

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-2017:  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SOCIAL HOUSING**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE TRANSCRIPT**

**QUESTION 1 – PAGE 7**

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Minister, as at 2012, in what district was the facility where Girl X was assaulted? What FACS district was the facility covered by?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** It is within the Sydney region but I am not sure of the actual district. I will find out for you and let you know.

**ANSWER:**

Sydney District.

**QUESTION 2 – PAGE 10**

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** I have not got much time, with all due respect. I just want the statistics. How many men's refuges are there across New South Wales?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** How about I get those for you later in the details? Is that all right?

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** Yes. That will be fine.

**ANSWER:**

FACS funds 18 men's refuges that provide crisis accommodation specifically to men who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

**QUESTION 3 – PAGE 15**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Do all the facilities for women with children or women escaping domestic violence have ensuite bathroom facilities or do they use shared facilities?

**Mr VEVERS:** I cannot answer that; I would have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The majority of facilities listed by FACS as suitable for clients fleeing DV have ensuite facilities. Shared facilities may exist in female-only facilities.

**QUESTION 4 – PAGE 16**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** For example, in Wollongong there are two facilities that are listed for women. Of those two facilities, do both of them have ensuites or shared bathroom facilities?

**Mr VEVERS:** I would have to check. I do not know the facilities personally or that level of detail.

**ANSWER:**

There are several facilities in the Wollongong area now listed as suitable for women fleeing DV and families and all of these have ensuites.

**QUESTION 5 – PAGE 16:**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Of the 81 refuges you say exist now, how many of those are staffed 24 hours a day?

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** I would have to respond on notice.

**ANSWER:**

Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) providers make service decisions, such as operational and intake hours, according to the needs and complexity of their clients and to ensure they meet their 'duty of care' responsibilities. SHS providers operating women's refuges can provide 24/7 support through on-site staff and after-hours on-call support as required. The arrangements vary from service to service, as they have always done.

**QUESTION 6 – PAGE 17**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** The new refuges that are opening, are they refuges that raised local funding to fill what they perceive as gaps from previous refuges?

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** The refuges I am describing are government funded.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Government funded but locally initiated following the changes that occurred?

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** I would need to check that, Ms Voltz.

**ANSWER:**

Two of the new refuges are operating from government-owned crisis properties and opened in 2015/16.

An additional five privately-owned properties across four locations have been awarded government funding for two years commencing 2016/17. These shelters were established under the Women's Community Shelters model based on a 'tri-partite' funding model under which local areas initiated the establishment of the refuge and philanthropy/business, community and government are working together to provide funding to operate the refuges.

**QUESTION 7 – PAGE 18:**

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** The result of that is 523 bedrooms, 1,430 beds and some of those beds will be bunk beds for kids. There is a capacity to accommodate up to 1,900 women and children on any given day and night.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Did you have the breakdown of how many single rooms and how many family rooms?

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** That would be in the data.

...

**Ms WALK:** I will take that on notice. Some rooms are able to be both single and family, particularly women who have little babies as well. I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

Ninety bedrooms, comprising 109 single beds, are currently available in refuges for single women only.

In the remaining refuges, there are 523 bedrooms across NSW that can accommodate up to 1,900 women and children in around 1,430 beds on any one night. The total includes additional temporary beds such as cots and trundles. These refuges comprise a combination of family and single rooms, which are configured according to need. For example, a cot may be added to a single room when a service accommodates a woman with a small baby. In some instances, mothers may share double or queen beds with children.

**QUESTION 8 – PAGE 18:**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** You have 1,430 and you can accommodate 1,900 people. That assumes there are 500 that are doubling up in a bed with mum, I assume?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I agree with you, Ms Voltz. When I saw those figures I had the same query and I had forgotten to ask that question. I am glad you raised it. I will be fascinated to know the answer. We will find out.

**Ms WALK:** We will take that on notice. Some refuges have trundle beds, some have more cots than others, based on previous demand.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Cots would be counted as a bed?

**Ms WALK:** Let me take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

See response to question on notice 7.



**QUESTION 9 – PAGES 18-19:**

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** Mr Coutts-Trotter, you recited stats about the women's refuges. Do you have any information about men's refuges and how many beds are available?

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** We can get you the number of facilities and the contracts with the operators that specify the number of men that they need to provide a service for. Do we have a bedroom count? I do not think we do.

