

DISABILITY SERVICES — 2019–20 STATE BUDGET

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

In examining the budget today, I see that the Disability Services allocation—to the extent that I can interpret it from this ever-changing budget—is about \$1.327 billion, but in the next year, 2020–21, it is about \$1.078 billion, which is about \$250 million less. Why is there a sudden drop-off in funding for Disability Services in the out years?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in the disability portfolio.

I am very pleased with how successful we have been in the 2019–20 budget and into the forward estimates years. In fact, there has been an increase in funding for areas, including advocacy. Members in this place would be very well aware that we previously put extra money into systemic advocacy in this state. In this budget, we have put extra money into individual advocacy, noting that as we roll out the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Western Australia, people are having issues and difficulties with accessing appropriate funding in their plans. We have ensured that there is extra money in the budget to enable good organisations—such as People with Disabilities WA; the Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advocacy Service; and the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre—to work with people with disability so that they can navigate the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I am very, very pleased that we were able to put that in this year's budget.

**Hon Tjorn Sibma** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Member, I was going to give you the call, but I think I will give it to Hon Dr Steve Thomas now.