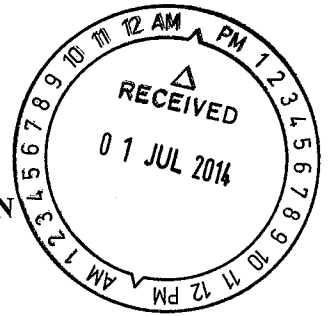


ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 1: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked -

For all the voluntary severances made by the Department, how many of these positions were not identified as surplus to requirements but savings were made elsewhere in the Department?

a) Why did officers in these positions receive voluntary severances if their roles were not surplus to requirements?

Answer: The Department approved severances to match the salaries expense savings required to meet its salary expense growth cap. This funding had already been removed from the Department's budget. Decisions on which officers would receive severances were based on a number of factors, including:

- whether the position could be abolished and savings harvested;
- whether the relevant Directorate, whilst not able to abolish the applicant's particular position, could make other salaries expense savings to match the salary of the applicant;
- the leave liability of the applicant, given the Department's need to meet a revised leave liability cap; and
- whether the specific circumstances of the applicant were such that it would remain difficult to place them in service delivery positions.

Approved
[Signature]

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 2: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked -

(2) For the positions in Perth where successful applicants for voluntary severance were in supernumerary positions received voluntary severances, would deployment of these officers into funded child protection roles have resulted in the same savings to the agency?

Answer: The majority of applicants in Perth who were in supernumerary positions were not service delivery staff. For those applicants previously in child protection roles, it was not appropriate to deploy them into metropolitan service delivery positions due to their personal circumstances.

*Approved
M. M. M. M. M.*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 3: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked -

We refer to Question on Notice 6 - In relation to the four child protection workers in Perth who received voluntary severance, and ask -

a) How long had each of the child protection workers in Perth been in their supernumerary positions?

Answer: 4 months, 7 months, 10 months and 10 months

b) What efforts had been made to place the workers in permanent child protection positions within the Perth metropolitan area before they received severance payments?

Answer: The Child Protection Workers granted voluntary severances were unable to be placed in child protection positions in the metropolitan area due to their personal circumstances, including health problems and skills/performance related issues.

*Approved
K. M. M. M.*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 4: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked –

(4) We refer to Budget Paper 3, page 309 – Increases in fees related to adoption – Does the Department wish to encourage adoption by relatives and carers?

Answer:

If a child cannot be reunified with their parents, then under the Department's Permanency Planning policy the Department actively encourages adoption by the child's foster carer – whether they are a relative or a non-relative carer.

a) *If so, won't the increased cost be a disincentive for carers to formally adopt?*

Answer: There is no cost to foster carers who choose to formally adopt a child in their care.

*Approved
Deputy Minister*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 5: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked –

We refer to Budget Paper No 2, page 415 and Budget Paper 3, page 145, “HUGS Grants”, and ask –

a) With the increase in residential electricity tariffs of 4.5% and residential water charges of 6% what additional funding will be required for the HUGS scheme for next year?

Answer:

The Department’s 2015-16 Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme (HUGS) funding requirements will be reviewed and allocated as a part of the 2015-16 Budget process.

The Department has a recurrent allocation of \$4.06 million per annum to administer HUGS. The Department also receives additional fixed-term funding to address the anticipated increases in utility tariffs, as well as the expected increase in demand for assistance and associated grant expenditure for the upcoming budget year. The Department’s fixed-term funding requirements are reviewed on an annual basis.

b) Where is the impact of the higher electricity tariffs and increases in water charges on the HUGS scheme shown in the budget papers?

Answer: The additional allocation to address increases in demand, utility tariffs and administration is shown in Budget Paper No 2, page 415, “Spending Changes” as line item “Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme”. The total \$11.9 million budget is also included in Budget Paper No 2, page 416, “Service Summary – 3. Supporting Individuals/Families at Risk or In Crisis”.

*Approved
Mumukshu*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 6: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked –

In relation to contracting out Provision of Adoption and Foster Carer Assessments, please provide the Committee with the estimated savings that the Department will make contracting out adoption and foster care assessments, compared with the costs of Departmental staff undertaking assessments.

Answer:

All Adoption Assessments have been undertaken by Contract Assessors for a number of years. Using Contract Assessors provides for greater independence and impartiality given the highly sensitive nature of the adoption process.

