

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked:

- A1) How much funding has been allocated for programs through Kinship Connections in this (2015-16) financial year but also in the financial year that we are in (2016-17)?

Answer: The Department has engaged Kinship Connections through a contract arrangement to provide Family Mapping for Finding Relatives of Children in Care Services on an as needs basis which has been funded from existing case support funds.

The contract terms are one year plus two one-year extension options with the initial contract commencing in January 2015. The estimated contract value over the three year term is up to \$240,000.

In 2015-16, the Department spent \$31,736 on these contracted services and as at 31 October 2016, the Department has spent \$6,600 in 2016-17.

The Department also has a grant agreement with Kinship Connections to enable the organisation to develop and support a network of volunteers and Aboriginal Community Elders as well as to implement the recommendations from the '*Kinship Connections WA – A Way Forward: Monitoring Report October 2014 to September 2015*'. The terms of this agreement is \$110,000 over a 12 month period (1 June 2016 – 31 May 2017).

The Department has also directly engaged Kinship Connections to provide cultural advice and consultancy services in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

- A2) How many requests for access to Kinship Connections services to find families of children in care were received in the last financial year?

Answer: During the period **1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016**, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) submitted **nine referrals** to Kinship Connections to find families of Aboriginal children in care.

Hon Sally Talbot MLC asked:

- A3) (i) In relation to "Homelessness Services", what is the number of first strikes during this reporting year where there was either a case file already open or where you opened a case file as a result of a first strike?

(ii) What is the number of second strikes during this reporting year where there was either a case file already open or where you opened a case file as a result of a second strike?

Answer: (i) – (ii) Details about the number of strikes received by a client may be included in the individual case notes, but the Department does not systematically record this information.

A4) In relation to “Homelessness Services” and recognising that not all second strike families will be being case managed by the Department, how many of the families that you are managing at second strike go on to be evicted?

Answer: Details about the number of strikes received by a client may be included in the individual case notes, but the Department does not systematically record this information. Therefore the numbers of families that are open cases, that receive a second strike and go on to be evicted cannot be determined.

A5) In relation to misconduct allegations, what was the nature of the fraudulent and corrupt behaviour and can the Department clarify if there were eight or nine allegations?

Answer: During 2015/16 there were six allegations of theft, one allegation of fraud, and one allegation of misuse of position.

The eight cases relate to fraud allegations received during 2015/16, and the nine cases closed in 2015/16 also represent closed cases carried over from 2014/15.

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked:

A6) How many SWAs took longer than 30 days in this financial year, 2015-16?

Answer: 8,993 Safety and Wellbeing Assessments took longer than 30 days in this financial year. This represents 64 per cent of the total SWAs completed in the financial year.

There are a range of reasons for delay in finalising Safety and Wellbeing Assessments, including waiting to receive critical information from other agencies or professionals; forensic investigations being finalised by the Western Australia Police. The Department takes the necessary action to keep a child safe while the Safety and Wellbeing Assessment is underway.

A7) How many children in care in Western Australia may well be located in another state?

Answer: As at July 2016, there were 37 children in care located in another state.

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION