

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE AND ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Disability Services Commission

Hon Stephen Dawson asked:

1) In regard to respite I ask:

- (a) What is the detail of all respite funding categories offered by the Disability Services Commission (the Commission);

Answer: Respite is provided through a range of activities including day options, recreation, camps, in-home support, out-of-home breaks and learning and life skills development activities. It is no longer provided through, or categorised by, programs.

- (b) For each category in (a) what changes were made in 2015/16

Answer: There have been no changes to the activities for which an individual may choose to use their funding. When a person with disability develops their individual plan, they identify their needs and goals. Strategies/activities are designed to meet the needs and achieve the identified goals and, where required, reasonable and necessary funds are allocated to deliver the activities.

- (c) For each category in (a) what changes will be made in 2016/17

Answer: No changes will be made in 2016/17.

- (d) For each category in (a) what changes have been made in regard to eligibility and use of the funding

Answer: Outside the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial sites there have been no changes to eligibility. In the NDIS trial sites, people with psychosocial disability are also eligible. Funds can be allocated to reasonable and necessary supports and services applicable to a person's disability and in line with their individual plan. In the WA NDIS trial sites services and funding must align with the relevant Support Cluster and Price Framework. Outside the trial sites services and funding should align with the Commission's Individual Funding Policy.

- (e) For each category in (a) how many clients accessed funding in 2015/16

Answer: Respite is not defined by a funding category, hence the number of clients who use funds for respite purposes is not available.

- (f) For each category in (a) how many clients are anticipated to access funding in 2016/17

Answer: Not applicable; see (e) above.

2) I refer to non-government organisations who receive funding from the Disability Services Commission and ask:

(a) Which organisations will receive less funding in 2016-2017 than they received in 2015-2016?

Answer: Please see table in (b)

(b) For each organisation receiving less funding how much funding did they receive in 2015-2016 and how much will they receive in 2016-2017?

Answer: The total funding received by an organisation in any given year is a combination of block funding and individualised funding. Block funded services include services such as respite, recreation and brokerage for family support which are accessed on an as needs basis.

Individualised funding is allocated following individual planning to purchase the supports and services to meet a person's unique needs and goals.

The amount of funding an organisation receives in any given year varies, depending on the number of people choosing that organisation to provide their service and whether or not they choose to remain with that service. People with disability have choice and control over their services and funding, as well as portability to move between organisations; hence, the overall level of funding an organisation receives each year is fluid. See table for figures as at June 2016.

Agency	Recurrent 2015/16	Recurrent 2016/17	Difference
Access To Leisure and Sport Inc.	\$358,888	\$354,483	-4,405
Advocacy South West Inc. ⁱ	\$71,652	\$0	-71,652
Baptistcare Inc.	\$11,285,107	\$11,250,895	-34,212
Blind Citizens WA Inc. ⁱ	\$15,323	\$0	-15,323
Catholic Archdiocese of Perth Personal Advocacy Service ⁱ	\$105,920	\$0	-105,920
City of Canning	\$1,043,527	\$927,612	-115,915
Community Living Association Inc.	\$10,508,619	\$10,339,053	-169,566
Elba Inc.	\$4,547,529	\$4,519,099	-28,430
Headwest Brain Injury Association of WA Inc ⁱ	\$215,481	\$0	-215,481
Identitywa	\$23,217,847	\$22,541,502	-676,345
Intework Inc.	\$9,123,738	\$9,114,343	-9,395
Kira Inc.	\$2,513,521	\$2,508,824	-4,697
Lifeplan Recreation & Leisure Association Inc.	\$1,266,917	\$1,240,971	-25,946
Midwest Community Living Association Inc.	\$2,390,268	\$2,382,238	-8,030
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia Inc.	\$10,936,235	\$10,771,884	-164,351
Richmond Wellbeing Inc.	\$322,814	\$281,306	-41,508
Rise Network Inc.	\$10,136,746	\$10,082,144	-54,602
Southern Cross Care WA Inc.	\$47,124	\$44,952	-2,172

