

*Tuesday, 25 June 2002*

*(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2)*

**Portfolio**

*Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, and Women*

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING**

*'Department of Aging Disability and Home Care'*

1. **Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 3)

- (1) Of the \$17million in new money that the Government announced for ATLAS, what recurrent funds were provided to 1999 school leavers?
- (2) How many 1999 school leavers does the Minister estimate will benefit from the money?

**Answers:**

- (1) *Funding of \$2,703,250 has been provided to support the 1999 ATLAS School Leaver cohort in the 2002/03 financial year*
- (2) *There are 302 service users in the 1999 ATLAS School Leaver cohort. This is made up of 293 service users and 9 school continuations who commenced receiving support this year.*

2. **Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

What is the specific number of school leavers involved in the ATLAS cohorts for 1999-2000 and 2001-02 (Hansard page 4)?

**Answer:**

*The specific number of school leavers for ATLAS service provision by yearly cohort is:*

<i>2002 School Leavers</i>	<i>600 applications received pending assessment.</i>
<i>2001 School Leavers</i>	<i>365 service users.</i>
<i>2000 School Leavers</i>	<i>433 service users (286 service users with 147 continuations who commenced receiving support in 2002).</i>
<i>1999 School Leavers</i>	<i>302 service users (293 service users with 9 continuations who commenced receiving support in 2002).</i>

3. **Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 8)

- (1) How many licensed boarding houses ceased operation in 2001-02?

- (2) How many residents from those boarding houses have been displaced, and where have they been accommodated?

*Answers:*

- (1) *8 licensed boarding houses closed in the financial year 2001/02.*
- (2) *50 residents were affected by the closures. They were assisted to relocate to the following care and accommodation arrangements:*
- *2 residents went to private accommodation with support from Community Aged Care packages.*
  - *10 residents went to residential aged care.*
  - *1 resident went to a Dementia Unit placement in a local hospital.*
  - *1 resident went to hospital and subsequently died there.*
  - *13 residents went to supported community based accommodation for people with a disability.*
  - *21 residents found places in other licensed boarding houses.*
  - *1 resident is living independently in Housing Department accommodation.*
  - *1 resident remained legally in the former licensed boarding house as the one only person in the premises who might fall within the definition of “handicapped person” under the Youth and Community Services Act 1973 which governs licensing requirements.*

4. **Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po’, MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 9)

Last year’s budget allocated \$22million for regional capacity building projects. How much of that money has been allocated, and to what?

*Answer:*

*The Disability Services Program (DSP) budget for 2001/02 identified \$25m for the Regional Capacity Building Initiative to fund new support services for people with a disability, their families and carers in NSW.*

*The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) has used a range of methods to allocate the \$25m.*

*In October 2001, the former Minister approved the direct allocation of \$2.37m, including \$1.75m recurrent and \$625,700 non-recurrent funding, for 49 new disability services. These services included: 2 Accommodation Outreach services; 1 Case Management and Brokerage service; 1 Community Access service; 34 Early Childhood Intervention services; 2 Flexible Family Support services; 3 Other Support services; 1 Recreation service; 4 Respite services; and 1 Therapy service.*

*In June 2002, the former Minister approved the allocation of \$20.85m, including \$17.4m recurrent, \$655,138 fixed term and \$2.8m non-recurrent funding, to service providers identified through an Expression of Interest process for 118 new disability services. These services included: 9 Accommodation Outreach services; 6 Behaviour Intervention Support services; 15 Case Management and Brokerage services; 16 Community Access services; 12 Early Childhood Intervention services; 38 Respite services; and 22 Therapy services.*

*At present, DADHC is finalising a Selective Tender process which will result in the allocation of \$1.7m for 15 new disability services.*

*As at 30 June 2002, the former Minister had committed \$23.2m for 167 new services for people with a disability, their families and carers in NSW.*

*'Department of Community Services'*

**5. Ms Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 10)

Can you give an indication of the cost to the Department of preparing for the Budget Estimates?

*Answer:*

*Preparation for Estimates Committees involves the collection and collation of financial, operational and policy information in the light of the Department's budget to assist in responding to issues which may be raised by the Committee. Providing this information is, for the most part, a small component of the work of a number of staff in the Department, and some of this information may be utilised for other purposes.*

*The Financial Management System is not set up to capture this particular information and to attempt to measure these individual contributions retrospectively would be an unnecessary diversion of the Department's resources.*

**6. Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

The new Crimes Amendment (Child Protection and Physical Maltreatment) Act comes into effect on 6 December this year. The Commissioner for Children was given money by the Attorney General to conduct an education campaign, part of which was to liaise with the Department of Community Services (DoCS).

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 14)

- (1) Has that training commenced with DoCS?
- (2) What is included in the training?
- (3) Is the department incurring any costs in providing this training?

*Answers:*

- (1) *No.*
- (2) *The Joint Investigative Response Teams (JIRT) will be the main target group for this training. For Police, this will be included in the Police Legal day training, and for DoCS JIRT Managers, it will be included in their bi-monthly managers meeting.*

*For the remainder of DoCS child and family staff, a number of options are being considered including direct training, an information package on DoCS' internal intra-net, and the production of brochures and posters for staff and clients. The use of the Parenting Line, to handle community inquiries and the dissemination of information regarding discipline and punishment, is also being considered.*

*The content of the training has yet to be finalised.*

- (3) *There will be some cost to DoCS for this training, but the details have not been finalised.*

**7. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 15)

What are the case loads for DoCS case workers in child protection and how do they compare with those of other States?

*Answer:*

*DoCS does not currently collect data centrally on the caseloads for DoCS' child protection caseworkers. This is consistent with the practice of other jurisdictions.*

*To enable local knowledge to add value to the management of Caseworker caseloads, Caseworker workloads are managed at the local level.*

*Caseworkers and Managers discuss workload issues during casework supervision. Work is allocated to Caseworkers by way of the casework planner. New cases are allocated according to the time each worker has available. The complexity of the case and the number of hours that each case requires is considered in the allocation process.*

*In addition to this I have given a recent commitment to improve the central collection and monitoring of casework planning data.*

**8. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: pages 15 and 16)

What proportion and number of the assessed cases are not allocated at each CSC, by priority level?

*Answer:*

*The Department of Community Services (DoCS) uses a triage approach to risk assessment in its handling of child protection reports.*

*The DoCS Helpline undertakes an initial assessment of child protection reports. Of those child protection reports that are transferred to a Community Services Centre (CSC), one of four response levels is assigned by the Helpline.*

*The Casework Manager at the CSC then examines the protection reports and assigns the work to Caseworkers. The process and response time to commencement of investigation at the CSC level is dependent upon the number of cases transferred to the CSC, and the resources available with the CSC.*

*The terms "allocated" and "unallocated" are not terms that should be used – some mandatory reports are deemed by DoCS to not require investigation/assessments.*

*I have asked the Director General to review data collection processes with a view to increased data collection to aid the planning requirements of the Department of Community Services.*

*I have already requested the Director General review the Priority One policy.*

**9. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 21)

How many reports were made to the Minister's office (by phone) with regard to child abuse matters during the last 12 months?

*Answer:*

*All such matters were referred to the Department of Community Services.*

*'Department for Women'***10. Ms Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: page 22)

The strategic directions of the department are described as 'shaping a whole-of-government' policy.

- (a) Does each Cabinet minute provide for a women's impact statement?
- (b) If not, can you please provide what percentage of Cabinet minutes require the policy advice of the Department of Women?

**Answers:**

*The answer will be provided by the new Minister for Women, the Hon Sandra Nori MP.*

*Answer received from the Hon Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Women:*

*(a) and (b) Procedures adopted for the consideration of Cabinet Minutes ensure that all portfolios have input into the Cabinet process.*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****11. Mrs Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1)
  - (a) Does your Ministerial Office receive media monitoring services?
  - (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02?
  - (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?
  - (d) How many different suppliers do you have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?
  - (e) Please list all suppliers.
- (2)
  - (a) Does any agency in your portfolio receive media monitoring services?
  - (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02, by agency?
  - (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?
  - (d) How many different suppliers do agencies in your portfolio have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?
  - (e) Please list all suppliers.
- (3)
  - (a) In 2001-02, how much was spent on your Ministerial Office? Please provide a breakdown by expense.
  - (b) What is the forecast amount to be spent in 2002-03 and what is the forecast number of staff?

- (4) (a) What is the total cost of your overseas trips in 2001-02?  
 (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?  
 (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (5) (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your overseas trips in 2002-03?  
 (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?  
 (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (6) (a) What is the total cost of your interstate trips in 2001-02?  
 (b) Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost and for each trip a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (7) (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your interstate trips in 2002-03?  
 (b) Can you provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?  
 (c) For each trip, can you provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials?
- (8) (a) How many staff were employed as at 30 May 1999, 30 May 2000, 30 May 2001 in your Ministerial Office?  
 (b) What was the annual salary cost of those staff in each of those years?
- (9) (a) Does your office contract consultants?  
 (b) If so, what consultancies have been commissioned in 2001/2002, and at what cost?  
 (c) What consultancy services will be commissioned from July 1 2002 - March 2003 and at what estimated cost?
- (10) (a) Were any legal costs incurred by your office in 2001-02.  
 (b) If so, what was the cost and nature of each instance of legal advice?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *Yes.*  
 (b) *All costs incurred were appropriate to the needs identified.*  
 (c) *All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.*  
 (d) *Please refer to answer for (c)*  
 (e) *Please refer to answer for (c)*
- (2) (a) *Any decision to access media monitoring is determined by the agencies concerned and the need for monitoring of issues.*  
 (b) *All costs were in accordance with identified needs.*  
 (c) *All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.*  
 (d) and (e) *The appropriate cost centres are utilised.*

- (3) (a) *The Government has released the costs of Ministerial expenditure to the Opposition under an FOI application.*
- (b) *It is too early in the financial year to predict expenditure. Staff numbers will approximate those released under the FOI application.*
- (4) *Official travel is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.*  
*Costs incurred during official overseas travel were in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*
- (5) *This will depend on the nature and scope of any travel undertaken in 2002-03.*  
*Costs incurred during official overseas travel will be in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*
- (6) *Official travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and in a cost effective manner.*
- (7) *It is too early to provide an estimate at this stage of the financial year. However, expenditure will depend on the nature and scope of any travel in 2002-03.*
- (8) *Ministerial staff are employed by the Director General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1988.*  
*All costs were in accordance with the expenditure necessary to facilitate the effective functioning of the office and within allocations to Ministerial Offices.*
- (9) *Expenditure on consultancies is reported in Annual Reports. All expenditure is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*  
*It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on consultants in 2002-03.*
- (10) *All legal costs were incurred after an assessment of the need to obtain external legal assistance. Legal professional privilege will be maintained in relation to advice and costs.*

**12. Mrs Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (1) (a) What was the total cost of public relations activities?
- (b) What is the forecast cost for 2002-03?
- (2) How much was spent on public opinion surveys?
- (3) (a) How much money was spent on advertising? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on advertising in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*
- (4) (a) How much was spent on consultants? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on consultants in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*

**Answers:**

- (1) *Public authorities conduct a range of extension activities aimed at communicating to the public a range of regulatory, advisory, research and general information.*

*The question posed is too broad to identify an actual cost.*

(2) *The Premier issued Memorandum 2000-28 which specifically directed government agencies not to use surveys of government clients or NSW citizens to elicit questions on political issues.*

(3) *Expenditure on advertising is determined by agencies in accordance with the needs identified.*

*Issues such as traffic safety, police requirements and other extension activities determine when and where advertising will take place.*

(4) *The cost of consultants is reflected in the annual report.*

*Expenditure depends on the need for consultancy services throughout the year.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

(5) (a) How much was spent on overseas trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*

(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on overseas trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*

(6) (a) How much was spent on inter-state trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*

(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on interstate trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*

**Answers:**

(5) *Details regarding all official overseas travel is included in the annual report and is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*

*Expenditure depends on the particular issues requiring overseas travel.*

(6) *Interstate travel by portfolio agencies was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

(7) How much was spent on legal expenses?

(8) (a) How much was spent on office fitouts and refurbishments?

(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

(9) (a) How much was spent on the cost of leases in the Sydney CBD?

