

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE — ANNUAL BUDGET

**572. Hon ALANNA CLOHESY to the minister representing the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to cuts of over \$800 000 to “Affiliated Entities” within the Mental Health Commission budget.

- (1) Has the workload for the Mental Health Advocacy Service increased since the proclamation of the new Mental Health Act?
- (2) If yes to (1), why was the decision made to cut \$401 836 from the annual budget allocation for the MHAS?
- (3) What was the value of funding allocated to —
  - (a) the Council of Official Visitors in 2014–15; and
  - (b) the MHAS in 2015–16 and projected in 2016–17?
- (4) What percentage of the MHAS 2016–17 budget does the \$401 836 reduction represent?

**The PRESIDENT:** I call the Minister for Housing representing just about everyone.

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

Thank you, Mr President, and I thank the member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the relevant minister.

- (1) The workload of the Mental Health Advocacy Service is greater than the workload of its predecessor, the Council of Official Visitors.
- (2) The total annual budget for Mental Health Advocacy Service has not been cut. The \$401 836 refers to the reduction in funding over the four years of the forward estimates to the MHAS due to the application of the agency expenditure review.
- (3)
  - (a) The value is \$1 907 360.
  - (b) The value of funding is \$2 477 000 in 2015–16—which includes funding for the Council of Official Visitors from 1 July to 29 November 2015—and \$2 654 000 in 2016–17.
- (4) The \$401 836 relates to a reduction over four years. The reduction in 2016–17 is 3.6 per cent.