The number of Adoption Assessments undertaken each year is small, 25 were completed in 2013/14. Given this small number and their occurrence across the state, using contract assessors has proved more efficient as not all District Offices have staff with the requisite skills and experience to undertake these specialist assessments.

The vast majority of foster care assessments are undertaken by Departmental workers. Using contract assessors for foster care assessments allows the Department to manage the work flow when the demand for assessments is at a peak level.

Calculating the cost of assessments undertaken by the Department is complex and would vary depending on the level of person undertaking the assessment, the number of hours taken to complete the assessment, associated on costs and costs associated with the work place.

*Approved
Mumukshu*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 7: Hon S Dawson asked –

I refer to page 420, “Appropriations, Expenses and Cash Assets”, and ask –

a) What has been the average (adjusted for inflation) expenditure per child for non-residential placements between 2010 and 2013?

Answer: Data on expenditure per child for non-residential services is published in the Australian Productivity Commission’s *Report on Government Services 2014*. The table below lists the expenditure per child for the financial years 2009-10 to 2012-13. Expenditure has been adjusted to 2012-13 dollars using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure chain price deflator.

Please note that this data needs to be interpreted with care as it does not represent and cannot be interpreted as unit cost measures. Expenditure per child in care at 30 June overstates the cost per child because significantly more children are in care during a year than at a point in time. In addition, this data does not reflect the length of time that a child spends in care.

Year	Expenditure
2009-10	\$46,674
2010-11	\$41,762
2011-12	\$34,150
2012-13	\$32,399

*Approved
K. M. M. M.*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 8: Hon S Dawson asked –

I refer to page 415, “Spending Changes”, and ask -

a) Was the \$2.86 million spent on voluntary separation allocated as an expense in the 2013-14 budget?

Answer: No, not in the Department’s 2013-14 Budget. The application, assessment, and acceptance processes for the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) were finalised in December 2013, after the release of the 2013-14 Budget. The Department of Treasury however held a provision for the VSS in the 2013-14 Budget.

b) If yes, when was the decision made prior to the 2013-14 budget made to include this measure?

Answer: Not applicable.

c) If no, what programs and/or services were delayed to pay for expenses?

Answer: No programs or services were delayed, as the funding for the VSS was provided by the Department of Treasury through a section 25 of the Financial Management Act transfer.

*Approved
Minister*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 10: Hon S Dawson asked –

I refer to page 415, “Spending Changes: Royalties for Regions – District Allowance Adjustment”, and ask –

a) What is the value of Royalties for Regions funding in the 2014-15 budget?

Answer: The Royalties for Regions funding for regional workers incentives allowance payments (also termed District Allowance) in the 2014-15 Budget is \$2.386 million.

b) What project is this funding for?

Answer: District Allowance is paid to public sector employees living in eligible regions as compensation for the disadvantages associated with working in regional Western Australia, including climate, isolation and cost of living.

c) What communities will benefit from this funding?

Answer: The Department pays District Allowance to eligible employees who work in an identified regional locality across Western Australia. Circular No. 04 of 2014 – District Allowance Rate Adjustments 2014 outlines the list of regions and is attached.

d) How has this increased from 2013-14?

Answer: The District Allowance rates are calculated on an annual basis by the Department of Commerce. The Regional Price Index survey is used to calculate the cost of living component of the District Allowance.

The 2013 Regional Price Index survey indicated changes to the cost of living across the state, including some significant reductions in the North-West. These cost of living changes are reflected in the adjusted 2013 District Allowance rates. As a result, the Department’s District Allowance funding from Royalties for Regions has decreased from \$3.459 million in 2013-14 to \$2.386 million in 2014-15.

Approved
Sturmuoto

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 10: Hon S Dawson asked –

I refer to page 415, “Spending Changes: Royalties for Regions – District Allowance Adjustment”, and ask –

a) What is the value of Royalties for Regions funding in the 2014-15 budget?

Answer: The Royalties for Regions funding for regional workers incentives allowance payments (also termed District Allowance) in the 2014-15 Budget is \$2.386 million.

b) What project is this funding for?

Answer: District Allowance is paid to public sector employees living in eligible regions as compensation for the disadvantages associated with working in regional Western Australia, including climate, isolation and cost of living.

c) What communities will benefit from this funding?

Answer: The Department pays District Allowance to eligible employees who work in an identified regional locality across Western Australia. The list of regions is available at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/labour-relations/circulars-departments-authorities-date-order> as Circular No. 04 of 2014 – District Allowance Rate Adjustments 2014. *Table Circular*

d) How has this increased from 2013-14?

