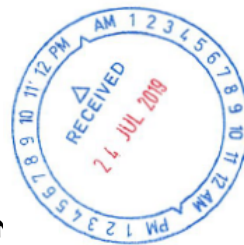


31/7/19



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATION

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Aaron Stonehouse asked:

- 1) What forward facing information can be found for support services for male victims of domestic violence?

Answer:

Information on the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline can be found on the Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support website via the following link:

<https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/CrisisAndEmergency/Pages/Men%27s-Domestic-Violence-Helpline.aspx>

Information about these services can also be accessed through:

- the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline; contactable by phone on 1800 000 599 or 9223 1199
- White pages; contactable online at <https://www.whitepages.com.au/men-s-domestic-violence-helpline-24-hour-service-10187807/perth-wa-101878108>
- Crisis care helpline; contactable by phone on 1800 199 008 or 9223 1111
- brochures at contracted services, and
- Department of Communities front line staff stationed at District Offices

AMGul-

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Colin Tincknell asked:

- 2) In relation to the Minister's child protection and prevention of FDV portfolios, please provide a breakdown of the nature of Department of Communities' workers compensation cases (including mental health cases and physical health cases) for 2018-19 year to date.

Answer:

The Department of Communities does not record workers' compensation claims by ministerial portfolio. The breakdown of workers' compensation claims across the agency for the period 1 July 2018 to 24 June 2019 is as follows:

Nature of injury	Number
Traumatic joint/ligament or muscle/tendon injury	92
Wounds and lacerations	36
Mental stress	36
Fractures	10
Other ¹	4
Multiple ²	3
Burns	1
Total	182

1. Claims as a result of toxicity or exposure to electricity.
2. Claims as a result of multiple injuries.

AMGul -

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:

- 3) Refer to page 460 in relation to the details of controlled grants and subsidies table, please provide a separate breakdown of funding across the forward estimates for Out-of-Home Care, Foster Care and Family Support Grants?

Answer:

The Budget Estimates for Out of Home Care, Foster Carer and Family Support Grants is as follows:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Foster Care	62,760	65,647	68,667	68,667
Family Support Grants	1,665	1,665	1,665	1,665
Out of Home Care Grants	65,227	71,533	78,824	78,824
Total	129,652	138,845	149,156	149,156



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:

- 4) Please provide a comparison of entitlements Communities provides to (1) non-court ordered grandparent carers and (2) carers as ordered by the court or engaged in other foster relationships?

Answer:

(1)

Grandcarer entitlements	Amount (annual)
Grandcarer Support Scheme – First Child	\$400
Grandcarer Support Scheme – Subsequent child	\$250

(2)

Family carer – basic subsidy	Amount (fortnightly)
0 – 6 years	\$390.20
7 – 12 years	\$459.45
13 – 17 years	\$528.69

In addition to the support detailed above, the Department of Communities also funds Wanslea for the provision of the:

- o Grandcare Service, which includes a telephone information line and group activities, and
- o Grandcarers Assistance Program, which offers respite, counselling, training, home help and education assistance for grandcarers.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection)

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

5) In relation to the response to question 13(b)(i) prior to hearing - please provide an explanation why is it okay for Communities to advise that two of the children attend school, however in other responses, Communities cannot provide a number of how many children it is engaged with because it may risk identifying individual cases?

Answer:

The member has conflated several different questions with different answers that are not comparable.

