

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FORMAT FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR

Disability Services Commission

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked:

1. In regard to the Disability Employment Strategy I ask:

- a) The number of staff with a disability at the Commission has decreased each year over the last few years, what action is the department taking to reverse this trend?**

Answer: The percentage of staff who have declared a disability at the Commission has remained stable each year over the last few years, as shown in the table below.

Year	2014-2015	2014-2015	2015-2016
%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%

The Commission consistently performs above the public sector average in this area.

While the Commission consistently performs above the public sector average in this area, the objective is to increase the number of people with disability in the Commission's workforce and across the public sector. The Director General of the Disability Services Commission together with the Public Sector Commissioner and the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment launched the *See My Abilities* strategy that provides a cohesive set of actions that will assist public authorities realise sound practices around attracting, recruiting, retaining and developing people with disability in the workplace.

- b) Do contracts with non-government service providers include any provision for the employment of staff with disability and if not why not?**

Answer: Provisions for the employment of staff with disability are included in the Commission's Request for Tender documents for commercial services from non-government providers. For example, service providers are advised that consideration will be given to respondents with a disability employment policy or who demonstrate contemporary attitudes toward employing people with disability.

2. In regard to non-government service providers I ask:

- a) How are non-government providers in Western Australia tracking against the National Standards for Disability Services in the provision of services?**

Answer: The Disability Services Commission's contemporary quality system incorporates independent external evaluation of services provided by the Commission and by disability sector organisations contracted with the Commission.

In 2015/16 independent quality evaluators undertook 88 evaluation assignments, 83 per cent of which were assessed as compliant in meeting all quality standards.

Sixty-one (69.3 per cent) evaluation assignments met all six standards and resulted in no required actions. Twenty-seven (30.7 per cent) evaluation assignments had 'required actions', of which 21 assignments' required actions have been completed and the remainder are in progress.

- b) What are the details of the strategic plan being developed in regard to skilling and growing the sector?**

Answer: The Disability Services Commission's Sector Development Plan is in the early stages of development in consultation with the disability sector. The plan will focus on ensuring there is capacity to deliver on the requirements of a WA NDIS. The full scope of the sector development required will become apparent once the bi-lateral agreement with the Australian Government is signed.

The Commission has also contributed to a sector development report which is being developed by Western Australia's peak disability industry organisation, National Disability Services Western Australia (NDS WA). This will help inform strategies for growing and diversifying the Western Australian disability services sector to ensure there is capacity to roll out NDIS in Western Australia. It is expected to be completed by the end of March 2017.

c) What was the value of funding allocated in 2015/16 for investment in training for non-government service providers?

Answer: In 2015/16 the Disability Services Commission invested \$3,509,300 in grants to the disability sector for the purpose of training and development.

d) What training was delivered to non-government service providers in 2015/16?

Answer: The Disability Services Commission's funded price for support and services contracted from disability sector organisations is inclusive of the cost of training. Organisations have the responsibility for training workers to enable them to fulfil their job requirements. The Commission does not provide additional training.

e) What qualifications does an employee of a non-government service provider require to deliver the equivalent services of a support worker in a group home managed by the provider?

Answer: Non-government service providers employ personnel qualified to deliver the level and type of care and/or support commensurate with the needs of the individual/s they are working with.

f) What qualifications does an employee of a non-government service provider require to deliver the equivalent services of a social trainer in a group home managed by the provider?

Answer: Non-government service providers employ personnel qualified to deliver the level and type of care and/or support commensurate with the needs of the individual/s they are working with.

3. In regard to staffing I ask:

a) What qualifications are required by a support worker employed by DSC to undertake the role?

Answer: Qualifications required for a Support Worker employed by the Commission are as follows:

- Domestic: Year 10 English or qualification deemed equivalent
- Gardener/Driver: no qualification required
- Kitchen hand (Level 1): no qualification required
- Cook: no qualification required
- Tradesperson Cook: Trade Certificate in Catering

b) What qualifications are required by a social trainer employed by the DSC to undertake the role?

