



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES

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FAMILY, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Older women experiencing homelessness

Census data republished in the Sydney Morning Herald in February shows that ‘the number of women aged 65 to 74 describing themselves as homeless increased by 51 per cent in the five years to 2016’. In the NSW Women's Strategy Year One Final Report, the Minister for Women has identified the need to respond to the homelessness crisis affecting older women, and committed to "encourage" new housing proposals through the Social and Affordable Housing Fund that target older women.

1. **What has actually been achieved from this collaboration between the Women's Ministry and yours?**

I am advised the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) 2 tender completed in January 2019 sought bids that targeted housing for older women. Two (out of four) of the contracts awarded included specific targets for housing older women (aged 55 years and over, or aged 45 years and over for women that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) for a total of 232 dwellings. A total of 1,414 additional social and affordable homes will target older people through contracts awarded under both SAHF tenders.

2. **Are there plans for specialist shelters and medium-term accommodation solutions, and an increase in public housing stock, to meet the demands of this crisis?**

I am advised the NSW Government has the biggest social housing building program of any state or territory across the country.

The \$22b Communities Plus building program is delivering 23,000 social housing, 500 affordable housing and 40,000 private dwellings over 10 years. Communities Plus is a new generation of integrated housing developments being delivered in partnership with the private, non-government and community housing sectors. Major sites already in the pipeline include Ivanhoe, Telopea, Waterloo, Arncliffe, Villawood, Riverwood and the NSW Government's first mixed tenure build to rent project at Redfern.

The NSW Government is partnering with community housing providers to deliver over 3,400 social and affordable housing dwellings through the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF). The NSW Government also supports people to live in the private rental market through

such products as RentChoice, the bond loan and Tenancy Guarantee, which ensures that social housing properties are available to the most vulnerable clients.

Support for marginalised groups experiencing domestic and family violence

According to the Australian Law Reform Commission, 90% of women with an intellectual disability have experienced domestic & family violence.

3. What new and dedicated resources are being committed to support women with disabilities who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence?

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

4. What new and dedicated resources are being committed to support the voices of children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence?

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to a whole of government approach to responding to and supporting victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault, including children and young people.

In November 2019, Youth Justice released the Domestic and Family Violence Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2022. This will form the basis of their actions to support the broader Cluster Strategy. The Youth Justice approach identifies actions aimed at addressing the needs of young people impacted by domestic and family violence. Where other approaches to addressing domestic and family violence have typically focused on offending relating to adult intimate partner violence, the targeted approach of Youth Justice is the first of its kind in NSW.

There are a range of resources available for Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) caseworkers to strengthen practice when working with families, children and young people where domestic and family violence is a risk factor. The DCJ Casework Practice site contains specialist resources on working with families where domestic and family violence is a risk factor. The Domestic and Family Violence Practice Kit has a dedicated chapter titled “Domestic and Family Violence: Working with Children”. Furthermore, the Office of the Senior Practitioner is leading a project to update the Caseworker Development Program to align with contemporary practice and the NSW Practice Framework. The new program will be focused on working with families where there is domestic and family violence.

Crisis accommodation for people experiencing domestic & family violence

5. **What additional supports will the Government provide to ensure that people experiencing domestic and family violence who are living in bushfire affected areas are not displaced due to general community need, and can still access temporary, crisis, transitional and longer-term housing to be safe?**

I am advised the NSW Government is investing \$431 million over four years to tackle domestic violence through a range of initiatives for women and their children experiencing domestic violence in areas including bushfire affected areas, that include in 2019/20:

- \$4.1m for the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services program, supporting high-risk target groups in targeted communities with a multi-agency, integrated and coordinated response;
- \$7.7 million to 33 Staying Home Leaving Violence sites for women who choose to stay in their home while the perpetrator is removed;
- \$32.5m for Start Safely, to help people escaping violence move into stable housing in the private rental market;
- An additional \$3.5 million over three years to 33 Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes Program sites.

\$210.1m in 2019/20 will also be invested in Specialist Homelessness Services, including services in bushfires affected areas with targeted DFV supports.

6. **What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that people with disability who are experiencing domestic and family violence can access temporary, crisis, transitional and longer-term housing that meets their needs?**

I am advised specialist homelessness services follow comprehensive policies and procedures to ensure each service response effectively supports clients with particular consideration to their individual needs, including disability.

Safety and risk assessments are carried out to inform the specific needs of each client, and flexible service delivery arrangements allow caseworkers to work cooperatively with specialist support services.

Start Safely is a private rental assistance product that provides a subsidy and links to supports, to help people rent privately who do not have a stable and secure place to live due to domestic or family violence.

7. **Why are people experiencing domestic and family violence sometimes being granted only two days of temporary accommodation through Link2Home, DVLine or Housing?**

I am advised the intention of Temporary Accommodation (TA) is to provide assistance to clients who are facing homelessness or are in immediate danger. The length of assistance offered is based on an assessment of a client's immediate housing needs. Link2home will generally provide a few nights of TA and request that the client contact their local DCJ Housing or Community Housing office for a full housing needs assessment and extension of their TA where appropriate.

The DCJ Deputy Secretary of Strategy, Policy & Commissioning advised last September in Budget Estimates Questions on Notice that in August 2018 there were 478 bedrooms in government-funded women's refuges, which could support up to 1,500 people at any given time.

8. **What is the justification for this level of crisis accommodation provision, given that there are almost 17,000 women and girls that Australian Institute of Health and Welfare recognised as needing crisis accommodation in the 2017-2018 financial year?**

I am advised the NSW Government funds 84 women's refuges (crisis accommodation). This is only one response available for women experiencing DFV; support is also provided through various initiatives, such as:

- supporting women to remain in their home while the perpetrator is removed (Staying Home Leaving Violence);
- helping people escaping violence move into stable housing in the private rental market (Start Safely);
- providing an integrated, coordinated response to address the complex issues surrounding DFV (Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service);
- temporary and transitional accommodation support.

Women's Safety NSW Funding

It is understood that Women's Safety NSW provided a funding proposal to the Government which requested enough funds to employ Aboriginal and Multicultural identified policy and advocacy positions within this peak body to specifically advise on legislative and policy reform as it affects these particular target groups.

9. **Will the Government commit to providing this essential funding for this peak industry body for women's safety in the 2019/20 budget?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) funding

Since before the commencement of the Safer Pathway rollout in September 2014, WDVCASs have experienced rising demand. Since July 2015 there has been an increase in client numbers each year, totalling a 61% increase over the four-year period to 2019 (i.e. 19,496 additional clients), and then following the rollout of Safer Pathways have continued to experience a 12% increase in clients. Despite this however, WDVCAS has seen no funding increase in this time.

10. **When will the NSW Government be increasing the funding for these crucial frontline women's specialist DFV services?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

11. **How will the NSW Government ensure that as the service system improves and becomes more accessible, and as a consequence more women feel confident in reaching out for support, that funding for these crucial services for women and children's safety matches projected increases in client numbers?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Case management

Safer Pathways has now been independently evaluated (February 2019), as has the WDVCAP Program which manages WDVCAS (August 2018). Both evaluations identified the need for women experiencing DFV supported by WDVCASs through Safer Pathway to be offered case management support. Legal Aid NSW submitted a bid to have these recommendations effected in the 2018/19 budget and were unsuccessful. There have been assurances given that a decision on case management implementation will be made in time for the 2020/21 budget.

12. **Can you confirm that case management will be made available through Safer Pathways in 2020/2021?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

13. **What steps are currently being undertaken to ensure implementation during 2020/2021?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Accessible Transport

According to the current Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport requirements, 90% of the rail network should have been accessible by Dec 2017. 100% of our public transport should have been accessible by 2022, but this has now been pushed back to 2032. Once again accessible transport targets are severely lacking, with still just of half of all train stations in the Sydney Metro being accessible, and the government being unable to meet the current required timeframe to have all accessible.

14. **What is the government doing to fund additional infrastructure projects that will speed up the timeline for full accessibility across the rail network, so those with disability don't have to wait another 12 years to be able to access their local station?**

I am advised that accessibility across the rail network is a matter for the Minister for Transport.

15. **What are you personally doing as Minister for Disability Services to ensure accessibility is prioritised?**

I am advised under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014, all NSW Government departments, including Transport for NSW are required to have Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs) in place.

Transport for NSW reports annually on their progress in implementing their DIAPs and improving accessibility for people with disability on their transport services. This reporting forms the basis of the conversations that I have with the Minister for Transport on how accessibility for people with disability is being prioritised within his department.

The government is assisted in our work to ensure that accessibility is being prioritised within Transport for NSW by the Disability Council NSW, which provides regular advice on this matter as well as entering into their own conversations with senior officials from that department.

Lift & Change Facilities

I acknowledge the work done by the NSW Government in the provision of Lift and Change Facilities across a number of local government areas, and I understand that the State Government is currently providing co-contributions of \$35,000. However, in 2013 estimated costs for building Lift and Change Facilities was over \$100,000 per facility.

16. **Is the Government committed to investing additional funding to LGAs for the provision of these facilities?**

(a) **If so, how much funding will the Government commit?**

I am advised the Department of Communities and Justice does not keep data on the number or funding sources for lay down change facilities.

The provision of accessible public toilets in new buildings is determined by the requirements of the Australian Building Standards.

Existing facilities have been funded from a variety of sources as part of the disability inclusion agenda of government agencies, local government, businesses and other community organisations.

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Overrepresentation

17. **How many children are currently in OOHC in NSW? How many of those, and what proportion, are identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander?**

I am advised as at 30 June 2019, there were 16,884 children in OOHC. Of these, 6,754 are Aboriginal and 10,130 are non-Aboriginal.