...

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** It is alarming that you are distinct on the women providers and how many beds and what is available but do not know with men's services.

...

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** You can take it on notice.

**ANSWER:**

FACS has commenced a survey to collect data on the number of crisis beds available in specialist homelessness services (SHS) that target men.

**QUESTION 10 – PAGE 20**

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** I appreciate that. In 2015-16 what has been the total sale of public housing? What amount is being used to reinvest in developing new social housing?

...

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I will have to take that on notice. I am trying to change the policy, because sometimes the department has sold a block of land that was next door to other land where it could have developed new social housing. I have asked the department to look at that. I will come back to you with numbers.

**ANSWER:**

An amount of \$300 million from sales in 2015/16 was used to invest in new social housing.

**QUESTION 11 – PAGE 21**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Minister, as you know, Cumberland Hospital is slated for closure. Have you had discussions with the department about rehousing people from that facility? There are about 100 patients on the Cumberland Hospital site who need to be rehoused.

...

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** I need to take that on notice because my deputy secretary colleague who is working most closely with Health is not before the Committee today.

**ANSWER:**

FACS does not have a formal agreement or partnership to rehouse people from Cumberland Hospital. FACS manages each accommodation vacancy on a case by case basis.

**QUESTION 12 – PAGES 26-27:**

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Administratively, when you go to the website and fill in the criteria for what you are applying for and upload your documents, that would be held by your department.

**Ms WALK:** We use a particular grants mechanism, so we gather them together and do the accreditation and things like that—not accreditation, we do the administrative work to enable the agencies who are the grantees, if you like, to be able to make their decisions. We do the administrative work.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** How about I find out. I will get a written answer for you.

...

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** You would have a list of who has applied and you would provide that to the local members and the local committee that makes the decision. Is that correct?

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** This is a function that was moved into the agency in the last machinery of government change. Depending on when in history you are talking about it may actually not have sat inside the agency.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** The 2015 round is the one I am talking about so that would have sat in your agency.

**Mr COUTTS-TROTTER:** I would need to check that for you, to be honest.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** That went up on your website.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I do not think anybody really knows the answer on that one. Let us find out for you.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** When you are finding out the answer can you come back to me with how your department missed that La'u Samoa had made five separate applications for the one item and what action you took about that?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I will take it. I accept that you are concerned about something and apparently it has been mentioned in the media so let me find out. I will get a report for the department and let you know.

...

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** Could you also look into why some organisations are applying for grants for properties they do not own? There are incorporated charity organisations that own properties but other organisations are applying for grants.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Just so I can try to get the department to produce the information you need can you explain that again? I did not quite follow that.

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** A number of grants have been put forward—

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Grants or applications?

**The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ:** A number of applications for grants have been put forward by a community group for a number of different sites that they do not own. One is a school and one is a community hall in another area. They are in two separate electorates. They have put forward the grants for them and they have been approved.

...

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I do not know what you are talking about there but let me find out the general rule for you.

**ANSWER:**

For the 2016 CBP program, all 93 State electorates will receive a base allocation of \$200,000 each:

- This is based on the program funding announced in the 2015/16 budget, and is consistent with the CBP program funding allocated for the 2015 program.
- As in prior years, an additional \$100,000 will be available to 48 electoral districts with higher levels of unemployment, as identified by 2011 Census data.

Funding is provided for the enhancement of community facilities.

Since 1 July 2015, the NSW Community Building Partnership Program has been jointly managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet as program owner and the Department of Family and Community Services which provides administrative support. FACS administrative responsibilities include management of the online grants application and management system (SmartyGrants), eligibility assessment as set out in the program guidelines, funding agreements and payment and reporting and acquittals. FACS website provides a link to the Program website.

Grant applications are assessed against a set of criteria.

Under the Program Guidelines an applicant is able to apply for multiple projects within and across electorate boundaries.

In respect of having landholder consent all organisations are responsible for obtaining approval for the proposed project from the appropriate land or property owner/s. Organisations are required to indicate whether they have secured approval from the land or property owner as part of their application.

If not yet secured at the time of application, the relevant discussions / approvals should have commenced before the application is submitted.

If a project is successful, the release of grant funds will depend on evidence of the land or property owner's consent if applicable for the approved project. is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.