

Chair; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Hannah Beazley; Ms Mia Davies; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Ms Christine Tonkin; Ms Kim Giddens; Mr Peter Rundle

Division 35: Communities — Service 1, Youth —

Mr P. Lilburne, Chair.

Ms H.M. Beazley, Minister for Youth.

Mr M. Rowe, Director General.

Ms C. Irwin, Assistant Director General, Strategy and Partnerships.

Mr W. Millen, Chief Finance Officer.

Ms J. Herring, Executive Director, Commissioning and Contracting.

Ms R. Sackville-Minchin, Chief of Staff, Minister for Youth.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard and the daily proof will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with those details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 31 May 2024. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

I give the call to the Leader of the Liberal Party.

Ms L. METTAM: I refer to the line item “Youth Long-Term Housing and Support Program” under the headings “Asset Investment Program” and “Works in Progress” on page 520 of the *Budget statements*. How many young Western Australians utilised this program in the 2023–24 financial year and the 2024–25 financial year to date?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I thank the member for the question. That is not within my portfolio. It is under Minister Carey’s portfolio, so I cannot answer that.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I refer to page 525 of budget paper No 2, volume 2. Let me start with the line item “Youth Support Services and Grants”, which I am fairly sure is in the minister’s portfolio.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: That is, member.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Could the minister provide some details on how these grants are administered and a breakdown of where they have been administered? The estimated actual is \$650 000.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: That is within my portfolio, so I thank the member for asking about something that is within my portfolio. It is much appreciated.

The youth development grants program provides grants totalling \$650 000. It aims to develop youth leadership and life skills and assist young people to participate in community life. It comprises discretionary annual grant funding and arrangements. In the 2023–24 financial year and the 2024–25 financial year, a budget of \$80 000 is available for Youth Week WA grants, a budget of \$200 000 is available for youth engagement grants, and a budget of \$370 000 is available for other funding arrangements. I will just find information on where those grants have been delivered. I can go through them line by line, but it would probably take the next two or three hours of the estimates hearing. Is there anything in particular in terms of grant recipients that the member was after?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Let me start with the electorate of Central Wheatbelt.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Fair enough, too. Let me have a quick look.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am sure that the members for Vasse and Roe would be interested too.

Ms L. METTAM: We have the time.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: We do have the time. The breakdown of grants for the youth portfolio in the wheatbelt electorate was \$26 357 in the 2022–23 financial year, \$7 264 in 2023–24 as well as \$29 000 in 2022–23. The total of grants for the wheatbelt region was \$62 621.

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Ms M.J. DAVIES: Can the minister provide that to me as supplementary information or point me to where I can find it?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: For the breakdown of the grants?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Yes.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: If the member puts that on notice, I will be happy to provide it.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I can see that the minister has the list and we could get it next week by way of supplementary information as opposed to online.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Yes, I am happy to provide that.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you very much.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: To clarify the supplementary information that is to be provided, it will be all the grant recipients in the Central Wheatbelt electorate and other electorates. That information will be provided by shire and therefore region.

The CHAIR: Excuse the interruption. Minister, have you come to an agreement to provide those details to the member for Central Wheatbelt?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Absolutely. We will provide as supplementary information on all the grant recipients by shire and region.

[Supplementary Information No B14.]

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Who determines where the grants go? What is the assessment process?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: It is an application process. It goes through a panel and then via my office. I will pass to the director general to outline the machinations of that.

Mr M. Rowe: Thank you very much, minister. An internal process within the Department of Communities undertakes those assessments against the published criteria and the selection criteria. It is internal to the department. I can refer to Ms Herring to double-check whether that is correct.

Ms J. Herring: That is correct.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Is there one round or two rounds, and is it advertised or is it by invitation?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: It is advertised. Each grant has its own round. There are grants for Youth Week WA and grants for youth development. They each have their own rounds and it is advertised. It is open for a substantial period of time and it then goes through the internal application process.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Is it just one round?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: For each grant?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Are there different funding streams?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Yes.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Is there one a year for each funding stream?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I believe it is one a year. Yes, it is.

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: I also refer to the line item "Youth Support Services and Grants" on page 525 of budget paper No 2. Can the minister please advise which initiatives the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia is funded to deliver and how those initiatives are supporting young Western Australians?

