

DIVISION 61: CHILD PROTECTION —

[Supplementary Information No G1.]

Hon Sue Ellery asked: *In last year's budget an efficiency indicator was the number of clients seen, and the work done in the first version of the demand model was based on a prediction of about 100 000 clients. I think the figure that appeared in last year's budget was that 105 000 clients were seen. In this budget, note (d) on page 785 is about the number of clients but there is a significant difference of about 30 000 between the figure that was relied on in the demand model prepared for the last budget and the number that appeared in the last budget. I do not understand why that would be the case. I do not think that 30 000 clients would have been transferred off to the Department for Communities, so I do not know where they have gone.*

Answer: The reduction in the number of clients between the 2009-10 budget papers and the 2008-09 budget papers is due to the transfer of 85 non-government services from the Department for Child Protection to the Department for Communities effective 1 July 2008. The number of clients were re-stated for comparability purposes across all years as shown in the 2009-10 budget papers.

[Supplementary Information No G2.]

Hon Alison Xamon asked the minister to provide details of the 382 mandatory reports received up to 31 March; how many children did that represent?

Answer: There were 382 mandatory reports, reporting 368 children, received during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009. Of the 382 mandatory reports received to 31 March 2009 (which include multiple reports and reports on matters already under assessment), 97 were made by doctors, 35 by nurses, 186 by police and 64 by teachers/school principals.

Of the 382 mandatory reports, 95 of these mandatory reports related to matters already under assessment by the Department (42) or were additional reports about the same child/incident (53). The remaining 287 mandatory reports, reporting 321 children, resulted in 347 new notifications of suspected sexual abuse.

Please note: the Department's May reporting snapshot shows there were 347 notifications of suspected child sexual abuse between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009. The figure of 360 was compiled primarily from the April reporting snapshot. Earlier figures reported and the difference in numbers is due to subsequent data correction since the April snapshot was taken.

Hon Ken Travers asked:

- 1 *As of the last date you reported to Treasury on your finances:*

 - 1.1 *Can you please identify all accounts held by your agency?*
 - 1.2 *How much cash is held in each of these accounts?*
 - 1.3 *How much of this cash is restricted or subject to approval or control?*
 - 1.4 *As of this date, what is your estimated annual average cash as a percentage of your appropriation? 2 As of the last date you internally monitored each account your agency has:*

 - 2.1 *How much cash is held in each of these accounts?*
 - 2.2 *How much of this cash is restricted or subject to approval or control?*
 - 2.3 *As of this date, what is your estimated annual average case as a percentage of your appropriation?*

- 3 *Please provide, for each question below, what you expect to be the figures as of 30 June 2009?*
 - 3.1 *How much cash is held in each of these accounts?*
 - 3.2 *How much of this cash is restricted or subject to approval or control?*
 - 3.3 *As of this date, what is your estimated annual average cash as a percentage of your appropriation?*

Answer:

- 1.1 The Department has one bank account for its operations and one bank account for money held for children and young people in care of the Chief Executive Officer.

Extract from Hansard
[COUNCIL - Thursday, 18 June 2009]
p811b-815a

Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Ken Travers; Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich

- 1.2 \$19.893 million as at 31 May 2009 was held in the Department's operating account. \$0.017 million was held as at 31 May 2009 in a separate account for children and young people in care of the Chief Executive Officer.
 - 1.3 \$5.2 million of the Department's operating account was restricted relating to funding received from the Commonwealth Government and an estimated \$4 million was held for capital works projects to be utilised in 2009-10, leaving a balance of \$10.693 million. The \$10.693 million will reduce significantly by year-end due to the timing of payments and the receipt of appropriation. The full amount of \$0.017 million for the Department's other account is restricted.
 - 1.4 The estimate annual average non-restricted cash as a percentage of appropriation is estimated 2.3 percent.
2. As per the information supplied for Question 1.
- 3.1 \$8.3 million is estimated to be held in the Department's operating accounting as at 30 June 2009, which largely relates to funding to be carried forward for capital works project in 2009-10 and restricted cash for funds received the Commonwealth Government and held in trust. \$0.020 million is estimated to be held in a separate bank account for children and young people in care of the Chief Executive Officer.
 - 3.2 \$1.1 million of the Department's operating account balance of \$8.3 million is estimated to be restricted and an additional \$3.5 million is held for capital works, leaving a balance of \$3.7 million. The capital works balance will be carried forward into 2009-10 for approved capital works projects in 2009-10. The full amount of \$0.020 million in the separate bank account is restricted.
 - 3.3 The estimate annual average non-restricted cash as a percentage of appropriation is estimated to be 2.2 percent.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked:

- 4.1 *Is your agency redirecting any capital works expenditure – if so can you provide details including value?*
- 4.2 *Is the agency selling surplus government land or assets, and if so can the Minister provide a list of land or assets earmarked for sale?*
- 4.3 *Is the agency proposing to privatize any of its functions or contract out any of its services - if so, which ones?*
- 4.4 *Is the agency intending to reduce staff numbers over the next 4 years and if so what ceiling has the agency set and how many staff with (sic) be shed?*
- 4.5 *Is the agency aware of the Government's new responsible public sector wages policy – if so what is it?*

Answer:

- 4.1 Capital funding previously approved for accommodation projects in 2011/12 have been reprioritised to provide office accommodation needs across the State to accommodate additional staff provided over recent years.

