

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked –

(1) What targeted savings in agency programs will be made in out years?

Answer: Nil.

(2) What specific programs will be cut in 2011-2012?

Answer: Nil.

(3) What targeted savings will be achieved by the agency through the new round of voluntary separations?

Answer: Not applicable.

(4) How many cuts to agency programs will that mean since September 2008?

Answer: Nil.

(5) How many additional FTE will be cut through –

5.1 Voluntary severances

5.2 Involuntary severances

Answer: Nil.

(6) What will this bring the total cuts to in each of the above categories since 2008?

Answer: \$1.53 million was provided in the 2009-10 financial year for 20 voluntary severances in that year. No ongoing reductions to the Department's budget have occurred in relation to severances since 2008.

(7) Has there been a strategic review of the agency's activities to ensure that the activities and service delivery is aligned with the Government's priorities?

(8) If yes to (7) when was it conducted and by who?

(9) Can the review be provided to the Committee and if not why not?

(10) Has there been a value for money review of the agency to determine the efficiency of agencies' service delivery and the effectiveness of the outcomes achieved?

(11) If yes to (10) when was it conducted and by who?

(12) Can the review be provided to the Committee and if not why not?

Answer (questions 7 to 12): On 3 May 2006 the then Expenditure Review Committee endorsed a functional review program that included the former Department for Community Development (the Department). On 28 August 2006, Cabinet approved the appointment of Ms Prudence Ford as the reviewer of the Department with the Terms of Reference and scope of the review, including but not limited to, the following:

- Whether the (then) current functions, activities and structure of the Department ensure the delivery of effective services consistent with Government policy and priorities;
- Whether alternative organisational arrangements would be more effective and efficient in delivering services; and

- Whether resources are properly allocated to achieve the Government's objectives for improved child protection.

On 12 February 2007, Cabinet noted the completion of the Report and endorsed, in-principle, the Report's recommendations. From its inception, the Department for Child Protection has been clear about its responsibility to respond to the recommendations of the Ford Review in the first instance, and to continue the growth and improvement of the Department's capacity and service delivery in response to ongoing and future demands in the broad child protection environment.

The implementation of the Ford Review recommendations has occurred in three phases. The first phase, establishing the Department for Child Protection and the Department for Communities, sought to regain the Department's specific focus on child protection and support for vulnerable families. Twelve review recommendations were completed in the first phase, which concluded in December 2007. Phase two, which commenced in January 2008, involved the scoping and commencement of 40 child protection reform projects to address the 58 remaining Ford Review recommendations. During phase two, over 80 per cent of the total reform project work was completed, as were over 60 per cent of all projects. Phase two was completed in June 2009. Phase three, commenced in July 2009, focused on completing all projects and embedding into practice and culture the project outputs delivered to date.

The Ford Review Report 2007 is publicly available, but can be provided to the Committee on request.

(13) Has the agency developed cost and demand models to strengthen the budget process to develop a more in-depth understanding of the cost and demand drivers in key service delivery areas?

(14) If yes to (13) when was it conducted and by who?

(15) Can the review be provided to the Committee and if not why not?

Answer (questions 13 to 15): In accordance with the recommendations of the Ford Review into the former Department for Community Development (2007), the Department for Child Protection developed a demand model to facilitate budget proposals through forecasting demand and estimating the effect on expenditure. Developed in consultation with the Department of Treasury and Finance, the demand model is a method for calculating future funding necessary to maintain current levels of service in response to changing demand. The model has been used successfully for the last four budget processes.

Additional information on the demand model is attached. (Refer Attachment 3)

R. M. G. Severy

DEMAND MODEL OVERVIEW

The Department for Child Protection's (the Department) demand model was developed following the Ford Review 2007 into the former Department for Community Development to facilitate budget proposals through forecasting demand and estimating the effect on expenditure. The demand model was developed in consultation with the Department of Treasury and Finance.

The demand model is a method for calculating future funding necessary to maintain current levels of service in response to changing demand for each of the Department's three services, as follows:

- Service one – supporting children and young people in the CEO's care (using child placement days as the demand driver);
- Service two – protecting children and young people from abuse and harm (composite of child protection work comprising a weighted combination of total child protection notifications, investigations and new child protection applications); and
- Service three – supporting individuals/families at-risk or in crisis (using a combination of drivers including, but not limited to, people in financial stress, homelessness, people accessing financial counselling and population growth).

The demand model estimates both the impact of increased demand for each of the aforementioned Departmental services combined with the impact of the increasing cost to provide the services.

The demand model includes all of the Department's programs, services and supports that are impacted by demand and split into the three services identified above. Demand and inflation increases are then estimated and applied to the current budget base for each service to determine the future funding required to meet demand and maintain the existing service level.

