

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Questions on Notice

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

Transcript Page 4

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many calls have been made to the helpline in the past 12 months?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would have to take that on notice. Full Stop Australia holds those figures. In the past 12 months—so that I can give you the best possible and most up-to-date figures, I'll need to take that question on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many calls were unanswered?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Again, I'd need to take that question on notice so that I can give you the most up-to-date and current figures.

I am advised:

This information is held by Full Stop Australia. This question should be redirected to the Minister for Health.

Transcript Page 6

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What specific cost-of-living measures are you providing? What programs, what funding? You've cut Active Kids programs. What support are you actually giving families who are escaping domestic violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think I can give you the answers in relation to my portfolio. I can't give you all of the cost-of-living measures that we're providing, but I can certainly give you the measures that we're providing in my portfolio. Certainly in relation to domestic and family violence, Staying Home Leaving Violence is a key support. There are also brokerage funds that are being provided to domestic and family violence victims through specialist services across the State. I can give you further detail if you'd like, but I'd need to take it on notice.

I am advised:

Brokerage is available to DFV victim-survivor clients of Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) and the Integrated DFV Service (IDFVS) to support accommodation and safety outcomes.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, tranche 3 included a targeted procurement process for Aboriginal-led refuges. Is there a target on the number of Aboriginal refuges?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There is not a target on the number of Aboriginal-led refuges. However, they are being prioritised. The reason I was so keen, as Minister, to make that decision was that, in the 39 Core and Cluster refuges that had been determined by the previous Government, only five were actually Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led, so—

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many will be announced this year? What is your target? What is the number? How many would you like—

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can tell you that we are prioritising Aboriginal-led applications and I'll be making announcements in relation to that.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you have a percentage that you're aiming towards?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: This Government is working with peak organisations, including Domestic Violence NSW and Aboriginal-controlled community organisations, to ensure that we get the best possible outcome for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to this issue.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: But you don't know how many or what the percentage is of refuges?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'm not going to give you that answer today.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Will you take it on notice?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I will provide you an answer on notice in relation to what we will be doing to increase the numbers of Aboriginal community controlled organisation-led Core and Cluster refuges.

I am advised:

There are five ACCO-led projects among the successful proposals from Tranches 1 and 2. Tranche 3 procurement process is underway and funding will be prioritised to Aboriginal led applications in areas of high need. Following feedback from the sector and peaks, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) extended the Tranche 3 procurement process timeframes to encourage greater participation from Aboriginal organisations. This has resulted in more Aboriginal led applications submitted in tranche 3. DCJ have provided grants for sector capacity building and other sector engagement and support activities targeted to Aboriginal led applications.

Transcript Page 11 & 12

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Are you satisfied that there is sufficient training in the police around language and sufficient recognition that domestic violence also occurs in the gay and lesbian community? Are you satisfied with training so that all police can speak sensitively about this important issue?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I believe historically there has not been sufficient focus on training for police in relation to domestic and family violence. There is a significant increase in the amount of training that police are currently receiving in relation to domestic and family violence, in the way they deal with it, in their attitudes towards it, in the way that different communities experience it and what it might look like.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Are you following up with the police commissioner about this, given the events of recent days?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I regularly speak to the police about the systems in relation to preventing domestic and family violence.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Minister, do you recall meeting with Violet Co Legal and Consulting?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I do.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Do you recall with whom you met?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The person?

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Yes.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Karen Iles.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: When was the last time you met with Karen Iles?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can't remember. It was some months ago. It would be in my disclosures.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Do you recall who was also at that meeting?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I believe that I had a meeting with the police Minister and the Attorney General with Karen Iles.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And Minister Graham as well?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes, I believe Minister Graham was in the room.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So four Ministers. It must have been a very important meeting. What was the purpose of that meeting?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That was to discuss issues in relation to the way that government deals with sexual assault complaints.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Have you been back in touch with Karen since that meeting?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I believe that I have not directly been back in contact with Ms Iles since then.

I don't recall, but I can take that on notice. But there would have been one of the Ministers who was tasked with getting back in contact with Ms Iles at that meeting.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Who was the Minister tasked with getting back in touch with Ms Iles?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: This meeting was some months ago. I would need to check my notes. I am happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: This is a very important issue which required four Ministers to be in attendance and you are not sure who was responsible for following up?

The Hon. Dr SARAH KAINE: She said she will take it on notice.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

Attendees agreed to follow up on relevant issues from their respective portfolios.

Transcript Page 22

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many young carers are currently in New South Wales?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I will have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

There are 79,300 young carers in NSW, according to the latest data from the ABS Carers study in 2018.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you know how many young carers are in our schools?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Again, I'll have to take that on notice. Having said that, young carers in schools sometimes don't even identify themselves as being carers. That's part of the challenge we have in the space of carers—people often don't identify themselves as carers. That is something that the Carers Advisory Council raises with me and the need to better support people who don't automatically identify themselves as being carers.

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning who is responsible for schools.

Transcript Page 22

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Can you outline what you're doing to support young carers, particularly young people and children who are carers that are at school?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: We provide funding to Carers NSW to provide support of \$300,000 for the Young Carer Program. Carers NSW is a really key partner for the New South Wales Government in relation to support for carers. They work as the peak organisation for carers and they do a fantastic job. They run the Young Carer Program and that provides—

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: On the young carers program, how many young people are being provided support?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll have to take that on notice as it is a program run by Carers NSW.

I am advised:

The main support for all carers is through the Carer Gateway, funded by the Commonwealth.

In addition, I am advised that the NSW Government funds the Carers NSW Young Carer Program which provides information and referral support to young carers in NSW and the professionals, educators and community members who support them. Details of the NSW

Young Carer Program are published on <https://www.carersnsw.org.au/services-and-support/programs-services/young-carers/young-carer-program-at-carers-nsw> website.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you know how many schools have that resource?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

"Being a Carer, Being a Student and Being a Kid" is a Department of Education resource on the internet that provides information for principals, teachers and student wellbeing support staff about supporting students who are young carers.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/school-community/attendance-behaviour-and-engagement/behaviour-support-toolkit/support-for-parents/young-carers>

Transcript Page 22 & 23

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What are the needs of Aboriginal carers?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across New South Wales—in fact, each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has different needs. Therefore, each carer within each of those communities would have different needs as well.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In your action plan that you put out last year, you highlighted identifying the needs of Aboriginal carers to provide support. You just said then that the needs vary. Could you outline a couple of areas that you're focused on?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The carers action plan, and that particular action, is currently being worked through and I'll be able to come back with more on that later.

I am advised:

Aboriginal Carers' needs are identified in the NSW Carers Strategy 2020-30.

- Priority 1: Carers have better access to information, services and supports

- Aboriginal carers want information delivered face-to-face. They want to receive the information from someone local, who they trust, and who understands both the system and their culture.

