

Lotteries Commission —

Ms A.E. Kent, Chair.

Mr M. McGowan, Premier.

Mr R. Addis, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr J. Hubble, General Manager, Corporate Services.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. Questions must relate to the operations and budget of the off-budget authority. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point.

The Premier may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the Premier to clearly indicate what information he agrees to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 3 June 2022. If the Premier suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system.

I give the call to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I refer for page 581 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, and the \$1.5 million to implement a workplace strategy refresh at Lotterywest’s head office in Subiaco. Could the Premier advise what “workplace strategy refresh” actually means?

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is to implement Lotterywest’s accommodation strategy, which is a plan to address Lotterywest’s workplace needs for the physical, technology and people elements of the workplace. It is to expand and refit existing office space at Station Street, Subiaco, for the co-location of staff currently housed in other accommodation. If it is not undertaken, Lotterywest will not be able to effectively and efficiently meet its day-to-day human resources needs.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to page 581 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, works in progress and the grant system enhancement program that looks like it has been undergoing work for a number of years. Could the Premier explain what that program is about?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Is that the \$1.068 million?

Mr R.S. LOVE: It is \$1.468 million.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Is it the grant system renewal and enhancement program?

Mr R.S. LOVE: That is two programs. One is listed under the other on the table.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is the replacement of the Lotterywest grant management system. The existing system has been used for over a decade. It is not contemporary or flexible and it is expensive to modify. The new system can combine Lotterywest and Healthway grant functions, and a new community impact hub will be used as part of that. If the grants management system is not upgraded, there is an increased risk of obsolescence, inefficiency and the inability to fully integrate Lotterywest and Healthway grant processes. If the community impact hub is not developed, the ability to determine the benefit of Lotterywest’s granting will be affected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Is the community impact hub a measuring system for the success of the grants or the process?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will let Mr Addis explain.

Mr R. Addis: The community impact hub part of this program is essentially the showcase of what works in granting and a resource for not only Lotterywest grant staff, but also the granting community more broadly. It will include tools to help organisations to get better at focusing on the impact and measuring it.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Further to that, the Premier mentioned the integration of Lotterywest and Healthway, so will they both be on a common platform, with no difference between the two systems?

Mr R. Addis: Fundamentally, the new system is such that it can be customised to meet the different needs of different granting streams. That means Healthway will retain the flexibility to do what it needs to do, but ultimately it will be on the same platform.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I have a further question. Have there been any challenges or issues with the integration of those two platforms? They are two different organisations with two different purposes, so the grants and the process by which people access them and how they are processed are slightly different. Have there been challenges in doing the merger?

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A — Tuesday, 24 May 2022]

p44b-45a

Chair; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Shane Love

Mr R. Addis: Lots of work has gone into bringing Healthway and Lotterywest together administratively. They also retain their separate autonomous status as individual statutory entities. In terms of the granting process, until this point they have had two separate grant management IT programs to administer alongside each other. They have been progressively working to make their grant processes as consistent as possible and as consistent as makes sense, given they are different in nature to an extent. This new system, as I think I pointed to in the previous answer, will allow them to have a new, modern and pretty efficient and effective IT-based system that will improve the way that external grant proponents can engage with it. It will also provide the flexibility to customise to the needs of particular granting streams, including Healthway.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to grant system enhancement. Normally, we see in the budget documents the issues impacting the agency, but there is nothing in this particular year. In terms of the grants themselves, there was some refocusing of the grants towards a COVID response and supporting communities through that and then I think there was a bit of a catch-up phase supporting people who had missed out. Can the Premier explain roughly where Lotterywest is positioned at the moment? Is it back to business as normal with the same sorts of grants that were available pre-COVID or is it still doing that catch-up?

Mr M. McGOWAN: We did that for a period during the height of the COVID pandemic when we did not know what was going to happen. I will let Mr Addis comment on the member's question.

Mr R. Addis: The COVID relief fund was established, as the Premier indicated, in response to that initial shock and uncertainty. I think in total \$159 million was committed to the COVID relief fund, which was very well received in the community and quite effective. From about the middle of last year, we have been transitioning out of that mode and back into granting as normal. I think it would be fair to say that there is some element of pent-up demand that we are working through, but, broadly speaking, we are on track to deliver the community granting program about \$105 million this financial year, which is pretty solid. I think the number of grants in the system is getting back to a fairly normal long-term level.

The CHAIR: That completes the examination of the Lotteries Commission.

Meeting suspended from 3.57 to 4.30 pm