



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Hearing: Day: Tuesday, 27 February 2024

Answers due by: Monday, 25 March 2024

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Women

(1) Is your input sought on all government decisions relating to women?
(a) If not, how often are you asked to provide advice to your Cabinet colleagues about the impact of policies and budget measures on women?

I receive advice from Women NSW on a range of issues relating to women that require my decision in the Women's portfolio. I regularly consult with my Cabinet colleagues on matters that effect women and girls in NSW.

Seniors**NSW Seniors Card**

(2) How many Senior Card members are there currently in NSW?
(a) What date is that figure based on?

I am advised:
1,845,543 Seniors Card Holders, 111,605 Senior Savers Card Holders as at 5 March 2024.

(3) What is the breakdown of members by electorate and local government area?

I am advised:
This is data is unavailable, data is only per postcode.

(4) How many new businesses have signed up to the Seniors Card since 28 March 2023?
(a) What is the breakdown by electorate and local government area?

I am advised:
573.
(a) See response to supplementary question 3.

(5) How many businesses were registered for the following years:

- (a) 2019?
- (b) 2020?
- (c) 2021?
- (d) 2022?
- (e) 2023?

- (a) 174
- (b) 238
- (c) 97
- (d) 1196 - new business management portal was introduced and the number includes registrations of new and existing businesses
- (e) 661

Ageing Well in NSW Action Plan 2023 – 2024

(6) What is breakdown and status (e.g. complete, on track, delayed or at-risk) of all actions in the Ageing Well in NSW Action Plan 2023 – 2024?

I am advised:
Status on the actions within the current Ageing Well Action Plan 2023-2024 will be

provided by agencies and organisations at the end of the duration of the plan. DCJ will prepare an infographic/report card in early 2025. The first report card is available at https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/community-inclusion/seniors/DCJ_Ageing_Well_in_NSW_Action_Plan_2021-2022_Report_Card.pdf.

Specialist Older Person's Housing Information and Support Service

(7) Have you formally met with the Minister for Housing about funding a specialist older person's housing information and support service?

I meet with my ministerial colleagues on a regular basis to discuss matters relevant to my portfolio responsibilities, including the Minister for Housing.

Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Support Programs for Victim Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence

(8) Minister, in January 2023 you announced \$7 million for specialist support programs for migrants and refugees experiencing domestic violence. When will the specialist centre to be located in south-western Sydney be opened?

(a) In Budget Estimates you advised that \$4.4 million in funding has been committed to the Centre. Is that correct?

(b) Where specifically is the remaining \$2.6 million being spent that was announced in January 2023?

I am advised:

The centre is anticipated to be open by mid 2024

(a) Yes

(b) \$4.4m was committed in the NSW Budget 2023-24 (announced in September 2023) for the centre

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/working-and-business/gender-equality-statement>

(9) Minister, prior to the election your government also made a commitment for 25 additional counsellors for the sexual violence helpline.

(a) How many additional counsellors have been employed to work for the helpline since you came into Government?

(b) When will the entire 25 additional counsellors be in place for the sexual violence helpline?

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Health.

(10) AWAN was established in 2022 specifically to support Closing the gap Target 13. Funding for AWAN is due to expire in June 2024. Can you guarantee ongoing funding for AWAN to ensure the network continues?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(11) Minister, can you guarantee that the 'Investing in Women' Program will continue for at least the next three years?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) If yes, when will the next round of funding be open for applications?

(c) If yes, how much funding will be allocated to the program?

Yes, the Investing in Women Program will continue over the next 3 years. The 2023/24 Investing in Women Grant Round opened on 5 March 2024 and \$1 million has been allocated.

LGBTIQ Advisory Council

(12) When will the LGBTIQ cross-government committee be established?

(a) Who will Chair the committee once established?

I am advised:
This question should be redirected to the Premier.

Women's Safety Commissioner

(13) Minister, do you meet regularly with the Women's Safety Commissioner?

I often meet with the Women's Safety Commissioner and other DCJ Executives who work in the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Portfolio. Meetings are scheduled on a regular basis and as required.

(14) How often do you schedule meetings with the Women's Safety Commissioner?

See response to supplementary question 13.

(15) Minister, have you delegated the formation and operation of the Lived Experience Reference group entirely to the Women's Safety Commissioner?

Yes.

(16) Minister, once the Lived Experience Reference group has been formed will you continue to consult with key stakeholders such as DVNSW who provide policy insights from their own Lived Experience Reference Group?

Yes.

(17) Minister, in what way will the Lived Experience group you are forming differ from those already in existence?