(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

(10) (a) Was there any vacant or under-utilised office space?

(b) What is the cost of such unused office space?

**Answers:**

(7) *Expenditure depends on the particular issues requiring travel.*

*Expenditure on legal expenses followed appropriate review of the circumstances, the need for such expenditure and within appropriate guidelines.*

(8) *In the case of core work for public sector agencies the Crown Solicitor meets these costs.*

*All office accommodation fit-outs and refurbishments were undertaken in accordance with OH&S requirements and appropriate guidelines.*



*It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on accommodation and fit-outs in 2002-03.*

- (9) *The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) monitors the leasing of the majority of government office space. Costs are kept to a minimum by virtue of the whole of government approach taken to leasing.*
- (10) *The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) oversees the leasing of the majority of government office space. It monitors lease negotiations to maximise occupancy and avoid vacancies.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (11) (a) How much money was spent on performance pay for public servants in:
- (i) 2000-01?
- (ii) 2001-02?
- (b) Did you personally approve these bonus payments?
- (12) (a) How much was spent on the salary packages for the Senior Executive Service?
- (b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

**Answers:**

- (11) *On 28 August 2001 Premier's Memorandum 2000-21 was issued indicating that performance pay was not to be made available to members of the Chief and Senior Executive Services.*

*Approvals for performance payments prior to 28 August 2001 as well as all other remuneration to members of the Senior Executive Service were made by the respective Chief Executive Officers.*

- (12) *Upon election, the Government inherited a Chief and Senior Executive Service of 1,434 positions. The Government reduced the number of Senior Executive Service positions in accordance with a commitment to do so. As at April 2002 there were 1,003. This is a reduction of 431.*

*Remuneration for the Senior Executive Service (SES) is determined by the Independent Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT). It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on SES remuneration. However, expenditure will be in accordance with any determinations by SOORT.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (13) (a) Have any Departments or agencies been fined by a court or statutory or regulatory authority between July 1 2001 and June 30, 2002?
- (b) If so, detail each fine and amount, and the reason for each fine?
- (14) (a) How many times were matters referred for independent investigation to ICAC? *Please provide a breakdown of these referrals?*

**Answers:**

- (13) *Any penalties imposed by a court or statutory authority are on the record of that court or statutory authority.*

- (14) *Section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 requires the principal officer of an agency to report any matter the officer suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corruption.*

*Disclosure of information along the lines proposed in this question may identify issues under investigation and therefore impede these investigations.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (15) (a) What fees were increased, and by how much?
- (b) What fees are expected to be increased in 2002-03?

**Answer:**

- (15) *As was the case in the former Greiner/Fahey Government's any increases in fees are measured and take into account the specific fee, movements in the CPI and other related factors.*

**13. Mrs Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) (a) In 2001-02, how many board appointments were made you, or by your portfolio agencies?
- (b) Of these appointments:
  - (i) How many were women?
  - (ii) How many were of people from a non-English speaking background?
  - (iii) How many were of people with a disability?
  - (iv) How many were Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders?
  - (v) How many were young people?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *The Government made a total of 1754 appointments to boards and committees in 2001/02.*
- (b) (i) *Approximately 694 were female.*
- (ii) *Due to the self-identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people from a non –English speaking background.*
- (iii) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people with a disability.*
- (iv) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders.*
- (v) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for young people.*

**14. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) Has the government allocated funds to implement the NSW Law Reform Commission's recommendation for the establishment of a Disability Services Quality Assurance Agency in the 2002/03 budget?
- (2) What is the estimated rate of homelessness among people with disability, including people with psychiatric disability and acquired brain injury?
- (3) (a) What measures are in place to address homelessness among people with disability?

- (b) How much was spent on these measures in 2001/02?
- (c) How much will be spend on such measures in 2002/03?

**Answers:**

- (1) *Whilst no specific allocation has been made, the Department's intention is to introduce a new monitoring system for all funded services to start in 2002/03. The Department has established a new unit to oversee the design of the system and to guide its implementation across disability, Home and Community Care and ageing programs.*
- (2) *Precise rates of homelessness among people with a disability, including people with psychiatric disability and acquired brain injury are unavailable.*
- (3) (a) *Senior officers from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Department of Community Services participate in the interdepartmental Partnerships Against Homelessness managed by the Department of Housing.*  
  
*Further, the Service Access System (SAS) is a mechanism to respond to people with a disability who are in crisis and having difficulties accessing the service system. Although not primarily a homelessness initiative, SAS targets people with a disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or whose current supports have broken down.*  
  
(b) *\$28,858,223 was spent on interim supports for people under SAS in 2001/02.*  
  
(c) *Similar expenditure levels are anticipated in 2002/03.*

*'Community Services Portfolio'*

**15. Mrs Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) (a) Please advise how many matters dealt with by the Commission relate to young people aged over 12?
- (b) How many staff deal specifically with matters relating to young people aged over 12?
- (c) What projects undertaken by the Commission deal uniquely with young people over the age of 12?
- (2) (a) Are the community youth projects referred to on page 5-23 the projects which are listed in the Department of Community Services Annual Report 2000-01 addendum pages 52 to 56?
- (b) What was the revised allocation for these projects in 2001-02 and the budgeted allocation for 2002-03?
- (3) (a) Are the adolescent support programs referred to on page 5-23 the projects which are listed in the Department of Community Services Annual Report 2000-01 addendum pages 56 to 57?
- (b) What was the revised allocation for these programs in the 2001-02 and the budgeted allocation for 2002-03?
- (4) (a) What activities were provided through the individual community youth projects and adolescent support programs funded in 2000?
- (b) Are these projects and/or programs all for young people aged over 12?
- (5) How many EFT DOCs staff are employed against the budget of the community youth projects and adolescent support program?

Answers:

(1) (a) **Complaints & Reviews**

*The Commission collects data about age ranges 10-14 years and 15-19 years. It is, therefore, not possible to provide information about children/young people from 12-20 years of age.*

*The data provided is for those children and young people who were identified to the Commission and where age details were also provided. Not all people contacting the Commission provide full personal details about service receivers. For example, in 2001/2002, of 1530 service receivers involved in 1449 enquiry, complaint and review matters, age details were not provided for 145 service receivers.*

	Enquiries		Complaints		Reviews		Total	
	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02
<b>10-14 years *</b>	62/55	57/51	124/107	18/17	2/2	3/3	188/164	78/71
<b>15-19 years *</b>	22/22	35/33	60/57	25/24	3/3	1/1	85/82	61/58

\* 62/55 = No. of service receivers within the age group/ No. of matters handled. There may be more than one service receiver per matter.

**Disability Death Review Team**

*The Disability Death Review Team (DDRT) receives notifications of the deaths of all children and young people with disabilities in care. Data is collected from records held by services, coroners and Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The DDRT database contains information including gender, age, accommodation service type, disability, health issues, family contact, level of dependency, death circumstances, direct and contributing causes of death, and coronial involvement.*

**Death data:**

- 2001-02 six children and young people with disabilities in care were notified to the DDRT aged between 11 and 15 years, and one was aged 17.
- 2000-01 the deaths of four young people were notified. These were aged between 14 and 18 years.
- 1999-00 the deaths of ten children and young people aged between 10 and 20 years were notified to the DDRT.

*These deaths are assessed and, in specific cases, reviewed by the DDRT. Review reports are provided to the Minister, relevant Department, service and the Child Death Review Team.*

*Between 1999 and 2001 the DDRT reviewed the deaths of eight children and young people who had lived at Mannix Centre. This resulted in the public report Young deaths, children with disabilities in care (2002). All eight children had high support needs and complex medical conditions associated with their disabilities. The review examined the provision of those services at Mannix which were considered to have a direct bearing on the health outcomes of individuals, particularly in relation to dysphagia, respiratory infection and underweight. The report revealed that the medical, health, developmental and physical needs of the eight children had not been addressed adequately by the service prior to their deaths.*

**Community Visitors**

*Community Visitors are allocated to visit children's accommodation services and disability accommodation services. There are approximately 156 children under 18 years of age in visitable children services and 297 children under 18 years of age in visitable disability services.*

- (b) *The Commission does not identify specific staff to deal with children and young people. Rather, 14 complaint and review staff, 3 disability death review staff, and policy and education staff, have contact with children and young people and have relevant skills, experience, and training to assist their contact. There is one dedicated Project and Liaison Officer for Children, Young People and Families. Approximately 20 Community Visitors visit accommodation services for children, and services that provide accommodation for children and young people with disabilities.*
- (c) *List of published Commission work relating to child protection, substitute care and disability services for children and young people*

*Note: these are the public reports produced by the Commission and based on projects undertaken between 1994 and 2001.*

- *Issues paper Children and Young People with Disability in Out-Of-Home Care: A Continuum of Care July 2002;*
- *Submission to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues, NSW Parliament June 2002;*
- *Issues paper Out-of-home-care and the role of SAAP in meeting the needs of unsupported children and young people, August 2001;*
- *Young Deaths - Children with Disabilities in Care - A review of the deaths of eight children and young people at the Mannix Children's Centre, February 2002;*
- *Submission to Committee on Children & Young People - Inquiry into prescription and use of drugs and medications in children and young people, November 2001;*
- *Finding a Place: A Forum on the role and future of residential care in out-of-home care: Summary of Proceedings, October 2001;*
- *Issues Paper: Out-of-home care and the role of SAAP, September 2001;*
- *A question of safeguards: Inquiry into the care and circumstances of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children & young people in care, August 2001;*
- *Loud and Clear Issues on behaviour management and restraint, Issue 4 2002;*
- *Choices and Challenges. Behaviour intervention and use of restraint in care and supported accommodation services for children and young people. June 2001;*
- *Loud and Clear Issues, Issue 3, Substitute Care Inquiry - children and young people's views Feb 2001;*
- *New Directions - from Substitute and Supported Care. Inquiry into the practice and provision of Substitute Care in NSW - Final Report, Nov 2000;*
- *Inquiry into the practice and provision of Substitute Care in NSW. Forwards, backwards, standing still - Discussion Paper, July 2000;*
- *Voices of Children and Young People in Foster Care - Report from a consultation with children and young people in foster care in NSW, July 2000;*
- *Service Closure Inquiry, July 2000;*
- *Inquiry into Substitute Care Practice in a Regional Community Services Centre, July 2000;*
- *A Critical Event at the Grosvenor Centre - Review by the Disability Death Review Team (DDRT), January 2000*
- *Keeping Connected - Contact between children in care and their families, November 1999;*

- *Inquiry into the death of a two year old child, June 1999;*
- *Group Review - Experiences of 17 young people in substitute care, May 1999;*
- *The Ormond Centre Report - A complaint investigation into institutional care of children, April 1999;*
- *Loud and Clear Issues, Issue 1, March 1999*
- *Just Solutions - Wards and Juvenile Justice, March 1999;*
- *Inquiry into Crime Prevention through Social Support - Submission to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, March 1999;*
- *Cram House - Inquiry into care and treatment of residents, January 1998;*
- *Inquiry into the Death of Jordan Dwyer, December 1997;*
- *Suffer the Children - The Hall for Children, March 1997;*
- *The Drift of Children in Care into the Juvenile Justice System, December 1996;*
- *Who Cares? Report Summary, September 1996;*
- *Who Cares? Protecting people in residential care, September 1996;*
- *Disability, death and responsibility of care: a review of the characteristics and circumstances of 211 people with disabilities who died in care between 1991 and 1998 in NSW, May 2001.*
- *Respite Care: a system in crisis, Sydney 1998.*
- *Projects currently underway with a focus on this age group include the Commission's:*
- *Inquiry into SAAP services in NSW;*
- *Inquiry into Individualised Funding Arrangements in Out of Home Care;*
- *Complaints Handling Reviews SAAP services and respite care.*

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) *2001/2002 actual expenditure totalled \$13.522 million. Budget allocation for 2002/2003 is \$13.276 million.*

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) *2001/2002 actual expenditure totalled \$3.885 million. Budget allocation for 2002/2003 is \$3.774 million.*

(4) (a) *Under the Community services Grants Program (CSGP), DoCS provided funding of \$16.610 million for 322 Community Youth and Adolescent Support services in 2001/2002.*

*These services conduct casework, group work or both in relation to the varying needs of young people in the area.*

*\$2.25 million over 4 years from the 1999/2000 budget provided specialist youth support counsellors to work with young people and parents in conflict, and \$3.4 million over 4 years to establish after school drop in services for young people.*

(b) *DoCS expects that most youth services funded under CSGP would assist young people aged over 12 years.*

*Some CSGP youth services may provide specific activities to certain youth target groups, for example, those aged 12 – 15 years or 15 – 18 years, depending on the activity and the local demographic need of that area.*

- (5) *In 2001/2002, an average of 12.9 EFT were employed under direct and indirect apportionment against the budget for the Community Youth Projects and Adolescent Support Program.*

**16. Mr Corbett and Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) How many calls are received directly from people or families seeking assistance and how many of these are being referred directly from the Helpline to:
- (a) family support services/other community agencies?
  - (b) children's services?
- (2) How many families are being referred from DoCS CSCs to:
- (a) family support services/other community support agencies?
  - (b) children's services?
- (3) (a) What money/resources have been committed to the evaluation of the 1998 Act?
- (b) What is the currently approved plan for such evaluation?
- (4) How many /what proportion of caseworkers in NSW have a degree in social work or a directly relevant social science qualification?
- (5) How many /what proportion of the SES level staff in DoCS by area and central office have any formal qualification (eg degree in social work or a directly relevant social science qualification) or field experience re child protection?
- (6) What research program does DoCS have and does it include evaluation of the impact of its programs/work in relation to outcomes for children and families?
- (7) (a) What strategies are in place to put into effect the stated DoCS values of trust and openness etc?
- (b) Does the Minister/Director General believe that the Department "communicates in an up front manner with no hidden agendas", "gives clear reasons for the decisions" and provides "transparency in the way DoCS allocates resources/budgets"?

