

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 31 May 2011

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES A AND B ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I refer to the major spending changes on page 75. There is a line item with \$10 million for the community development investment fund in 2011–12. Can the Premier give us some description of that program?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That fund relates to loan arrangements that are sometimes converted into grants. On occasions, the government might give a community group a loan, and, if it satisfies certain conditions, that may ultimately convert into a grant after a certain period. I will try to find an example.

The community development investment fund was part of the recommendations of the Economic Audit Committee. It was announced in the 2010–11 budget as a low-interest loan scheme for community sector organisations. It was to assist those organisations in particular that are unable to borrow funds.

The loans are designed to provide capital investment to build financial self-support. It might be for fit-outs of buildings, computer equipment, photocopiers and whatever else. Those loans are made on very favourable conditions and often are converted into grants.