

**SENIORS — COST-OF-LIVING**

*Statement by Member for Gosnells*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells)** [12.56 pm]: I rise to speak on behalf of the increasing number of seniors, and in some cases their adult children worried for their parents, who are contacting me about how much they are struggling financially due to a succession of harsh state budgets and unbelievably high increases in utility charges that are having a crippling impact on them. Angry yet worried seniors ask me, “How in a state as rich as Western Australia can Colin Barnett treat people who have worked their whole working lives through some of the toughest times in our history with such contempt?” Their children are calling me to tell me their parents have made the decision to go without heating so that they can pay their rates and other bills because their concessions have been slashed or removed. How can it be that the Barnett Liberal government supports the mega-rich, allowing them to become even richer, while callously inflicting hardship on people on fixed incomes who have worked hard all their lives? Seniors are often too proud to ask their children for help, and after a lifetime of working they should not be forced into such a demeaning position by a government. They do not deserve this treatment from a Liberal government that is squandering the wealth of Western Australia on monuments that will be used by only a small percentage of the state’s population.