

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING**

**Department for Child Protection and Family Support**

**Hon Martin Pritchard MLC asked:**

**1. Did the processing of Working with Children cards deliver a net profit or cost to the Department in 2014/2015?**

**a. What was the value of the net profit or cost to the Department?**

**Answer:**

Total revenue received from Working with Children Check application fees was \$6.328 million in 2014-15, compared to total expenditure of \$11.845 million. The shortfall was met through State Government appropriation.

**2. How many children benefitted from more permanent living arrangements under special guardianship orders and were no longer in the care of the CEO in 2014/2015?**

**Answer:**

On 30 June 2015 there were 483 children under special guardianship orders. This represents an increase of 60 children during the financial year.

**3. In 2013/2014 the Department funded 169 community sector organisations to deliver services to vulnerable children, individuals and families across Western Australia (WA).**

**a. How many community sector organisations were funded to deliver services in 2014/2015?**

**b. Which organisations were funded to deliver services?**

**c. Which organisations were funded in 13/14 and are no longer in 14/15 and what was the reason for the withdrawal of funding to the community sector organisation?**

**Answer:**

a. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support funded 171 community sector organisations in 2014/15.

b. The table attached provides the list of community sector organisations funded in 2014/15.

c. The following community sector organisations were funded in 2013/14 but not in 2014/15:

- City of Busselton - In July 2014 the Department received written notification from the City of Busselton to terminate the contract for the provision of the Busselton Women's Refuge on the basis that the

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Busselton Women's Refuge Inc. had relinquished the sub-contract arrangement with the City of Busselton for the management of the Busselton Women's Refuge facility.

- Jigalong Community Inc – the contract with Jigalong Community Inc for the Jigalong Family Safety program expired on 30 June 2014. The contract was not renewed due to compliance issues with the organisation and a lack of evidence that the program was meeting contractual outcomes.
- Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) – funding was transferred to Community Focus National Limited, a new not-for-profit organisation established to provide services in Kalumburu, at the request of KAC.
- Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) – funding was transferred to Broome Youth and Families Hub Inc to develop a youth service hub in Broome. NAC was involved in the development of the youth service hub.
- Shire of Moora – the Shire of Moora relinquished the contract for the Moora Youth Service in March 2014 and funding was transferred to Avon Youth Community and Family Services Incorporated.

**4. Other revenue was higher than the original budget by \$1.5 million (123.8%) mainly due to the unexpected return of prior year funds from community sector organisations, including \$0.7 million from the Western Australia No Interest Loans Network Inc.**

- a. Besides NILS which community sector organisations returned funds and what was the value of each return?**
- b. What was the reason for each return of funds?**
- c. Why did the department make the decision to withdraw funds from NILS?**

**Answer:**

- a. The following organisations returned funds for 2014/15:
  - City of Busselton - \$225,334
  - Women's Council for Domestic Violence - \$10,000
- b. Both payments were the return of unused grant funding.
- c. The Ministerial Trust Fund, which was provided to WA NILS for the purpose of loan capital, ceased on 30 June 2014. This is consistent with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2006 (FMA 2006). Loan capital is now provided by the National Australia Bank through the Good Shepherd Microfinance No Interest Loan program.

**5. Of the 78,528 clients supported, what is the percentage and number breakdown of assistance by the following:**

- a. assessment of child protection concerns**
- b. family support services, including Parent Support or Best Beginnings**
- c. provision of financial assistance**
- d. carer management services**
- e. case support services**
- f. adoption services**

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**Answer:**

- a. Nil
- b. 6,614 clients (8.4%)
- c. 705 clients (0.9%)
- d. Nil.
- e. Nil.
- f. Nil.

The areas with a nil response are delivered, but are counted in other areas of the Department's work, including through fostering and adoption services, care for children teams and case support costs.

Other funded services that also provide support include:

Non-government agencies	49,843 clients (63.5%)
Homelessness services	21,366 clients (27.2%)

**6. By region how many Cultural Day Programs occurred in the following periods:**

- a. 2014/2015
  - b. 2013/2014
  - c. 2012/2013
  - d. How many children participated in each period?
  - e. How many Cultural Day Programs are budgeted and funded in 2015/2016?
- a. 5.
  - b. This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.
  - c. This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.
  - d. 2014/2015 –121  
2013/2014 –This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.  
2012/2013 –This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.
  - e. This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

**7. By Region how many Kidzone camps occurred in the following periods:**

- a. 2014/2015
- b. 2013/2014
- c. 2012/2013
- d. How many children participated in each period?
- e. How many Kidzone camps are budgeted and funded in 2015/2016?