Aboriginal carers want mobile or pop-up information hubs with local services and people available for them to talk to and ask questions.

Some Aboriginal carers have difficulty accessing services due to a combination of a number of factors including unable to access information, lack capacity to navigate the 'system' and difficulty processing paperwork in the required time, resulting in social exclusion from receiving payments or services.

- Priority 2: Carers are recognised, respected and empowered

Aboriginal families may fear being judged harshly or risking child protection intervention if they seek help from government agencies. This may prevent families from accessing support services.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: You have met about Key Directions?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: As I said, I meet with my ministerial colleagues on many different issues.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What are you doing to ensure that Key Directions meets the needs of carers? Again, this is in your action plan. Do you know what

Key Directions is?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I will need to seek advice on that.

I am advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Health who is responsible for the Key Directions.

Transcript Page 25 & 26

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Have you met with disability advocates in relation to domestic and family violence issues?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can't recall that I've had formal meetings. However, when I'm at domestic and family violence events then I have conversations with people with disability at those events.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: What is the point of an organisation like People with Disability Australia, an incredibly well-respected peak organisation in Australia, providing these findings and recommendations and being basically ignored? I put up a motion to make it very clear what the findings were in Parliament so we all could see these damning statistics, making a very clear call for the Government to meet with stakeholders to work out what they could do to address this. What's the point of going through all of that if then there's no direct response from yourself as Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: But there is action being taken by the Government to address the issues experienced by domestic and family violence victims with a disability.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Sure.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There's no doubt there's action being taken.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Sure, and there's been some small incremental action taken by successive governments that hasn't achieved what it needs to. The sector is asking for a discussion where they're able to talk about this and say, "Look, what you're doing is or is not sufficient." Why are you not meeting, on the back of that damning report, with disability advocates and seeing what you can do to make sure that what your Government is doing is sufficient? How do you know?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'm more than happy to meet with People with Disability Australia. I haven't had a request from them to meet but, having you bring this to my attention, I'm more than happy to meet with them directly to discuss the concerns that they have.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: With respect, you have had a request. You had a request from the Legislative Council to work with victim-survivors with disability and their representatives to fix the issues.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take on notice what's occurred in relation to following up on that.

I am advised:

A meeting has been scheduled with myself and People with Disability Australia in the near future.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Can I just turn to something a bit different? As you'll know, I take a big interest in looking at consulting spend in people's annual reports. In the annual report for the Department of Communities and Justice, there is a line in there about a review by Rooftop Trust, who I understand to be known as Rooftop Social—\$143,000, just over, spent in the 2022-23 financial year. The reason it piqued my interest is that it said that they were paid to review the coverage of sexual violence in men's behaviour change programs. Do you know what happened to that review? Do we have the report? Is it public? Is anything being done in relation to that I'm just curious.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I haven't seen that as yet. I'll ask Mr Tidball.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Ms Boyd, it's not a consultancy of which I have knowledge. I'm very happy on notice to come back to the Committee. Contextually, we are really bearing down on consultancy cost. In 2022-23 there was an allocation of—let me put it this way: We have significantly underspent on consultancy. Against an allocation of \$10.4 million, we spent 5.5. The underspend was 4.9. But on that specific consultancy, I'm happy to revert.

I am advised:

DCJ has commissioned Rooftop Social to undertake a review of sexual violence content in NSW registered Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) as well as other MBCPs delivered in NSW. This is an initiative under the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027.

The aim is for the research project to consider the following questions:

- What sexual violence content is currently delivered in NSW MBCPs?
- How is intimate partner sexual violence content delivered in NSW MBCPs?
- What barriers / enablers are there for practitioners to respond to sexual violence perpetrators in NSW MBCPs?
- What strategies do practitioners use to identify, discuss, and respond to sexual violence perpetration in MBCPs?

The Report is expected to be finalised by the middle of the year. Findings will be used to support the continuing development of MBCPs in relation to sexual violence.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: In the budget estimates hearing last November we were talking about progress on the LECC report Review of NSW Police Force responses to family and domestic violence incidents, which was published in June last year. There were 13 recommendations in that report and the Government still hasn't provided a response. What's the status of the Government response?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That is an issue for the police Minister.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: The review of responses to domestic and family violence is nothing that you have any involvement with, Minister?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The police Minister has oversight of providing a response in relation to LECC recommendations.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: When did you last meet with the police Minister to discuss the Government response to this report?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I frequently meet and have informal discussions with the police Minister about domestic and family violence matters.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And in relation to this report?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: We meet on a regular basis because the matters that are raised within that report are not necessarily just only raised within that report; they may be matters that come up at later points as well.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Can you tell us the last occasion on which you specifically discussed the matters in that report with the police Minister?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: For those particular matters, I'd have to take that on notice. I do, however, need to note that some discussions and developments between Ministers are Cabinet-in-confidence. I will undertake to provide you—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I'm not asking for the detail of it; I'm asking for progress of it.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think the progress is the detail, really.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: When was your last meeting with the police Minister to discuss domestic violence and sexual assault specifically?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can take that on notice.

I meet with my ministerial colleagues on a regular basis to discuss matters relevant to my portfolio responsibilities, including the Minister for Police and Counter-Terrorism.

Transcript Page 28 & 29

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There has been quite a considerable amount of work to ensure that our governance in relation to domestic and family violence is up to scratch, or certainly improves from where it is. Certainly, the domestic, family and sexual violence board, which is chaired by Mr Tidball—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry, Minister, the question was in relation to a whole-of-government response and specifically coordination between you as the Minister, the police Minister and the Attorney General. I'm not asking you about governance boards; I'm asking about ministerial coordination.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would've thought that ministerial discussions also related to governance, so the systems that Ministers—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: —are implementing, thank you. But if there is a whole-of-government approach, why are you apparently excluded from a consideration of the Government response to the LECC report in relation to domestic and family violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The LECC report is specifically in relation to police.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Minister, with respect, a whole-of-government response coordinating between the Attorney General and police and Minister for women and prevention of domestic violence—wouldn't that require you to be involved in the whole-of-government discussions about the Government response to that report?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: This Government is very clearly taking a whole-of-government approach to a huge number of issues that are facing us, including domestic, family and sexual violence.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Does whole of government include the Minister for Women?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Whole of government absolutely includes whole of government.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Then why aren't you involved in discussions in relation to the LECC report?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The LECC report is the responsibility of the Minister for police. I will let the Minister for police put the response to the LECC recommendations. That's the Minister for police's role.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Minister, you're either working in silos—women's silo, police silo, Attorney General silo—or you're working whole of government across issues that touch everybody in New South Wales. Which one is it?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: This Government is working whole of government way better than previous governments have. For example, the Women's Safety Commissioner, Dr Hannah Tonkin, is the first standalone women's safety commissioner and she was appointed as the standalone Women's Safety Commissioner by this Government—first standalone women's safety commissioner of any of the States and Territories across Australia.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: That's very interesting but it doesn't go to the fact that your insights apparently aren't welcome in relation to the Government response to the LECC report.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I reject that assertion. I totally reject it.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Then when did you meet with the police Minister to discuss the response?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I've taken that question on notice and I will provide it. You asked me about whole-of-government response and I am trying to give you a response on what this Government is doing in relation to taking a whole-of-government response. A key part of that is the work of the Women's Safety Commissioner. Now, the Women's Safety Commissioner, as I said, is the first women's safety commissioner of any State and Territory—standalone position—in Australia. 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. Her role—

