

CHILD CARE — REGIONS

**588. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the minister representing the Minister for Community Services:**

I refer to budget paper No 2, volume 2, page 521 and the line item “Access to Regional Childcare” that indicates the estimated actual spend in 2022–23 was \$1 431 000. Will the minister provide a full breakdown of how those funds were allocated and distributed?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Early Childhood Education.

The state Labor government has committed \$5.1 million to a range of initiatives to improve access to early childhood education and care services for families in the regions over four years. There are two parts to the initiatives, with \$1 million for attraction and retention packages for a regional childcare workers program; \$250 000 of the funding is allocated through local government authorities per annum. The second round of grants is currently being distributed to eight regional LGAs located in Carnarvon, Port Hedland, Ravensthorpe, Shark Bay, Wyndham–East Kimberley, Lake Grace, Gnowangerup and the Shire of Kent. Through rounds 1 and 2 of the attraction and retention packages for regional child care workers program, 17 local governments have received \$530 869 to support the provision of early childhood education care into their regions; \$4.1 million to develop initiatives that support the viability of regional early childhood education and care services through advice or support or resources or through the development of a clustering model. Further details regarding this initiative will be released soon.