



**SCHOOLS, LIBRARY ASSISTANTS**  
**17 October 2002**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Can the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise the house why school community library assistant hours have been cut, in some cases by 20 per cent? Community school libraries on Eyre Peninsula have been advised of a revised staffing formula, whereby community assistant hours have been cut by 20 per cent. This is despite population statistics showing small increases in population. Community libraries in regional areas are a vital resource for all community members, providing services above and beyond the simple lending of books, and these cuts will impact harshly on those services.

**The SPEAKER:** Whilst I am in sympathy with the remarks the member for Flinders makes, it is an expression of opinion and in direct contravention of standing order 97. I invite the minister to respond.

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I am not aware that any such thing has occurred but, now that the member has raised it with me, I will investigate.