



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Sally Talbot MLC asked –

P419

In the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's latest Annual Report 2013-2014, p11, a record total number of 14,240 safety and wellbeing assessments were completed, however of that total, 3,006 safety and wellbeing assessments were still in process at the end of the 2013-14 year. The level of funding in 2013-14 year for Total Cost of Services was neglecting up to 21% of children at risk (i.e. 3,006 assessments in progress / 14,240 total assessments). Without timely assessment of these cases, vulnerable children could potentially be left in harm's way.

In the Budget Paper No. 2 – Budget Statements Volume 1, p241 "the proportion of children in the CEO's care with comprehensive care planning undertaken within set timeframes" was only 68% in 2014-15 Estimated Actual (90% 2015-16 Budget Target), adding to the notion that safety and wellbeing is not being adequately funded or completed.

Question 1

Does the Minister believe the increase in funding will cover both the current year's 14% increase in number of safety and wellbeing assessments as discussed Budget Paper No.2 – Budget Statements Volume 1, p419, and meet the 90% 2015-16 Budget Target the proportion of children in the CEO's care with comprehensive care planning undertaken within set timeframes, and the additional backlog of safety and wellbeing assessments totalling 21% of the workload in the latest Annual Report?

Answer:

Yes, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support will receive an additional \$16.5 million in 2015-16 and \$171.9 million over four years to address the anticipated increase in demand for departmental services.

This funding increase has been calculated using a cost and demand funding model that has been developed in consultation with the Department of Treasury and incorporates the expected increases in departmental activities such as safety and wellbeing assessments and care planning.

Question 2

Can the Minister promise a reduction in clearly vulnerable children waiting for their safety and wellbeing assessments in the next Annual Report or funding from the next State Budget?

Answer:

The 3,006 safety and wellbeing assessments in process as at 30 June 2014 represents open cases where the Department was actively undertaking safety planning with the families of children who have had child protection concerns reported to the Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. M. M. M.", is centered on the page.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Sally Talbot MLC asked –

P419

I refer to Income Statement in the Budget Paper No.2 – Budget Statements Volume 1, p424, Child Protection Assessments and Investigations, and ask:

Question 3

Does the Minister see the additional 6 FTE roles (out of 490 FTE roles) and \$0.5 million for additional funding for the Department, as sufficient to meet the future obligations of safety and wellbeing assessments?

Answer:

Yes, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) has been allocated additional funding and an increase to its salary expense limit to address the anticipated increase in demand for departmental services. This funding and equivalent FTE increase has been calculated using an approved cost and demand funding model and incorporates the expected demand increases in departmental activities such as safety and wellbeing assessments.

The overall increase in funding and FTE for this service measure has been calculated based on the total expenditure to deliver child protection assessments and investigation services, which includes both direct and indirect expenditure. The Department anticipates that it will achieve savings relating to indirect expenditure during 2015-16, through its Organisational Review and Structural Realignment project. The outcomes of this project will deliver improved efficiencies and will not impact on the Department's capacity to deliver these services.



Question 4

Does the Minister expect the \$0.5 million increase in Total Cost of Services to meet the backfill of safety and wellbeing assessments noted for the children not yet assessed and potentially still at risk as noted in the latest Annual Report 2013-2014, p11?

Answer:

Yes, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) has been allocated additional funding to address the anticipated increase in demand for departmental services. This funding increase has been calculated using an approved cost and demand funding model and incorporates the expected demand increases in departmental activities such as safety and wellbeing assessments.

