

GRANDCARERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

440. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the government's decision to axe the grandcarers assistance respite program from 30 June.

- (1) How is it that the Department of Communities, which will receive a total appropriation of \$1 723 685 000 for the 2018–19 financial year could not find \$125 000 to continue the respite program for another 12 months?
- (2) Was any effort undertaken to continue the respite program within the department's funding allocation; and, if not, why not? It may have been superseded.
- (3) On which Local Projects, Local Jobs projects was \$1.77 million of controlled grants and subsidies money spent in 2017–18?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Communities funds a number of services within the grandcarers program area, including services that provide respite, with an annual spend of \$1 023 087 in 2017–18. The department will extend the grandcarers assistance program for one year to allow the current supports to continue during the period of the grandcarers review and to align all the grandcarers funding arrangements.
- (2) The department funds a number of services in the grandcarers program area that expire on 30 June 2019. Planning has recently commenced to review the overall program area, which will inform and provide direction on how to best support grandcarers into the future. The grandcarers assistance program will be extended for a period of one year to allow the current supports to continue and to align all the grandcarers funding arrangements.
- (3) I table the attached list of Local Projects, Local Jobs grants paid in 2017–18. Actual grants paid is less than was estimated following engagement with recipients on actual amounts required.

[See paper 1414.]