Answer: The District Allowance rates are calculated on an annual basis by the Department of Commerce. The Regional Price Index survey is used to calculate the cost of living component of the District Allowance.

The 2013 Regional Price Index survey indicated changes to the cost of living across the state, including some significant reductions in the North-West. These cost of living changes are reflected in the adjusted 2013 District Allowance rates. As a result, the Department’s District Allowance funding from Royalties for Regions has decreased from \$3.459 million in 2013-14 to \$2.386 million in 2014-15.

PUBLIC



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Labour Relations

Our Ref: LR0036/2013
Enquiries: Agency LR Adviser

CIRCULAR TO DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORITIES NO. 4 OF 2014

DISTRICT ALLOWANCE RATE ADJUSTMENTS 2014

This Circular takes effect from 1 July 2014, and replaces Circular to Departments and Authorities No. 2 of 2014 (Circular 2 of 2014).

This Circular is to advise of adjustments to District Allowances (DA) rates under the *District Allowance (Government Officers) General Agreement 2010* and the *District Allowance (Government Wages Employees) General Agreement 2010* (the Agreements).

DA rates prescribed in this Circular are effective on and from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2014 unless otherwise specified.

Government Officers are to be paid DA in accordance with the rates contained in **Schedule A**.

Government Wages Employees are to be paid DA in accordance with the rates contained in **Schedule B**.

Given the significant DA reductions experienced in northern Western Australia, the Government has implemented a two-year transitional arrangement to ensure those affected employees have sufficient time to make the necessary adjustments.

Employees who were engaged in the Kimberley, Pilbara or Karratha/Dampier prior to 15 April 2014 (and who continue to be in those localities) shall be paid a transitional DA rate as contained in the schedules to this Circular.

Agencies are reminded that DA is a payment for the purposes of calculating Superannuation Guarantee contributions.

Should you require additional information about the application of this Circular, please contact your agency Labour Relations Adviser.

BOB HORSTMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LABOUR RELATIONS

10 June 2014

Att.

A8733904

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SCHEDULE A

District Allowance for Government Officers

The following rates are applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2014:

Regional development zone, exception town or place	DA rates (per annum)
Kimberley [^]	\$ 7,232
- Broome	\$ 8,132
Pilbara [^]	\$ 9,046
- Karratha/Dampier [^]	\$ 9,192
Gascoyne	\$ 6,681
- Carnarvon	\$ 4,267
Mid-West	\$ 3,122
- Geraldton	\$ 1,206
Goldfields-Esperance	\$ 2,658
- Kalgoorlie/Boulder	\$ 2,289
- Esperance	\$ 2,333
- Warburton ⁺	\$ 4,791
Wheatbelt	Nil
- Outside Exclusion Zone	\$ 1,987
Great Southern	Nil
- Outside Exclusion Zone	\$ 1,987
- Jerramungup	\$ 1,987

[^] Rates are applicable to employees who were new to an agency or who moved to one of these localities on and from 15 April 2014.

⁺ The DA rate for Warburton is maintained at the 2010 quantum.

The following transitional DA rates apply to Government Officers who were engaged in the Kimberley, Pilbara or Karratha/Dampier prior to 15 April 2014 (and who continue to be in those localities).

These rates are applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2014:

Regional development zone, exception town or place	DA rates (per annum)
Kimberley	\$ 9,230
Pilbara	\$12,661
- Karratha/Dampier	\$12,865

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SCHEDULE B

District Allowance for Government Wages Employees

The following rates are applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2014:

Regional development zone, exception town or place	DA rates (per week)
Kimberley [^]	\$ 138.63
- Broome	\$ 155.88
Pilbara [^]	\$ 173.41
- Karratha/Dampier [^]	\$ 176.20
Gascoyne	\$ 128.07
- Carnarvon	\$ 81.80
Mid-West	\$ 59.85
- Geraldton	\$ 23.12
Goldfields-Esperance	\$ 50.95
- Kalgoorlie/Boulder	\$ 43.88
- Esperance	\$ 44.72
- Warburton ⁺	\$ 91.86
Wheatbelt	Nil
- Outside Exclusion Zone	\$ 38.09
Great Southern	Nil
- Outside Exclusion Zone	\$ 38.09
- Jerramungup	\$ 38.09

[^] Rates are applicable to employees who were new to an agency or who moved to one of these localities on and from 15 April 2014.

