

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL
OPERATIONS**

**ANSWERS TO 2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT -
QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING (ROUND 2)**

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

15. I refer to p. 519 of Budget Paper No.2, Volume 2 that states "There are concerns regarding increased rates of elder abuse due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, such as adult children moving back home with their parents and family members needing financial support. Through the WA Recovery Plan, \$430,000 will be spent on senior support initiatives that seek to reduce social isolation of older people due to the COVID-19 pandemic and build capacity in the sector in case of any further restrictions", and I ask,:

- (a) What are these senior support initiatives; and

Answer: As part of the West Australian Recovery Plan (WARP), two initiatives for older people in WA are currently in progress. These are:

- One-off funding to provide a total of \$180,000 for a 12-month period (2020-2021) to expand supports for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing elder abuse (\$150,000) and educate professionals in regional and remote areas about elder abuse (\$30,000). It is anticipated that the grant will be finalised early November 2020.
- The 2020-21 Age-friendly Communities Social Connectivity Grants Program to support reducing the social isolation of seniors due to COVID-19 and assist in overcoming barriers to community participation that result from COVID-19 restrictions. It is anticipated grants will be assessed and finalised by mid-December 2020.

- (b) Is this funding over and above that committed to Advocare for the WA Elder Abuse Helpline?

Answer: Yes.

