

ABORIGINAL INTERPRETER SERVICES — FUNDING

**177. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:**

My question is without notice.

Does the minister believe that state government funding for Aboriginal interpreter services is adequate; and, if not, when will adequate funding be made available?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** I did not give notice.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** I am sorry; I keep forgetting. The member did not give notice, but I thank her for the question. It is a good question. This issue, dare I say, raised its ugly head a couple of weeks ago when there was a very unfortunate incident in which, as was reported, a woman, as a result of being without interpreter services, lost her life.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** And the baby.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** And the child—I apologise.

I have looked into the matter. According to the information that I have received, we are spending about \$200 000 in the Kimberley region for interpreter services. They are being provided in a raft of different centres in that region in particular. Whether that is adequate or is not adequate is something that I have, as a result of what has occurred in recent weeks, asked to be readdressed. I will meet with the director general of the Department of Indigenous Affairs on either Friday of this week or early next week and this matter will be on the agenda.