



SUICIDE (SEASONS FOR GROWTH)
1 July 2004

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): My question is to the Minister for Health. What action, if any, has the minister decided to take to fund the continuation of the Seasons for Growth program, whose funding concluded yesterday? On Monday, the minister advised that she was working on a solution and hoped to make an announcement soon, and she said, 'I am well aware of when the funding runs out.'

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I thank the member for Flinders for her question. As I said on Monday—
An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Yes, I am well aware when the funding ran out, and there have been meetings this week between my officers, officers of my colleague the Minister for Education, and the organisation. Those discussions are going very well. We believe we have solved the issue. As members know, the next two weeks are school holidays, and my understanding is that there will be no interruption to services. I am sure that a very successful conclusion will be reached within less than a week.

SUICIDE
28 June 2004

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Minister for Health advise whether there is any attempt to categorise the reasons behind suicides and, if so, how many WorkCover clients of which her department is aware have suicided or attempted to suicide over the past year? Recently, a young WorkCover client whose family I had tried to assist with WorkCover difficulties suicided, and I am aware of at least another young person.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I am just wondering whether that question applies to my colleague who has the responsibility for WorkCover. I am not sure of the question. Do we categorise suicides? I will have to get information on whether we do, I am not sure.

Mrs PENFOLD: I have another question for the Minister for Health. Will the minister reinstate funding for the Seasons For Growth Youth Suicide program which is recognised as a preventative strategy for suicide for both young people and adults? I am aware of at least three suicide deaths on Lower Eyre Peninsula this year and have been anecdotally advised that there are approximately two attempted suicides each week. In a recent article in *The Adelaide Review*, executive director of Seasons for Growth, mental health provider, Clare Koch said: 'We have a statewide waiting list. Port Lincoln has asked for urgent help five times.'

The Hon. L. STEVENS: I am aware of the issues in relation to Seasons for Growth. In fact, the member for Newland asked a question in relation to this program a few weeks ago. I would say that we are working on a solution in relation to that program. I am hopeful there will be an announcement soon. *Ms Chapman interjecting:*

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Well, I am working with the Minister for Education and Children's Services. It is something which we both will be looking at doing because it occurs throughout schools. The honourable member will have to wait; it will not be long now. We are taking the matter seriously. The government is very well aware of the issue of suicide and it is something that the Social Inclusion Unit, in particular, will be considering. Recently, we responded to an issue in the northern part of Australia,

which was brought to my attention by the member for Stuart. We have been able to put in place a mobile counselling service there. I will get back to the house in relation to Seasons for Growth as soon as we have sorted it out.

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): I have a supplementary question. Will the minister urgently consider the matter, given that funding runs out in two days?

The Hon. L. STEVENS: We have been looking at it urgently, and I am well aware of when funding runs out.