- The initial question from the member does not reflect the response provided by the Department of Communities in its initial response to 13(b) of the Legislative Assembly Estimates Hearing.
- As stated in the initial answers to 13(b)(i), since the completion of Operation Fledermaus on March 2018, the Department of Communities is no longer manually collating and aggregating information pertaining to young people charged or convicted of a sexual offence. The Department of Communities is unable to provide a figure in this context as to do so would rely on reviewing all active case files individually.
- The figure of two provided during the Legislative Council Estimates Hearing refers to young people charged/convicted during Operation Fledermaus. This figure is at a regional level and, as some young people have moved between the regions, it was felt that the risk of potential identification of an individual was very low. Based on that risk assessment, the number was released.
- In contrast, the position of not providing figures of the number of victims and offenders attending the same school was carefully considered against the fact that this is a subset of the global number and is based on a location which would have made identification of individuals a high and imminent risk.
- The Department of Communities did not provide figures for question 13(b)(iv) as this related specifically to numbers of victims and offenders attending the same school, and as stated above, this information would provide a simple and obvious point of identification of victim(s) and offender(s) in the community and represents an unacceptable risk.
- In relation to figures more broadly as they relate to Operation Fledermaus and the Pilbara Joint Response Team, the provision or non-provision of figures is not something the Department of Communities takes lightly. On each occasion, the Department of Communities balances its responsibility of ensuring the highest level of transparency to Government, the Parliament and the community, alongside the responsibility of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children (as it is legislatively mandated to do).



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 6) Refer to page 447, service summary table, point three regarding Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services:
- a. Please explain why the funding is decreasing into the forward estimates?
 - b. Which services or programs are likely to be receiving less funding as a result?

Answer:

a – b.

Between 2019-20 and 2020-21, funding for Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services will increase from \$84,733,000 to \$87,327,000. Funding will decrease from 2021-22 primarily due to the completion of the Aboriginal In-Home Support Service pilot, which is due to end on 30 June 2021. The funding for this pilot included provision for an evaluation, which will inform the level of funding in a future Budget submission.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 7) Subject to the Commonwealth funding, what is the potential timeframe for the male perpetrator program in the Kimberley?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Government provided funds to the Department of Communities to pilot a combined Men's Behaviour Change and Alcohol and Other Drug intervention with a specific focus on Aboriginal perpetrators of family and domestic violence. The funding ceases on 31 January 2020. Stopping Family Violence is managing this pilot which commenced in 2017.

The Commonwealth Government has not indicated if further funding will be provided at this time.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 8) How many called have been made to the Men's Domestic Helpline in 2018-19 year to date, and how many of these called went unanswered?

Answer:

As at 19 June 2019, for the 2018-19 financial year to date, the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline received 1,681 phone calls of which 1,591 were answered and 90 were terminated by the caller.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 9) How many called have been made to the Women's Domestic Helpline in 2018-19 year to date, and how many of these called went unanswered?

Answer:

As at 19 June 2019, for the 2018-19 financial year to date, the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline received 6,406 phone calls of which 6,155 were answered and 251 were terminated by the caller.

AMGL

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Peter Collier asked:

- 11) What is the State Government contribution to the work being done by j-Hub Indigenous Co-Design in respect to a residential healing facility near Roebourne and is there a formal agreement or MOU between the companies and the State Government?

Answer:

The Department of Communities (Communities) contributed \$33,000 (inc. GST) to Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation (NBAC) as part of the funding to engage j.HUB Indigenous Co-Design to scope and design the proposed facility near Roebourne. Communities, Rio Tinto, Woodside, the Commonwealth Government and the City of Karratha contributed funds to the project. A Letter of Intent for the funding was signed by Communities on 8 October 2018 and co-signed by NBAC, Rio Tinto, Woodside, the Commonwealth Government and the City of Karratha.

AMEL -

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Peter Collier asked:

- 12) Has the peak body Stopping Family Violence evaluated the work of the Aboriginal Males Healing Centre that is being renovated in Newman at this stage?

Answer:

Stopping Family Violence has advised the Department of Communities that it is aware of the Aboriginal Males Healing Centre, however has not evaluated it's work.

- a. If so, what are the findings, and will you table the findings?

Answer:

Not applicable

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NMG' followed by a flourish.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

13) Refer to page 450, table entitled Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services. How many FTE are there for the service providers under the Earlier Intervention that relates to the awarded contracts to the value of \$110 million?

Answer:

The Department of Communities (Communities) provides funding for a total of 30 support services through the Building Safe and Strong Families – Earlier Intervention and Family Support strategy. These include four Family Support Networks, four Aboriginal In-Home Support Services and 17 Intensive Family Support Services and five Family Care Support Services. The services are provided by contracted community sector organisations.

