

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Tuesday, 20 July 2010

Department for Communities

Question No 1: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked – In reference to the Budget Statements, Budget Paper No.2 Volume 3, page 719, Significant Issues Impacting the Agency:

- 1.1 *What is the Department doing to promote the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities model?*
- 1.2 *How is the Department building seniors participation and an active ageing lifestyle?*
- 1.3 *How does the Department plan to implement the joint goals and strategies from the State and Community Volunteering Strategy 2010-14?*
- 1.4 *Has any money been allocated to creating an accessible, integrated data set of social wellbeing indicators in WA?*

Answers

1.1 Over several years, the Department for Communities(DFC) has worked with a number of Local Government Authorities, supporting them to undertake the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Cities planning process (AFC) involving local community members. These include the Cities of Melville, Rockingham, Mandurah and the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. These local governments have now successfully integrated the outcomes into their strategic planning processes.

Recently DFC announced funding for a further 23 local government authorities to undertake community planning using the AFC model. Support and mentoring will be provided by DFC. Progressively more work will also take place with state government agencies to incorporate age friendly planning within their planning processes.

1.2 The Department supports seniors' participation and an active lifestyle by:

- Co-ordinating Seniors Week and supporting 'Have a Go day' and other programs run by the Seniors Recreation Council including the publication "Add Life to Your Years"
- Encouraging and profiling the benefits of an active lifestyle through the Seniors Awards which for 2010 will include the following categories; community awards for voluntary work; intergenerational award for working with children and young people under the age of 25; Beyondblue Inspirational award for Wellbeing; and, awards for assisting seniors to lead full and satisfying lives.
- Freeing up some personal finances for social and recreational pursuits through the provision of Seniors Card concessions and payments and private sector discounts
- Actively implementing the Age Friendly Cities model to ensure social and physical planning takes place that assists and encourages seniors to be involved in community life.
- Providing on-going funding to the QE 11 Seniors Resource Centre in Geraldton. The centre aims to enhance the social, physical and emotional wellbeing of seniors.

- Providing information to seniors through the Seniors Telephone Information Service and the Volunteer Speakers Program.

1.3 The Volunteering State and Community Strategy will be accompanied by an on-line Action Plan. All state government departments, local governments, private sector and community organisations will be invited to register their policies, programs and initiatives, under the agreed goals and strategies of the Strategy, in the Action Plan.

The Department provides funding and support to Volunteering WA and sixteen Volunteer Resource Centres for the purpose of expanding and enhancing the quality of support for volunteers and volunteering in WA.

1.4 While funding has not been specifically allocated to developing social wellbeing indicators by the Department for Communities, exploratory work will be done looking into how our existing indicator sets could be presented as a broader wellbeing indicator framework. The Department for Communities currently has four indicator data sets - the Women's Report Card (updated in 2009); Indigenous Women's Report Card (currently being reviewed); Wellbeing Indicators for Children and Youth (work has commenced on updating this indicator data set); and Seniors Active Ageing Indicators (work has commenced on updating this indicator data set). When the updating of the indicator data sets are finalised they will be freely available to the community.

In addition to the social indicator data sets, the Department for Communities has also produced a series of social data maps for Children 0 to 4 and Children 5 to 14. The Department will be updating these social maps in 2010 - 11 and begin work to produce social data maps for other areas of interest.

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Question No 2: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked – In reference to the Budget Statements, Budget Paper No.2 Volume 3, page 724, Details of controlled Grants and Subsidies:

- 2.1 *In 2009-10 the Department budgeted \$248,000 for Christmas Island. Will the Minister please explain why the Department did not actually allocate any funds last year or this year?*
- 2.2 *Will the Minister please explain why \$16,152,000 was allocated to Redress Western Australia in 2009-10 and \$68,538,000 is allocated for this year but only \$4,452 is estimated for 2011-12?*

Answer:

2.1 In 2010, funding for Christmas Island was transferred from 'Grants and Subsidies' to 'Supplies and Services'. A total of \$279,352 has been allocated to Christmas Island for 2010-11.

2.2 The majority of Redress applicants will be paid in this financial year. The allocation for 2011-12 allows for a small number of payments where there are issues with locating applicants etc and the scheme wind up costs.

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Question No 3: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked – In reference to the Budget Statements, Budget Paper No.2 Volume 3, page 727, Agency Special Purpose Account Details:

3.1 Will the Minister please detail what the Western Australian Family Foundation Special Purpose Account has done to develop, implement, and administer initiatives and activities regarding the family and community?

Answer:

3.1 In 2009-10, \$270,527 was provided to support the following organisations:

National Association of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	2009 Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect	\$27,727
Women's Legal Referral Service	Contribution toward cost of delivering service	\$21,500.00
Waratah Support Centre (Inc)	Contribution toward cost of delivering Children's Domestic Violence Counselling Service	\$35,000.00
Western Australian Association of Toy Libraries	Development of the Organisation	\$17,500.00
Learning Centre Link Inc	2010 State Conference	\$5,000.00
Ethnic Communities Council of WA	To support ten community women and volunteers to participate on the 2010 International Women's Day Celebrations Forum	\$300.00
WACOSS	Contribution toward 2010 WACOSS State Conference 'Gearing for Change'.	\$20,000.00
Regional Achievement and Community Awards	Naming Rights Sponsor - 2010 Regional Achievement and Community Awards	\$15,500.00
Therapypocus	2010 Help a Child Grow Art Competition	\$6,000.00
National Foundation for Australian Women	Women in the Western Australian Goldfields on line exhibitions	\$15,000.00
Carers Association of WA	Young Carers Project	\$77,000.00
Department of Sport and Recreation	Narrogin Youth and Family Project	\$30 000.00

An additional \$77 000 has been committed, but not yet expended, for the following projects:

Warringarri 'Just Chilling' Child and Youth Centre	Kununurra Youth Facility	\$62 000.00
Barnardos Australia – Mother of the Year 2010	2010 Mother of the Year Award	\$15,000.00

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Question No 4: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked – In reference to the Budget Statements, Budget Paper No.2 Volume 3, page 728, Net Appropriation Determination:

4.1 Will the Minister please explain what “Provision of Services to the Commonwealth in Respect of Indian Ocean Territories” does?

Answer:

The *Christmas Island Act 1958* enables the Commonwealth of Australia to enter into arrangements with the Western Australian Government for the effective application and administration of laws in force in the Indian Ocean Territories. A Service Delivery Agreement was negotiated between the Department for Communities and the Commonwealth of Australia’s Attorney General’s Department for the provision of services to the Indian Ocean Territories in June 2008. These include

- Recurrent funding - for a community neighbourhood centre and a volunteer resource centre
- Grant funding – for one off projects
- Child care licensing activities
- Professional support and training
- Service delivery support costs (eg Department for Communities staff wages, airfares etc).