



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Date: 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information: Hon Member Stephen Dawson MLC asked -

Question C1

Minister, by way of supplementary can I be provided with a list of the organisations in regional WA that are being funded to provide financial counselling services? And also the amounts of funding that they receive?

Answer:

REGION	ORGANISATION	SERVICE	FUNDING 1 OCTOBER 2015 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016
EAST KIMBERLEY	Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation	Ngarrkalem Baarmard Financial Counselling Service – Halls Creek	159,101
	Kimberly Community Legal Services Inc.	Kununurra Financial Counselling Service	159,101
	Joongari House/Wyndham Family Support Inc.	Wyndham Financial Counselling Service	94,436
GOLDFIELDS	Centrecare Inc.	Goldfields Financial Counselling Service	299,913
	Escare Inc.	Esperance Financial Counselling Service	149,956
GREAT SOUTHERN	Anglicare WA Inc.	Great Southern District Financial Counselling Service	480,045
MURCHISON	Geraldton Resource Centre Inc.	Geraldton Financial Counselling Service	137,155
	The Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton Centacare Family Services	Exmouth Financial Counselling Service	89,304
	Carnarvon Support Service Inc.	Carnarvon Financial Counselling Service	137,155

PEEL	Uniting Church in Australia (WA) Property Trust	Mandurah/Peel Financial Counselling Services	164,586
PILBARA	Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc.	Hedland Financial Counselling Service	159,101
	Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc.	Karratha Financial Counselling Service	159,101
	Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc.	Newman Financial Counselling Service	159,101
	Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc.	Roebourne Financial Counselling Service	159,101
SOUTH WEST	Anglicare WA Inc.	South West District Financial Counselling Service	548,623
WEST KIMBERLEY	Broome Community Information Resource Centre and Learning Exchange	Broome Circle Financial Counselling Service	163,672
	Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation	Fitzroy Financial Counselling Service	89,304
	Ngunga Group Women's Aboriginal Corporation	Derby Financial Counselling Service	79,039
WHEATBELT	Share and Care Community Services Group Inc.	Wheatbelt Financial Counselling Service	274,311
	Narrogin Community Support Association Inc.	Narrogin Financial Counselling Service	92,384

Attachment

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information No. C2: Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC asked -

- a) *Can the Minister provide how much has been available for the bereavement assistance program and the amount spend on the program for the last three years.*
- b) *Does the Department have guidelines for the program.*

Answer:

- a) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) allocates a budget of \$705,000 per annum for the Bereavement Assistance Program, however due to the unpredictable nature of the program expenditure fluctuates from year to year.

The Department's expenditure on the Bereavement Assistance Program for the last three financial years was:

Year	\$
2013-14	\$ 830,000
2012-13	\$ 845,000
2011-12	\$ 524,000

- b) The guidelines for the Bereavement Assistance Program can be found on the Department's website:
<http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/SupportingIndividualsAndFamilies/Pages/BereavementAssistanceProgram.aspx>

Bereavement Assistance Program

What is the Bereavement Assistance Program?

The Bereavement Assistance Program provides assistance to community members in situations where there are insufficient funds in a deceased person's estate to pay for a funeral, and when the deceased person's family are unable to meet the funeral costs. The Program is administered by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

It is distressing for anyone to lose a loved one, and the State Government recognises that it is especially difficult for some members of the community when they are unable to bury a loved one because of limited financial resources of their own. The Bereavement Assistance Program aims to provide support to these families.



What are the eligibility criteria for the Program?

- A deceased person's partner and/or adult children will be income and assets tested to determine if they have sufficient means to fund or borrow for the funeral.
- If the deceased person's family members have a full-time income, then assistance will generally be denied on the grounds that they have sufficient means to pay for the funeral.
- Where a family is eligible for a Centrelink bereavement package, they will usually be asked to make a contribution of approximately 50%.
- Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and there is not an automatic entitlement based on eligibility for Centrelink benefits.
- When the family of a deceased person successfully applies to the Bereavement Assistance Program, they will be expected to make some contribution towards the funeral – even if it is just a small amount.

What can be funded by the Bereavement Assistance Program?