[9.10 am]

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: For background, the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia—YACWA—is the peak organisation representing young people and the youth sector in Western Australia. I regularly meet with the chief executive officer, Sandy McKiernan, to discuss the priorities of the youth portfolio and, most recently, the development of the state government's new youth action plan, for which the consultation period has just finished. Communities also meets regularly to facilitate ongoing discussions on how the state government can best meet the diverse needs of young people in Western Australia. YACWA receives recurrent funding from the Department of Communities through the sector support development and advocacy services to provide support to member organisations delivering a range of community services that connect and build the capability of young people, the sector and communities. In 2023–24, YACWA received \$5 735 under this service agreement. The key elements of that service model include sector support and development, policy advice and information, and interagency collaboration.

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In addition, Communities has funded the following grant agreement with YACWA—that is, \$920 000 ex-GST over five years to YACWA to deliver the Youth Pride Network project. The term of this agreement concludes on 30 October next year. Just over \$740 000 went to YACWA in 2021–22 to administer the youth sector devolved grant funding scheme. Of this funding, \$550 000 was allocated for organisations throughout WA to deliver youth engagement programs. This included empowerment programs for Aboriginal young people and inclusion services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other young people. For 2024–25, YACWA has \$28 000 to administer focused consultations for organisations involving young people to inform on the development of our new youth action plan.

Ms C.M. TONKIN: In relation to the LGBTQIA+ youth inclusion strategy that the minister just mentioned, I refer to page 507 of budget paper No 2 and significant issues.

The CHAIR: Member, that question is on a different section.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The minister mentioned that there was funding going to YACWA. I recall when I first started as a member of Parliament, we were contemplating stop-and-search legislation, and, as a younger member of Parliament, YACWA was very swiftly on my doorstep to provide me with advice about its views on what was being proposed by our government. Can the minister advise whether there have been any discussions or interactions on this strategy or whether she intends to sit down with YACWA? I understand that an announcement will be made soon, probably as we speak, in relation to “Jack’s Law” or proposals of that nature around stop and search. I will provide some context on the issue from that debate. Younger community members raised great concerns, particularly those from communities the minister listed that may be targeted by police—not deliberately but it happens—around the impact of laws like that. I would just like the minister to reflect on the engagement that may already have occurred, given that the announcement will be made. What does the minister intend to do going forward to make sure that those views are reflected in whatever legislation we are about to get in this house to debate?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I speak to YACWA about all sorts of issues, not just within my remit as the Minister for Youth. There is often a conversation around youth justice, education and training and what have you. I have not had a specific conversation with YACWA about these new laws, which are not stop and search laws; I can understand them being euphemised in such a way, but I am very happy to talk to YACWA about that. It is not only YACWA that speaks to me about such issues. A few years ago, we established the Ministerial Youth Advisory Council. It is in a much more proactive frame to work across agencies and deliver messages from youth and how their voices should be heard across government on policy. I am also happy to discuss this new legislation with that advisory council.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The minister mentioned the youth advisory council. Can she tell me where the funding for that is in the budget? I have used “control find” on the electronic versions to find every mention of “youth” in these budgets. It is much easier than it used to be! But I could not find that.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Sure. It lives within the overall appropriation for service 1.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Can the minister advise how much funding will be provided to support the youth advisory council? Is it FTE? Is it operational funding?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Just to clarify, is the member talking about the funding to YACWA specifically or funding to the youth advisory council?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The minister mentioned the Ministerial Youth Advisory Council that was set up.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Sure. Let me find those numbers for the member. I was about to give the member the numbers for YACWA, but I will find the numbers for MYAC.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We can come back to that.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: As mentioned, it is within the general appropriation of service 1, but in terms of the cost of MYAC, the sitting fees for the MYAC members are paid for up to six general MYAC meetings annually.

Ms L. METTAM: When will the youth action plan be implemented?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: The consultation for the new youth action plan has just concluded. Some incredibly interesting results are feeding out already from that. I am just looking through the statistics. I am also pleased to let the member know that it was an incredibly wideranging, statewide consultation, and over 2 270 young people from all sorts of backgrounds participated in the process. This will build on the *Beyond 2020: WA youth action plan 2020–22*. The new action plan aims to support young people aged 10 to 25 years, which is the age frame for the youth portfolio. The consultation process finished on 29 March. The data is currently being consolidated and developed, with the aim of having it finalised before the end of the year.

Ms L. METTAM: In relation to the youth action plan, one of the issues that has been raised is the matters surrounding youth in detention. Has that informed the youth action plan at all?

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Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I have not seen the consolidated feedback from the consultation. I know from the consultation sessions that I went to, youth justice came up as a topic, so I suspect that it will be an area of concern that will come up as part of the feedback process that was recorded. However, I would say that it did not come up as one of the top five issues, which included climate change, cost of living and education and training. Those were the sorts of top issues that those 2 270 young people identified.

