

QUESTION ON NOTICE – LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE No. 2

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINSTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR WOMEN

QUESTION No: 31

Mr Ryan asked:

(BP 3 Vol 1 item 35.1.1 at pg 5 – 5 and 23)

- (1) The line item Community Based Residential Care shows an allocation for 2001/2002 of \$40.8m. This is a considerable reduction on the anticipated actual expenditure for 2000/2001 of \$42.6m and at best no increase on the 2000/2001 allocation of \$40.9. Could you provide a detailed breakdown of the items included under Community Based Residential Care, along with details of the amounts spent in 2000/2001 and the amounts allocated for each component in 2001/2002?

ANSWER:

- (1) The allocation components of the Community Based Residential Care (CBRC) line item, including amounts spent in 2000/2001 are as follows:

	\$M
Payments to Non-Government Organisations for out-of-home care	\$21.465
Funds to assist transition of services	\$ 3.229
Devolved funding for high support adolescents	\$ 5.123
Leaving Care & After Care	\$ 0.329
Central Office admin. to run CBRC program	\$ 0.200
Family Group Home transfer of funds to CBRC	\$ 0.200
Reversal of GST savings	\$ 0.011
Fee for service client costs	\$ 0.850
Indexation to funded services	\$ 0.879
Enact	\$ 1.312
Projects: Service Enhancement (SIIF); Looking After Children; Permanency Services; Care 2000 initiatives; Individual Client Service Plans; Muslim Foster Care Project; Community Services Commission Inquiry Response; Intensive Services Model Implementation; Aboriginal Services Viability; temporary staff to implement new legislation.	\$ 9.464
TOTAL	\$ 43.062

Details of the 2001/2002 budget allocation for each component are yet to be finalised.

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QUESTION No: 32

Mr Ryan asked:

(BP 3 Vol 1 item 35.1.1 at pg 5-23)

Why was only \$14,000 spent on the child sexual assault program in 2000/01 when \$114,000 was budgeted?

ANSWER:

The allocation of \$114,000 for the child sexual assault program was fully expended in 2000/2001.

Expenditure against this item is recorded against operating expenses. The budget allocation for the child sexual assault program was transferred to the operating expenses allocation.

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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE No. 2

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
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QUESTION No: 33

Mr Ryan asked:

Relating to the Director-General

(BP 3 Vol 1 item 35 at pg 5 – 3)

- (1) What is the salary for Carmel Niland annually and does she have opportunities for bonuses to be paid?

(BP 3 Vol 1 item 35 at pg 5- 3)

- (2) (a) What was the cost to the Department of Carmel Niland's Newsletter?
(b) How many staff are involved in preparing CNN each week?
(c) How much time does the DG spend on CNN each week?

ANSWER:

- (1) The SES position held by Carmel Niland is Level 7. From 28 August 2000, performance pay is not available to members of the Chief Executive Service.
- (2) (a) Approximately \$6,000.
(b) Director General with some assistance from one staff member.
(c) On average, 4 hours per issue.

QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR WOMEN

QUESTION NO: 35

Mr Ryan asked:

- (1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45) Compared to 2000/01 how many people are expected to be living in facilities run by the Department in 2001/02 and what are the comparison levels of funding for these services?
- (2) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45) How will the 2000/01 cost deficit in direct disability services formerly provided by DoCS be funded and which department will fund this deficit?
- (3) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45) Given the significant increase in funding over the last two years, how many more people with disabilities are receiving supported accommodation?
- (4) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45) Could the Minister provide a status report of the number of residents involved in the first stage of the program to devolve large institutions as outlined by Ms Hammerton at the Committee hearing?
- (5) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45) How many children under 12 years of age live in institutions?
- (6) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45)
 - a) How many occupational therapists, speech pathologists and other support health professionals are there providing services paid for in part or full by the Department in rural and regional areas? Where are they and does the Department have any plans to increase the level of these services in rural and regional areas?
 - b) Are you aware that in areas like Wagga Wagga, Queanbeyan, Bombala and other regional centres there is insufficient services for respite available? How do you say this Budget will impact on those shortfalls?
 - c) Are you aware that services for intervention to assist autistic children are almost non-existent in regional areas? Do you have any plans to set up mobile services or any other services to assist across regional areas children with specific disabilities who require a range of community and health services?