**Answers:**

- (1) and (2) The assessment outcome to refer to another agency is captured in the Client Information System 4.1. However, the name of the agency is recorded in a text field and is not mandatory. Therefore, it cannot be analysed, and is inappropriate for statistical reporting.*

*The recent enhancement of the Client Information System 4.2 enables more accurate recording of requests for assistance received by DoCS, and what actions DoCS takes to respond to these requests, including referrals made to another service.*

- (3) (a) *Approximately \$100,000 has been expended to support the development of an evaluation framework. Additional resource needs have been or are being met through DoCS' recurrent budget.*
- (b) *In 2000, DoCS contracted the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) to develop an evaluation framework for the Act.*

*The SPRC designed a framework, which was submitted in final form in late 2001. The evaluation framework was developed following a literature and data review, and consultation*

*with relevant government agencies, service providers and community groups, including the EnAct Reference Group. The EnAct Reference Group, which was established in April 1999 as an interagency advisory group for the Minister in relation to the implementation of the Act, consists of peak government and non-government organisations involved in the care and protection of children in NSW.*

*The EnAct Reference Group is currently considering issues in relation to the implementation of an evaluation framework.*

- (4) *Qualifications for caseworkers in NSW have not been systematically recorded, until recently, with the introduction of a new payroll system. It is therefore not possible to provide accurate information about all caseworkers in NSW.*

*Qualification information is now being gathered at entry on duty, and was recorded for participants in the statewide bulk caseworker recruitment campaign conducted in 2001/2002.*

- (5) *Of the current 9 substantive or acting SES officers in Areas, all but one (ie: 89%) have formal qualifications in social work / social science or field experience. Of the current 9 substantive or acting SES officers in Central Office, 3 (ie: 33%) have formal qualifications in social work /social science or field experience. It should be noted that social work qualifications are not relevant to many of the senior management tasks required to be performed by Central Office.*
- (6) *DoCS identifies priorities for research through its Research Agenda and Priorities, which is currently undergoing consultation to set key directions for the next 1 – 5 years.*

*The NSW Parenting Centre has commissioned independent researchers to evaluate the effect of its projects on families. This includes the evaluation of the NSW Parenting Campaign, and the identification of appropriate strategies and methods of delivering information about parenting to different groups. The recently launched Arabic Parenting Magazine is also being evaluated.*

*In addition, research papers assessing the effectiveness of different models of intervention and parenting programs for a variety target of groups are disseminated through publication, seminars and conferences.*

*DoCS has twenty research projects currently in its research portfolio for the 2002-2003 financial year relating to child and family services. DoCS actively seeks to collaborate with academic institutions and industry partners in research, and through its Office of Child Care, has stimulated a vigorous research program focussing on early childhood issues, some of which has received international recognition.*

- (7) *The Department of Community Services (DoCS) works with some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Its values, Code of Conduct and Ethics and the legislative provisions for confidentiality and privacy are intended to support that work.*

*The new Director-General, Dr Neil Shepherd, in a recent bulletin to staff, stated that “the Department will work hard in the coming months to develop a much better working relationship with its ‘watchdogs’: the Ombudsman, Community Services Commissioner, Children’s Guardian, Commission of Children and Young People and the Child Death Review Team.*

*“The basis of that relationship must be an open and transparent approach to the sharing of information, and there must be confidence on both sides that the information will be used for two purposes only: to discover what really happened and to develop sound recommendations for the future...”*

*“Integrity must be the hallmark of an organisation charged with DoCS’ responsibilities...for the future, I expect nothing less than open and honest communication at all levels within DoCS, and between DoCS and other agencies.”*

17. Mr Corbett and Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po’, MP—



*In relation to 'Out-of-home-care'*

- (1) (a) What are the case-loads for DoCS out-of-home care specialist workers?
- (b) How do they compare with:
  - (i) those in other states?
  - (ii) workers in the non-government sector?
- (2) (a) In what areas are there specialist case workers in out-of-home care in DoCS whose work is quarantined, how many staff are involved?
- (b) What proportion is that of the total field commitment?
- (3) What additional resources for DoCS are necessary before it is possible to advise the Minister that DoCS is able to proceed with the implementation and proclamation of the out-of-home care sections of the Act?
- (4) (a) How many attempts to reform out-of-home care have been tried over the last decade or so?
- (b) What is the reason for the apparent failure of each?
- (5) (a) What is the intention in respect of the draft plan for the funding and agreed caseload levels for out-of-home care?
- (b) Why has there been no action to resolve this despite two years of discussion on Care 2000 and Care 2001 committees?
- (6) Why has there been no increase in the capacity of the out of home care system for the past decade, despite higher expenditure on short term solutions and DoCS staff identifying shortage of placements as their most pressing issue in the last climate survey?
- (7) What specific action has been taken to address the issues for, and provide appropriate services for, the difficult to manage adolescents in out-of-home care eg those who are homeless and engage in harmful behaviours such as drug use and prostitution?
- (8) What has been the expenditure on Individual Care Agreements (ICA's) and what specific funds have been paid to 'for profit' providers?
- (9) Why does the Corporate plan for 2001-4 refer to the *proclamation* of child protection, permanency planning and adoption laws but not include out-of-home care in the key priorities?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) ***DoCS does not have information on the caseloads of out-of-home care specialist workers, as the Department does not collect data relating to caseloads. Individual workload issues are managed at the Community Services Centres (CSC) level.***  
  
***Caseworkers and Managers discuss workload issues during casework supervision. Work is allocated to Caseworkers by way of the casework planner, and new cases are allocated according to the time each worker has available.***  
  
***The number of cases each Caseworker carries at any one time is dependent on the complexity of the case, and the number of hours that each case requires.***
- (b) ***Information held by DoCS indicates that out-of-home care caseloads in Victoria vary between 9 and 13, and non-government agencies have caseloads between 9 and 11.***
- (2) (a) ***The following table provides information on the out-of-home care resources in each DoCS Area:***

<i>Area</i>	<i>Caseworkers currently allocated to OOHC work<sup>1</sup></i>
<i>Metro West</i>	<i>34.03% quarantined (46.63 EFT Caseworkers)</i>
<i>Metro North</i>	<i>37.32% (33.4 EFT Caseworkers)</i>
<i>Hunter</i>	<i>36.97% quarantined (32 EFT Caseworkers )</i>
<i>Northern</i>	<i>35.63% quarantined (40.72 EFT Caseworkers)</i>
<i>Metro South East</i>	<i>26.89% quarantined (17.64 EFT Caseworkers)</i>
<i>Metro South West</i>	<i>31.77% quarantined (54.8 EFT Caseworkers)</i>
<i>Western</i>	<i>44.52% quarantined (50.09 EFT Caseworkers)</i>
<i>Southern</i>	<i>37.88% quarantined ( 33.9 EFT Caseworkers)</i>

(b) *35.6% of field staff or 305.3 EFT positions are quarantined for out-of-home care services.*

- (3) *DoCS is currently undertaking a demand sampling exercise to determine the likely increase in workload, and therefore the resources, which would be required to implement the out-of-home care provisions.*
- (4) *The history of out-of-home care reform in NSW has been characterised by government agreement and commitment to a reform process, buy-in from the non-government sector and peaks, development of recommendations and followed by partial implementation.*

*Five major reports and processes – Usher (1992), Strategic Directions (1996), Alcorn (1998), Community Services Commission Inquiry (2000) and Care 2000/2001 – have recommended reforms in the out-of-home care program, including clear caseloads, quarantining of out-of-home resources and transparent, predictable budgets.*

*It is not agreed that each of these reports and processes failed. Whilst progress has been made, there is still some work to do in the reform of out-of-home care, in particular:*

- reducing the number of children and young people entering the care system and establishing permanency for those who do;*
- continued quarantining of out-of-home resources;*
- capacity to shift resources to the location and service model that is needed; and*
- applying outputs and outcomes to all out-of-home programs.*

- (5) *The Care 2001 Reference Group completed its work in December 2001. The focus of the work of the Care 2001 Reference Group was a funding methodology for out-of-home care.*

*The valuable work of the Care 2001 Reference Group is under review, in light of the broader context of reforms in out-of-home care. The outcome of this work will provide future directions for the whole service system.*

*Since December 2001, there has been intensive action within DoCS and the central agencies, to incorporate this work into the broader framework of out-of-home care reform.*

- (6) *It is not true to say that there has been no increase in capacity in the out-of-home care system for the past decade. The greatest growth in the out-of-home care system has been in the kinship/relative care programs. There has been a 71% increase in the number of kinship/relative care placements between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001. An estimate of the increase in foster carers, ascertained through a DoCS survey, showed that there was a 57% increase in the number of foster carers between 1997/1998 and 2001/2002.*

<sup>1</sup> Provided by HR Managers to Corporate Strategy and Governance 21 May 2002

- (7) *There are a range of services that DoCS provides both directly and by providing funds to non-government organisations to meet the needs of children and young people with challenging behaviors and complex needs.*

*Fourteen projects managed by non-government organisations around the State provide a range of residential and community based high intensity programs. These programs are funded at the highest rate.*

*DoCS also provides intensive support services through various models, including operating small residential programs in 2 DoCS Areas.*

*There are several intensive youth case management projects targeted to young people who have engaged in potentially harmful behaviors, such as drug use and prostitution in high risk areas, such as Kings Cross, Darlinghurst and Redfern. These services are funded from the Drug Summit funding, and are provided by non-government organisations.*

*The Drug Court has also been funded by the Government and includes accommodation options for young people through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program. The Drug Court is aimed specifically at young people who are involved in the criminal justice system, as a result of drug addictions.*

- (8) *See answer to question 19 (2)*

- (9) *The proclamation and implementation of the ‘child protection laws’ included in the key priorities of DoCS’ 2001-2004 Corporate Plan includes the out-of-home care provisions. This is evident when the key result areas of the Corporate Plan are examined.*

*The Key Result Area 3: Child Protection & Out-of-Home Care Services – refers to a number of key out-of-home care objectives, while Key Result Area 10 refers to the preparation for proclamation of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 which includes the out-of-home care provisions.*

**18. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po’, MP—**

*In relation to the ‘Office of the Children’s Guardian’*

- (1) What has been the expenditure, and on what specific items, to operate the Office of the Children's Guardian since the Guardian's appointment [announced in a Ministerial press release on 31 October 2000]?
- (2) When will the powers necessary to carry out the Guardian's legislated functions be proclaimed?

