

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES A AND B SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION — Thursday, 26 May 2016]
p742b-745a

Mr David Templeman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Simone McGurk

Division 68: Local Government and Communities —

[Supplementary Information No B76.]

Question: Mr D.A. Templeman asked: Can the minister provide a list of all current investigations being carried out by the department into alleged breaches of the Local Government Act or concerns or complaints against councils, council staff and elected members?

Answer: The Department currently has sixty open complaints relating to local governments as set out in Attachment 1. These are complaints made against local governments, individual elected members or administrative officers.

The Department also undertakes an annual risk assessment of individual local governments. The risk profile has been developed based on a review of audited financial reports, key financial ratios, compliance audit returns and complaints data. Trends are analysed to determine whether there is a pattern of risk or if there is a temporary situation.

Local governments are categorised according to the assessed level of risk. The Department tailors its response with each local government according to the nature and level of risk. Thirteen local governments were assessed as being high risk, three were assessed as medium to high risk and a further thirty nine local governments were assessed as being low to medium risk. Details of those local governments are set out in Attachment 2.

[Supplementary Information No B77.]

Question: Ms M.M. Quirk asked whether the claim that WA has the most generous concession scheme in Australia is based on the concessions and possible discounts or on concessions that stand alone, and for interstate comparisons of the value of the concessions people with a WA Seniors Card receive.

Answer: The average estimated value of State Government concessions to a Western Australian Seniors Card holder in 2015/16 was \$1,100 per annum.

This is based on totalling the average value of the 14 State Government funded concessions available to Western Australian Seniors Card holders.

Queensland provides 13 concessions to Queensland Seniors Card holders and has estimated the average annual value as \$700.

The other states and territories provide an even smaller range of less valuable concessions to their Seniors Card holders, which are focussed on transport and recreational activities.

The value of the Western Australian Seniors Card will increase from 1 July 2016 when the new Photo Card concession is introduced, with seniors eligible to get a 50 per cent concession of up to \$21.25. Those holding both a Western Australian Seniors Card and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card will get a 100 per cent concession, i.e. a free Photo Card.

The Western Australian Seniors Card also provides discounts from over 550 participating WA business partners that provide at least a 10 per cent or \$20 discount off goods or services.

[Supplementary Information No B78.]

Question: Ms J.M. Freeman asked for information on all the Department of Local Government and Communities youth services expenditure in the same format as was provided in 2013.

Answer: Please see attached table

	Service Group	Organisation Name	Service Name	Annual Funding Level	District	Agreement Expiry	Comments
1	Youth Development	Australia Day Council	Award Recognition Program	\$85,752	Perth	30-09-16	Joint Agreement between Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC) and Office of Multicultural Interest
2	Youth Development	Eastern Goldfields YMCA (Inc)	Eastern Goldfields YMCA ASPIRE Program	\$44,692	Kalgoorlie	30-12-16	
3	Youth Development	Fairbridge Western Australia	COOL – Celebrating Opportunities of Life	\$44,693	Pinjarra	30-12-16	
4	Youth Development	Girl Guides	Girl Guides WA – Self Development and	\$353,353	Statewide	30-12-16	

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			Leadership Skills Program				
5	Youth Development	Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation	Leeuwin Youth Development Program	\$249,329	Statewide	30-12-16	Joint Agreement between DLGC (Lead), Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Department of Sport and Recreation and Department of Aboriginal Affairs
6	Youth Development	Propel Arts WA Inc	Activities for National Youth Week Celebrations	\$54,131	Statewide	30-12-16	
7	Youth Development	The Boy's Brigade Western Australia	Youth Development Service	\$40,969	Statewide	30-12-16	
8	Youth Development	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award WA Division	The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award	\$106,006	Statewide	30-12-16	
9	Youth Development	The Girl's Brigade Western Australia	Youth Development Program	\$40,969	Statewide	30-12-16	
10	Youth Development	The Scout Association of Australia WA Branch	Scout Youth Engagement Program	\$424,611	Statewide	30-12-16	
11	Youth Development	YMCA Perth Youth and Community Services	WA YMCA Youth Parliament	\$27,065	Statewide	31-12-16	
12	Youth Support	Youth Focus	Youth and Family Support and Counselling Program	\$318,017	Perth–South East	31-12-16	
13	Youth Support	Yourtown	Kids Help Line	\$61,453	Statewide	31-12-16	
TOTAL				\$1,851,040			