Mandatory Reporting	\$500,000
Crisis Care	\$1,250,000
Armadale Office	\$1,000,000
Head Office Royal Street	\$3,000,000
Total	\$5,750,000

- 4.2 The following assets are in the process or earmarked for disposal the proceeds are to be redirected to the Department's reform of residential care services - 2009/10 - Port Hedland Old District Office (vacant); 2009/10 – Brenda Cherry Centre, Subiaco (insufficient office space); 2009/10 – Onslow Drop in Centre (surplus to requirements); 2010/11 – Stoneville Land (surplus to requirements); and 2012/13 – McCall Centre (not suitable for accommodating therapeutic child focussed services)
- 4.3 No

- 4.4 No
- 4.5 The Department is aware of the recently released "Public Sector Wages Policy 2009." As this is not a Department Policy, it is more appropriate that the Member direct the question to the appropriate Minister.

Hon Sue Ellery asked:

- 5.1 *What the current number of children in care for more than 20 days with no planning recorded?*
- 6.1 *What monitoring systems are in place to ensure organisations continue to meet obligations to ensure WWC in place, given reduction in advertising?*
- 6.1.1 *Will additional compliance be engaged to ensure momentum is not lost?*
- 6.1.2 *What is the allocation in 2009/10 for compliance in respect to WWC; is there any reduction in FTE.*
- 7.1 *Which public campaigns will not proceed as a result of the savings incurred due to the election commitment to cut media, marketing and advertising.*
- 8.1 *How many children were placed with more than four (4) carers since 2008?*
- 8.2 *Given the review of multiple placements and strategies it recommended, why were the target figures any higher than in 2008/09?*
- 9.1 *What is the number of children in care for more than twelve (12) months with no review recorded?*
- 9.2 *What is the number of carer's reviews overdue?*
- 9.3 *What is the number of carer record screening overdue or not recorded?*

Answer:

- 5.1 There are currently 164 children in care for more than 20 days with no planning recorded. This is compared to 345 for the same period last year.
- 6.1 The WWC Screening Unit is supporting and working with organisations such as the WA Sports Federation, Constable Care and a range of government agencies to promote the check to targeted groups.
- 6.1.1 An additional compliance officer is being recruited
- 6.1.2 FTE was not reduced. There are 2 FTE dedicated to compliance. There are also 2 FTE dedicated to community engagement promoting the check.
- 7.1 There are no public campaigns that will not proceed as a result of the reduction in Government spending on media, marketing and advertising. In recent years, major advertising campaigns have been held on a once-off basis, and the reduction in funding for advertising in the half financial year 2008-09 and for the full 2009-10 financial year is based on them not being repeated.
- The Department's Working with Children Screening Unit's community education campaign comprised 55 per cent of the Department's total advertising in the 2007-08 financial year.
- The gradual introduction of the checks across all categories of child-related work will be complete by the end of 2010, meaning greater savings will be made on a reduced extent of community education, with the Unit seeking to undertake alternative methods of community education to inform people of their obligations under the legislation, at minimal cost.
- 8.1 37 children who were in care on 30 Sep 2008 had more than four placements between 1 January and 30 September 2008.
- 37 children who were in care on 31 May 2009 had more than four placements between 1 October 2008 and 31 May 2009.
- 8.2 The estimated actual average number of placements per child in the CEO's care per year for 2008-09 (1.6) is higher than the 2008-09 budget (1.4) as a result of significant increases in the number of children in care over the last 12 months, placing pressure on the care system.

The 2009-10 budget target has been set at 1.4 which is the same as the 2008-09 target.

The Department is actively working towards addressing the issue of multiple placements through a suite of initiatives, including:

- major foster carer recruitment campaign
- the expansion and reform of residential care services
- better health and education planning for children in departmental care
- a greater focus on increased support in the recruitment, training and ongoing support of foster carers
- development of legislation on Special Guardianship and a policy on permanency planning
- implementation of the recommendations from the *Report on Multiple Placements – Research into the Multiple Placement of Young Aboriginal Children in Departmental Care (November 2008)*.

The impact of these strategies collectively on reducing multiple placements will not be evident at this stage, given a number of these initiatives are in the early stages of implementation. However, it is envisaged that these reforms will contribute to reducing the average number of placements per child in the CEO's care in future years.

- 9.1 There are 623 children in care for more than 12 months with no review recorded. At this time last year the number was 510.
- 9.2 1,024 households. This includes households where there are no children placed. At this time last year the number was 1,070.
- 9.3 777 individual carers. This includes carers in households where there are no children placed. At this time last year the number was 1,130.

NOTES:

Responses to questions 5.1, 8.1 and 9.1 are as at 31 May 2009.

Responses to questions 9.2 and 9.3 are as at 8 June 2009.

The June 2009 snapshot of the Department for Child Protection's client database, taken on 8 June 2009, was used.