



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 11 December 2001

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—Lib) (10.22 a.m.): On Thursday, 8 November I asked a question of the Minister for Families regarding issues of domestic violence in this state and I received the answer yesterday. My question was: how many cases were reported to the minister's department? The answer was 13,249 for 1999-2000 and approximately 14,200 for 2000-01. I also requested details of the numbers relevant to women, children, the elderly and people with mental or physical disabilities. The answer I got back was—

This information is not available based on current data collection system.

I also asked, 'How many cases received counselling and help?' I received the same answer—

This information is not available based on current data collection system.

My next question was, 'How many cases required and were able to access crisis care?'

The answer was—

This information is not available based on current data collection system.

Based on this information, I wonder how the minister can possibly provide adequate services to the community and to the victims of domestic violence. Obviously, she does not. I know these issues are a matter of complaint within the community.

I also asked about the number of cases that were reported on the Sunshine Coast. Last year, the number was nearly 1,000. The questions I had asked the minister generally regarding the whole state, I also asked specifically in relation to the Sunshine Coast. The answer I received was that none of that data was collected. The minister has no idea how many cases required crisis care and what help was given.

In her answer the minister acknowledged that approximately seven per cent of reported cases were on the Sunshine Coast, but over the past two years the provision of funding for crisis and support services remained steady at 3.2 per cent. In other words, the Sunshine Coast receives less than half the funding it should be getting for the percentage of reported cases. I wonder which other regions are in exactly the same position. All I can say is this minister should be condemned for the lack of knowledge she has about her own department and this issue in particular.

Time expired.