- (a) **How many children entered care in the 2018/2019 financial year?**

I am advised in 2018-19 there were 2,265 children who entered OOHC. Of these, 928 were Aboriginal and 1,337 were non-Aboriginal.

- (b) **And to date in the 2019/2020 financial year?**

I am advised year to date figures are not currently available.

- (c) **How many of those, and what proportion, were identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander on entry into care?**

I am advised year to date figures are not currently available.

Early support for families

18. **The Family Is Culture Review noted that the proportion of NSW spending on family support services in relation to total child protection spending has declined and represented just 14.3% in 2017-2018**

- (a) **What was the dollar amount and proportion of spending on family support services in relation to total child protection spending for the 2018-2019 financial year?**

I am advised in the 2018-2019 financial year, \$309,388,000 was spent on family support services, this is equivalent to 43.7% of the total spent on child protection in 2018-2019.

- (b) This includes \$184,040,000 for Intensive Family Support Services and \$125,348,000 Family Support Services in NSW as published in the ROGS 2020 report. **Does the Government plan to increase spending on these services in the 2020-2021 budget?**

I am advised the 2020-21 budget process has not been completed and DCJ is unable to comment at this time.

- (c) **What proportion of spending on family support services goes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled services?**

I am advised in the 2018-2019 financial year, \$9,273,777 (3%) was spent on family support services paid to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled services.

- (d) **What plan is in place for the Government to increase this proportion so that it is consistent with the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care?**

I am advised the NSW Government funds a range of prevention and early intervention programs which are accessible to Aboriginal children, young people and families. Prevention and earlier intervention highlights in 2018-19 include:

- Referring 801 families to Family Group Conferencing, and convening 552 Family Group Conferences to empower families to keep their children safe; 43 per cent of families who participated in the conferences were Aboriginal.
- Family preservation programs provided almost 4,000 contracted places for families, which in 2018–19 delivered services to more than 14,000 children and young people, of whom approximately 30 per cent were Aboriginal children.

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is working to ensure strong coverage for Aboriginal children, young people and families across NSW through all its prevention and earlier intervention programs.

Recommissioning of the Targeted Earlier Intervention program is currently underway and DCJ is directing efforts towards 30% of early intervention programs funding to Aboriginal service delivery through this recommissioning process.

DCJ remains strongly committed to supporting the further development of Aboriginal community controlled organisations, and recognises the importance of cultural expertise, cultural accessibility and cultural safety in prevention and earlier intervention services.

Connection to Culture

19. **How many, and what proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC in NSW are placed in relative or kinship care?**

I am advised as reported in the Productivity Commission's 2020 Report on Government Services (ROGS), as at 30 June 2019 there were 4,919 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care placed with relatives or kin, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers in NSW (74.3% of the total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in NSW - 6,754 minus 135 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in other living arrangements, such as independent living.

- (a) **Of those children, how many and what proportion are placed in relative or kinship care with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of their family?**

I am advised as at 30 June 2019 there were 2,356 (47.9% of 4,919) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care who were placed with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relatives/kin.

- (b) **How many, and what proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC in NSW are placed with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander foster carers?**

I am advised as at 30 June 2019 there were 1,055 (21.4% of 4,919) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care who were placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster carers.

- (c) **How many, and what proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC in NSW are case-managed by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation?**

I am advised information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children case managed by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations is not available.

- (d) **The Family Is Culture Review found that 32% of the children reviewed did not have a cultural plan at the time of the review.**
- (e) **What is the current number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care without a cultural care plan or cultural support plan?**

I am advised information on the number of cultural care plans is currently unavailable due to data quality issues. I am advised that the department is working with Funded Service Providers to improve the quality of the data for future reporting. Information on cultural care plans for 2019-20 is expected to be available for reporting in October 2020.

Case workers

20. **How many case workers are currently employed by the department of community & justice working on child protection reports?**

I am advised numbers of Helpline caseworkers are available on the DCJ website at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/caseworker-statistics>

- (a) **Are there any contracted caseworkers?**

I am advised the Helpline does not employ independent contractors.

Housing:

21. Last financial year, how many placements received financial support to ensure a young person could remain with their carer? That is, how many children in OOHC were able to remain in their OOHC placement under the Post Care Education Financial Support for Carers Policy?

- (a) **Last financial year, how many children leaving OOHC at age 18 were referred to homelessness support services within 12 months of leaving care? How many were referred to social housing services?**

I am advised data on the number of OOHC leavers referred to social housing services is not available.

- (b) **Under Their Futures Matter, how much total funding is allocated across agencies in 2019-20 for program expenditure on children, young people and families initiatives? How is this forecast to change over 2020-21 to 2022-23?**

I am advised Their Futures Matter allocated \$37.1 million in 2019-20 for program expenditure on children, young people and families initiatives. Program funding for 2020-21 and beyond is subject to pending government budgetary processes and decisions.

- (c) **Of this, how much is spent on programs for:**

- i. **OOHC (permanency support)**
- ii. **intensive family preservation and restoration programs**
- iii. **early intervention programs relating to child protection and wellbeing?**

I am advised of the \$37.1 million in 2019-20:

- i. \$8.1 million was allocated to OOHC permanency support
- ii. \$24.0 million was allocated to intensive family preservation and restoration programs
- ii. \$5.0 million was allocated to early intervention programs relating to child protection and wellbeing

22. **How much total funding is allocated for programs addressing social and affordable housing and homelessness in 2019-20? How is this forecast to change over 2020-21 to 2022-23?**

I am advised the Stronger Communities cluster budget for 2019-20 committed more than \$1.0 billion towards a range of homelessness and social and affordable housing programs. This is only part of the Government's investment in the social housing system, The NSW Land and Housing

Corporation and Aboriginal Housing Office are part of the Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster. Information regarding future years will be published in the budget papers.

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Equal Remuneration Order

23. **Will the funding for the community sector incorporate the entire Equal Remuneration Order for community workers once the current agreement has expired in 2021?**

I am advised the SACS ERO Order comes to an end on 30 November 2020 and from December 2020, ERO rates of pay then become Ordinary Pay.

Working With Children Checks

24. **In the recent reviews of the operation of the Children's Guardian, did the cases selected for review include the cases where staff had disagreed with the decision of the Director to grant clearances?**

I am advised a number of the cases independently reviewed included matters where there were dissenting views.

The independent review contains 10 matters originally proposed as a Working With Children Check refusal that were then ultimately cleared by the Office of the Children's Guardian. The review concluded that all decisions related to the 10 cases were "based on extensive and relevant evidence, with clear, evidence-based, defensible, transparent and fair".

25. **What examination was conducted of working with children checks that have been approved by the director against staff recommendations?**
- (a) **How were these checks being identified?**
 - (b) **Were the checks identified as being of this nature been suspended?**
 - (c) **Will the detailed outcome of each review of a working with children check of this nature, de-identified, be provided to the committee?**
 - (d) **Is there an ongoing process of review examining checks that are approved by the director against staff recommendations?**

Please refer to the response to question 24.

Further to that response, I am advised each decision to grant or refuse a Working With Children Check clearance is determined in accordance with legislation. Where risk assessment is required, the decision-making process includes peer review on more complex matters, informed by a multi-layered, evidence-based assessment.

In 2018, amendments to the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 further defined 'risk to the safety of children' as risk that is 'real and appreciable'. This threshold is in accordance with the well-established concept enunciated in *Commission for Children and Young People v V* [2002] NSWSC 949 and adopted by NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The threshold requires an applicant to present a risk that is a 'real and appreciable' risk, as opposed to 'any' risk. This means risk that is not theoretical or fanciful but real at the time of assessment, supported by the available evidence to be more than "a risk" and raises real concerns about safety to children today.

I am advised for privacy reasons that detailed outcomes of each review cannot be provided to the committee.

Temporary accommodation

26. **How many women and children were provided with temporary accommodation due to domestic violence in the periods:**

- (a) **2018-19**
- (b) **2017-18**
- (c) **2016-17**

I am advised information on the number of households assisted with temporary accommodation (TA) can be found at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/statistical-report>

Data is not disaggregated by women and children experiencing domestic violence.

Documented case plans

27. **The Productivity Commission's 2020 Report on Government Services (RoGS) stated that 18.7% of children in out of home care were without a 'current documented case plan'. In answers provided in the 2019-20 Budget Estimates further hearing for this committee on March 17, it was said that the explanation for this was that children entering out of home care may not have a plan for the first 30 days of care.**

- (a) **What is the department's definition of a 'current documented case plan' as what was described in the RoGS?**

I am advised according to ROGS, a case plan is an individualised, dynamic written plan (or support agreement) developed between a family and agency based on an assessment process.

A current documented case plan is one that has been approved and/or reviewed within the previous 12 months.

A documented case plan is current when completed within 30 days of a child entering care, within two months after a final order is made for a child less than two years of age or within four months after a final order is made for a child over two years of age, or annually for children who don't fall within these categories.

- (b) **According to available data from September 2018-June 2019, the average number of children entering out of home care per quarter is 542. 18.7% of the current number of children in out of home care according to answers provided in the 2019-20 Budget Estimates hearing is 3,154. How do you explain the significant disparity of more than 2,612 of children in out of home care who reportedly have no current documented case plan and have been in out of home care for longer than 30 days?**

There are a number of reasons why there are children in OOHC who do not have a documented case plan:

Children who enter care are required to have a case plan within 30 days, however they are counted as outstanding from the date of entry into care.

Our adherence to the definitions which means that we don't count out of date plans – i.e. children most likely would have a plan but they have not been reviewed in the required timeframe outlined in the above definition.