⁺ The DA rate for Warburton is maintained at the 2010 quantum.

The following transitional DA rates apply to Government Wages Employees who were (and continue to be) engaged in the Kimberley, Pilbara or Karratha/Dampier prior to 15 April 2014.

These rates are applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2014:

Regional development zone, exception town or place	DA rates (per week)
Kimberley	\$ 176.93
Pilbara	\$ 242.70
- Karratha/Dampier	\$ 246.61

PUBLIC

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department of Child Protection and Family Support

Question No 11: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

I refer to page 415, "Spending Changes: Royalties for Regions - Aboriginal Visitors Centre, Derby", and ask -

a) *What is the status of the Aboriginal Visitors Hostel in Derby?*

Answer: The Department of Housing is currently project managing the build of the facility which is expected to be completed in July 2014.

b) *What ongoing funding has been allocated for the running of this centre?*

Answer: \$3.395 million has been allocated over four years from 2013-14 to 2016-17 from Royalties for Regions (RfR) funding for the operation of the centre. \$1.257 million in 2016-17 and an additional \$1.295 million in 2017-18 has been provisionally allocated from the RfR fund to extend the service.

c) *Who was the winning contractor from the tender process?*

Answer: Mercy Community Services Incorporated (MercyCare) was the successful respondent to the Tender. MercyCare will be assisted by Centacare Kimberley Association Incorporated to operate the centre.

d) *At what stage of the process did the government decide to delay this project?*

Answer: There has been no delay in this project.



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**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 12: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked -

I refer to page 416, "Service Summary: Supporting Individuals/Families at risk or in crisis", and ask –

a) Can the Minister advise how many children in each of the 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 financial years were subject of child protection concerns and assessed using the signs of safety framework?

Answer:

a) The Department assesses all child protection concerns using its *Signs of Safety* Child Protection Framework. The number of children who were the subject of child protection concerns were:

2010-11: 14,172

2011-12: 16,368

2012-13: 17,376

b) Does the Department pay a fee each time the 'framework' is utilised?

Answer: No, the Department does not pay a fee each time the framework is utilised.

c) If no, what are the basis of costs for utilising the Signs of Safety Program?

Answer: As *Signs of Safety* is the Department's child protection practice framework, there are no additional external costs associated with its utilisation. The Department has however engaged an external provider, Resolutions Consultancy, to provide consultancy and training services for the ongoing development and implementation of the Department's child protection practice framework.

The contracted costs per Department initiated engagement are as follows:

- Consultancy services - \$275 per hour or \$2,000 per day.
- Training services - \$350 per hour or \$2,250 per day.
- Meetings and other services - \$275 per hour or \$2,000 per day.

The following amounts have been paid to Resolutions Consultancy for consultancy and training services/products in the last two years:

- 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 - \$85,001 (GST inclusive); and
- 1 July 2013 to 24 June 2014 - \$48,140 (GST inclusive).

d) What assistance has the Department provided to other jurisdictions to implement the signs of safety program in 2013-2014?

Answer: In 2013-14, two groups of senior officers from Queensland met with departmental staff from various offices to discuss how *Signs of Safety* had been implemented in Western Australia. The Department has also shared practice guidance including Casework Practice Manual entries and related resources to other jurisdictions, on request.

*Approved
Mumukshu*

PUBLIC

e) *Is there an estimated cost to providing this assistance?*

Answer: There have been no costs to the Department in providing this assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'd' followed by a wavy line.

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 13: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

I refer to page 417, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”, to Part 4m Division of the Children and Community Services in relation to appointment and function of Assessors, and ask –

a) How many Assessors have been appointed pursuant to section 125A of the Act?

Answer: From July 2011 to June 2014, three organisations were appointed as Assessors pursuant to section 125A of the Act. As of July 2014, four organisations have been appointed as Assessors pursuant to section 125A of the Act for the next three years.

b) Who has been appointed as an Assessor pursuant to section 125A of the Act?

Answer: The following organisations have been appointed from July 2014 for three years, pursuant to section 125A of the Act:

- (i) Blue Zoo
- (ii) GoodRun Solutions
- (iii) Mike Hepburn Consulting
- (iv) Social Systems and Evaluation

c) How many written reports have been provided to the CEO pursuant to section 125A of the Act?

