

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

387. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to my question of 15 August 2017 concerning the Attorney General's announcement on 26 April 2017 of funding for community legal centres, and his advice that \$1 144 540 provided for the 2017–18 financial year was drawn from the confiscation proceeds account.

- (1) To which community legal centres was funding provided, and how much was provided to each centre?
- (2) Having regard to the limited purposes prescribed under section 131 of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 to which funds from the criminal proceeds account can be applied, on what basis was that money provided to each of the recipient community legal centres?
- (3) In regard to the policy concerning the confiscation proceeds account under the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 grants program dated 1 June 2014 and the application guidelines last updated in February 2012, on precisely what basis were funds from the confiscation proceeds account provided to community legal centres?
- (4) Did any community legal centres make an application for funding from the confiscation proceeds account in accordance with the application guidelines; and —
 - (a) if so, will the Attorney General table the application and any documentation connected with its consideration and approval; and
 - (b) if not, on the basis of what documentation did the Attorney General make the decision to allocate funding from the account, and will he table it?
- (5) Did the Attorney General seek or obtain any advice on the appropriateness of using confiscation proceeds account funds for the purpose of funding community legal centres; and, if so, will he table his requests and that advice?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I have been provided with the following answer.

- (1) The Albany Community Legal Centre was provided \$53 500; the Citizens Advice Bureau, \$81 400; the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre, \$330 000; the Rural Community Legal Service—Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre, \$299 520; the Street Law Centre, \$195 000; the Sussex Street Community Legal Centre, \$114 120; and the Youth Legal Service, \$71 000.
- (2) The Albany Community Legal Centre and the Citizens Advice Bureau were eligible under purpose (c) of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000; the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre was eligible under purposes (c) and (g) of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act; the Rural Community LS—Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre was eligible under purpose (c) of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000; the Street Law Centre was eligible under purposes (c) and (g) of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000; the Sussex St Community Legal Centre was eligible under purpose (c) of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000; and the Youth Legal Service was eligible under purposes (b) and (c) of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000.
- (3) Funds made available to community legal centres did not come from the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 grants program.
- (4) No, they did not.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (b) Please refer to part (2).
- (5) No, he did not. The same assessment was used by the previous Attorney General to fund the community legal centres.