

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

Division 44: Disability Services Commission, \$638 665 000 —

Mr I.C. Blayney, Chairman.

Ms A.R. Mitchell, Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Disability Services.

Dr R.F. Chalmers, Director General.

Mr G. Meyers, Chief Finance Officer.

Ms F.W. Tyler, Principal Policy Adviser.

Ms M. Hailes-MacDonald, Executive Director, Service Contracting and Development.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Armadale.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer the parliamentary secretary to the line item “Program Rationalisation” on page 550 of the *Budget Statements*, where a figure of \$2.25 million for this year is shown. What programs have been rationalised through this process, and how was this figure of \$2.25 million determined?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I am going to ask Dr Chalmers to respond to that one.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The commission used a range of initiatives to meet that target. Specifically, we looked to cease the funding to four small not-for-profit organisations, either because they sought not to continue in that role or because their particular service delivery models were not contemporary or not where we wanted to go into the future. We decided to cease those contracts. We also looked at transferring out the last remnants of our medical and specialist services that we had been devolving for up to 15 years now, being our podiatry services—which had wound down to quite a small service—out to an innovative partnership with the University of Western Australia that would, we believe, not only deliver those services, but also provide an opportunity for podiatry students to be learning and influencing their profession. We also looked at streamlining our funding processes to get some administrative efficiencies in how we allocate funding out to individuals through various streams. They were the key strategies. The last one was that we decided to reduce the level of funding that we put into vehicle replacements for some of the not-for-profit organisations that we support. That required them to push out their leases for up to another year, which was neither here nor there but it did amount to some significant savings of over \$1 million.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Parliamentary secretary, note 2 on page 552 of the *Budget Statements* states that —

The 2011–12 Actual and 2012–13 Budget have been restated due to the downward revision of the estimated population of 0–64 year olds with severe and profound disability.

Is the government satisfied that it has a clear understanding of the number of people with disability and the disabilities they have?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I am going to ask Dr Chalmers to respond to that specific question.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Could I have the last bit of the question asked, please? I did not quite catch that.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is the government satisfied that it has a clear understanding of the number of people with disability and the disabilities they have? Is a record kept of the number of people with disabilities and the disabilities they have?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The construct around the number of people with disabilities is a complex one. At its highest level we know that in Western Australia there are over 400 000 people with some form of disabling condition. If we then start to whittle that number down to people with severe and profound disability, we are looking at over 150 000 people who fit into that category. If we then come down to the number of people who the National Disability Insurance Scheme is calculating within Western Australia as being within the scope of service delivery, we are looking at a number of about 42 000 people. Then down to the number of people in the disability sector currently accessing services, we are looking at about 23 500 people. So, it depends upon the level of impairment and level of support requirement that the member is talking about there.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I just want to know whether the government manages data that has a demographic insight of the people with disabilities. So, say there is someone in Albany with a disability, are they on your database?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will ask Dr Chalmers to respond to that question.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The short answer is no, because people approach the commission, either directly or through service provider organisations, seeking supports and services. We apply eligibility criteria and then we deliver

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

services or funding for services from there. We go on statistical information provided by the commonwealth through survey data, as is suggested here, but we do not have every person in the state of Western Australia on our database, because we wait for them to come to us.

[8.20 pm]

Mr P.B. WATSON: There could be people out there slipping through the cracks and we would not know. I have been approached by an organisation that is trying to get this information. It wants to know whether the government manages data and has demographic insight, whether there is an age distribution, the nature of the disability and where these people live. Of the estimated population of zero to 64-year-olds with disabilities, the population has decreased to 60 300 from 71 600. I cannot understand why we do not know where a lot of these people live or what their disability is when we have the Disability Services Commission. I would have thought that one of the first things a disability service would have is a database to work out where the funding needs to go and what sections these people should be put in. I know the director general has said there are hundreds of thousands of people with a disability, but I thought the Disability Services Commission would have a record of every person. Surely there is a database that they can be put on so that if someone is looking for something or groups are trying to help these people, they know where to go. But these people are just faces in the night.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Before I pass to Dr Chalmers, I can assure the member that many people who would be classed as having a disability do not choose to make contact with the Disability Services Commission because they cope very well.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I understand that. I just wonder whether the commission has the details of those who do contact it.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will ask Dr Chalmers to respond to that.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Again, I back up the comment that the commission's mandate is not to require people to register with the commission; it is a voluntary approach to the commission, as a government agency, seeking supports. It would be akin to asking whether people who require medical services should be on some database just in case they require medical services. It has never been part of our mandate to try to identify every person with a disability in the state of Western Australia.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Maybe the mandate should be changed. It seems very strange that we do not know the age groups, what disability these people have or where they live. If the commission is looking at fixing the service, it does not know what it has. I thought that would be the basic function of a disability service. It just staggers me, but the answer has been given.

