

Division 35: Disability Services Commission, \$701 321 000 —

Mr I.M. Britza, Chairman.

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

Dr R. Chalmers, Director General.

Mr G. Meyers, Director, Funding and Reporting, Disability Reform Directorate.

Mrs W. Murray, Executive Director.

Ms M. Hailes-MacDonald, Executive Director, Funding.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Armadale.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the third dot point under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” on page 406 of the budget papers. What funding is the state allocating to the My Way trial over the forward estimates? Can the parliamentary secretary provide a breakdown of where the funding will be spent? Page 411 mentions the breakdown, but maybe the parliamentary secretary has more detail.

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

Dr R. Chalmers: The funding that has been allocated is for the two years of the NDIS trial. In the Perth hills National Disability Insurance Scheme trial site, \$129.4 million will be allocated from both commonwealth and state sources. The state funding is \$76.9 million and the commonwealth funding is \$52.5 million over the two years of the trial. We are looking at \$147.6 million over the two years to fully fund the WA NDIS My Way trial in the lower south west and the Cockburn–Kwinana trial, with the state contribution being \$87.7 million and the commonwealth contribution being \$59.9 million. It gets rather complicated because not all that is a cash arrangement. Some of that involves complicated in-kind arrangements. It has taken some months to settle with the commonwealth on this because under the NDIS a whole lot of in-kind contributions are being factored into it and adjustments made to other agency budgets to match that in-kind contribution.

[8.30 pm]

Dr A.D. BUTI: Can the parliamentary secretary please provide information about what funding has been set aside for people with psychosocial disabilities under the My Way trial and what definition the Disability Services Commission is using to define psychosocial disability?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: There is actually no specific allocation. Those people will be considered as any other person in the NDIS program.

Dr A.D. BUTI: And what is the definition being used?

Dr R. Chalmers: This is still an issue of some debate with the commonwealth because within the NDIS trials that are rolling out in other states and territories, the definition around psychosocial disability is not clear. It may be one of the reasons that no-one with psychosocial disability has rolled into any of the NDIS trial sites. However, we will have people on day one in the My Way sites with psychosocial disability gaining access to our support. Through the use of non-government agencies working in the lower south west, we are identifying people who are clearly going to be within the centre of the target group, rather than going to the outside where we might get into trouble with boundary setting and so on. We feel quite safe drawing people in on day one on that basis.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I refer to the first dot point regarding the disability justice centres on page 407 of the *Budget Statements*. Through freedom of information I have received a document from the Western Australian Planning Commission dated 26 April 2013. It identifies that after consideration, two preferred sites have been located, one being the Bennett Brook hostel on Lord Street and the other being surplus WAPC land adjacent to Lockridge Senior High School Farm. The document is dated 26 April 2013, so when did the government or the Disability Services Commission make the decision that those two sites were the preferred sites, such that they could then give that information to the WAPC to enable it to put together this document, which was needed to have a planning control area laid over the top of those two sites? When did the Disability Services Commission or the minister make a decision that they were the two preferred sites so the Planning Commission could put that document together?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I do not have that information here to provide to the member. If the member wants supplementary information, I ask him to outline what he wants again so I can get it to him in the form he wants.

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Mr D.J. KELLY: By way of background I am telling the parliamentary secretary that I have a document dated 26 April 2013. It is a WAPC document that is a draft application to have a planning control area laid over the top of the two preferred sites. That draft document identifies the Lord Street and Kiara sites as the two preferred sites for disability justice centres. Having given the parliamentary secretary that background, and telling her it is dated 26 April, I ask her when the Disability Services Commission or the government first made the decision that they were the preferred sites; it had to be before 26 April. I am simply asking when that decision was made; it is a pretty simple question.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I am just confirming that regarding the supplementary information for the member that we will come back to him about when the Disability Services Commission or the government made the decision on the preferred sites.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I just seek clarification. I know the government has previously said that cabinet made the decision on 4 June. I do not want to receive supplementary information that the government made a decision on 4 June, because the document I have, which is dated 26 April, already identifies those two sites. I want to know when the decision that they were the preferred sites was made. It must be before 26 April because that information was given to the Planning Commission in order for it to put that document together. I am surprised that the parliamentary secretary needs to get advice about when that decision was, but if she needs to get it, by all means she should get it. I do not want to get an answer back that says the government made the decision on 4 June, because this document, which I got through freedom of information, states that decision was already made by 26 April.