Introduction of new reporting requirements for NGOs means data quality issues have been experienced during ongoing implementation. DCJ is taking action to remedy this.

- (c) **What percentage of children in out of home care, according to the most recent figures available to the department, have no current documented case plan that have been in out of home care for:**
- i. Less than 30 days**
 - ii. 30-90 days**
 - iii. 3-6 months**
 - iv. 6-12 months**
 - v. More than 1 year**

Please report these figures separately by children that are case managed by Family and Community Services (DCJ) and children that are case managed by NGOs, separated by children who are identified as being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and by children who are not identified as being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

I am advised information on children in OOHC without a current documented case plan, broken down by length of time in OOHC is not available. Information on children in OOHC without a current documented case plan, broken down by DCJ vs NGOs is also not publically available. However the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC who do have a current documented case plan is 80.9%, compared to 81.6% Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

28. What percentage of children and young people had documented case plans in the years:

(a) 2018-19, and what percentage of these had a goal of:

- i. Family preservation**
- ii. Restoration**
- iii. Guardianship**
- iv. Adoption**
- v. Long term care**

I am advised as at 30 June 2019, 22% of children in statutory OOHC case managed by the department and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) had a case plan goal of restoration, guardianship or adoption.

Of these, restoration accounted for 13% (DCJ-16%, FSPs-10%), guardianship was 7% (DCJ-9%, FSPs-5%) and adoption was 3% (DCJ-1%, FSPs-4%). The remaining 78% of children had a case plan goal of long term care (DCJ-74%, FSPs-81%).

(b) 2017-18, and what percentage of these had a goal of:

- i. Family preservation**
- ii. Restoration**
- iii. Guardianship**
- iv. Adoption**
- v. Long term care**

I am advised information on case plans was not published in 2017-18 due to data assurance processes following the introduction of the new child protection system, ChildStory.

Guardianship orders

29. In your answer to question 27 of supplementary questions to the initial hearings of Budget Estimates 2019-20 in September 2019, you stated that data is currently unavailable as to how many guardianship orders have been made by consent in 2018-19, and how many of those orders relate to Aboriginal children.

(a) Is this data now available?

(b) I am advised information on children on Guardianship order by consent is captured within file notes however the data is not in an extractable format and cannot be reported without undertaking individual case readings, which is a lengthy process. **If this data is available, please provide the data**

(c) If this data is still not available:

i. when will this data become available?

ii. why is this data unavailable?

iii. how is DCJ working to remedy the unavailability of this data?

This information is not captured in an extractable format and cannot be reported without undertaking individual case readings, which is a lengthy process.

(d) Why was the data unavailable when first requested?

This information is not captured in an extractable format and cannot be reported without undertaking individual case readings, which is a lengthy process.

ChildStory

In your answer to question 48 of supplementary questions to the initial hearings of Budget Estimates 2019-20 in September 2019, you stated that all data relating to child protection and out of home care that was recorded in KIDS has been migrated to ChildStory.

30. How many reports or complaints has DCJ received from its staff or other stakeholders that data or records are missing or inaccessible from ChildStory since the database was considered fully implemented?

I am advised that this data is not available. ChildStory acknowledges while initial implementation was challenging, as expected with an IT transformation of this size, huge gains have been made.

It is a key priority to continue improving the experience for practitioners when using the system and increasing the confidence and competence of users.

All records were migrated from KIDS to ChildStory. ChildStory continues to make enhancements to the visibility of migrated records (ensuring the records in ChildStory are in a place that users are most likely to look) and increase support via training, knowledge articles and localised support teams to assist ChildStory users locating historical information in ChildStory.

31. How many reports or complaints has DCJ received from its staff or other stakeholders that data or records are not easily located in ChildStory since the database was considered fully implemented?

I am advised that KiDS structures information in one way; ChildStory structures it in another. Users who have predominately used KiDS apply the information structuring rules to ChildStory and it does not work.

ChildStory is working hard to increase confidence and competence of users in the system particularly in regards to locating historical (migrated) records. While there is no data available about complaints about locating records, ChildStory has completed analysis of the records being accessed in KIDS. This is providing insight into the areas users are reverting to KIDS for. Based on this analysis, improvements have been made to the visibility of migrated records in ChildStory (ensuring the records in ChildStory are in a place users are most likely to look).

In addition, ChildStory has developed a reference guide 'Locate Migrated Records in ChildStory'. This is a comprehensive guide that assists users in searching and locating historical records in ChildStory.

32. How many reports or complaints has DCJ received from its staff or other stakeholders that data or records in ChildStory are not complete as to the identification of a child's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status since the database was considered fully implemented?

I am advised that while there is no data available regarding reports or complaints about this, DCJ recognises the importance of ensuring the accuracy and completeness of a child's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status.

It is the responsibility of the caseworker to ensure the accuracy and completion of this status.

To assist, within ChildStory it is mandatory upon creating a new person in the system to record the Indigenous status or 'not known'. ChildStory has reminders for caseworkers to update this status at regular intervals if 'unknown' is selected.

It is also mandatory that the Indigenous status is confirmed (Indigenous or Not Indigenous) at the point of Final Orders being recorded from the Children's Court.

33. **Are there any differences in the way permissions are managed between KIDS and ChildStory that could explain the difficulty some caseworkers experience when being unable to access information in ChildStory that is available in KIDS?**

(a) **If so, how is the Department managing this issue?**

I am advised ChildStory ensures profiles and permissions assigned to a user are appropriate and relevant to the role / work the user is performing. This is in line with security and privacy policies and procedures.

34. **How many times has ChildStory had service interruptions in 2018-19?**

(a) **How many times in the last month?**

I am advised there have been no unplanned outages in the last 12 months for ChildStory console users.

Additional caseworkers

35. **How many of the additional 72 caseworkers in DCJ have been allocated to each DCJ district? Please supply these figures by district and number of caseworkers allocated to each district.**

Districts have allocated caseworker resources within and across their groupings in order to meet changing demand and ensure areas of highest need are appropriately supported/serviced.

Information regarding the number of DCJ Caseworkers can be found at the Caseworker Dashboard:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/facs.statistics#!/vizhome/FACS_Caseworker_Dashboard/DCJCaseworkerDashboardVersion3?publish=yes

36. **How many of the additional 72 caseworkers in DCJ have been recruited in each DCJ district? Please supply these figures by district and number of caseworkers recruited in each district.**

Further information regarding the number of DCJ Caseworkers can be found at the Caseworker Dashboard:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/facs.statistics#!/vizhome/FACS_Caseworker_Dashboard/DCJCaseworkerDashboardVersion3?publish=yes

Worker wellbeing

37. **Since the beginning of the 2019-20 financial year, how many DCJ Child Protection Caseworkers have left the department through:**

- (a) **Natural attrition**
- (b) **Physical injury**
- (c) **Psychosocial injury**

The attrition rate for caseworkers in 2018-19 was 12.9% which is comparable to 2017-18 and lower than 2016-17. As stated by the Secretary at the Budget Estimates Hearing, there has been an increase in the proportion of caseworkers leaving within the first year in 2018-19 and this is higher than that seen in 2017-18 and 2016-17. Data on attrition rates for 2019-20 are not yet available.

Additional Information on caseworker numbers is published quarterly and available on the Caseworker Dashboard on the Department of Communities and Justice website at:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/facs.statistics#!/vizhome/FACS_Caseworker_Dashboard/DCJCaseworkerDashboardVersion3?publish=yes

38. **How many Workers Compensation Claims has DCJ received in the last year for psychosocial injury?**

- (a) **How many casework staff have been directly assisted with these funds?**

I am advised that in the 2018-19 financial year there were 107 workers compensations claims made for psychological injuries within DCJ. Of these, 68 claims were from caseworkers.

All 68 of these caseworkers were assisted with funds.

39. **What is the comparative rate of Workers Compensation Claims for psychosocial injury in DCJ compared to the NSW public service generally?**

I am advised that this data is not published by iCare who manage the workers compensation scheme.

40. **Will the Department release any recent studies into the wellbeing of DCJ caseworkers?**

- (a) **If so, when will the recent studies be released?**

I am advised that Charles Sturt University has completed a draft report into the levers of wellbeing for casework staff. A summary of that research report will be published before the end of the year.

41. **What is the average retention rate for DCJ Child Protection Caseworkers since the beginning of the 2019-20 financial year?**

I am advised that data for 2019-20 are not available.

The Helpline

The 2019 budget papers included a commitment to employ 45 caseworkers at the Child Protection Helpline.

- (a) **How many of the 45 caseworkers have been recruited?**

I am advised numbers of Helpline caseworkers are available on the DCJ website at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/caseworker-statistics>

The Helpline has zero vacancies.

- (b) **How many more calls have been answered by the helpline since these caseworkers were employed?**

I am advised numbers of reports made to the Helpline are available on the DCJ website at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/services>

- (c) **How many more matters have been resolved as a result of these caseworkers being employed?**

I am advised responses to child protection reports are available on the DCJ website at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/services>

- (d) **Will this commitment be ongoing?**

I am advised the funding for 2020-21 has not yet been determined.

The Efficiency Dividend and the Bushfires

42. **In the 2019-20 budget, the Government announced \$731.4 million whole of government and procurement savings. These savings were to target ‘back-office savings’ and were to be in addition to the 12% efficiency dividend (3% per year) over four years forecast in the 2018-19 budget. What is the total figure of savings DCJ has made so far in this financial year?**

(a) **Where have those savings been made?**

The department has made procurement savings in a range of areas including utilities, contingent labour, telecommunications and data, travel and contractors.

Together with other initiatives in implementation, the department is on track to reduce annual expenditure by \$165m.

The bushfires and COVID-19 have affected the timetable for achieving these reductions to operating expenditure.

43. **The previous Minister, The Hon Pru Goward MP, believed that Community Services staff were ‘first responders’. Is this the view of the current Minister?**

I am advised Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Child Protection staff have the statutory responsibility to assess and respond to children reported at risk of significant harm. The department works with partner agencies to provide a range of assessments and responses to children reported at risk of significant harm.

Service Cuts

44. **Given that rural and regional NSW is supposed to be quarantined from budget and service cuts, will the Minister rule out closing the Bowral Community Services Centre?**

I am advised no decision has been made regarding Bowral Community Services Centre (CSC). The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is currently exploring office accommodation options in Bowral. There will be no reduction in the service provided to the community and no job losses for current staff. Staff from Bowral CSC have been consulted throughout the process, including Public Service Association (PSA) involvement. Once a decision is made all stakeholders will be notified.

Cultural care plans

45. **What percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care have cultural care plans?**

(a) **If the answer is that this information is not available:**

i. **Why is this information not available?**

ii. **When will this information be made available?**

I am advised information on the number of cultural care plans is currently unavailable due to data quality issues. I am advised that the department is working with NGOs to improve the quality of the data for future reporting. Information on cultural care plans for 2019-20 is expected to be available for reporting in October 2020.

Northern District

Caseworker positions in the Northern District have decreased from 106 to 102 in the past year. Technically, caseworker positions have dropped to 92, as 10 ‘extra’ caseworker positions were created to manage the 180 cases that were transferred in from other districts for the Queensland Interstate Team.

46. **Was there a decrease in casework in the Northern District to justify the decrease in caseworker positions?**

I am advised the allocation of casework resources across the State is based on a resource allocation model that considers a range of service demand factors applied consistently across districts.

47. **How does the Department intend to manage the workload of the caseworkers in the Northern District?**

I am advised through the use of workload planners, group supervision, and individual supervision with staff.

48. **As a result of these changes, has there been a loss of a:**

i. **Manager of Casework position in Lismore?**

ii. **Manager of Casework position in Ballina?**

(b) **How many caseworker positions have been lost in:**

i. **Lismore, and**

ii. **Ballina**

I am advised numbers of caseworkers are available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/caseworker-statistics>

Social Housing Priority Waiting List

49. **What are the common attributes of applicants currently on the priority waiting list for public and social housing?**

I am advised information on the breakdown of priority applications on the NSW Housing Register is available at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au.

50. **How many applicants are currently on the priority waiting list for public and social housing?**

I am advised as at 30 June 2019, there were 4,484 priority applicants on the NSW Housing Register.

51. **Has the cohort of people on the priority waiting list increased from 2015-16 to 2018-19?**

(a) **If this cohort has increased,**

i. **how much has the size of the cohort increased?**

I am advised the number of priority applicants as at 30 June 2019 is a decrease of 32 as compared to 30 June 2016 (4,516). This information is available at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au.

ii. **Why has the size of this cohort increased?**

I am advised the size of the cohort of priority applicants is affected by a range of factors that change over time, including the demographics for applicants to the register generally.

52. **What is the current average wait time for applicants on the priority waiting list to receive a public housing placement (as distinct from alternative accommodation or private rental assistance)?**

I am advised for 2018-19 the median waiting time for priority applicants to be approved to be housed in public housing (including housing provided through the Aboriginal Housing Office) was 3.2 months.

(a) **Has the current average wait time for applicants on the priority waiting list increased from 2015-16 to 2018-19?**

I am advised this represents an increase of 0.4 months as compared to 2015-16 (2.8 months).

- (b) **If the current average wait time for applicants increased, why are people with disability, feeling domestic violence and people who are homeless waiting longer for public and social housing?**

I am advised there is a general trend across Australia for priority social housing applicants to have increasingly high needs of support for them to be able to sustain a social housing tenancy. There is often additional referrals and support that needs to be in place before an applicant can be successfully housed.

There is also a general trend of increasing demand for modified and level-access properties. Through the Communities Plus redevelopment program, the NSW Government is working to renew and reshape its social housing portfolio to better align with this priority need.

Social Housing Waiting List

53. **Has the department estimated the cost of meeting the current demand for public and social housing, the 50,000 applicants on the waiting list?**

- (a) **Which funding model does it estimate to be most efficient to meet this need?**

I am advised the *Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW* strategy, the NSW Government's 10 year vision for social housing (2016-2025) is a comprehensive approach to housing assistance needs across the community. It engages the public, community and private sectors to generate supply of accommodation for a spectrum of community need.

Households across NSW require different types of housing assistance at different price points and periods of time. This covers the spectrum of temporary and crisis accommodation, assistance to sustain tenancies or enter the private market, or longer term social housing accommodation.

This spectrum is reflected in the three strategic priorities within Future Directions: more social housing; more opportunities, support and incentives to avoid and/or leave social housing; and a better social housing experience.

As part of *Future Directions*, the Department of Communities and Justice is managing the delivery of the \$1.1 billion Social and Affordable Housing Fund delivering over 3,400 additional social and affordable homes across the state. The NSW Land and Housing Corporation is delivering the \$22 billion Communities Plus building program, which will redevelop and reshape the portfolio to better align with current and future need.

54. **What is the full estimated cost of meeting the current demand for public and social housing?**

Please refer to supplementary question 53.

55. **There is increasing pressure on an already overburdened social housing system; given the loss of so many homes in the current climate events, and the phasing out of the National Rental Affordability Scheme, what does the NSW Government intend to do to address the issue of the huge lack of social housing?**

Please refer to supplementary question 53.

Temporary Accommodation

56. **How many individuals were accommodated through the Temporary Accommodation program since FY2011-2012 to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

I am advised information on the number of households assisted with temporary accommodation (TA) can be found at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/statistics/statistical-report>

Data is reported by the number of households, not the number of individuals.

57. **What was the total expense for Temporary Accommodation FY2011-2012 to to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

Please refer to supplementary question 56.

58. **How many nights of Temporary Accommodation have been provided FY2011-2012 to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

Please refer to supplementary question 56.

59. **We understand there is a shortfall of Temporary Accommodation across the State, can you please provide information regarding the number of individuals who have not been accommodated in the LGA they have presented for assistance?**

I am advised DCJ makes all reasonable efforts to place clients in accommodation that is appropriate for their needs and circumstances. Where the only appropriate accommodation is not where the client presents, DCJ will facilitate travel arrangements for the client if needed and where practical.

60. **Please provide information of what transportation is used in situations where temporary accommodation is located in a different suburb away from where the individuals has first presented?**

I am advised all reasonable options are considered to source transportation which may include engaging specialist homelessness services (SHS), non SHS and other government agencies. Local Department of Communities and Justice Housing offices also provide opal cards as required. The Housing Contact Centre will organise a taxi service for a client in certain circumstances.

61. What was the total expense of transportation associated with Temporary Accommodation from FY2011-2012 to current, with current being the most recently available data?

I am advised this data is not available.

Assertive Outreach Programs

62. Assertive Outreach Programs are currently being delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice in the City of Sydney, Newcastle and Tweed Heads.

(a) What further opportunities has the Government identified to introduce more Assertive Outreach Programs in the State?

- i. Which Local Government Areas have been identified for more Assertive Outreach Programs in NSW?**
- ii. When are these proposed programs going to commence?**
- iii. When will Assertive Outreach Programs be rolled out broadly across NSW?**
- iv. If not Assertive Outreach Programs will not be rolled out broadly across NSW, why will these programs not be rolled out broadly?**

I am advised:

The NSW Government has assertive outreach services currently operating in three local government areas, City of Sydney, Newcastle and Tweed Shire.

The expansion of assertive outreach to other locations is currently underway and includes planned sites in the following Local Government Areas: Albury, Ballina, Bathurst, Bayside, Bega Valley, Blacktown, Burwood, Byron, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Casino, Central Coast, Dubbo, Eurobodalla, Fairfield, Goulburn Mulwaree, Grafton, Inner West, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Liverpool, Orange, Parramatta, Penrith, Queanbeyan, Randwick, Shoalhaven, Strathfield, Sutherland, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Waverly, Wollongong and Woollahra.

Premier's Priority on Rough Sleeping

63. **It is almost 12 months since the Premier's Priority on Rough Sleeping was announced. Please provide:**

(a) **The baseline number being used for the 2021 target**

I am advised the NSW Government has not set a target for 2021. The Premier's Priority is for a 50 per cent reduction in street sleeping across NSW by 2025.

Under the Act to End Street Sleeping Agreement signed in February 2019, the NSW Government, City of Sydney and a range of partner organisations set a target to reduce street homelessness in the City of Sydney by 25 per cent by 2020 compared to the 2017 baseline. In the most recent City of Sydney street count in February 2020, street homelessness has fallen by 23 per cent below the February 2017 street count results. A second City of Sydney street count is currently scheduled for August 2020.

(b) **The number of people sleeping rough who have been housed since the announcement**

I am advised a total of 362 people formerly sleeping rough in the inner city of Sydney, Tweed Heads and Newcastle have been provided with permanent long-term accommodation through Assertive Outreach services since the NSW Government signed the Act to End Street Sleeping Agreement February 2019.

(c) **The number of people who are receiving ongoing support to maintain that housing**

I am advised over 90 per cent of the people supported into long term accommodation through Assertive Outreach services have successfully maintained that accommodation.

(d) **Progress made on action plans to meet the 2021 and 2025 targets and key deliverables contained within these plans**

I am advised:

Working in partnership with the End Street Sleeping Collaboration, the NSW Government is delivering new measures and supports to reduce street homelessness across three focus areas:

- (1) Collecting better data on street homelessness through street counts in locations across NSW where people are experiencing street homelessness, the development of a by-name list of people experiencing street homelessness, and service improvements including digital identification, fee waivers to reduce the cost of re-issuing IDs and priority service for vulnerable clients at select Service NSW centres.