Youth justice is an incredibly serious issue, but it does not fall within the youth portfolio. My *modus operandi* and my aim within the youth ministry is to promote the positive attributes of our young people and enhance the incredible work that they do in our community. Youth justice is a concern but so is the lack of acknowledgement for the good work that young people do in our community.

[9.20 am]

Ms L. METTAM: Apologies if I missed this, but how was the youth action plan informed? What was the process to get feedback from youth, and what age group was looked at specifically to feed into that?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: All youth aged between 10 and 25 years were invited to and had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process, and they could submit a consultation paper if they so wished. A “consultation paper” is not as academic as it sounds. It could be written or an art, song, graphic novel or video submission. Young people who wanted to contribute to the old-hat consultation paper could do so in any way they wished. They could complete a short online survey. They could comment through social media or peer-based informal settings. They could participate in one of the school-based consultation workshops that were conducted or attend a community forum, which were held statewide.

Ms C.M. TONKIN: I refer to budget paper No 2, page 507, and the significant issues. Can the minister please advise what outcome the LGBTQIA+ strategy will promote? Why is such a strategy needed?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I know that this is an area very dear to the member’s heart, and it certainly is to mine as well, so I am very happy to be the lead minister on developing our government’s first whole-of-government inclusion strategy for our LGBTQIA+ community. As we know, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual plus people can often face discrimination, stigma and social exclusion because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This can contribute to poorer health, social economic and mental health outcomes.

In recognising this, the Cook government has committed to developing WA’s first whole-of-government strategy to drive inclusiveness for LGBTQIA+ Western Australians so they can experience the full benefits of active social and economic participation throughout all stages of their lives. Over 2023–24 to 2025–26, \$900 000 has been dedicated to the development of the strategy, which includes \$600 000 to be provided to three community organisations—Living Proud, TransFolk of WA and GLBTI Rights in Ageing, commonly known as GRAI. Each organisation will receive \$50 000 in this financial year, \$100 000 in 2024–25 and \$50 000 in 2025–26. That funding is being provided over those two years to build the capacity in the sector to support the development and implementation of the strategy. An LGBTQIA+ peak body will also be established during that process, and the budget provides \$300 000—\$150 000 over two financial years—to build organisational capacity across that sector.

Most states and territories in Australia have or are developing a strategy in this area. South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory have all identified the importance of taking a whole-of-government approach to LGBTQIA+ inclusion. With the development of a comprehensive whole-of-government strategy for Western Australia to support people who identify as LGBTQIA+, the Cook government proudly continues its commitment to equity and inclusion in WA, which underpins our government’s commitment to valuing all people who live and work in our great state.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: This might be a silly question, but why does that fall under the youth portfolio?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Because there are young LGBTQIA+ people.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Yes, but there are others as well!

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: There are absolutely others, which is a joke I have shared with GRAI—GLBTI Rights in Ageing—whose members insist that they are young at heart, so it is all fine! This is an area that I am very passionate about, so when it was put forward as an area that needed to be developed within our cabinet, I put my hand up to do that. In my capacity as minister in the portfolio of youth, I also tend to go across justice, health, mental health, education and training. It was a natural fit because a lot of work in youth is already across agencies.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There are clearly resources attached to the strategy’s development. Could the minister advise where that is in the budget and how much has been allocated within the portfolio or within the department for support to develop the strategy?

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Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: It is in service 1. There are three dedicated FTE within the Department of Communities to support the development of the strategy, and the cost of those FTE has been absorbed by Communities in its current budget.

Ms L. METTAM: I hope I can ask this question; I will give it a go. I refer to page 422, significant issues, paragraph 3, regarding the appointment of a dedicated deputy commissioner for young people.

The CHAIR: Member, which page are you on?

Ms L. METTAM: It is page 422.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I am sorry, but that falls outside my remit.

Ms L. METTAM: It refers to the youth commissioner.