**Answers:**

- (1) *The Office of the Children’s Guardian provided its first Annual Report to Parliament in October 2001. A copy was given to each Member of Parliament and is available on its public website [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au).*

*Total expenditure for the Office in 2000 – 2001 was \$1.622 million from a total appropriation of \$3.370 million. The Office returned 52% of its appropriation to Treasury.*

*Total expenditure for the Office in 2001 – 2002 was \$2,194 million from a total appropriation of \$2,358 million. The Office returned surplus funds to Treasury.*

*A comparison of expenditure for the two financial years is in TABLE A. The information is from the audited Statement of Financial Performance for 2000 – 2001 in the Office of the Children’s Guardian’s first Annual Report and the unaudited Statement of Financial Performance for 2001 – 2002.*

*The Auditor-General is currently auditing the Office's annual accounts and will provide an audit opinion for inclusion in the second Annual Report to Parliament.*

**TABLE A Office of the Children's Guardian Expenditure**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Actual Audited Expenditure (\$) 2000/01</i>	<i>Actual Unaudited Expenditure (\$) 2001/02</i>
<b><i>Employee Related Expenses</i></b>		
<i>Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)</i>	192,000	1,003,000
<i>Superannuation</i>	25,000	84,000
<i>Long Service Leave</i>	6,000	26,000
<i>Workers Compensation Insurance</i>	2,000	9,000
<i>Payroll and Fringe Benefits Tax</i>	20,000	20,000
<b><i>Total Employee Related Expenses</i></b>	<b>245,000</b>	<b>1,210,000</b>
<b><i>Other Operating Expenses</i></b>		
<i>Auditor's Remuneration</i>	21,000	22,000
<i>Operating lease rental expense</i>	52,000	215,000
<i>Insurance</i>	1,000	3,000
<i>Administration Expenses</i>	98,000	107,000
<i>Corporate Services</i>	22,000	186,000
<i>Consultancies</i>	188,000	44,000
<i>Training and Development</i>	1,000	16,000
<i>Printing and Publication</i>	23,000	21,000
<i>Travel Expenses</i>	2,000	9,000
<i>EDP expenses</i>	119,000	126,000
<b><i>Total Other Operating Expenses</i></b>	<b>527,000</b>	<b>749,000</b>
<b><i>Capital Expenses</i></b>		
<i>Computer Hardware</i>	210,853	8,042
<i>Office Equipment</i>	114,022	0
<i>Furniture &amp; Fittings</i>	518,051	21,543
<b><i>Total Capital Expenses</i></b>	<b>843,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>

- (2) *On July 2001 and 1 February 2002, further sections of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 that directly affect the Children's Guardian became law.*

*The Children's Guardian has published a range of guidelines for agencies to utilise now in their work with children and young people in out-of-home care. The Office of the Children's Guardian has commenced a voluntary accreditation program and is conducting training workshops across NSW for the out-of-home care sector on the role and functions of the Children's Guardian.*

*I am presently consulting with the Director-General DoCS, the Children's Guardian and relevant agencies to make sure that everyone is ready for proclamation.*

**19. Mr Cohen and Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to the 'Office of the Children's Guardian'*

- (1) What is the breakdown of the \$54,848 expenditure for 2001/2002 and the proposed \$44,983 expenditure for 2002/2003 for the line item 34.1.4 Out-of-Home Care and Adoption Services: Grants and subsidies, Community based residential care?
- (2) What are the amounts in both years for:
  - (i) ongoing funding agreements for NGO services?
  - (ii) contracts for intensive services?
  - (ii) contracts for Ormond/Minali replacement services?
  - (iv) individual services plans (ICAs) fee for service arrangements and any other categories that make up the balance?
- (3) What specific measures are proposed to achieve the savings in 2002/2003 and still provide the same or improved level of care for a predicted larger number of children and young people?

**Answers:**

- (1) ***This line item refers to expenditure for out-of-home care services provided by the non-government sector.***

***The majority of these funds are provided to non-government organisations (NGOs) in the form of recurrent funding, paid quarterly to organisations to operate programs such as foster care and residential care.***

***Some of the funds are provided to non-government organisations to support non-government service providers by way of training, advocacy and peak representation.***

***A proportion of the budget item is used for one-off projects to enhance the service system. For example in 2001/2002, a range of one-off projects were funded to improve the quality and capacity of non-government Aboriginal service providers.***

***Individual funding packages for children and young people with complex needs is a further component of this budget item. DoCS staff and some private organisations, as well as some non-government organisations provide these services.***

***For 2001/2002, the expenditure breakdown was:***

- ***Recurrent and one-off out-of-home care NGO projects - \$29,765,806.***
- ***Individual client packages, one-off projects and some after care - \$25,082,194.***

- (2) ***The financial system that records the out-of-home care budget allocation and expenditure is currently undergoing changes to more accurately reflect how the budget is actually spent. The majority of information provided is based on historical categories.***

***The 2002/03 budget has not yet been completed and requires confirmation from budget holders:***

**2001/02 Expenditure**

***The table below provides a breakdown of expenditure reported in the budget papers.***

<i>Expenditure item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Recurrent and one-off out-of-home care NGO projects</i>	<i>\$29,765,806</i>
<i>After Care funding to NGO services</i>	<i>\$1,001,297</i>
<i>Statewide peak services</i>	<i>\$693,783</i>
<i>Individual client packages, one-off projects</i>	<i>\$23,387,114</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$54,848,000</i>

- (3) *Work on the budget and reform strategy for out-of-home care is ongoing and subject to detailed negotiation between the Department of Community Services and relevant stakeholders. This is one of a number of tasks that the new Minister and new Director-General intend to resolve as soon as all suggestions are examined and negotiations are completed.*

**20. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) Why has the Minister not responded to or even acknowledged the Community Services Commission Inquiry into Substitute Care?
- (2) (a) What commitment does the Government have to ensure that the Children's Guardian is able to exercise her powers and carry out her duties?
- (b) When and how will this commitment be turned into action?

**Answers:**

- (1) *As the new Minister for Community Services I will be reviewing the Community Services Commission Inquiry into Substitute Care as part of a broader process of developing future directions for out of home care.*
- (2) *I am presently consulting with the Director-General DoCS, the Children's Guardian and relevant agencies to make sure that everyone is ready for proclamation.*

**21. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) (a) What was the total level of recurrent funding to the Community Services Commission in 2000/01?
- (b) What will it be in 2001/02? Is the Commission able to investigate all complaints it receives on the basis of current resources?
- (2) (a) What was the total level of recurrent funding to the Community Visitors Scheme in 2001/02?
- (b) What will it be in 2002/03?
- (3) (a) How many new visitable services have been established in 2001/02?
- (b) How many are estimated to be established in 2002/03?
- (4) How will the increases in the number of visitable services be managed on the basis of current resources?
- (5) What has been done to address Community Visitor claims for increases in wages?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *The total recurrent appropriation to the Community Services Commission in 2001/02 was \$3,792,000, comprising \$3,148,000 for the Commission and \$644,000 for the Visitors.*

- (b) *The total level of recurrent appropriation to the Commission will be \$3,865,000 in 2002/03, comprising \$3,221,000 for the Commission and \$644,000 for the Visitors.*

*The Commission's resources enable it to receive and assess action required, and to take required action (via local resolution, facilitation and conciliation, investigation or other action) for complaint contacts at the current levels. Current complaint levels do not include complaints about certain activities of the Department of Community Services (DoCS), including DoCS response to and action about reports of alleged abuse of children and its arrangements for and provision of out-of-home care to children and young people. Since November 2000, following advice from the Crown Solicitor which restricted the Commission's jurisdiction, complaint contacts to the Commission have declined by approximately 32%, from 1,951 in 1999/2000, to 1332 in 2001/2002.*

*During 2001/2002 the Commission has significantly increased its profile in areas in the community services sector areas with which it has previously had limited contact especially the Home and Community Care (HACC) sector, and the Supported Accommodation and Assistance (SAAP) sector. There has been an increased number and proportion of complaint contacts from consumers of HACC and SAAP services.*

*In 2002/2003 the Commission estimates that complaint contacts will increase beyond the 1999/2000 levels:*

- *The amalgamation of the Commission with the NSW Ombudsman in 2002/2003 will see a restoration, to the new Community Services Division of the NSW Ombudsman, of the jurisdiction to receive and handle complaints about all aspects of the Department of Community Services' services and functions.*
- *The Commission will continue to receive increased and increasing complaint contacts from HACC and SAAP as a result of current project work in these areas amplifying the awareness of consumers about the Commission.*

*Additionally, the Commission has initiated new program activities to assist the responsiveness of service providers to complaints. In 2001 the Commission initiated reviews of service provider complaint handling systems. To date the Commission has reviewed complaint handling systems in PSO/ATLAS services and the Home Care Service of NSW. IN 2002/2003 it will review complaint handling systems in SAAP services, disability respite services and a third program area to be confirmed.*

- (2) (a) *The total level of recurrent appropriation for direct Visitor expenses for the Community Visitors Scheme in 2001/02 was \$673,000, excluding Commission's staff costs.*
- (b) *The total level of recurrent appropriation for direct Visitor expenses for the Community Visitors Scheme in 2002/03 will be \$644,000, excluding Commission's staff costs.*
- (3) (a) *During 2001/02, there was an overall increase in the number of visitable services of 49 services (total increase from 965 to 1,014 services).*
- (b) *On average, there are 30 new visitable services each year (although clearly more were identified during 2001/02 than usual). We have budgeted for an increase of 30 new services in 2002/03.*
- (4) *The current resources are not sufficient to enable the scheme to meet a 'responsible minimum' of 4 @ 4-hour visits per service per annum. In order to visit all services there will be a reduction in the amount of time that Visitors can spend at services and a more tightly controlled visiting schedule. All services will receive at least two visits per year.*

*In 2001/02, the scheme explored the option of excluding some eligible services to ensure that the scheme does not become tokenistic. However, the decision to continue to visit all services during 2002/03 reflects the Commission's and Visitors' concerns about the needs and rights of all residents to independent review of their services. The impact of this approach will be closely monitored during 2002/03. It will be reviewed again late in 2002/03, having regard to the resource allocation for the next financial year.*

- (5) *Visitors are statutory appointees under Category D Statutory Appointees and are not employees under the PSMA, so do not receive 'wages' as such. The rate of fees for Visitors was adjusted in April 2001, and the Commission immediately sought the Minister's approval to raise the Visitors' payment to the new rate which was forthcoming. Visitors are currently paid \$25.13 per hour, which is the maximum amount under this Category, and the Commission also reimburses Visitors for most out-of-pocket expenses associated with conducting their duties (ie. petrol, excess travel, meals, postage, fares, accommodation, etc).*

*The Commission and the Visitors have a joint working group to explore a range of issues relating to Visitors' working conditions.*

*'Ageing, Disability and Home Care Portfolios'*

22. **Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Area Disability Services'*

I understand that all existing clients who received therapy services through DCS Disability Services must be reassessed to determine eligibility for the same services provided by the same staff under DADHC.

What is the cost of this reassessment?

**Answer:**

*Clients who previously received services from DoCS Disability Services, including those receiving therapy services, are not required to be reassessed for services as a result of the administrative change for the management of Disability Services between DCS and DADHC.*

*There may however, be other client related circumstances for which reassessment of service eligibility may be required.*

23. **Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) (a) How many new permanent staff positions have been established in 2001/02?  
 (b) Where are these positions located administratively?  
 (c) What is the cost of these new positions on an annual recurrent basis?  
 (d) (i) Will there be any further increases in the Department's staffing levels in financial year 2002/03?  
 (ii) If so, how will these positions be funded?  
 (e) What is the projected recurrent cost of any new positions to be established in financial year 2002/03?
- (2) (a) What is the number of temporary staff currently employed?  
 (b) Where are these temporary positions located administratively?  
 (c) What is the total estimated cost of these positions in the current financial year?  
 (d) Will there be any change to the number of temporary staff employed by the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care in financial year 2002/03?  
 (e) What is the estimated cost of employing temporary staff in 2002/03?



