



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Hearing: Friday 26 February 2021

Answers due by: 24 March 2021

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FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Questions from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

1. How many children in OOHC are currently living overseas?
2. The Child Death Report 2019 made recommendations regarding changes and errors in the date entry of children and young people into Childstory?
 - (a) What action has been undertaken to correct errors in date of birth, cultural identity and relationship links?
3. What action is being undertaken to address the 22% caseworker vacancies in the New England area?
4. What action is being undertaken to address the 16% casework vacancies in Southern NSW?
5. In the current restructure of Strategy, Policy and Commissioning MOG, how many expressions of interest for voluntary redundancy have been received to date?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Together Home Initiative

6. How many people impacted by homelessness have been assisted by the Together Home Initiative to date?
7. What impact has the initiative had on the Premier's Priority to halve street homelessness by 2025?
8. How many people assisted by the initiative have transitioned into long-term accommodation?
9. How many young people have been assisted by the initiative?
10. Will additional funding be put towards reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness? If yes, which programs will receive additional funding and/or be developed?

Staying Home Leaving Violence

11. Despite reviews evidencing their success (ANROWS, *National mapping and meta-evaluation outlining key features of effective "safe at home" programs that enhance safety and prevent homelessness for women and their children who have experienced domestic and family violence: Final report*, Horizons Research report, April 2016), Staying Home Leaving Violence programs are not available across NSW, and many areas have wait times.
 - (a) Will the NSW Government fund the roll out of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program across NSW?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Community sector funding

12. How much has funding for the Youth and Community sector increased in the past 5 years?
13. Community organisations which receive funding from the Department of Communities and Justice, including specialist Domestic Violence and Homelessness services, have reported finding significant difficulty in tracking whether funding has increased over time because funding buckets keep changing between Departments and funding categories. Why does the funding location and priority area keep shifting?
14. According to the 2020-2021 Budget papers, almost 37,000 small businesses have accessed a \$3,000 grant to help them to adapt their business model to operate in a new COVID-safe environment, and \$366.0 million in COVID-19 Stimulus funding has been allocated to support New South Wales' economic recovery including the Small Business Recovery Grant Scheme, support for international students and quarantine arrangements for international travellers.

I understand that no additional funding has been provided to the community sector during the COVID-19 pandemic to pay for increased demand while covering core funding like rent and wages. Has the Government considered similar supports to NGOs that it has provided for small-businesses?

Employment of people with disability in the public sector

15. I understand that the target to employ 10,000 more people with disability in the public service became a Premier's Priority following the 2019 state election, before which there was a downward trend in employment of people with disability in the public sector.

Noting that the 2020 NSW Public Sector Report, which will contain statistics on employment since July 2019, hasn't yet been released, can you provide an update on the current statistics?
16. Is the Government's public service disability inclusion target to employ 10,000 more people with disability by 2025 enforceable? Has this changed since it became a Premier's Priority?
17. During last year's hearings you mentioned that targeted training for managers, consultant work to identify how to better retain staff with disabilities, and development of recruitment guidelines were all underway.
 - (a) Has there been a tangible impact on recruitment and retention since these processes were undertaken?
 - (b) What are the specific changes to hiring and retention practices, particularly for people that require adjustment?
 - (c) What has changed since this became a Premier's Priority?
18. The *See the Possibilities* campaign directs disabled jobseekers to contact a variety of job service providers, private and non-government organisations, but provides no contact point for people with disability to seek help or support from the NSW Government in any way.

Are there any plans to back this campaign up with Government-provided services like career counselling, guidance through application processes, and mentoring for people with disability seeking a job in NSW, and particularly in the NSW public service?

19. What integration has been developed with the federal JobSeeker process to ensure that job providers are matching disabled jobseekers with NSW public sector jobs?

Public Housing

20. Public housing tenants in Surry Hills are currently receiving eviction notices via post and being requested to vacate in 14 days due to rental arrears despite many having payment plans in place. We understand this is following the lift of evictions.
 - (a) Why is the department forcing countless tenants to go to NCAT and potentially face eviction rather than resolve the matter via payment plans in the first instance?
 - (b) Given the stress this letter puts the tenants under and the difficulty many tenants report in terms of contacting their client service officer, why aren't tenants being advised by face to face meeting or phone call to enable tenants to manage this risk immediately?
21. We know that there are significant issues relating to vermin and insect infestations in public housing across the state. What will you be doing to ensure this issue is resolved and a sufficient pest control program is put in place as this issue greatly affects tenant wellbeing?
22. What provisions are in place to support the mental health of public housing residents in Glebe and South Eveleigh who have been informed that their homes will be demolished for redevelopment and that they will be forced to relocate during this process?

