

House: Legislative Assembly- Reading - Cognate Debate Second Reading
Date: Wednesday, 17 May 2006
Member: Barnett, Mr Colin; Wyatt, Mr Ben; Johnson, Mr Rob; Radisich, Ms Jaye; Woodhams, Mr Grant; O'Gorman, Mr Tony; Redman, Mr Terry; **Castrilli, Mr John; McRae, Mr Tony; ACTING SPEAKER; Waldron, Mr Terry; Constable, Dr Elizabeth; Day, Mr John; Trenorden, Mr Max**
Subject: APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (NO.1) 2006
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MR G.M. CASTRILLI (Bunbury) [6.58 pm]: There are two items in the budget about which I am particularly happy. One is the funding of the incontinence subsidy program and the other is the four-year recurrent funding for the child sexual abuse counselling service for Bunbury and the south west. They are two areas in which I have been working closely for the past 12 months since I was elected. I know of many people who have suffered unnecessarily due to a lack of service and funding. Last week the Disability Services Commission advised me that the incontinence program would be operational from 1 July 2006. However, I was advised yesterday that the program will not be operational until 1 January 2007. How the program is to be administered is still to be worked out. I hope that the department is able to learn from other states, such as Queensland, which has operated a successful and user-friendly program for many years, to ensure that the sufferers are not made to wait any longer.

Ms M.M. Quirk: The Court government abolished it.

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I just said I was happy that it was brought in.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Thank you for those gracious comments. Do you want it done properly or quickly?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: The minister announced, with a big song and dance that it would be brought in on 1 July. I was advised only yesterday by the department that it will not be brought in until 1 January. I hope the government takes advice from a state such as Queensland, which is doing it very well.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Excellent; thank you.

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I am pleased that \$340 000 has been allocated over four years to the counselling service for child abuse victims. I thank the Minister for Community Development for the allocation in the budget of funds to this service. I explained to the minister in a grievance that the counselling service was facing yet another year of uncertainty. It was established as a pilot program in August 2004. The funding for this program came from the fund established by the Criminal Property Confiscation Act. Recurrent funding is now in place and it gives the service stability and the service providers the ability to confidently accept referrals and assist traumatised children.