**Answer:**

- a. 17.
- b. This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.
- c. This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.
- d. 2014/2015 - 299  
2013/2014 – This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.  
2012/2013 – This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

**8. What funding was allocated to the Armadale Family Support Network in the following periods:**

- a. 2014-2015 – \$487,335.
- b. 2013-2014 – This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

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c. 2012-2013 – This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

9. **How many FTE were allocated to the Armadale Family Support Network in the following periods:**

a. 2014-2015

**Answer:** 1.0 FTE

b. 2013-2014

**Answer:** This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

c. 2012-2013

**Answer:** This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

10. **How many families were assisted by the Armadale Family Support Network in the following periods:**

a. 2014-2015

b. 2013-2014

c. 2012-2013

**Answer:**

a. 2014-2015 – 372 cases comprising 1,604 clients

b. 2013-2014 – This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

c. 2012-2013 – This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

11. **What was the value and breakdown of foster care allowances for each of the following periods:**

a. 2014-2015 - \$48,578,000 (\$68,853,000 with case supports costs)

b. 2013-2014 - This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

c. 2012-2013 - This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.

Payments to foster carers are aggregated in the Department's financial management system and cannot be disaggregated into the various allowances paid to foster carers.

All foster carers are paid allowances and other reimbursements to cover the normal, ongoing costs of maintaining a child in their care. The Department supports foster carers through the provision of:

- Payments including a basic subsidy, special needs loading subsidy, clothing allowance, pocket money and special purpose subsidy, and
- Case support expenditure (counselling, day care, entertainment, furniture, legal costs, medical and dental, mentoring, recreational and leisure, school fees, books, supervision, contact, travel and tuition).

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The **basic subsidy** is set based on three child age groups, as outlined below:

Age group	Fortnightly subsidy at 1 July 2015	Fortnightly subsidy at 1 July 2014	Fortnightly subsidy at 1 July 2013
0 – 6 years	\$372.23	\$363.15	\$353.43
7 – 12 years	\$438.29	\$427.60	\$416.16
13 –18 years	\$504.35	\$492.05	\$478.88

**Special needs loading** is paid to carers who care for children who have extra care needs which create additional, regular and ongoing costs to meet an individual child’s special needs. The child might have special needs due to a medical issue or behavioural/emotional issues. Special needs loading comprises of two components:

- Part A - to recognise the extra care required to meet the special needs of the child, as outlined below:

Hours spent providing extra care to meet the special needs of a child	0-6yrs	7-12yrs	13-18yrs
7-14 hours per week	\$72.63	\$85.52	\$98.41
15-21 hours per week	\$145.26	\$171.04	\$196.82
22-28 hours per week	\$217.89	\$256.56	\$295.23
29-35 hours per week	\$290.52	\$342.08	\$393.64

- Part B - an amount equal to the dollars required to meet regular and ongoing expenses, arising from the special needs that are in excess of the basic subsidy.

**Clothing allowance** is paid three times a year at the following rates:

Age Group	Allowance from 1 July 2014 (unchanged for 2015)
0 – 6 years	\$178.81 every 4 months
7 – 12 years	\$235.28 every 4 months
13 – 17 years	\$400.00 every 4 months (16-17 years old exceptional circumstances only)

Note: Receipt of clothing allowance will not be paid if a young person is working or receiving a Centrelink benefit.

Fortnightly **pocket money** allowance is paid at the following rates:

Age Group	Allowance from 1 July 2014 (unchanged for 2015)
6 – 12 years	\$8.00
13 – 15 years	\$20.00
16 – 17 years	\$26.00 – Exceptional circumstances only

Note: Receipt of pocket money will not be paid if a young person is working or receiving a Centrelink benefit.

In limited circumstances a **special purpose subsidy** may be paid to carers for large expenditure items including:

- **Placement supports** which are generally for the provision of services by third parties, such as mentors to provide the child with planned activities at regular times to offer support to the carer, the provision of respite to the carer through respite placements at specialist agencies or in-home domestic support for large sibling groups.
- **Home modifications** in cases where modifications are needed to meet the special needs of a child with a physical disability or to accommodate a sibling group of four or more children.
- **Major and extraordinary events** such as:
  - admission of a child to a Residential Treatment Program,
  - purchase of disability/mobility equipment,
  - high cost services related to reunification and/or contact,
  - high cost specialist services for parenting capacity and/or forensic assessments,
  - provision of teachers' aides,
  - travel fares and/or accommodation associated with a child attending holidays with their carers, or
  - religious, cultural, school and sporting tours.

