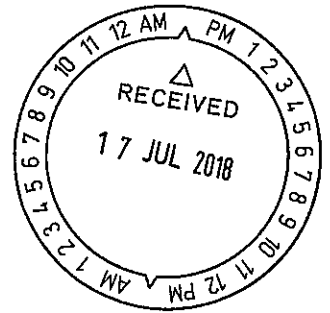


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25/07/18



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:

- 1) Please provide data that reflects the quantum of children in care at any one time, as much as possible:
Answer:

On 30 June 2017 there were 4,795 children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

On 31 May 2018 there were 4,989 children in the care of the CEO.

The number of children in the care of the CEO on any particular date is impacted by the number of children entering care and the number of children leaving care.

Between 1 July 2017 and 31 May 2018, 870 children entered into the care of the CEO. During the same period, 605 children left the care of the CEO.

Of the children who left the care of the CEO between 1 July 2017 and 31 May 2018:

- 87 children had been in care for less than 30 days;
- 169 children had been in care between 31 days and two years;
- 171 children had been in care between two and five years; and
- 178 children had been in care for more than five years.

Tjorn Sibma

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) Budget paper No 2, volume 2, page 420 and the itemised list of 23 services. Under which of those 10 service items are budgets needed to be prioritised to action the West Pilbara plan?

Answer:

All 10 service items, where relevant, will be accessed on a needs basis to action the West Pilbara plan.

AMGAL-

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) How many staff have been allocated from the Department of Communities to action the West Pilbara plan?

Answer:

As at 30 June 2018, the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) allocation for child protection and family support services in the Pilbara district for the Department of Communities was 112.15 FTE. These staff support investigations across the region, including Operation Fledermaus.

This allocation includes seven (7) FTE established specifically for the Pilbara Joint Response Team to support the victims and families identified through Operation Fledermaus. Five (5) of these positions are co-located with WA Police, as well as a child protection worker based at Roebourne District High School one day a week to work alongside school staff.

For the West Pilbara Plan, which is about the long-term, community-led response to the underlying causes of child sex abuse, the Department of Communities has appointed a Level 9 Director who has three direct reports, utilises staff from across the region, accesses support and specialist services from metropolitan divisions, and coordinates the multiple government and non-government agencies that are leading actions in the plan.

NMGal -

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) At the briefing at which the Director General attended with the Minister for Child Protection, did the Minister seek an assurance that none of the 184 victims of child sex offences in Roebourne are residing with a person charged or convicted with one or more child sex offences?

Answer:

Since the Department of Communities came into existence on 1 July 2017, the Director General and senior officers from the Department of Communities have regularly briefed the Minister for Child Protection on:

- Operation Fledermaus;
- the immediate response to Operation Fledermaus; and
- the longer-term strategies in the West Pilbara trauma response plan to address the underlying causes of child sex abuse and help the community rebuild.

Prior to 1 July 2017, the former Director General and senior officers from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support briefed the Minister for Child Protection on Operational Fledermaus.

Prior to 11 March 2017, the former Director General and senior officers briefed the former Minister for Child Protection, Hon Andrea Mitchell MLA, on Operation Fledermaus.

The Minister for Child Protection has also discussed Operation Fledermaus and the West Pilbara trauma response plan in Roebourne on several occasions in the past 12 months with Aboriginal elders, child protection workers, police, the local shire and service delivery agencies.

Based on these visits and briefings, the Minister for Child Protection is confident that Department of Communities staff that are providing child protection services in the Pilbara are doing everything in their power to ensure that victims are safe and supported.

The Department of Communities advises that based on the current information, that there are no registered or charged adult offenders living or having regular contact with children associated with Operation Fledermaus.



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) Has the Director General briefed any other Minister on the West Pilbara plan?

Answer:

The Director General has briefed the Premier on the West Pilbara plan. Other Ministers were briefed on the plan as part of the Cabinet process.

NMG

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) In relation to page 416, "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" and the first dot regarding the transition of youth justice from Corrective Services to the Department of Communities. The answers to the questions in Parliament I have been getting is that it is still on track to be moved over, but is it intended to:
 - a) Be in Child Protection/Communities; or
 - b) is it intended to operate as a separate agency?
 - c) If so, what is the timeframe for when that will be transferred?

Answer (a – c):

It would not operate as a separate agency, but be integrated into the new structure of the Department of Communities that came into effect on 1 July 2018.

No final date for transfer has been set as the State Government is still considering the legislative and operational changes required to effect the move.

