

2 September 2003

(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3)

Portfolio

Juvenile Justice, and Western Sydney

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING

“Juvenile Justice Portfolio”

- 1. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—**

How much money is spent by your office on media monitoring, particularly from the organisation known as Rehome? (Hansard p.2)

ANSWER:

All costs incurred were appropriate to the needs identified.

- 2. Ms Cusack asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—**

What was the direct cost to the department of pay increases that came into effect on 1 January this year, and then the ones that came into effect on 1 July? (Hansard p.2)

ANSWER:

An increase of 4% in the employee services budget from 1 January and 5% from 1 July.

- 3. Ms Cusack asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—**

What is the dollar amount that you need to fund those pay rises? (Hansard p.4)

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer given in the hansard, pages 3-4.

4. Mr Ryan asked the Assistant Director-General (Operations), Department of Juvenile Justice, Mr P Muir—

Has there been any discussion about a strategy to address the issue of increases in self-harm or to work out what has caused the increase and whether anything special needs to be done to bring it back to the levels that existed the previous year at least? (Hansard pp.6-7)

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer given in the hansard, pages 6 and 7.

5. Mr Breen asked the Director-General, Department of Juvenile Justice, Mr D Sherlock—

Is there any way of breaking down the total admissions figure [of 4,416] so that we can see whether in fact there are fewer people coming into the system with more offences? (Hansard p.9)

ANSWER:

The Department of Juvenile Justice records and maintains separate data on 'admissions' and 'young people in custody'.

Admissions

The total admissions figure of 4416 referred to in the question is an *estimate* for 2002-2003, provided by the department to the NSW Treasury as part of the 2003-04 Budget Estimates process. It is based on actual admissions for a nine-month period to 31 March 2003 and then extrapolated for a 12-month period.

The *actual* number of admissions in 2002-2003 is 4169.

The information contained in the above-mentioned admissions figure reflects the number of occasions of admissions to juvenile justice centres in the period 2002-03 and excludes transfers of young people to and from centres.

Young People in Custody

Based on actual admissions of 4169 in 2002-03, the actual number of unique individuals admitted to custody during this period was 1875.

6. Ms Cusack asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—

With regard to the organisation contracted to run the Tingha Bail facility, could you provide a list of the publicly funded programs that they are providing at the moment in order to provide more of a background of the organisation and where their area of expertise is? (Hansard pp. 12-13)

ANSWER:

Community Programs Incorporated was established in 1988 and has over 170 employees and 90 volunteers. They are the largest non-government service provider north of Coffs Harbour and provide more services to communities in the Clarence Valley and Inverell Districts than any other organisation in NSW. The organisation has a demonstrated commitment to quality improvements, staff training, social justice and equity and is recognised by funding bodies as a professional, well-managed and accountable agency. Community Programs manages an annual budget in excess of 2.5 million dollars.

Community Programs has a broad base of expertise in several areas. Currently, Community Programs operates 27 recurrently funded programs with funding provided from 10 different State and Federal departments.

Programs currently under management are:**Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care**

Rural Respite Service, Family Based Respite/Respite Options, Post Schools Options/ATLAS, Supported Accommodation Day Programs, Early Childhood Intervention Service, Aged Care Day Centres, Rural Access Program.

Department of Community Services

Family and Youth Support Service, Youth Accommodation Service, Volunteer Home Visiting Scheme, Administration, Supported Playgroup Programs, Lower Clarence Community Worker, Natural Carers Project

Department Education and Training

Early Childhood Intervention Service.

Northern Rivers Area Health Service

Mental Health Service.

Department for Women

Young Aboriginal Women's Project, Discover OurWay.

NSW Department of Planning

Across Agency Training

Department of Health and Aged Care

Aged Care Day Programs, In-Home Respite, Mobile Day Centres, CRC Respite Options, Flexible Dementia Options.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Home Care.

Department of Family & Community Services

Family Relationships Skills Training, In-Home Childcare.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Post Release Support Program, New England Bail Accommodation Support Program.

Office of Community Housing

Crisis Accommodation Program.

7. Ms Cusack asked the Director-General, Department of Juvenile Justice, Mr D Sherlock—

What is the annual funding amount for the Tingha Bail facility and what funding has been spent already establishing it? (Hansard pp.14-15)

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer given in hansard, pages 14-15.

8. Mr Breen asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—

Is there any history or any record of people having problems accessing their records, for example, because of privacy issues [as a consequence of section 11 of the Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act] or other cases of children being exposed to the press? (Hansard p.16)

ANSWER:

The Department of Juvenile Justice does not administer the Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987. This Act is administered by Attorney General's Department and I have referred your question to the Attorney General, the Hon. Bob Debus.

9. Ms Cusack asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—

With respect to the number of detainees on remand, could you provide the actual figures for last year and the estimated figures for this year and explain why the numbers are so high? (Hansard pp.16-18)

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer given in hansard, pages 16-18.

“Western Sydney Portfolio”

10. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Diane Beamer MP—

Could you provide the Committee with a budget comparing what happened last year with what happened last year for the Office of Western Sydney; identifying how many staff it currently has, the discrete resources that belong to it, and so on? (Hansard p.23)

ANSWER:

The Budget allocation for 2002/03 is disclosed in 2002/2003 Budget Paper No 3, Volume 2, page 9 under Program 46.3 – Office of Western Sydney within the former Department of Information Technology and Management.

Following the issuing of Administrative Orders on 1st April 2003, the Office of Western Sydney became part of the Department of State and Regional Development. The cost of activities to be undertaken by the Office of Western Sydney are therefore part of the global budget of the Department of State and Regional Development.

The number of staff in the Office of Western Sydney (on 2nd September, the date of the Estimates Committee) was twenty (20).