- A funeral notice in the newspaper.
- Funeral expenses such as a hearse, coffin, engagement of the funeral director to find pall bearers etc.
- Cremation: The Department for Child Protection and Family Support will not cremate a deceased person, unless stipulated in a will or because of cultural or religious reasons. This is due to the possibility of undisclosed family wanting to visit a grave at a later date.
- Storage of bodies: The Department for Child Protection and Family Support will pay for storage of a body held by a non-contracted funeral director, pending the body being claimed by an applicant, approved by the Department, and then transferred to the Department's contracted funeral director.
- Transport: In exceptional circumstances the Department will pay for the body to be transported home after the deceased person's family has demonstrated that it has exhausted all possible avenues of alternative funding. Examples of exceptional circumstances may include when a deceased person has been located temporarily away from home, or to return an Indigenous person to their homeland.
- Attendance of a Minister.
- When the family of a deceased person successfully applies to the Bereavement Assistance Program, the funeral of the deceased person will be carried out by a funeral director that is approved and contracted by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

Where can I find out more about the Bereavement Assistance Program?

Telephone the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's Bereavement Assistance Program on **free call 1800 854 925**.

Where can Bereavement Assistance Program applications be processed?

Applications to the Bereavement Assistance Program must be made through your local Department for Child Protection and Family Support metropolitan or country district office.



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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information No. C3: Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC asked -

Can the Minister provide the Top 20 most expensive packages for children and young people in the high needs placements?

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. This differs from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) efficiency indicator average cost per day of an Exceptionally Complex Needs Care Arrangement which predominately relates to children and young people in the Transitional High Needs program.

The 20 highest valued high needs placement contracts are:

Program	Estimated Annual Contract Value as at 30 June 2015	Number of children in the contracted placement
Disability	\$599,555	1
Transitional High Needs	\$536,634	1
Transitional High Needs	\$534,960	1
Transitional High Needs	\$519,041	1
Transitional High Needs	\$515,394	1
Transitional High Needs	\$513,590	1
Specialised Fostering	\$513,468	5
Transitional High Needs	\$513,115	1
Transitional High Needs	\$512,528	1
Transitional High Needs	\$511,672	1
Transitional High Needs	\$511,434	1
Transitional High Needs	\$510,347	1
Transitional High Needs	\$510,314	1
Transitional High Needs	\$509,216	1
Transitional High Needs	\$508,842	1
Transitional High Needs	\$508,842	1
Transitional High Needs	\$508,842	1
Transitional High Needs	\$508,745	1
Transitional High Needs	\$508,381	1
Transitional High Needs	\$507,906	1

Please note that the above costs only relate to the estimated annual contract value as at the 30 June 2015, as the length of the contract can vary from contract to contract and the placement may not have been contracted on an annual basis. Furthermore, due to the individualised nature of these specialised contracted placements, the contracts may relate to more than one child/young person and cannot be compared to each other or other placement types.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information No. C4: Hon. Sally Talbot MLC asked -

Can the Minister provide the average cost per day of an Exceptionally Complex Needs Care Arrangement for 2013-14?

Answer:

The estimated average cost per day of an Exceptionally Complex Needs Care Arrangement for 2013-14 was \$1,258.

Please note that the Department is only able to provide an estimated average cost, as not all the comparative data is available and due to the changes in calculation methodology following the introduction of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's revised Outcome Based Management reporting structure in 2015-16.

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

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information No. C5: Hon. Ken Travers MLC asked -

Can the Minister provide details on the variations between the data on expenditure per child published in the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's Services and Key Efficiency indicators published in the 2015-16 Budget?

Answer:

Each child protection jurisdiction in Australia operates under different legislative and policy frameworks and each jurisdiction records their client and case management information differently. The information contained in the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (ROGS) aims to provide indicative comparative performance data to the extent possible given these limitations.

A working group comprised of representatives from all Australian child protection jurisdictions agree on a consensus basis as to the criteria for what financial and performance information is reported in this publication and how it is calculated.

The published ROGS performance measures for out-of-home care services are based on the apportionment of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) total cost of services according to the direct and indirect expenditure associated with out-of-home care services as per the agreed ROGS expenditure criteria.

