

QUESTION: Transcript pg 50-51

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What is the rationale for having competing stadium authorities? We have one city and one media market. Why do we have two of them with the antiquated trust and the rest of them with Venues NSW?

Ms JONES: Ultimately, that is a question for government. However, the Office of Sport has a commerciality framework that has been in place now for a number of years, which talks about the terms of which we allocate content throughout our stadium network. It also talks about the mechanisms within which Venues NSW and the trust operate.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Does that bind the trust in its decisions? Did you say "commerciality"?

Ms JONES: It is commerciality framework. It is just a framework.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It does not bind the trust.

Ms JONES: It is not a binding document.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Does it bind Venues NSW?

Ms JONES: No, it does not bind Venues NSW.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What is its aim?

Ms JONES: I can read it to you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Not all of it, I hope.

Ms JONES: No, I will not read it cover to cover for you. It says that the stadia commerciality framework is in place "for the stadia facilities operated by the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and Venues NSW. It allows the stadia facilities to operate both individually and as part of a network in an efficient, coordinated and consistently commercial manner".

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But it is not binding.

Ms JONES: It is not binding.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Has it been adopted by the SCG trust?

Ms JONES: It is definitely on the Office of Sport website and my understanding is that, at the time of its development, the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and Venues NSW were heavily involved.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: That was not my question. Has it been adopted by the SCG trust?

Ms JONES: I would have to take that on notice to see if there was any formal adoption process

ANSWER:

The Sydney Cricket and Sports Grounds recognises the Commerciality Framework. The Sydney Cricket and Sports Grounds acknowledges that it is bound by the NSW Stadia Commerciality Framework in its annual Statement of Business Intent submitted to the NSW Government.

QUESTION: Transcript page 52

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms Jones, what is the purpose of the commerciality document? Is it required because you have got to manage the fact that you have two entities, which otherwise would be competing with each other?

Ms JONES: I would say that the purpose of the commerciality framework document is in recognition that the stadia network is run by two separate entities and that they need to work together because they both ultimately report back to government. Both of them need to achieve the government objectives so it is about how they can run those entities and achieve government objectives at the same time.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What are the Government objectives that are challenged by having the two separate authorities? How do those two separate authorities, left to their own devices, potentially compromise the Government objectives?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The Commerciality Framework for the NSW Government Stadia Network (the Framework) incorporates and builds on current management practice across the NSW stadia network. The Framework recognises both the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and Venues NSW as separate entities.

The operation of the two entities does not challenge the Government's objectives for investing and operating the NSW stadia network in a coordinated and consistent manner.

Both entities recognise the Framework and incorporate it into their Statements of Business Intent and asset management planning.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 52

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Does your department keep a track of hate crimes?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sorry, can you answer that?

Mr LA POSTA: Yes, thanks for your question. With regard to keeping a track of hate crimes, no, we do not. That sits with a different agency.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Which agency?

Mr LA POSTA: The anti-discrimination agency of New South Wales.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: There would be several sources of information. There would be the Anti-Discrimination Board and there would be the police, particularly the Bias Crime Unit. I am happy to take that on notice to give you a clear answer about what government agencies are collecting what data.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But the department of communities, which has the multiculturalism portfolio, does not keep a track of hate crimes?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I would like to respond on notice, if I could?

ANSWER:

I am advised that NSW Police is responsible for policing hate or bias-related crime in New South Wales.

The Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW is responsible for receiving and handling complaints regarding racial discrimination and vilification.

Under the NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN), Multicultural NSW convenes quarterly meetings with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, NSW Police and other agencies to share information, identify, assess and monitor threats to community harmony and resolve issues relating to cultural diversity, including issues relating to racism and hate crime.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 53

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: No. The objective is social cohesion. The question is: At any given point in time, what are the developments within the community or globally that most threaten that social cohesion? I think the recipients of grants are published on our website. So if you looked at the major grants program—the COMPACT Program—you will see where many of those grants are directed. They are directed to trying to strengthen the ties between Muslim Australians and the broader Australian communities. It is something you have to keep calibrating and adjusting because different issues will emerge. The issue of Islamophobia is an issue that has been recognised. It is an issue that is recognised across government services, particularly by the police. I would argue that if you look at the way decisions have been made within the COMPACT Program, there has been a strategy to respond to that particular source of division in the community.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Coutts-Trotter, that is on notice, so could you advise the Committee what the dollar figure is and also what the proportion of the COMPACT Program has gone to address Islamophobia?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sure.

ANSWER:

Budgetary information for Multicultural NSW is available on the Multicultural NSW website at <https://www.multicultural.nsw.gov.au/>.

COMPACT recognises that a common aim of terrorists and extremists is to promote fear, hate, and division in society. The program was therefore designed to address rising levels of fear, hate and division linked to a heightened national security context.

A full list of COMPACT program funded initiatives can be found at https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/communities/compact/compact_program/

QUESTION: Transcript pg 53 - 54

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Coutts-Trotter, or perhaps Mr La Posta might be the best person to answer. Whereabouts have you done those surveys or had those stakeholder meetings you were talking about to inform your 2019 to 2023 strategy?

Mr LA POSTA: There has been a number of locations throughout Sydney; Parramatta was one of the most recent hubs. We undertook a session with our religious leaders as well.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Apart from Parramatta, if we are talking about a multiculturalism strategy for New South Wales, surely there would be a variety of communities in western Sydney that you would be consulting with, not just Parramatta?

Mr LA POSTA: That is correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Where, other than Parramatta, are you going to be doing that?

Mr LA POSTA: I am happy to take the exact locations on notice. I refer you back to Mr Coutts-Trotter's point before around the COMPACT Program funding—\$9.2 million, which now engages 60 different partners across 24 different programs. We can come back to you on the exact specific number in terms of those who are targeting the message that you were speaking of before.

