

HARDSHIP EFFICIENCY PROGRAM — ALINTA

7511. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy

Given the increasing number of households in Western Australia being disconnected by Alinta, why has the Government not compelled Alinta to participate as a full member of the Steering Committee overseeing the Hardship Efficiency Program?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

While the Hardship Efficiency Program includes the provision of advice regarding energy efficiency in general, it does not include information specific to gas efficiency, or the provision of gas appliances.

The Program is administered and delivered by Synergy and Horizon Power on behalf of the State Government and is overseen by the Department of Finance's Public Utilities Office.

The Hardship Efficiency Program Steering Committee includes representatives from Synergy, Horizon Power, Department for Child Protection, Western Australian Council of Social Service and the Financial Counsellors Association of Western Australia. All members of the Steering Committee have either an operational or expert advisory role in the delivery of the Program.

The Program's Steering Committee does not have a formal oversight role, but provides an important forum for discussing operational issues related to the delivery of the Program.

Alinta does not have an operational role in the referral, administration, management or delivery of services under the Program. However, it does have a role in referring customers to Financial Counsellors who may then assess them as being eligible for gas bill assistance under the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme.