

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS: 2009/10 ESTIMATES HEARING

In response to the additional questions for the 2009/10 Ongoing Estimates Hearing held on Tuesday 28 July 2009 please find the following responses from the Department of Corrective Services.

Tuesday, 28 July 2009

Department of Corrective Services

Hon Giz Watson MLC asked:

1. In relation to pages 761 and 762, new work camps are being planned for Warburton and the Wheatbelt, as well as being built in the Kimberly. Has money been allocated towards the inspection of these work camps to ensure that they satisfy standards?

Answer: Within the capital funding allocated for these works is the provision for building inspection to ensure that the buildings and associated infrastructure satisfies the standards stipulated in the Building Code of Australia (BCA). An independent building surveyor has been engaged to certify BCA compliance.

2. The Government has stated that the budget included a direction of emphasising Indigenous perspective in departmental endeavours. Where is this evidenced in the budget figures?

Answer: The most significant items contained in the 2009/10 budget figures which emphasize an Indigenous perspective in Departmental endeavours are the investments in new facilities in the West Kimberley (Derby) and Eastern Goldfields and additional regional work camps in Wyndham, Warburton and the Wheatbelt. These projects provide facilities and services that cater for the specific cultural and rehabilitative needs of Aboriginal offenders. The Kimberley Prison (Derby) and Work Camp (Wyndham) are shown as a separate line of the Asset Investment program on Page 762 of the budget papers.

The funding for the Eastern Goldfields and Regional Work Camps is included in the Custodial Infrastructure Program – Administered Equity line of the Asset Investment program on Page 763 of the budget papers. The Regional Youth Justice Strategy will play an important role in diverting young Aboriginal offenders from further contact with the justice system. Funding for this initiative is included in the Department's Service Appropriations.

3. The Government has stated that there will be a focus on custodial and community-based offender programs. Where is this allocation in the budget?

Answer: Funding for custodial and community-based offender programs is included in the Department's Service Appropriations.

4. Which programs does the Government intend on running? With the Men Managing Anger and Substance Abuse programs be run again in 2009/10?

Answer: The Department will run the following programs:

- Addictions Indigenous Men Managing Anger and Substance Abuse
- Moving on from Dependency
- Pathways
- Women's Substance Use (women)
- Breaking Out (community – men and women)
- Violence Building Better Relationships

Medium Intensity Violence
 Intensive Violence
 Indigenous Family Violence (prison and community)
 Domestic Violence (community)
 Sex Offending Intensive Sex Offending
 Medium Sex Offending
 Deniers
 Indigenous Medium
 Cognitive Skills Think First
 Indigenous Think First
 Legal and Social Awareness
 Building on Aboriginal Skills
 Cognitive Brief Intervention
 General Offending Making Choices (women)
 Reconnections (women)
 Change and Emotions (community)

The Department will not run the Men Managing Anger and Substance Abuse program in 2009/10.

5. The Government has stated that programs to counter re-offender in juvenile prisoners will be implemented. Where is the allocation for such services in the budget?

Answer: Funding for programs to counter re-offenders in juvenile prisons is included in the Department's Service Appropriations.

6. In Question Without Notice No. 623 asked in the Legislative Council on 23 June 2009 by Hon Giz Watson, Hon Simon O'Brien MLC listed the initiatives to be undertaken by the Government to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous People in Western Australian prisons. Where is the allocation for these initiatives in the budget?

Answer: The allocation for these initiatives is included in the Department's service appropriations. There are two exceptions. The allocation for establishing of Regional Work Camps is included in the Department's Asset Investment Program and the construction of the Indigenous meeting place at Casuarina Prison was funded from the equivalent of the Asset Infrastructure Program in 2008/09. The Indigenous meeting place will be completed in 2009 with costs incurred in the 2009/10 year funded from the Department's service appropriations.

Hon Liz Behjat MLC asked:

7. Page 760, Service and Key Efficiency Indicators,

1. Adult Offender Services

An adult offender system that:

- *Contributes to community confidence;*

7.1 With regard to the above "community confidence" not only relates to the community feeling that Corrective Services are doing the right thing by keeping our prisoners and prisons secure but they also need to see justice being done. With this in mind is the Department planning to introduce "visible" community programs for offenders e.g. works programs being done by offenders wearing high visibility, suitably labelled uniforms so that the public can see that a person is carrying out a community work order?

Answer: Yes

If yes to the above, then 7.1.1 When will the program commence?

Answer: The Repay WA 'working for the community' Hi Visibility vests were launched on 1 August 2009. The vests are to be worn by adult offenders servicing community based orders when working on outdoor work party projects.

The Department does not fund uniforms for offenders who live in the community.

7.1.2 What sort of programs will be undertaken?

Answer: Various outdoor community work activities such as graffiti paint outs, land and river regeneration projects; rubbish and vandalism clean ups; general grounds maintenance; various construction activities such as erecting gazebos for charities and other not for profit agencies.