- (3) (a) How many outside consultants were employed in 2001/02?  
 (b) What was the amount paid for each of these outside consultants?
- (4) (a) What was the actual amount of underspending in the Disability Services Program as at budget day in May 2002?  
 (b) What is the estimated amount of underspending in the Disability Services Program as at 30 June 2002?  
 (c) What is the breakdown of under-expenditure in the Disability Services Program as at budget day in May 2002 against the initiatives announced in the 2001/02 budget?
- (5) (a) What was the actual amount of underspending in the Home and Community Care Program as at budget day in May 2002?  
 (b) What is the estimated amount of underspending in the Home and Community Care Program as at 30 June 2002?  
 (c) What is the breakdown of under-expenditure in the Home and Community Care Program as at budget day in May 2002 against the initiatives announced in the 2001/02 State budget?
- (6) (a) Will any underspending be returned to the Treasury in relation to the current financial year?  
 (b) If so, how much underspending is to be returned?
- (7) Are any of the non-recurrent and capital initiatives announced in the 2002/03 budget to be funded from funds accumulated due to underspending in the current financial year?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *The number of newly created permanent positions that were established in DADHC during the financial year 2001/2002 is outlined in the table below, along with other related information.*

**Table: Permanent Positions Created During 2001/2002**

<i>Administrative Area</i>	<i>Established Permanent Positions</i>	<i>Annual Recurrent Salaries</i>
<i>Disability Services</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>\$5,647,459</i>
<i>Strategic Policy &amp; Planning</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>\$1,490,284</i>
<i>Home Care Service *</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$475,207</i>
<i>DADHC</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>\$1,576,503</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>\$9,189,453</i>

*\* Care Workers positions directly relate to budgeted hours available for service delivery. There is no set establishment for Care Workers in the HCS and therefore no deletion and creation of positions in this classification.*

- (b) *The locations of these new positions are outlined in the table for question 1(a) above.*
- (c) *The annual recurrent costs of these new permanent positions is outlined in the table for question 1(a).*
- (d) *The Department is currently undertaking a major review to develop the corporate and regional structure for the integrated Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care. Total staff numbers will be determined as part of that process.*
- (e) *Recurrent costs will be determined as part of the review process and will be agreed in consultation with central agencies.*

- (2) (a) *The number of temporary staff employed as at 30 June 2002 is outlined in the table below, along with other related information.*

*Table: Temporary Staff Employed as*

<i>Administrative Area</i>	<i>Temporary Employees as at 30 June 2002</i>	<i>Cost of Temporary Employees over 2001/02</i>
<i>Disability Services</i>	987	\$24,449,364
<i>Strategic Policy &amp; Planning</i>	49	\$2,864,094
<i>Home Care Service *</i>	81	\$3,200,000
<i>Total</i>	1,117	\$30,513,458

*\* Fixed Term Contracts and Casual administrative staff working in established positions.*

- (b) *The locations of these temporary employees are outlined in the table for question 2(a) above.*
- (c) *The total estimated cost of these temporary positions in the current financial year is outlined in the table for question 2(a).*
- (d) *Implementation of the new structure will progressively enable less reliance on temporary staff. A contributor to the number of temporary employees in Disability Services is the worldwide shortage of nursing staff*
- (e) *Costs will be determined as part of the review process.*
- (3) (a) *There were 84 consultants engaged by the Department during 2001/02 (based on unaudited records).*
- (b) *23 consultants were engaged and paid more than \$30,000 during 2001/02 as follows:*

<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Amount \$</i></u>
<i>Walter &amp; Turnbull Associates</i>	346,584
<i>Centre For Developmental Disability</i>	328,053
<i>KPMG</i>	144,812
<i>Age Communications P/L</i>	130,544
<i>Brian Elton &amp; Associates</i>	127,627
<i>BSR Pacific Consulting Group</i>	110,625
<i>Vermont Consulting</i>	109,431
<i>Ernst &amp; Young</i>	94,712
<i>Southern Spirit Software</i>	69,369
<i>Tier Technologies (Aust) Pty Ltd</i>	56,652
<i>Uniting Care Burnside</i>	50,000
<i>Dept Of Public Works &amp; Services</i>	48,127
<i>B&amp;S Consulting</i>	46,615
<i>Lynn Houlahan</i>	41,928
<i>Dancrai Pty Ltd</i>	40,000
<i>Humanly Possible</i>	37,695
<i>Tundra Ltd</i>	33,335

<i>Alt Beatty Consulting</i>	<i>31,815</i>
<i>Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu</i>	<i>31,480</i>
<i>University Of Sydney</i>	<i>30,600</i>
<i>Work &amp; Life Strategies</i>	<i>30,583</i>
<i>Bradfield Nyland Group</i>	<i>30,022</i>
<i>Heartbeat Research</i>	<i>30,000</i>

*There were 61 consultants paid between \$1,000 and \$30,000 for an average of \$9,027 (based on unaudited records).*

- (4) (a) *The amount unspent, as at budget day May 2002 was \$63m, which was 16% under the full year budget.*
- (b) *The amount unspent as at 30 June 2002 was \$17.5m, which was 4.5% under budget at financial year-end. The unspent portion was redirected to purchase emergency services from the Government provider.*
- (c) *Funding for new initiatives announced in the 2001/02 budget was fully expended in the year.*
- (5) (a) *The amount unspent, as at budget day May 2002 was \$27.4m, which was 10.5% under the full year budget.*
- (b) *The amount unspent as at 30 June 2002 was \$5.2m, which was 2.0% under budget as at financial year-end. The majority of these funds relate to funding agreements for service that were approved but not paid at 30 June 2002.*
- (c) *The announcement in the 2001-2002 Budget Papers was an overall increase in funding of \$26.2m. This was not broken down into specific initiatives.*
- (6) (a) *The Department is currently in the process of finalising the annual accounts and reconciling the cash allocation from Treasury for the year ended 30 June 2002. On present indications, the full allocation will be expended and it will not be necessary to return funds to Treasury.*
- (b) *On present indications, the full allocation will be expended and it will not be necessary to return funds to Treasury.*
- (7) *No. All non-recurrent and capital initiatives announced in the budget are to funded from the 2002-2003 allocation.*

*'Disability Services'*

**24. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*'In relation to 'Attendant Care'*

- (1) (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding under the Attendant Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) How many existing Attendant Care packages were enhanced with additional funds in 2001/02 to meet the increased needs of recipients?

- (3) How many existing Attendant Care packages will be enhanced with additional funds in 2002/03 to meet the increased needs of recipients?
- (4) (a) What is the current maximum hour allocation available for Attendant Care packages?  
 (b) Does the Government intend to change the maximum allocation in 2002/03?
- (5) What measures is government taking to ensure that people in rural and remote areas have providers available to them?
- (6) (a) How does the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care currently address circumstances where funds available under an Attendant Care package are insufficient to meet a person's changing support needs?  
 (b) Are any changes to these arrangements proposed in 2002/03?
- (7) (a) When will the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care ensure that the people who were allocated funding for support through the Attendant Care Program in November 2001 have their arrangements put in place?  
 (b) How will the Department ensure that this situation does not occur again?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) \$5,848,748  
 (b) \$9,812,868
- (2) *32 existing clients had their hours enhanced.*
- (3) *Enhancement for existing clients is considered if requested. It is not known how many packages will receive enhancements in 2002/03.*
- (4) (a) *34 hours.*  
 (b) *No.*
- (5) *The Attendant Care Program has a number of approved service providers providing personal care services throughout rural and remote NSW. This includes the Home Care Service of NSW which has branches across the whole of the state, and strong coverage in rural and remote locations.*
- In 2002 the Department further enhanced the options available for rural and remote clients by extending the approved provider list to include all Community Options programs eligible under Section 6 of the Disability Services Act 1993. This increased the potential number of service providers throughout NSW from 8 to more than 55.*
- (6) (a) *As vacancies occur in the Attendant Care Program, applications for increased levels of support are given priority in distributing available funds.*  
 (b) *No.*
- (7) *All individuals allocated funding for support under the program have already commenced their attendant care program or are currently negotiating a start date with their preferred provider.*

**25. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Boarding House Reform'*

- (1) (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding under the Boarding House Reform Program in financial year 2001/02?

- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) How many people have been provided with accommodation support services under the Boarding House Reform Program since its commencement?
- (3) Are any funds available in 2002/03 under the Boarding House Reform Program to provide additional supported accommodation services for boarding house residents with high support needs?
- (4) (a) Have all residents with high support needs now been relocated from licensed boarding houses?  
 (b) If not, how many remain to be relocated?  
 (c) How will the supported accommodation needs of any remaining high support needs residents be addressed?  
 (d) What recurrent funds will be available to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care for this purpose in 2002/03?
- (5) (a) Are people with high support needs still being placed in licensed boarding houses?  
 (b) If so, how is this situation being addressed?
- (6) (a) How many residents in Boarding Houses received Home Care services in 2001/02?  
 (b) How many will receive Home Care services in 2002/03?
- (7) (a) How many residents in Boarding Houses received services from the Active Living Initiative in 2001/02?  
 (b) How many will receive these services in 2002/03?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) \$28,037m.  
 (b) \$29,537m. *This includes an additional \$1.5m provided as part of a \$23m enhancement package over four years under the 2002/03 budget.*
- (2) *More than 1,000 people have been provided with accommodation support services under the Reform Program. This includes 314 people provided with community based supported accommodation; 450 people receiving support services in their licensed boarding house; and more than 1,000 people accessing Active Linking Services.*
- (3) *A further \$1.5m was provided in 2002/03 as part of a \$23m enhancement package over four years under the 2002/03 budget. The number of people supported in 2002/03 will depend on their level of support needs.*
- (4) (a) *The Boarding House Reform Strategy, begun in October 1998, identified Boarding House Residents with high support needs who required additional support. The first phase of the Strategy provided funding to relocate 310 people. This was not the total number of boardinghouse residents with high support needs.*  
 (b) *Recent work has been done to reassess the current circumstances and needs of all people not included in the first phase. This indicates that there are 57 people from the originally identified group still living in a Boarding House. In addition, 85 people have been targeted for a more detailed assessment of their needs, with the expectation that some of these people will also be found to have high support needs.*  
 (c) *The four-year enhancement program and vacancy matching will allow further relocations. Home Care Services to remaining residents will continue to be available.*

- (d) *The total program recurrent funding for accommodation support in 2002/03 is \$29,271m. The recurrent enhancement over four years provided in the 2002/03 budget allows for growth to \$35,271m.*
- (5) (a) *No.*
- (b) *The Boarding House Reform program saw the introduction of a screening process to ensure that people whose needs cannot be met in boarding houses are not accommodated there.*
- (6) (a) *An average of 450 people received services in each four weeks period throughout 2001/2002, ranging from 402 in one period to a maximum of 496 in another period.*
- (b) *It is estimated that the average number of people receiving Home Care services per four weeks period throughout 2002/2003 will be 425.*
- (7) (a) *A high percentage of residents are using the Active Linking Initiative (ALI). Service provider reports indicate approximately 1000 residents used ALI services in 2001/02. This represents 70% - 75% of the capacity of licensed boarding houses. Those who do not use the service are reported as generally working, or are independent in their recreational choices.*
- (b) *It is estimated that the number of residents who will access the ALI program in 2002/2003 will continue at around the 1,000 mark in the face of a reducing population due to anticipated closures.*

**26. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Child and Family Services'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of recurrent funding for specialist disability intensive child and family support services, including in-home support, during 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) (a) How many children and young people are currently receiving intensive child and family support services?
- (b) How many additional places will be available in 2002/03?
- (3) (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding for specialist substitute care services for children and young people with disability during 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (c) What form do/will these substitute care services take?
- (4) (a) How many children and young people continued to live in large residential centres for people with disability during 2001/02?
- (b) How many are projected to remain in large residential centres at the end of the 2002/03 financial year?
- (5) (a) Has the Government introduced a policy of no admission of children and young people to large residential centres in the non-government sector?
- (b) If not, how many new admissions to these Centres occurred during 2001/02?
- (c) How many new admissions are projected during 2002/03?
- (6) Will the policy of no admission of children and young people to large residential centres for people with disability in the government sector be maintained now that these services have transferred from the Department of Community Services to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care?

- (7) (a) How many children and young people with disability continued to live in residential care (other than large residential care) during 2001/02?
- (b) How many are projected to remain in residential care (other than large residential care) at the end of the 2002/03 financial year?
- (8) (a) When will the Children's Disability Policy Framework that has been under development since 1998 be released and implemented?
- (b) What accounts for the delay in the introduction of this Policy Framework?