**12. What was the value and breakdown of foster care allowances for 2015/2016?**

**Answer:**

This is not in the scope of the 2014-15 annual report.



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Organisation Name
55 Central Inc
Aboriginal Alcohol & Drug Service (A.A.D.S) (Inc)
Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Family and Youth Services Inc
Adoption Research & Counselling Service Inc
Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc trading as Accordwest
Albany Halfway House Association Inc
Albany Youth Support Association Inc
Allambee Counselling Inc
Anglicare WA Inc
Australian Red Cross Society (WA Division)
Avon Youth Community and Family Services Incorporated
Balga Detached Youth Work Project Inc
Bega Garnbirringu Health Services Incorporated
Bloodwood Tree Association Incorporated
Blue Sky Community Group Inc
Broome Community Information Resource Centre and Learning Exchange
Broome Youth and Families Hub Incorporated
Broome Youth Support Group Association Incorporated
Burdekin - Youth in Action Incorporated
Calvary Youth Services Mandurah Inc
Carnarvon Family Support Service Inc
Carnarvon Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation
Centacare Kimberley Association Inc
Central Agcare Inc
Centrecare Inc
Child Migrants Trust Inc
Chrysalis Support Services Inc
City of Belmont
City of Canning W.A.
City of Cockburn
City of Fremantle
City of Greater Geraldton
City of Joondalup
City of Kwinana
City of Rockingham
City of Stirling
City of Wanneroo
Communicare Inc
Community Focus National Limited
CREATE Foundation Limited
Dungeon Youth Centre Inc
Eastern Region Domestic Violence Services Network Inc
Escare Inc
Esperance Crisis Accommodation Service Inc
Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc
Financial Counsellors' Association Of Western Australia (Inc.)
Foothills Information & Referral Service Inc
Forgotten Australians Coming Together Inc
Foster Care Association Of WA Inc

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Foundation Housing Limited
Foundations Care Ltd
Fremantle Multicultural Centre Inc
Fusion Australia Ltd
Garnduwa Amboorny Wirnan Aboriginal Corporation
Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation
Geraldton Regional Community Education Centre Association (INC)
Geraldton Resource Centre Inc
Goldfields Women's Refuge Association Inc
Gosnells Community Legal Centre (Inc)
Health Agencies of Yilgarn Inc
Hedland Women's Refuge Inc
In Town Centre Incorporated
Incest Survivors Association Inc
Jacaranda Community Centre Inc
Jewish Care WA (Inc)
Jigsaw Search & Contact Inc
Jobs South West Inc
Joongari House \ Wyndham Family Support Inc
Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation
Katanning Regional Emergency Accommodation Centre
Key Assets WA Ltd
Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (Aboriginal Corporation)
Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc
Kwinana Early Years Services Incorporated
Lamp Inc
Life Without Barriers
Lifestyle Solutions (Aust) Ltd
MacKillop Family Services Ltd
Marnin Bowa Dumbara Aboriginal Corporation
Marninwarantikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation
Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge Inc
Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation
Mawarnkarra Health Service
Mercy Community Services Incorporated
Midland Information, Debt & Legal Advocacy Service Inc
Mission Australia ACN 000 002 522
Moorditch Gurlongga Association Inc
Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia Inc
Nardine Wimmin's Refuge
Narrogin Community Support Association Inc
Newman Women's Shelter Inc
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation
Ngala Family Services
Ngaringga Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation
Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Ngunga Group Women's Aboriginal Corporation
Nintirri Centre Inc
Northern Districts Community Support Group Inc
Nyoongar Patrol System Inc

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One Tree Community Services Inc
Orana House Inc
Parkerville Children and Youth Care Incorporated
Pat Thomas House Inc
Patricia Giles Centre Inc
Peel Community Development Group Inc
Peel Youth Services Incorporated
Perth Asian Community Centre Inc
Perth Inner City Youth Service Inc
Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc
Relationships Australia (Western Australia) Inc
Rise Network Inc
Roberta Jull Community Care Association Inc
Ruah Community Services
Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust
Save the Children Australia as Trustee for Save the Children Australia Trust
Scripture Union of Western Australia
Share & Care Community Services Group Inc
Shire of Ashburton
Shire of Carnarvon
Shire of Denmark
Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
Shire of Dundas
Shire of Halls Creek
Shire of Katanning
Shire of Laverton
Shire of Leonora
Shire of Meekatharra
Shire of Mundaring
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
Short Term Accommodation for Youth Inc
South Coastal Women's Health Services Association (Inc)
South West Counselling Inc
South West Emergency Care for Children Inc
South West Refuge Inc
Southcare Inc
Southern Agcare Inc
St Bartholomew's House Inc
St Patrick's Community Support Centre Ltd
St Vincent De Paul Society WA Inc
Stand By Me Youth Service (WA) Inc
Starick Services Inc
Sussex Street Community Law Service Inc
Swan City Youth Service Incorporated
Swan Emergency Accommodation Inc
The Federation of Western Australian Police and Community Youth Centres (Inc)
The Lucy Saw Centre Association Inc
The Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton Centacare Family Services
The Spiers Centre Inc
Tom Price Youth Support Association Inc

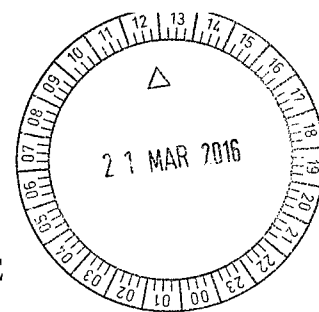
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Town of Bassendean
Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (WA)
UnitingCare West
Victoria Park Youth Accommodation (Inc)
WA No Interest Loans Network Inc
Wanslea Family Services Incorporated
Waratah Support Centre (South West Region) Inc
Westaus Crisis and Welfare Service Inc
Wheatbelt Agcare Community Support Services Inc
White Lion Inc
William Langford Community House Inc
Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Service (WA) Inc
Women's Health Care Association Inc
Yaandina Family Centre Inc
YMCA of Perth Youth and Community Services Inc
Yorganop Association Incorporated
Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation
Youth Futures WA (Inc)
Youth Involvement Council Inc
Youth Legal Service Inc
Zonta House Refuge Association Inc

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## ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### 2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

#### Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked:

1. **The KPI for the proportion of child safety and wellbeing assessments with an outcome recorded within 30 days was 45%**
  - a. **What was the proportion of child safety and wellbeing assessments completed within 30 days by Region?**

Answer: In 2014-15 the proportion of safety and wellbeing assessments completed with an outcome recorded within 30 days, by district, is as follows:

Armadale	35%
Cannington	50%
Crisis Care	95%
East Kimberley	59%
Fremantle	59%
Goldfields	46%
Great Southern	48%
Joondalup	40%
Midland	28%
Mirrabooka	17%
Murchison	52%
Peel	32%
Perth	27%
Pilbara	25%
Rockingham	64%
Southwest	63%
West Kimberley	23%
Wheatbelt	41%

- b. **What was the proportion of child safety and wellbeing assessments completed within 30 days by age?**

Answer: In 2014-15 the proportion of safety and wellbeing assessments completed with an outcome recorded within 30 days, by the age of the child at the commencement of the assessment, is as follows:

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Less than 1	40%
Age 1	48%
Age 2	45%
Age 3	45%
Age 4	46%
Age 5	43%
Age 6	43%
Age 7	43%
Age 8	44%
Age 9	44%
Age 10	40%
Age 11	44%
Age 12	47%
Age 13	47%
Age 14	48%
Age 15	50%
Age 16	53%
Age 17	57%

**2. The KPI for the proportion of children not subject to a subsequent substantiation of harm within 12 months of a previous substantiation of harm is down from 95% to 94%.**

Answer: The result reported in 2013-14 and 2014-15 was 94 per cent - there has not been a reduction in performance.

**a. Why is this KPI target not 100%?**

Answer: The target of 95 per cent acknowledges that reported results can be affected by factors beyond the control of the Department, or a change in the child's or the family's circumstances after the initial decision to substantiate was made. This target has been approved by the Auditor General.

