

FOOD RELIEF — SOUTH WEST REGION

1369. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the recent “Foodbank Hunger Report”, which shows that Foodbank is turning away 8 800 people a month in Western Australia and that demand for food relief has increased by 15 per cent in the past year.

- (1) What data or information does the state government collect about the demand for food relief in WA?
- (2) According to this data or information, in the past 12 months for which data is available, how many people sought food relief in Mandurah, Bunbury, Manjimup, Denmark and Albany?
- (3) What is the projected demand for food relief in these areas in the next 12 months?
- (4) Does the state government fund any charities or not-for-profit groups that provide food relief in the South West Region; and, if so, which groups receive funding and how much do they receive?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Data on food relief is not individually collected. However, the state government works in partnership with the community services sector, in particular the Western Australian Council of Social Service, to monitor and support emergency relief services. This includes funding to WACOSS to develop the pre-budget submission to identify priority areas for service funding, as well as Lotterywest funding for communities as part of its emergency relief grants program. This is in addition to the state government’s \$12.7 million grant funding to Foodbank for its 2030 infrastructure project. The state government also convenes the Partnership Forum, which incorporates both state and not-for-profit sector representatives to monitor and develop strategies to tackle community issues such as homelessness, incorporating food relief.
- (2)–(3) Please see the response to (1).
- (4) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support provides an annual funding level of \$84 342 to Intown Centre Inc, a not-for-profit organisation in the South West Region, for the provision of the Shoestring Cafe. The Shoestring Cafe provides meals, a safe environment and support to people who are homeless, at imminent risk of homelessness or living in inadequate accommodation. People receiving the meals service are supported to reduce the likelihood of future homelessness.