**Answers:**

- (1) to (3) *Intensive child and family support services and specialist substitute care services are not a recognised service types under the Programs administered or delivered by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. More information would need to be provided to ensure an appropriate response to the Committee on these questions.*
- (4) (a) *In June 2002 there were 57 children and young people with a disability living in government and non-government funded large residential centres.*
- (b) *The target date for the devolution of children with a disability out of large residential centres is the end of 2004.*
- (5) *The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care no longer provides new funding for the support of children and young people in large residential centres in the non-government sector. This is consistent with the Government's commitment to move all children and young people from large residential centres as part of the first phase of the devolution program.*
- (6) *Yes.*
- (7) (a) *54 children and young people under 18 years of age were residing in DADHC group homes in June 2002. DADHC's Minimum Data Set, conducted in May 2001, indicates that 106 children and young people under 18 years of age were living in DADHC funded non-government group homes or other residential settings.*
- (b) *DADHC is in the process of establishing its first Family Based Care Program. The initial target group for this program will be children devolving from large residential centres and those currently in crisis care needing permanent placement. It is anticipated, after an Expression of Interest process, that the selected agency will be in a position to place the first 10 children in the program with foster families by the end of this year. It is DADHC's intention to extend this program in 2003 to children under 12 years of age currently living in group homes or other residential settings.*
- (8) (a) *The Premier approved the policy for children and young people with a disability – 'Living in the community- putting children first' on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and the policy document is now being printed with anticipated release in the week of 29 July 2002.*
- (b) *The timeframe for the development of the policy and its release reflects the needs for consultation and careful development of new directions for the support of vulnerable children and their families. The policy was also developed to reflect changes to the legislative environment for the delivery of children's services, particularly recent changes to child protection legislation.*

**27. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Criminal Justice System'*

- (1) (a) Has funding been made available in 2002/03 for implementation of recommendations arising from the Framework Report?



- (b) If so, how much funding has been allocated for each of the following recommendations:
- (i) Establishment of specialist capacity to assess and meet the needs of people with cognitive disabilities who have offended or who are at risk of offending,
  - (ii) Establishment of a system of ‘justice plans’ to coordinate action between the justice system and disability services personnel,
  - (iii) Ensuring a pool of funds is available to flexibly meet the needs of people with cognitive disabilities who have offended or who are at risk of offending,
  - (iv) Funding accommodation and related support for people who have offended or who are at risk of offending, and
  - (v) Implementation of a screening process to enhance the identification of members of the target group?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *Whilst there is no specific budgetary allocation recommended against the Report, departments across Government are implementing measures to support people with a disability in contact with the criminal justice system. DADHC, NSW Health, Juvenile Justice and Corrective Services are actively engaged in the following areas:*
- (b) (i) *developing capacity of DADHC clinical services by increasing expertise and capacity for the specialist assessment and treatment of people with an intellectual disability who are in contact with the criminal justice system, or at risk of contact;*
- (ii) *developing a system to provide for justice plans for people with an intellectual disability before the courts;*
- (iii) *providing services to support some people with an intellectual disability upon their release from correctional facilities from within existing allocations, and where these people are assessed as eligible for service under relevant criteria.*
- (iv) *providing \$500,000 a year over a three year period for the development of independent information, support and assistance to people with an intellectual disability in contact with the criminal justice system.*

**28. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Developmental Day Programs'*

- (1) How many people are currently funded for Post School Options placements?
- (2) How many people are currently funded for Adult Training Learning and Support Services Placements?
- (3) (a) How many Post School Options and Adult Training Learning and Support services placements were funded on a non-recurrent basis in financial year 2001/02?
- (b) How many non-recurrent places are estimated to be funded in 2002/03?
- (4) (a) How many school leavers with moderate to high support needs will graduate from NSW schools this year?
- (b) Will these school leavers be provided with a Post School Option or Adult Training Learning and Support Services placement?
- (c) If so, how are these placements to be funded?
- (7) (a) (i) Does the Government intend to cap expenditure on the Post-School Options and Adult Training Learning and Support Services Programs?
- (ii) If so, at what level will these programs be capped?
- (b) (i) How will the needs of future school leavers be addressed?
- (ii) If no, how is future program growth to be funded?
- (8) (a) Is there a time limit on Post School Options or Adult Training Learning and Support Services?
- (b) (i) Does the Government intend to introduce a time limit on Post School Options or Adult Training Learning and Support Services?
- (ii) If so, what will this time limit be and how will it be applied to existing and potential service users?

- (9) (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding for day program services in financial year 2001/02?  
 (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (10) (a) What, specifically, are the arrangements that have been put in place for Post School Options and Adult Training and Support Service clients to transfer to Commonwealth funded specialist employment services?  
 (b) How many people have transferred from PSO or ATLAS programs to Commonwealth funded employment services in 2001/02?  
 (c) How many are projected to transfer in 2002/03?
- (11) (a) How many people have left Commonwealth funded specialist employment services and sought placement in State funded PSO, ATLAS or day program services in 2001/02?  
 (b) What is the number projected to do so in 2002/03?
- (12) (a) What funds were made available in 2001/02 to address unmet need for day program services?  
 (b) What funds will be made available in 2002/03 to address unmet need for day program services?
- (13) (a) When will the current Review of Day Programs be completed?  
 (b) What are the terms of reference for this Review?  
 (c) What public consultation is proposed in relation to this Review?

**Answers:**

- (1) *1,584 service users (from 1993 to 1998) are funded for PSO.*
- (2) *1,232 service users (from 1999 to 2001) are funded for ATLAS.*
- (3) (a) *1,232 ATLAS service users between 1999 to 2001 are funded on a 2 year fixed-term basis. 1,584 PSO service users between 1993 to 1998 are funded on a recurrent basis.*  
 (b) *1,232 service users will be funded on a fixed-term basis in 2002/03. 2002 School Leavers will be assessed in August and September 2002. The number of 2002 School Leavers who are assessed as requiring ATLAS or Community Access support will be known by October 2002.*
- (4) (a) *DADHC is unable to predict school leaver numbers. However, 628 applications for ATLAS have been received from potential NSW school leavers for 2002.*  
 (b) *2002 School Leavers will undertake a participation assessment conducted by CRS Australia that will provide understanding of the range of needs of young people with a disability requiring ATLAS, Community Access, and Employment Support Services and this will provide continuity and transitional pathways to:*
- *Day Programs;*
  - *Community Access;*
  - *Transitional options, including pre-vocational education and training;*
  - *Employment Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Support Options.*
  - *The number of 2002 School Leavers who are assessed as requiring ATLAS or Community Access support will be known by October 2002.*
- (c) *The Government has provided an additional \$17m in the 2002/03 financial year for ATLAS and Day Program services.*

- (5) (a) *No.*
- (b) *The Government has provided an additional \$17m in the 2002/03 financial year for ATLAS and Day Program services.*
- (6) (a) *ATLAS service users between 1999 to 2001 are funded on a fixed term basis and PSO service users between 1993 to 1998 are funded on a recurrent basis.*
- (b) *Current arrangements for PSO and ATLAS packages will continue.*
- (7) (a) *The Government provided \$37.4m in the 2001/02 financial year for day programs to meet the conditions of conformity in the NSW Disability Services Act 1993.*
- (b) *The Government has provided an additional \$4m in the 2002/03 financial year for day programs. This represents funding of \$41.4m for day programs in the 2002/03 financial year.*
- (8) (a) *The Government is committed to improved access to employment through shared assessment and creation of pathways for people with disabilities. The NSW Government will provide for a joint Participation Assessment Strategy and gateway between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. 1,700 young people currently accessing ATLAS or leaving school will have their needs assessed.*
- The Strategy aims to assist young people of working age to achieve employment, vocational education and training and community access options. This will lead to better individual planning and outcomes within the ATLAS Project.*
- The Assessment Strategy will enable a better understanding of the range of needs of young people with a disability requiring ATLAS, Community Access, and Employment Support Services and will facilitate better continuity and transitional pathways to the following types of services:*
- *Day Programs;*
  - *Community Access;*
  - *Transitional options, including pre-vocational education and training;*
  - *Employment Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Support Options.*
- (b) *In the 2001/02 financial year, 45 PSO service users exited into supported and open employment or through moving location or death. 15 ATLAS services users exited to supported and open employment.*
- (c) *Unknown at this point.*
- (9) *50 individuals from the CSDA Bilateral Case Management Project who were funded through Commonwealth funded disability employment programs are transferring into State Government-funded ATLAS services. NSW has provided recurrent funding for these people in the 2002/03 State Budget.*
- (10) (a) *\$6.346m was made available through Commonwealth funding in the 2001/02 financial year for Day Program services through unmet need and people with ageing carers.*
- (b) *See 7 (b) above.*
- (11) (a) *The Day Programs Review has been completed. The Final Report will be provided to the Department in August 2002. Consideration of the Day Programs Review outcomes will inform the process for re-shaping and improving the quality and capacity of the Community Access and Day Programs in NSW. This will include individuals from Commonwealth funded Business Services, who participated in the Commonwealth CSDA Bilateral Case Management project and expansion of the Day Program sector, as described above.*

(b) *A summary of the Terms of Reference for the Day Programs Review encompassed four broad issues:*

- *What should be the role of day programs and how do they fit within the ATLAS Framework;*
- *How can day programs better focus on achieving outcomes for service users;*
- *How can day programs be integrated with other school leaver and community access services; and,*
- *How should day programs address the needs of service users as they age.*

(c) *Between September and October 2001, the Day Programs Review consultants held regional discussion forums throughout the State with service providers, service users and their families. The focus was to establish and raise issues that needed to be included in the Day Programs Review. This resulted in the publication and distribution to all stakeholders of the Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper included a Questionnaire that could be sent back to consultants to provide further information.*

*Between February and April 2002, further regional discussion forums throughout the State with service providers and families were conducted to discuss ideas and strategies that could provide further information for day program service innovation and improvement.*

**29. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Early Intervention'*

- (1) How many children currently receive early intervention services?
- (2) What is the level of unmet demand for early intervention services?

**Answers:**

- (1) *The Department uses a Minimum Data Set for collecting 'snap shot' information about service utilisation rates on a given date each year. According to the 2001 Minimum Data Set, 1200 children aged 0-12 years accessed early intervention services (including therapy services) funded by the Department on 23 May 2001.*
- (2) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for early intervention services across NSW.*

**30. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Respite Care'*

- (1)
  - (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding for centre-based respite care under the Disability Services Program in financial year 2001/02?
  - (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2)
  - (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding for centre-based respite care for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in financial year 2001/02?
  - (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (3)
  - (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding for flexible respite care for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in financial year 2001/02?
  - (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?