I am advised:
The Lived Experience group being formed is intended to complement those already in existence, and to inform whole-of-government processes.

(18) Do you expect to receive different policy advice from the group you are forming, compared with the Lived Experience informed advice you already receive from the sector?

See the answer to supplementary question 17.

(19) Minister in Budget Estimates on 27th February you said in reference to the Women's Safety Commissioner 'her role is to provide leadership and oversight of whole-of-government policy and programs on domestic, family and sexual violence. Her role is to provide advice and support on cross-sector and whole-of-government women's safety policy development, law reform and service delivery.'

(a) Minister, what role do you have to play in each of these areas?

As the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault I am responsible for the agencies working in my portfolio in these areas. As a Member of Cabinet, I am part of the policy and decision-making process that is central to government action.

Primary Prevention Strategy

(20) When will the primary prevention strategy for domestic violence be released?

I am advised:
The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Strategy is being developed by the Department of Communities and Justice.

(21) Which stakeholder groups have been involved in the development of the primary prevention strategy for domestic violence?

I am advised:
The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Strategy under development is informed by consultation with a range of stakeholders, including government agencies and non-government stakeholders from peak bodies and advocacy organisations, academic institutions, and organisations with expertise in diverse communities.

Core and Cluster

(22) Which Tranche 1 Core & Cluster programs have commenced operations as at 27th February 2024?

I am advised:
The four services contracted through Tranche 1 of the Core and Cluster Program procurement are now operational:
- Bathurst LGA – Housing Plus – staged build, partially operational
- Wagga Wagga LGA – Wagga Wagga LALC – staged build, partially operational
- Penrith LGA – Evolve Housing and Women’s Community Shelters – fully operational
- Port Macquarie-Hastings – Community Housing Ltd and Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services (partially operational)

(23) Minister, can you guarantee that all Tranche 1 Core & Cluster accommodation will meet disability requirements?

I am advised:
All Core and Cluster refuges must meet the LAHC functional design brief requirements which includes disability modifications.

(24) Can you clarify how many additional places will be provided once the Tranche 3 of Core and Cluster is completed?

I am advised:
Once all refuges from Tranches 1, 2 and 3 are operational, more than an additional 2,900 women and children will be supported every year.

Whole-of-Government Approach

(25) Minister, you advised in Budget Estimates that you are having discussions on an ongoing basis with your ministerial colleagues about issues relating to your portfolio.
(a) Do you have formal and regular meetings with your ministerial colleagues in relation to domestic violence?
(b) How often do you meet with your ministerial colleagues specifically to discuss issues relating to domestic violence?
(c) Do Ministers meet regularly as a group to discuss issues relating to your portfolio?
(d) Do these meetings with your ministerial colleagues occur separately to Cabinet meetings?

I meet with my ministerial colleagues on a regular basis to discuss matters relevant to my portfolio responsibilities, including domestic violence matters.

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| Carers and Volunteers |
| Carers NSW |
| (26) Will Carers NSW continue to be funded to deliver peak activities from 1 July 2024? (a) Will the Young Carers Program continue to receive funding from 1 July 2024? |
| Yes. |
| Young Carer Awareness Training |
| (27) How many Young Carer Awareness Training and other information sessions were held in the last year? (a) Have you attended any since becoming Minister? |
| I am advised: 4 Young Carer Awareness Training sessions were delivered in the 2023 calendar year and 1 in the 2024 calendar year to date. 8 other information sessions to sector stakeholders were delivered in the 2023 calendar year and 3 in the 2024 calendar year to date. (a) No. |
| (28) How many sessions have been held at schools, universities and organisations over the past year? (a) What is the breakdown of the sessions held in metropolitan and regional areas? (b) What is the breakdown by local government area? |
| I am advised: Of the 5 Young Carers Awareness Training sessions delivered in 2023 and 2024 to date: - 1 was held at a school campus in 2023 and 0 in 2024 - 3 were held at a university campus in 2023 and 1 in 2024 (a) Sessions are not always delivered geographically and are often delivered online to an audience from a range of areas to expand reach and accessibility. (b) See response to supplementary question 28a. |
| (29) How many sessions have you attend since becoming Minister? (a) Of the sessions you attended, how many were held in metropolitan areas? (b) Of the sessions you attended, how many were held in regional area |
| See response to supplementary question 27a. |
| Discretionary Fund |
| (30) Of the applications received to access discretionary funds, what dates were the applications received? (a) What is the name of the person/s or organisation/s that have requested the funds? (b) How much was requested? (c) What will the funds be used for? |
| I do not have a discretionary fund for Carers. |
| (31) Will you seek discretionary funds for Volunteers, Seniors or Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault? |
| No. |
| Aboriginal Carers |

(32) How many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island carers are there in NSW?
(a) is the breakdown by age and gender?