- (2) Assisting people experiencing street homelessness into secure and stable accommodation by expanding assertive outreach services to new locations across NSW.
- (3) Building on and investing in prevention and early intervention to help prevent people from experiencing street homelessness. In particular supporting people as they leave government services such as social housing, health facilities and correctional facilities.

e) Information regarding the allocation of funding has been made to meet the key deliverables and whether this funding is ongoing

I am advised in 2019-20, the NSW Government will invest \$1b in homelessness, social housing and affordable housing. This includes funding for Temporary Accommodation, Link2home, Specialist Homelessness Services and other homelessness initiatives. Information about funding allocated under the NSW Homelessness Strategy is available at on the Department of Communities and Justice website.

\$1 billion investment in homelessness

64. In June 2018 the NSW Government, alongside the NSW Homelessness Strategy, announced investment of \$1 billion over four years for homelessness services. The four years being: 2018/19 – 2021/2022. One year later, in June 2019, the NSW Government, within the Budget papers, announced investment of \$1 billion over four years for homelessness services. In October 2019 Minister Ward advised Specialist Homelessness Services that there will be a 12 month contract extension for the Program in 2020/2021 followed by a commitment to three year contracts from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024. Please clarify:

- (a) What the funding within \$1 billion is allocated to. How much is:
 - i. SHS Program funding (including Sector Support Fund, Homeless Youth Assistance Program, DVRE and Youth 24/7 enhancement)
 - ii. Temporary Accommodation Program
 - iii. Link2Home
 - iv. DCJ programs including the HOST
 - v. Homelessness Strategy initiatives
- (b) What is the \$30 million per annum Commonwealth contribution via the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement allocated to?

- (c) **Whether the \$1 billion investment will be maintained from 2021/2022 until 2023/2024. That is, can the Specialist Homelessness Services be assured that the funding envelope for the SHS Program will be at least maintained at current levels in the new contracting periods?**

I am advised:

The 2019-20 NSW Budget includes \$1 billion in continued funding towards a range of homelessness and social and affordable housing programs. This includes \$210 million in 2019-20 for Specialist Homelessness Services, Link2home and other homelessness programs and initiatives.

Information about the additional \$61 million in funding for initiatives under the NSW Homelessness Strategy is available on the Department of Communities and Justice website at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au. The announcement of over \$1 billion for homelessness services over four years in the 2018-19 Budget included this \$61 million as well as the annual funding for homelessness programs over the forward estimates.

The NSW Bilateral Agreement under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement is available on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website at www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au.

Current contracts for Specialist Homelessness Services and other homelessness programs are being extended for 12 months to 30 June 2021.

Premier's Youth Initiatives Projects

65. **The funding arrangements, security and adequacy of funding in the homelessness area has become a serious problem and concern. Can the Minister confirm whether the Premier's Youth Initiative Projects will continue to be funded after June 2020?**

- (a) **This project is being reviewed and an evaluation was underway as at September 2019. Can you please provide a detailed update of this evaluation?**

I am advised:

Current contracts for the Premier's Youth Initiative pilot have been extended for 12 months to June 2021.

An evaluation of the pilot is currently underway. It is being conducted by the Centre for Evidence and Implementation.

The final report is due November 2020.

Privatisation

66. **Can the Minister please provide a breakdown of the number of social housing transfers to community housing providers since the introduction of the Management Transfer Program?**

I am advised that Tranche 1 facilitated 729 property transfers and Tranche 2 facilitated 13,671 property transfers.

67. **Of the 14,000 social housing properties under the Management Transfer Program how many tenancies have been transferred to community housing providers?**

I am advised the transfer of properties under the Management Transfer Program is now complete.

68. **Has the Government reached its goal of 32% of social housing tenancies to be managed by community housing providers?**

I am advised the proportion of social housing tenancies managed by community housing providers has increased to nearly 32 %.

Disaster Welfare Assistance Line

69. **How many people accessed the Disaster Welfare Assistance line since implementation to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

- (a) **What additional funds have been allocated to deliver this program?**
- (b) **How long will the Government fund and provide this service?**
- (c) **How many calls have been logged on the 1800 018 444?**

I am advised the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is an ongoing service that supports NSW disaster affected people. The line operated by the Office of Emergency Management and falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service

70. **How many calls were logged 13 77 88 since implementation to to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

I am advised the 13 77 88 phone number manages inquiries regarding all Service NSW services. For questions relating to all inquiries received by Service NSW, please refer to the Minister for Customer Service.

Bushfire Housing Assistance Service

71. **How many individuals were assisted with emergency temporary accommodation through the Bushfire Housing Assistance Service since implementation to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

I am advised 8013 individuals (6237 adults and 1776 children).

72. **What is the expense of temporary accommodation for bushfire effected individuals since implementation to current, with current being the most recently available data?**

I am advised that the expense of temporary accommodation for bushfire effected individuals is \$2,748,900 to date.

73. **What is the average length of time clients have been accommodated in Temporary Accommodation as a result of bushfire?**

I am advised 4.8 nights.

74. **Of the individuals assisted with emergency temporary accommodation, how many have secured more permanent housing options through private rental or short term accommodation?**

I am advised the Department is unable to advise specific data for this as many clients find their own accommodation after spending time in temporary accommodation (TA).

Last January, the NSW Government established the Bushfire Housing Assistance Response Team (BHART) in Southern NSW to proactively assist communities on the ground in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern area of NSW. Since early January this team has received over 170 referrals and have actively case managed 150 clients to help them find suitable long term housing solutions.

Rent Choice Assist

75. **Can you provide an update on Rent Choice Assist?**

I am advised the Rent Choice Assist Trial began on 10 September 2018 with a target to deliver the product to up to 200 clients (over a 12 month period) in the following four DCJ locations: South Eastern Sydney, South Western Sydney, Blacktown/Mt Druitt and Newcastle/Maitland.

76. **Currently this trial is being conducted in Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hurstville or Newcastle/Lake Macquarie. Please provide reasoning for why this trial is only being conducted in these locations?**

- (a) **Will the trial be extended to include more locations?**

- (b) **Rent choice was budgeted 2018-2019 to assist only up to a total of 200 households in the four locations. Will this trial be extended to 2019-2020?**

I am advised Rent Choice Assist continues to be available in trial locations, where packages are available in 2019-20 and will be available in the forward estimate years.

Decisions on future funding and locations will be made through the budget process.

SAHF Program

77. **How many additional social and affordable housing dwellings since the implementation of the SAHF program have been delivered?**

I am advised as at 29 February 2020 the SAHF program delivered 682 social and 184 affordable dwellings.

- (a) **Of these provide a breakdown in the dwellings;**

- i. **How many are new construction?**

I am advised 631

- ii. **How many are refurbishment and re-purpose of existing dwellings?**

I am advised 235

- iii. **How many long term lease hold arrangement?**

I am advised 32 of the newly constructed buildings have been secured through long term lease arrangements

78. **How many individuals and families have moved into social and affordable homes funded under the SAHF program?**

I am advised quarterly tenancy data provided by SAHF contractors (December 2019) shows that a total of 1053 people moved into a SAHF property, with 240 dwellings occupied by households of more than one person.

79. **What commitment has been made under the SAHF and SAHF 2 in terms of increasing social housing stock, i.e. how many additional social housing properties have been promised via SAHF/SAHF 2?**

I am advised a total of 3,480 dwellings are expected to be delivered through the SAHF program by the end of 2022. A minimum of 2,436 of these dwellings will be available for eligible social housing applicants when all dwellings are completed.

80. **How many social housing properties via SAHF/SAHF 2 are currently tenanted i.e. have tenants living in them?**

I am advised as at 29 February 2020, 682 social housing dwellings are tenanted through the SAHF program.

Indexation

81. **Will the NSW Government confirm an adequate indexation rate for community services in the portfolio of DCJ?**

(a) **Will the indexation rate be in the vicinity of 5% to meet previous shortfalls?**

I am advised the NSW government provides indexation as part of the budget process.

This is a matter for the NSW Treasurer.

The ERO

82. **How much has NSW Government provided in ERO supplementation?**

I am advised in 2012 the NSW government announced more than \$1 billion new funding over 10 years to support the increased costs in the Non-Government sector as a result of the ERO decision.

83. **When does ERO funding cease?**

I am advised additional award increases under the ERO were for 10 years commencing in November 2012, with the final increase in November 2021.

84. **Will ERO funding be extended in any equivalent funding capacity?**

I am advised the ERO funding will become part of base funding at the end of the 10 year period.

Youth Homelessness Funding

85. **Will the NSW Government provide longer term security of funding for all homelessness programs after June 2021? For example: the NSW Premiers Youth Initiative, Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP), Service Support Fund, Inner City Restoration, Domestic Violence Response Enhancement, and the Youth Crisis Accommodation Enhancement?**

I am advised:

Current contracts for Specialist Homelessness Services and other homelessness programs (including the Homeless Youth Assistance Program, Service Support Fund, Inner City Restoration, Domestic Violence Response Enhancement and the Youth Crisis Accommodation Enhancement) are being extended for 12 months to 30 June 2021. The Department of Communities and Justice will directly negotiate with existing service providers for contracts commencing 1 July 2021.

Current contracts for the Premier's Youth Initiative pilot have been extended for 12 months to June 2021. An evaluation of the pilot is currently underway.

Community Services

86. Will the NSW Government make a commitment to longer term contracts of 5-7 years for the community services sector?

(a) How these will be factored into the forward estimates?