Ms L.L. BAKER: I refer to the table of spending changes on page 550 of the budget papers and the line item for the position of executive officer appointed to assist Australian disability enterprises. The amounts are \$110 000, \$113 000, \$116 000 and \$118 000. I understand that the new position of executive officer is part of the election policy that the government committed to. Can the parliamentary secretary describe the position? What we will get for the \$457 000 over those four years? What level will the position be and what kind of skills and background is the commission looking for in the person?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will ask Dr Chalmers to give that specific information.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Two years ago the state government made amendments to its procurement policy to try to encourage government agencies to purchase more and more services from organisations that employ people with disabilities, and some traction has been made on that ground. But about a year ago it was suggested that there be an intermediary service between state government agencies, especially their procurement sections, and a range of Australian disability enterprises that basically arrange for people with disabilities to gain employment. This position is a key position to, in some sense, be a matchmaker between government agencies and Australian disability enterprises. It is a paired resource with a position that has already been created in the Department of Finance. So there is someone in government and this person in the not-for-profit sector trying to link up and take full advantage of government contracts. This is not a public servant position; it will be funded through a not-for-profit organisation. My understanding is that the level will be equivalent to a level 8 public servant.

Mr F.A. ALBAN: I refer to the second dot point on page 552 of the budget papers. What is the current status of negotiations between the commonwealth and state governments for Western Australia to enter the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: As the member knows, we have made significant progress and a contract has been signed. Obviously, a lot of work is to be done to get all the contracts in place. We are excited about that, because we can progress with the Western Australian My Way program, while at the same time having a trial site for the national program. We believe that the outcome of those programs will be very good and we can get the best of

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

both worlds for the people in Western Australia. I will ask Dr Chalmers to provide some specific information on what is occurring now.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The agreement that was reached on 5 August this year between the Prime Minister and the Premier paved the way for two launches in Western Australia—one is through DisabilityCare Australia in the eastern metropolitan area and the other is the continuing rollout of the My Way program in an expanded lower south west region and into Cockburn and Kwinana from 2015. As the parliamentary secretary said, a key component of that will be a truly independent evaluation of both models. It will be a formative evaluation over the two-year launch so that the merits of both those schemes can be found and put towards the development of the scheme that will operate here to support people with disabilities from 2016 onwards. Between now and November this year, we will be involved with commonwealth officials, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to develop a very detailed bilateral agreement that will set the terms upon which the launches will commence in July 2014. This is a very welcome outcome, and it has been received so by people with disabilities and advocacy groups in Western Australia.

Mrs G.J. GODFREY: I refer to the first dot point on page 552. What is the commission doing to better support individual planning and to promote the expansion of self-directed supports and services?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: While I have been involved in this role, I have learnt how exciting and unique is the individual planning with the local area coordinators and the relationship and partnership between the person and the support systems and places. It is very unique and it is one of the things that set Western Australia apart from other states. I am sure that Dr Chalmers can give some more specific information on how that is occurring.

[8.30 pm]

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The commission has been on a journey for the past 20 years to move away from the block funding of disability services through to a more contemporary approach in which funding is provided to individuals based on the development of individual plans. I think that is why WA is recognised as being at the forefront of disability services across the nation and why in fact this particular characteristic is such a feature of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We have imbedded this concept within our My Way model, which will be the state model for the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We also found that the 116 disability service organisations that we fund have embraced this concept of individual planning. We have invested quite heavily in training and development support for those organisations to ensure this is the standard way of doing business. We found that it provides more flexible outcomes not only to people with disabilities but it also supports their families.

