

SHINE SA

14 February 2008

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I note that in recent months all references to SHine SA, which is tasked by the government with sexual education in many of our schools, have been removed from the AIDS Council of SA website. SHine SA, conversely, has now set up its own website, which also no longer mentions the AIDS Council, despite their previous strong links.

The AIDS Council, despite its noble name and charter, is an organisation that has recently appeared to operate in a bubble of total unaccountability. In recent times, numerous allegations have been made about the misuse of taxpayers' funds in relation to this organisation. Despite these claims and concerns, the Auditor-General has noted that the AIDS Council's funding was increased by \$1.254 million in 2006-07. Further, the same report indicates that SHine SA received an increase in funding of \$3.9 million to \$6.45 million—a 60 per cent increase in funding in one financial year, whilst all other NGOs, on average, suffered a 2.5 per cent cut in funding. This increase places the AIDS Council and SHine SA (with at least \$7.7 million combined) firmly as second only to the Royal District Nursing Services of SA Incorporated (\$9.5 million) as the largest NGO recipients and funding from the entire health department.

The primary aim of the SHine SA program is harm minimisation (despite the success of zero tolerance strategies in other countries such as Sweden) as it aims to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. On that front, let me add that the Sexually Transmitted Disease Service of the Royal Adelaide Hospital shows that, in 2003, when the SHine SA program was first trialled in some schools, 441 teenagers reported as having chlamydia. In 2004, as the program expanded, the numbers rose to 581. In 2005, 588 were reported. In the most recent 2006 data, after many more schools joined the program, the

numbers soared to 747. This equates to an almost 70 per cent increase as the program rolled out.

My questions are:

1. When and where was SHine SA directed or advised to disassociate itself from the AIDS Council of SA?
2. Does SHine SA remain the preferred supplier of sexual education material to South Australian schools, despite a total failure to meet its objective in decreasing chlamydia infection rates among teenagers?
3. Why has the budget for SHine SA increased by almost 70 per cent, despite its total failure to meet its objectives in decreasing chlamydia infection rates among teenagers?