Answer: In the period July 2011 to June 2014, there have been four reports provided to the CEO.

*Approved
Kumantse*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Additional Question No. 14: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked -

Question: I refer to page 422, 'Income Statement: Cost of Services – Employee Benefits', and ask:

- a) Can the Minister advise how many former Departmental staff who have departed the agency in the last five years now hold fee for service contracts with the Department either directly or through a company they run or own.*

Answer: The Department is unable to provide a response to this question, as the relevant data on who owns and operates companies engaged by the Department under a fee for service arrangement is not collected. Former departmental employees are not prohibited from owning and operating companies that provide services to the Department and any conflicts of interests are disclosed and addressed during the procurement process.

*Approved
Kulmanto*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 15: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

I refer to page 417, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency – Contact Centres”, and ask -

(a) What is a ‘contact centre’?

Answer: A contact centre is a place that aims to provide purposeful contact for children aged 0-5 years, who are in care and living in the metropolitan area. The centres promote contact in family-friendly settings with Staff supporting parents to increase their parenting skills, particularly where the plan for the child is reunification.

(b) What funding has been set aside to establish contact centres?

Answer: An initial budget of \$20k has been allocated for the setting up of the centres across the metropolitan area during 2014-15.

(c) Have any been established so far? If yes, where?

Answer: Yes – Contact centres currently operating are:

- Joondalup
- Peel
- Rockingham
- Cannington (to be opened at the end of July)
- Mirrabooka (to be opened in September)

(d) Are any further centres planned? And if yes, where?

Answer: Yes – Centres still to be developed are:

- Midland
- Perth
- Armadale
- Fremantle

Several country districts are shadowing this pilot with a view to opening similar centres during 2016.



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**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 16: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked –

I refer to page 417, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency – Homelessness”, and ask –

- a) How many people applied for emergency accommodation in 2013-2014?*
- b) How many of the applicants were children?*

Answer a) and b):

- Data is not available for the 2013-2014 reporting period.
- 2013-2014 financial year data for the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) is provided by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). 2013-2014 SHS Collection National and State annual report is expected to be released by AIHW in December 2014.
- In 2012-2013, 8674 people who accessed Western Australian specialist homelessness services needed short term or emergency accommodation. The AIHW report does not separate between adults and children when reporting on the number of people who needed short term or emergency accommodation.

c) What is the latest figure of homelessness in WA?

Answer: The latest available data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2011* report shows there were 9,592 persons in Western Australia that were classified as being homeless on Census night in 2011. Of these:

- 925 persons were in improvised dwellings, tents or sleepers out.
- 931 persons were in supported accommodation for the homeless.
- 2169 persons staying temporarily with other households.
- 1337 person stayed in boarding houses.
- 76 persons stayed in temporary lodging.
- 4154 persons were living in severely crowded dwellings.

*Approved
Minister*

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 17: Hon Stephen Dawson asked—

I refer to page 419, "Services and Key Efficiency Indicators: Safety and Wellbeing Assessments", and ask -

a) What is the longest time taken for a team leader to approve the decision to undertake a safety and wellbeing assessment in 2013?

Answer:

In 2013 the longest number of days between the recorded date of a decision to undertake a safety and wellbeing assessment and the formal approval of this decision was 111 days.

The assessment had commenced prior to the recorded approval date after verbal consultation with the team leader. The time lag was due to retrospective recording of the approval.

b) What is the definition of a 'Priority 1' assessment?

Answer: A 'Priority 1' assessment is required in all high risk cases and those involving children aged five years or younger. High risk cases are determined based on a range of factors, including:

- Age of child;
- Functioning and developmental stage of child;
- Severity, location and recency of injury, and/or likelihood of recurrence;
- Intent of alleged person responsible, and access of alleged person to the child; and
- Protectiveness and capacity of caregiver to provide care for the child.

The time frame to commence the safety and wellbeing assessment is within 24 hours.

c) What is the definition of a 'Priority 2' assessment?

Answer: A 'Priority 2' assessment is required in all other cases where further enquires need to be made to determine if the Department has an ongoing role. The time frame to commence the safety and wellbeing assessment is between two and five working days.

d) How many safety and wellbeing assessments were undertaken in 2013-2014?

Answer: As at 31 May 2014, 12,828 safety and wellbeing assessments have been undertaken in 2013-14, based on child protection notifications received in this financial year.

e) What was the outcome of these assessments?