ANSWER:

I am advised that consultations took place across NSW, including metro and regional NSW.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 54

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Rather than on-the-fly answer, do you want to take it on notice to identify what, if any, other programs there are in place, other spending initiatives, to address Islamophobia currently?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sure.

ANSWER:

I am advised that the following programs are in place to address Islamophobia:

COMPACT

COMPACT recognises that a common aim of terrorists and extremists is to promote fear, hate, and division in society. The program was therefore designed to address rising levels of fear, hate and division linked to a heightened national security context.

A full list of COMPACT program funded initiatives can be found at https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/communities/compact/compact_program/

Remove Hate from the Debate

The Remove Hate from the Debate project aims to empower young people with the tools and resources to safely speak out against online hate and use their voices to promote positive messages. The project was designed in response to reports of concerning levels of hateful commentary about cultural or religious groups online, including anti-Islamic commentary.

CAPE NSW

Funded under the Multicultural NSW COMPACT Program, the Community Action to Prevent Extremism (CAPE NSW) project is delivered by national anti-racism charity All Together Now in partnership with Western Sydney University, Macquarie University, Youth Action, Google and Facebook. CAPE NSW trains young people and youth workers to enhance the community's capacity to respond to far-right extremism online.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 54 - 55

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Would you be able to seek some advice from them as to whether or not they have adopted the commerciality framework?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Why don't you ask the CEO?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, Ms Mather is here.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am sorry. Ms Mather, have you adopted the commerciality framework?

Ms MATHER: I believe we already operate commercially. So everything that I have just read in that framework there, looks as though that is the way that we are actually operating in practice. So we have the same commercial framework. We actually work very closely and collaboratively together. I think what happens there in a sense between the three stadia, in particular, in Sydney—you have got ANZ and you have got Bankwest that are in Paul's portfolio and the SCG and Sydney Football Stadium. Actually, they are complementary to each other in terms of their size. What generally happens is the clubs and codes decide where they want to play. It is not for us to actually make decisions about where they play.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms Mather, the question is not about general commerciality. The question is about whether or not the board has adopted the commerciality framework of the New South Wales Government. Has that been adopted by the SCG?

Ms MATHER: I would have to take that on notice because it is before my time.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Alright. But your current role—

Ms MATHER: In terms of the commercial framework, we have the same commercial framework, so I could not tell you exactly what the process was in adopting it. I would have to check that.

ANSWER:

The Sydney Cricket and Sports Grounds recognises the Commerciality Framework. The Sydney Cricket and Sports Grounds acknowledges that it is bound by the NSW Stadia Commerciality Framework in its annual Statement of Business Intent submitted to the NSW Government.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 57

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has the Australian Rugby League [ARL] asked for any financial compensation to host grand finals in Sydney in those years?

Mr DOORN: Just to be super clear, these have been very confidential discussions that I would not like to be played out in the media to disadvantage the State. At the moment it is very difficult for me to comment about the conversations we have been having.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Okay.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You might take that on notice about whether or not a compensation request has been made for the 2020 final.

Mr DOORN: I would be more than happy to take that on notice

ANSWER:

The NSW Government is currently in discussions with the National Rugby League.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 58

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Okay. We may come back to that. We have jumped around a bit this afternoon, apologies everyone. After this morning's session I think we are all getting back on top of it. Mr Draper, was Infrastructure NSW responsible for the Anzac Memorial redevelopment?

Mr DRAPER: Infrastructure NSW undertook that work on behalf of the trustee, yes.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: And was that project delivered on budget?

Mr DRAPER: Yes, I believe that was delivered on budget. I am just looking at my notes. It was before my time.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Apologies, Mr Draper.

Mr DRAPER: I have paid less attention to that project than the ones that we are currently trying to deliver. I believe that was delivered on budget, but if that is incorrect I will come back and rectify it.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Yes, if you could take that on notice. My understanding, but I am keen for you to take it on notice, is that there was a cost overrun, perhaps not a very—we are back on substantial and insubstantial now.

Mr DRAPER: Sure.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: There was, perhaps not a very substantial one, but a cost overrun and that Infrastructure NSW picked up the tab for that. I would like you to take on notice: Was there a cost overrun and who picked up the tab? This is another project that was delivered by Infrastructure NSW for a Government trust so I am keen to—

Mr DRAPER: I will take that on notice. I will get the facts right for you

ANSWER:

I am advised that questions about spend on the project should be directed to the Anzac Memorial Trust.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 59

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Mr Coutts-Trotter, what planning is underway within your department, and potentially collaborating with other departments, for the potential crisis that is facing the Bupa Aged Care facilities in New South Wales?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am advised by my colleagues in Health that if we saw a situation akin to the situation that recently emerged in Queensland, Health would be leading planning and work with the Commonwealth. I am not aware of any planning work inside my own department, but that is not to say it is not happening now inside Health. That said, I should take it on notice because I do not want to get it wrong and suggest a degree of certainty to the scenario you are alluding to that does not exist.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be useful. I appreciate that Health would likely be the lead agency in that many of the residents, if the worse were to happen, would end up in public hospitals. However, there would absolutely be the potential for paramedics and others in emergency services to be deployed very quickly and, I understand, some temporary accommodation was also utilised in Queensland. You can take it on notice but there are elements within Communities and Justice that would be impacted.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am happy to take it on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that emergency responses for nursing home residents, including use of hospital beds, nursing services or the potential for ambulance or paramedic support, would be provided by NSW Health and therefore should be referred to the Minister for Health and Medical Research.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 60

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Survey figures would suggest that there is a broader problem there of bias and disrespect against Muslim Australians. Surely we have a collective obligation to address and as far as possible remove that. What are the programs at that broader level and where is the funding to do it?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: You invited me not to shoot from the hip and to respond on notice because you think about the work that is delivered through public schools, you think about the work being done by the police, and you think about the work being done by agencies in this cluster. To provide a comprehensive response we should take it on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that the following programs are in place to address Islamophobia:

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QUESTION: Transcript pg 61

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: They are facing so much in terms of abuse out there that many of them, because of their lack of language skills, cannot and do not know how to report and articulate their issues. There is an obvious problem there that needs to be addressed. You can spend money on resilience and deradicalisation in COMPACT programs but obviously what Mr Shoebridge is talking about is a problem that needs to be addressed. I am wondering how do you address it? Where is it in your program that addresses that particular issue?

