

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

763. Hon Norm Kelly to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

Children and parents diagnosed with ADHD require access to specialised care and treatment in order to maintain an optimal family environment -

- (1) What initiatives have been undertaken to ensure that the Department of Family and Children's Services is equipped to understand and deal with families affected by ADHD?
- (2) What services specific to ADHD are available to ADHD children in foster care?
- (3) What support facilities are available to their carers?
- (4) Do foster carers of ADHD children need to meet special requirements or undergo special training in order to understand and cope with the complexities involved in caring for children with ADHD?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Children who are diagnosed with ADHD require medical supervision and ongoing monitoring by a medical practitioner. Family and Children's Services' case workers work collaboratively with specialist service providers in child and adolescent mental health services as necessary. Support is also provided through Family and Children's Services' psychologists and Parent Help Centre. Access to Intensive Family Casework and Treatment Teams is also available through the Department's metropolitan zone offices. In addition, two Department psychologists have been trained to train other staff in the Triple P Program to further assist parents.
- (2) In addition to other services available in the community, a child in foster care who is diagnosed with ADHD has access to specialist Department psychologists, and staff from the Intensive Family Casework and Treatment Teams located in the Department's metropolitan zone offices.
- (3) Supports are available to foster carers through the Foster Care Association of WA Inc. (including an information based internet site). Ongoing training opportunities are also provided by the Department's Community Skills Training Centre. Specialised assistance with child management is also provided through the Department's Parent Help Centre and Departmental psychologists.
- (4) No. However, many children in foster care have special needs therefore all persons who apply to be foster carers undergo a careful selection process. The Department has also developed training for foster carers, prior to children being placed in their care.