Answer: The outcome of these assessments to date are:

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Substantiated:	2,758
Not substantiated:	6,040
Other concerns assessed:	472
Unable to complete assessment:	672
Assessment in process:	2,886

f) What is the longest time to assess a child under 6?

Answer: Of the finalised assessments, the longest time recorded to assess a child under 6 was 299 days. Case notes indicate that while the assessment was undertaken in a timely manner, there was a time lag in finalising the recording of the assessment outcome.

g) What is the longest time to assess a child over 6?

Answer: Of the finalised assessments, the longest time recorded to assess a child over 6 was 279 days. Case notes indicate that while the assessment was undertaken in a timely manner, there was a time lag in finalising the recording of the assessment outcome.

h) What is the average time to assess a child under 6?

Answer: Of the finalised assessments, the average time to assess a child under 6 was 37 days.

i) What is the average time to assess a child over 6?

Answer: Of the finalised assessments, the average time to assess a child over 6 was 36 days.

j) How many children are on the monitored list?

Answer: There were 295 children in care on the monitored list as at 31 May 2014.

*Approved
Munro*

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 18: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC asked

I refer to page 419, "Protecting Children and Young People from Abuse and Harm" (Employee – Full Time Equivalents), and ask –

(a) By way of supplementary information can the Minister provide a breakdown of the 766 FTE positions (by job type) in 2014-15?

Answer:

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the 766 FTE for Service Two – Protecting Children and Young People from abuse and harm by job type.

The figure of 766 FTE is a combination of:

- service delivery FTE that solely perform service two functions;
- an apportioned percentage of service delivery FTE that perform functions across more than one of the Department's three services; and
- an apportioned percentage of non- service delivery FTE that perform functions across more than one of the Department's three services.

Approved
Shunwata

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 19: Hon S Dawson asked –

(19) I refer to page 420, “Asset Investment Program”, and ask -

a) Was Royalties for Regions funding provided for the expansion of these offices?

Answer: No. The expansion and fit-out of the Department’s service delivery accommodation was funded through capital appropriation from the consolidated fund, a drawdown from the asset replacement holding account, or the carryover of capital funds from prior years.

b) How much was spent on each of the expansions?

Answer: The budget allocation for service delivery accommodation capital projects in 2013-14 is outlined in the table below.

Service delivery accommodation projects	\$’000
Armadale office	1,100
Busselton office	330
Geraldton office	1,200
Head Office	2,285
Jibson (Port Hedland) Office	60
Hedland office	1,000
Karratha office	80
Kununurra office	1,200
McCall (Cottesloe) office	100
Merredin office	600
Midland office (Cale House)	3,250
Northam office	780
Roebourne office	1,493
Working with Children office	220
Total	13,698

c) What is the anticipated cost of the Mirrabooka district office expansion?

Answer: \$2.5 million in 2015-16 inclusive of fit-out costs and agency specific costs such as information and communication technology, telecommunications, office equipment and relocation.

d) What is the anticipated date for the completion?

Answer: The Department anticipates completing the relocation of the Mirrabooka district office in June 2016.

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*Approved
Kununurra*

e) Why were new facilities built in Wyndham when the office has been downsized?

Answer: The Wyndham Family Group Home was built as part of the Department's reform of residential care services and is operated by a community sector organisation.

Staffing of the Wyndham office is considered as part of the Department's annual operational planning cycle. Any changes to service delivery and staffing are made to best meet the needs of the community.

f) How many staff are now based in Wyndham?

Answer: Three staff are currently based in Wyndham.

g) In June 2013 how many staff were based in Wyndham?

Answer: Six staff were based in Wyndham in June 2013.

h) What is the position name and level of the officers currently based in Wyndham?

Answer: 2 x Senior Child Protection Worker (Specified Calling Level 2) 1 x Case Support Officer (Public Service & Government Officers General Agreement Level 2)

i) Are any positions in that office currently vacant?

Answer: Yes – 1 x Team Leader Child Protection (Specified Calling Level 3). An exemption from the current recruitment freeze has been approved by the Treasurer for this position. A recruitment process is being coordinated by the District.

Approved
Chunwanta

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**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 20: Hon S Dawson asked –

(20) I refer to page 420, “Asset Investment Program – South Hedland District Offices”, and ask –

a) It was noted in the 2013-2014 budget that the South Hedland district office would be relocated and fitted out from that year’s budgetary allocation, this year’s budget papers says the South Hedland office upgrades will be completed this financial year. What has actually been completed to date in relation to this project?

