

ELDER ABUSE — 2019–20 STATE BUDGET

**306. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Seniors and Ageing:**

I refer to the “National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians [Elder Abuse] 2019–23”, released by the commonwealth Attorney-General last month.

- (1) Noting the minister’s criticism of the commonwealth’s funding for elder abuse hotlines in an answer to a parliamentary question without notice on 20 March 2019, will he promise that the elder abuse section within the Department of Communities—an agency with approximately 5 500 staff—will increase to a level above the two individuals who have responsibility for leading Western Australian government policy in this field?
- (2) Will the minister properly fund elder abuse mitigation strategies in the forthcoming state budget?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The Department of Communities has the ability to utilise its resources to respond to key priorities as required. Responding to elder abuse is a whole-of-government priority and responsibility that is also being worked on by other agencies.
- (2) The state budget will be announced in due course.