Mrs G.J. GODFREY: It has been highlighted in Belmont that disability carers get funding for additional services but the service is not available for respite carers. Can the parliamentary secretary make a comment about that?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will get Dr Chalmers to respond to that question.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Funding for respite services has gradually expanded over the past 10 to 12 years. Every year that we have had growth funding from government, we have directed a component of that towards respite support models. Over the past four years, that has included the construction of five new multipurpose respite houses, but it also involves highly tailored and flexible respite options. Is that enough to meet everyone's support needs? No, it is not. That is exactly why we welcome the National Disability Insurance Scheme being available from 2014 onwards. It is recognised that although we have high-quality services, we do not have the resources from commonwealth and state governments to meet all of that need. So the member is right.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer the parliamentary secretary to "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" on page 551 of the *Budget Statements*. I am asking for something that is missing. As the parliamentary secretary well knows, the Minister for Education announced significant cuts to education assistants. Now that there will be decreased educational assistance for students with disabilities in the education system, what impact will that have on demand for service under the Disability Services Commission? Will there be any increase in the Disability Services Commission budget to take up the slack due to the announcement by the Minister for Education? It is not in the budget, obviously, because that announcement was not made until recently, but it will impact on the budget bottom line for the Disability Services Commission. It will be expected to do more as a result of that decision.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will answer the member's question even though it does not refer to a specific area. I can assure the member that children with a disability will not be affected by the changes and will continue to have education assistants if they currently have one. There is no change to the way assistants are allocated under

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 21 August 2013]

p408a-415a

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

the Schools Plus program, which we know about, and it will give eligible students access to extra resources to provide for their special needs. This is the case for all students regardless of whether they attend mainstream or educational support schools and centres. At this stage the member's question is not necessary. I believe the matter is in hand.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is plain nonsense, because the education minister said that education assistants who are not permanent—that is, are on contract—will lose their jobs. A special education school in my electorate, Gwynne Park Primary School, has four education assistants on contract. It is more than likely that they will lose their jobs. How can that not affect the delivery of services to children with disabilities? Let us be honest and say that it will affect them, because it is absurd to say that it will not.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will repeat again: if a child has an education assistant now, they will continue to have an education assistant.

Dr A.D. BUTI: How can it be when there will be fewer education assistants?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I am not in a position to answer that question because I think that needs to be directed to Education, but I can tell the member that a child who has an education assistant now will continue to have an education assistant.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The parliamentary secretary is actually saying that when there may have been one educational assistant to two or three children in the past, now there will be one educational assistant to up to nine children. If that does not affect the quality of service or the intensity of service provided, I do not live in Western Australia! Specific to this part of the budget, it might be good if the parliamentary secretary deferred this question to Dr Chalmers: will the Disability Services Commission be negatively impacted by the cuts made to educational assistants in the education budget; and, if not, why not? That is rather than these glib answers given to the parliamentary secretary by the education minister. They are absurd. It is absolutely ridiculous that the parliamentary secretary comes in here and reads out a statement from the education minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Member, please allow the parliamentary secretary to answer the question.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Chairman, I would suggest and request that this question is applied to the Education area, which I think is on tomorrow morning. The member will then get the answer that he is looking for. Neither Dr Chalmers nor I is in a position to respond to the question about how a child or how a person will be looked after in a school situation. I have been advised that Dr Chalmers is prepared to respond, but it is not a matter within our scope at this stage.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: My understanding is that education assistants appointed through Schools Plus, for instance, for children with disabilities will not be affected and that it might be other categories of education assistants that we are talking about here. That is the assurance I was given today about education assistants working with children with disabilities in schools. That is the information I am going with at the moment.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Was the information received that the reduction in education assistants will not at all affect children with disabilities?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will ask Dr Chalmers to reaffirm his answer.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: That is my understanding from information that came to me today.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Could the parliamentary secretary table that information received?

The CHAIRMAN: We cannot table documents in these areas.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Could the information provided to Dr Chalmers be made available to us by way of supplementary information?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Mr Chair, if I could respond to the member's query, the information that was provided to Dr Chalmers was verbal and is not in a position to be provided in any other way.