- (4) How many people currently receive respite care services under the Disability Services Program?
- (5) How many people with disability currently receive respite care services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (6) What is the level of unmet demand among people with disability and their families for respite care services?
- (7) (a) How many respite care places were provided in large residential centres operated by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care in 2001/02?
- (b) How many respite care places does the Department estimate to remain in Government operated large residential centres as at 30 June 2003?
- (8) (a) How many respite care places were provided in large residential centres operated by the non-Government sector in 2001/02?
- (b) How many respite care places does the Department estimate to remain in non-Government large residential centres as at 30 June 2003?
- (9) (a) What funding has been allocated for the implementation of the Respite Reform Package in 2002/03?
- (b) When does the Department expect implementation of the Package to be completed?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) \$25,694,908
- (b) \$28,674,035
- (2) *The questions specifically asked in relation to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program focus on people with a disability. It should be noted that the HACC Program is designed to provide low intensity services to frail older people, younger people with a disability and their carers to assist with tasks of basic daily living and prevent premature or inappropriate admission into long term residential care. As such the assessment of eligibility for HACC services has a functional assessment focus and all service users may be perceived to have a level of moderate to severe disability. Whilst significant data on service user characteristics and service provision is collected through the HACC Minimum Data Set (MDS) this does not include specific diagnosis data. The HACC service provision reported in response to these questions therefore includes all service users and total funding for each service type. At least 70% of the HACC target population is over the age of 65.*
- Centre-based respite for people with a disability is not a service type under the HACC program. HACC does fund centre-based day care services and flexible respite services for the target group. The total recurrent funding for all models of HACC respite care in 2001/2002 was \$49,470,016.*
- (3) (a) *The total recurrent funding for all models of HACC respite care in 2001/2002 was \$49,470,016.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/2003 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/2003 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as having the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the State.*
- (4) *The latest CSTDA Minimum Data Set (MDS) survey estimated that 7413 people received disability program respite services in the 2000/2001 year.*
- (5) *The latest HACC MDS suggests that 4254 people accessed HACC respite services in 2001/02, although the figure is likely to be higher when taking into account classification considerations for carers. On this basis the Department estimates that more than 5,300 people accessed HACC respite.*

- (6) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for early intervention services across NSW. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that nationally, unmet need for accommodation and respite services is 12,500 places.*
- (7) (a) 41.  
(b) 41.
- (8) (a) 14.  
(b) 14.
- (9) (a) *Budgets for the 2002/03 financial year are currently being finalised. There has been significant growth for respite services made by this Government in recent years. \$8.3m was allocated over three years as part of the 1999/2000 budget for the establishment of new and flexible respite services across the state. The current commitment to respite services will continue to be maintained in both the HACC and Disability programs into the 2002/03 financial year and beyond.*  
(b) *The Department is currently considering key milestones and timeframes for the respite reform program.*

**31. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Supported Accommodation'*

- (1) What is the total level of growth funding for supported accommodation provided in the 2002/03 State budget?
- (2) (a) How much funding was spent on capital costs associated with new supported accommodation services in 2001/02?  
(b) How much funding is available for capital costs associated with new supported accommodation services in 2002/03?
- (3) (a) How many people are currently in supported accommodation provided directly by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care?  
(c) How many people are currently in supported accommodation funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care?
- (4) (a) Have funds been allocated for the supported accommodation needs of people with physical disability, brain injury and long-term psychiatric disability in the 2002/03 financial year?  
(b) If so, what is this allocation?
- (5) (a) What measures have been taken in 2001/02 to improve physical access to supported accommodation, in particular crisis refuges?  
(b) What measures will be taken in 2002/03?

**Answers:**

- (1) *More than \$40 million will be available for supported accommodation and other community based supports for people requiring assistance within the context of devolution and the Service Access System (SAS) in 2002/03.*
- (2) (a) *\$22.8 million.*  
(b) *Funding required for the acquisition of properties in 2002/03 to support accommodation initiatives such as devolution and SAS is currently being determined.*

- (3) (a) 1282.
- (b) *The current Disability Services Minimum Data Set indicates that more than 3339 people receive supported accommodation services from funded non-government service providers.*
- (4) (a) and (b) *More than \$72 million per annum is provided to support the needs of people with a physical disability and those with an acquired brain injury. Other needs are identified in the context of the SAS and devolution programs. Supports for people with a long term psychiatric disability are provided through NSW Health.*
- (5) (a) and (b) *The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care does not fund or operate crisis refuges and is not in a position to advise the Committee of measures taken to improve physical access to those services.*



**32. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Local Support Coordination'*

- (1) (a) What is the total level of recurrent funding for local support coordination in financial year 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) (a) How many local support coordination programs became operational in 2001/02?
- (b) What allocation has been made for the expansion of local support coordination in 2002/03?
- (3) (a) What measures are in place to provide local support coordination for people other than people with intellectual disability, in particular people with psychiatric disability and acquired brain injury?
- (b) What was the total level of recurrent funding for support coordination for people other than people with intellectual disability in 2001/02?
- (c) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (4) (a) What resources are allocated for local support coordinators to work with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Indigenous people?
- (b) What resources are allocated for local support coordinators to work with people with low incidence disabilities?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) ***\$1,290,000.***
- (b) ***\$2,745,000.***
- (2) (a) ***8.***
- (b) ***\$1,455,000 for a further 13 local support co-ordinators.***
- (3) (a) ***Local support coordinators provide services to people with a disability as defined by Disability Services Act 1993, this includes people with a psychiatric disability and acquired brain injury.***
- (b) and (c) ***The Department does not differentiate between disability types in the delivery of local support co-ordination services.***
- (4) (a) ***Local support coordinators provide services to people with a disability, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse background and indigenous people as part of their general client cohort. All coordinators are provided with training and resources to assist them to become aware of and responsive to cultural differences.***
- (b) ***Local support coordinators provide services to people with a disability as defined by Disability Services Act 1993.***

**33. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Transition to Conformity'*

- (1) What funds were made available in 2001/02 for day program services to complete transition to conformity with the *Disability Services Act, 1993*?

- (2) What funds will be made available in 2002/03 for day program services to complete transition to conformity with the *Disability Services Act*, 1993?
- (3) (a) What funds were made available in 2001/02 for the devolution of large residential institutions?  
(b) What funds will be made available in 2002/03 for devolution of large residential institutions?
- (4) (a) How many people with disabilities were relocated from large residential institutions in 2001/02?  
(b) How many people with disabilities will be relocated in 2002/03?
- (5) What action has been taken to secure funds for Phase Two of the devolution program?

**Answers:**

- (1) and (2) *Whilst no specific budgetary commitment has been made in this area the Department's expectation is that day programs services will use existing resources, including those provided in previous years to facilitate transition to conformity, to enable them to meet the provisions of the DSA. It should be recognised that additional funding is not a necessary precursor to moving to transition. Service providers can achieve significant improvements to services in line with the DSA without the requirement for additional funding.*
- (3) (a) *\$4.151 million in recurrent funding for devolution, in addition to \$22.8 million towards capital purchases for devolution and other accommodation support programs.*  
(b) *\$4.587 million in recurrent funding, in addition to funds that are made available from the redirection of recurrent allocations to large residential centres as they close, and the proceeds of the sale of property.*
- (4) (a) *68 people were relocated to community living from Government and non-Government residential institutions at the end of June 2002.*  
(b) *Approximately 227 people will be relocated to community living from Government and non-Government residential institutions in 2002/03*
- (5) *Stage two of devolution is not scheduled to commence until 2005. The Department is developing a comprehensive plan for the management of future stages of devolution.*

**34. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Specialist Services'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding spent by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care on specialist psychological, nutritional, and health services for people with disability in 2001/02?  
(b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) (a) When will the Review of Specialist Services referred to in previous state budget briefings be completed?  
(b) What are the terms of reference for the Review?  
(c) What public consultation will occur in relation to this Review?
- (3) (a) What specialist service initiatives are planned for financial year 2002/03?  
(b) What is the cost of these initiatives?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) **\$78,168,075.**

(b) \$83,739,535.

- (2) *The Review of Specialist Support Services was designed to map the availability of specialist services, investigate linkages and describe good practice in the provision of services. Further to this Review, the Department is currently considering strategies to develop this important area of service delivery.*
- (3) *The delivery of specialist psychological, nutritional and health services as described in (1).*

**35. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Staff Training'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding spent by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care on staff training initiatives for disability services staff working in the government and non-Government services in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) What measures have been taken to ensure that disability services staff working in government and non-government services are required to have minimum standard of qualifications?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *\$2.54 million for DADHC, Disability Services training initiatives in 2001/02.*

*Funding for training in non-government services is part of the administrative component of all current funding arrangements. The amount is not quantifiable.*

- (b) *\$2.54 million for Disability Services in DADHC.*

- (2) *Staff working in DADHC group homes and respite services are required to have a Certificate III in Community Services (Disability Work). Assistants in Nursing (AINs) employed in DADHC residences, are required to have Certificate III in Community Services (Aged Care). Staff are provided with competency based training and assessment in disability specific areas.*

*In order to deliver the funded services in accordance with their conditions of funding non-government service providers are required to employ staff who are suitably qualified to undertake their duties.*

**36. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Service Development Units'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding spent by the Ageing, Disability and Home Care on initiatives to promote disability service development in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) (a) What were these initiatives in 2001/02
- (b) What will they be in 2002/03?

**Answers:**

*Disability Service Development is not a recognised service type under the Programs administered or delivered by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. More information would need to be provided to ensure an appropriate response to the Committee on these questions.*

**37. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'NSW Government Disability Policy Framework'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding allocated to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care on initiatives to promote the implementation of section 9 of the Disability Services Act, 1993 in 2001/02?
- (b) Of this allocation, how much was expended as at budget day in May 2002?
- (c) How much is expected to be expended as at the end of June 2002?
- (2) What is the estimated total level of funding to be allocated to these initiatives in 2002/03?
- (3) What were the initiatives in 2001/02 and what will they be in 2002/03?
- (4) (a) Have the Ministers for Disability Services and Health provided annual reports on implementation of the Disability Policy Framework to the Social Justice Committee of Cabinet as stipulated in the Disability Policy Framework?
- (b) Have these Reports been made public?
- (c) If not why not?
- (5) (a) Has the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care developed a new Disability Action Plan to reflect the new organisational structure?
- (b) What resources have been expended in developing this Plan?
- (6) (a) What measures will be taken in 2002/03 to implement the Department's Disability Action Plan?
- (b) What resources have been allocated for implementation in 2002/03?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) ***\$106,000.***
- (b) ***\$100,000.***
- (c) ***\$106,000.***
- (2) ***Budgets for the 2002/03 financial year are currently being finalised.***
- (3) ***Initiatives in 2001/2002 included:***
  - ***Support and input into coordinating agency work in particular Transport, Education, Criminal Justice, and Social Planning Processes for Local Government***
  - ***DCO Dispatch electronic newsletter distributed to disability contact officers in state govt agencies, and participating local councils***

***Initiatives for implementation in 2002/03 are now being determined.***
- (4) (a) ***A Report on the implementation of the Disability Policy Framework was provided to the Ministers in November 2000.***
- (b) ***No***
- (c) ***The Department is not responsible for the publication of these reports which are provided for advice to Cabinet.***

- (5) (a) *No, as each of the entities which constitute the Department have current Plans to December 2002. Planning will soon commence on the development of an integrated Plan.*
- (b) *No.*
- (6) (a) *Plans for each of the entities are currently being implemented.*
- (b) *Costs will be met within the existing budget. The project is yet to be costed.*

*'Ageing Portfolio'***38. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) (a) How much funding was allocated to initiatives to move young people with disabilities out of nursing homes in 2001/02?
- (b) How much of this funding was expended in 2001/02?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated for these initiatives in 2002/03?
- (3) (a) What were the initiatives in 2001/02?
- (b) What are they in 2002/03?

**Answers:**

- (1) *Nil.*
- (2) *Nil.*
- (3) *The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care is working with the community sector to develop appropriate models for people with high and complex care needs, including younger people with a disability living in residential aged care facilities. DADHC is scoping the number of younger people with a disability living in these facilities and identifying and costing potential solutions.*

*Three people currently living in nursing homes and aged 28, 34 and 56 years respectively have been determined eligible for support through the Service Access System (SAS) and will be relocated to community accommodation as a result of their specific individual circumstances. The amount of funding has not been determined as yet: it will be dependent upon the recommendations of the Support Plans.*

**39. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Unmet Need of People from a Non-English Speaking Background and Families'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding spent by the Ageing, Disability and Home Care in 2001/02 on initiatives to promote a positive and competent response by disability services to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2001/02?
- (2) What were these initiatives in 2001/02 and what will they be in 2001/02?
- (3) (a) What level of funding was provided to disability services to fund interpreter and translation services in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (4) What measures are being planned to assess the social and economic impact on the NSW government of people with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds being forced to wait ten years before they are eligible for a Disability Support Pension?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) **\$836,769.**
- (b) **\$836,769.**

- (2) *Initiatives in 2001/02 included funding for:*
- *Advocacy and Information Service for people from a non English speaking background*
  - *Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Awareness Training and Development of competency based training package for advocacy service providers*
  - *Interpreter Services Project: explore options in relation to the use of interpreters by non-government funded organisations*
- (3) *Funding for interpreter services is part of the administrative component of all current funding arrangements. The amount is not quantifiable.*
- (4) *The guidelines relating to the provision of disability support payments and who has access to those payments are matters for the Commonwealth Government.*

**40. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Unmet Needs of Indigenous People with Disability'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding spent by the Ageing, Disability and Home Care in 2001/02 on initiatives to promote a positive and competent response by disability services to Indigenous people?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2001/02?
- (2) What were these initiatives in 2001/02 and what will they be in 2001/02?

