

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 121/2006
17 October 2006

The Opposition is concerned at the increasing number of complaints that it continues to receive from users of the services provided by the Social Services Agency.

It is now abundantly clear that the Agency, which is presided over by Mrs Del Agua, is in a state of crisis.

The Opposition understands that the mother of a disabled person recently was desperate for a carer for her son for a couple of hours once a week to look after him at home while she went out to do the shopping.

The Minister's callous response was to tell the mother to put her son in a home. She added that if she provided that kind of service to this person then everyone else would also want it as well.

The mother in question then wrote to the Chief Minister in June to raise the issue with him and is still waiting for an acknowledgement.

The mother of the disabled person claims that letters of complaint that she sent to the Agency regarding the treatment of her son by St Bernadette's were often ignored. She said that when Mrs Del Agua eventually replied she promised someone would arrange an interview with the mother to discuss her concerns. This interview never materialized.

The Opposition considers that the behaviour of the Minister for Social Services leaves much to be desired.

The Social Services provided by the Government are aimed at the more vulnerable members of the community. There appears to be no humanity and no compassion whatsoever in the manner in which the Government and the Minister deal with the problems that users of the service have. This is reflected in the increase in the number of public complaints by aggrieved persons. These persons now feel so desperate that they have to approach the media or the Opposition for assistance.

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