Spine & Limb Foundation Inc.	\$1,694,035	\$1,593,946	-100,089
Strive Warren Blackwood Inc. ⁱⁱ	\$141,554	\$113,094	-28,460
Valued Independent People (Inc)	\$5,609,079	\$5,381,876	-227,203
We Can Community Services Pty Ltd ⁱⁱ	\$1,967,263	\$0	-1,967,263
Wheatbelt Individual and Family Support Association Incorporated	\$1,711,601	\$1,692,713	-18,888
Total	\$99,230,788	\$95,140,935	-4,089,853

- i. In 2015/16 reforms occurred in the provision of advocacy services with \$2 million per annum directed to individual advocacy through a tender. This is an increase of \$348,000 per annum (2014/15 budget - \$1.652 million). Advocacy South West Inc. is now in partnership with People with Disability WA Inc. and Headwest Brain Injury Association of WA Inc. and Explorability to provide individual advocacy services.
- ii. Strive Warren Blackwood Inc. amalgamated with Enable South West Inc. in early 2015/16. With the retirement of the Director, We Can Community Services Pty Ltd wound up the organisation and ceased providing services.

For the remaining organisations the difference in funding is due to portability, which enables people with disability to choose to change their service provider; hence, their funding package moves to the new provider.

- 3) The 15/16 budget total appropriations for this financial year was listed as \$718,830 million. The 16/17 budget papers detail the estimated actual for 15/16 as \$696,427 million, an underspend of \$22,403 million. What is the reason and breakdown of the savings made?

Answer: The reduction between the 2015/16 Budget appropriation and 2015/16 Estimated Actual is due to the items listed in the table below.

#	Item	Amount (\$m)
i)	One-off savings voluntarily returned by the Commission to the Consolidated Account, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savings estimated as a result of the transfer of some of the Disability Services Commission's direct services (accommodation and early intervention) to alternative non-government service providers. Additional revenue realised due to the settlement of compensation claims by people who have accessed Commission-funded services. Reduction in Workers Compensation premiums as a result of good performance in Occupational Safety and Health and injury management claims. 	\$7.2m (\$4.2m) (\$2m) (\$1m)
ii)	Reduction in payments under the Non-Government Human Services Sector Indexation policy, updated to reflect lower forecast indexation rates.	\$6.116m
iii)	Reduction in appropriation associated with the Commission cashing-out additional services in the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Perth Hills trial site, with the associated funding paid directly to the NDIA by the Department of Treasury.	\$6.905m
iv)	Reduction in spending on salaries, reflecting individuals who have left the public sector workforce under a targeted voluntary separation scheme.	\$1.968m
v)	Reduction in spending associated with the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme in the WA National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial sites, with this function and funding returned to the Department of Transport.	\$0.214m
	Total	\$22.403m

- 4) The estimated funding required for Independent Living support expended was below the budgeted figure. How and why were savings made?

Answer: Estimated funding for Independent Living Support was affected by savings measures outlined in Question 3 above. A proportional adjustment reflecting relevant measures was made across all seven of the Commission's services. This adjustment utilised a prorate of the 2014/15 actual allocation of services as the basis for allocating savings measures.

- 5) What funding was allocated in the 15/16 budget for Continence Management and Support and what was the value of funding spent on Continence Management and Support in 15/16?

Answer: \$ 4,125,401 was allocated for Continence Management and Support for 2015/16 which includes base and one-off funding to meet demand.

\$ 3,652,869 was spent on Continence Management and Support in the first three quarters of 2015/16. Figures for the full year will be available after the end of financial year.

- 6) What funding is allocated in the 16/17 budget for Continence Management and Support?

Answer: Base funding totalling \$3,123,401 has been allocated for Continence Management and Support for 2016/17 with additional one-off funding to be allocated to meet demand, up to 2015/16 level.