

CRIMINAL PROPERTY CONFISCATION ACT — GRANTS

582. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's media statement on 8 February 2023 in which he announced the recipients of grants received from money and property seized under the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000.

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that one of the recipients is the Shire of Carnarvon for a program that builds community furniture and public art?
- (2) Is the Attorney General aware that in May 2019, Hon Wayne Martin, AC, reported that there are cases in which —
... the home, occupied by an innocent partner caring for the children of the family and who had no knowledge of the drug trafficking, may be confiscated and sold, with the entire proceeds passing to the State.
- (3) Is the Attorney General aware of the Law Society of Western Australia's 2018 submission that the act —
... can operate unfairly to produce harsh and disproportionate outcomes and does not adequately safeguard the rights of innocent third parties.
- (4) What proportion of the grants announced this month were obtained at the expense of an innocent partner caring for children or other innocent third parties?

President, I indicate that when I said "this month", notice of the question was given in February.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I can confirm that the answer was correct as at 21 February 2023. The following answer has been provided to me by the Attorney General.

- (1)–(4) The Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 provides for the confiscation, in certain circumstances, of property acquired as a result of criminal activity or used for criminal activity. The criminal property confiscation grants program was established in accordance with the act to direct funds obtained by illegal means to assist with the statewide development of programs and strategies to aid law enforcement and the provision of services that address the impact and damage done by the illegal activities from which the moneys have been confiscated. Applications under the CPCGP are assessed by an independent committee that makes a recommendation to the Attorney General regarding the suitability of applications for funding under the CPCGP.