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Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) Please list the non-government organisations that are involved in Target 120

Answer:

During the planning of Target 120, the Department of Communities consulted a number of non-government organisations including the

- Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia;
- Social Reinvestment Western Australia (an Aboriginal-led collective of 17 non-government organisations);
- Western Australia Council of Social Service; and
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia.

In the operational phases of Target 120, the Department of Communities will involve non-government organisations on a location-by-location basis, with an emphasis on current service providers in the geographic area, who can meet the needs of the target cohort.

For example, in the initial Target 120 locations of Armadale and Bunbury, the Department of Communities is engaging existing service providers including, but not limited to, Breakaway Aboriginal Corporation, Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation, Save the Children Australia, Southwest Aboriginal Medical Service, and the WA Primary Health Alliance.

AMG -

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) I refer to page 424 and point 3, "Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services". Please provide a breakdown of the programs and the services provided for under this line item for:
- a) 2016–17;

Answer:

Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services for 2016-17 include:

- Best Beginnings;
- Family Support Case Costs;
- Indigenous Families Program;
- Indigenous Healing Services;
- Intensive Family Support Services;
- Intensive Family Support - Family Reunification Services;
- Intensive Family Support - Tertiary Family Preservation;
- Kalgoorlie Earlier Intervention;
- Responsible Parenting Services;
- Secondary Family Support Hubs;
- Secondary Family Support Network;
- Secondary Family Support - Prevent Care and Protection;
- Services for Young People;
- Strong Families;
- Youth Counselling; and
- Corporate Support Services.

- b) 2017–18; and

Answer:

Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services for 2017-18 include:

- Aboriginal In Home Support Services;
- Best Beginnings;
- District Structural Review Support;
- Earlier Intervention Family Support;
- Family Support Case Costs;
- Family Support Network;
- Indigenous Families Program;
- Indigenous Healing Services;
- Intensive Family Support Services;
- Intensive Family Support - Family Reunification Services;
- Intensive Family Support - Tertiary Family Preservation;

- Responsible Parenting Services;
- Secondary Family Support - Prevent Care and Protection;
- Services for Young People;
- Strong Families Initiative Kalumburu;
- Target 120;
- Youth Counselling; and
- Corporate Support Services.

c) those budgeted for 2018–19?

Answer:

Earlier Intervention and Family Support Services for 2018-19 include:

- Aboriginal In Home Support Services;
- Earlier Intervention Family Support;
- Early Intervention Family Support Strategy;
- Family Support Case Costs;
- Family Support Network;
- Indigenous Families Program;
- Indigenous Healing Services;
- Intensive Family Support Services;
- Intensive Family Support - Family Reunification Services;
- Intensive Family Support - Tertiary Family Preservation;
- Secondary Family Support - Prevent Care and Protection;
- Services for Young People;
- Target 120;
- Youth Counselling; and
- Corporate Support Services.

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) I would like to know what has happened particularly over the previous year, this year, and in the forward estimates for the Best Beginnings program, Strong Families and the responsible parenting services:

Answer:

Responsible Parenting Services (RPS) encompasses two intensive parenting programs, Parent Support (for parents of older children and young people) and Best Beginnings (for parents of infants). The former Department for Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS) secured Royalties for Regions funding to expand the program across regional areas however, this was withdrawn in 2016-17 by the then Minister for Regional Development.

Due to the reduction of funding and the limited likelihood of continuation funding for RPS through the consolidated fund, DCPFS re-designed its State-wide Responsible Parenting Service Delivery model.

The only way to sustain State-wide service delivery of RPS was to reduce service delivery capacity across all of DCPFS' districts. Whilst DCPFS initially planned to transition to a redesigned service delivery model over two years, this was achieved sooner than expected with the implementation of Intensive Family Support Teams which became operational on 1 July 2017.

Intensive Family Support Teams are operating across all Department of Communities (Communities) Child Protection and Family Support districts. They are vital in working intensively with families to provide supports that address their specific needs and build their capacity to better manage crisis and prevent contact with the statutory child protection system.

In 2016-17, in response to the increasing over-representation of Aboriginal children in care and the implementation of the Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy (the Strategy) DCPFS undertook a review of its services and refocused its efforts to better support Aboriginal families to safely care for their children. As a result of this, Strong Families ceased operating from 31 January 2017.

Communities established specialised positions in every district in the State, focussed on providing intensive family support directly to Aboriginal children, families and communities where there is greatest need. These Aboriginal Intensive Family Support workers are located within the Intensive Family Support Teams. They work closely with other family support workers such as Parent Support workers, Best Beginnings Plus workers, Parent visitors and other child protection workers with a focus on preventing children from entering out-of-home care and supporting families and communities to keep children safe and able to grow up strong in culture and country.

