

DISABLED PEOPLE — SERVICES IN SOUTH WEST

2985. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Disability Services
- (1) What services and financial and other support is provided by the Disabilities Services Commission, to people with disabilities living in the South West region for the following age groups —
- (a) six years and under;
 - (b) seven to twelve years;
 - (c) 13 to 18 years;
 - (d) 19 to 24 years;
 - (e) 25 to 45 years; and
 - (f) 45 years and over?
- (2) What autism specific services and financial and other support, is provided by the Disabilities Services Commission to people with autism, living in the South West region for the following age groups —
- (a) six years and under;
 - (b) seven to twelve years;
 - (c) 13 to 18 years;
 - (d) 19 to 24 years;
 - (e) 25 to 45 years; and
 - (f) 45 years and over?
- (3) What group homes, children's residential respite, individual supported accommodation and other facilities, are provided in the South West region by the Disabilities Services Commission to people with disabilities, and to people with autism living in the South West region?
- (4) In relation to (3), what is the capacity of the facilities identified?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The Commission provides and funds disability services to enhance the wellbeing of people with disability of all ages and their carers by providing necessary supports and services.

Local Area Coordination is focused on supporting people with disability by providing information, assistance with planning for the future, advocacy and working to build inclusive communities.

Individual and family services enable people with disability to make positive and constructive links with their community; to develop independence, skills and abilities to participate in activities of their choice; to maintain health and wellbeing.

Services may include professional intervention (early childhood intervention, positive behaviour support, therapy for children of school age), equipment and technical support, respite including school holiday programs, advocacy and community access through alternatives to employment and Post School Options.

Accommodation support includes assistance for people to live in a range of accommodation options of their choice, including supported community living in their own homes, group homes and hostels.

Key strategies which apply across WA include implementation of Disability Access and Inclusion Plans in public authorities, independent monitoring of disability service standards, early identification of issues which impact on people with disability and their families, community education and data collection and analysis to inform the ongoing development of disability policy and services.

In the South West Region, professional services including early childhood intervention and professional services for children of school age with a disability are provided by the WA South West Health Service Department of Health.

In the South West Region, 11 disability/community sector organisations have been endorsed through a pre-qualification process as providers of individual and family support and accommodation. Individualised funding allows people with disability and their families to plan with these organisations how to achieve their goals taking into account their needs, particular circumstances and aspirations.

The Local Area Coordinator is able to provide information about opportunities within the local community and guidance about access to funding, advocacy and support in negotiation with organisations.

Specialist advice when needed is provided by Statewide consultancy and resource teams funded by the Disability Services Commission.

- (2) People of all ages with an Autism Spectrum Disorder who meet the Commission's eligibility criteria have access to services provided or funded by the Disability Services Commission on the same basis as other people with disability. See response to part (1).

For young children with autism in the South West Region, the Disability Services Commission's Early Years and Consultancy Team works in collaboration with therapists from WA South West Health Service.

The Autism Association is funded to provide a Statewide consultancy service to support disability/community sector organisations.

- (3) Eleven organisations are pre-qualified to provide individual and family support and accommodation services to people with disability in the South West Region. People with disability have access to a range of options which include residential and individually planned respite and accommodation in group homes and individual living and family arrangements.

- (4) The capacity of organisations to provide respite and accommodation is dependent on the funded programs and funding packages allocated to people with a disability from the South West who apply through the Disability Service Commission's funding strategies: Community Living Support, School Holiday Funding and the Combined Application Process for Accommodation Support, Intensive Family Support and Alternatives to Employment.