Dr A.D. BUTI: When was that provided and by whom?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: It was around the middle of the day.

Dr A.D. BUTI: And by whom?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Via our minister's office.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Hon Helen Morton?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Yes, that is right.

Dr A.D. BUTI: When Dr Chalmers says "verbal", was that by phone?

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

Dr R.F. Chalmers: By email.

Dr A.D. BUTI: It was not verbal, so can the email please be provided by way of supplementary information? Actually, was it verbal or in writing? Dr Chalmers said “verbal” but it was an email.

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Armadale, I understand that providing this information would be at the discretion of the parliamentary secretary.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am asking that the parliamentary secretary provide that by way of supplementary information. It is a very important piece of evidence that goes to the question asked here. Information was provided that tells us that no child with a disability will be affected through the education cuts. We should be able to see that advice. We were told it was verbal but now we know that it was in an email, so for the parliamentary secretary to have credibility on this issue she has no choice but to provide that information.

[8.40 pm]

The CHAIRMAN: As I said, it is the decision of the parliamentary secretary whether she supplies that information.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Can we have an answer then?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: We will provide the answer by way of supplementary information.

Dr A.D. BUTI: So the supplementary information will contain a copy of that email?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: It will provide the information that the member is looking for.

Dr A.D. BUTI: A copy of that email?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The information that the member is looking for.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The supplementary information request is for a copy of the email sent to Mr Chalmers reassuring him that his commission would not be impacted and that children with disabilities would not be negatively impacted due to cuts in educational assistance. We were assured by the parliamentary secretary and by Mr Chalmers that that is the information they have received. This information goes to the credibility of this incredibly important public policy for disabilities. We were told that that information was provided by email, and we want a copy of that email provided.

The CHAIRMAN: I will just read out a statement: does the parliamentary secretary agree to provide the supplementary information; and, if so, state exactly what information will be provided? The parliamentary secretary has said she will provide the information but there is no power to force her to provide that email. The power is to ask her to provide information.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I know there is no power, but I want a commitment from the parliamentary secretary that she will provide a copy of that email.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I am happy to answer the question. I have already read out the email, so I will read it out again for the member so that he has the information recorded in *Hansard*.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I want a copy of that email.

The CHAIRMAN: The power to provide this email rests with the parliamentary secretary.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I understand that, and the credibility of the parliamentary secretary on this point is at stake. She cannot say that an email was provided on this incredibly important issue but refuse to provide the email. It is not covered by legal privilege or parliamentary privilege; there is no privilege attached to this email, it purely goes to the political credibility of the parliamentary secretary.

The CHAIRMAN: I will say it again: it is the parliamentary secretary’s decision whether to provide this email. That is it.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is right, and I am asking her to provide the email.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: As I have said, the information will be provided to the member as supplementary information. I have already read out the email.

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, but—

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Member, you have spoken for a long time so now you can listen to me. The member will receive the email.

[*Supplementary Information No B26.*]

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 21 August 2013]

p408a-415a

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey; Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

Ms L.L. BAKER: I refer to the first table on page 551, and the “Government Goal” and “Desired Outcomes” where it talks about people with a disability being provided with appropriate services and supports that promote their wellbeing et cetera.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Sorry, where is it?

Ms L.L. BAKER: It is the table with a “Government Goal” heading on page 551. A number of constituents have talked to us about school holiday respite care for parents with children with a disability. In past budgets, about \$4.74 million was allocated to this area. Can the parliamentary secretary point me to the allocation for those programs in this budget so I can pass on that information?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: While we are trying to find where it is in the budget, I will ask Dr Chalmers to say a few words on that area.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The school holiday program ran for four years and was allocated about \$1 million a year into a range of more block funded-type arrangements. The funding allocation for 2012-13 was released late in the year, so the dollars allocated in April this year will flow through to school holiday programs in 2013-14. As part of our move to more individualised approaches to supporting people, the feeling is that block funding a small group of not-for-profit organisations to run programs is not seen as contemporary. We are now in the process of directing the growth funding from this year into far more tailored responses for individual families who were telling us that while some of them got a good service out of these programs, it was not doing that for others. We are directing growth funding through local area coordinators and some other means, into programs that are far more tailored rather than relying on a small number of not-for-profits to deliver programs. That four-year investment that we made has had an enduring impact on local government programs and on other community-based organisations that have now stepped up and are delivering their own programs in school holidays, which is quite heartwarming to see.