See response to previous Question on Notice.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Absolutely, and that's why whole-of-government oversight for these issues is important. On that point, are there regular joint meetings with other Ministers in relation to domestic violence? When was the last time that you met with the police Minister, the Attorney General, the Minister with respect to homelessness to discuss the whole-of-government response to domestic violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The last time I met with the Minister for Housing in relation to this issue was last week.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Was the Attorney General also present?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Well, I'm not going to go into discussions that Cabinet have in relation to domestic and family violence.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Minister, I'm asking how your whole-of-government approach is working.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: It's working pretty fine actually. It's certainly working much better than it used to.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You would be as concerned as we all are about the fact that there are four known deaths in New South Wales due to domestic violence this year, according to Counting Dead Women Australia. Have you met with the police commissioner to discuss these disturbing deaths?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: As I think I indicated earlier in the session, one death by domestic and family violence is one death too many. I think Counting Dead Women counts not just deaths of women who have lost their lives due to domestic and family violence; I think Counting Dead Women also counts deaths of women who have died violently at the hands of somebody else. It may not actually be domestic and family violence. But as I said this morning, I have had phone calls with the police commissioner and I regularly meet with police, including, as I said this morning—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And your last meeting to discuss this issue with the police commissioner was?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll have to take that on notice, and I can take on notice when last conversations were as well.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I understand from your diary disclosures that the last time you met with the New South Wales police was on 25 August last year at a round table to discuss domestic violence matters in the Central West, and since April 2023 your diary discloses no meetings at all with deputy commissioners or assistant commissioners in relation to any of these matters.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think diary disclosures are only for external bodies. They don't reflect—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you can provide additional details of how the whole-of-government focus on domestic violence is working, I would be very grateful.

I am advised:

As per the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05, Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information (2015), it is not necessary to disclose information about meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, Parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions). I often meet with the government officials, including NSW Police.

Transcript Page 30

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Have you approached the Treasurer or the Premier about increasing funding for the Ageing and Disability Commission?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take that on notice.

Minister Washington and I are working with Treasury and the Department on future funding needs for the ADC that will be under consideration as part of the budget process.

Transcript Page 33 & 34

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: In relation to the National Construction Code minimum accessibility standards, I think I asked you about this last time. This is the minimum accessibility requirements for new builds in the State. So this is something—

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Silver, gold standards?

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That's the one. It's something that Queensland, Victoria, the ACT—everybody except us and, I think, one other State—have adopted.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: It's not just a matter for people with disability, obviously; it's a matter for people who want to live in their house as they're getting older or for those with mobility issues.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: What have you been doing to advocate for New South Wales to adopt those standards?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Certainly, this is an issue that has been raised by a number of the key groups that I meet with—the Older Women's Network, the ministerial advisory council on the ageing, COTA—because it is a really key part of people being able to remain in their homes, and that's what we want people to be able to do, rather than them having to move out, and we want homes to be as adaptable as they possibly can be. So I've certainly been hearing those voices and hearing the issue. I know there is work that is being done by Minister Chanthivong. That's something that is being reviewed. The piece of legislation—not legislation; the standards and the implementation of the standards within New South Wales is something that the Minister for Building has oversight of, and I would think that he would be aware of the concerns in relation to the need to ensure—

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Have you been adding your voice, though, as the Minister for Seniors, to—

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Absolutely.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: You will have no doubt seen the quite shocking report in relation to the Northern Rivers floods and the reports of just completely inappropriate response to people suffering from domestic and family violence situations—and even reports of sexual assault. What is the Government doing to ensure that domestic violence responses are embedded in disaster response?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I have actually recently met with the authors of that report, Associate Professor Foote and Professor Margaret Alston and talked about the issues in relation to that report. Even before that report was brought out though, there are changes being made in relation to how we deal with disasters and particularly how evacuation centres are run. Domestic Violence NSW, as you know, ran a forum about regional responses to disasters. Prior to the bushfire season, just before Christmas, I really wanted to make sure that our services and that our Government response would be ready if there were any emergencies. Thankfully, we didn't have any significant emergency over the Christmas period. But it is absolutely true that responses need to be trauma informed in those centres. One of the things about that report that really struck me though, there was certainly the issue about the terrible experiences of people who had been in evacuation

centres, and certainly anecdotal reports of people having been sexually assaulted. But what struck me was the incredible leadership of women. I think that was one of the things that Associate Professor Foote was really keen to talk to me about, the way that women actually are often, just through a need for survival, actually at the fore in those particular circumstances, without necessarily having a formal evacuation centre. There has been the development of an evacuation centre manual. This is not within my portfolio but I have—
Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: You've been speaking with the Minister for Emergency Services on this?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The portfolios that have responsibility for this are actually the Minister for Housing, and Minister for Homelessness through SHSs. When it gets to a larger evacuation centre, police become involved. At a smaller level, the evacuation centre manual has been developed and that provides guidance on how to set up and run a centre that promotes safety and privacy. This is since the Lismore floods. There's been recruitment and training of an additional 200 personnel, which will allow for more personnel to be rostered on. There's also been—and this is something that Associate Professor Foote talked with me about—the need for exercises, for training. There's certainly been a program of exercises which simulate a real centre. There were five exercises held in 2023 and there's 10 intended for 2024. At the end of last year the State Emergency Management Committee tasked the police and DCJ to review the major evacuation centre guidelines. I just need to check the numbers that we're talking about.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Maybe come back.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll come back with the numbers that that applies to. That review commenced at the end of last month.

I am advised:

An additional 213 staff were recruited to work in evacuation centres in 2023. Five evacuation centre training exercises were conducted in 2023 and a further 10 are scheduled for 2024.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Are you aware of the recent analysis that found that a third of Australian universities have still not set up specialised committees to address sexual violence, despite it being a key recommendation since 2017?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes. Certainly that most recent report was very disturbing.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Very disturbing. Did you meet with the education Minister ahead of her meeting with other Ministers last week to finalise that action plan that she then participated in?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I have had discussions with the Minister for Education and Early Learning and my office has had discussions with that office in relation to that.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Did you have involvement and input into the draft action plan that was released last year in December?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I don't recall. I'll have to take that on notice.