Mr LA POSTA: I refer to my previous answer. I acknowledge the sentiment, I acknowledge the challenges that exist with Islamophobia, just as I do with anti-Semitism and racism more broadly, and beyond racism even hate. We have recently launched an online campaign called "Remove hate from the debate" to equip young people with the skills and tips and tools to combat some of the very hateful and negative sentiment online. I am not shying away from your question. The premise of why our agency exists in our Act is to undertake initiatives which are about promoting social cohesion. We are looking at it in that context in terms of a broader context rather than trying to drill down on specific issues with specific initiatives and policies. It is more around trying to understand the different needs. And, as you alluded to before, our Islamic brothers and sisters come from incredibly diverse backgrounds across all different parts of the globe all with, at times, very unique needs. Even the way they present is incredibly different. We did not have a specific target in Islamophobia that addresses one part of that. We have to be thinking about the broader premise around combating hate and racism and promoting things like resilience, social cohesion and leadership. With regards to the specifics in the program, as Mr Coutts-Trotter alluded to, I am happy to take that on notice in terms of the specific programs and provide a number figure around those. But beyond that, hopefully that answers your question.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: How many Arabic speakers are at Multicultural NSW?

Mr LA POSTA: I am incredibly proud of the fact that Multicultural NSW's language services division, who are all casual employees of ours, cover over 100 different languages. A number of our staff are Muslim and a number of our staff are also Arabic speakers. With regards to the specifics, I am happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What about the board? Do you have Arabic-speaking Islamic members on the board of Multicultural NSW?

Mr LA POSTA: I am also happy to take that on notice

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: You do not know whether you have a member of the Arabic community, an Arabic speaker?

Mr LA POSTA: I am reasonably certain but I am not 100 per cent. On that basis, just to be factually correct, I would rather take it on notice. I also know that we are going through a recruitment process at the moment for three new advisory board members, so our board is operating at less than ideal capacity.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: If there were no members, how do you address it? Has there been a situation where there were no members? Given that the growth in the Arabic community and particularly recent migrants—Syrians, Iraqis and others—

Mr LA POSTA: Yes. Mr Moselmane you raise a very good point. The premise of Multicultural NSW is to represent as many of our diverse communities as we can. We come from 307 different ancestries, we speak 215 different languages—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: But particularly the newly arrived migrants?

Mr LA POSTA: —and practise 146 different religions. So it is incumbent on us to represent as many of those different subsets as possible. We have only 15 members on our advisory board so it would be impossible for us to have representatives from every community. It is certainly something I am happy to take on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that Multicultural NSW has three Arabic speaking fulltime staff members and 123 Arabic speaking interpreters/translators on the Multicultural NSW Casual Panel of Interpreters and/or Translators.

Currently there is no Multicultural NSW Arabic-speaking Advisory Board member.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 62 - 63

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Can I just ask a couple of questions that may interest the Government? There were a number of promises made, of course, and many not delivered. I want to ask about the upgrade of Leeton Swimming Pool. Where is that at?

Ms JONES: Leeton Swimming Pool?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Ms JONES: I will have to take that on notice.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I will answer it. I used to manage it.

The CHAIR: You are not here to answer questions.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: At the last election the Government promised \$3 million. Have there been any plans, any progress, any discussions?

Ms JONES: Are you talking about the election that has just gone?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Ms JONES: Yes. There are a series of election commitments that were made in relation to sports facilities. At the moment, we are getting in touch with each one of the recipients of those commitments.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Is Leeton one of them?

Ms JONES: If you give me a bit of time I can have a look at that for you. The process is that we are talking to each one of those recipients about their project readiness, to understand if they have development approval, if they have plans and what have you so that we can then start to prioritise the funding accordingly.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I will text the manager.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What is interesting about this is that it is not in the budget— \$3 million has been promised but it is not in the budget.

Ms JONES: I think you will find that within the budget papers there was talk about sports facilities and the allocation of funding and that was all in relation to election commitments. Individual projects around election commitments were not separate line items.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: They were not separate?

Ms JONES: No.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Okay. What about the Braidwood pool upgrade?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Braidwood? I lived near there.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: I have a farm near Braidwood, I love Braidwood.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes, it is Southern Tablelands.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: It is too cold to swim in Braidwood.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: If we cannot find it soon I will take it on notice.

The CHAIR: What is happening with the new Parramatta pool?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: The agreement has been made and Ms Jones might want to provide a bit more detail. I think it was announced yesterday or the day before?

Ms JONES: That is correct. I can go to the Parramatta pool if you like. The original announcement was for a \$30 million government contribution towards council.

The CHAIR: Sorry, how much?

Ms JONES: Thirty million dollars. But, as the Government announced a couple of days ago now, that has been increased to \$38.5 million. We are working in close partnership with City of Parramatta Council to ensure the delivery of an aquatics facility for the residents of Parramatta.

The CHAIR: Have you turned a sod on it yet?

Ms JONES: No, Parramatta council has taken control of the project.

The CHAIR: Do you know the total value of the project?

Ms JONES: It is \$70-odd million.

Mr DRAPER: Seventy-seven million dollars.

The CHAIR: Seventy-seven million dollars?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes.

