

ELDER ABUSE HOTLINE

1320. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the minister representing the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering:

I refer to the 400 calls to the Elder Abuse hotline in the past year, and to the conservative estimate that there are 10 500 cases of elder abuse annually.

- (1) Is the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering aware in general terms of the government agencies that were asked to assist in following up these complaints?
- (2) Of these 400 cases, what percentage could be categorised as physical abuse, and what percentage could be categorised as financial abuse?
- (3) In the context of financial abuse, has the minister been briefed by the Attorney General on what plans he intends to put in place to close the loopholes in the laws on enduring powers of attorney, which currently facilitate that abuse?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. Referrals to government agencies included the Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Health, the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office, the Housing Authority, the Disability Services Commission and WA Police.
- (2) Of the 446 calls received between 3 September 2014 and 21 October 2015, a total of 843 categories of abuse were recorded. It is estimated that approximately 21 per cent of calls could be categorised as relating to physical abuse and 68 per cent of calls could be categorised as relating to financial abuse.
- (3) This question should be referred to the Attorney General.