The overall increase in funding for this service measure has been calculated based on the total expenditure to deliver child protection assessments and investigation services, which includes both direct and indirect expenditure. The Department anticipates that it will achieve savings relating to indirect expenditure during 2015-16, through its Organisational Review and Structural Realignment project. The outcomes of this project will deliver improved efficiencies and will not impact on the Department's capacity to deliver these services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hulme" or similar, written in a cursive style.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P419

Question

5a. Has the Department got any contractual relations with either “Munro, Turnell & Murphy Child Protection Consultancy” or “Resolutions Consultancy”?

b. If yes, what services are the contracts for?

c. For what periods are the contracts in place?

d. What is the value of any contracts?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) has a contract with Resolutions Consultancy for consultancy, training and development services in relation to the Department’s child protection practice framework and this contract is on an as needs basis.
- c) The current contract is in place from 12 May 2014 to 11 May 2016, with three one year extensions available at the discretion of the Department.
- d) The estimated value of the current contract for 2015-16 is up to \$100,000.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P418

With regard to the cuts made in the 2015-16 Budget Estimate

The effect of the 1% Efficiency Dividend, 15% Procurement Savings and Workforce Renewal Policy are expected to cut a total of \$13.7 million (or 2.1%) from the Ministers 2015-16 Total Cost of Services.

Question 6

Can the Minister explain the strategy for the department meeting these \$13.7 million savings measures, and discuss any progress the department has made to date?

Answer:

The Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) has commenced an organisational review and structural realignment project. The project will undertake a budget review, consider service delivery structures and look at investment efficiencies in community sector services. It will also consider opportunities for improvement in the implementation of policies and practice, as well as looking at ways to more effectively meet the complex needs of families and children. The Department will be working to identify savings measures, opportunities to streamline practice and policy, and deliver models that better meet the Department's need whilst also providing best value for money across out-of-home care and community sector investment; as well as considering strategies that will impact on reducing the number of children needing to come into care.

It is anticipated that this project will enable the Department to achieve savings over time and through natural staff attrition. The initial stages of the project have already seen the reduction of the Department's organisational directorates from seven to six with an interim organisational structure commencing in March 2015.



Question 7

Can the Minister confirm that there will be no further staffing cuts as a result of the department being unable to meet the \$13.7 million of cost savings, and confirm the Minister intends for the department to remain within the 2015-16 Budget Deficiency for 2015-16 of \$0.3 million?

Answer:

It is anticipated that through the organisational review and structural realignment project, the Department will be able to achieve the desired savings and efficiencies over time and through natural staff attrition.

The Department will continue to review and monitor its 2015-16 expenditure to deliver efficient frontline services within its approved expenditure limit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. M. M.', is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P428

Overall the Total Cost of Service for Child Protection and Family Services has increased \$23.6 million 2 (or 3.8%), with \$16.5 million funding (or 2.7% Total Cost of Services) allocated for “Growth in Demand for Child Protection Services”, for the increased demand pressures associated with delivering child protection and out-of-home care services.

While an increase in funding for Western Australia’s most vulnerable children in state care is warmly welcomed, the 2.7% increase in funding is well below the growth of number of Children in the CEO’s care.

As per the Department of Child Protection and Family Support Annual Report 2013-2014, p17, Children in Care increased at 5.1% (2013-14) 4 and 6.7% (2013-14) Given the State Budget notes that children are entering care younger and remaining longer this trend is likely to continue.

Question 8

Can the Minister confirm that the current level of funding, increasing at 2.7% in 2015-16, will likely equate to less funding per child that the year before?

Answer:

No, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) has been allocated additional funding to address the anticipated increase in demand for departmental services. This funding increase has been calculated using an approved cost and demand funding model which incorporates the expected growth increases in the number of children in the Chief Executive Officer’s care and will result in an increase in direct expenditure relating to children in the CEO’s care.

The Department anticipates that it will achieve savings relating to indirect expenditure such as corporate overheads during 2015-16, through its Organisational Review and Structural



Realignment project. The outcomes of this project will deliver improved efficiencies and will not impact on the Department's capacity to deliver these services.

Question 9

What changes will occur in the day to day care of children in the care of the CEO to meet this reduction of funding?

Answer:

None.

Chubusater

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P418

Question 10

In light of increased funding and being a key priority of government, and at a time when homelessness and costs of living are increasing, why is the current government funding for homelessness services only temporary?

