

PUBLIC



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Monday 18 June 2012

Department for Child Protection

HON KEN TRAVERS ASKED -

These questions refer to the two Department for Child Protection group homes in the Wanneroo electorate. For each of the facilities, I ask the following questions:

1.

a) *How many children can be housed at the home?*

Answer: Four (4)

b) *Since the facility opened, has the home ever housed more than this number of children in it overnight?*

Answer: No

c) *If yes, how many, and why?*

Answer: Not applicable

d) *What is the longest length of stay by a resident?*

Answer: Wanneroo House 379 days, Mariginiup House 237 days.

e) *What is the shortest length of stay by a resident?*

Answer: One night.

f) *What has been the average length of stay of the residents in the home since it opened?*

Answer: Wanneroo House 159.7 days; Mariginiup House 93.27 days

g) *Since the facility opened, what is the average number of residents each night?*

Answer: Wanneroo House 3.09; Mariginiup House 2.54

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a) *Have there been any incidents at the home since it was opened?*

Answer: Yes, in both homes.

b) *Have they been resolved to the satisfaction of the neighbours?*

Answer :

Wanneroo House – yes. Mariginiup House – neighbours advised they remain concerned about the Residential Group Home in their community and feel it would be better placed elsewhere.

3.

a) *How many staff are at the home on any occasion?*

Answer:

Two Residential Care Officers are rostered for each shift. They are supported by a Manager and 0.5 psychologist.

b) *How many vehicles are housed at the home on any occasion?*

Answer: Two government cars.

c) *How many staff are living at the home on any occasion?*

Answer: None.

d) *What is the maximum number of staff vehicles at the home on any occasion?*

Answer:

Up to 12 if a full staff meeting is held at the house (approximately one per month during the day). Where possible, vehicles are parked within the house boundaries.

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HON SUE ELLERY ASKED -

1. Page 699 Delivery of Services:

(a) Has the Department held an annual Festival of Learning each year since including 2010?

Answer: No. The Department has held a Festival of Learning in 2010 and 2011, but not in 2012.

(b) What dates were these events held?

Answer: The 2010 Festival of Learning was held on Wednesday 28 April 2010. The 2011 Festival of Learning was held on Wednesday 2 November 2011.

(c) What venue was each year's event held at?

Answer: The 2010 Festival of Learning was held at Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. The 2011 Festival of Learning was held at Burswood Entertainment Centre.

(d) What was the cost of the venue hire for each year's event?

Answer: The 2010 Festival of Learning, the venue hire cost \$9,836.36 (ex GST) or \$10,820 (inc GST). For the 2011 Festival of Learning, the venue hire cost \$5,800.50 (ex GST) or \$6,445 (inc GST).

(e) Has the 2012 Festival of Learning been held to date, and if so at what venue and what cost was the venue hire?

Answer: A Festival of Learning will not be held in 2012.

(f) What other venues did the Department consider and what was the price of those??

Answer:

In 2010 the overall conference package quoted for the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre was \$29,010. The Department also considered the following venues and prices for conference packages:

- Hyatt Regency Perth - \$27,800: venue capacity was insufficient, the layout was unsuitable and breakout rooms were not large enough.
- Burswood Entertainment Complex - \$27,655: not all breakout rooms were available for the whole day.
- Sheraton Perth Hotel - \$25,200: not enough breakout rooms were available.

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- Duxton Hotel Perth - \$22,370: not enough breakout rooms were available.

In 2011 the Department considered the following venues and process for venue hire:

- Frasers Restaurant – no quote provided: not enough breakout rooms were available.
- Perth Convention Exhibition Centre - \$11,340: more expensive than the Burswood Entertainment Complex.

2. *Page 699 Delivery of Services –*

These questions refer to the secure care facility:

(a) How many children have been placed there in the financial year 11/12 to date?

Answer:

45 young people have been placed in the secure care facility during the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

(b) Have any children been placed there more than once, and if so how many?

Answer:

During 2011-12, nine young people have been placed more than once.

(c) What is the operational cost of the secure care facility for the financial year 11/12 to date?

Answer:

The operational cost for Secure Care up until 31 May 2012 is \$3.699 million.

(d) What is the current staffing configuration of the secure care facility?