I am advised:
27,150 carers in NSW identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the 2021 ABS Census.
Breakdown by age and sex is available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder>.

(33) How many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island carers are caring for more than one person?
(a) What is the breakdown by age and gender?

I am advised:
This data is not available as a reliable population estimate from the ABS.

Student Carers

(34) How many student carers are there in NSW?
(a) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
(b) How many are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island?
i. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
(c) How many student carers provide care for more than one person?

I am advised:
73,094 carers of all ages identified as students in the 2021 ABS Census, with approximately 37,480 studying full time and 35,600 studying part-time.
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder>.
(a) Breakdown by age and sex is available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder>
(b) 3,966 student carers identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the 2021 ABS Census. Breakdown by age and sex is available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder>.
(c) A breakdown of student carers providing care for more than one person is not available.

Service NSW Carers Landing Page

(35) How many times has the Service NSW carers landing page been accessed over the following years:
(a) 2019 – 2020?
(b) 2020-2021?
(c) 2021-2022?
(d) 2022-2023?
(e) 2023-2024?

I am advised:
(a) Nil as the page had not been launched
(b) 7,031 from launch in October 2020 to 30 June 2021
(c) 28,488
(d) 21,804
(e) 12,799 from 1 July 2023 to 1 February 2024

NSW Companion Card

(36) How many people have a NSW Companion Card?

- (a) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
(b) How many are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island?

I am advised: 55,819 cards issued
(a) 30,804 male, 25,015 female – age unavailable
(b) 1,260 self identified

- (37) What is the breakdown of the number of people holding a NSW Companion Card for the following years:
(a) 2019 – 2020?
(b) 2020-2021?
(c) 2021-2022?
(d) 2022-2023?
(e) 2023-2024?

I am advised:
(a) 43,186 cards issued at end of 2020
(b) 46,095 cards issued at end of 2021
(c) 50,041 cards issued at end of 2022
(d) 55,688 cards issued at the end of 2023
(e) 55,819 cards issued by 6 March 2024

- (38) What is the breakdown of the number of affiliates for the following years:
(a) 2019 – 2020?
(b) 2020-2021?
(c) 2021-2022?
(d) 2022-2023?
(e) 2023-2024?

I am advised:
(a) Number unavailable – old database does not capture point in time registrations.
(b) See response to supplementary question 38a
(c) See response to supplementary question 38a
(d) See response to supplementary question 38a
(e) 1145 affiliates as of 6 March 2024 - using new website business listings database

NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal

- (39) How many organisations are registered on the Volunteer Recruitment Portal currently?
(a) How many are online or remote?

I am advised:
As at 6 March 2024, there are 1,673 organisations registered on the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal. The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold information on how many organisations are online or remote.

- (40) What is the breakdown of how many organisations registered for the following years:
(a) 2019?
(b) 2020?
(c) 2021?
(d) 2022?
(e) 2023?

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.

(41) How many organisations registered under the following categories for 2023?

- (a) Disability Services?
 - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
- (b) Homeless?
 - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
- (c) Young People?
 - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
- (d) Seniors and Aged Care?
 - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
- (e) Family Services?
 - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
- (f) Community Services?
 - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?

See response to supplementary question 40.

(42) How many people have volunteered through the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal for the following years:

- (a) 2019?
 - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
 - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (b) 2020?
 - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
 - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (c) 2021?
 - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
 - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (d) 2022?
 - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
 - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (e) 2023?
 - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
 - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?

See response to supplementary question 40.

NSW Volunteering Strategy Budget

(43) What is the breakdown of the \$200,000 allocated in the 2023-24 NSW Budget to the NSW Volunteering Strategy Budget within the Department of Communities and Justice?

- (a) Is this a recurrent figure?
 - i. If yes, is it your intention for the allocation to continue at the same level of funding?

I am advised:

The budget of \$200,000 is recurrent and is fully committed to the delivery of the NSW Volunteering Strategy.

2023 State of Volunteering Report

(44) Have you read the 2023 NSW State of Volunteering Report?

- (a) What is the breakdown of the \$811,958 allocated to The Centre for Volunteering in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?

Yes.

I am advised:

In 2023/24, the Centre for Volunteering is funded \$811,958 (excl GST) under the Department of Communities and Justice's State Peaks Program to deliver a range of strategic leadership and research, policy and advocacy, and capability building activities to support the community services sector.