The 'Addressing gender-based violence in higher education Action Plan' was discussed at the November 2023 Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council Meeting. This work sits in the portfolio the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.

Transcript Page 37

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is there any support that you provide to help a carer re-enter the workforce?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There is, particularly for women, because, as you know, most carers are women. The Government provides a number of programs to assist carers to re-enter the workforce.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What's the name of the program?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The Return to Work Pathways Program is one.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many people are participating in that program?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The Return to Work Pathways Program actually provides grants to organisations. I can take on notice exactly which of those grants have been provided to carers organisations.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is there any support that you provide to help a carer re-enter the workforce?

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What's the name of the program?

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many people are participating in that program?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The Return to Work Pathways Program actually provides grants to organisations. I can take on notice exactly which of those grants have been provided to carers organisations.

I am advised:

Carers NSW received funding under the 2023 Return to Work Pathways Program to deliver the Career Pathways for Carers (CP4C) project. CP4C expects to support 100 carers over two years. More information on other successful projects can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/return-to-work-pathways-program>.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Just a couple of final questions in relation to the Seniors Festival. Has the Government cut funding to that?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The Government has not cut funding to the Seniors Festival.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to questions you were asked at the last hearing, you indicated that 20 per cent of the funding that has been allocated was to go to the regions. What percentage of seniors reside in the regions compared to metropolitan areas?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take that on notice just to ensure that I give you the correct figures.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: If you can also check whether or not the amount that's actually being given to the regions is fairly proportional to the number of seniors in the regions.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: When I provide that information, what I'll do is not just provide information in relation to the festival and the activities that are undertaken with the festival, but I'll also make sure that what I do is provide you with all of the Connecting Seniors grants that have been given to organisations that are in the regions and rural areas, because there is a significant proportion of that that has been provided to organisations and councils that are in regional, rural and remote New South Wales.

I am advised:

In 2024, 47 organisations received grants as part of the NSW Seniors Festival Grants program. There were 33 regional (70%) and 14 metro grant recipients (30%). Of the \$200,000 in funding, \$134,810 was given to regional and remote grant recipients.

In Sydney, people aged 60 years and over make up 20% of the population, compared with 29% in the rest of NSW.

15 of the 21 Connecting Seniors grants have been awarded to organisations that are in

regional and rural areas. A list of the grants awarded can be found at:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/connecting-seniors-grant-program>.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Afternoon, everyone. Thank you for your continuing presence. My first question is to you, Mr Tidball, in relation to coercive control. In an answer to a question on notice following a previous budget estimates hearing, the advice was that funding of \$1.98 million had been allocated to the delivery of community education and awareness about coercive control. Could you give us some details about how that money is being spent and what form and shape that community education is taking?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, I can. The first phase is an educational website, which was launched in August last year. Feedback from stakeholders and members of the public on that has been noted, but it has generally been positive. The second phase—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry to interrupt you. The feedback was solicited or it was spontaneous?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I believe it was solicited. We have been careful to user test and to market test all that we have done.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Great. Thank you.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: The second phase currently underway is a broad advertising campaign designed for social media, and that is designed for launch in April this year. The third phase, which is also currently underway, is tailored campaigns for First Nations and multicultural communities, due to launch in May of this year.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Great. If we wanted to have a look at these, are they available anywhere?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Of course.

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice is implementing a phased approach to educating the NSW public about coercive control. The first phase of this work involved the development of a dedicated website about coercive control. The website launched in August 2023 and is available at www.nsw.gov.au/coercive-control. The second phase involves the development of a broad advertising campaign to raise awareness and understanding of coercive control, and will be available at www.nsw.gov.au/coercive-control from April 2024. The third phase involves the development of tailored campaigns about coercive control for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities and First Nations communities, and will be available at www.nsw.gov.au/coercive-control from May 2024.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Great. Thank you very much. Deputy Secretary, in an answer to a question on notice following the previous estimates hearing, we were advised that the domestic and family violence workforce development strategy is expected to be finalised by mid-2024. Is that still the case?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, that's still the case.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Great. Thank you. Once it's been finalised, will there be an allocation of funds for its implementation?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think that's under government consideration, once we get the workforce findings. Obviously, it's really important that we act on any findings we get out of the workforce survey, so we'll be working with key stakeholders to inform a government response to that.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: But you don't yet know whether you've got money to implement the findings that you hope to make?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Not at this point, no.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: When would you be looking to have funding secured?
ANNE CAMPBELL: I guess because we don't have the workforce survey yet—it doesn't come back until, I think, closer to the middle of the year, the analysis—I would have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

Funding for implementation of the NSW DFV Workforce Development Strategy will be considered once the Strategy has been finalised. Development of the NSW DFV Workforce Development Strategy utilises preliminary findings from the NSW DFV Workforce Survey, which is also expected to be publicly released in mid-2024.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Again during budget estimates in November, we were advised, in relation to New South Wales police training for coercive control, "That training was developed in collaboration with DV specialists". Could you please elaborate on what that collaboration looked like and which domestic violence specialists were involved?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I again need to take that on notice. I'm not sure. I think it was spoken about this morning, but there may have been people who are on a panel, which is quite different I guess in terms of actually being participating in a co-design process. I will need to take that on notice and follow up with police.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Thank you very much, if you could take that on notice. Again, back to you, Mr Tidball. In an answer to supplementary questions it was acknowledged, "People living in regional, rural and remote areas of New South Wales who experience violence face specific issues related to their geographic location and social and cultural characteristics of living in small communities." What are some examples of programs that are delivered specifically to those affected by domestic and family violence in regional, rural and remote communities that address these specific issues to which we've just made reference?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force consulted an expert panel in the development of the coercive control training package. These experts included:

- Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW)
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program DV practitioner (social worker), Legal Aid NSW
- First Nations Senior Community Access Officer, Women's Legal Service NSW, First Nation Women Legal Program
- Women's Safety Commissioner NSW
- Chief Executive Officer, DVNSW
- Director Operations, NSW Ageing and Disability Commission
- Deputy Chief Magistrate, Local Court of NSW
- President of the Children's Court NSW
- Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
- Director, Community Health, ACON

The purpose of the expert panel was to act as a consultation forum regarding the NSW Police Force's proposed training approach for coercive control. This training focuses on:

- recording and responding to coercive control
- collecting and recording evidence
- prosecuting coercive control offences, and

- the complexity and nuance within different communities, with a focus on First Nations communities and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The responses provided by the expert panel were recorded and included within the Phase 2 training package.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I wonder if on notice, if it doesn't involve too much administrative work, the number of programs, it would be very interesting to see how they map out across New South Wales and also the reach that each of them is expected to have. What is the travel time expectation, for example, and what is the ability to travel in that particular area? If it was possible to generate something like that, that would be very helpful.