Ms L.L. BAKER: I have a further question. In relation to one specific issue with this funding, I think Dr Chalmers is saying that funding will now be more individually targeted by someone requesting a service as part of their package. How does that work if a full-time working single mum has a child at a school like Durham Road School and needs access to school holiday care so she can still work?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will ask Dr Chalmers to answer that question.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Children with quite significant disabilities who attend Durham Road School and other schools serve as a good example of where block funding a small number of not-for-profits to run programs may not have been tailored to their need. We would like to apportion dollars through respite and other growth funding initiatives and through local area coordination so that those parents who need some support to continue working through the school holidays, can have a more tailored approach to meet their need during what would normally be school hours. Again, is there enough funding around that area? The answer is no, so we are waiting for the National Disability Insurance Scheme to inject more money into those sites.

Ms L.L. BAKER: I understand what Dr Chalmers has said and I have a great deal of sympathy for the position he has been put in, but I need more of an explanation. Let us say that I am a mum looking for school holiday care for my child. I am negotiating with my LAC to get that care, so surely the LAC would require a group of people with a similar need in order to deliver a program. I am not clear how that program gets formed and delivered, and by which organisation. Is that clear?

[8.50 pm]

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Dr Chalmers can continue.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Over the past four years local government authorities have been running holiday programs for any child without disabilities, and now regular extensive school holiday programs are being run in the metropolitan and regional areas and local area coordinators are working with families with children with disabilities to work out what additional support is needed to allow their children to participate in a mainstream school holiday program. There is a lot of that happening. A classic example of that is Inclusion WA, which has been a beneficiary of that funding over the past four years and invested heavily in Pilbara communities. Local governments and community and sporting groups have stepped up and Inclusion WA has backed away, but those programs endure for children with quite severe disabilities in Port Hedland, Karratha and so on. We want to make that type of investment that endures, rather than rely on segregating groups of children with disabilities in the one place. I think that has been a success.

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

Ms E. EVANGEL: I refer to the second dot point under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” on page 551. What is the government doing to reduce the likelihood that young people with a disability will be required to enter aged-care facilities due to the lack of appropriate alternative accommodation more suited to their needs?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The state government has allocated an additional \$6 million over three years to provide appropriate housing. It does not always come straightaway or very quickly, but it can support arrangements currently in place. The program for young people with disabilities in residential aged care was a five-year program agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2006. Its aim is to reduce the number of people in residential aged disability areas so that they can get young people with disabilities into a home environment. That can occur in a number of ways. This is a very important area and it is one the government is working on. Dr Chalmers can give an update on what is coming up.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The young people in residential aged care program ran for a number of years with 50–50 funding between the commonwealth and states. That funding was not continued beyond 2011–12, but we have put in growth funding to ensure that young people who sustain catastrophic injuries do not end up in inappropriate placements like aged-care facilities. The injection of this extra \$6 million will allow the Disability Services Commission to continue that effort. Through the program, the DSC exceeded all targets in that quest to take people out of inappropriate placements in nursing homes, so, again, it welcomes this injection of funding to keep up that effort.

Ms L.L. BAKER: This matter is probably one of the saddest and most incredibly difficult issues I have had to deal with. Having said that, will the parliamentary secretary tell me how many young people are in this situation at the moment? The original election commitment was for \$9 million over four years, which means it is slightly less now—shrinking to \$6 million over three years. Does the parliamentary secretary know the numbers and can she explain that funding shift?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will see what information I can provide straightaway.

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The cash flow on this is \$1.5 million in 2014–15; \$2 million in 2015–16; \$2.5 million in the third year, 2016–17; and another \$3 million in the fourth year. It has been pushed out one more year to get to \$9 million.