The CHAIR: Member, I believe that is a Department of Justice issue.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Thank you. I know it is the youth commissioner, but it actually falls under the Attorney General.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I have a further question that goes to a question I have for a bit later. There are references to youth initiatives through all portfolios. We have just had this conversation about the LGBTQIA+ strategy falling within this portfolio. I would not have even thought to attach that to this area of the budget papers and prepare for it. There is the possibility of going through the budget and looking at all the youth initiatives, and the minister has spoken about the fact that her portfolio ranges across all of those. Perhaps the minister can explain: When we see references to the youth commissioner or youth homelessness—I can go through them; there are about 22 references in budget paper No 3—or other supporting programs in health, what is the minister's involvement when the government is developing initiatives in other portfolios? As the designated Minister for Youth, is she involved? Does the minister have sign-off on business cases and policy development? Are the resources of the department involved? We have heard that there is an amount in the budget for the Department of Communities for the initiative we were speaking about on the previous question. I am just trying to get an understanding of the delineation of roles and responsibilities in the portfolio.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Sure. Obviously, there is cabinet-level discussion about bringing a youth voice to those policy areas. The ministers who are responsible for those areas are also responsible for the consultation that they do. That is not my responsibility. As Minister for Youth, my focus areas are youth development, youth engagement, positive promotion of young people and advocating on behalf of the needs of young people. I do that at the cabinet level, but I do not take over other people's policy remits.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Sorry, I did not mean to suggest that there would be takeover, but from my experience sitting in cabinet, if there are portfolios in which there is a crossover and there is a requirement for funds, there is usually a joint cabinet submission, or at least evidence that there has been consultation ahead of it coming to cabinet, for discussion. Is there a formal process for that? Maybe I can frame it like this. Within the budget papers, it is quite difficult to find funding allocations outside of grants for the things that the minister just outlined as within her remit and responsibility. As an opposition, we are trying to understand better how they are resourced, because for some other budget estimates we have seen announcements made but then there has not been an allocation or intention of action; it has just been a nice announcement. The minister can tell me to go away and do my job—that is fine; I am a big girl! How do we find in the budget where the funding is allocated for what she just said is her role as a minister?

[9.30 am]

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: As the member pointed out, line items that are easy to delineate, like youth grants and the LGBTQIA+ strategy, are listed in the budget as such. Funding goes across different areas, so I understand the frustration of not being able to easily identify all the other activities that I have just discussed. For last year's 2023–24 budget, the Department of Communities allocated about \$672 000 ex-GST just in grants for the youth portfolio. For the whole youth portfolio, there is \$6 748 788 ex-GST, and that is to continue support for things like the 186 units within the Cadets WA program, which is listed separately; nine youth development services; two youth support program services, including Kids Helpline; and the state's peak body, the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia. Within the department, nine FTE policy staff are dedicated to the youth portfolio, and that includes the staff looking after cadets.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, minister. It has taken me four years to get that much information about the youth portfolio!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: I have a question about budget paper No 2, page 512. I have some fabulous scout and girl guide groups in my electorate. Can the minister tell me a little bit more about funding for these groups and what the funding sets out to support and achieve?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Thank you, member. I very much thank the member for that question. Cadets is a favourite thing of mine, and I am very pleased that it falls within my portfolio. As it happens, my son started Army Cadets this week, so it is at the front of conversation in our household. To give some background, Cadets WA is a youth development program that is delivered by both public and private schools. It has been operating in WA since 1996 to help young people develop a sense of community service and civic responsibility. As I just mentioned to the other member, 186 cadet units with over 9 200 cadets are involved in Cadets WA programs throughout WA. They are overseen by nearly 1 100 volunteer unit leaders and instructors. I would like to make a special note that the program provides immense benefits to many young people, in particular our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds across a range of socio-economic and geographic areas. Of those participating in cadets, approximately nine per cent are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, 10 per cent are culturally and linguistically diverse, and 14 per cent are young people with disability. The program is funded and administered by the Department of Communities in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and the Department of Education, as well as the Western Australia Police Force, Surf Life Saving WA and the Australian Defence Force.

In the 2022–23 budget, we provided \$2.2 million across the financial years 2022–23 to 2025–26, bringing the new recurrent annual funding level for the program to \$3.98 million. Importantly, last late year, Cadets WA's service agreements and memoranda of understanding with all relevant schools and host organisations were extended for two years to 31 December 2025.

I now refer to what the program delivers. Cadets participate in activities designed to develop self-confidence, knowledge, leadership and life skills to assist them in their transition to adulthood. I would also point out that it is one of the few programs that has had a proven positive benefit to kids' school attendance records.

Ms L. METTAM: Can the minister expand a bit further on the proven positive outcomes of the Cadets WA program?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Sure! The member is asking about the activities they undertake or the —

Ms L. METTAM: The school engagement.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: As I said, public and private schools participate in the program. Probably the biggest-growing sector of cadets is the Bush Rangers WA program, which has proven incredibly popular, particularly among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cadets. As I said, Cadets WA has had a very positive effect on participants' school participation and attendance. I can also tell members anecdotally from visiting all the cadets, or a lot of the cadet units—I have not seen all 186 of them, to be fair—that the feedback from cadets is incredibly positive for their self-confidence and the inclusivity within the social structures of cadets. Quite a few cadets reported to me that they feel potentially isolated at school or in other scenarios, but they are very welcome, involved and included at cadets. It is a very safe “home” for children and young people with disability, particularly for neurodivergent young people. The activities are incredibly well received by them. Would members like to know the cadets in their electorates?