ANNE CAMPBELL: We will do our best.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Just, finally, in that last one did you talk about Staying Home Leaving Violence?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I did indeed.

I am advised:

Staying Home Leaving Violence - delivered by 32 service providers in 91 LGAs. This includes 29 providers in 69 rural and regional LGAs. 39 Program locations:

- Albury, Greater Hume and Federation
- Armidale Region and Walcha
- Bathurst Regional and Lithgow (Blue Mountains outreach)
- Bega Valley, Eurobodalla (Snowy Monaro Regional outreach pilot)
- Blacktown
- Broken Hill, Wentworth Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly
- Canterbury (suburbs of the former Canterbury LGA) and Burwood
- Coffs Harbour, Nambucca Valley and Bellingen LGAs
- Dubbo, Narromine and Gilgandra
- Georges River
- Gosford, Wyong
- Griffith, Narrandera, Leeton, Hay
- Inverell, Glenn Innes and Tenterfield
- Kempsey, Nambucca Valley, with continued outreach to Aboriginal families in Port Macquarie Hastings as required
- Lake Macquarie
- Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown portion of Canterbury-Bankstown LGA
- Maitland, Cessnock, Dungog and Singleton
- Mid Coast
- Mid-Western Regional (Lachlan and Weddin outreach pilot)
- Moree Plains, Narrabri
- Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter
- Newcastle
- Orange, Cabonne and Blayney
- Parkes, Forbes and Cowra
- Parramatta, Cumberland and the Hills
- Penrith, Hawkesbury
- Port Stephens, Partial coverage of Mid-Coast
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional
- Randwick, Waverley, Bayside and Woollahra
- Richmond Valley, Lismore and Kyogle
- Shoalhaven, Wollongong, Shellharbour and Eurobodalla
- Sutherland

- Sydney, Inner West
- Tamworth Regional, Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains
- Tweed, Byron, Ballina
- Wagga Wagga and Junee
- Walgett, Coonamble, Brewarrina and Warrumbungle
- Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama

Integrated DFV Service (IDFVS) - delivered by 11 service providers in 14 LGAs. This includes 5 providers in 5 rural and regional LGAs.

- Bankstown
- Botany Bay
- Byron
- Fairfield
- Gosford
- Greater Taree
- Hastings
- Liverpool
- Mt Druitt - Blacktown
- Port Macquarie
- Shoalhaven
- Waverley

Women's DV Court Advocacy Service - 27 providers operating state-wide, with 18 in rural and regional locations.

- Burwood
- Central Coast
- Central North-West
- Central West
- Coffs-Clarence
- Cumberland
- Far West
- Hunter Valley
- Illawarra
- Macarthur
- Monaro-Hume
- Murray River
- Murrumbidgee
- Nepean-Blue Mountains
- New England
- Newcastle
- Northern Rivers
- Northern Sydney
- North-West Sydney
- Oxley
- Riverina
- South Coast
- South West Sydney
- Southern Sydney
- Sydney
- Western

Local Support Services (for male DFV victim survivors) - 5 providers operating state-wide, with 4 covering rural and regional NSW.

- Bankstown

- Blacktown
- Barrier
- Murray River
- New England – Armidale

Sexual assault services - NSW Health is the main provider and each local health district has at least one service providing 24/7 integrated psychosocial, medical, and forensic crisis responses to adult and child sexual assault victims.

Men's Behaviour Change Programs - 16 providers funded to deliver MBCPs in 29 locations across NSW:

- Anglicare - Parramatta
- BaptistCare - Bankstown, Cambeltown and Penrith
- CatholicCare Broken Bay – Tuggerah and Waitara
- CatholicCare Fairfield - Fairfield
- CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes – Forbes/Parkes, Bourke, Narromine and Lachlan
- Centacare New England North West – Tamworth
- Everyman – Queanbeyan
- Gawura Aboriginal Corporation – Albion Park
- Housing Plus – Orange
- Kempsey Families – Kempsey and Nambucca
- Manning Support Services – Taree
- Men and Family Centre – Lismore and Tweed Heads
- Mission Australia Central and Far West – Broken Hill, Dubbo, Walgett, Central and Far West
- North East MBC – Albury
- Relationships Australia NSW – Illawarra, Newcastle and Sydney CBD
- Warrina DFV Specialist Services – Coffs Harbour

Core and Cluster Program - The LGAs of all existing women's refuges and the 39 projects approved through Core and Cluster (C&C) Tranches 1 and 2 have been plotted by BOCSAR on an interactive map available on the DCJ website here. Of the 39 projects approved through tranches 1 and 2 of the C&C program procurement, 26 are in regional/rural locations (LGAs listed below). Tranche 3 procurement is still under way, with funding to be prioritised to Aboriginal led serviced and areas with high needs, poor access. This will mean further coverage of refuges across regional and rural NSW when that is finalised and additional services are contracted. Tranche 1 and 2 LGAs:

- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Gunnedah (Aboriginal Provider)
- Bathurst Regional
- Newcastle
- Lake Macquarie
- Albury
- Lithgow
- Coffs Harbour
- Tamworth
- Maitland
- Singleton
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional
- Port Stephens
- Dubbo
- City of Hawkesbury
- Griffith
- Eurobodalla (Aboriginal Provider)

- Shoalhaven
- Shoalhaven (Aboriginal Provider)
- Broken Hill
- Wollongong
- Clarence Valley
- Tweed Shire
- Richmond Valley
- Wagga Wagga (Aboriginal Provider)
- Central Coast (Aboriginal Provider)

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I note that the Far West Community Legal Centre Ltd issued a media release on 31 January this year advising that by 31 July this year they will cease delivering their four services, being the Far West Community Legal Centre, Warra Warra Legal Service, Staying Home Leaving Violence and Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service. What arrangements are being made to ensure the ongoing delivery of these critical services to the Far West?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: In responding to this question—I'm happy to answer the question—it's more in the context of the secretary with the responsibilities to the Attorney General that I've become aware of this issue. In one set I acknowledge that it does impact women, but—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Happy to get a whole-of-government response, Mr Tidball.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I know as much as there was a specific issue which pertained to insurance, and discussions were held with the peak group—I'm just trying to remember the name—the Community Legal Centres peak group, and the issue was resolved. I have indicated that if there is an impasse or a difficulty I'm available to—I was aware of the issue. The issue has been resolved. If there was a problem with service continuity, I would be very happy to deal with this matter offline. But I gather the issues were resolved. In terms of the granular detail of it, I would need, Ms Carter, to take that on notice. But I gather the issues have been resolved.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could take it on notice, because the primary concern is continuity of service delivery.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: It came about because of the PII matter, as I understand, and I believe that is fixed.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: It is important if you could just confirm that it has been fixed and there will be continuity of service. I note BOCSAR data indicating that the Mid North Coast has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in regional New South Wales and, indeed, the State as a whole. Despite this evidence for need, why is the Staying Home Leaving Violence program not funded in the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I would need to take that on notice. I might be able to come back to you before the end of today's session.

