

## ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Monday, 8 December 2014

#### Disability Services Commission

*Hon Alana Clohesy asked:*

1. *With reference to page 14 of the Annual Report – ‘A look at the year ahead’ – what will the Department’s efficiency dividend be in 2015?*

a) *How will the department make the savings?*

The Disability Services Commission’s 1% efficiency dividend in 2014/15 is \$5.1 million. These savings will be achieved through efficiencies from the restructuring of the Commission’s operations in line with State and national disability reform agenda.

b) *Is there a plan?*

The Commission has developed an overarching strategy for achieving the savings which is being implemented across the organisation.

c) *Can it be tabled?*

There is no single project plan that describes the strategy; rather, it is captured in meeting records and other operational documents.

d) *Will any staffing positions be lost?*

Yes. The restructuring of the Commission’s operations will result in a reduction in staffing levels across the Commission.

2. *With reference to page 13 of the Annual Report, please provide an update on the status of the accommodation services transition?*

The Accommodation Services transition is progressing well with a total of 17 houses (spread across three transition groups) now part of the transition process. Of these 17 houses:

- people residing at two houses have completed their transition and now have supports and services delivered by non government organisations,
- people residing at five houses have selected their future service provider and are undertaking planning and preparation for transition, and
- people residing at the remaining ten houses have elected to remain in the same house with the same residents and are working to select their future service provider.

A fourth transition group will likely commence in the first quarter of 2015.

3. *With reference to page 81 of the Annual Report – Accommodation Support, please detail the workforce planning for the Disability Justice Centre, specifically:*

a) *The FTE staff allocation for the centre?*

The Centre will have an allocated FTE of 31 when fully operational.

b) *Whether these workers will be directly employed by the Commission or by a non-government or private provider?*

Staff at the Centre will be directly employed by the Disability Services Commission.

c) *If not employed by government, which non-government service provider?*

Not applicable

d) *The job titles of the staff to be employed at the Centre?*

The following positions will be employed at the Centre:

- Disability Justice Centre Manager
- Disability Justice Centre Coordinator (2 FTE)
- Business Support Coordinator (2 FTE)
- Disability Justice Officer (22 FTE)
- Disability Justice Clinician (3 FTE) – disciplines to include Psychology, Social Work, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy
- Aboriginal Liaison Officer

e) *The qualifications of the staff to be employed at the Centre?*

Qualifications required for the above positions are as follows:

- Disability Justice Centre Manager:
  - Relevant tertiary degree (desirable)
- Disability Justice Centre Coordinator:
  - Tertiary qualification in relevant discipline (desirable)
- Disability Justice Officer:
  - Certificate III in Disability or other human service discipline, or progress towards same.
  - Disability Justice Officers will also be required to complete Certificate IV in Disability within two years of commencement. Training will be provided by the Commission.
- Behaviour Support Service Team Leader and Disability Justice Clinician  
Qualification dependent on the discipline:
  - Tertiary degree qualification in Social Work AND eligible for Ordinary Membership with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW);
  - Tertiary degree qualification in Speech Pathology AND eligible for Practising Membership with Speech Pathology Australia (SPA);
  - Tertiary qualification in Occupational Therapy or equivalent qualification approved by the Occupational Therapists Board of Australia AND eligible for General Registration on the register of Occupational Therapists with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA); or
  - Masters Degree in Psychology or equivalent qualification approved by the Psychology Board of Australia AND 'General Registration' on the register of Psychologists AND working towards endorsement with AHPRA in one of the following approved areas of practice: Clinical, Forensic, Educational and Developmental or Counselling.

