

AUTISM SERVICES — SOUTH WEST REGION

2978. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Disability Services

I refer to the Autism Centre in Subiaco, and ask —

- (1) Will the Minister undertake to provide a similar Centre in the South West region?
- (2) If yes to (1), within what timeframe?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) In relation to the Government funding provided to the Autism Association of Western Australia, will the Government require as a condition of any future funding, that a portion of the funding is spent providing services, courses and/or facilities in the South West region?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The "Centre" referred to is the office of the Autism Association of Western Australia, currently situated in Subiaco. The Association is an independent organisation supporting people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in Western Australia.

Future development of services for people with disability in WA will be guided by Count Me In: Disability Future Directions. Count Me In is a strategy for change which will forge new partnerships to support better futures for people with disability across the State. A recognised priority area is the need for responsive approaches in rural and remote areas.

- (4) No.
- (5) The Disability Services Commission contracts with the Autism Association of WA to support people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and do not specify service quantity per region. Service priority is determined on a relative needs basis.