[*Supplementary Information No B24.*]

Mr D.J. KELLY: The budget identifies that the Caversham centre will be developed during 2014 and is expected to open in early 2015 and final decisions will then be made about the design and location of the second centre. The Kiara site was earmarked for the second centre. I seek clarification about the status of that second site. There is reference in the budget to final decisions being made; does that mean that the government is reconsidering that second site? Are other sites being looked at? I seek clarification of that statement in the budget.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The clarification the member is seeking is that the focus by the Disability Services Commission is on the Caversham site—getting it up and operational, and making sure that it is a very good and very effective operation. The focus is on that site at the moment, hence in the budget papers there is a statement that the design and location for the second centre will be considered at a future date. We are looking at it rather than rushing and trying to do two at once. It is probably a better idea to make sure that we put more effort into the first one and see how it is operating, which is a better way to go rather than looking at perhaps doing two in a similar way. There may be a reason we do them quite separately. On the other hand, the in-reach prison program has also been operating and that provides for people who are in prison and there is another operation in place that it may be better to have a look at in terms of the best way to go forward in the future, and there are also those other things look at. For that reason the minister has written to Minister Day and indicated for him to take the Kiara site off the disability justice centre list so that land can go back to the Planning Commission. We believe we probably need to look at things down the track.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I seek clarification. So the minister has written to the planning minister and asked that the second site be vacated as far as —

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Being required as a disability justice centre.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Is that a decision that the community can rely on and the site will not be reinstated at a later date?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: At this stage we would say yes, but if and when the design location of another site was considered, and that site was still a possibility, it could still come back. However, at this point in time, the answer to the member's question is no, it will not be at Kiara.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The original plan from the government was always to build the Lord Street site first and then to build the second centre second. I do not want people in the community to become excited, which is probably the wrong word, that the second centre is in fact not going to go ahead if in fact all the government is doing is really putting in place its original plan and just pretending that the second site has somehow been taken off the list.

[8.40 pm]

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Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I see where the member is heading, and I apologise if my answer was not strong enough for him; I am just conscious of never saying never. It is certainly not the intention of the Disability Services Commission to have a disability justice centre on the Kiara site.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I thank the parliamentary secretary for that clarification.

Ms J. FARRER: I refer to the heading “Spending Changes” on page 405, and the line item “Young People in Residential Aged Care”. How much will be spent on young people in residential aged care in 2014–15?

Dr R. Chalmers: The line that refers to young people in residential aged care captures an additional out year of funding in 2017–18 of \$3 million, but in 2014–15 we commence that new initiative with an allocation of \$1.5 million, an additional \$2 million in 2015–16, and in 2016–17, \$2.5 million. I guess what we have secured is an additional out year of funding for \$3 million.

Ms J. FARRER: How will this money be allocated?

Dr R. Chalmers: We have known about this additional funding for some time now, and modelling has been undertaken in collaboration with other agencies, such as the Department of Health. A lot of these people are past the stage of rehabilitation, so they are seeking alternative placements. The modelling goes on; we are setting criteria for the people that we think would be well and truly the target group, or the highest priority for the use of this funding, and we are yet to release the details of that criteria.

Ms J. FARRER: Can the parliamentary secretary confirm that the \$3 million allocated for 2017–18 is on top of the \$6 million allocated in the 2013–14 budget?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Yes, I can; it is on top of that.

Mr J. NORBERGER: I draw the parliamentary secretary’s attention to the fourth dot point on page 406. Can the parliamentary secretary explain what action the Disability Services Commission is taking to ensure that disability support services are individualised?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will make a few comments at the start, but it is probably appropriate for Dr Chalmers to then make further comments, as he knows intimately how the services are going. It has always been a feature of the Western Australian Disability Services Commission that it has taken a very individualised approach to its service and its grants. This is something that has been recognised Australia-wide; hence the ability for Western Australia to conduct the National Disability Insurance Scheme My Way trial. We believe that it is very important that we do that so that a very good evaluation can be provided, because the outcome of all this is not just whether it is the federal program or our program; our focus is always that the most important people are the people with the disability, their families, carers and support systems. That is a feature of the Western Australian operations as we speak. Dr Chalmers may have something to add to that.