ANSWER

(1) It is not possible to project the specific numbers of people expected to be living in facilities run by the Disability Services arm of the Department in 2001/2002. This is because reform processes such as the Group Home Project and Stage 1 of the devolution process are likely to see some movement of people to other eligible providers following the consideration of options by residents, their families and advocates. Such changes will also influence the cost of service provision.

(2) The Strategic Policy, Planning and Funding Directorate (formerly ADD) made nearly \$20M available to the Disability Services Directorate (formerly the Disability Services component of DoCS).

(3) The increase in funding to Disability Services Directorate is being used to create permanent supported accommodation placements for 76 clients.

(4) Six people have already moved to new living arrangements. Residents, families and advocates are working through the process. In almost all centres the process has reached a point at which decisions about location and service providers have been or are being finalised. A further 57 people are to move during the next few months with another 82 people are expected to move before the end of the year.

(5) Fifteen children under twelve live in institutions. The Department is working with the families of these children as a matter of priority.

(6) (a) The Disability Services Directorate of DADHC employs:

- 49 Occupational Therapists
- 34 Physiotherapists
- 40 Speech Pathologists

in rural or remote areas. In addition, there are 7 staff employed as therapists in schools in the Northern Area.

In 2001-2 the Government is providing \$8.8 million recurrent funding from the Disability Services Program to 172 Early Childhood Intervention services for children with disabilities. The majority of these organisations are non government organisations.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services provide a family centred service including, as appropriate, information and advice to families, playgroups, assessment, therapy, special education, integration and inclusion programs, pre-school preparation and coordination of ECI services with other specialist and mainstream services in the local area. The strength of this model is its flexibility.

ECI services also employ therapists or broker the purchase therapy services and other specialist staff or arrange referrals depending on existing local service arrangements for children with disabilities.

Therapy services for children with disabilities not yet attending school are provided by a number of different agencies including: DADHC funded ECI services, Community Health Centre Services, jointly funded Resource Support Unit (Department of Education and Training and Commonwealth Family and Community Services), private providers and Disability Services Directorate (DADHC) services.

Regarding therapy services for school aged children and young persons with disabilities, I am pleased to inform you that I have recently approved the allocation of \$100,000 in recurrent funding for each DADHC local planning area. These grants provide a total of \$1.6 million additional funding that has been made available across NSW to increase the provision of therapy services for school aged children and young people with disabilities.

The allocation of \$100,000 for each of the 16 DADHC Local Planning Areas represents a substantial increase in the availability of therapy services for school age children and young people with disabilities as well as providing opportunities for improvements in service development and systems operation.

(b) I understand the need for people with disabilities and their families and carers to access appropriate respite services in their local area, particularly in rural and remote areas of NSW. It is the intention of the NSW Government and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to continue to support carers in their role, through the provision of quality respite care services, which meet their needs.

In recognition of the need for additional high quality respite services, a total of \$4.6 million was distributed for new respite services in the 1999/2000 financial year, approximately \$6.45 million was made available in 2000/2001 and more than \$4 million will be allocated in 2001/2002.

New respite services to be established in 2001/2002 will provide valuable support to adults and children with disabilities, and their families and carers. Services will be tailored to the needs of the person with a disability and their family. Services may include in-home support, holidays, weekends away, recreational activities, day respite, emergency respite and centre-based respite such as 24-hour out of home care and overnight stays.

The organisations funded to provide these new respite services understand the needs of the local area. As part of their service delivery, they must implement strategies for improving access to services for all service users, including those living in rural and remote areas and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

This year's Respite Budget will assist over 650 families across the State and support people with disabilities to live in the community.

(c) DADHC provides funding of \$191,598 to the Autism Association to support young children with Autism through their home based early intervention service. Other specialist service provision for young children with Autism is available through early childhood intervention programs across the state and as a part of supported early childhood programs. The Autism Association in line with the Early Intervention Best Practice Standards recommends inclusive early childhood intervention. Their services support children and also professionals to develop appropriate strategies and skills for working with children with Autism.