Answer:

The State Government allocates funding to the not-for-profit community service sector for a range of specialist homelessness services which includes accommodation and support services for young people, women and children experiencing family and domestic violence, single adults and families. In 2015-16 this will include provision of funding to 104 services funded under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and 75 services funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). Additionally the State Government provides recurrent funding to a number of other homelessness services including, but not limited to:

- Derby Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation Service;
- Kalgoorlie Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation Service;
- EntryPoint Perth;
- Foyer Oxford; and
- Women's Refuges in Busselton and Ellenbrook.

The NAHA is an ongoing Agreement. A new NPAH for 2015-17 has just been signed enabling provision of funding to services until 30 June 2017. The State Government will match the Commonwealth Government's NPAH contribution of \$14.97 million each year for the two year Agreement.

The State Government has been working with the Commonwealth Government over the last two years regarding the development of another longer term NPAH Agreement. In early 2014, the Commonwealth Government announced a review into housing and homelessness policy. Subsequent to this however, on 28 June 2014, the Commonwealth Government announced the Terms of Reference for a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation with housing and homelessness as one of the key focus areas. This White Paper is likely to inform long term policy



and funding arrangements for both the NPAH and NAHA. The White Paper is not due to be released until the second half of 2016.

Question 11

Can the Minister confirm that the majority of the “National Affordable Housing Agreement”, the “National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness” and the “National Partnership Agreement on pay Equity” are set to end in 2015-16 and 2016-17?

Answer:

As outlined above, both the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) are being examined as part of the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation. The NAHA remains an ongoing Agreement in the meantime. The current NPAH is time limited until 30 June 2017 and will be renegotiated as previous NPAH's have been. However, this will be subject to any outcomes from the White Paper process that may impact on how funding for homelessness is provided.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) negotiated the National Partnership Agreement on Pay Equity (NPAPE) with the Commonwealth Government on behalf of Western Australian State Government agencies. The current NPAPE ceases 30 June 2016. The Western Australian Government has written to the Commonwealth Government regarding the development of a further NPAPE.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P418

The 2014-2015 budget announced funding for an additional 58 front line child protection workers, In May 2014 the number of child protection workers was 749, the data provided for May 2015 was 775 an increase of 26 front line child protection workers.

Question

12a

What are the details of the other 32 new and additional front line positions that were promised by the Minister in the 2014-2015 budget?

12b

How many of the new positions were in regional Western Australia?

Answer:

- a) The 2014-15 Budget included additional funding equating to an additional 58 full time equivalent (FTE) service delivery positions, including but not limited to statutory front line caseworkers.

All additional FTE have been allocated during 2014-15, with funding equating to 38 full time equivalents (FTE) being allocated across the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) 17 district offices and the equivalent of 20 FTE being allocated to the Department's residential care services to fund additional roster shifts from July 2014.

- b) The equivalent of 25 FTE.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P418

Growth in Demand for Child Protection Services..... 16,504 34,775 53,310 67,342

Question 13

Funding for growth in demand for Child Protection Services rises steeply over the next 3 years, from \$16.5 million in 14/15 to \$67 million in 18/19, what is the reason for this increase?

Answer:

The 2015-16 Budget includes additional funding for the anticipated annual growth in demand for the 2015-16 financial year and each year of the forward estimates on a cumulative basis.

This differs from previous years where the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) only sought additional funding to address the anticipated demand increases for the upcoming budget year. The Department's revised approach for 2015-16 was developed in consultation with the Department of Treasury.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P425

Question 14a

A recent question on notice advised that all Departmental offices are staffed on a full time basis and no changes have been made in the past 18 months.

How does the changes to the Laverton office, no longer staffed full time, fit into this response?

Answer:

- The office is staffed full time
- A Customer Liaison Officer started with the Laverton Office on 5 August 2014.
- A Senior Child Protection Worker started with the Laverton office on 23 February 2015.
- Prior to 23 February 2015 the Laverton office was staffed part time with staff visiting from as Leonora and Kalgoorlie while the Department were in the process of recruiting staff.

Question 14b

Which other offices are serviced in the same way that Laverton now is?