Dr R. Chalmers: The Disability Services Commission, in partnership with the broader sector, has been on a journey towards individualising funding for close to 16 years. We were the first state in the nation to really move towards an individualised funding approach rather than relying on block funding arrangements with non-government organisations. As it turns out, that puts us in a very strong position to roll out the National Disability Insurance Scheme here in Western Australia, because the dollars that flow to people through the National Disability Insurance Scheme will flow on the basis of an individual plan. Currently, close to 90 per cent of all the funding that we allocate for services is allocated on the basis of individual planning and so on. The My Way NDIS initiative, which kicks off on 1 July, will allow us to implement that reform quite seamlessly, knowing that we will not have to disaggregate a lot of block funding that is with organisations, so it continues the journey that we were already on.

Mr M.H. TAYLOR: I refer to the first dot point on page 406. What is the Disability Services Commission doing to address the levels of unmet demand for disability services, and how will the growth funding be expended?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Disability services is one of those areas where we always need more money, could spend more money, and still not have enough; that is not meant with any disrespect to the sector, because it is a sector that I have certainly learnt a great deal about, and now appreciate what many people do and go through. I am pleased that there is an increase in funding again this year, and I must also put on the record that this government, since 2008–09, has increased funding to the sector by 98 per cent. I think that is quite remarkable, and I know it is well received by the sector. The growth funding is very important; it goes to a number of areas. I will ask Dr Chalmers to talk specifically about where the money will be spent.

Dr R. Chalmers: The growth funding that we now have available for 2014–15 will be allocated through a number of mechanisms, our combined application process being one of those primary mechanisms, which is an independent prioritisation process for people who are coming to the commission and advising that they are in

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critical and urgent need of support. But we also have a range of other strategies that will allow us to disburse those funds, including community living initiatives, family living initiatives and so on. Over the past few years we have moved away from a fixed program-type structure of trying to compartmentalise that funding and allocating it out in a program sense. Again, that leaves us in a very strong position for the rollout of the NDIS come July, because the NDIS will not be allocating dollars on the basis of programs; it will be allocating funding on the basis of individuals. This growth funding will be applied on an individual basis to people for a broad range of strategies, from 24/7 accommodation support through to family support, respite initiatives, equipment, therapy and so on. It covers the broad spectrum of disability services.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to “Spending Changes” on page 405 and the line item “Growth Funding”. What is the breakdown of the growth funding of \$180 million over four years? In other words, what is the money for, and can the parliamentary secretary provide a breakdown of the budget for that additional \$180 million? Can I ask also, what is the funding based on? Is it an anticipation of the number of people with disabilities who will be born or is there some other measure that that budget funding growth is based on?

[8.50 pm]

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Firstly, I might get the member to repeat some of the last part of his question, but as to the first part of the question, we can only give him the breakdown for 2014–15. We cannot provide the ongoing years. Sorry, can the member just give me the other part?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The other part of my question was: what is that growth funding based on? I mean, what was the rationale for the increase?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I thank the member. Dr Chalmers?

Dr R. Chalmers: The commission has received growth funding from the state government based on modelling that we have used with Treasury for a number of years now. It is modelling based on population data; it is also based on an agreed and accepted modelling that Treasury has been happy to accept from us around how we need to be continuing to put effort into the key areas of support—that is, accommodation support funding, family support funding, disability professional services and so on. The breakdown, if you like, for the year ahead is accommodation support, which is 38 per cent of that allocation of \$25.2 million. The next biggest area is coordination and individual support for people, which is 27 per cent of that allocation. Community focus support, which is a broad range of strategies, is 24 per cent; and then family support itself, respite and carer’s support is 11 per cent of that total.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I have a follow-up question: was growth funding provided? I presume so, given it was provided in the last four years; and, if so, how much was that growth funding in the last four years?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I thank the member. We will try to get that response for him. We actually do not think we got it for the last four years.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Can you provide that as a supplementary?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The supplementary question will be the growth funding for the previous —

Dr A.D. BUTI: Past four years.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Past four years?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes.