Specialist school provision from the Autism Association is available in selected country areas. The Department of Education and Training provides additional support for all students with disability according to educational need. Children with Autism can access therapy and family support through the same range of programs that are available to all children with disabilities and their families. Other specialist organisations such as the Northcott Society, the Spastic Centre, Royal Blind Society and the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children also receive substantial funding from DADHC and provide statewide services to children with specific disabilities. These services also encourage inclusive program provision and so work with local service providers to support families and up skill staff.

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR WOMEN

QUESTION NO: 36

Mr Ryan asked:—

Relating to Adult Day Programs

(1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 – 12 and 45)

The Audit Office Report into Group Homes identified that 80% of people over the age of 30 have nothing to do during the day.

(a) What is the Government's plan to provide meaningful activities for these people?

(b) What resources will be set aside for this purpose?

(1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.2 at pg 5 - 45)

What is the total level of funding for day program services in 2000/01, what is the estimate for 2001/02?

ANSWER

(1) (a)&(b) DADHC is undertaking a review of day programs. The Government's position will be assessed in light of the review, which will be completed later in the year.

(2) In 2000/01 more than \$65m was spent on day program services to people with a disability across New South Wales through the disability services program. More than \$70m will be spent in the 2001/02 financial year to meet the costs of these services.

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MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
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QUESTION NO: 37

Mr Ryan asked :

Relating to Department and Staffing

(1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38 at pg 5 - 3)

(a) What is the estimated cost of establishing the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care?

(b) Has financial separation from DoCS been achieved?

(1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38 pg 5 - 9)

(a) How many new positions were established in the Department in 2000/01?

(b) How many of these were management positions?

(c) How many new positions are expected to be established in 2001/02?

(d) How will these be funded?

(1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.1.1 at pg 5 - 44)

(a) What was the actual amount of underspending in the Home and Community Care and Disability Services Programs as at 29 May?

(b) Will any underspending in this or any other program be returned to the Treasury?

(c) If so, how much?

(1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38 at pg 5 - 44)

Are any of the non-recurrent and capital initiatives in the 2001/02 budget to be funded from amounts accumulated due to underspending in 2000/01?

ANSWER

(1) (a) Premiers Department has established a project team to lead the change project. Work is underway relating to the establishment of consolidated accounts, departmental structure etc. Total additional costs over 12 months is estimated to be around \$500,000.

(b) Funding for Disability Services now lies with the new Department as of July 1, 2001. Financial reporting is now being done on a consolidated basis for the new department as a whole.

2(a) A new position of Director General has been created in the new Department. Otherwise it has been "business as usual" for all components of the new Department with all staff in the Department continuing with their usual roles. Work is progressing towards the finalisation of a new structure. This structure is to be funded from within the existing budget.

(b) See above answer.

(c) The establishment of the new Department is currently being scoped. Any new positions are to be funded within the existing budget.

(d) See above answer.

(3)(a) The actual amount of underspend in the Home and Community Care Program as at 30 June 2001, was \$8.3m or 3.5% under Budget. This \$8.3m was committed to 2000/01 program initiatives, and will be required to satisfy these obligations in 2001/02.

The actual amount of underspend in the Disability Services Program as at 30 June 2001, was \$26.4m which was 4% under Budget. This \$26.6m was committed to 2000/01 program initiatives, and will be required to satisfy these obligations in 2001/02.

The lead time for development and implementation of programs of this nature is considerable. Additionally, one exacerbating factor which affected allocation of HACC growth funds, was the late (March) sign-off of the HACC State Plan by the Commonwealth Minister.

(b) It is not anticipated that the Department will be returning unspent funds to the Treasury.

(c) See above answer.

(4) The total budget for the Department in 2001/2002 is \$1.1 billion, which represents an increase of \$76 million for ageing, disability and related community support programs. The Budget was framed on the basis of recurrent funding as per the appropriations in the budget papers together with funding for asset acquisitions also outlined in the budget papers. This process did take into account the work in progress recorded at the end of year 1 of a 3 year Capital Funding Program to the Home Care Service of NSW. This was to establish a new service delivery model resulting in a revised Budget for 2002 of \$6.899m.

