

ISHAR MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE

**458. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that the perinatal mental health home visiting service run by the Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre in Mirrabooka has been defunded by the Mental Health Commission?
- (2) Why has this vital service lost its funding?
- (3) What replacement service is being offered to families in need of this service?
- (4) Will the minister restore the funding without delay; and, if not, why not?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Ishar home visiting service has not been defunded. The Mental Health Commission has provided grant funding until 31 December 2013. This visiting service was a supplementary service to the culturally and linguistically diverse women's support group that was funded recurrently under the national perinatal depression initiative and delivered by Ishar.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)–(4) Funding for the home visiting service remains available until 31 December 2013. The Mental Health Commission is negotiating with the commonwealth government to develop a replacement agreement for the national partnership agreement supporting the national perinatal depression initiative that expired on 30 June 2013. It is not possible to make a decision about the future service mix until the new agreement is finalised.