I am advised:

The NSW Government has implemented some long term contracts for existing services such as the Permanency Support Program, and continues to review options for contract durations for other programs.

Current contracts for Specialist Homelessness Services and other homelessness programs are being extended for 12 months to 30 June 2021. The Department of Communities and Justice will directly negotiate with existing service providers for contracts commencing 1 July 2021.

87. Will the NSW Government commission an independent inquiry into the amount of red-tape, accreditation, regulation, and compliance expected of the community services sector to assess the impact on efficiency and effectiveness (especially the reduction to direct service delivery)?

I am advised an independent inquiry is not under active consideration.

88. Is any form of modelling planned by NSW Treasury to assess the impact of the recent bushfires on demand for health services (especially mental health services) and community services (especially family support, restoration services, emergency and financial assistance) and housing and homelessness services across NSW over the next 5 years?

- (a) **There are concerns that DCJ have authorised changes to Activity Work Plans for some community development organisations in bushfire affected areas so they can deliver crisis relief and recovery work under their current contract. This leads to a service reduction in other essential areas. Can the NSW Government assure us this will be additional funds and not be at the expense of existing vital community services?**

I am advised Recovery Support Services are jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. They are funded as an additional service and enhance existing services that are regularly provided to communities.

Recovery Support Services are funded to deliver additional recovery services and are embedded in local communities. Providers are selected because of their professional expertise, local community knowledge and networks. They must also demonstrate a successful track record of delivering similar services in communities.

Recovery Support Services provide long-term ongoing casework tailored to bushfire impacted residents needing additional support during recovery. They offer flexible and informal points of entry for impacted residents who are uncomfortable reaching out to agencies or formal services. A holistic approach is taken to support bushfire impacted communities and recognises the potential for bush fire events to exacerbate pre-existing conditions and complex needs of people. Services provide a strong focus on empowerment and connection with the local community.

Place Plans

89. **What is the status of the Place Plans initiative under Future Directions for Social Housing?**

I am advised that under the *'Future Directions for Social Housing'* strategy, the Place Plans initiative will run to 30 June 2020.

90. **When does funding for Place Plans cease?**

- (a) **If funding will not be extended beyond 30 June 2020, how many job losses will that loss of funding create?**

- i. **Will regional jobs be lost as part of these job losses?**

All ongoing staff will return to their substantive positions within the Department and there will be no job losses for ongoing staff within the Department.

- ii. **Does that break the Premier's promise that there will be no regional job losses in her Government?**

All ongoing staff will return to their substantive positions within the Department and there will be no job losses for ongoing staff within the Department.

NSW performance compared to other States

91. **Why has social housing expenditure fallen \$200 million (15% and over) in two years according to the Productivity Commission Report on Government Services?**

I am advised repairs and maintenance decreased by 22% as the extensive repairs and maintenance program begun in 2016 was nearing completion. The reduction is also partly due to the impact of the social housing management transfer (SHMT) as public housing properties were transferred to community housing providers (CHP) in 2018-19. Maintenance work undertaken by CHPs is not captured in this figure.

92. **Only three quarters (75.9%) of dwellings are of an acceptable condition compared to national average of 80.3%. Why does NSW have the worst dwelling conditions in the country?**

I am advised the data is sourced from AIHW unpublished data from the National Social Housing Survey (NSHS). The NSHS collects information on tenants and their social housing experiences and examines tenant perspectives and overall satisfaction with the services provided by their housing organisation, amenities in the home and satisfaction with the location.

Through the Communities Plus redevelopment program, the NSW Government is working to renew and reshape its social housing portfolio to better align with priority need. This includes ensuring the portfolio has the right mix of dwelling sizes, in the right locations and with appropriate access and disability modifications. This will ensure we replace older housing stock that is not fit for purpose with new stock.

93. **Why is the proportion of occupied public housing at an all-time low of 98.1% from a high of 99.9% when the Government took office?**

I am advised the Occupancy Rate indicator value of 99.9% for 2011 was calculated by dividing the number of households (111,448) in 2011 by the number of public dwellings reported by NSW in 2011 (111 547).

However, in 2018, it was noted that the correct number of public housing dwellings was 112,747. This means that the Occupancy Rate indicator value should be 98.9% for 2011.

The correct figure for the number of public housing dwellings for 2011 is given in the Footnote (c) of Table 18A.3 of RoGS, stated as '*The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (formerly Department of Family and Community Services) has advised that the number of public dwellings reported by NSW in 2011 (111 547) is understated due to issues with the administrative reporting system at the time, and that the correct number is 112 747.*

It is also to be noted that data across years are not comparable, as clearly stated in Footnote b) of Table 18A.9: "*Data may not be comparable across jurisdictions and over time and comparisons could be misleading*".

There are many factors that affect the occupancy rate of public housing. For example, under the Communities Plus program, DCJ undertakes large scale relocations of tenants in order to redevelop stock and increase the supply of social housing. Other examples are where the Land and Housing Corporation undertake significant works to a property that has been damaged or otherwise requires repair.

94. **Why has the proportion of new public housing tenancies allocated to households with special needs collapsed and is now the second lowest percentage in the country (55.6%)?**

As stated in the first footnote of Table 18A.18 of the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (ROGS): data on the proportion of new public housing tenancies allocated to households with 'special needs' are not comparable across jurisdictions.

The proportion of new public housing tenancies allocated to households with 'special needs', as reported in ROGS, is understated for NSW. The ROGS category of 'special needs' includes people who are Aboriginal; however in NSW, most Aboriginal people chose to apply for specialist Aboriginal housing services (rather than public housing). This is fostered by how NSW has both State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing (SOMIH) and Indigenous Community Housing (ICH) services, for which only Aboriginal people are eligible. Hence, there has been a decrease in the number of Aboriginal people applying for public housing over time.

As Aboriginal people make up part of the 'special needs' category, this group is smaller for NSW, and this is reflected in the lower percentage shown in ROGS for the 'special needs' category for public housing.

It should be noted that ROGS also reports on people with 'greatest needs', which includes people who are homeless, in housing inappropriate to their needs, in housing that is adversely affecting their health or placing their life and safety at risk, or, have very high rental housing

costs. People with 'special needs' are also often people with 'greatest needs' (these categories overlap). In NSW, the proportion of tenancies allocated to households with 'greatest needs', as a proportion of all new tenancies allocated to households has increased over time. There was an increase of 4.3% in allocations made within 3 months to applicants in 'greatest need' in public housing, from 2017-18 (84.2%) to 2018-19 (87.8%).

95. **Why has real spending on assistance for Indigenous community housing fallen 45% from \$16,659 (2013-14) to \$9,226 (2017-18) and is well below the national average of \$11,786?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing.

Carers

96. **The NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010 strategy expired last year – why hasn't it been renewed?**

- (a) **Has the Minister received any feedback from NSW carers regarding the expiration of this strategy?**

- i. **What feedback has the Minister received?**

I am advised a new 10 year NSW Carers Strategy 2020-2030 is being developed and is due for release in late 2020. A comprehensive co-design process was undertaken by DCJ in late 2019 with carers and key stakeholders to inform the Strategy.

97. **What changes has the Minister made to the conduct of NSW Government workers to ensure that The NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010 is implemented at all levels of government?**

I am advised resources are available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website to support public sector agencies in NSW to implement the Carers (Recognition) Act 2010. This includes posters of the Carers Charter, which can be ordered or downloaded - including community language translations and a charter poster featuring Aboriginal artwork. The Act was reviewed in 2016 and the recommendations of the review are being progressively implemented.

98. **How many complaints have been received relating to a lack of implementation of the NSW Carers Act, or more broadly the treatment of carers?**

- (a) **What are you doing to reduce these complaints?**

I am advised the Department receives a small flow of correspondence from carers who identify the need for more support. A proportion of those mention the Carers (Recognition) Act 2010. The NSW Carers Strategy provides the government's broader response to supporting the 854,300 carers in NSW.

99. **How many frontline or back office staff are dedicated purely to helping carers in the department?**

I am advised the Carers team in DCJ that has responsibility for the Carers (Recognition) Act 2010, the NSW Carers Strategy, a carer grants program, funding for the peak body Carers NSW and Secretariat for the NSW Carers Advisory Council. The Carers team works with DCJ People to support the Department's staff who have caring responsibilities.

100. **Outline, what if any, specialised training staff undergo relating to the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act. Please include:**

- (a) **Training program names**
- (b) **Length of training**
- (c) **Cohort of staff who are projected to undergo each training program**
- (d) **Number of staff who have undergone each training**
- (e) **Date training rolled out**
- (f) **Details of any future training courses being developed or proposed**

I am advised public sector agencies are responsible for providing their staff with the required information and/or training to support them to implement the Act. Training was delivered across the State in 2012/13, and resources are available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website to support them.

101. **What are the tangible KPIs associated with the implementation of the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010?**

- (a) **Please provide information as to which of these KPIs have been:**
 - i. **met**
 - ii. **partially met**
 - iii. **not met**

I am advised specific KPIs have not been developed to measure compliance with the Act, but NSW human service agencies are required to report their compliance with the Act in their annual reports. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) reviews Annual reports and provides a collated report to the Minister. Reports are available on the DCJ website.

102. **Given many carers are elderly or living with chronic disease in NSW?**

(a) **What support are you providing to carers who can't carry out their caring responsibilities due to Coronavirus?**

I am advised during the COVID-19 crisis, the government is working with stakeholders to develop solutions to address the issue identified - where carers may be unable to provide care. DCJ funds Carers NSW, the carer peak organisation. Carers NSW provides a Carer line available 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday – 1800 242 636 which is staffed by experienced Carer Support Officers to offer emotional support, referrals, and distribute carer specific resources and information, to carers, service providers and community members.