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN: Point of order—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: He wants to be thrown out

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN: I am having trouble making out the question.

The CHAIR: I do not get that.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Because you are eating, he is having trouble.

The CHAIR: I beg your pardon. I am having trouble hearing the answers. Are they going to have a separate water polo pool there, do you know?

Ms JONES: Let me just pull up the description for you. My understanding is that you are looking at a 50-metre pool, an outdoor diving pool, which could be used for water polo, yes.

The CHAIR: So you are not having a separate water polo pool?

Ms JONES: No, but it is a multipurpose pool that can be used for diving and for water polo.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Just going back to my questions about the Braidwood pool and Leeton. There were separate line items for election commitments, weren't there?

Ms JONES: For some election commitments, but for the Office of Sport we had a number of election commitments—I will just get those for you.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Ms Jones, we are specifically referring to a document that was produced with the budget in relation to election commitments that specified how a number of specific election commitments were being met—

Ms JONES: Yes.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: —and those were not in there—that is the end of story.

Ms JONES: Right, okay. In our initial review the Leeton pool does not seem to be allocated to the Office of Sport in terms of an election commitment, but I confirm that I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The NSW Government has made a commitment to upgrade Leeton Swimming Pool. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are working with Leeton Shire Council to progress this commitment.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 63-64

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Mr Coutts-Trotter, back to aged care. It is good to hear your evidence in relation to the work that the Department of Health is leading about a worst-case scenario in relation to Bupa facilities. Obviously, as you mentioned, we are keen to avoid the worst-case scenario. I understand that the Federal Minister is meeting with Bupa weekly to ensure that they are able to properly accredit their facilities. What briefings are you or the department receiving in relation to those weekly briefings that your Federal counterparts are having?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Our function is to complement, rather than to duplicate, the roles and responsibilities of other government agencies. The Commonwealth has a regulatory funding oversight responsibility here. We are not generating a whole range of briefs or advice, given our coordinating aged function and support of the interests

of seniors in New South Wales. It is a small function. Health may well be doing that type of briefing to its Minister—I simply do not know. I am happy to take it on notice. The expectation that we would be seeking to duplicate the roles and functions of the Commonwealth, I just want to make clear that we are not charged to do that; we are not funded to do that.

ANSWER:

I am advised this is a matter for the Federal Government.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 65

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In relation to seniors in New South Wales, have you heard concerns that elderly New South Wales residents, seniors, have been turning up to Service NSW facilities to try to redeem this card?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: No.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has anyone in any other department raised with you or potentially anyone in your department, although you may have to take the question on notice as you may not have spoken to them all—

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I bet he has not spoken to them all. Probably a lot, but not all.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Have any concerns been raised with you directly or to anyone in your department about potential confusion or misunderstanding from seniors in regional New South Wales in relation to the Regional Seniors Transport Card?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Your question was in two parts. Have concerns been raised with me. No. Have concerns been raised with anyone in my department, that is, 22,500 people. I do not know. I will take it on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that questions relating to Service NSW should be referred to the Minister for Customer Service.

I am also advised that questions regarding the Regional Seniors Transport Card should be referred to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 65

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Ms Jones, will you take on notice and tell me where the budget for the Braidwood pool is? Which budget committee report is it in?

Ms JONES: Absolutely, I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that budgetary information for the New South Wales Government is available on the Treasury website at <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au>.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 66

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Ms Jones, is that a \$45 million project altogether then or is it \$15 million from the Sydney Cricket Ground trust and \$15 million from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority?

Ms JONES: No, it is \$15 million from the Sydney Cricket Ground trust and \$30 million from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. My understanding is that Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW are also contributing to the project.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Do you have those—

Ms JONES: I do not have them on hand but I can take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The Sydney Cricket Ground Trust (SCGT) made a payment of \$15m to Cricket NSW (CNSW) for the relocation of all CNSW's office and training requirements from the SCGT precinct to Sydney Olympic Park from 2019, which includes a contribution to CNSW's permanent centre of excellence facility at Wilson Park.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 66 - 67

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Thank you, that would be useful. I might ask a few questions in relation to the Active Kids rebate. The Office of Sport has indicated that it is providing \$40.7 million to families, which equates to 407,000 vouchers. How does that figure line up with the number of children who are actually using the vouchers?

Ms JONES: Are you talking for this calendar year, can I confirm?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I am talking about the 2017-18 annual report so I suspect that is the 2017-18 financial year.

Ms JONES: The number of vouchers that have been created—

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Let's start with that. **Ms JONES:** —is over one million. The number of vouchers redeemed is also about \$1.1 million and the total value of the vouchers redeemed is about \$115 million.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: There is a difference between vouchers generated and vouchers redeemed. That is correct, is it not, Ms Jones?

Ms JONES: That is right because not everybody redeems their vouchers as soon as they have downloaded it.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I appreciate that they are not done that "as soon as" but what is the gap? What is either the number or percentage of vouchers generated that are not redeemed?

Ms JONES: I am happy to take that on notice

ANSWER:

407,000 vouchers equate to 407,000 children.

Voucher creation does not necessarily equate to voucher redemption. I am advised that the 2018 redemption rate of active kids vouchers was 81.9%, which is considerably higher than voucher industry benchmarks which average 46%. The Active Kids unit works across the sport and active recreation sector to incentivise voucher use by families in need, particularly those from multicultural, indigenous, remote and socially disadvantaged demographics.

Research by the NSW Data and Analytics Centre identified that there is considerable variation in the holding times for vouchers. The majority of vouchers are redeemed within seven days however some parents might take longer to redeem their voucher.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 67

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: How much is the budget for the media and marketing campaign to target—

Ms JONES: I am happy to take that on notice but it is something that falls within the Active Kids budget. It is not something in addition to it.