Ms L.L. BAKER: That makes a great deal of sense. It was confusing in the papers. I thought money was missing. That is good news. How many young people are in aged-care facilities at the moment?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: When the young people in residential aged care program commenced years ago, the commonwealth advised us, and the DSC verified, that 87 people were in aged-care facilities in Western Australia. That was the target, to try to do something to exit those people to more appropriate accommodation. As it turned out, even though we spent a lot of time working with families, some of the families chose to leave their family members there, which was sad in many cases, but the express view of families was such that they had fought hard to get those places for their adult sons or daughters and were not willing to jeopardise them. We managed to get two-thirds of those people exited and, to the best of my knowledge—I cannot give a precise figure on this—it has remained at that basic level ever since by injecting growth funding year by year.

Ms L.L. BAKER: About 20?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: It would not be much more than that at the moment.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to page 552, the first dot point on the My Way project. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is being launched and two of the My Way sites will be trial sites; the goldfields is not one of them. What is the existing funding allocation for the goldfields in 2013–14 and the out years? What is the existing My Way funding allocation to the lower south west region and the Kwinana–Cockburn area? How much will this increase in 2013–14 and the out years because they are now launch sites? Is there any new money from the state or is it all commonwealth funding?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: There were a number of questions there. I would need to break them down and get supplementary information on the question the member requires on the goldfields. May I clarify the information the member is seeking?

Dr A.D. BUTI: What is the existing funding allocation for the goldfields for 2013–14 and the out years?

[*Supplementary Information No B27.*]

Dr A.D. BUTI: What is the existing My Way funding allocation to the lower south west region and the Kwinana–Cockburn area? How much would this increase be in 2013–14 and the out years, because they are now launch sites? The other part of the question is: is that new money from the state or is it commonwealth funding?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will seek information on that from Dr Chalmers

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 21 August 2013]

p408a-415a

Dr Tony Buti; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Frank Alban; Mrs Glenys Godfrey;
Chairman; Ms Eleni Evangel

Dr R.F. Chalmers: I would need to take on notice the question calling for information on the total funding presently going into the other launch sites. The last part of the question, will that all be commonwealth money —

Dr A.D. BUTI: What part is state funding and what part is commonwealth funding?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: Is the member asking for at the time we launch into the NDIS in those sites?

Dr A.D. BUTI: For the funding of the launch sites, how much is commonwealth funding and how much is state funding?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The agreement struck between the commonwealth and the state differentiates between dollars that are provided for individual funding packages or care packages. The negotiated agreement is that the state will fund 60 per cent and the commonwealth will fund 40 per cent. The issue around dollars in that agreement for the administrative costs in actually running the scheme from that point is still a point of negotiation and will appear in the bilateral agreement and in those discussions by November this year.

[9.00 pm]

Dr A.D. BUTI: There was also a supplementary question in regard to funding for the lower south west region and the Kwinana–Cockburn areas in 2013–14 and the out years.

[*Supplementary Information No B28.*]

Dr A.D. BUTI: The opposition has no further questions on this division.

Mrs G.J. GODFREY: I have a quick question on the fifth dot point on page 551. What is the commission doing to implement procurement reforms during 2013–14?

Dr R.F. Chalmers: The state government's delivery of community services in partnership policy encouraged human services organisations to engage in a range of procurement forms to improve the way that government agencies were procuring services from the not-for-profit sector. Over the past year the commission has been investing quite heavily in time and our partnership relationship with over 100 disability sector organisations that provide services to people with disabilities so that they deliver more targeted, flexible services. We have done that by involving all of those organisations in a recontracting process in which they are stepping forward in that process to tell us clearly what range of services they will make available for the dollars that are being provided by government. That process is nearing completion now. That also is linked to the additional dollars that were made available to increase the viability and sustainability of not-for-profit organisations. The contracting is to make sure that what government is purchasing from those organisations is contemporary and also they have the viability to be able to provide those quality services into the future. The other thing we have been doing in this area is, for the first time, undertaking a very comprehensive sector development planning process, because we need to make sure that every part of Western Australia, regional and remote areas included, has the range of services options for families to be able to choose the services they require. Again, we have been engaged with service provider organisations in the not-for-profit sector to make sure that we have going forward, especially with the National Disability Insurance Scheme, that range of services so that people are not restricted in their ability to make choices about the services they receive. This has been a high priority for the commission.

The appropriation was recommended.