I am advised:

The community legal services provided by Far West Community Legal Centre (Far West CLC) fall under the Attorney General's portfolio and the Warra Warra Family Violence Prevention Legal Service operated by Far West CLC is a Commonwealth funded service, administered by the National Indigenous Advancement Agency. The Department of Communities and Justice, Legal Aid NSW and other funding bodies are working with Far West CLC and Community Legal Centres NSW (the peak body for CLCs) to ensure ongoing delivery arrangements for the four services in Far West NSW.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: When you say "recommissioning", is there any risk that any of these services will stop operating either generally or in particular areas?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Not that I'm aware of at the moment. I think from time to time some providers choose not to continue and then sometimes there may be issues around performance. But obviously you go down a particular path if there are performance issues in terms of that NGO.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And you've got continuity plans in place to ensure continuity?

ANNE CAMPBELL: At this point, yes. And we've had some examples—the one you talked about earlier in relation to the Staying Home Leaving Violence, out in Far West New South Wales. We'd be looking at other providers to pick up those services, so it could be either through a direct negotiation with that provider or it could be an expression of interest process if there are multiple providers.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry, I'm a little bit confused. I thought I understood from Mr Tidball that the issue had been resolved and those services were continuing but I think you've just said that some of them will be maintained by different providers.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm happy to get some further information. But my understanding, Secretary, is that service provided the Staying Home Leaving Violence program, so I know there's work underway to look at how that can transition.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: But the Warra Warra Legal Service, the Far West Community Legal Centre and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services—that was an insurance issue that we understand has been resolved?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I am running off memory. I am happy to confirm it, but I believe that to be so.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could confirm—the issue that we are focusing on is continuity of service.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes. Can I say, bundled in there, that the dealbreaker in terms of service continuity was the availability of PII. That issue has been fixed but I need to check whether there is anything at the back of that that's not resolved. I'm happy to do that.

See response to previous Question Taken on Notice.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is any funding given to Settlement Services International for domestic violence programs?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think there is. I will take that on notice. Certainly the 4.4 I mentioned is going to Settlement Services.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Could you clarify if that is an existing contract or it's new money in this budget?

ANNE CAMPBELL: The 4.4 is definitely new money in the budget, but I will take it on notice, the other part to your question, because I do know they're funded for other sorts of services through DCJ.

I am advised:

A new contract was signed for establishing the NSW Multicultural Support Service and Centre of Excellence for Domestic and Family Violence for a total funding amount of \$4.4 million over 3 years.

Other DFV funding provided to SSI:

- One-off funding under the Sexual Violence Project Funds Grants of \$902,505.
- One-off funding of \$29,989 for co-design with multicultural communities of a framework for responding to domestic and family violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the discretionary funds, the Minister said this morning that there was no carers discretionary fund. However, in answers that she provided following the last estimates to supplementary questions, she stated:

The Carers' discretionary fund is \$200,000 per annum. The Women's discretionary fund is \$200,000 per annum. There are no discretionary funds for Seniors or Domestic Violence Sexual Assault. I just want to clarify: Does the carers discretionary fund exist or not?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It doesn't exist.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: It doesn't, and neither do any others.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is there a reason why the Minister would have put in her supplementary answers last year that there is a \$200,000 fund?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I would need to take that on notice and check.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Did that fund ever exist? If it did, where has that money now gone?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I will take that on notice.

I do not have a discretionary fund for Carers.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Following on from Core and Cluster, you said there are 39 proposals. Did you say five were complete?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Five have either commenced, are complete or partially commenced.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Are they all tranche 1?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Tranche 1 and 2, from memory.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many under tranche 1 are still to be completed?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I would need to take that on notice. I might be able to find it before the end of this session.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Then also for tranche 2; basically a breakdown between the two as to what has been completed and how many are outstanding.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think I do have that, if you bear with me. The most recent report I've got is the quarter 2, 2023-24, which shows, of the total 39 projects, nine of them are showing some delays, and that's partly to do with construction and obviously issues that have cropped up in the normal project management of these new facilities; 15 out of the 39 have commenced building, refurbishment and renovations; and seven out of the 39 projects are in the planning phase.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you have any concerns about whether or not you will be able to deliver all 39?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Not at this stage.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you have a time frame for the delivery of them?

ANNE CAMPBELL: For quarters one and two, I think—and again I'm happy to be corrected and will take it on notice and maybe get back to you this afternoon—by next year we're hoping to see most of the construction and services ready to start operating. For tranche 3, because we're going through the request for tender process at the moment, they're likely to come on board in 2026.

I am advised:

There were 39 projects approved, four in Tranche 1 and 35 in Tranche 2

- There are five refugees operational
- Four of these are from Tranche 1 and one is from Tranche 2
- All Core and cluster refugees from tranches 1 and 2 will be constructed by June 2026.

- Service delivery for each refuge will commence after buildings are complete. We are expecting construction for services to complete progressively with, 21 buildings completed by December 2024 and, 15 by December 2025 with , 3 being complete by June 2026.

Dates are based on projected building completion dates as at 05 March 2024 and may change if there are construction delays.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Ms Campbell, I might go back to a couple of Core and Cluster questions to finish off there. I'm interested to know about the pathway out of the accommodation of Core and Cluster into long-term accommodation. How does that look?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Each of the models varies slightly. Some have longer-term accommodation, so transitional housing linked to the Core and Cluster. Obviously there is an issue in terms of housing in New South Wales and access to affordable housing. There are a number of projects that we've got underway through the Community Housing Innovation Fund. There was 52 point something million that was announced some time ago. I think we've got about four or five projects that are started which provide longer-term social housing. As you are aware, there are also products around Start Safely that subsidise women and children escaping DV for up to three years. I think it will be really important that each of these Core and Clusters have very strong networks locally where they're based and actively working to look at how we move people out of crisis accommodation into medium- or long-term housing.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you keep the data on the average length of stay that women are in Core and Cluster accommodation?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It's still early days. I think it was to your earlier question, we've got I think five services that have commenced and there certainly is data collection associated with that. It will vary, obviously, depending on an individual's situation. But we will be able to capture that data as we roll out Core and Cluster to understand the experience of women and children in these services, but equally how long they're there and what some of the barriers might be to moving into more medium- to long-term accommodation.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And that evaluation and monitoring is all going to be run through the department?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is it set to actually have a formal evaluation?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm confident that we actually had funding allocated through the budget for an evaluation of this program, given its size and scope.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I'm happy for you to take it on notice, but could you give details of when that evaluation is likely to commence and conclude?

