

DISABILITY SERVICES — LOCAL AREA COORDINATORS

61. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to services provided by local area coordinators to Western Australians with disability and their families.

- (1) How many LACs were employed at 9 March 2017 and today, respectively?
- (2) Have any LAC offices been closed since 9 March 2017; and, if so, which offices and why?
- (3) Will the LAC system continue to be a key feature of service provision in Western Australia under the new Department of Communities and National Disability Insurance Scheme arrangements?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question and his continued interest in the disability portfolio.

- (1) There were 284 local coordinators as at 9 March 2017; and 343 local coordinators as at 15 March 2018.
- (2) Four local coordination offices have been closed since 9 March 2017 —
 - (a) One office in Eaton, as the space was no longer fit for purpose. Staff have relocated to the Bunbury local coordination office.
 - (b) One office in Kununurra, as the space was no longer fit for purpose. Staff are now co-located with staff from the Department of Communities' housing division in a newly refurbished space.
 - (c) Two offices in Midland, as a result of the decision to join the nationally delivered NDIS.
- (3) The McGowan Labor government is negotiating with the commonwealth government with regard to incorporating key features of the WA local coordination model into the nationally delivered NDIS in Western Australia. The Department of Communities will continue to employ the key elements and ethos of the WA local coordination system, based on local relationships and local decision-making and partnerships in its service delivery model into the future.