Answer: Qualifications required for a Social Trainer employed by the Commission are as follows:

- Social Trainer Level 1 – Year 10 English or qualification deemed equivalent.
- Social Trainer Level 2 – Certificate III in Disability (or qualification deemed equivalent) and a minimum of three additional units from Certificate IV in Disability

(or qualification deemed equivalent); and Year 10 English or qualification deemed equivalent.

- Social Trainer Level 3 – Certificate IV in Disability (or qualification deemed equivalent).

c) In regard to new public servants joining the Commission in 2015/16:

(i) How many new employees were engaged

Answer: 77 new employees were engaged by the Commission as new public servants in 2015-2016.

(ii) What were the new positions

Answer: The new positions comprise 38 unique position titles, as follows.

Position Title	#
ICT Project Officer	1
Injury Management Coordinator	1
Application Support Officer	1
Strategic Contract Management Officer	1
Assistant Accountant	1
Works Officer	1
Business Support Manager	1
My Way Regional Director	1
Dietitian	1
Occupational Therapist	1
Executive Officer	1
Personal Assistant	1
Grant & Service Development Officer	1
Physiotherapist	1
Senior Reporting & Stakeholder Engagement Officer	1
Post School Trainee	1
Business Support Coordinator	1
Project Officer	1
Eligibility Coordinator	1
Records Coordinator	1
ICT Project Leader	1
Records Indexing Officer	1
Consultant Developmental or Clinical Psychologist	1
Senior Physiotherapist	1
Area Manager	1
Senior Policy & Program Officer	1
Executive Support Officer	1
Senior Project Officer	1
LAC Technical Officer	2
Behaviour Support Clinician	2
Management Support Officer	2
Speech Pathologist	2
Records Officer	2
Family Systems Therapist	3
Senior Psychologist	3
Administrative Support Officer	6
My Way Coordinator	11
Local Area Coordinator	16

(iii) Where were the positions located

Answer: The positions were placed in 27 unique locations, as follows.

Albany	1
Bayswater	1
Bunbury	2
Busselton	2
Cannington	2
Caversham	1
East Victoria Park	2
Eaton	1
Esperance	2
Geraldton	1
Joondalup	4
Kalgoorlie	1
Kelmscott	2
Kingsley	1
Kwinana	1
Mandurah	1
Manjimup	1
Merredin	1
Mirrabooka	1
Myaree	13
Narrogin	1
Ocean Reef	3
Parkwood	1
Shenton Park	1
South Hedland	1
South Lake	7
West Perth	22

4. Was any property owned by the Disability Services Commission in Western Australia purchased or sold in 2015/2016 and if yes what was the value and address of the property?

Answer: The Commission did not purchase or sell any property in 2015-2016.

5. In regard to the transition of supported accommodation to the non-government sector

I ask:

- a) Sixty per cent of services have now been transitioned to management by non-government service providers, what was the estimated cost saving delivered to the State as a result of this policy initiative in 2015/16?**

Answer: The Commission expects to transition 60 per cent of its accommodation services to the non-government sector by 30 June 2017.

While the transition of some people with disability from the Commission to alternative service providers has resulted in cost savings, the transition of others has required additional funding. The transition has also involved one-off or short-term funding. At this stage it is not possible to estimate the financial impact of the transition process.

6. In regard to the Age Appropriate Housing Scheme I ask:

- a) How many young people with disability are currently residing in inappropriate aged care settings?**

Answer: Thirty six (36) young people with disability living in residential aged care are known to the Disability Services Commission.

b) What are the ages of the West Australian's in a)?

Answer: 25 years of age – one person
26 to 40 years of age – five people
41 to 50 years of age – 18 people
51 to 60 years of age – 11 people
61 years of age – One person

c) Where are the West Australian's in a) located?

Answer: Metropolitan area – 29
Regional areas – seven people

7. In regard to the South West Wheels Initiative I ask:

a) What funding was invested?

Answer: The Commission has invested \$2,730,425 (exc. GST) in the South West Wheels Initiative.

b) How many people utilised the service?

Answer: From 1 July 2015 to 11 October 2016 there were 670 total bookings.