Carers Employment Program

(45) Is the Carers + Employers program being delivered by Carers NSW?

Yes.

(46) Is the DCJ Carers + Employers program accreditation being delivered by DCJ?

No.

(47) What program level of accreditation has DCJ achieved?
(a) When will the Department start the process for Level 3?

I am advised:
DCJ has achieved Level 2 Accreditation of the Carers and Employers program. DCJ will commence the process for Level 3 Accreditation in 2024.

(48) What program level of accreditation has each Department reached?

I am advised:
That each NSW Government Department is responsible for delivering on the requirements of the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010. The Carers + Employers program is available to all government, non-government and private employers should they wish to participate.

NSW Homelessness Strategy

(49) Have you formally met with the Minister for Homelessness in relation to the NSW Homelessness Strategy?
(a) If yes, what date/s

See response to supplementary question 13.

(50) Have you formally met with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing and Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing in relation to the NSW Homelessness Strategy?
(a) If yes, what date/s

Refer to page 24 of the Budget Estimates hearing transcript.

Regional Seniors Travel Card

(51) What discussions did you have with the Premier or Treasurer prior to the cut of the Regional Seniors Travel Card?

I meet with my ministerial colleagues on a regular basis to discuss matters relevant to my portfolio responsibilities, including the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

(52) Do you agree with the NSW Carers Advisory Council about the impact to senior carers due to the card's cessation?

The NSW Carers Advisory Council provides advice to the NSW Government on legislation, policy and other matters relating to carers and I value their input.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Domestic Violence Funding

(53) Given the NSW Government is increasingly leaning on peak organisations to provide expert advice, will you increase core funding for Domestic Violence NSW, the peak body supporting quality standards for the specialist domestic and family violence sector in NSW, by \$852,149 per annum in 2024-25?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(54) Will the NSW Government provide a 20% baseline funding increase for all specialist sexual, domestic and family violence services in NSW in 2024-25?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(55) Will the NSW Government provide a targeted funding increase for women's refuges (Specialist Homelessness Services) of \$52 million per annum in 2024-25, to adequately support women's refuges established prior to, and operating outside of, the new Core and Cluster funding stream?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(56) Will the NSW Government provide \$40 million in year one of implementation of the NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2027?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(57) Will the NSW Government allocate funding to implement the NSW Domestic and Family Violence 10-year Workforce Development Plan, due for release in 2024?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) If yes, how much funding will be allocated?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(58) Is the NSW Government committed to increasing funding for the Specialist Homelessness Services Program by 20% in 2024-25?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(59) The Aboriginal Women's Advisory Network (AWAN) was established in 2022 to improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and

children. They are an integral initiative to support Closing the Gap Target 13, yet the NSW Government has only provided short term funding which will expire in June 2024. Will the NSW Government commit to ongoing funding for AWAN?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(60) What additional steps is the NSW Government taking to address domestic and family violence in multicultural communities, particularly in relation to;

(a) Funding?

(b) Building a workforce of multicultural specialist workers?

(c) Codesigned and community led primary prevention and early intervention?

(d) Access to income support, health care and housing for people on temporary visas?

I am advised:

The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022-2027 and NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027 commit the NSW Government to activity that supports multicultural communities that experience domestic, family and sexual violence. This includes activity centred on early intervention.

The Department of Communities of Justice is developing a 10-year NSW DFV Workforce Development Strategy which will seek to enhance the capability and competency of the domestic and family violence workforce, including multicultural specialist workers. Future funding decisions will be considered by the NSW Government as part of the process for the 2024-25 Budget.

(61) Will the NSW Government commit to establishing a Domestic and Family Violence Multicultural Committee as part of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council to inform whole-of-government strategies at the intersections of multiculturalism and domestic and family violence?

I am advised:

The Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner is currently leading a review of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) Governance in NSW. This will include consideration of any required changes to the DFSV Governance Framework in NSW.

(62) Following the closure of tenders for Tranche 3 of Core and Cluster, is it expected that the NSW Government will meet its original Core and Cluster target of a total of 75 refuges (currently 39 approved for progression), with funding prioritised for a total of 21 Aboriginal-led refuges and for areas of high unmet need and access demand?

(a) If not, why not?

I am advised:

The rollout of Tranche 3 of Core and Cluster is currently in progress. Once all refuges are operational (through Tranches 1, 2 and 3), it is expected that more than an additional 2,900 women and children will be supported each year.