

HARDSHIP UTILITY GRANT SCHEME — APPLICATIONS

667. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the minister representing the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to an article in *The Weekend West* on 7 October, outlining that more than half of the hardship utility grant scheme allocation has been used in the first quarter of this financial year.

- (1) How many applications have been received to date in this financial year?
- (2) How many applications have been received from regional areas?
- (3) What is the total value of grants acquitted under the HUG scheme to regional applicants?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) In this financial year, 25 952 applications have been received.
- (2) In this financial year, 7 062 applications have been approved from regional areas. There is a note that this is the approved number of applications by regions, as we are unable to report on the number of applications received by the region until it has been approved.
- (3) The total value of grants acquitted under the HUG scheme to regional applicants this financial year is \$3 000 767.