Public Housing Transfer Applications

23. How many applications for transfers were received:
 - (a) in calendar year 2019?
 - (b) in calendar year 2020?
 - (c) in calendar year 2021 to date?
24. For each of the above, how many of the received applications were for disability access requirements?
25. How many applications for transfers have been actioned:
 - (a) in calendar year 2019?
 - (b) in calendar year 2020?
 - (c) in calendar year 2021 to date?
26. For each of the above, how many of the actioned applications were for disability access requirements?

27. How many applications for transfers are outstanding which were received:
- (a) previous to calendar year 2019?
 - (b) in calendar year 2019?
 - (c) in calendar year 2020?
 - (d) in calendar year 2021 to date?
28. For each of the above, how many of these outstanding applications are for disability access requirements?

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Overrepresentation

29. How many children are currently in OOHC in NSW?
- (a) How many of those, and what proportion, are identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander?
30. How many children entered care in the 2019/2020 financial year?
- (a) And to date in the 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (b) How many of those, and what proportion, were identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander on entry into care?

Guardianship and Adoption

31. How many guardianship orders have been made by consent in:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
- i. Of these orders, how many of these relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children?

Family Preservation Support Packages

32. How many intensive family preservation support packages were provided to Aboriginal families following restoration in:
- (a) 2019-20?

(b) 2018-19?

(c) 2017-18?

(d) 2016-17?

OOHC

33. Last financial year, how many children leaving OOHC at age 18 were referred to homelessness support services within 12 months of leaving care?

(a) How many were referred to social housing services?

34. 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?

(a) Of this total funding, 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?

34. How much total funding is allocated for programs addressing social and affordable housing and homelessness in 2019-20?

(a) How is this forecast to change over 2020-21 to 2022-23?

Children at Risk of Significant Harm

35. What is the Government doing to manage the increase of children at ROSH?

36. Why is the number of children at ROSH, whose cases have been closed without an assessment not publicly available

37. Why was there no direct government funding allocated to children who meet ROSH criteria when NCOSS expects this number to rise by 24.5% due to covid 19?

38. How are children who meet Risk of Significant Harm criteria protected from further abuse if the cases are closed by DCJ in "competing interest"?

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

Ageing and Disabilities Commission

40. What is the total amount of funding spent in 2019-2020 on the Ageing and Disabilities Commission?

41. What is the total amount of funding allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget on the Ageing and Disabilities Commission?
42. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total amount of FTE staff employed by the Ageing and Disability Commission?
43. In 2019-2020, what was the total amount of funding spent on consultancies in relation to policy or operations of the Ageing and Disabilities Commission?
44. What is the total amount allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget towards consultancies in relation to policy or operations of the Ageing and Disabilities Commission?
45. What is the total number of people who contacted the Ageing and Disabilities Commission in 2019-2020?
46. Of these, how many pertained to:
 - (a) Aged care?
 - (b) Elder abuse?
 - (c) Health facilities for the aged?
 - (d) Housing for the aged?
 - (e) Discrimination against the aged?
47. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total number of people who have contacted the Ageing and Disabilities Commission in the 2020-2021 financial year?
48. Of these, how many pertained to:
 - (a) Aged care?
 - (b) Elder abuse?
 - (c) Health facilities for the aged?
 - (d) Housing for the aged?
 - (e) Discrimination against the aged?

Ageing Strategy 2021-2031

49. Given the Strategy covers a period of ten years, will the NSW Government issue an interim report or update in the next decade?
50. What specific funding allocations are allocated in 2020-2021 associated with the delivery of the NSW Ageing Strategy 2021-2031?

51. What was the total amount of funding spent in the 2019-2020 financial year on developing the Ageing Strategy 2021-2031?
52. What was the total amount of funding spent in the 2020-2021 financial year on developing the Ageing Strategy 2021-2031?
53. What was the total number of FTE staff employed in the development of the Ageing Strategy 2021-2031 in the 2020-2021 financial year?
54. As of February 26 2021, In the 2020-2021 financial year, what is the total amount of funding spent on consultancies associated with the development of the Ageing Strategy 2021-2031?

COVID-19 and volunteer funding

55. What issues has the NSW Government identified with the recruitment, training and recognition of volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic?
56. What specific funding was provided by the NSW Government to support volunteer organisations during the COVID-19 health and economic crisis in the 2019-2020 financial year?
57. What is the total amount of specific funding allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget to support volunteer organisations during the COVID-19 health and economic crisis?
58. What specific organisations received funding support to manage the COVID-19 health and economic crisis in the 2019-2020 financial year, and how much did each receive?
59. As of 26 February 2021, what specific organisations received funding support to manage the COVID-19 health and economic crisis in the 2020-2021 financial year, and how much did each receive?

