



GRANTS FOR SENIORS QUESTIONED 23 July 2004

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold calls on the Minister for the Ageing Jay Weatherill to reinstate the original guidelines for Seniors Grants after expected funding to Eyre Peninsula reduced to a trickle over the last two years.

In the last funding round Mrs. Penfold said that \$20,000 was given to write a Union history and \$20,000 to a gay and lesbian group for a theatrical comedy.

“Despite the Minister accusing a colleague of being homophobic, of red baiting and of showing appalling prejudice when he questioned these allocations in Parliament, I believe that the arts funding sources are more appropriate for these projects. The Minister should rectify the situation immediately and reinstate grants that benefit our aged and disabled” Mrs Penfold said.

“Our population is ageing at a rapid rate. This is illustrated by the fact that we now have about 38,000 people who are aged over 100 years of age and in a few years that number is expected to be more than 380,000”.

Mr Weatherill is the Minister for ageing, not Minister for Arts and the targeted area of Seniors Grants used to go to the most worthy of causes. Grants were greatly appreciated by recipients and many others, particularly aged and disabled with benefits continuing for years.

Grants received on Eyre Peninsula previously included automatic doors, disabled toilets and ramps, airconditioning, comfortable chairs as well as active lifestyle, educational and social programs.

See Speech to Parliament.