If it is not two per cent, what will the cut be in percentage terms?

**Ms McHALE replied:**

I thank the member for his question. I am curious about where he is getting his advice.

Dr Gallop: It is a leak from the ship of misery.

Ms McHALE: He is trying to portray a ship of misery in the disability services sector.

- (1)-(3) I have had many positive and fruitful discussions with the disability services sector over the past three months. Absolutely no advice that its budgets will be cut has been given to it, unless it has come from members opposite. Neither government members, my agency, nor I, has given advice to that effect. The non-government sector has concerns about the approach that this Government may have to take in the budget. However, this Government is not about cutting services; it is about looking at waste and inefficiency. This Opposition brought about that waste and inefficiency when it was in government. The Government is considering areas in which it can cut waste and inefficiencies, and redirect funds to proper services that will improve the quality of life for people in the community, including those with a disability.