**b. By Region what was the proportion and of children subjected to a subsequent substantiation of harm within 12 months of a previous substantiation of harm?**

Answer: The proportion of children who were subject to a substantiation of harm within 12 months of a previous substantiation, by district, is as follow:

Armadale	3%
Cannington	7%
Crisis Care	2%
East Kimberley	13%
Fremantle	10%
Goldfields	6%
Great Southern	7%
Joondalup	7%
Midland	5%
Mirrabooka	9%
Murchison	3%
Peel	5%
Perth	4%
Pilbara	12%
Rockingham	4%

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Southwest	2%
West Kimberley	9%
Wheatbelt	7%

**c. By ethnicity what was the proportion and number of children subjected to a subsequent substantiation of harm within 12 months of a previous substantiation of harm?**

Answer: The proportion and number of children who were subject to a substantiation of harm within 12 months of a previous substantiation, by ethnicity, is as follows:

Aboriginal	9%	116
Non-Aboriginal	6%	93
Unknown	2%	15

**d. By Departmental or Out of Home care service provider what was the number of children subjected to a subsequent substantiation of harm within 12 months of a previous substantiation of harm?**

Answer: One child placed with a Department foster carer had a substantiated abuse in care assessment, who also had another substantiated assessment within 12 months with their caregiver assessed as causing significant harm.

**3. The proportion of children in the CEO's care with comprehensive care planning undertaken within set timeframes was 82%, 3% below the 85% target.**

**a. By Region what was the proportion and of children that had a comprehensive care plan undertaken within set timeframes?**

Answer: The proportion of children that had a comprehensive care plan undertaken within the set timeframes, by district, is as follows:

Armadale	72%
Cannington	86%
East Kimberley	62%
Fremantle	92%
Goldfields	97%
Great Southern	78%
Joondalup	93%
Midland	84%
Mirrabooka	87%
Murchison	82%
Peel	83%
Perth	89%
Pilbara	90%
Rockingham	95%
Southwest	59%
West Kimberley	69%

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Wheatbelt

69%

**b. By age what was the proportion and of children that had a comprehensive care plan undertaken within set timeframes?**

Answer: The proportion of children that had a comprehensive care plan undertaken within the set timeframes, by age of the child on 30 June 2015, is as follows:

Less than 1	83%
Age 1	85%
Age 2	84%
Age 3	85%
Age 4	85%
Age 5	85%
Age 6	83%
Age 7	84%
Age 8	83%
Age 9	83%
Age 10	83%
Age 11	76%
Age 12	81%
Age 13	83%
Age 14	77%
Age 15	80%
Age 16	76%
Age 17	82%

**c. By Departmental or Out of Home care service provider what was the proportion and of children had a comprehensive care plan undertaken within set timeframes?**

Answer: The proportion of children that had a comprehensive care plan undertaken within the set timeframes, by care service provider, is as follows:

Department	81%
Non-Government agency	86%

**4. In 2013/14 a three month pilot program commenced at Banksia Hill Detention Centre involving a collaborative working partnership to improve the management of joint clients in detention, including better transition planning for children in care exiting detention.**

- a. What was the outcome of the pilot program?
- b. If the program did not progress what was the reason for non-progression?
- c. Was further funding allocated in 2014/2015 to continue the program and if so how much and if not why was funding not allocated?

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Answer:

- a) The outcomes of the pilot program have been positive with improved collaboration between the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) and Banksia Hill (Banksia Hill) Detention Centre.
- b) The pilot ceased in June 2014 due to evidence from the trial showing a full time position located on-site at Banksia Hill was not required. However a support and facilitation function is still being provided on a part time basis by a Senior Court Officer from the Perth Children's Court who has significant links with Banksia Hill and the children.
- c) As the program was ceased in 2014, funding has not been allocated for the 2014/2015 financial year; the tasks of the role in the pilot program have been incorporated into the duties of the Senior Court Officer from the Perth Children's Court. The Department is currently using the learnings from the Pilot Program to identify and develop processes to better support these young people.

#### **5. How many families were involved in pre-birth meetings in 2014/15?**

Answer: There were 209 families involved in pre-birth planning in 2014/15, involving 210 children.

##### **a. How many babies were able to return home?**

Answer: 138 children were able to return home.

##### **b. How many babies needed to enter care?**

Answer: 72 children entered care.

#### **6. Commonwealth Government funding for the Child Protection Income Management and Voluntary Income Management measures in existing locations was extended to 30 June 2015.**

##### **a. What changes if any occurred relating to Income Management post 30 June 2015?**

Answer:

- Funding for the Child Protection Income Management and Voluntary Income Management measures in existing locations was extended to 30 June 2017.
- The Hon Alan Tudge, the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Assistant Minister for Social Services announced that Ceduna in South Australia and East Kimberley (Kununurra and Wyndham) will be the first two trial locations for the cashless debit card, informed by the Forest Review (2014).
- The trial in Ceduna commenced on 15 March 2016. It is anticipated that the trial in East Kimberley will begin in late April 2016.

##### **b. By region, how many clients of the Department participated in Income Management in 2014-2015?**

Answer:

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By region, the Department referred the following number of clients to Child Protection Income Management in 2014-2015:

Armadale	47
Cannington	30
East Kimberley	75
Fremantle	27
Ngaanyatjarra Lands/Laverton	19
Joondalup	37
Midland	60
Mirrabooka	14
Peel	9
Perth	12
Rockingham	56
West Kimberly	36

**7. There was a variance due to an unanticipated underspend in the Royalties for Regions funded Responsible Parenting Services project and the Derby Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation project in 2015.**

**a. What was the reason for the underspending in Royalties for Regions Funding for the Responsible Parenting Program?**

Answer:

The underspend was mainly attributed to vacant positions in some regional locations.

**b. Which Responsible Parenting Programs were planned and not delivered as a result of this underspend?**

Answer:

Responsible Parenting Services were provided across all regional locations funded by Royalties for Regions using available staffing levels.

**c. What was the value of the Royalties for Regions Underspend?**

Answer:

The underspend was \$1.188 million as at 30 June 2015.

**d. Was the underspend a result of efficiency dividend measures?**

Answer:



The underspend was mainly due to difficulties experienced in recruiting and retaining staff in some regional locations.

**8. There has been a reduction in the value of Bereavement Assistance from \$986,000 in 2014 to \$911,000 in 2015, what is reason for this reduction?**

Answer:

The value of bereavement assistance provided by the Department each year varies on the number of eligible applications received, the success of recovery action against the deceased person's estate and the extent to which families are able to contribute to the cost of funeral arrangements.

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**How many clients has applied for Bereavement Assistance in the following periods:**

- I. 2014-2015**
- II. 2013-2014**
- III. 2012-2013**

Answer:

This information is not recorded on the Department's client information management system.

**a. How many clients has successfully applied for Bereavement Assistance in the following periods:**

- I. 2014-2015** – 251 instances of assistance were provided.
- II. 2013-2014** – 275 instances of assistance were provided.
- III. 2012-2013** – 333 instances of assistance were provided.

**b. What has been the average Bereavement Assistance payment in the following periods:**

- I. 2014-2015** – \$3,629.
- II. 2013-2014** – \$3,585.
- III. 2012-2013** – \$2,556.

**9. How many Aboriginal staff were employed as at 30 June 2015?**

Answer: 244

**a. How many 50(d) staff were employed as at 30 June 2015**

Answer: 86 Aboriginal employees were employed in 50(d) positions as at 30 June 2015.

**b. How many 50(d) positions were vacant as at 30 June and how has each been vacant?**

Answer: 17 50(d) positions were vacant as at 30 June 2015. The Department does not record the length of time positions have remained vacant.

**c. How many 50(d) positions are currently vacant?**

Answer: At the time of responding to these questions in October 2015 there were 10 50(d) positions are currently vacant.

**10. There were 2256 approved FTE as at 30 June 2015 and 2226 approved FTE at 30 June 2014 an additional 30 staff. The 2014-15 budget announced an additional 58 frontline workers in child protection.**

**a. How many vacancies existed as at 30 June 2015?**

Answer: 77.8 FTE

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**b. How many positions were advertised as at 30 June 2015?**

Answer: 42.7 FTE vacant positions were subject to recruitment and selection processes as at 30 June 2015.



**c. Why was the commitment to employ an additional 58 child protection workers not honoured?**

Answer: The 2014-15 Budget included additional funding equating to an additional 58 FTE service delivery positions, including but not limited to statutory front line caseworkers.

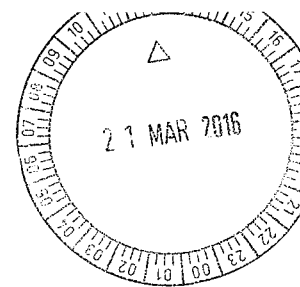
All additional FTE have been allocated during 2014-15, with funding equating to 38 FTE being allocated across the Department's 17 district offices and the equivalent of 20 FTE being allocated to the Department's residential care services to fund additional roster shifts from July 2014.