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MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
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QUESTION NO: 38

Mr Ryan asked:

Relating to the Service Access System

- (1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.1.1 at pg 5 - 44)
- (a) How many applications for assistance have been received under the Service Access System?
 - (b) How many of these applications have been assessed for eligibility to date and a determination made?
 - (c) How many people have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the SAS?
 - (d) What is the percentage of total applicants that have been deemed eligible?
- (1) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.1.1 at pg 5 - 44)
How does the government intend to respond to the needs of those people living in unsuitable environments, such as nursing homes and psychiatric hospitals, who have been ruled ineligible for assistance under the Service Access System?
- (2) (BP 3 Vol 1 item 38.1.1 at pg 5 – 43)
In the 2000/01 Budget \$500,000 was allocated for initiatives for people with intellectual disabilities in contact with the criminal justice system. How was this money spent?
- (4)
- (a) If centre based child care services are required, according to Section 34(2) Centre Based and Mobile Child Care Services Regulation 1996, to ensure that they have 2 staff on duty (whether or not primary contact staff) when ever children are being provided with a service at the premises; why is there no similar requirement placed on the

operators of children's residential care services, which are licensed by the Department of Community Services?

- (b) Can you comment on the situation that operators of residential care services for children with disabilities, even those which care for children with high support needs, can legally operate with a full compliment of children, (up to four or five), supervised by one member of staff?
- (c) With the gradual and welcome proliferation of residential services for children with disabilities though out the state, is it not time to develop and introduce a set of regulations that apply specifically to those services? Can you comment on the situation where regulations setting standards for important issues such as hot water temperature control facilities, minimum first aid facilities, dietary requirements, medication procedures, safety glass standards, and appropriate sections of the code of conduct which currently apply to preschool and day care centres do not apply to these sorts of services?

ANSWER

(1) (a) As at the 30 June 2001 1,484 applications for assistance have been received under the Service Access System.

(b) As at 30 June 2001, 549 applications have been assessed to determine eligibility.

(c) As at 30 June 2001, 434 individuals have been assessed as eligible under SAS.

(d) 79% of all assessed applications have been deemed eligible.

(2) This response relates only to people with disabilities living in nursing homes which falls within this portfolio. The needs of people living in psychiatric hospitals are primarily the responsibility of the Minister for Health.

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care is undertaking a project which will develop policies and explore service delivery options for people with disabilities aged 60 years and less who are living in nursing homes.

Addressing the needs of this group will involve complex and sensitive discussions between several Commonwealth and State Government agencies. An inter-departmental working group has been established to develop inter-agency responses. The working group will also consider the needs of people with long-term disabilities who are ageing.

(3). These funds are part of a three year recurrent allocation that is to be used for the development of a Support, Advocacy and Information Service for offenders, victims and witnesses with intellectual disabilities.

DADHC is working with the Attorney General's Department, the Police Service and the Attorney General's Committee on Intellectual Disability and the Criminal Justice System to look at service models for this target group. The original timeframe for the roll out of this service has passed, because it has been necessary to develop a service model that is supported by the stakeholders involved. It is expected that the Expressions of Interest will be advertised in August 2001.

(4) (a)&(b) Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) funds a number of organisations providing residential care for children including government and non government operated services. These services are not licensed by the Department of Community Services.

All residential services for children with disabilities are legally required to comply with the Disability Services Act 1993 and the associated Disability Service Standards as a condition of funding. DADHC has developed the Standards in Action Manual, which provides a guide to practice requirements based on the Disability Services Act. DADHC has a structured monitoring process administered by DADHC staff to ensure that services comply with the both the DSA and other accountability conditions associated with the funding agreement.

(c) There has been no increase in the placement of children and young people with disabilities in large residential services. In fact in line with recognised international and national research and best practice, this government is committed to providing family centred supports for children with disabilities to provide the best possible outcomes for these children. For those children living in government funded family like supported accommodation, DADHC monitors that the funded service organisations meet the requirements of the Disability Services Act, the Disability Service Standards and DADHC's Standards in Action Manual. Standard 8 (Service Management) and Standard 10 (Protection of Human Rights and Freedom from Abuse) specifically address duty of care, safe environment and health issues related to hot water temperature control facilities, minimum first aid facilities, dietary requirements, medication procedures, safety glass standards, and a code of conduct for staff.