

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ANSWERS TO 2021-22 BUDGET ESTIMATES - QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Communities

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

1. I refer to the Changing Places program and I ask:

(a) What funding is available in 2021-22 and across the forward estimates?

Answer: \$500,000 in 2021-22 and \$1.5 million in 2022-23.

(b) How will funding be distributed and prioritised under the program;

Answer: The Department of Communities is reviewing existing Changing Places locations to consider potential gaps in the network, and to determine new locations on the basis of identified need.

(c) When will funding be available under the program?

Answer: From 2021-22.

(d) Who will be eligible to access funding under the program?

Answer: Planning is underway to consider the appropriate procurement processes. The procurement will ensure individuals and communities can identify any additional need for changing places in their locations. Previously funding has been allocated to Local Government Authorities, and other State Government bodies.



Minister Don Punch MLA

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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

2. Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 535, line item- Seniors:

(a) Please provide a breakdown and description of the Elder Abuse Prevention Initiatives that are included within this line item and include the amount of funding allocated to each;

Answer:

ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Council of the Ageing WA Inc. (COTA)	To establish a Vulnerable Seniors Peak Body	\$240,000
Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre	Older Peoples Rights Service expansion. Provides legal information, advice and advocacy services to older people who are at risk of and/or experiencing abuse, from family, friends or trusted people.	\$180,000
Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre	Elder Abuse Helpline – a phone service providing support for victims on Elder Abuse	\$130,000
University of WA	Research - to design and undertake quantitative and qualitative research into elder abuse prevalence, drivers' and protective factors in WA.	\$150,000
Council of the Ageing WA Inc. (COTA)	WA Seniors Week Community Grants program.	\$50,000
TOTAL ALL GRANTS – ELDER ABUSE RELATED		\$750,000

(b) Can the Department explain the variation in funding provided across the Forward Estimates?

Answer: The budget allocation variance across forward estimates for this budget line relates to specific initiatives being delivered at different points in time in accordance with a planned program of delivery.

In the 2019-20 Budget, the State Government committed \$1.12 million for the development of elder abuse education and training packages and elder abuse awareness resources for those professions and volunteer organisations in contact with older people; and to initiate a range of inclusion, participation and education activities.

A planned program of delivery for these elder abuse prevention initiatives was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The majority of these initiatives were implemented during 2020-21, and the following to be delivered in 2021-22 and 2023-24:

- \$65,000 in 2021-22 to deliver a peer and community education program that provides information, assistance and support to older people and increases participation of older people in the community.

- This initiative was originally scheduled for delivery in early 2020-21 but was postponed due to the impact on delivery that the COVID-19 restrictions imposed.
- \$185,000 in 2023-24 for the Elder Abuse legal and advocacy service contract to increase the capacity of the Older Persons Rights service.

There is no activity for which additional funding needs to be provided in 2022-23.



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Hon Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

3. I refer to 2021-22 Budget paper 2, Volume 2, page 514, line item 34, 'Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill 2021' and I ask: Is any of this funding for accommodation?

Answer:

The funding is for Communities to undertake its obligations, as a key stakeholder agency engaged with development and planning for the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill 2021. The Department of Justice is the lead agency on the Bill.

The funding does not include accommodation, or any other aspects related to the implementation of the Bill.



Minister Don Punch MLA

Minister's initials