Answer:

- All offices are serviced full time in the Goldfields with the exception of the remote Multi Function Police Facility (MFPF) in Warakurna which has not had a permanent CPFS staff member for over 18 months as the Department has no staff accommodation in Warakurna. The community is serviced via outreach from Blackstone and Warburton



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P425

The number of relative foster carers with four or more children placed has been rising over a number of years, in May this year there were 158 approved carers with four or more children placed, so at least 632 children are in families with at least 4 foster children placed.

Question 15

How many foster carers have 4 children placed and how many of these are Aboriginal?

Answer:

There are 103 foster carers with 4 children placed, of which 37 are Aboriginal.

Question 16

How many foster carers have 5 children placed and how many of these are Aboriginal?

Answer:

There are 46 foster carers with 5 children placed, of which 16 are Aboriginal.

Question 17

How many foster carers have more than 6 children placed and how many of these are Aboriginal?

Answer:

There are 18 foster carers with 6 or more children placed, of which 8 are Aboriginal.

Question 18

Do any carers have 7 or more children placed?

Answer:

Yes, there are 10 carers with 7 or more children placed.



Question 19

Are all children in foster care families with more than 4 children placed from the same family?

Answer:

No, 71 carers have 4 or more children placed who are from the same family, and 96 carers have children from different families.

Question 20

By district where are all families with 4 or more children placed?

Answer:

Armadale	–	20
Cannington	–	10
Fremantle	–	3
Goldfields	–	3
Great Southern	–	7
Joondalup	–	13
Midland	–	21
Mirrabooka	–	14
Murchison	–	11
Peel	–	10
Perth	–	5
Pilbara	–	11
Rockingham	–	5
Southwest	–	10
West Kimberley	–	5
Wheatbelt	–	19

Handwritten signature

Question 21

How many approved foster carers are grandparents?

Answer:

The relationship of the carer to the children is recorded on individual case files and is not available as a data item.

Question 22

How many foster carers are aged between 60-70?

Answer:

467.

Question 23

How many foster carers are aged between 70-80?

Answer:

108.

Murphy

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P425

Children with high needs – BACKGROUND NOTE

- *“\$3.0 million for the costs associated with providing individuals care arrangements for children and young people who have highly complex needs and challenging behaviours and who cannot be catered in other care arrangements”*
- *This \$3.0 million of funding equates to 5.5 kids in full time individualised care*.*

\$3.0 million / \$1,487 Average Cost per Day of an Exceptionally Complex Needs Care Arrangement = 2,017 days funding

2,017 Days funding / 365 Days in a Year = 5.5 Kids in Full Time Foster Care.

Question 24

How did the department calculate the increase of an additional 5.5 high needs places required 2015-2016?

Answer:

The allocation of an additional \$3.0 million in funding to support individualised care arrangements for children and young people who have highly complex needs and challenging behaviours and who cannot be catered in other care arrangements was determined utilising the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) cost and demand funding model and historical expenditure trends.

The additional \$3.0 million is not directly linked to the Department's efficiency indicator average cost per day of an Exceptionally Complex Needs Care Arrangement.

Some individualised care arrangements relating to children and young people with highly complex needs are included in the average cost per day of a foster care arrangement efficiency indicator.



Furthermore, the \$1,487 average cost per day of an Exceptionally Complex Needs Care Arrangement is calculated based on the total cost which includes direct and indirect costs, associated with providing this type of care arrangement and cannot be used to determine the number of children and young people placed in this type of care arrangement as per the calculation noted above.

Question 25

What is the average time a child is placed in high needs care?

Answer:

The average time that children and young people are in high needs care cannot be calculated on an aggregated basis. Although this information is recorded, it is not in a format that can be extracted from the Department's client information management system.

Mukwato

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P421

OUTCOMES AND KEY EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Question 26

- a. What is the ATSI child placement principle?*
- b. Can we have a copy?*
- c. Why is the Department failing to meet its target?*
- d. Why is the Target so low?*

Answer:

- a. What is the ATSI child placement principle?*

Section 12 of the *Children and Community Services Act 2014* (the Act) sets out the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle. The objective of the principle is to maintain a connection with family and culture for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) children who are the subject of a placement arrangement.

