

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Digital Government

Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

1) I refer to page 135 of Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1 that says 'the 2022-23 Budget is focussed on the Government's continuing response to the Covid-19 pandemic':

a) How much was spent on developing and administering the Safe WA app;

Answer: The Department of Health advises that development and support costs for the SafeWA app in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years was \$3,002,091.

b) What was the uptake on July 2021;

Answer: The Department of Health advises that the number of Safe WA app downloads was 2.373m and the number of registered users was 1,973,555 as at 30 July 2021.

c) What is the current uptake;

Answer: The Department of Health advises that the number of Safe WA app downloads was 3.194m and the number of registered users was 2,310,662 as at 3 June 2022

d) How much was spent on developing and administering the Service WA app;

Answer: The cost of developing the ServiceWA app was \$570,000. The estimated administration cost of the application is \$3.48 million per annum.

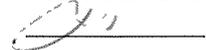
e) What was the uptake as at 30 January 2022; and

Answer: The number of Service WA app downloads was 960,259 and the number of registered users was 618,223 as at 30 January 2022.

f) What is the current uptake?

Answer: The number of Service WA app downloads was 1,393,964 and the number of registered users was 938,340 as at 6 June 2022.

Minister's initials



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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Digital Government

Hon Wilson Tucker MLC asked:

1. I refer to the Office of Digital Government (DGov) and the Cyber Security Unit (CSU).

(a) How many FTE are employed within DGov and CSU

Answer: 61 as at 30 May 2022

(b) What is the corporate overhead for DGov and CSU,

Answer: Corporate overhead for DGov and CSU for the 2022-23 Budget is \$5.9 million.

(c) One of the Key Initiatives of the CSU is 'Establishing the WA Government Cyber Security Operations Centre'

(i) To date, what has been the cost of establishing the centre;

Answer: \$2M

(ii) When will the centre be completed,

Answer. The Security Operations Centre (SOC) is fully operational. The SOC began formal provision of services from 1 July 2021. DGov continues to onboard agencies to the SOC. As at 31 May 2022, the SOC provides services to thirty Government entities.

(iii) What are the ongoing costs associated with the operations centre;

Answer: Current projected costs associated directly with the delivery of SOC services are \$4M per annum, inclusive of staffing costs, supplies, and services.

(d) The Auditor General's recent report, COVID-19 Contact Tracing System – Application Audit, found significant weakness in information security controls in WA Health's PHOCUS system. A previous report found similar weaknesses in DPC's SafeWA application:

(i) Did DGov and CSU provide advice during the development and implementation of these systems;

Answer: DGov provided advice in relation to the SafeWA Application. DGov did not provide advice during the development and implementation of WA Health's PHOCUS system.

(ii) The Auditor General's audits of PHOCUS and SafeWA found a lack of controls that are otherwise prescribed in DGov's WA Government Cyber Security Policy, for instance, event logging and intrusion detection. How does DGov and CSU ensure agencies comply with the policy;

Answer. The WA Government Cyber Security Policy was released in January 2022. Each agency is required to develop and submit an implementation plan and report on current compliance levels to DGov annually.

(iii) Has DGov or CSU conducted reviews of other Government systems, particularly those that hold sensitive information, to identify similar weaknesses? If yes, have any similar weaknesses been identified, and how if so, how are they being addressed;

Answer: No and not applicable

(iv) Encryption is not mentioned in the Cyber Security Policy, however, it does feature in the Auditor General's audits:

(A) Is it expected that encryption should be used for the collection, transmission and storage of sensitive information,

Answer: Yes.

- (B) Is there a form of encryption that DGov or CSU considers to be 'best practice';
Answer: Yes, DGov considers it to be best practice for agencies to utilise a form of encryption which meets the Australian Cyber Security Centre guidelines for cryptography relevant to the sensitivity level of the information requiring protection

Common encryption algorithms that meet this criterion include Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA), Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), and the Secure Hashing Algorithm 2 (SHA-2)

- (C) Has DGov or CSU conducted a review of Government systems holding sensitive information to ensure best practice encryption?

Answer: No.

2. Please provide a detailed breakdown of Government investment in the 'Startup' sector for FY 2022-23 and over the forward estimates, including any grants, development loans, direct funding or industry support.

Answer: This question was redirected to JTSI.

- 3 Please identify digital inclusion initiatives administered by the agency, and for each initiative, please provide:

Answer. Under the *Digital Strategy for the Western Australian Government 2021-2025*, the WA Government is developing a Digital Inclusion in WA Blueprint (the Blueprint) to ensure that all Western Australians' can easily access and use digital technologies. The Department is currently working on the Blueprint, its implementation program and a Digital Inclusion Partnership Framework.

- (a) The total investment, in both FY 2022-23, and over the forward estimates,

Answer. Currently the equivalent of one FTE

- (b) The KPI's by which the initiative's success may be measured

Answer. The KPI's for initiatives have not yet been established

Minister's initials