The national Carer Gateway website also provides carer support and advice, including resources such as an Emergency Care Plan template to help carers capture key details which will make it easy for someone to take over their caring role, if required.

Funding of DFV services by DCJ:

103. **What will the Minister do to ensure Jenny's Place Domestic Violence Resource Centre continues to operate in Newcastle? What funding will the Minister allocate to this?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

104. **Minister, what efforts have you made to consult regional communities about the best way to provide specialist domestic violence services?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

105. **Specifically what consultation has been undertaken with *Restore Our Refuge* regarding *Lynn's Place* in the Taree area?**

The NSW Government provides funding to 84 women's refuges through specialist homelessness services, to deliver women's only crisis accommodation. This includes funding for the Taree Women's Refuge, previously known as Lynn's Place.

Following a competitive tender process, the Department of Communities and Justice funds Samaritans to operate the Taree Women's Refuge, which provides crisis accommodation and outreach to women and their children who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic violence.

106. Minister, what will you do to ensure the Yacaaba Centre continues to operate in the Tomaree/Port Stephens area?

I am advised the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has extended contracts for key homelessness services including the Yacaaba Centre until 30 June 2021. The Department will continue to invest in critical homelessness services in the future, including services for women and children experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic and family violence.

107. What finding will you provide Yacaaba to ensure this important service continues?

Please refer to the answer to question 106.

Safer Pathway

108. What is the Minister doing to ensure that women and children who have experienced domestic violence have access to the range of services they need and at the right time?

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence

109. What is the Minister doing to ensure that women referred through Safer Pathway are able to get help when needed?

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

110. What will the Minister do to address the gaps in the system placing women and children at risk identified and articulated by the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)?

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

111. Which NSW Departments and workers are trained on the nature and dynamics of sexual assault, domestic and family violence and how is this done?

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

112. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse women, women with disability and LGBTIQ who are experiencing violence can access specialist and culturally safe support?

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to a whole of government approach to responding to and supporting victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse women, women with disability, and LGBTIQ communities.

The Government supports at-risk or vulnerable cohorts through seven Domestic Violence Innovation Fund projects.

For culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including Aboriginal communities, these programs are:

- From the Ground Up to Equality (Arab Council Australia);
- Finding Safety (Jesuit Refugee Service);
- Building Stronger Families (formerly Safety Without Borders) (Relationships Australia); and
- Kalypi Paaka Mirika Healing program (Maari Ma Health); and
- ReThink! Anti-violence project (2Connect Youth & Community).

For people with disability, these programs are:

- Respectful Relationships Peer Educators (People with Disability Australia); and
- Building Access for Women with Disability (People with Disability Australia).

In February this year, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Domestic and Family Violence Forum, the first of its kind in NSW, was held at the Parliament of NSW and provides a vital and unique opportunity for women to have their voices heard.

As part of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children (the Blueprint), the Government engaged ACON to work with domestic and family violence service providers to make services accessible and inclusive of LGBTIQ communities.

Our Watch and Change the Story

113. **Prior to signing up to Our Watch, the government maintained the position that its efforts were already achieving its primary prevention aims, what whole of community primary prevention programs has the Government invested in? What is the total amount spent on these initiatives?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

114. **Will we see investment in a comprehensive primary prevention strategy in line with the Change the Story Framework from the NSW Government OR will it continue to be a piecemeal approach of small pilot projects?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

115. **How much funding and resources has the NSW Government dedicated to addressing the gendered drivers of violence against women and their children, as identified through the national framework of “Change the Story”?**

I am advised this question should be referred to the Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Aboriginal Women and Children

116. **When will the Department keep their commitment to appropriately fund Western Sydney’s Aboriginal women’s refuge, Wirrawee Gunya?**

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) undertook a comprehensive analysis of the Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) funding allocation, which showed West Connect Domestic Violence Services (WCDVS) receives a similar level of funding to deliver crisis accommodation services compared to other SHS.

DCJ has offered to engage an independent consultant to support WCDVS review their service model to identify potential efficiencies in line with their existing funding level. This offer continues to be available.

117. **In 2017 the Department offered all Specialist Homeless Services an extended 3-year funding contract. At that time the Department offered WCDVS a 1-year contract unless they agreed to include Wirrawee Gunya in the contract with no additional funding. How**

is Wirrawee Gunya expected to absorb the additional \$700k operational cost of running this 24-hour service without additional funding from DCJ?

I am advised:

In 2017 a three-year contract from 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2020 was signed by WCDVS, which includes continuing Wirrawee Gunya as a crisis refuge.

Youth Justice

118. What part of the recommended changes to the operating model of the Youth Justice Centres have been implemented since the Review conducted by Former NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Lee Shearer APM into the incident at the Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre in Kariong on 21 and 22 July 2019 (known as the Shearer Report)?

I am advised the Lee Shearer Review assessed safety in Youth Justice centres for both young people and staff and identified areas for change.

63 recommendations were made comprising infrastructure improvements, changes to policies, procedures and the custodial operating model, and reform around people and culture.

The recommendations have been accepted by the NSW Government and have translated into a program of works - the Youth Justice Custodial System Reform, currently underway to improve security in Youth Justice centres and enhance the safety and wellbeing of staff and young people.

This program of works consists of 22 separate projects that are being coordinated by a dedicated Program Director and overseen by the Youth Justice Reform Delivery Board Chaired by Ms Lee Shearer.

One of these projects involves designing a new operating model for Youth Justice, so that high-risk young people are more effectively separated from the general population in custody – this project commenced in November 2019.

Extensive consultation and engagement with frontline staff who operate in this complex environment is being undertaken. Interim High Risk Units (HRU) with higher staff numbers, less detainees, different routines, and a strong focus on security, and staff and young person wellbeing have been established at Frank Baxter and Cobham Youth Justice Centres. While this is not the final model, it immediately improves safety for those staff managing high risk young people.

On-unit consultations with interim HRU staff have been conducted at Frank Baxter and Cobham Youth Justice centres. The Department of Education and Justice Health are also being consulted.

YJ has started a detailed co-design process with frontline staff, with a view to establishing the final model for the HRUs later in 2020.

A new High Risk Young Offender Assessment Panel (HRYOP) has been established, which includes frontline staff, PSA delegates, the Director of Psychological and Specialist Services (Child Protection and Permanency), the Clinical Director Adolescent Mental Health (Justice Health) and Youth Justice NSW Directors. The HRYORP is the primary escalation point to make decisions on the safe management of high risk young people in contact with Youth Justice NSW, including their entry into and exit from the HRUs. This project is ongoing.

119. Have all Youth Justice Centres been separately audited to identify all security gaps to prevent detainees accessing roofs and elevated structures as per Recommendation 17 of the Shearer Report?

I am advised that John Harrison conducted an immediate safety audit after the incident at the Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre in July 2019 following consultation between the Minister and the PSA. I am advised in late 2019 Youth Justice subsequently engaged an external expert, Mark Wilson, former Assistant Commissioner Security and Intelligence, Corrective Services NSW, to undertake a formal security audit of the entire custodial network and court logistics area. This audit is now complete.

Mr Wilson's findings have informed assets and infrastructure upgrades scheduled for Frank Baxter and Cobham Youth Justice Centres, including how these works should be prioritised. Mr Wilson is currently reviewing the Youth Justice Security and Intelligence functions.

120. Has an emergency management training program been rolled out as outlined in Recommendation 51 of the Shearer Report?

I am advised in line with recommendations in the Shearer report, Youth Justice has worked with Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) and other experts to develop an Incident Response package for frontline staff. A schedule for staff to receive training from the CSNSW Security Operations Group (SOG) over the coming months on-site at each centre has been established. On-site training means simulations can take place in the centre staff's actual local environment, including their command post locations; and using their own infrastructure, resources and geography. The training schedule will need to be adapted in light of the department's pandemic response.

A Weekly Emergency Management Training Program is also now being rolled out to ensure consistency and frequency of training across in the centres. The Youth Justice Organisational

Development and Training Unit (ODTU) is codifying this work and these modules will be rolled out progressively by Centre-based instructors.

In addition, Cobham Youth Justice Centre protective tactics instructors and assessors will deliver a two-day training package to protective tactics instructors across each of our six centres, in conjunction with ODTU trainers. This training will increase capability in Emergency Response, particularly in centres without an Incident Response Team.

121. Can you provide a list of all assaults on detainees by detainees, allocated by type of assault, including general assaults, sexual assaults for the 2018/19 period and for the current 2019/20 period?

I am advised;

Incident category	Incident sub-category	2018-19	1 Jul 19 -17 Mar 20
Assault - Physical	Young person on young person	224	121
Assault - Sexual	Young person on young person	6	0
Assault - Verbal	Young person on young person	18	11
Assault with Weapon	Young person on young person	6	1
Total		254	133

Source: DCJ/YJ RPELive. 25 Mar 20. As this is taken from a live database figures are subject to change.

It is important to note that Youth Justice custodial staff report all incidents of assault in a client management database (CIMS), without discriminating on the basis of severity. For example, sexual assault includes a wide range of inappropriate sexualised behaviour including inappropriate touching, gestures and comments through to indecent exposure and other sexualised behaviours.

122. What proportion of detainees have a mental health condition prior to or upon being detained?

I am advised according to the most recent Young People in Custody Health Survey (YPiCHS, 2015):

- 83% met criteria for a psychological disorder in the preceding 12 months, with substance use disorders (i.e. either abuse or dependence): 66%; alcohol use disorder: 34%; drug use disorder: 58%) and attention/behavioural disorders (59%) the most common, followed by anxiety (24%) and mood (11%) disorders.
- 63% met criteria for two or more psychological disorders.