The principle that must be observed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department (or his/her delegate) when considering a placement arrangement for an Aboriginal child, so far as is consistent with the child's best interests and otherwise practicable, is to place the child in accordance with the following order of priority:

- placement with a member of the child's family;
- placement with a person who is an Aboriginal person in the child's community in accordance with local customary practice;
- placement with a person who is an Aboriginal person; or
- placement with a person who is not an Aboriginal person but who, in the opinion of the CEO of the Department, is sensitive to the child's needs and capable of promoting the child's ongoing affiliation with the child's culture, and where possible, the child's family.

- b. Can we have a copy?*



Yes. A copy of section 12 of the Act is provided.

c. Why is the Department failing to meet its target?

The Department is not able to meet its target primarily because there is a shortage of Aboriginal carers and the number of Aboriginal children entering care has increased.

Approximately two thirds of Aboriginal children in the CEO's care are placed in accordance with the first three of the four placement options. The Department will only place a child with a non-Aboriginal carer when an appropriate placement cannot be found from the first three options.

d. Why is the Target so low?

Recruitment and retention of Aboriginal carers is difficult. The ability to find quality and culturally appropriate placements for Aboriginal children in care is a significant issue for the Department.

Other comments:

The main factors that affect recruitment of Aboriginal carers include:

- trauma and disadvantage associated with the stolen generations which still affect many Aboriginal adults today, to the extent that they are not able to care for children; and
- unwillingness of some Aboriginal adults to be associated with the "welfare" system due to past government practices, including forced removal.

Western Australia's compliance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle is comparable to other Australian child protection jurisdictions, with a 69% result achieved nationally in 2013-14.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart" or similar, written in a cursive style.

- (d) decisions about contact with the child's parents, siblings and other relatives and with any other people who are significant in the child's life.
- (4) In subsection (3)(b) —
care plan has the meaning given to that term in section 89(1);
provisional care plan has the meaning given to that term in section 39(1).

[Section 10 amended by No. 49 of 2010 s. 5.]

Division 3 — Principles relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

11. Relationship with principles in Division 2

The principles set out in this Division are in addition to, and do not derogate from, the principles set out in Division 2.

12. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle

- (1) The objective of the principle in subsection (2) is to maintain a connection with family and culture for Aboriginal children and Torres Strait Islander children who are the subject of placement arrangements.
- (2) In making a decision under this Act about the placement under a placement arrangement of an Aboriginal child or a Torres Strait Islander child, a principle to be observed is that any placement of the child must, so far as is consistent with the child's best interests and is otherwise practicable, be in accordance with the following order of priority —
 - (a) placement with a member of the child's family;
 - (b) placement with a person who is an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander in the child's community in accordance with local customary practice;

Children and Community Services Act 2004

Part 2 Objects and principles

Division 3 Principles relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

s. 13

- (c) placement with a person who is an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander;
- (d) placement with a person who is not an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander but who, in the opinion of the CEO, is sensitive to the needs of the child and capable of promoting the child's ongoing affiliation with the child's culture, and where possible, the child's family.

[Section 12 amended by No. 49 of 2010 s. 40.]

13. Principle of self-determination

In the administration of this Act a principle to be observed is that Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders should be allowed to participate in the protection and care of their children with as much self-determination as possible.

14. Principle of community participation

In the administration of this Act a principle to be observed is that a kinship group, community or representative organisation of Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders should be given, where appropriate, an opportunity and assistance to participate in decision-making processes under this Act that are likely to have a significant impact on the life of a child who is a member of, or represented by, the group, community or organisation.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P424

Question 27

What was the reason for transferring the operations of the Child First unit from Country services to Metropolitan Services?

Answer:

ChildFIRST has historically been managed by Metropolitan Services. It was transferred to the Executive Director Country Services in 2012 for a short period of time and then back to Metropolitan Services. The decision in each case was to ensure an equitable workload in terms of management responsibility between the Executive Director Metropolitan Services and Executive Director Country Services who are both located in Perth.

No changes ensued except for line management of the Director childFIRST from Executive Director Country Services to Executive Director Metropolitan Services.

Question 28

How many Child First staff transferred from Country Services to Metropolitan Services in 2013-2014?