I am advised:

There is funding allocated from the program for a formal evaluation of the Core and Cluster. The department is preparing a scope for the evaluation.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I have a question for Mr Tidball. In the New South Wales sexual violence plan 2022-2027, pillar 1 identifies that there is a New South Wales domestic family and sexual violence primary prevention strategy in development as part of the prevention strategy of pillar 1. Can you tell us what the progress of this prevention strategy is?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm happy to take that question. It's currently under construction—that's probably a very poor use of word—but I think shortly, within the next few months, something will be made public in relation to that.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: It's designed to identify the drivers of family violence, and the same sexual violence plan identifies that a major driver at an individual level is exposure to violent pornography and a major driver at relationship level is pressure to pursue sex with women in coercive and aggressive ways, which is recognised as being related to use of pornography. Will that strategy address measures to limit use of pornography because of its driver in family violence and violence against women?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I am happy to take that on notice. Obviously, it is still in draft and we're still working through it, but I'll have a closer look at that draft strategy to see if it picks up those issues.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I think, Mr Tidball, this question is probably for you. It relates to the LECC review of police response to domestic and family violence. Is the department collaborating with New South Wales police in the formulation of recommendations in that review responding to the report in relation to domestic and family violence incidents?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I believe that it is in play. I would prefer to come back to the Committee with a considered response, though, if I may?

I am advised:

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Strategy is being developed by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). A priority setting for action in the strategy is schools, with a focus on evidence-based respectful relationships education.

The response to the LECC review of police response to domestic and family violence is being led by NSW Police Force. Questions on the LECC review should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-Terrorism.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I hope you may be able to answer this question today: There was also \$8 million to provide court-appointed questioners to ensure that domestic violence victim-survivors are not directly cross-examined by an alleged perpetrator. How many court-appointed questioners have been engaged using this funding?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I will need to take that on notice, but I am close to the work being undertaken with the departmentally recruited people as well as working with Dr John Brodie of the JPs association of New South Wales. Those resources are in play, but the JPs association is also playing a very active part at the moment in the questioning, and I can come back with the number.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And, if you wouldn't mind, as well as the raw number, the geographic availability of those examiners.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Of course, yes, which is really important, I acknowledge.

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Attorney General.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Thank you for clarifying. Mr Tidball, I have a couple of questions on the consultant disclosures from the last financial year. Under "management services", there was just over \$200,000 given to EY, and it says in the description, "Conduct an independent review of existing policies and practices." Was that for a particular part of the department or was that department-wide?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I am really sorry; I wish I had it with me. I would really like to refer to it with a quick response.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I'm happy for you to take it on notice.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Certainly.

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice spend is conducted under guidelines and reported in the annual report.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I'm just curious. Then there was one here that reminded me of an issue that I'm not sure we talked about in the last estimates. This is the issue of New South Wales having to provide indemnity for organisations against child abuse claims because insurance companies were pulling out.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I understand that there was—well, the report I'm looking at says 47 organisations. So there were quite a few non-government organisations who were under government contracts. The bit of the consultant disclosure I'm looking at is that Finity Consulting were paid 429,000 to develop a national course of action in relation to that issue. Can you update us? What did that report show? Has it helped? Where are we going?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, Ms Boyd. I'll ask Anne Campbell to respond in detail to the work that's being done with that insurance. We continue to be working at the table in terms of the national solution, but immediately in New South Wales the issue for those NGOs is access to cover, and we're working with Treasury Corp—Treasury with a solution. It is advancing, but on the detail I might ask Ms Campbell.

ANNE CAMPBELL: It was extended it till the end of this year, so it went through the budget process last year. What we have been doing with other States and Territories is looking at the principles around this framework. This is the physical and sexual abuse insurance that predominantly applies to some out-of-home care providers and to some youth homelessness services. There are 46 at the moment that have got coverage through this scheme we've got in place, the interim one. The funding, in terms of your original question, is both the contribution from other States and Territories. So New South Wales isn't picking it up on their own. I think towards the end of this year we'll have some more advice on a final solution.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Okay. Because I think—

ANNE CAMPBELL: But we've had no claims, interestingly, to date.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Retroactive cover, but no claims to date.

ANNE CAMPBELL: No.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I think we all agree that we don't want victim-survivors to go without—

ANNE CAMPBELL: Compensation, yes.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: —compensation, but also we don't want to create a moral hazard where these organisations aren't paying or having any kind of financial penalty.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: If you did have a claim under this current arrangement, would that be directed back for recovery from one of those organisations? Is there any comeback in terms of those organisations being made liable?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think we'd obviously look at it on a case-by-case basis. This particular interim scheme goes back to 2017, and that's when particular contracts were made. But often the State is party to some of those claims as well, so we really look at it on a case-by-case basis.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Okay.

ANNE CAMPBELL: But happy to take on notice some more specific questions, or it may come up in the—I think it usually comes up in a couple of the other hearings as well.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: In the other one, yes.

ANNE CAMPBELL: So I'll make sure I'm across the detail.

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion, as the Minister responsible for the Short-term Indemnity Scheme (STIS).

However, I am aware that Finity Consulting Pty Limited was engaged to support the Inter-jurisdictional Working Group (IJWG), which was established to develop a long-term solution to the lack of available physical and sexual assault (PSA) insurance for out-of-home care (OOHC) and youth homelessness service providers. The IJWG comprised of all states and territories and the Commonwealth and chaired by NSW. The cost of Finity's consultancy was shared between all IJWG members. Finity canvassed all possible solutions and determined there was no likelihood of commercial insurers returning to the market in the short to medium term. A short term indemnity scheme is in place in NSW until December 2024. NSW Government is looking at models to establish a long term solution that will be in place from January 2025.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I think this is probably the final one I have for now, if the Opposition wants to get ready to take the questions. I just wanted to find out, Mr Tidball, the children and young persons committee, last year when we did that really quick but important inquiry into the relationship between the Federal or the Family Court system—

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, I know it really well.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: —and children that were at risk under domestic violence situations, effectively, there was a bunch of really great recommendations in that report. I don't think we've seen a Government response. When will we see the Government response to that report?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I know the issues really well, and we've talked about some specific ones. If I may take that on notice. I really can't remember whether there has been a response and I absolutely acknowledge the sensitivity of interplay between the two jurisdictions. I will come back with an answer.

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Families and Communities and Disability Inclusion, as the lead Minister for matters examined in the Committee's report.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I might move on to some broader questions. I understand some of these might need to be taken on notice. I'm interested to know how many carers have actually contacted the service centre of the New South Wales Savings Finder specialists to utilise that tool.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think I'll need to take that on notice.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, on notice, thank you.