In comparison the Department's reporting purposes under its outcome based management reporting structure is to measure the Department's performance on achieving its desired outcome of children and young people in the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) care receive a high quality of care. The Department's out-of-home care expenditure is therefore disaggregated to reflect the costs associated with two distinct services:

- the provision of safe and stable care arrangement for children and young people in the CEO's care i.e. placement costs (service nine in the Budget Statements); and
- the delivery of services such as care planning that support the safety and wellbeing of children in the care of the CEO (service ten in the Budget Statements).

As a result of the different reporting purposes, the differing criteria as to what constitutes direct and indirect expenditure and the different methodology used for internal cost allocation, total out-of-home care expenditure differs significantly between the two reports. This is demonstrated by the comparison of 2013-14 out-of-home care expenditure reported in ROGS and the Department's 2015-16 Budget statements:



Report	2013-14 Out-of-Home Care Expenditure
ROGS	\$225,969,000
2015-16 Budget Statements	\$296,626,000 (the sum of service nine and ten total cost of services)

Furthermore, the total ROGS out-of-home care expenditure is split between ROGS defined residential and non-residential services to calculate the real expenditure per child. This differs from the Department's service nine efficiency indicators, which only includes direct and indirect expenditure relating to the care arrangement (placement costs) according to departmental placement types of foster care, residential, care, exceptionally complex needs and secure care. The table below outlines the key differences:

Departmental Placement Type	Expenditure classification in ROGS
Foster Care	Relative and general foster care reported in non-residential services. Other expenditure reported in residential care services.
Residential Care	Reported in residential care services.
Exceptionally Complex Needs	Reported in residential care services.
Secure Care	Reported in residential care services.

The two ROGS indicators real expenditure per child in residential out-of-home care services; and real expenditure per child in non-residential out-of-home care are calculated using the number of children in residential or non-residential out-of-home care services as at 30 June whereas the Department's efficiency indicators are calculated using the number of placements days in the year by placement types.

The Department uses the average cost per placement day provided in the financial year as it is a more accurate efficiency performance measure, rather than the cost per child (based on total children as at 30 June) as this does not reflect the movement of children in and out of care throughout the year.

The client data for ROGS and the Department's efficiency indicators also vary due to differing times at which the client data is extracted from the Department's client system as well as different counting criteria such as counting rules about excluding clients on certain order types.

Author

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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information: Hon Member Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

Question C6

What is the budget for the new, second refuge? What are the anticipated costs?

Answer:

The Department for Child Protection and Family Support has committed an additional \$375,000 recurrent funding to the Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service Inc. for the operations of the new redeveloped Woorree Miya Women's Refuge. The total operational budget will be approximately \$1 million per annum. The facility will be able to accommodate women with older boys and larger families. The proposed facility will accommodate ten families, or ten women and 42 children.

The anticipated costs for the new redeveloped refuge include operational and capital costs. At a meeting in August 2014, the Department of Housing indicated that capital for the new building had been approved. For further information regarding capital costs please refer to the Minister for Housing.



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Date: 24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information: Hon Member Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

Question C7

What is the vacancy rate across women's refuges today?

Answer:

- The Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services (metropolitan, including Peel) had seven available beds recorded against 24 June 2015.
- The Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services (rural and remote) had 37 beds recorded against 24 June 2015.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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24 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Supplementary Information No. C8: Hon. Sally Talbot MLC asked -

Can the Minister provide the number of additional full-time foster care child placements that the \$5.5 million of additional funding will support in 2015-16?

Answer:

The additional funding of \$5.5 million in 2015-16 has been allocated to fund increases in foster carer subsidies and case support costs to meet the projected cost and demand increases associated with the increasing numbers of children and young people in care.

This funding increase has been apportioned across the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's (the Department's) service nine and service ten, based on the projected funding increases calculated by the Department's cost and demand funding model. The funding model projects annual growth in children in care using placement trends against the Western Australian youth population.

The period of time a child is in care will vary and this may not equate to 365 days in a year. Subsequently, the Department uses placement days as a more accurate counting measure. The Department anticipates that there will be 1,370,000 foster care arrangement placement days in 2015-16, an increase of 60,274 from the 2014-15 Estimated Actual.