These positions are quarantined for Aboriginal people under Section 50d of the *Equal Employment Opportunity Act 1984*, which supports service provision for Aboriginal people, designed and delivered by, and in partnership with Aboriginal people.

As part of the Strategy, the Best Beginnings program was revised and realigned to work with the most vulnerable children and families, particularly Aboriginal families, to build family capacity and prevent the need for children to enter out-of-home care. The Best Beginnings Plus (BB Plus) program is targeted at expectant parents or parents with a baby less than 12 months whose child is at significant risk of child neglect and poor life outcomes. Families eligible for BB Plus are open child protection cases and work with BB Plus workers as part of each district's Intensive Family Support Team.

The Parent Support program is still being provided by either a dedicated Parent Support worker or other district child protection workers who have been trained to provide this important program.

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Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) On page 424, point 3 of the Budget Statements, the note states the numbers of clients for the 2016–17 actual, the 2017–18 budget, 2017–18 estimated actual and 2018–19 budget target. Why is the 2017–18 estimated actual so much lower than the budget?

Answer:

The 2017-18 number of early intervention and family support cases is estimated to be lower than the 2017-18 budget, primarily due to a decrease in the number of Parent Support and Best Beginnings Plus cases in 2017-18.

This decrease is associated with the changes to the Responsible Parenting Service Delivery model and the implementation phase of the new Intensive Family Support Teams which became operational from 1 July 2017.

None

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) On page 427, "Explanation of Significant Movements", and the notes at point 1. Why has the Enhanced Transition to School program been discontinued?

Answer:

- The Enhanced Transition to School program is funded by the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.
- The current agreement expires on 31 December 2018.
- The Australian Government has provided a draft copy of an extension to the National Partnership for 2019.
- The draft copy of the National Partnership is currently being reviewed by the Department of Education.
- As the National Partnership was not in place at the time of preparing these Budget papers, it could not be included.



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) On page 440:
 a) Please provide a list of those grants plus the amounts associated with them, to table; and
 Answer:

A list of the Other Grants within the Child Protection and Family Support Portfolio is provided at Table 1 and can be tabled.

- b) In regards to grants made to individuals, please provide an idea of the sorts of grants that individuals would ordinarily receive?

Answer:

Individuals may be eligible for two sets of grants, Parent Support and Best Beginnings, shown in Table 1. Parent Support and Best Beginnings are grants that are paid to individuals with infants or unborn babies that are at risk of neglect and/or abuse. As well as this, these grants support individuals with children that are experiencing difficulties in managing their behaviour. Parent Support and Best Beginnings are a means for them to access a range of external services, including health and community services.

Table 1

	2016-17 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Budget \$'000	2017-18 Estimated Actual \$'000	2018-19 Budget Estimate \$'000	2019-20 Forward Estimate \$'000	2020-21 Forward Estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward Estimate \$'000
Children's Honorariums (ASAS)	-	115	115	115	115	115	115
Contribution for Children Wellbeing Monitoring Survey 2018-19	-	-	-	70	-	-	-
Family Crisis Program	291	285	285	285	285	285	285
Grants – Other (ANROWS)	-	186	186	186	186	186	186
Kalgoorlie Earlier Intervention and Family	-	75	75	75	-	-	-
Mobile Clinic Outreach team (MCOT)	706	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parent Support and Best Beginnings	144	200	200	150	150	150	150
Private Bodies	519	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women's Grants	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,675	861	861	881	736	736	736

Xamon

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Peter Collier asked:

- 1) Please provide:
- a) the total number of working with children checks over those five years; and
 Answer:
 Please see below table 1.
- b) also the number of applications that were refused.
 Answer:
 Please see below table 1.

Table 1

Period	Issued (during the Identified Period)		Current (as at end of Period)	
	New Cards Issued	Cards Refused (Issued Negative Notices)	Current Cards	Cards Refused (Negative Notices)
2017/2018 (to end of May)	116,344	152	361,722	1,016
2016/2017	122,503	157	346,401	887
2015/2016	122,535	167	331,668	741
2014/2015	111,461	132	320,801	577
2013/2014	106,160	69	307,553	448

Note:

A 'card' is defined as an Assessment Notice
 A 'refused card' is defined as a Negative Notice
 Refused cards do not include applications rejected or withdrawn.
 The "Issued" totals forms part of the "Current" totals

None -

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Diane Evers asked:

- 1) a) Please provide a breakdown of the regional reform fund; and

Answer:

A breakdown of the Regional Reform Fund within the Income Statement is as follows:

	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000	Total \$'000
Expenses				
Supplies and services	2,000	25,000	25,000	52,000
Income				
Grants and subsidies	2,000	25,000	25,000	52,000

- b) Exactly where it shows up in the income statement.