ANSWER:

Details of the allocation of funds in the Office of Sport Budget are available in the budget papers and the Agency's annual report.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 68

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Are you familiar with AusPlay April 2018 figures that show that across Australia there were 25 per cent of children participating in sport outside school, an increase from 20 per cent in 2016, and that this figure almost identically replicates the figures in the New South Wales Office of Sport annual report?

Ms JONES: I am aware of the AusPlay figures but in terms of the actual correlation I will take that on notice.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: The figures in New South Wales from the New South Wales Office of Sport are consistent with those for the rest of the nation.

Ms JONES: That is your statement. As I said, I will take that on notice in terms of the correlation between the AusPlay data and the Active Kids data.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: This goes partly to the issue that you have raised. Do you have any figures in relation to how many vouchers were redeemed in areas such as Fairfield, Macquarie Fields, Bankstown and Lakemba?

Ms JONES: I do not have those figures on hand now but again it is something I can take on notice.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It would be useful to have if you could take on notice and provide for the Committee that information for every electorate in New South Wales.

Ms JONES: That is something I am happy to look into for you.

ANSWER:

AusPlay research methodology is different to Active Kids research methodology and, as such, Office of Sport is unable to draw direct correlations within AusPlay data.

Participation rates, based on Active Kids data, is currently being evaluated in collaboration with Sydney University. Published research outcomes are not yet available.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 68

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Is it true that there is a correlation between areas of low socio-economic status and low participation in Active Kids?

Ms JONES: I cannot comment on that matter.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: The Minister has released information that shows that some spread across different electorates. It did not list every one but it listed some. Based pretty directly on that, there was a pretty big difference between areas of higher income and areas of lower income in relation to where the vouchers were being redeemed. That is information that is presumably provided by the Office of Sport to the Minister and he has put it out and that is the very obvious conclusion that you can draw from that data.

Ms JONES: There are many barriers to the participation in sport—cost is one and socio-economic status is potentially another. So in terms of that comment that you are referring to from the Minister, I am happy to look into that and take that on notice for you.

ANSWER:

Active Kids assesses voucher take up across NSW, including an assessment of social disadvantage and mortgage stress. Areas of high social disadvantage and areas of highly ranked mortgage stress are high volume voucher locations for the program.

The Active Kids unit works across the sport and active recreation sector to incentivise voucher use by families in need, particularly those from multicultural, indigenous, remote and socially disadvantaged demographics.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 69

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In some ways it is true that there is data available on the website. The data that is not available, that was not provided, is how many vouchers have actually been used. Why wasn't that information provided?

Ms JONES: I do have access to that information, just not here in front of me today. I am happy to take that on notice for you.

ANSWER:

Redemption data is available on request to the Active Kids team which reviews data to ensure that it is correctly interpreted and represented prior to distribution.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 69

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has any consideration been given to providing better multilingual capacity on the online interfaces for Active Kids?

Ms JONES: I would have to take that on notice in terms of online interfaces, but definitely that is part of our media marketing campaign.

ANSWER:

Yes. Active Kids vouchers are provided through Service NSW.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 71-72

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Thank you. An excerpt from the Transport for NSW annual report says: Transport provides mainstream transport services for all people of NSW and we are committed to delivering these services within a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society. We have worked extensively with Multicultural NSW on the development of a new Multicultural Plan. Can you tell me whether Transport for NSW has fulfilled its requirements?

Mr LA POSTA: I will need to take that question on notice, just given the specifics.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: So in these two specific sentences, what specific progress have they done?

Mr LA POSTA: Again, I will need to take that question on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Do you believe that this statement has provided sufficient information regarding the services that Transport for NSW ought to meet when dealing with Multicultural NSW?

Mr LA POSTA: It is a fair question and I have no reason to question that statement, but I will need to take it on notice just in terms of giving you a factual and specifically correct answer.

ANSWER:

I am advised that Transport for NSW have provided evidence of their work to ensure the Multicultural Principles are embedded in service delivery. Questions on Transport for NSW's progress on their multicultural plan should be directed to Transport for NSW.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 72

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I have just a couple of follow-up questions, Mr Coutts-Trotter, on the Regional Seniors Transport Card. Has your department been consulted at all in relation to this, having carriage of seniors and aged care? Has there been any consultation?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I would need to take that on notice.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Specifically in relation to your responsibility for carers, has it been canvassed at all as to whether carers of seniors or elderly people should be able to access the cards?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Again, I would need to take that on notice I am afraid, Ms Jackson.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I would be interested if you could take on notice any discussions that have happened between, presumably, the Department of Transport and officers of your department in relation to the ability of carers, in particular, to use the card.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sure. I would be happy to do that.

ANSWER:

I am advised the commitment to deliver the Regional Seniors Transport Card is the responsibility of the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 73

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Yes. I will move on. Ms Jones, we did just check—I do not actually know if the data on the breakdown of sports between boys and girls is available on the website. That is not something that we have been able to find on the website. I am not sure if you are able to—

Ms JONES: I can check that for you.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be great. It would be good if you could check that and if it is not there for some reason—if it has not been loaded or something—if that is information that you could provide, that would be useful. I want to ask a couple of questions in relation to Veterans.

ANSWER:

The top sports for boys and girls are listed on www.sport.nsw.gov.au under Active Kids in order of demand.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 75

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I wanted to ask specifically in relation to veterans seeking homeless support services in New South Wales. Are you aware of how many? According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare there were 1,215 veterans who sought homelessness support. Are you aware of how many of them were in New South Wales? Do we have any figures?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, we do.

Ms MACKANESS: Yes, the Commonwealth again has done surveys. There are 5,000-odd homeless veterans across Australia. In New South Wales we are waiting for the exact data.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: The dataset you referred to was the 2017-18 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare dataset. The dataset, as you say, identified—this is specialised homeless services reporting through. In New South Wales 331 of 71,628 people who approached New South Wales specialist homeless services were identified as veterans.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Were all of those people able to be assisted to at least have some support to transition out of homelessness?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that all of the 331 Australian Defence Force or former Australian Defence Force personnel included in the AIHW homelessness data for 2017/18¹ were provided with some level of homelessness support. It is noted that the AIHW dataset from which the original number of 331 was taken only includes people who received support.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 75

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be useful. Ms Mackaness, is there anything else you would add? It is useful to have that information in relation to that cohort who sought support and what support they were able to get, but what other work is being done to ensure that our veterans are not experiencing homelessness? Obviously this is something that absolutely shakes Australians to the core to think this is happening. What projects are being undertaken broadly to resolve that?

Ms MACKANESS: We do know that veterans seek veterans-specific services. From the survey that has been done, they do not generally approach New South Wales government services. We do have a partnership with DefenceCare. It is often a more complex needs basis. You would be aware of RSL LifeCare, Narrabeen, and Homes for Heroes at Narrabeen and Penrith. There are specific veterans services. I understand from RSL LifeCare that they have joined up with Wesley recently because veterans experiencing homelessness have much more complex issues usually. It is about the wraparound services. The New South Wales Government has supported a Rent Choice veterans-specific program and that is being reviewed at the moment. Part of that has been working with DefenceCare to ensure that the veterans get the wraparound services that they need and we are directing them to the right sort of support so it is sustainable. There is a lot happening in this space as well.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That Rent Choice review, when might we anticipate the findings of that?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will take that one on notice to decode it in case it needs decoding. It is a rent subsidy that provides a step-down subsidy to a person's rent in the private sector over up to three years, from memory.

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website at www.aihw.gov.au

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It would be good if we could get some information about that review.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sure

ANSWER:

I am advised that the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) currently delivers five separate subsidy products to assist eligible clients to rent in the private rental market, that is, Rent Choice Start Safely, Youth, Veterans, Assist and Transition. Each of these products are delivered and supported as stand-alone products with their own policy framework and operating guidelines.

An external evaluation of the Rent Choice program was undertaken in November 2018 outlining a number of recommendations for policy consolidation and streamlining of delivery arrangements. In June 2019, the Department began consultations with peak non-government organisations and partner agencies such as Defence Care, and will continue to consult stakeholders to inform a consolidated Rent Choice program model.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 75-76

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I will continue to ask questions on multiculturalism. How much of the Multicultural NSW budget is allocated towards the grants program?

Mr LA POSTA: Currently?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Mr LA POSTA: As it stands at the moment, in 2018-19 Multicultural NSW was allocated \$23.1 million. Of this amount, we spent \$1.9 million on recurrent grants and—I might need to get further information on that \$1.9 million on recurrent grants over and above our Community, in Partnership, taking Action to safeguard Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life [COMPACT] programs and our other initiatives and programs.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: In terms of the overall grants program, is it \$1.9 million?

Mr LA POSTA: Yes, we have the COMPACT program at \$9.2 million and then we have other grants and initiatives around festivals, events and those things that are on an annual basis. We have a number of programs that are locked in over a period of time. I can get you the exact numbers on our grants on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What percentage of that grant funding accounts for the overall New South Wales budget?

Mr LA POSTA: In 2018-19?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Mr LA POSTA: I can get you the exact numbers on notice. However, I do know for 2019-20 we have secured further grant funding going forward.

ANSWER:

Budgetary information for Multicultural NSW is available on the Multicultural NSW website at <https://www.multicultural.nsw.gov.au/>.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 76

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Of those grants you spoke about, you said there is \$1.9 million for recurrent grants. How many are awarded to regional communities?

Mr LA POSTA: In terms of festival and event grants?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Are there any other grants?

Mr LA POSTA: Projects grants. Across the three different grant categories we ran last year—events, projects, and festivals and events—would you like to know the breakdown in terms of regions?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Mr LA POSTA: I will need to take that on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Do you have the breakdown of successful grants between culturally and linguistically diverse [CALD] and Indigenous organisations?

Mr LA POSTA: I can take that on notice.

ANSWER:

All grants administered by Multicultural NSW are reported in the Agency's Annual Report, including details of recipients and amounts funded. This report is tabled in the Parliament of New South Wales annually and is available on the Multicultural NSW website once tabled.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 78

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: How do you promote for those grants? Do you advertise in ethnic media?

Mr LA POSTA: Yes.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What do you do?

Mr LA POSTA: It is captured through all of our own social and digital platforms and across our website. We circulate it to all of our ethnic media partners as well. We send through our media link to all of our community partners, which reaches over 6,000 different constituents. Also through our processes with key stakeholders and community groups, those that were successful or unsuccessful in previous years and the broader network of the database we have—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Do you have a list of those that were successful?

Mr LA POSTA: In terms of grants?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Mr LA POSTA: I can take that on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What about unsuccessful applications?

Mr LA POSTA: I would need to take that on notice as well.

ANSWER:

All grants administered by Multicultural NSW are reported in the Agency's Annual Report, including details of recipients and amounts funded. This report is tabled in the Parliament of New South Wales annually and is available on the Multicultural NSW website once tabled.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 78

The CHAIR: Ms Jones, do you have any vision on what is going on with the Young Aquatic Centre?

Ms JONES: Let me have a look to see if that was an election commitment. I will take the question on notice. One of the reasons I keep referring back to my notes and looking through the list of election commitments is because there was a substantial amount of election commitments made for sporting facilities. Just to give you an appreciation of the magnitude, over the next four years we are up \$150 million with more than 40-odd sporting facilities, so asking me about individual projects is a bit challenging at this time but I can take them on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that budgetary information for the New South Wales Government is available on the Treasury website at <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au>.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 79

The CHAIR: What about the Premier's commitment to do the right thing and put the money into Orange to build a sporting complex there?

Ms JONES: My understanding is that it is an election commitment. However, that has not been allocated to the Office of Sport.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Are they under the Regional Communities Development Fund instead?

Ms JONES: I think you will find—I will take it on notice.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I am just providing some help. If they are not there they might be in another fund, that is all.

Ms JONES: If you want more detail I am happy to look into it for you.

The CHAIR: Take it on notice. Maybe you can tell me where it is, or someone can point us in the right direction so we can dig this money up.

Ms JONES: Sure, I can do that.

ANSWER:

The NSW Government has made a reservation of \$25 million for a purpose-built sporting precinct at Orange. The NSW Government is working with Orange City Council to progress the project.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 79 - 80

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Ms Jones, did you have that information I was—

Ms JONES: I can tell you that the number of vouchers created in 2018 was 671,756. In terms the actual redemption rate, I would have to take that on notice and get back to you.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be useful. This is the information that is publicly available: we can see the vouchers created, we can see the breakdown between voucher one and two, gender breakdown overall and top female and male activities. But obviously more detailed information is available because, as I mentioned, on the Minister's press release the information in relation to electorate, population, vouchers created, vouchers redeemed, percentages—that has been provided. I suppose I am interested in that level of information for every electorate. Is that something you could table for the Committee?

Ms JONES: It is something I can take on notice for you. However, if you do go on our website, as I explained earlier, the breakdown or the functionality on that website allows for you to search by electorate or local government area and postcode to get the breakdown. It goes through what the top female and top male sports are for each one of those electorates or local government areas. In terms of the actual redemption rate, that is something I would have to take on notice for each one of those.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be useful. If you say that you can do that, I am sure that that is accurate.

Ms JONES: I am happy to look into it for you.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: If there was a document that was at the back end of that, which listed all of that information, that would be useful to table for the Committee.

Ms JONES: As I said, I am happy to look into it for you

ANSWER:

I am advised: Please see <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/activekids>

QUESTION: Transcript pg 80

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: What is the Government doing to ensure that registered sporting clubs and organisations are not simply raising the cost of their registration and membership fees in order to soak up the voucher?

Ms JONES: We are aware that is a risk of the project and we have been working quite closely with sporting organisations and clubs in relation to that. Where matters of those come to our attention, it is something that we investigate and take action on.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: If that is brought to your attention, what type of action do you take?

Ms JONES: In the first instance we go through an investigation process to make sure it is a legitimate issue. If it is a legitimate issue, we have stern words to those organisations and ask them to bring their pricing policies back into line. I do not think we have ever had a repeat offender after that but if it was the case, we would look at whether or not there was an option there to penalise heavier.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Deregister them.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: You have not deregistered anyone at this point, is your understanding? **Ms JONES:** I will take that on notice.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: How many of those investigations have you undertaken?

Ms JONES: Again I will take that on notice. During my time as the acting chief executive I have seen maybe two or three maximum.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: The only way that they are being brought to your attention is by members of the public alerting you. Is that the only mechanism by which you are alerted to that potential problem?

Ms JONES: The ones that I have seen have been by virtue of complaints that have come through. But again I am happy to take that on notice to see whether or not we do have an audit system in place to go through that.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That is right. I am interested to know whether there is any proactive monitoring of prices in order to ensure that they are not increasing.

Ms JONES: If I can take back that take it on notice, if you like, to save us some time and work. I have had the statistics handed to me. In terms of clubs that have breached their privacy of pricing issues, we have suspended one and eight that were raised with us have come into compliance.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Thank you for that information. It would be useful to know if there was any proactive work being done to monitor.

Ms JONES: Absolutely

ANSWER:

The Active Kids Unit at the Office of Sport includes a compliance team, incorporating actuarial and investigative specialists, charged with overseeing a range of

compliance functions, including allegations where an organisation may have unreasonably increased participation fees.

That team has undertaken proactive investigations of provider pricing to ensure program compliance. Whilst some investigations are generated through parent representations, most of those investigations have been initiated by the Active Kids team through proactive analysis of available social and digital resources.

Where it has been identified that a club may have increased prices unreasonably, and unjustifiably, they are contacted and given the opportunity to remediate the issue. Due process is afforded each organisation. Failure to respond appropriately to a 'show cause' notice may lead to deregistration.

To date, no allegation of 'unreasonable price increase' has resulted in the deregistration of a provider.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 80

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Why is the information that is provided on the vouchers generated and not on the vouchers redeemed? The vouchers redeemed are kids participating in programs. That is the point at which they have enrolled the child with an authorised provider and they are participating whereas the generation is not actually that. As we have seen, there is a reasonable gap between vouchers generated and vouchers redeemed. Why is that created vouchers information available on the website but not on vouchers redeemed?

Ms JONES: As this stage, as I said, this new dashboard that we have put on our website is relatively new. As I said in a previous answer, we are becoming a bit more sophisticated in terms of our data analysis work and then making that information publicly available. In terms of publishing the vouchers created, that would have been a fairly straightforward-type process. And then going through vouchers redeemed, there might be a correlation process there between who generated what voucher, at what stage was it redeemed and for what sport. There is an added level of sophistication there in terms of data analysis. That might explain the delay. I am happy to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Redemption data is available on request to the Active Kids team which reviews data to ensure that it is correctly interpreted and represented prior to distribution.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 82

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: I am going to be very cheeky. Before I do that, I will declare a conflict of interest: I am a mother and I have applied for two Active Kids vouchers, neither of which have been redeemed. My question goes to the Active Kids scheme, of which I am a huge fan. My question is—and if you would like to take it on notice, I understand—in the case of the Hon. Rose Jackson's questions about obtaining vouchers and redeeming those vouchers, can I ask you to inform the Committee about why it is in some cases when vouchers are obtained by the parent

they cannot be redeemed because the provider says, "You have registered a group or a team to play in the competition". For example, in touch football competitions, where you register a team with the organisation as opposed to the individual players—and you are required to do so—you are then unable to redeem that voucher. I have raised it with the department and there seems to be a disconnect between the two. I would be appreciative of your response about what can be done about that.

Ms JONES: That sounds like a fairly particular circumstance. Unfortunately, I will have to take that on notice to understand what the rules are around the registering teams as opposed to an individual.

ANSWER:

There is no restriction on children participating in any team sport from redeeming a voucher.

Teams retain the option to charge individual participants for the activity, however, some team sports choose not to charge at an individual level. Registration processes and systems remain the responsibility of clubs and organisations. Active Kids encourages clubs and organisations to develop registration options that allow individual children participating in teams to transact vouchers.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 82-83

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Have you never had any meetings with Minister Sidoti or received any written advice from him in relation to pecuniary interests that he might have or conflicts of interest that he might have and how they should be managed by the department?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: No, I have not but I am happy to take the question on notice to make sure that something of that nature has not emerged elsewhere. But, to the best of my knowledge, no.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Would it not be the case if a Minister were to seek to make those representations to the department or have that dialogue with the department, the secretary of the department would be the normal place where that conversation would be initiated?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I support six Ministers.

The CHAIR: Only six!

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, only six.

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Wow, we have seen you here a bit.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, indeed. The way I support them does differ a little bit. Every Minister is important and every Minister needs the department's support, but when it comes to Minister Sidoti he has a range of other highly competent senior

officials. Your assumption that it would necessarily be a discussion or declaration with the secretary would be true of some Ministers but the government structure is a little bit different in this area of the portfolio so I challenge that assumption. You have asked the question and I am happy to take it on notice to see if there is any senior officer who has had a similar discussion.

ANSWER:

I am advised that no meetings, discussions or correspondence have taken place with relevant senior officers.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 84

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I want to ask a couple of brief questions about the seniors strategy, so I suppose these are for you, Mr Coutts-Trotter?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I think the current seniors strategy is due to expire next year. Is that correct?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: This is the seniors Ageing Strategy 2016-2020?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Yes, so 2020 is upon us imminently.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, terrifying.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: What work is being done for a post-2020 world for seniors?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I am sure the Committee will be pleased to know there is an interdepartmental committee having a look at this, so you can rest easy.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Tell me more. Who is on this committee?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: The current members include the Department of Communities and Justice, Premier and Cabinet, Health, Transport, Planning and Environment, Education, Fair Trading, Industry and Justice, and the strategy has been articulated over a four-year period and then there have been year-by-year plans of action.

The CHAIR: Mr Coutts-Trotter, what you failed to mention is that you are the secretary for all of them.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Happily not yet. Not yet. It will be subject to evaluation and we will, of course, be providing advice in due course to the Minister and will take it from there.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: The interdepartmental strategy group has been convened. Has it met?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: It has been active through the period of the strategy.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has it convened on the question of the next strategy? Has that conversation commenced?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I understand it has.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has that included any kind of review of the last strategy overall?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will take that on notice, but I would be very surprised if it does not.

ANSWER:

I am advised that the Ageing Strategy Interdepartmental Committee last met on 26 June 2019 and were informed that planning has commenced on the development of the next Ageing Strategy and further detail would be forthcoming later in 2019.

The current strategy still has over a year before it finishes and annual progress reports are published on actions taken to deliver the strategy.

An evaluation of the last strategy is available at

https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/382947/Ageing-Strategy-Evaluation-Final-Report.pdf

QUESTION: Transcript pg 85

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: As the budget is from 2019-20 and goes into 2020, what is the funding allocation at present for that strategy going forward if there is no detail in it?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: It is a whole-of-government, whole-of-community strategy. Within our portfolio, from memory, I think there is about \$8.5 million in projects specifically linked to its priority areas. For example, housing choices is one of the priority areas for the strategy, and you have the Social and Affordable Housing Fund delivering, I think, 46 per cent of the social and affordable dwellings being delivered under that strategy targeting people over the age of 55, including older women. So there is a range of expenditure happening across government in support of those priority areas. The question of funding for any future strategy that emerged is not one that has been settled yet, but I am happy to provide a response on notice about the review timetable.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has any consultation with seniors groups or senior Australians more generally occurred as part of the development of the new strategy?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: That kind of consultation happens almost constantly or consistently. I am happy to take details on what consultations are taking place as part of a review and refresh of the four-year strategy.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has the Minister been briefed on the new strategy? Has he provided any broad outline as to things that he might like to see in it? Is he engaged in this review?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: He is absolutely engaged in it, but the department's engagement with the Minister and his office on this does not happen through me, so I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that budget information for the New South Wales Ageing Strategy is available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website at www.facs.nsw.gov.au and the Treasury website at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au

Planning has commenced on the development of the next Ageing Strategy and consultation to develop a new strategy will commence shortly.

QUESTION: Transcript pg 86

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: How many staff are employed in the Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I would have to take that on notice.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It would be useful to take that on notice. And how many staff were employed in the 2017-18 financial year as well, if you could?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: For the elder abuse hotline?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I have it as the Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sorry. Yes, okay.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Do you have any information about how many calls are received by the helpline?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, we do, I am just having a look. Just to be clear on that, that is the services delivered by a non-government organisation, from memory, but I am happy to see if we can capture employee data.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It is funded by the department, is it?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, it is funded by us. But, just in terms of the employment numbers, it would be through a non-government partner. I am sorry, I do not think I have that to hand. I am happy to get details on the number of calls.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Also investigations as a result of those calls would be useful information.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, sure.

ANSWER:

I am advised this question will be answered by the Ageing and Disability Commissioner to the Committee directly.