Other movements occurring in 2014-15 such as voluntary severances will also have impacted on approved FTE as at 30 June 2015.

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**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING**

**Department of Child Protection and Family Support**

**Hon Alanna Clohesy asked:**

- 1) **The Advocate for Children in Care was contacted by, or on behalf of, 283 children and young people in care in 2014/15. Please provide a breakdown of these contacts:**
- a) **by issue (or type of complaint)**
  - b) **by action taken**
  - c) **how many of these contacts were referred to formal complaints processes and what was the outcome of each?**

a) by issue (or type of complaint)

Appeal process	1
Care planning process	4
Case Consultation	2
Case Worker	1
Child safety	31
Criminal Injuries Compensation	1
Communication with CPFS	11
Contact between children and birth families	62
CPFS service delays	4
CPFS service withheld	5
Disagreement with CPFS action	25
Education issue	1
Financial problem	19
Participation in decision making	23
Access to information	2
Health issue	8
Inappropriate request	2
Leaving Care	5
Legal process	2
Other	8
Past abuse in care	1
Placement arrangements	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283</b>

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- b) Actions taken by the Advocate for Children in Care vary according to the needs of each case. Details are recorded in individual case files and cannot be reported on an aggregated basis.

Actions include investigation, records research and assessment; negotiation and conflict resolution; providing advice and information; facilitating problem-solving; generating solutions and supporting individuals in an appeal or review process. Some cases may require extensive intervention whilst others may be short consultations.

- c) 10 referrals were diverted to the formal complaints process and a further 8 were referred to the Children's Court or the Case Review Panel.

Other outcomes are recorded following intervention and negotiation by the Advocate - Children in Care. Where the outcome is shown as 'District Office to action' or 'Information and advice provided', this generally reflects some impact or agreement arising from the Advocate's involvement.

10 cases were still open at the end of the financial year.


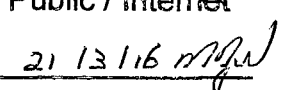
District Office to action	75
Diverted to Complaints System	10
Inappropriate referral	18
Information and advice provided	81
Not successful	2
Partly resolved in favour of child or young person	12
Referral withdrawn or lapsed	20
Referred to alternative advocacy/review process	8
Resolved in favour of child or young person	33
Task completed	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273</b>

- 2) **As at 30 September 2015 what was the total number of domestic violence places (crisis places and transitional places) available in the metropolitan region by district for:**
- a) **Women**
  - b) **Children**

A response has not been provided as 30 September 2015 is beyond the scope of the 2014-15 Annual Report.

- 3) **As at 30 September 2015 what was the vacancy rate of domestic violence places (crisis and transitional) available in the metropolitan region by district for:**
- a) **Women**
  - b) **Children**

A response has not been provided as 30 September 2015 is beyond the scope of the 2014-15 Annual Report.

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4) As at 30 September 2015 what was the total number of domestic violence places (crisis places and transitional places) available in each regional district for:

- a) Women
- b) Children

A response has not been provided as 30 September 2015 is beyond the scope of the 2014-15 Annual Report.

5) As at 30 September 2015 what was the vacancy rate of domestic violence places (crisis and transitional) available in each regional district for:

- a) Women
- b) Children

A response has not been provided as 30 September 2015 is beyond the scope of the 2014-15 Annual Report.

6) In 2014/15 how many women and children experiencing domestic violence were referred to the Crisis Care Unit?


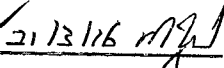
**Answer:** In 2014/15 the Crisis Care Unit responded to 2,619 interactions involving 1,725 women and 1,336 children, where the primary issue was domestic violence.

7) In 2014/15 how many women and children experiencing domestic violence were referred to Entrypoint Perth?

In 2014-15 Entrypoint Perth clients identified domestic and family violence as the main reason for seeking assistance in 261 support periods.

8) In 2014/15 how much funding was provided to each regional domestic violence refuge?