Answer:

The Regional Reform Fund payments show up in Supplies and Services, under Expenses, and Grants and Subsidies, under Income, in the Income Statement.

None -

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:

1) I would like to understand the breakdown of the \$20 million allocation across the estimates as it appears on page 415. Can I get a sense, please, of what the money is actually funding and how much of it is dedicated to the creation of this bespoke database?

Answer:

The 2018-19 State Budget \$20 million allocation is to implement Target 120 across a number of sites over the four-year forward estimates. None of this money is dedicated to the database creation, although there is funding allocated for ongoing data analysis and program evaluation.

The sites of Bunbury and Armadale have been identified for the initial rollout. The Department is finalising the program funding model which will vary for regional and metropolitan locations. Early modelling considered an annual budget of between \$550,000 and \$700,000 per annum per site based on comparable programs. This is to support a mix of Full Time Equivalent salaries and service contracts with existing providers. Final funding levels for sites will depend on the existing services in each region and the capacity of the Department's operational workforce.

The funding to create the database came from the \$600,000 allocated to "Target 120 Program Development" in the 2017-18 State Budget (Budget Paper No. 2, page 236).



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:

- 1) In relation to page 417, second point, the calculation of the social return on investment or spending—
 - a) Is the government of the disposition to make public that information, when it has aggregated enough data to be useful?

Answer:

The model to calculate social return on investment is yet to be finalised. As a result, the Department of Communities cannot yet advise whether the output can be made public.

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Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) In relation to Budget paper No 2, volume 2 on page 425; please provide a list of the job titles for the 517 FTEs.

Answer:

Direct positions relating to the Child Protection Assessments and Investigations service are as follows:

- Aboriginal Practice Leader
- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Officer
- Assistant Director - Crisis Care
- Business Manager
- Case Support Officer
- Child Protection Worker
- Clerical Officer
- Director Policy - Child Protection and Children in Care
- District Director
- Field Worker
- Junior Legal Officer
- Legal Clerk
- Legal Officer
- Manager
- Manager Aboriginal Policy
- Managing Law Clerk
- Policy and Planning Officer
- Policy and Program Officer
- Practice Director - Legal Services
- Principal Education Officer
- Program Coordinator Aboriginal Services
- Project Legal Officer
- Project Officer - Casework Practice Manual
- Senior Child Protection Worker
- Senior Community Child Protection Worker
- Senior Consultant Aboriginal Policy
- Senior Field Worker
- Senior Legal Clerk
- Senior Legal Officer
- Senior Operational Policy Officer
- Senior Policy and Engagement Officer
- Senior Policy and Program Officer
- Senior Practice Development Officer
- Team Leader



There is also an allocation of indirect corporate overhead positions included.

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) Have the number of concerns reported to the department requiring assessment reduced in the past year?

Answer:

There were 19,758 notifications for children during 2016-17.

During the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 May 2018 there were 18,117 notifications.

Any increase or decrease in the number of notifications from 2016-17 will be available in due course as part of 2017-18 annual reporting.

NMG

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Nick Goiran asked:

- 1) On page 425, in regards to the 24 FTE in the central intake system, are these 24 FTE part of the 517 FTE staff?

Answer:

Yes.

NMG

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) On page 443, line 12, "Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors", how many unaccompanied humanitarian minors are currently in Western Australia in 2016-17?

Answer:

During 2016-17, there were six Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NMG' or similar, located at the bottom center of the page.

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) On page 421, what is the longest that a child in the care of the Chief Executive Officer has gone without a comprehensive care plan, in the last year?

Answer:

As at 30 May 2018, 588 days is the longest period a child in the care of the Chief Executive Officer has not had a care plan reviewed.

The existing care plan for this young person was due for review in October 2016. The young person had four approved care plans recorded since 2013.

Since being identified in March, this care plan is being progressed as a priority and is expected to be completed by July 2018.

While the care plan was not finalised in the required timeframe, the case file for this young person shows evidence of active ongoing case management and planning activities including the completion of the Needs Assessment Tool in December 2016 and in February 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NMG' followed by a flourish.

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Supplementary Question

Department of Communities

Hon Alison Xamon asked:

- 1) How many care plans were challenged by family members or advocates in 2016-17 and the 2017-18 year to date?

Answer:

2016-17

- 30 applications received
- 7 hearings held

2017-18 (as at 27 June 2018)

- 23 applications received
- 7 hearings held

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