[*Supplementary Information No B25.*]

Dr A.D. BUTI: Has any of the \$180 million of growth funding been provided by the commonwealth?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: No.

Mr P.T. MILES: I refer the parliamentary secretary to the second dot point on page 406, which points out that the Disability Services Commission is doing a lot to ensure that people with intractable incontinence are able to access the necessary pads or products. Can she give us an outline on that?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Yes, I thank the member. It is not a topic that people like to talk about, but it really is a critical program that provides such valuable support for many people by giving their life back to them. It has come through the Disability Services Commission over a number of years, although there are many, many people who access the program who are actually a person with a disability. I am looking at Dr Chalmers for confirmation about that, but it is managed through the Disability Services Commission. An additional \$2.5 million will be spent in 2014–15, and it just extends the current program that is in operation.

I recall the member for Bunbury raising the matter with me during the grievance debate expressing concern that the allocation had not gone up in many years, and we put additional funds in to cover the short term. Currently, about 8 000 people access the scheme each year. One of the key outcomes of the scheme is it reduces the social

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isolation that occurs for people who do not have access to this program. Once a person becomes isolated in the community, then he or she often suffers other issues as well. So it increases participation in employment, certainly leisure and educational opportunities as well. As I said, the main factor is it does reduce social isolation. It is a wonderful program that operates through the Disability Services Commission, but it is open to many other people who have an issue with incontinence rather than being disabled.

Mr P.T. MILES: I further ask the parliamentary secretary whether there is an age limit upon which people can receive those products.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Dr Chalmers?

Dr R. Chalmers: No, and that is what the parliamentary secretary was alluding to. In fact, there are a number of people who access this scheme who are ageing, who are elderly people beyond the age of 65. So no, there is no upper age limit.

Ms J. FARRER: I make reference to “Community-focused Supports” on page 408 of budget paper No 2. Does the 2014–15 budget provide a provision for school holiday respite care? If so, how much has been allocated?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: We will get some information for the member in just a moment. Dr Chalmers?

Dr R. Chalmers: The school holiday respite program operated for a number of years as a specific focused program, and the funding for that has run out. It will not be continued because, as has happened with a number of specific programs, it is now rolled into more individualised approaches. So rather than just looking at a specific programming response around school holidays, growth funding will be allocated on an individualised basis so that people can tailor their school holiday support programs rather than relying on either centre-based services or some program that they then have to fit into.

Again, it continues the theme that I mentioned before; namely, that the NDIS will be funding individuals. It will not be funding block programs like school holiday programs. We are just trying to get on the front foot to be as prepared as we can for that. A significant amount of the dollars that will be allocated to us for growth funding will be allocated for basically the same purpose, but it will be individualised rather than block funded.

Ms J. FARRER: Can people in the Pilbara and the Kimberley access these services; and which town will provide the care?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The answer is yes, but I will get Dr Chalmers to elaborate more.

Dr R. Chalmers: Clearly, the answer is yes. In fact, there have been some very successful school holiday initiatives. I seem to recall at estimates last year talking about one example of the organisation called Inclusion WA, which has been quite active in that area. We funded it through the school holiday program for a couple of years. Its approach was to establish good on-the-ground school holiday initiatives that were linked with the community. I think from memory its focus was on Hedland, and then a supplementary or a secondary focus on Karratha. Again, we will be individually funding families to purchase the support they need so organisations in the Pilbara such as Empowering People in Communities—I think Inclusion WA still has a presence there—can utilise those funds to deliver programs for people.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I will again refer the parliamentary secretary to the second dot point on page 407, the issue about the department’s decision to privatise 60 per cent of the accommodation services. Firstly, can the minister inform us when the transfer of those homes to the non-government sector is to commence; secondly, how many homes have already been transferred? Does the government have a rollout target for this policy; and, if so, what is it? Thirdly, is the minister aware of a concern within the non-government sector that the transfer of business provisions under the Fair Work Amendment Act 2012 will have a result whereby staff who are transferred will take their state government conditions with them? What is the rollout? Is the parliamentary secretary aware of a concern about the transmission of business provisions?

