

MIDLAND INFORMATION, DEBT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

**909. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Attorney General:**

- (1) Following the closure of the Legal Aid WA office in Midland, is Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advocacy Service Inc receiving funding from the Department of the Attorney General to provide legal aid?
- (2) If not, why not?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advocacy Service Inc is one of the few community legal centres that has never received state funding as part of the state community legal centres funding program. The principal source of funding for MIDLAS has been the Public Purposes Trust, administered by the Law Society of Western Australia. The origins of this situation date back to 2003, when a review of legal need in Western Australia identified those areas in greatest need of community legal centre funding. At that time, there was insufficient funding available to allocate community legal centre funding to the area serviced by MIDLAS. A further review in 2009 reached a similar conclusion. Another review is currently underway to determine the future distribution of state community legal centre funding across the state. The closure of the Legal Aid WA office in Midland is clearly a factor that will need to be taken into account as part of the review.