Answer:

There was no change in staffing as a result of this move.



Question 29

Were any Child First staff based in the regions before the move from Country Services to Metropolitan Services? Are they now in the Metro area?

Answer:

No changes to location of ChildFIRST staff were made as a result of the move.

Question 30

If Child First is co-located with police in the police specialist child abuse unit in Perth how does the Child First unit provide support to children regional in areas?

Answer:

ChildFIRST is co-located with the Western Australian (WA) Police Child Abuse Squad in Perth. The unit provides support to staff and children in the regional areas in the following ways;

- childFIRST provides Child Assessment Interviewing training for all Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) staff involved in interviewing children across the state. These interviews are done with children who have not disclosed abuse. Once abuse is disclosed than the Specialist Child Interviewers become involved.
- ChildFIRST provides training and support for the Department's Specialist Child Interviewers who are based in the regions. It is their role to undertake forensic interviews of children alongside local WA Police when a child has disclosed that they have been abused.
- Where numerous children need to be interviewed a team of interviewers from childFIRST in Perth will be deployed to assist the District staff.
- As a member of the Mandatory Reporting Interagency Training Team, childFIRST provides training across the states' regional areas. A recent two day learning event was held in the Murchison, East Kimberley and the Goldfields which was aimed at all government and non-government agencies involved with child protection. It covers what child protection is, different sorts of abuse, how to work with a child who discloses abuse and how agencies can work together to keep children safe.
- As partners with the WA Police Child Abuse Squad in various RESET operations childFIRST staff work in regional areas on a regular deployments to build safety in towns and communities where the risk of child sexual abuse is high. The team works closely with children, their families, key community leaders and all agencies providing services to the area.

Author

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P426

The average (adjusted for inflation) expenditure per child for non-residential placements between 2010-2014 has decreased substantially from \$47,235 per child in 09/10 to \$33,307.

Question 31

Why has the expenditure per child decreased so dramatically?

Answer:

The decrease in expenditure per child for non-residential placements between 2010 and 2014 is predominately attributed to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) reform and expansion of residential care services which resulted in an increased number of residential placements and a subsequent shift in the percentage of associated indirect expenditure, such as corporate overheads, allocated to non-residential placements.

Please note that as per the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2015 – Final Report 2015 Data Quality Information Chapter 15 – page 24:

‘These indicators are proxy indicators and need to be interpreted with care as they do not represent a measure of unit costs. Expenditure per child in care at 30 June overstates the cost per child because significantly more children are in care during a year than at a point in time. In addition, the indicator does not reflect the length of time that a child spends in care.’

Question 32

Are the costs associated with caring for high needs non-residential placements included in the figures that determine the average (adjusted for inflation) expenditure per child?

Answer:

The information published in the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (ROGS) is reported based on the following indicators at 30 June each year:

- real expenditure per child in residential out-of-home care services: and
- real expenditure per child in non-residential out-of-home care.



The costs associated with the Department's high needs placements are included in the real expenditure per child in residential out-of-home care services indicator.

Question 33

How many high needs children have been in the care of the CEO for each year since 2009-2010?

Answer:

Children and young people in high needs placements currently refers to children and young people placed in the Transitional High Needs, Disability and Specialised Fostering Programs. The number of children and young people in these programs are detailed below:

As at:	Disability	Transitional high needs	Specialised fostering	Total
30 June 2010	29	20	59	108
30 June 2011	36	20	66	122
30 June 2012	49	18	83	150
30 June 2013	62	20	107	189
30 June 2014	78	28	136	242

The Department for Child Protection and Family Support is currently reforming its out-of home care services and one of the key drivers of the reform project is the increasing complexity of children and young people in care.

Hunter

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P424

Question 34

How many foster carers currently have outstanding Working with Children Card renewals?

Answer:

On 30 June 2015 there were 78 foster carers with an outstanding working with children card renewal.

Question 35

How many jet planes were chartered to visit remote communities in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 to renew WWC cards in remote communities?

