

PUBLIC

04/11/13



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday 25 September 2013

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 1: Hon A Farina asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2 Volume 2 at page 561 ‘Spending Changes’, line item, ‘Busselton Women’s Refuge’, and ask –

a) Has the location and physical nature of the Busselton Women’s Refuge been confirmed?

Answer: Yes. The Department of Housing purchased a new property for the Busselton Women’s Refuge in August 2013. Settlement on the new property occurred on 25 September 2013. For safety reasons the location cannot be provided.

b) When will works on the Busselton Women’s Refuge be completed?

Answer: The Department of Housing has advised that some minor works are required on the building. It is anticipated works will be completed in November 2013, dependent on the scope of the works required.

c) When will the Busselton Women’s Refuge be open and accepting clients?

Answer: Dependent on the completion of works, the property will be handed over to the City of Busselton, with an anticipated opening date in early December 2013.

d) How will ongoing operating costs of the Busselton Women’s Refuge be funded?

Answer: Operational funding post 2013-14 will require approval by the Treasurer.

Approval
H. Hunter

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
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Wednesday 25 September 2013

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 2: Hon A Farina asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2 Volume 2 at page 561 'Spending Changes', line item, 'Sustainable Funding and Contracting with the Not-for-Profit Sector – Component II', and ask –

a) Will services previously delivered by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support now be delivered by the Not-for-Profit Sector?

Answer: No. The majority of services currently delivered by the Department of Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) are in regard to statutory functions and responsibilities to provide care and protection to children throughout Western Australia. These statutory functions and associated services, delegated to the Director General through the Children and Community Services Act 2004, will remain with the Department.

The Department will continue to identify opportunities to increase and enhance the role of the not-for-profit sector in the provision of out-of-home care services and services for at-risk individuals and families

b) Do the Not-for-Profit organisations to receive this funding already have a relationship with Child Protection and Family Support?

Answer: Yes.

c) Will any first time recipients receive funding from this line item?

Answer: No.

d) What measures have been put in place to ensure the levels of service provided by the Not-for-Profit Sector are at least equivalent to those that would be provided by the Government?

Answer: Services provided by the not-for-profit sector are subject to regular reviews to monitor service provision against agreed service standards and key performance indicators set out in the service agreement or contract.

e) What mechanisms will be in place to ensure the outcomes achieved by these organisations continue to meet evolving community needs in the future?



Answer: Service program area reviews are conducted as contracts come up for renewal to ascertain the community need for continuation of a program, and to analyse effectiveness of current service requirements in addressing the outcomes based on community need.

f) *Will any Not-for-Profit organisation in the South West region be recipients of any of these monies?*

Answer: Yes, one of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's priorities is regional and remote services. The following services will receive Component II funding:

- Centrecare Bunbury Counselling Service
- South West Counselling Service
- Waratah Kids and Teens Waratah Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Service
- Anglicare South West District Financial Counselling Services
- Mission Australia Nagiv8
- South West Emergency Care for Children

Contract negotiations are in progress for an additional four services.

*Approved
Kulurata*

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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 3: Hon A Farina asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2 Volume 2 at page 566 ‘Supporting Individuals/Families at Risk or In Crisis’, line item ‘Total Cost of Services’ and ask:

a) What will be the cost of delivering Responsible Parenting Services in regional areas in 2013-14?

Answer: The Department’s 2013-14 budget for the Responsible Parenting Services in regional locations (including Peel) is \$15.8 million.

b) How much will be spent delivering Responsible Parenting Services in the South West area (electoral area)?

Answer: The Department’s 2013-14 budget for the Responsible Parenting Services in the South West electoral area is approximately \$2.9 million.

c) How many staff are employed delivering Responsible Parenting Services in the South West area (electoral area) and where are they located?

Answer: The Department has 26.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in the South West electoral area to deliver Responsible Parenting Services. The positions are located in:

Location	Number of FTE
Albany	8.4
Bunbury	7.0
Busselton	1.5
Collie	1.5
Manjimup	1.0
Peel	7.0
Grand Total	26.4

Approved
Mulvaney

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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 4: Hon A Farina asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2 Volume 2 at page 569 'Income Statement', line item, 'Royalties for Region Fund', and note that draw downs for Royalties for Regions have increased by \$5,981,000 or 69.9% since last year. What is the explanation for such a rise in Royalties for Regions Funds being provided to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support?