The demand model operates by:

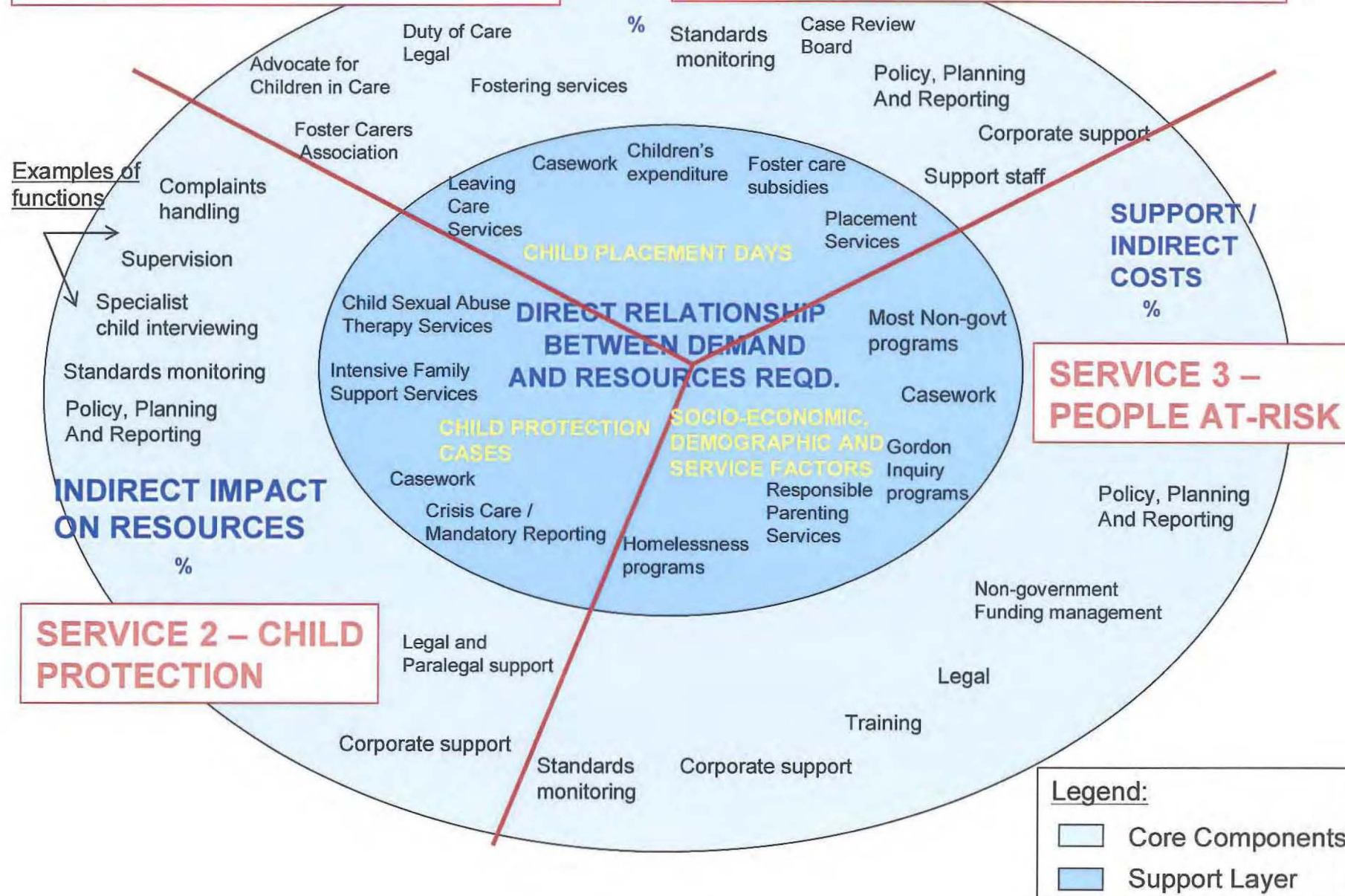
- Forecasting from the existing Departmental budget allocation and service levels as a base;
- Incorporating the effects of inflation into forecasts;
- Forecasting trends in each demand driver representing the expected future demand for services; and
- Applying the forecast increases in demand drivers and inflation to each of the Department's three services to determine future resource requirements.

The Department's demand model has been utilised successfully for the past four budget processes (2008-09 to 2011-12).

Attachment A provides an overview of the demand model and the services and programs incorporated within the model.

SERVICE 1 – CHILDREN IN CARE

The Demand Model – A “Whole of Business” Approach



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No 16: Hon Sue Ellery asked –

To what extent are independent facilitators actually used as opposed to the case worker/team leader?