7.1.3 How will the program be administered and supervised?

Answer: Adult offender work parties are supervised by the Department of Corrective Services trained staff.

7.1.4 How long will the program run?

Answer: The Community Work Scheme is not a program with an end date but embedded in legislation under the *Sentencing Administration Act 2003*. The Repay WA Vests are worn as part of the Occupational Safety and Health legislative requirements to ensure workers working in the community are visibly seen.

7.1.5 Will any of the programs involved carrying out works at properties managed by Corrective Services in an effort to reduce costs e.g. landscaping at newly built or refurbished facilities?

Answer: Adult Community Corrections undertake community work on properties managed by Corrective Services. Such examples include maintaining firebreaks and the perimeter around Casuarina Prison, general rubbish and ground maintenance around many of the Adult Community Corrections and Youth Justice Services branch sites across the state. Future plans would be for offenders, both Community and Youth Justice and Adult Custodial Section 95 (work parties and work camps) to assist in the restoration process and general upkeep of the former Riverbank Detention Centre site. There is also an opportunity for community based offenders to work alongside Section 95 and work camp prisoners to assist in the restoration works required at the Pardelup site prior to the complex returning to a Prison.

Adult Custodial Division is working closely with Adult Community Corrections to increase collaborative work opportunities on properties owned and managed by Corrective Services.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich MLC asked:

8. I refer to the Government's aspiration for savings of 7.6 billion over five years across government as outlined on page 13 of the budget overview and ask -

8.1 Is your agency redirecting any capital works expenditure – if so can you provide details including the value?

Answer: The Department currently has no approved reflows.

8.2 Is the agency selling surplus government land and/or assets and if so can you provide a list of land and/or assets earmarked for sale?

Answer: In line with the Department of Treasury and Finance Strategic Asset Management Framework the Department of Corrective Services has identified one property for disposal. An assessment of assets against strategic requirements identified two properties that were surplus to operating requirements – one of these properties has since been recommissioned.

The property listed for disposal does not contribute to the delivery of services undertaken by the Department of Corrective Services to achieve the outcomes expected by Government, further it is not financially viable to retain. The Department is not seeking financial gain by sale of the property and has already offered it to both the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the previous Department of Housing and Works as being more appropriate custodians.

The property listed for disposal is the old Bail Hostel on Stirling Highway in North Fremantle. The property is currently leased from the Department by Clontarf for residential students. While the Department fully supports this use it is considered that alternative agencies would be more appropriate to manage the lease. The risk is that if a more appropriate agency does not take over the property then it will be listed for sale through the Government Clearing House. This asset has been flagged as surplus to requirements and has, since 2007/08, been listed in the asset disposal plan section of the Department's Strategic Asset Plan.

8.3 Is the agency proposing to privatise any of its function or contract out any of its services – if so which ones?

Answer: The Department does not intend to privatise or contract out any additional functions or services. However, the Treasurer, in addressing the Asset Investment Program Forum on 3 June 2009, noted the Government's intention to consider private sector participation including the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for future capital investments. Procurement analysis will be undertaken for major capital projects and this may result in recommendations for increased private sector participation.

8.4 Is the agency intending to reduce staff numbers over the next 4 years and if so what ceiling has the agency set and how many staff will be shed over the forward estimates?

Answer: There is no intention to shed staff in the foreseeable future.

8.5 Is the Agency aware of the government's responsible public sector wages policy – if so – what is it?"

Answer: Department of Commerce representatives have briefed the Department regarding the Government's public sector wages policy which is contained in the document entitled *Public Sector Wages Policy 2009*.

8.6 What Public Private Partnerships are anticipated to be entered into by the agency over the forward estimates?

Answer: Government has not yet decided on any Public Private Partnerships. However, the Treasurer, in addressing the Asset Investment Program Forum on 3 June 2009, noted the Government's intention to consider private sector participation including the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for future capital investments. Procurement analysis will be undertaken for major capital projects and this may result in recommendations for the use of PPPs.

9. I refer to the Department's passenger and commercial vehicle fleet –

9.1 What is the total number of vehicles currently in the fleet?

Answer: The Department's passenger and commercial fleet comprised of 727 vehicles as at 30 June 2009.

9.2 Has any official instruction from government been received to reduce the fleet by 10% over the forward estimates?

Answer: Yes.

9.3 Can front line services be maintained if the fleet is reduced by 10% over the forward estimates?

Answer: The Department is planning a reduction of 10% of the leased vehicle fleet, exempting security vehicles, secure prisoner transport and special purpose farm vehicles, without impacting front line services.