Region	Service Name	Annual Contract Price 2014-15
East Kimberley	Kununurra Crisis Accommodation Centre	\$625,879.36
	Ngaringga Ngurra Safe House	\$375,165.75
	Ngnowar Aerwah Safe House	\$383,425.54
Goldfields	Esperance Crisis Accommodation Service	\$420,728.95
	Goldfields Women's Refuge - Finlayson House	\$545,744.33
	Laverton Crisis Intervention Service	\$310,000.00
Great Southern	Albany Women's Centre	\$548,072.88
Murchison	Gascoyne Women's Refuge	\$556,605.18
	Chrysalis House Women's Refuge	\$570,212.19
	Meekatharra Family and Domestic Violence Service	\$263,890.57
Pilbara	Hedland Women's Refuge	\$519,061.26
	Manga Tharndu Maya Safe House	\$306,675.00
	Newman Women's Shelter	\$580,761.33

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	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Karratha	\$493,171.13
Southwest	South West Refuge	\$681,976.95
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Service - Busselton Area	\$600,000.00
West Kimberley	Derby Family Healing Centre	\$785,205.56
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Safe House Model - Fitzroy Crossing	\$559,052.89
	Marnja Jarndu Women's Domestic Violence Service	\$781,132.18
Wheatbelt	Narrogin Women's Refuge	\$396,521.71
	Wheatbelt Women's Refuge	\$406,426.10

**9) In 2014/15 and 2013/14 how much funding was provided to each metropolitan domestic violence refuge?**

Corridor	Service Name	Annual Contract Price 2014-15	Annual Contract Price 2013-14
East Corridor	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Lead Agency - East Corridor	\$1,214,885.07	\$1,188,442.23
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - East Corridor - Nardine Wimmin's Refuge	\$599,239.82	\$586,196.94
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - East Corridor - Orana Women's Refuge	\$709,998.66	\$694,545.04
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - East Corridor - Kira House	\$571,376.72	\$558,940.30
	Wooree Miya Refuge	\$619,673.69	\$606,186.05
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - East Corridor - Koolkuna Women's Refuge	\$600,802.97	\$587,726.07
North Corridor	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Lead Agency - North Corridor	\$1,027,198.41	\$1,004,840.71
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - North Corridor - Salvation Army Graceville Centre	\$757,012.78	\$740,535.85
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - North Corridor - Harmony Place	\$684,399.02	\$669,502.59
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - North Corridor - Kambarang Place	\$664,441.80	\$649,979.75

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	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - North Corridor - Stirling Women's Refuge	\$553,440.54	\$541,394.51
South Corridor	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Lead Agency - South Corridor	\$656,574.34	\$642,283.53
	Warrawee Women's Refuge	\$471,331.01	\$410,854.81
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - South Corridor - Wyn Carr House	\$762,805.86	\$746,202.85
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - South Corridor - Zonta House Refuge Association	\$794,758.57	\$777,460.08
	Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - South Corridor - Pat Thomas Memorial Community House	\$788,010.74	\$770,859.12

- 10) How much funding specifically for the lead agency role was/will be allocated to each of the 3 services for the 24/7 Emergency Response Program in**
- 2014/15
  - 2015/16

Not related to the 2014-15 Annual Report.


- 11) How much funding was/ will be received from the Federal Government National Partnership Agreement for domestic violence services in:**
- 2013/14
  - 2014/15
  - 2015/16

- Not related to the 2014-15 Annual Report.
- \$2,416,082
- Not related to the 2014-15 Annual Report.

- 12) What expenditure was / will be provided on the provision of respectful relationships education in primary and secondary schools in:**
- 2014/15
  - 2015/16

**Answer:** The respectful relationships education in primary and secondary schools is an action in the Freedom From Fear Action Plan 2015, launched on 7 September 2015. Implementation of the Action Plan will be undertaken within existing Department for Child Protection and Family Support resources.

- 13) How much funding has been allocated in 2015/16 for the trial of an integrated approach to substance misuse and domestic violence?**

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**Answer:** The trial of an integrated approach to substance misuse and family violence is an action in the Freedom From Fear Action Plan 2015, launched on 7 September 2015. Implementation of the Action Plan will be undertaken within existing Department for Child Protection and Family Support resources.

**14) How much funding has been allocated in 2015/16 to provide for the adoption and implementation of the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention?**

**Answer:** The development of National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention (the Standards) is being led by the Commonwealth Government. Adoption and implementation of the Standards is an action in the Freedom From Fear Action Plan 2015, launched on 7 September 2015. Implementation of the Action Plan will be undertaken within existing Department for Child Protection and Family Support resources.

**15) How much new funding has been allocated in 2015/16 to non-government agencies for the participation in the Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams?**

Not related to the 2014-15 Annual Report.

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