

NORTHCLIFFE FAMILY CENTRE

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.52 pm]: Yesterday in the Parliament I presented a petition on behalf of Northcliffe Family Centre regarding its funding. The centre's hours have been cut from 90 to 24 hours a week. The petitioners are asking the Legislative Assembly to direct the Minister for Community Development to ensure that the Northcliffe Family Centre receives secure recurrent family support program funding so that the centre may continue. The petition contained 240 signatures but, unfortunately, it was not in the proper form. It was certainly well presented. I hold up the petition, which has a lot of little kids' handprints on it. I want to acknowledge the work of the centre, particularly the work of the community development coordinator, Maja Plante; the administration and finance manager, Jenny Mawdsley; and the chairperson, Julia Lightfoot. This is a very important project. They have received some funds from the commonwealth government for a program called Stronger Families, but they must get professional indemnity insurance to the value of \$5 million, which would cost them about \$5 000 to \$6 000 a year. It is a small community centre that is struggling to make sure that the community's families get proper services and advice and that it has the ability to introduce early intervention for people who have problems. The issue is very important for the Northcliffe Family Centre, which is doing a fantastic job. I ask that the government respond to its request.