Answer:

In most instances planes are chartered to visit remote communities for a range of reasons including assessments, case work with families and to address concerns in the community. If WWC card renewals are required during these visits then they will also be progressed. Many visits to remote communities involve other agencies; this helps to share costs and enables joint interagency work to be undertaken.

In 2013-14 approximately 47 planes were chartered and in 2014/15 as at 30 April 2015 (data for May and June 2015 is not yet available) approximately 41 planes were chartered.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P426

Question 36

The Department previously advised that Fujitsu has a 10 year contract worth \$35 million for provision of application services.

Has the identified savings within 2014-15 to achieve the \$4.1 million efficiency dividend, which included the delay in replacement of communication technology hardware replacement affected Fujitsu's delivery of provision of application services?

Answer:

No.

Question 37

What exactly will be provided for the \$35 million contract and why could the provision of these services not be undertaken in-house?

Answer:

Under the contract, Fujitsu provide technical support and maintenance services for the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department's) core child protection case management systems including Assist, and reporting systems to meet State and Commonwealth reporting obligations.

The Department outsources the technical support and maintenance functions as:

- a) the different systems are specialised and require experienced developers with specific technical skills at various times; and
- b) the resource mix can be changed as the Department's needs vary over time.

The Department directly employs information technology staff in a range of roles, including help desk, administration, system testing and business analyst functions.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P423

Question 38

Yesterday the Department of Education advised the Estimates committee that over 900 West Australian children had an unknown whereabouts.

- a. Do these 900 children also have unknown whereabouts listed with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support?*
- b. Are all children who have an unknown whereabouts reported to the Department for Child Protection by the Department for Education?*
- c. Are safety and wellbeing assessments undertaken for all children who have an unknown whereabouts recorded at the Department for Education?*
- d. How many children in the CEO's care are currently listed as whereabouts unknown (or whatever the term is that the Department uses)?*
- e. How many children in the care of the CEO live in other Australian states and which states do they reside in?*

Answer:

- a. No. However these children are highlighted at local Children at Risk groups by the Department of Education.
- b. No. They are not missing children; they are missing from their enrolled school.
- c. No.
- d. In Term 2 of 2015, seven children in the care of the CEO were listed as missing from their school enrolments. Of these children:
 - Two children are in self-selected placements, both refusing intervention from either department. These children have been listed as missing children with the WA Police.
 - Two children are residing at Banksia Hill Detention Centre.



- One child is a new mother and caring for her baby.
 - One child is enrolled in an alternative education program.
 - One child is difficult to engage and is refusing intervention.
- e. On 30 June 2015 there were 43 children in the care of the CEO who live in the other Australian states:
- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| New South Wales - | 9 |
| Northern Territory - | 14 |
| Queensland - | 7 |
| South Australia - | 2 |
| Tasmania - | 4 |
| Victoria - | 7 |

Handwritten signature

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Questions: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

P422

Question 39

- a. Has the Signs of Safety program attributed to a greater increase in the need for families to access the Responsible Parenting Program?*
- b. What is the success rate of the program?*
- c. How many children in each year of the program's operations have ended up in the care of the CEO after involvement in the Responsible Parenting program?*

Answer:

Responsible Parenting Services include the Parent Support and Best Beginnings services.

- (a) Data is not kept on referrals to the Responsible Parenting Services as a result of the Signs of Safety Child Protection Practice Framework.
- (b) 85 per cent of the parents who completed the Parent Support program in the year up to 30 June 2015 demonstrated positive gains in their parenting skills that resulted in improved child behaviour.
- (c) The Responsible Parenting Services have been recorded on the Departments information system since 1 July 2011. The number of children who have entered the care of the CEO after involvement in the service is:

2011-12	32 children of 1,379 cases (Best Beginnings 7 of 474, Parent Support 25 of 905)
2012-13	50 children of 1,853 cases (Best Beginnings 17 of 611, Parent Support 33 of 1,242)
2013-14	43 children of 2,358 cases (Best Beginnings 15 of 773, Parent Support 28 of 1,585)
2014-15	19 children of 2,447 (Best Beginnings 11 of 785, Parent Support 8 of 1,662)