Answer: The \$5.981 million increase in Royalties for Regions (RfR) funds is primarily due to the Department's realignment of Responsible Parenting Services (RPS) funding in 2012-13. The Department realigned its 2012-13 RfR funding to the forward estimates and utilised existing RfR cash reserves to fund the 2012-13 RPS expenditure, following unexpected delays in the initial years of the expansion project. The funding for the RfR RPS expansion project is \$10.52 million in 2013-14, a \$5.529 million increase from 2012-13.

The increase can also be attributed to the new RfR funded Aboriginal Visitors Hostel in Derby which will begin operation in 2013-14 as well as an increase in RfR funded District Allowance funding in 2013-14.

Approved
A. Hunter

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Question No. 5: Hon A Farina asked –

(a) What is the total number of households expected to benefit from HUGS this financial year?

Answer: There were 22,778 HUGS grants in 2012-13; it is expected that at least this number of grants will be made in 2013-14 given increases in grant numbers every year since commencement.

(b) What is the total number of households in the South West region (electoral area) expected to benefit from HUGS this financial year?

Answer: In the South West there were 1,667 HUGS grants in 2012-13; it is expected that at least this number of grants will be made in 2013-14 given increases in grant numbers every year since commencement.

Please note that the data collected by the Department for the South West regional development area is not based on electoral areas.

Approved
Michelle

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 6: Hon A Farina asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2 Volume 2 at page 561 “Appropriations, Expenses and cash assets”, line item, ‘Total Appropriations’, and ask not including federal government subsidies and grants, how much will be spent on homelessness initiatives this financial year?

Answer: The total allocation to specialist homelessness services in 2013-14 from the State Government is \$31.272 million.

Approved
Minister

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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 7: Hon A Farina asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2 Volume 2 at page 569 “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”, line item, ‘Family Crisis Programme’, and noting that \$1,305,000 has been removed from the Family Crisis Programme over the past two years I ask where do those families in need now have to go for assistance?

Answer: The Family Crisis Program is only one element of the significant support the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) provides in response to financial hardship. The Department will continue to provide the Bereavement Assistance Program, the Hardship Utility Grant Scheme, natural disaster assistance and the State Concession Card, as well as assistance in situations of domestic violence, emergency homelessness and stranded travel.

The Department will support families to access emergency financial assistance through agencies funded by the Commonwealth Government and the State Government through Lotterywest. In 2012-13, the Commonwealth funded allocation for emergency relief in Western Australia was \$4.919 million through 234 service provider locations. Lotterywest provided a further \$4.149 million in 2011-12 to 98 agencies for the provision of emergency assistance.

A list of emergency relief providers is available on the Western Australian Council of Social Services website, and families can go to their local Department district office where they will receive support to access appropriate services.

Approved
Hickson

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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 8: Hon A Clohesy asked –

Vol 2 page 562 – Reduction in In-House Legal Services – is this part of the \$300 million global savings target to reduce the sector-wide spend on legal services announced in 2012-13? If not, what program or efficiency is this reduction related to?

Answer: Yes, the Reduction in In-House Legal Services line item relates to the \$300 million global savings target announced in the 2012-13 Budget.

Approved
Chumantov

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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 9: Hon A Clohesy asked –

As 54% of child safety and wellbeing assessments do not have an outcome recorded within 30 days, are assessments prioritised so the most urgent cases are assessed with an outcome recorded within 30 days? If yes, what is the prioritisation process?

Answer:

Yes, all safety and wellbeing assessments are commenced within 1 day for priority one and five days for priority two.

The target for completion within 30 days is set at 50% which is based on the nationally reported child protection indicator response times.

While a short length of time between commencing the assessment and completing the investigation is desirable, it is important that expediency does not undermine a thorough and accurate assessment.

Timely completion of assessments is influenced by a number of factors. This includes the time required to engage with at risk families, gather information and assess the often complex and multiple needs of these families, and undertake coordinated responses with other agencies.

Approved
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Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 10: Hon A Clohesy asked –

Have all 28 recommendations from the review of the Children and Community Services Act 2004 been implemented? If not, why not?

Answer: Implementation of all 28 recommendations from the 2012 review of the *Children and Community Services Act 2004* is currently underway. The majority of the recommended amendments to the *Children and Community Services Act 2004* are currently being drafted into an amendment Bill by Parliamentary Counsel. Consultation regarding the legal representation of children during protection proceedings continues with stakeholders including Legal Aid.

Approved
Chickens