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, who is responsible for the service.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The other thing is whether or not the NSW Health Carers (Recognition) Act and Strategy Implementation Group still exists?

AwashingtonNNE CAMPBELL: Again, I'd need to take that on notice.

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health who is responsible for the implementation of carer activities in NSW Health.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I understand the Department of Planning and Environment is developing and launching an internal employee network group called Yammer page, which is a peer support platform resource to support carers. Do they update you on that? Are you aware if it's been launched?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Through the action plans, they often report on specific strategies. I can't recall that one but I'm happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That would be fine. If you could also take on notice— would that hub be available to all employees?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Okay, I'm happy to.

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Planning who is responsible for the Department.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the volunteer recruitment portal, how many organisations are registered?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It might be in my notes, if you give me a second. It doesn't actually quantify it in my note but I'm happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:

As at 6 March 2024, the number of organisations registered on the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal is 1,673.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the Volunteering Strategy report card, how many actions are in progress at the moment?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Again, I'm happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And then also the number that have been completed or are on track?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, happy to do that.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And for any that are delayed, the reason why?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Okay.

I am advised:

As at 6 March 2024:

In Report Card 2 (spanning FY22/23 and FY23/24 scheduled for release in the second half of 2024), a range of initiatives are ongoing throughout the NSW Volunteering Strategy's duration from 2020 to 2030, and so are considered on track.

- How many are on track? A wide range of initiatives are ongoing and so are considered on track due to the nature of the initiatives and their ongoing strategic importance in responding to the sector's needs. The number of initiatives considered on track is 12.

- How many actions are in progress at the moment? The number of initiatives considered in progress is 1 due to the nature of the initiative that spans jurisdictions and cross cuts priorities identified in the National Volunteering Strategy.

- How many actions have been completed? 4 are completed, however the promotion of resources and reports is ongoing.

- How many are delayed and why? 2 are on hold while the findings of the Review of Emergency Volunteering are considered by the NSW Government.

Transcript Page 53

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How much has been allocated to volunteering in the budget?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can tell you that. I think I'll need to take that on notice.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

I am advised:

The NSW Volunteering Strategy Budget allocation in FY23/24 is \$200,000.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. I want to move to the Australian Institute of Family Studies and an evaluation of the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians 2019–2023— and, my apologies, it is a Commonwealth plan. But in that evaluation I was interested to know whether or not the New South Wales Government or the department has been approached to provide feedback in relation to that plan?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It generally is but, again, I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

Yes, the Department and a number of NSW government agencies provided input and feedback on the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians 2019–2023.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I have a question arising in relation to a discussion that was in police estimates and in relation to 91Q, which is about dissemination of images—it's broadly called revenge porn and in relation to figures that we find in the NSW Sexual Violence Plan. An estimated 60 per cent of Australians had experienced online sexual harassment or abuse; 11 per cent of Australians 18 and over have experienced sexual abuse; online child sexual abuse is a growing problem, with the numbers of associated reports increasing by 122 per cent; and the plan recognises technology-facilitated sexual violence, including image-based abuse, which would be captured by section 91. The police, however, said that there are practically no reports of this. I wondered whether any thought had been given to some sort of advertising campaign to destigmatise people who are experiencing this image-based abuse, to recognise that this is not their fault and it is something that they can appropriately report. Because we've seen this before with other types of abuse. This is a new and developing form of abuse, which is skyrocketing, yet it's only when Taylor Swift is involved that we seem to be able to take action.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I appreciate the seriousness of the matter you raise. I therefore would not want to just respond here without taking it on notice, Ms Carter, and coming back with a considered response. I will undertake to do so.

I am advised:

As noted in the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027, young people are more likely to be the target of image-based abuse. The NSW Government is working with young people to better understand their experiences of sexual violence and to address harmful gender norms that lead to sexual violence, including image-based abuse. Activities include:

- commissioning Youth Action to deliver the 'Voices of young people in NSW on sexual violence report'

- three phases of the Make No Doubt sexual consent campaign

- five projects under the \$10.5 million NSW Sexual Violence Project Fund focus on improving early intervention and response for children and young people experiencing sexual violence. See <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/dfv-programs-funding/nsw-sexual-violence-project-fund.html>.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I've only got two more questions and I think that's it. The \$4.3 million that has been allocated to extend the service delivery of 12 community-based prevention and early intervention crisis projects—where are they based?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can get that for you. I'm sure it's in here. I've got a list of locations so I can provide that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. Also with the \$2.1 million over two years to fund a pilot program of sexual violence liaison officer for five police area commands, the five areas?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, I can get that on notice for you.

I am advised:

The 12 community projects and their locations across NSW:

- The Men's Accountability Project by Men and Family Centre Inc -Lismore and Tweed LGAs
- Leaving Prison Leaving Violence by Community Restorative Centre – Statewide
- DV Project 2650 by Wagga Wagga Women's Health Centre Inc - Wagga Wagga LGA
- Building Access for Women with Disability toDFV Services by People with Disability Australia - Western NSW LGAs
- Re-Think Anti-Violence Project by 2Connect Youth and Family - Bayside, Georges River and Sutherland LGAs
- Finding Safety - Asylum Seeking and Refugee Women Free from Violence by Jesuit Refugee Service Australia - Western Sydney LGAs
- Fixed Address by Kempsey Family Inc - Kempsey, Nambucca Valley LGAs
- Stronger Families Better Communities by OzChild - Gosford, Wyong & Lake Macquarie LGAs
- From the Ground Up to Equality by Arab Council Australia - Liverpool & Bankstown LGAS
- Firmer Foundations by Good Shepherd ANZ - Canterbury, Campbelltown, Redfern, Bankstown, Ashfield, Leichhardt LGAs
- Safety without Borders by Relationships Australia - Fairfield LGA
- Let's Talk by Relationships Australia - Sydney Metro LGAs with outreach to Bathurst & Wagga Wagga LGAs

Information on the pilot program locations for Sexual Violence Liaison Officers should be referred to NSW Police.

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ANNE CAMPBELL: Deputy Chair, you asked a question about whether all tranche 1 services under Core and Cluster have commenced. Yes, they have; all four have, and also one in tranche 2. I think you asked earlier whether there was a Staying Home Leaving Violence in Port Macquarie, and there is. There's the Kempsey Families Staying Home Leaving Violence program, which covers Port Macquarie.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Kempsey covers Port Macquarie?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It does.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: What's the travel time between Kempsey and Port Macquarie?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

The travel time from Kempsey to Port Macquarie is 37 minutes. Kempsey Family Support provides SHLV outreach to Aboriginal families in Port Macquarie Hastings as required.

Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services delivers the DCJ funded Integrated DFV Services program in Port Macquarie Hasting LGA.