[9.00 pm]

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Firstly, this is part of the whole process of individualising people’s services. One of the things that probably never happened before is people with disability having a choice about where they could be accommodated. This provides choice, which can be quite frightening for some people because they have never been given a choice —

Mr D.J. KELLY: With respect, I know the policy reasons for the decision; I am asking about the rollout. I am conscious of the time; that is all.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I would like to go through that because this is a new change; it is not something that has been rushed through. It is not something that people will be forced to make a decision about very quickly. It will be something that is done with the person, with their family and others who are involved, but it is not something that will be rushed. There is no time frame on this. It is not something that needs to be concluded within three

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months or anything like that. The concept of a time frame is something that is not in the rollout as such. Dr Chalmers has specific information on other matters that the member has raised.

Dr R. Chalmers: One part of the question was whether the commission is aware of the implications of the Fair Work Australia legislation. The answer is absolutely yes.

Mr D.J. KELLY: What is the director general's understanding of the implications of that legislation?

Dr R. Chalmers: I do not have the legislation in front of me, but my understanding is that if there is a clearly demonstrated transfer of service, and if in fact staff members from the existing agency were to move or be employed by a receiving organisation within a three-month window, certain things proceed from there. After a three-month period, it might be quite different. We are very much aware of the implications of that legislation.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The original question was about the time frame, parliamentary secretary. Have any homes yet transferred and is there any target or rollout plan for the others?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The answer to the first question is no. The answer to the second one is that I think it is based on as the individual makes those decisions.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Can the parliamentary secretary advise the number of labour hire staff currently contracted to the Disability Services Commission in accommodation services; the services that will be privatised; how many are there; what positions are they; what sort of qualifications, for example certificate III or IV; and what will that cost DSC this year and across the forward estimates?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Can we get the second half of that question again? Sorry, member, it was quite long.

Mr D.J. KELLY: How many labour hire staff currently employed in the accommodation services are subject to this privatisation policy; what job roles are they in—that is, are they cert II, III or IV? Essentially, how much will it cost DSC in the current financial year and how much is it anticipated to cost across the forward estimates?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will get Dr Chalmers to respond to the member.

Dr R. Chalmers: We will have to take on notice the precise number of people in that labour hire arrangement because it changes on a weekly basis. It is quite a fluid situation. The question specifically is “currently employed subject to this privatisation process”. We have used labour hire staff for as many years as I can remember within our accommodation services as part of our staffing complement. There is nothing new here in this. We can certainly provide the number of people, as of today, that we have in those roles. Primarily, they are people who are direct support workers, appropriately skilled to take on those roles within our accommodation services. That is the primary position that they fill.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I appreciate the director general will not have that detail with him, but if he could take it on notice to provide information about how many labour hire people there currently are and in what job roles they are. I am aware that DSC has previously used contracted staff. I suppose the concern is that this process has caused a spike, so that is really the information that is being sought.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will provide to the member the number of labour hire staff. Because it is quite a fluid number, can we set a time frame, say, as of today?

Mr D.J. KELLY: Yes.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: And what job roles they undertake.

Mr D.J. KELLY: And the cost to DSC.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: And the cost to DSC.

[*Supplementary Information No B26.*]

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to the second dot point on page 407 about the outsourcing of accommodation services. Although the budget shows an increase in funding for non-government organisations, is this offset by the withdrawal of direct service delivery by DSC and has any modelling been done to show that this is the most efficient and effective way to increase capacity?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Sorry, member, can we have the first part of the question again?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The budget shows that there has been an increase in funding for NGOs in regard to providing alternative accommodation services. Has that been offset by the withdrawal of direct service delivery by DSC; and then there was the modelling question?

