

JUSTICE ADVOCACY SERVICE

**1087. Hon ALISON XAMON to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:**

I refer to the New South Wales government's recent commitment to fund a justice advocacy service designed to support victims, witnesses, suspects and defendants with cognitive impairment to navigate the criminal justice system.

- (1) Apart from the intellectual disability diversion program, what support is currently available for people with cognitive impairment who come into contact with the criminal justice system?
- (2) Will the Attorney General commit to funding a scheme similar to the New South Wales model?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Support in the justice system for people with an intellectual disability or cognitive impairment is achieved through a number of strategies that are delivered by a variety of agencies, including the Intellectual Disability Diversion Program Court, the Mental Health Court diversion and support program, the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board, the Disability Services division of the Department of Communities, the Office of the Public Advocate, Legal Aid WA, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA and a number of other community and advocacy organisations. When an individual is identified as having an intellectual disability or cognitive impairment and is not currently registered with the Department of Communities, the appropriate point of contact for the individual is the Department of Communities. The department can initiate the eligibility process and/or provide a referral pathway to the appropriate services to meet the needs of the individual.
- (2) No, not at this time.
- (3) It would be premature to commit to funding a scheme to replicate the justice advocacy service in New South Wales because that service has not yet been launched, let alone evaluated. The government will monitor the implementation of the new service model in New South Wales.