Answer:

Director Secure Care
 Assistant Director Secure Care
 Senior Consultant Psychologist
 Aboriginal Practice Leader
 Senior Child Protection Officer
 Administrative Officer 2 FTE
 Senior Secure Care Transport Officers 2 FTE (rostered position)
 Senior Secure Care Officers 4.5 FTE (rostered position)
 Secure Care Officers 18 FTE (rostered position)
 Cook 1FTE
 General Practitioner .02 FTE (rostered position -services provided via contract)
 Senior General Health Nurse .07 FTE (services provided via contract)
 Secure Care Teacher 2 FTE (Services funded by the Department for Child Protection and provided by the Department of Education)

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Senior Mental Health Nurse .5 FTE (connected to Princess Margaret Hospital Child Adolescent Mental Health Services. Due to commence in July 2012)
Child Adolescent Psychiatrist .2 FTE (connected to Princess Margaret Hospital Child Adolescent Mental Health Services. Providing consultation to secure care as required.)

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THE HON LINDA SAVAGE ASKED –

(1) I refer to Budget Paper No. 2 Volume 2, Page 700 – Outcomes, Services and Key Performance Information – Service Summary – 3. Supporting Individuals/Families at Risk or in Crisis - \$162, 980, 000; and the 17 May 2012 Media Statement of the Minister “State Budget 2012-13: Supporting our Community – Assistance for WA Families” wherein it states ‘Minister Robyn McSweeney said the State Government had also pledged an extra \$15 million in this Budget and \$63 million over the next four years to address increasing demand for child protection services’ and was quoted as saying “At any one time there are up to 3, 700 children in the care of the Department for Child Protection... We are committed to making sure there is support for these children as well as providing funding for complimentary services to help ‘at risk’ families to get back on track.”

(a) Does the Minister agree with Commissioner of Police’s comments to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations 2012-13 Budget Estimate hearing of 5 June 2012, that the 40 or so families that particularly interact with the police, the Child Protection Department and any family services agency can actually be identified?

Answer:

The Department for Child Protection (the Department) is aware of a number of families who are known, and of serious concern to the Department of Corrective Services and the Western Australian Police, as well as the Department.

(b) If not, does the Minister believe that there is a specific number of identifiable families that interact with the juvenile justice system and child protection agency, and have done so over a significant period of at least 10 years?

Answer:

Yes. In response, the Department has recently reviewed and re-focused the Parent Support service to work with parents of school aged children and young people up to 18 years who display criminal and/or antisocial behaviour and truancy. All district offices have developed collaborative processes with other government agencies to identify families of mutual concern and provide targeted services. Co-location between Parent Support and the Department of Corrective Services is also being implemented to improve coordination between agencies in responding to these families.

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(c) If so, approximately how many families or family groups can be identified?

Answer:

The Department for Child Protection does not collect data on the number of families who also interact with the juvenile justice system. From 1 July 2011 - 29 June 2012, 695 families have been referred to the Parent Support service. Some of these families will be of concern across departments.

(d) Does the Department for Child Protection have any estimate of funds spent on these identifiable families per individual family or for the total number of families for the 2009-2010 and/or the 2010-2011 financial years?

Answer:

In 2009-10, \$6, 698, 932 was provided for the Parent Support service, and in 2010-2011, \$8,215,010 was provided.

(2) I refer to Budget Paper No. 2 Volume 2, Page 700, Outcomes, Services and Key Performance Information – Service Summary – 3. Supporting Individuals/Families at Risk or in Crisis - \$162, 980, 000 and the Departments Best Beginnings program.

(a) What is the relationship between the Best Beginnings program and the Health Departments Enhanced Home Visiting Service?

Answer:

The Best Beginnings service is offered as a partnership between the Department and the Department of Health. The Best Beginnings service is predominantly provided by the Department for Child Protection, however a number of Child Health Nurses employed by the Department of Health also deliver the Best Beginnings service in 0.5 of their time, and the Enhanced Home Visiting Service in the other 0.5.

It is understood that the Enhanced Home Visiting service is of a shorter duration and less intensive than the two year, 22 visit Best Beginnings service. However requests for detailed information on this service need to be referred to the Minister for Health.

(b) How many full-time equivalent employees are involved with or conduct the Best Beginnings program at present?

Answer:

As at 21 June 2012, the Department for Child Protection has 25.1 Best Beginnings FTE.

(c) How many of these FTEs are qualified child health nurses?

Answer:

None of the Best Beginnings FTE in the Department for Child Protection are qualified child health nurses, but may hold other qualifications and are highly trained.

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