8. Is there a waiting list for the Behaviour Support Program and if yes, how many children are waitlisted?

Answer: There are currently nine children waiting for a service having completed a needs assessment, three children are waiting to commence a needs assessment, and 23 children are in the process of completing needs assessment with a possible waitlist outcome, total of 35 children. This reflects the usual influx of referrals in the lead up to the Christmas period.

9. Is there a waiting list for the Early Childhood Development Program and if yes, how many children are waitlisted?

Answer: On 16 August 2016 there were 228 children on the waitlist for services in the metropolitan area.

10. Is there a waiting list for the Adult Program and if yes, how many West Australians are waitlisted?

Answer: On 16 August 2016 there were 377 adults on the waitlist for services in the metropolitan area.

11. Which public authorities did not lodge a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in 2015/16?

Answer: For the 2015/2016 financial year, the following public authorities had not lodged a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) with the Disability Services Commission:

State Government Agencies = Nine

- Child and Adolescent Health Services (2010-2015) – New DAIP in progress
- Department of Environment Regulations (interim DAIP 2014-2015) – New DAIP in progress
- Department of Lands – New DAIP in progress
- Department of Planning (2011-2015) – New DAIP in progress
- Disability Services Commission (2011-2016) – (Interim) DAIP 2016-2017 in progress
- Metropolitan Cemeteries Board (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress
- Pilbara Development Commission (2011-2016)
- School Curriculum and Standards Authority (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress
- Small Business Development Corporation (2012-2016) – New DAIP in progress

Local Government Agencies = 11

- City of Armadale (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress
- Shire of Carnarvon (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress
- Shire of Gnowangerup (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress

- Shire of Katanning (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress
- Shire of Narembeen (2011-2016)
- Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku (not known)
- City of Perth (2011-2015) – New DAIP in progress
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale (2012-2016)
- City of South Perth (2012-2016) – New DAIP in progress
- City of Swan (2012-2016)
- Shire of Woodanilling (2011-2016) – New DAIP in progress

12. In regard to the PEBBLES service I ask:

a) What was the value of funding allocated?

Answer: In the 2015-16 financial year block funding of \$1,350,000 was allocated to the PEBBLES program.

b) How many children accessed the service?

Answer: 408 children accessed the service.

13. In regard to the Continence Management and Support Scheme I ask:

a) What was the value of funding allocated?

Answer: In the 2015-16 financial year block funding of \$4,189,245 was allocated to the Continence Management and Support Scheme.

b) How many people accessed the service?

Answer: 11,694 people accessed the service.

14. In regard to Family Support I ask:

a) What was the occupancy rate of the 5 respite houses operational since 2011?

Answer: Occupancy of the five respite houses since 2011:

	York (5 bed)	Rockingham (6 bed)	Gosnells (5 bed)	Clarkson (6 bed)	Broome (4 bed)
2011/12	Commenced 12/13	Accessed by 123 unique individuals	Not operating	Accessed by 24 unique occupants	Accessed by 34 unique occupants
2012/13	Accessed by 23 unique occupants	Accessed by 104 unique occupants	Accessed by 115 unique occupants	Accessed by 28 unique occupants	Accessed by 27 unique occupants
2013/14	Accessed by 23 unique occupants	Accessed by 95 unique occupants	Accessed by 60 unique occupants	Accessed by 33 unique occupants	Accessed by 108 unique occupants
2014/15	Accessed by 26 unique occupants	Accessed by 104 unique occupants	Accessed by 66 unique occupants	Accessed by 38 unique occupants	Accessed by 39 unique individuals
2015/16	Accessed by 31 unique occupants	Accessed by 94 unique occupants	Accessed by 82 unique occupants	Accessed by 37 unique occupants	Accessed by 31 unique occupants

The length of stay and number of times an individual accesses a respite house varies. Some individuals and families access respite regularly, while others only occasionally and stays range from a few days to several weeks.

b) Did construction commence on the Pilbara development as scheduled?

Answer: Construction of the Pilbara development is scheduled to commence in early 2017. The project is currently on schedule.