10. I refer to page 761 of the Budget –

10.1 Are you aware of a one off definitional change between Capital Works Program and Asset Investment Program?

Answer: With effect from the 2009-10 budget, the Capital Works Program was redefined to only include the purchase of fixed assets and would be referred to as the Asset Investment Program.

10.2 Do you know why the definition was changed and the reason for it?

Answer: This was a whole of government decision to only include fixed asset purchases in the Capital Works Program and bring Western Australia into line with all other Australian jurisdictions. To reflect this change the program is now described as the Asset Investment Program.

10.3 What do you understand the difference between the Capital Works Program and Asset Investment program to mean?

Answer: The Asset Investment Program only includes fixed assets. Maintenance funding that was to some extent capital in nature but expensed through the income statement has now been excluded from the Asset Investment Program and included in the Department's recurrent funding allocation.

10.4 What programs have been deleted from the Capital Works Program published in the 2008-09 budgets and the Asset Investment program published in the 2009-10 budgets due to the change in the definition of Capital – could you provide examples?

Answer: The following amounts were removed from the Capital Works Program following the change in definition:

- Building Infrastructure and Maintenance – reduced \$ 3,988,000;
- Owned Leased Office Fitouts – reduced \$ 250,000;
- Accommodation - Infrastructure and Systems Upgrade and Replacement Programs – reduced \$ 4,792,000;

- ICT Infrastructure Upgrade – reduced \$1,915,000.

(Reductions listed above are related to 2009-10 total of \$10,945,000).

All of the above projects continue to be funded recurrently at the same value.

10.5 Please provide the full list of projects that have been deleted?

Answer:

- Building Infrastructure and Maintenance;
- Owned Leased Office Fitouts;
- Accommodation - Infrastructure and Systems Upgrade and Replacement Programs;
- ICT Infrastructure Upgrade;
- (Owned Leased Office Fitouts was completely removed and the remaining projects were reduced by the above amounts, refer 10.4 above.)

All of the above projects continue to be funded recurrently at the same rate.

10.6 What is the status of those deleted programs, are they being reconsidered or abandoned, and by what process is this being done?

Answer: These programs are of a maintenance nature and continue to be run by the Department and funded by government on a recurrent basis.

Hon Ken Travers MLC asked –

11. As of the last date you reported to Treasury on your finances:

11.1 Can you please identify all accounts held by your agency?

Answer:

- a) Bank Account – Operating Account
 - b) Non-restricted Cash on Hand and Cash Advances
 - c) Cash in Suspense at Treasury
- 11.2 How much cash is held in each of these accounts?*

Answer:

- a) \$ 43.06 million
- b) \$ 0.33 million
- c) \$ 3.55 million

11.3 How much of this cash is restricted or subject to approval or control?

Answer: Cash in Suspense at Treasury (c) is restricted

11.4 As of this date, what is your estimated annual average cash as a percentage of your appropriation?

Answer: 5.19%

Question No 12: As of the last date you internally monitored each account (Friday August 14 2009) your agency has:

12.1 How much cash is held in each of these accounts?

Answer:

- a) \$ 43.96 million
- b) \$ 0.76 million
- c) \$ 3.55 million

12.2 How much of this cash is restricted or subject to approval or control?

Answer: Cash in Suspense at Treasury (c) is restricted

12.3 As of this date, what is your estimated annual average cash as a percentage of your appropriation?

Answer: 5.29%

Question No 13: Please provide, for each question below, for each account held by your agency the figures as of 30 June 2009?

13.1 How much cash is held in each of these accounts?

Answer:

- a) \$ 30.98 million
- b) \$ 0.31 million
- c) \$ 3.55 million
- d) Cash in Suspense at Treasury

13.2 How much of this cash is restricted or subject to approval or control?

Answer: Cash in Suspense at Treasury (c) is restricted

13.3 As of this date, what is your estimated annual average cash as a percentage of your appropriation?

Answer: 8.31%

Question No 14: For the following categories –

- i) Media and Marketing*
- ii) Advertising; and*
- iii) Consultants.*

14.1 Please provide how much was spent on the above in the 07/08 and 08/09 financial years?

Answer:

| Expenditure | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Media and Marketing | 577,395 | 738,106 |
| Advertising | 780,625 | 614,371 |
| Consultants | 382,880 | 886,767 |

14.2 How much is budgeted to be spent in each area in the 09/10 financial year?

Answer:

| Budget | 2009-10 |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Media and Marketing | 683,288 |
| Advertising | 417,715 |
| Consultants | 704,025 |

14.3 Can you please define what activities you include in each of these areas?

Answer:

- i) Media and Marketing: Salaries & Wages (normal) for the Media & Public Affairs branch.
- ii) Advertising: Predominantly for recruitment activity within the department.
- iii) Consultants: External support for a variety of professional services designated as consultancy.

14.4 Are there any activities that could be included in the ordinary meaning of the words that are not included in the above figures and if yes, please detail?

Answer: No