

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

Disability Services - Funding

Minister the NT Council of Social Services met with representatives from your department in an effort to lobby for improvements in government spending and direction. One of their concerns expressed at this meeting was the high need for growth funds in the area of disability services. I quote 'availability of services to clients is decreasing and cost of equipment items are increasing. Need to increase funds to the TIME Scheme.':

1. Why is it, according to NTCOSS, that the availability of services to clients is going down and when the cost of equipment is increasing?
2. What will you do to stop this service from deteriorating further this financial year?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Government provides equipment such as wheelchairs to Territorians with disabilities under the Territory Independence Mobility Equipment Scheme (TIMES).

The 2005/06 funding allocation for the Scheme was 10 percent more than the 2004/05 allocation (from \$1 013 000 for 2004/05 to \$1 116 496 for 2005/06) and there has been no reduction of funds or services for people with disabilities.