Answer: Independent trained facilitators (that is, they are independent of a case) are used when the Department undertakes a formal Signs of Safety meeting. All pre-birth Signs of Safety (SofS) meetings use an independent trained facilitator. In district offices where formal Signs of Safety meetings are held involving families and other stakeholders, a Practice Leader who is not involved in the case would be called upon to be an independent facilitator for the case. Practice Leaders can be case managers, team leaders, senior practice development officers who have undertaken specific training to conduct signs of safety meetings. Pre-hearing conferences are facilitated by trained convenors who have been appointed by the Court and include staff from Legal Aid and the Department.

R McSwaney

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No 17.1: Hon Sue Ellery asked –

What statistics are kept and how long the department, on average, will pay for accommodation in hotel or caravan park through its district offices?

Answer: No statistical information is available regarding how long the department, on average, pays for accommodation in hotel or caravan park through its district offices as this is determined on a case by case basis.

Roy Sweeney

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No 17.2: Hon Sue Ellery asked –

In the event of a woman fleeing domestic violence or a young person fleeing a violent home if no refuge bed is available - What case management or contact with that family occurs after they leave temporary accommodation.

Answer: If a woman and her children have been supported to access temporary accommodation by the Department, because no refuge accommodation was available, then the Department will:

- follow up and assist the women and her children to find appropriate alternative accommodation; or
- return home safely; and
- if appropriate assist her to pursue a Violence Restraining Order; and
- provide any other appropriate action to ensure the safety of herself and her children.

This would also apply to a young person under 18 years.

Rae Sweeney

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No 18: Hon Sue Ellery asked –

How many beds are there in the 37 women's refuges; how many in other refuges?

Answer: The Department for Child Protection provides funding for 37 Women's Refuges across the State. There are 34 refuges for women and their accompanying children with capacity for 155 families and an additional 40 families in independent transitional properties. There are four refuges for single women with capacity for 47 women. Bed availability is influenced by the number of beds in each room and if the building style is a communal model or independent units.

R. M. Swain

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

*Question No 19: Hon Sue Ellery asked –
Allowing for some flexibility in configurations, what is a base number?*

Answer: There are 37 women's refuges with capacity for 155 families and 47 single women and an additional 40 families in transitional properties.

R M Sue Ellery

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No 20: Hon Sue Ellery asked –

Why is the payment of a 15% increase to NGOs being delayed for refuges?

Answer: The 37 women's refuges are funded through the Joint Commonwealth/State National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Joint Commonwealth/State homelessness contracts currently in place or under review will be addressed as a matter of priority following the outcome of the Fair Work Australia Social and Community Equal Remuneration Case, with an increase paid commensurate with the price adjustment, determined following consultation with the Commonwealth.

R. H. G. Ellery

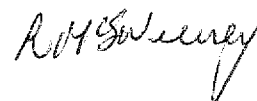
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

*Question No 20.1: Hon Sue Ellery asked –
If you intend to back pay it to 1 July 2011, why not pay in now?*

Answer: Due to the outcome of the Fair Work Australia Social and Community Equal Remuneration Case is not yet being known and further consultation is required with the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sue Ellery', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No. 21: Hon L Savage asked –

(21.1) Given the increase in the reported rate of domestic assaults, does the 'integrated response' referred to in dot point 6 include consideration for the establishment of a Domestic Violence Homicide Review Committee to investigate all deaths due to domestic homicide in WA?

Answer: The State Government is currently considering recommendations from a Working Group for a suitable family and domestic violence fatality review process for Western Australia.

R M Sweeney

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No 22.1: The Hon Linda Savage asked –

Has any additional funding been committed in the 2011/12 budget for treatment programs aimed specifically for children in the care of the CEO where it is known that the child has been exposed to domestic violence in their home, or who has a parent who is subject to a violence restraining order or who is imprisoned due to domestic assault?

Answer: The Department for Child Protection's 2011/12 budget included provision of an additional nine psychologists to work with children who are in the care of the CEO and this may include children who have been exposed to domestic violence.



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Monday, 20 June 2011

Department for Child Protection

Question No. 23: Hon L Savage asked –

(23.1) What specific funding is in the 2011/2012 to progress the 10 key actions outlined in the 'Actions for 2009-2010'.

Answer: The outstanding actions from the 2009-2010 Annual Action Plan are being progressed within existing budget allocations for 2011/2012.

(23.2) Which of the 10 key actions have been completed?

Answer: Actions 1-10 are designed to be implemented over the four year period of the *WA Strategic Plan for Family and Domestic Violence 2009-2013* (WA Strategic Plan).

Actions 1, 4, 5 and 6 are completed.

The first stage of actions 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are completed and these actions will continue to be implemented over the next two years.

(23.3) Where can the Annual Action Plan for 2010-2011 be accessed as it is not available as at today's date on the Child Protection website?

Answer: A Mid Term Progress Report is scheduled to be finalised in July 2011 which will report on progress against the first two years of the WA Strategic Plan.

R N Sweeney