*Answers:*

*It is not possible to separate all funding targeted to people of an indigenous background. The Department provides in the order of \$7.5 million annually for services specifically targeted to indigenous people across NSW. In addition, a large number of aboriginal people access non-aboriginal specific services.*

*The current HACC Minimum Data Set collection shows that more than 10% of all HACC service users are identified as coming from an ATSI background. It is not possible to determine what proportion of the 2001/02 HACC Budget of \$317 million was applied to that component of the service user population. The Home Care Service of NSW operates an extensive service system for the support of indigenous people who are eligible for HACC services.*

**41. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Unmet Needs of Gay, Lesbian and Transgender People with Disability'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of funding spent by the Ageing, Disability and Home Care in 2001/02 on initiatives to promote a positive and competent response by disability services to people of gay, lesbian and transgender identity?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) What were these initiatives in 2001/02?
- (3) What will they be in 2001/02?

*Answers:*

*Data is not currently gathered regarding an individual's gender or sexual preference when accessing services funded or provided by the Department.*





*'Home and Community Care Program'***42. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

- (1) (a) What was the total level of recurrent funding for personal care services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (2) (a) How much of this funding was allocated to the Home Care Service of NSW in 2001/02?
- (b) How much to non-government organisations?
- (c) What will be the allocations to the Home Care Service of NSW and non-government organisations in 2002/03?
- (3) How many people with disability receive personal care services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (4) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for personal care services?
- (5) (a) What was the total level of funding allocated to people with disability in the Home Care Service's 'virtual pool' in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (6) (a) How many people with disability receive support from the virtual pool?
- (b) What is the estimated unmet demand by people with disability for intensive personal care services such as those provided through the virtual pool?
- (7) What measures are being taken to deliver services to the people on the Home Care Service waiting list in 2002/03?
- (8) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to community transport services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (9) (a) How many people with disability receive community transport services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for community transport services?
- (10) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to home modifications and maintenance for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (11) (a) What new cost contribution arrangements have been introduced to the Home Modifications Scheme during 2001/02?
- (b) Are any further cost contribution arrangements proposed for introduction in 2002/03?
- (12) (a) How many people with disability receive home modification and maintenance services under the Home and Community Care Program each year?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for home modification and maintenance services?

- (13) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to home help services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (14) (a) How many people with disability receive home help services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for home help services?
- (15) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to food services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (16) (a) How many people with disability receive food services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for food services?
- (17) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to community nursing services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (18) (a) How many people with disability receive community nursing services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for community nursing services?
- (19) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to peer support services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (20) (a) How many people with disability receive peer support services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for peer support services?
- (21) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to neighbour aid services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (22) (a) How many people with disability receive neighbour aid services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for neighbour aid services?
- (23) (a) What is the total level of funding allocated to day care services for people with disability under the Home and Community Care Program in 2001/02?
- (b) What is it estimated to be in 2002/03?
- (24) (a) How many people with disability receive day care services under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (b) What is the estimated level of unmet demand by people with disability for day care services?

**Answers:**

*The questions specifically asked in relation to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program focus on people with a disability. It should be noted that the HACC Program is designed to provide low intensity services to frail older people, younger people with a disability and their carers to assist with tasks of basic daily living and prevent premature or inappropriate admission into long term residential care. As such the assessment of eligibility for HACC services has a functional assessment focus and therefore all services users may be perceived to have a level of moderate to severe disability. Whilst significant data on service user characteristics and service provision is collected through the HACC Minimum Data Set (MDS), this does not include specific diagnosis data. The HACC service provision reported in response to these questions therefore includes all service users and total funding for each service type.*

- (1) (a) *HACC funding for personal care 2001/02 was \$50,527,021.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (2) (a) *\$49,571,429 was allocated to the Home Care Service of NSW for the provision of personal care.*
- (b) *\$955,592 was allocated to non-government organisations for the provision of personal care services.*
- (c) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (3) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001, at least 9,930 clients were reported as receiving personal care services in NSW.*
- (4) *The estimated population of people with a moderate to profound disability in NSW is 598,000 (based on the 1998 ABS survey of Disability and Ageing). However only a proportion of people with disabilities will require or would be appropriately serviced with the provision of low intensity support services such as those provided under the HACC Program. HACC MDS data indicates that NSW currently provides HACC services to approximately 120,000 clients.*

*Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*

- (5) (a) *The total funds for 2001/02 for the High Needs Pool was \$18,524,525.*
- (b) *The level of funding for the High Needs Pool for 2002/03 will remain as per 2001/02 with appropriate cost supplementation.*
- (6) (a) *394.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (7) *The Home Care Service of NSW has an active strategy to ensure HACC services are targeted and delivered in a fair and equitable way consistent with HACC targeting principles and priorities.*

*The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*

- (8) (a) *\$16,535,420 was allocated to non-government organisations for the provision of community transport services.*

- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (9) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 19,278 clients were using HACC community transport services.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (10) (a) *\$1,235,868 for high level home modifications (over \$20,000) and \$12,814,562 for lower level modifications and home maintenance.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (11) (a) *None.*
- (b) *No.*
- (12) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 6,408 people received home maintenance and 3,333 received home modification services.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (13) (a) *\$71,744,909 was allocated for domestic assistance services.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (14) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 38,286 clients received domestic assistance services.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (15) (a) *\$16,129,291 was allocated for food services.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (16) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 19,401 clients received food services.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (17) (a) *\$42,410,350 was allocated to non-government organisations for the provision of community nursing services.*

*The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under*

*development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*

- (18) (a) *Data is currently being compiled on the provision of HACC funded community nursing under the HACC MDS.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (19) (a) *HACC Peer Support was a model of respite service and as such is included in the respite care allocation up until 2001/02. The total funding for all models of respite care in 2001/02 was \$49,470,016.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (20) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 1,946 people are reported as receiving respite services.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (21) (a) *Neighbour Aid is an organisational model not a funded service type. However Neighbour Aid organisations typically deliver a range of low level HACC services such as Social Support, Transport and Home Maintenance through volunteers. The total funding for Social Support services in 2001/02 was \$1,017,023.*
- (b) *The allocation of additional funding for 2002/03 is subject to approval of the HACC State Plan by the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The 2002/03 State Plan is currently under development and will reflect funding priorities identified through regional planning and consultation processes. Additional funding will be allocated to service types and areas identified as the greatest need or requiring additional services to ensure equity of services across the state.*
- (22) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 6,878 clients received social support.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*
- (23) (a) *Consistent with the principles of the Disability Services Act HACC cannot and does not fund the provision of centre based day care for children or people of working age.*
- (b) *None.*
- (24) (a) *For the quarter ending 31 December 2001 at least 5,740 frail older people received day care services.*
- (b) *Data is not available on the level of unmet demand for these services across NSW.*

**43. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to 'Service Access System'*

- (1) (a) How many applications for assistance were received under the Service Access System in 2001/2002?
- (b) How many of these applications have been assessed for eligibility to date, and a determination made?

- (2) Of those applications determined in 2001/02, how many people have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the Service Access System?
- (3) How many people have received funding for interim support under the Service Access System in 2001/02?
- (4) How much money has been spent on interim support services under the Service Access System in 2001/02?
- (5) In how many cases has a funding grant for interim support services under the Service Access System had to be renewed because permanent support services are not yet in place?
- (6) (a) What measures have been taken to address the ongoing backlog of pending applications in 2001/02?  
(b) What measures will be taken to eliminate the backlog in 2002/03?
- (7) How many successful applicants under the Service Access System have had long term support services put in 2001/02?
- (8) (a) How much money has been spent on Support-Planners under the Service Access System during 2001/02?  
(b) What is the projected cost of Support-Planners in the financial year 2002/03?
- (9) What measures have been taken to ensure that SAS applicants in crisis who have been placed in nursing homes are not then deprioritised in the assessment process?
- (10) 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?
- (11) (a) Are sufficient funds available in 2002/03 for the development of community based support services for all those people assessed as eligible for assistance to date under the Service Access System?  
(b) How will any shortfall be dealt with?
- (12) (a) Are sufficient funds available in 2002/03 for the development of community based support services (in particular, supported accommodation) should the current percentage of successful applicants under the Service Access System continue?  
(b) How will any shortfall be dealt with?
- (13) What is the average length of time it takes to assess applications for assistance under the Service Access System?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *2719 applications were received by SAS in 2001/2002.*  
(b) *2719 have been assessed.*
- (2) *Of these, 827 applications were determined as eligible.*
- (3) *580 people received interim funding in 2001/2002.*
- (4) *\$28,858,223 has been spent on interim funding.*
- (5) *335 interim funding grants were renewed, either due to a short term need being extended or because permanent support services were not yet in place.*
- (6) (a) *There is no longer a backlog of applications. All applications have been assessed.*

- (b) *A new regionalised system to deal with SAS applications is being implemented. People needing assistance will be able to register their support requests and have them dealt with locally. Those who are not in immediate crisis, and who do not require supported accommodation, will be matched, wherever possible, with existing services.*

*Eligible people receiving interim funding will be moved into appropriate long term arrangements as soon as possible.*

- (7) *162 people have long-term supports in place or are in the final stages.*
- (8) (a) *\$1,284,505 has been spent on Support Planners in 2001/02.*  
 (b) *\$864,000 is the cost projection for 2002/2003.*
- (9) *Under certain circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, consideration has been given to the situation of people at risk of homelessness who applied for SAS and then because of delays in processing the application, went into nursing homes. This then made them ineligible for SAS (since they were no longer at risk of homelessness). Within these parameters three people in nursing homes (aged 28, 34 and 57) have been deemed eligible for SAS and have had Support Planners referred to them for development of long-term supports. The amount of funding required to implement the supports will be dependent on what the Support Plan recommends and what is subsequently approved.*
- (10) *SAS is not the appropriate mechanism to provide alternative accommodation and support services for younger people with a disability living in residential aged care facilities in NSW nor for people in psychiatric hospitals. The Department is working with other Government agencies and with the sector to develop appropriate service models for people with high and complex care needs.*
- (11) *Funding in the order of \$40 million recurrent will be available for community based support services through SAS. Not all people applying under SAS require accommodation supports, the new regional approach will ensure that individuals that require other service responses are linked with existing services. Of those applicants deemed eligible for SAS, the Department expects that these funds will meet the approximate cost of long-term supports.*
- (12) (a) and (b) *In situations where a supported accommodation response is required, current estimates indicate that the funding available in 2002/03 will be sufficient to meet those needs. In some cases people deemed eligible under SAS will be able to be linked with existing services with little or no additional funding required.*
- (13) *Current changes to the system are enabling a more timely and appropriate response to applications.*

**44. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

*In relation to the 'Guardianship Tribunal'*

- (1) (a) What was the total level of recurrent funding to the Guardianship Tribunal in 2001/02?  
 (b) What will it be in 2002/03?
- (2) (a) What is the current delay in the hearing of guardianship applications and reviews of guardianship orders?  
 (b) Will additional funding be provided to reduce this delay?
- (3) (a) Will there be any increase in the number of reviews of guardianship orders and applications for guardianship in the 2002/03 financial year?  
 (b) How will this increase be managed?

**Answers:**

*The Guardianship Tribunal expended \$6,320,373 during the 2001/02 financial year.*

*'Women Portfolio'*

45. **Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP—**

Given survey evidence that men continue to receive higher remuneration for equivalent work, what strategies has the Department to ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work?

*Answers:*

*The answer will be provided by the new Minister for Women, the Hon Sandra Nori MP.*

*Answer received from the Hon Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Women:*

*In March 1996, the Premier launched the NSW Government's Pay Equity Statement, which provided a clear policy framework for achieving real gains for women.*

*Responsibility for the NSW Government's Pay Equity Strategy lies with the Minister for Industrial Relations; nevertheless, the Department for Women has played a significant role in the development and implementation of the strategy. It has carried out extensive research on international development in pay equity and participated in, and made a major contribution to, the development of the Crown Parties' submissions to the Pay Equity Inquiry and the Equal Remuneration Principle Case.*