Communities contracts services under the Earlier Intervention and Family Support services with a primary focus to provide outcomes for vulnerable families in the community. The contracted organisations are not required to report to Communities on the number of FTE within their organisation, including FTE utilised to undertake the service. The service providers are required to report to Communities on the outcomes achieved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NMG' followed by a horizontal line.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 14) Refer to page 449 service one, why is there a decrease in FTE if the FTE from service three was reprofiled to service one?

Answer:

Regional Reform Fund activities have been re-profiled from multiple services, including Service 3, to Service 1 in the 2019-20 Budget. Service 1 also contains multiple Community Services programs and a proportional allocation of corporate overhead functions and staff.

The minor decrease in FTE between 2018-19 Estimated Actual and 2019-20 Budget Target is the result of several budget movements, including the Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme, that achieved efficiencies in corporate services.

NOMGL -

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 15) For 2018-19 year to date, provide the meeting dates that Yorganop has been involved in with the Department of Communities in respect of the ACCO strategy?

Answer:

The Department of Communities met with Yorganop on three occasions during 2018-19 regarding the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) Strategy. The meetings occurred on:

- 8 November 2018
- 5 February 2019, and
- 8 February 2019.

Yorganop also participated in workshops regarding the ACCO partnership requirement for new Out of Home Care services on the following dates:

- 12 November 2018
- 13 November 2018
- 5 March 2019, and
- 8 March 2019.

Additionally, the Department of Communities met with Yorganop on 21 December 2018 to discuss the ACCO partnership requirement.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

16) Is there any intention to provide support or funding for Redress WA survivors who are excluded from the National Redress Scheme?

Answer:

In 2019-20, the Department of Communities is providing the following funding for the provision of specialist supports and services to people who were previously in out of home care:

- \$118,152 (excluding GST) to the Child Migrants Trust, which delivers support services for former child migrants from the United Kingdom, Malta and Northern Ireland who live in Western Australia.
- \$300,000 (excluding GST) to Forgotten Australians Coming Together for the operation of Tuart Place, which provides support and activities for people who were previously in any form of out of home care in Western Australia, including Forgotten Australians, former child migrants and the Stolen Generation.

The specialist supports and services provided by the Child Migrants Trust and Forgotten Australians Coming Together are available for Redress WA survivors who are excluded from the National Redress Scheme.

The McGowan Government is committed to the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In 2019-20, a \$5.7 million funding allocation will enable work to progress on preventing abuse from happening in the future. This includes areas of urgent need, such as establishing child safe standards, expanding mandatory reporting, progressing independent oversight of systems, working with children checks and responding to children with harmful sexual behaviours.

The McGowan Government is committed to continuing to work with survivors and their representatives to offer support where it can, and to prioritising ensuring abuse does not happen again in the future.



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS****ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION****Department of Communities (Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)****Hon Alison Xamon asked:**

10) Refer to page 450 in relation to Early Intervention and Family Support Services - given the number of children being taken into care is increasing:

- a. Why were there fewer earlier intervention and family support services cases this year than last year?
- b. Why was the number of cases lower than the budget target?

Answer:

(a – b)

- There were fewer Earlier Intervention and Family Support (EIFS) cases in 2018-19 as a result of the Department of Communities (Communities) procuring three intensive support services:
 - Aboriginal In-home Support Service – new service
 - Intensive Family Support Service – new service, and
 - Family Support (Lead Agency) Networks – enhanced and expanded service across all metropolitan service corridors.
- The new EIFS services offer more intensive, in-home supports and are designed to provide culturally responsive supports to Aboriginal families (a key feature of the EIFS Strategy).
- Implementation and mobilisation of the newly procured EIFS services took longer than anticipated due to challenges encountered regarding:
 - establishing case management and referral processes;
 - training of Communities' and service provider staff;
 - information technology and data recording processes; and
 - sourcing premises and recruiting suitably qualified staff in remote regions.These issues have been resolved.
- The budget target for 2018-19 of 14,000 cases is a composite of support services provided internally by Communities' front-line staff and externally through community sector organisations. The estimated actual figure was less than the target for reasons outlined above.