

Budget blow for HACC

By **JESSICA NICO**

THERE have been mixed reactions among local Home and Community Care (HACC) services after they received much-needed Federal funding but missed the boost to not-for-profit welfare groups in the State Budget.

Earlier this month the Federal Government gave almost \$200,000 to four local services – Melville HACC Services, Silver Chain Nursing Association, Uniting Care West and St Ives Care – but the State Budget excluded HACC services from the \$604 million boost to

welfare agency funding. HACC services allow frail, older people and younger people with a disability to remain in their homes and communities.

Aged and Community Services WA chief executive Stephen Kobelke said it was disappointing there was no explanation as to why HACC was excluded from State Budget increases for social services.

“We are very happy that the social services area has received this funding boost, but what we are also saying is that HACC services providers should have also,” he said.

“As a result, these services

are being prevented from offering their aged-care workforce better wages and conditions.”

Tangney MHR Dennis Jensen said he was pleased to see the Federal funding given to local HACC services but he would like see more.

“More than 66,000 people receive domestic help and I know this figure will increase in the coming years, making significant increases in Federal funding a priority.”

Mr Kobelke said he would be meeting State Health Minister Kim Hames to discuss the issue further.