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

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Dr R. Chalmers: Quickly, by way of background: currently 83 per cent of our services in the disability services sector are provided via non-government organisations. This has been a proportion of total service that has grown progressively over the past 20 years. This is a trend line that is continuing. Of course, as we get growth funding, all of the growth funding is channelled into the non-government sector. We have not applied additional dollars into our own services for quite some time. This has been a deliberate strategy over successive governments to put dollars into the non-government sector. As the dollars increase for the NGOs, we anticipate that rather than transferring our specialist and accommodation services out to the non-government sector, we will spend less on that. Those dollars will be redirected out to the sector for services:

Dr A.D. BUTI: Has any modelling been done to show that this is the most effective and efficient way to increase sector capacity; and, if there is modelling, can that be provided?

Dr R. Chalmers: No model was developed 15 to 20 years ago when the government of the day decided to embark on this process of transitioning services away from government to the non-government sector. It was more based on a set of fundamental principles around choice, flexibility and increased control for consumers rather than relying on one service provider, which happens to be the government service provider. Is there a model that goes back into the last decade or the decade before? The answer to that is no.

Dr A.D. BUTI: A report by PricewaterhouseCoopers that was released in June 2013 notes that staffing capacity in the not-for-profit sector is more complex than simply increased funding and that withdrawing direct service delivery will result in the early departure of many DSC workers from the disability sector workforce. Based on that report, if that is the case, how will the government address this capacity issue?

[9.10 pm]

Dr R. Chalmers: The issue of workforce capacity within the disability sector is a very high priority issue for not only the Disability Services Commission but also the whole of the sector. This morning we met with National Disability Services WA and the majority of the chief executive officers in the non-government sector, and the highest priority item on the agenda was strategies to increase workforce capacity. This is not unique to Western Australia. It is recognised that the workforce will need to double in preparation for the NDIS as that rollout continues through until 2019–20. A range of practical strategies have been funded and implemented using commonwealth and state dollars to make sure that we can get on the front foot in building that capacity within the non-government sector.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I completely understand the pressures on the sector to attract good quality, direct-care workers to the sector. That is why I, for the life of me, cannot figure out why the DSC has gone down the outsourcing path for accommodation, because the staff in that sector almost to a man and a woman would rather work for the government than any non-government organisation. Yet a whole bunch of those government staff will be lost because in the transition they will say, “Well, sod this! I feel rejected. I feel let down by my employer. I am going to go off to do something much easier.” Given that the DSC is so desperate for staff, why is it poking in the eye all the staff by telling them that they are not wanted anymore; go and work for a private provider? I just do not understand it, Ron. I just cannot figure it out.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Bassendean should be addressing his comments to the parliamentary secretary.

Mr D.J. KELLY: My apologies.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I will ask Dr Chalmers if he wishes to make any further comment.

Dr R. Chalmers: I would not want to comment on the government policy position in this matter, other than to say that the NDIS rollout made it very, very clear to us that choice and flexibility were pre-eminent principles from this point onwards. We are also aware that many people with disabilities in our service at the moment were never given a choice about whether they wanted to be there or not. We are for the first time giving those people a choice about selecting the service provider. We are also following, I must say, the trend of other states and territories. New South Wales, for instance has legislated that all government service provision in disability services will cease within five years, and theirs is a much bigger sector than ours and they are in readiness for the NDIS. If we do not do this, we will not be ready for the NDIS

Mr D.J. KELLY: It has nothing to do with the NDIS; nothing to do with it.

The CHAIRMAN: I take that as a comment.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to page 408, “Accommodation Support” and “Employees (Full Time Equivalents)”. This is similar to a question I asked under a previous division. Can the parliamentary secretary please tell us how many staff vacancies existed in the department as at 1 May 2014? Can she provide a list of the positions and the position locations?

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Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Member, we cannot provide that information at the moment, but I am happy to provide that as supplementary information.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Can I add a supplementary question to that: how many of those positions will not be filled until after 1 July 2014?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I clarify that the member for Armadale wishes to know how many vacancies exist at the Disability Services Commission; a list of the positions of those vacancies.

Dr A.D. BUTI: And the position locations.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: And the location of those positions, and how many of those will not be filled until after 1 July 2014.

[Supplementary Information No B27.]

The appropriation was recommended.

[9.20 pm]