15. In regard to the Disability Justice Centre I ask:

a) Where was the alternate place of custody that a resident was transferred to?

Answer: The person that ceased to be a resident during the 2015/16 financial year was transferred to prison. Their placement within the prison system is determined by the Department of Corrective Services.

b) The 2014/15 annual report advised the centre supported 88 people in custody and 150 people in the community with a plan to broaden the in-reach service in 2015/16. How many people in custody were supported and how many were supported in the community in 2015/16?

Answer: The Disability Justice Centre (Centre) opened and received its first residents in August 2015. The figures referred to in the question related to the Disability Justice Service (DJS), not the Centre.

The number of people supported by the DJS fluctuates throughout the year. On average, approximately 85 people are supported at any one time, with 50-60 per cent of those people being held in custody while the remaining 40-50 per cent are in the community. The breakdown of people in custody and in the community is constantly varying due to people moving in and out of prison throughout the year.

c) Was the in-reach service broadened in 2015/16 and if not why not?

Answer: The Disability Justice Service (DJS) delivers in-reach, outreach and prevention and diversion services for people with disability who are interfacing with the justice system. The type of service offered is tailored to the individual and may contain elements of all of the above depending on the person's situation.

During the 2015/16 financial year the DJS increased the amount of training delivered to other agencies, including the Department of Corrective Services, WA Police and Courts, and to non-government organisations, including those in the disability sector.

d) What work was undertaken between the Centre and the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board (MIARB)?

Answer: The Disability Justice Service (DJS), which incorporates the Disability Justice Centre (Centre), works closely with the MIARB in relation to matters concerning mentally impaired accused individuals under the MIARB's statutory authority whose primary diagnosis is disability. The relationship is set out in Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 2015 and Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996. In addition to regular activities such as providing reports regarding residents of the Centre and other mentally impaired accused people, the DJS team is the first point of contact for eligibility assessments (for example, where a person who has been deemed unfit to plead due to disability, but has not been previously registered with the Commission).

The Commission also collaborated with the MIARB to develop materials for an information session for legal practitioners on legislation, processes for placement considerations for the Centre, and information about the DJS. The information session was delivered in July 2016.

16. What is the breakdown of funding spent on consultants and contractors?

Answer: In 2015-2016, the Commission spent:

- \$1,430,324 on consultants
- \$14,450,409 on contractors.

Funding spent on consultants reflects the extraordinary requirements placed on the Commission as it trials and implements the WA National Disability Insurance Scheme. In particular, this

includes the procurement of targeted actuarial and evaluation skills and services that are not readily available in the public sector.

17. How were savings measures applied to balance the 2015/16 budget allocation to the estimated actual expenditure?

Answer: The difference between the 2015-2016 Estimated Actual and the 2015-2016 Budget allocation is mainly due to:

- \$7.2 million voluntarily returned by the Commission as a result of savings initiatives, including the transition of some accommodation services to non-government providers, reductions in RiskCover expenses, and an increase in revenue from compensable clients
- \$8 million reallocated from the Commission's Budget to increase the State's cash payments to the National Disability Insurance Agency for services delivered in the Perth Hills
- \$6.1 million reduction in payments as a result of a decrease to forecast indexation rates in 2015-16.

18. In regards to the funding cuts of \$37.1million outlined in Budget Paper 3 of the May budget I ask:

a) What work was completed in 2015/16 in planning for the practical application of this reduction in funding over the forward estimates?

Answer: The Government's Agency Expenditure Review process, outlined in Budget Paper 3, requires agencies to submit a comprehensive list of programs and an outline of how savings measures will be achieved by 1 April 2017. In 2015-2016, the Commission commenced work categorising its programs to populate a program identification database developed by the Department of Treasury.

19. In regard to the NDIS WA trial area I ask:

a) How many people in the NDIS WA trial area have had plans approved?

Answer: As at 30 June 2016, there were 2,106 individuals with approved plans in the WA NDIS trial.

b) How many people over 64 have been approved?

Answer: As at 30 June 2016, there were 34 people over the age of 64 years within the WA NDIS trial.