Answer: The 2013-14 Budget included additional capital funding for planning the relocation and fit-out of the new South Hedland district office in 2013-14 as well as additional funding in 2014-15 to complete the fit-out and relocation. The Department of Finance, Building Management and Works – Government Office Accommodation is managing this project for the Department and as at June 2014, a builder has been appointed to the project and the leasing documentation is being drafted.

b) Will any delivery services be affected by the relocation?

Answer: No.

Approved
[Signature]

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**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 21: Hon S Dawson asked –

(21) I refer to page 420, “Asset Investment Program” and to the deferral of planned enhancements to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support’s client management system ASSIST that were to take place in 2012-13,, and ask –

a) Has the enhancement of ASSIST now taken place?

Answer: Yes.

b) If yes, when did the enhancement take place?

Answer: Implemented December 2013.

c) What aspects of ASSIST were enhanced?

Answer: The ASSIST interface was upgraded to facilitate the electronic transfer of domestic violence information from WA Police directly into ASSIST.

d) What was the total cost of the enhancements?

Answer: \$300,000 for development (contract provider) and \$60,000 for Department staff to test and implement.

e) How many staff were in the enhancement process?

Answer: Department staff – 1 full-time for 6 months and 2 part-time for 2 months.

f) What have been the benefits of the enhancement?

Answer: Saves field staff from manually entering the information into ASSIST.

g) If no to a), why not?

Answer: Not applicable.

h) If no to a), when does the Minister anticipate the enhancements will take place?

Answer: Not applicable.

Approved
Stuart Maitland

PUBLIC

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 22: Hon S Dawson asked –

(22) I refer to page 422, “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”, and ask –

a) Can the Minister explain the policy behind the HUGS grant funding and particularly why there is an increase in 2014-15 and then a \$6 million drop in 2015-16?

Answer: The Department has a recurrent allocation of \$4.06 million per annum to administer HUGS, of which \$3.248 million is for grants to individuals.

The Department’s HUGS funding requirements are reviewed on an annual basis and additional fixed-term funding is allocated during the budget process. The additional fixed-term funding is provided to address the expected annual increase in demand for assistance and associated grant expenditure, as well as anticipated annual increases in utility tariffs.

b) Can the Minister explain how the methodology behind the increase in HUGS funding in the 2014-15 budget estimate?

Answer: As a part of the 2014-15 Budget process, the Department analysed the HUGS grant expenditure data from prior years as well as the grant expenditure up to 30 November 2013. Based on the expenditure trends and year-to-date expenditure, the Department determined that there was existing capacity within the 2013-14 allocation and a four per cent increase to the 2013-14 allocation would address the anticipated 2014-15 increases in utility tariffs and grant demand. Based on this, an additional \$7.8 million has been allocated to address the anticipated 2014-15 increases in demand, utility tariffs and administration.

c) How many extra people are anticipated to see HUGS assistance in 2014-15 as a result of the Government’s utility price increases?

Answer: Projections for HUGS assistance are made based on grant expenditure and not individuals.

In 2013-14, approximately \$7.6 million was allocated for HUGS grants. In 2014-15, approximately \$9.4 million is allocated for HUGS grants.

This is an increase of approximately \$1.8 million and means that there is greater financial assistance available than ever before for those having difficulty paying their electricity, water or gas bills.

Approved
H. Monte

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**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Question No. 23: Hon S Dawson asked –

I refer to page 422, “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies: Children in Care and Family Support”, and ask -

a) Can the Minister explain the increase in funding for Children in Care and Family Support from 2013-14 to 2014-15 and beyond?

Answer: The increase in Children in Care and Family Support in the forward estimates is primarily due to the allocation of growth in demand funding in 2014-15 to meet additional costs associated with the increase in the number of children and young people coming into care.

b) What is the increase based on?

Answer: The additional funding requirements have been calculated using a cost and demand model which has been developed in conjunction with the Department of Treasury. The Department has received additional funding to address the anticipated annual demand increase since 2008-09, following the Ford Review into the former Department of Community Development (2007) which recommended the development of a cost and demand funding model.

c) What growth is anticipated in the number of Children in care over the forward estimates?

Answer: The number of children in care is predicted to grow between 5-7% annually.

*Approved
Minister*

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