	Service Group	Organisation Name	Service Name	Annual Funding Level	District	Agreement Expiry	Comments
1	Youth Development	Cadets WA Program (inc River Rangers)	Youth Development Program throughout Western Australia	\$3,600,000	Statewide	Various	Joint Agreements between Department of Education, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Parks and Wildlife, WA Police, Independent Schools and Not-For-Profit organisations
TOTAL				\$3,600,000			

	Service Group	Organisation Name	Service Name	Annual Funding Level	District	Agreement Expiry	Comments
1	Youth Activities Grants Program	Various	Up to \$5,000 per grant is available for programs that encourage young people to get involved in innovative and challenging community projects	\$100,000	Statewide	N/A	
2	National Youth Week	Various	Up to \$1,000 per grant is available for organisations for funding to host a	\$40,000	Statewide	N/A	

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	Grants		National Youth Week event that brings young people together				
3	Youth Friendly Communities Grants	Various	Up to \$10,000 for local governments to engage young people in creative ways to plan and develop youth friendly communities	\$100,000	Statewide	N/A	
TOTAL				\$240,000			

[Supplementary Information No B79.]

Question: Ms M.M. Quirk asked how much money will be saved by no longer publishing the “WA Seniors Card Discount Directory” booklet.

Answer: The cost involved in producing and distributing the 2014-2016 WA Seniors Card Discount Directory was \$84,690.

[Supplementary Information No B80.]

Question: Ms M.M. Quirk asked how many seniors are now travelling on public transport after hours.

Answer: For the period 1 July 2015 to 30 April 2016, 107,909 journeys have been undertaken by Western Australian Seniors Card holders during the free public transport period between 7:00pm until 6:00am on weekdays.

[Supplementary Information No B81.]

Question: Ms S.F. McGurk asked whether there is any tracking of problem gamblers in the community and the number of cases that financial counselling associations have seen and for a list of the previous service providers of that advice.

Answer: Please refer to the list of service providers attached.

A new reporting framework for financial counselling services has been developed to include problem gambling data. The first data from the new framework will be available in September 2016.

The new reporting framework has been developed since the Department of Local Government and Communities assumed responsibility for financial counselling services this financial year.

ATTACHMENT: List of Financial Counselling Service Providers

Metropolitan Area

The contracted service providers for the Metropolitan Financial Counselling Service are:

Anglicare WA (Perth South East; Perth South West); and

UnitingCare West (Perth Inner; Perth North East; Perth North West).

The following service providers partner through contractual arrangements with the above:

Organisation	Region
Anglicare	Perth South East; Perth South West
UnitingCare West	Perth Inner, Perth North East; Perth North West
The Spiers Centre	Perth North West
City of Wanneroo	Perth North West
City of Cockburn	Perth South West
Blue Sky Community	Perth North East
Mission Australia	Perth South East
Gosnells Community Legal Centre	Perth South East
Midlas	Perth North East
Southcare	Perth South East

Regional Areas

Organisation	Region	Location
Finucare	Peel	Mandurah/Peel
Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc	Pilbara	Karratha; Roebourne; South Hedland; Newman
Centrecare Goldfields	Goldfields-Esperance	Kalgoorlie
Escare	Goldfields-Esperance	Esperance
Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation	Kimberley	Halls Creek
Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation	Kimberley	Fitzroy Crossing
Ngunga Group Women’s Aboriginal Corporation	Kimberley	Derby
Broome CIRCLE	Kimberley	Broome
Kimberley Community Legal Services	Kimberley	Kununurra

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Joongari House/Wyndham Family Support Incorporated	Kimberley	Wyndham
The Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton Centrecare Family Services	Gascoyne	Exmouth
Carnarvon Family Support Services	Gascoyne	Carnarvon
Anglicare WA Inc	Great Southern/South West	Albany; Katanning; Bunbury; Busselton; Collie; Manjimup
Narrogin Community Support Association	Wheatbelt	Narrogin
Share and Care Community Services	Wheatbelt	Northam
Geraldton Resource Centre	Mid West	Geraldton

[Supplementary Information No B82.]

Question: Ms S.F. McGurk asked: What is happening with the investigation into the case in which two children were taken from a holiday care centre in North Perth, when will it be completed, when will it be tabled in Parliament, and are there any regulations around access gates at after-hours or holiday care centres?

Answer: The investigation is nearing completion. The service's approval to operate was suspended on 21 April 2016. In addition to its investigation of regulatory compliance, my Department will also examine whether the circumstances give rise to the need to strengthen the approach to regulation of services of that kind more generally. I will report those findings to Parliament once the investigation and associated processes are concluded. A fence is not required at a centre-based service that primarily provides education and care to children over preschool age.