Ms L. METTAM: Yes! Why not! We have the time.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Yes, you would. Excellent! We have time. In Vasse, we have the Australian Army Cadets unit in Busselton. The Cornerstone Christian College Bush Rangers are also in Vasse. In the member for Roe's electorate, he would be happy to hear that we have a few more. He has the Army Cadets in Esperance, the Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers, the Esperance Senior High School Emergency Services Cadets, the Wongutha CAPS Bush Rangers, Katanning Army Cadets, Katanning Bush Rangers. Lake Grace District High School Emergency Services Cadets, Narrogin Army Cadets and the Navy Cadets at TS *Kybra* in Bandy Creek at Esperance. In the Central Wheatbelt electorate, we have Corrigin District High School Bush Rangers, Dowerin District High School Emergency Services Cadets, Merredin Army Cadets, Mukinbudin District High School Emergency Services Cadets, Northam Army Cadets, Northam Senior High School Bush Rangers, Wongan Hills District High School Emergency Services Cadets and Wyalkatchem District High School Emergency Services Cadets.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I missed the start about the funding. The funding for cadets is not through the minister's portfolio, is it?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: The funding for cadets is through my portfolio.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is through the minister's portfolio. This is a problem that I struggled with when I was the Minister for Sport and Recreation. I have the Kellerberrin Junior Fire Brigade. The junior fire brigades could come under the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, but the juniors do not actually get a lot of funding, if any. It is very similar to cadets. It does not qualify as a sport, although, as the minister just explained, like cadets, it is a safe place for everyone. It is for all abilities and is all inclusive. It is as much about using their heads, thinking and smarts as it is about the physical nature. It falls through the cracks in avenues for funding support. I use Kellerberrin

as an example because it is a really strong unit in my electorate and one of the most active. It comes down and participates in a big jamboree somewhere in Fremantle, where they have a big competition. It is amazing. For all the reasons the minister just spoke about, cadets have lots of similarities to the junior fire brigades, but the junior fire brigades really struggle with funding. Can I put it on the minister's agenda to engage with them through her portfolio area? It is something that might be worth exploring for youth engagement, development, inclusivity and all those things that the minister just said are really positive.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I am very happy to do that, member.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will invite her to Kellerberrin, and we can meet Foxy and the team. They are amazing.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I am happy to work with the member on that and see what might be available to them.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Fabulous!

[9.40 am]

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I am advised that if some cadet units do their curriculum, for want of a better term, in such a way to provide an eight-week sports portfolio, the participants may very well qualify for KidSport vouchers. It is a juggling act for that one.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I tried, but it might have changed.

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: I am happy to work with the member on that one.

Ms L. METTAM: How does the funding work? Is it effectively a heavily subsidised cost for each child to be involved in the cadets program?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Yes, it is free for the participants. It is a state government initiative that is paid for. Ms Herring, can I get that information from you?

Ms J. HERRING: Yes, certainly. Effectively, the state government funds each of the cadet units and that enables them to have a set number of cadets per cadet unit.

Ms L. METTAM: Are the units themselves established at a grassroots level? What is the process to establish a cadet unit, understanding that every region has differing demands, as the member for North West Central has pointed to?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Member for Central Wheatbelt.

Ms L. METTAM: Sorry—Central Wheatbelt.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is a bit further north!

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: A cadet unit may come into the system in different ways. For instance, the Army and Navy cadets go through the Australian Defence Force. Others are coordinated through the Department of Communities. It depends on the area of interest they would like to do. Bush Rangers have very strong connections to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, for instance. As I pointed out in my answer before, a lot of stakeholders help coordinate cadets because they go over such a diverse development field. There are various avenues to come into the cadets program, but, usually, as all things are in the community, it is a very dedicated volunteer who is passionate about this area who will drive it and take it through the appropriate avenues.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: What interaction do the Cadets WA and Bush Rangers WA programs have with the Department of Education?

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: It happens at a departmental level, member. It is not necessarily me with the Department of Education; it is the Department of Communities with the Department of Education. I am happy to defer to the director general to explain that interagency work.

Mr M. ROWE: A couple of dedicated staff in the youth policy team are focused on supporting the cadet effort. They liaise with the Department of Education in a general sense in terms of how the scheme operates, but, obviously, a lot of the cadet program is driven out of schools. The program relies heavily on schools participating and schools wanting to stand up and support the cadets who operate in and around their locations. In a general sense, we engage with the Department of Education but we have a more direct relationship with individual schools and cadet units in the way they are funded and supported.

The appropriation was recommended.