123. **What proportion of detainees have a mental health condition upon release?**

I am advised upon entry to custody young people are screened for psychological and other disorders and referred to Youth Justice psychologists and/or Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network psychiatrists for comprehensive assessment and treatment.

Youth Justice psychologists monitor the mental health of young people throughout their period in custody, from admission to discharge.

Youth Justice ensures that treatment plans are in place with community-based services prior to release, including an individualised treatment plan, handover with community-based Youth Justice Psychologist and appointments made with community providers as needed.

In 2018-19 the median length of stay for a young person on sentenced custody was only 80.5 days. Given this relatively short stay, the majority of young people who enter custody with a psychological disorder, still have that disorder when released, but with a clearer diagnosis and treatment plan, and linkages to ongoing treatment and supports in the community.

124. **Does a mental health professional sign off or confirm that a detainee is appropriate for release or that a mental health management plan is in place to ensure ongoing management of mental health conditions prior to a detainee being released from a Youth Justice facility?**

I am advised Youth Justice delivers a range of programs and services to young people prior to release from custody. A case management approach is used to provide supervision and casework services and to deliver programs in accordance with the individual needs of each young person's level of risk and ability to respond to program content. Caseworkers in the community work closely with caseworkers in custody to provide a continuous delivery of service and support to the young person from their time in custody until they are released into the community and until the expiration of their order. As part of the case management process, caseworkers start developing exit plans with young people from the time the young person enters custody. Staff facilitate case conferences with relevant parties including education, Justice Health, community organisations and family.

Members of case conferences consider the young person's individual circumstances, supports and risks to develop a meaningful reintegration and relapse prevention plan to support the young person back to the community. Pre-release planning for young people exiting custody often involves identifying and connecting them with relevant community services prior to their release. They work together to help develop the young person's self-efficacy in preparation for their

community re-integration. In the case of young people with mental health issues, Youth Justice works closely with Justice Health staff in planning for the young person's release. Youth Justice does not make determinations as to a young person's length of sentence or eligibility for release however is often required to produce Confidential Psychological Reports at the request of the Serious Young Offenders Review Board, the Parole Board, and/or the Mental Health Review Tribunal to assist in their determinations.

125. What are the conditions placed upon release for a detainee with identified mental health conditions and a treatment plan to continue with said plan?

I am advised Youth Justice Psychologists monitor the mental health of young people throughout their period in custody, from admission to discharge.

Youth Justice ensures that treatment plans are in place with community-based services prior to release, including an individualised treatment plan, handover with community-based Youth Justice Psychologist and appointments made with community providers as needed.

126. Has there been any additional funding allocated in order to reduce the 84% of detainees who have a history of recidivism?

I am advised in 2019-20 Youth Justice has been allocated a budget of \$183.6m to deliver our state outcome of reducing reoffending.

Within this budget Youth Justice delivers a range of programs and services to young people in custody or on community supervision orders, to reduce their risk of reoffending. Youth Justice also operates programs at the early intervention (Youth on Track) and diversion (Youth Justice Conferencing) ends of the criminal justice continuum.

127. What funding was provided each financial year since 2014/15 for rehabilitation of detainees?

I am advised publicly available data from the Report on Government Services outlines this information, which is accessible at <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>.

(a) Is additional funding for rehabilitation provided for offenders managed in the community by Youth Justice?

I am advised publicly available data from the Report on Government Services outlines this information, which is accessible at <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>.

(b) If so, how much has been provided each year since 2014/15?

I am advised publicly available data from the Report on Government Services outlines this information, which is accessible at <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>.

128. Can you provide a list of rehabilitation programs provided by Youth Justice for detainees in Youth Justice Centres?

(a) Are different programs provided for offenders managed in the community by Youth Justice?

(b) Can you provide a list of all programs provided for in the community offenders?

I am advised Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) has a suite of offence-focused intervention programs delivered to young people in both custody and community. These programs include:

- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART)
- My Journey, My Life
- Dthina Yuwali (DY)
- X-Roads
- Act Now Together Stronger (ANTS)

The program a young person participates in is relevant to their specific risks, needs and responsibility. These programs can be delivered in both community and custody. Youth Justice caseworkers adapt program delivery to the environment and to factors specific to each young person.

YJNSW is also in the process of adapting the Corrective Services NSW Young Adult Satellite Program (YASP) for use in Youth Justice Centres. This program is specific to those young people in custody and includes adventure-based challenge initiative activities addressing trust, communication, open thinking, goal setting, and social and personal responsibility

129. Will organisations who provide frontline services under a contract to Youth Justice, including not for profit organisations, continue to operate as normal during the Covid-19 crisis?

(a) If services are suspended in order to ensure safety of detainees or providers' staff, will contract payments be suspended?

(b) Will contractor staff be provided with similar support to that being provided to departmental staff, including the additional 20 days of leave?

I am advised recognising that many Funded Service Providers delivering front line services within Youth Justice have contracts in place with other parts of the department. Youth Justice is working closely with our colleagues in DCJ Partnerships to ensure that FSPs receive regular and consistent messages from across the department. All FSPs have been contacted with specific coronavirus information (COVID-19) and have been directed to the Communities and Justice website, which is regularly being updated. The Department is working closely with FSPs to ensure services can continue to be delivered flexibly and in a manner that ensures the safety of both staff and young people.

130. Do all detainees have the opportunity to complete their secondary schooling to year 12 while detained in a Youth Justice facility?

Each Youth Justice Centre has a dedicated Educational Training Unit (school) which is managed and staffed by the Department of Education. All young people in a Youth Justice Centre are supported via individualised learning plans targeted to meet the needs and goals of the young person. Further details regarding the education programs available to young people in custody should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.

131. What Certificate (I, II, III, IV etc) Diploma level or employment training courses are provided to detainees at each Youth Justice Centre?

(a) **Has the number of courses been reduced over the last three years?**

(b) **If so, which courses are no longer offered to students/detainees at each site?**

I am advised Youth Justice facilities support detainees to continue their education but specific schooling questions are the responsibility of the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.

132. How much was spent on consultancies in the previous two financial years by Youth Justice?

I am advised in 2017-18 Youth Justice spent \$473,211 on consultancies.

In 2018-19 Youth Justice spent \$75,700 on consultancies.

133. How much is forecast to be spent on consultancies in the current financial year?

I am advised Youth Justice will report any expenditure on consultants in the department's 2019-20 annual report.

134. Where was the \$3.6m announced by the Minister on 29 October 2019 to address Phase 1 of the Shearer Report recommendations reallocated from?

- (a) **Did the department request additional funds to compensate for the reallocation?**
- (b) **Did the Treasurer or Premier support a reallocation of funds?**
- (c) **Was the \$3.6m reallocated from recurrent or program funds?**
- (d) **What other programs were affected by the reallocation?**
- (e) **Why was new or additional funding not provided to cover the \$3.6m?**

I am advised the Department of Communities and Justice committed existing funding from the departmental capital works program.

NSW Health

135. **Prior to the rollout of the NDIS, NSW hospitals were able to call on the assistance of an ADHC caseworker to assist patients who have complex disability. What support do NSW hospitals now receive to assist patients with complex disability?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Health.

Corrections

136. **What support is provided by DCJ to Corrective Services NSW to manage prisoners with complex disability?**

I am advised the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) including Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) work collaboratively to manage the complex needs of inmates with disability. For example, CSNSW State-wide Disability Services and Offender Services and Programs staff work with other staff within DCJ to ensure that inmates with intellectual disabilities can access post release accommodation and support. The Funded Partnership initiative also provides services related to reintegration. In other cases, support is provided to inmates directly. Victims Services provides counselling for inmate victims with disabilities. The Community Safety Program assists inmates with appeals concerning National Disability Insurance Scheme funding.

Local Government

In answers provided in the 2019-20 Budget Estimates further hearing for Portfolio Committee No. 7 on Local Government, on the 4th March 2020, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Local Government Tim Hurst stated that his department does not monitor whether local councils have implemented Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs) and that the role of monitoring this falls to DCJ.

137. **What percentage of local councils in NSW have created DIAPs?**

I am advised 100% of local councils have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).

138. What percentage of local council DIAPs include a local disability action group or similar consultative mechanism?

I am advised recent analysis of 102 Local Council DIAPS, undertaken by the Department of Communities and Justice for internal purposes, indicates that 30% (31 councils) have a dedicated access and inclusion committee. Most other councils utilise existing diversity committees or a dedicated resource (e.g. Community Development Officer) to manage consultation.

139. What mechanisms does DCJ use to monitor the level of implementation of council DIAPs?

I am advised DCJ has engaged both an external and internal review to monitor implementation

I am advised in 2018, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) (then FACS) commissioned the Sax Institute to coordinate a review of the NSW Disability Inclusion Plan (DIP) including Cluster and Council Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs)

Councils are required under the Disability Inclusion Act to provide the Minister for Disability Services with a DIAP progress update. These updates are collated by DCJ and provided to the Minister most recent analysis was undertaken in Feb 2020.

During 2019, several local councils presented their DIAPs to the Disability Council. Additionally, Council recently surveyed councils about the strengths and weaknesses of the DIAP process.

140. Has DCJ found any councils to not be in compliance with their obligations under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014?

(a) Please provide a list of councils found to not be in compliance

I am advised all Councils are compliant in that all are working with their disability communities to identify initiatives to improve access and inclusion.

(b) What action has DCJ taken against these councils?

I am advised all Councils are compliant in that all are working with their disability communities to identify initiatives to improve access and inclusion.