Elder Abuse Hotline

60. How many reports were made to the Elder Abuse Hotline in:
 - (a) 2018-2019?
 - (b) 2019-2020?
 - (c) To date in 2020-2021?
61. How many reports made to the Elder Abuse Hotline resulted in investigation in:
 - (a) 2018-2019?
 - (b) 2019-2020?
 - (c) To date in 2020-2021?

62. How many reports made to the Elder Abuse Hotline resulted in prosecution in:
 - (a) 2018-2019?
 - (b) 2019-2020?
 - (c) To date in 2020-2021?
63. What is the total amount of funding spent in 2019-2020 to operate the Elder Abuse Hotline?
64. What is the total amount of funding allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget to operate the Elder Abuse Hotline?
65. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total amount of FTE staff employed by the Ageing and Disability Commission and working solely on the Elder Abuse Hotline?
66. How did COVID-19 impact the number of reports of elder abuse to the Elder Abuse Hotline?

Funding for peak bodies

67. Will the Minister guarantee funding for peak bodies after 30 June 2021?
68. What is the total amount of funding allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for peak bodies?
69. What was the total amount spent in 2019-2020 on funding for peak bodies?
70. Given that the Volunteers and Ageing strategies now run for a 10 year period, will the Minister offer 10 year funding agreements to peak bodies?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Indigenous participation in volunteering programs

71. What programs or initiatives does the NSW Government run to recruit, train and recognise indigenous volunteers in NSW?
72. In 2019-2020, what was the total amount of funding spent on these initiatives and programs?
73. What is the total amount allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for these initiatives and programs?

Legal Pathways

74. What is the total amount allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for the Legal Pathways Program?
75. What was the total amount spent in the 2019-2020 financial year on the Legal Pathways program?
76. Will the Minister guarantee funding for the Legal pathways program after 30 June 2021?

Older womens' homelessness

77. As of 26 February 2021, what is the Government's estimation of the number of women aged 55 and over in NSW who are homeless?
78. What was the Government's estimation of the number of women aged 55 and over in NSW who are homeless as of 30 June 2020?
79. As of 26 February 2021, how many women aged 55 and over are currently listed on the general housing wait list?
80. As of 26 February 2021, how many women aged 55 and over are currently listed on the priority housing wait list?
81. As of 26 February 2021, how many women aged 55 and over submitted an application for housing?
82. As of 26 February 2021, how many women aged 55 are tenants of Aboriginal housing?
83. As of 26 February 2021, how many women aged 55 are tenants of community housing?
84. Does the Government plan to reduce the age threshold for being listed for priority housing from 80 years of age?
85. How many women aged 55 or older accessed the Link2Home referral service in:
 - (a) 2016-2017?
 - (b) 2017-2018?
 - (c) 2018-2019?
 - (d) 2019-2020?
 - (e) To date in 2020-2021?
86. How many women aged 55 or older accessed the Ask Izzy service in:

- (a) 2016-2017?
- (b) 2017-2018?
- (c) 2018-2019?
- (d) 2019-2020?
- (e) To date in 2020-2021?

87. How many women aged 55 or older accessed specialist homelessness services in:

- (a) 2016-2017?
- (b) 2017-2018?
- (c) 2018-2019?
- (d) 2019-2020?
- (e) To date in 2020-2021?

88. In 2019-2020, how many women over 55 years of age have accessed the:

- (a) Private rental subsidy (RentChoice?):
- (b) RentStart Bond Loan program?

89. Will the Government establish a state-wide older people's housing support service? If not, why not?

Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program

90. What was the total amount expended in 2019-2020 to run the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program?

91. What is the total amount allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for the operation of the Premier's Recognition Program?

92. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total amount of money spent in the 2020-2021 financial year on the Premier's Recognition program?

93. What was the total number of volunteers recognised in 2019-2020?

94. What is the total number of volunteers recognised to date in 2020-2021?

95. What specific additional funding did the NSW Government spend in 2019-2020 or allocate in 2020-2021 to recognise volunteers and encourage recruitment and participation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
96. In 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, what is the total amount of sponsorship of the program provided by Clubs NSW?

Sports and Ageing Funding

97. In 2019-2020 how much money was spent by the Department of Communities and Justice facilitating walking versions of team sport or programs to encourage the participation of seniors in sport?
98. How much is allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget to facilitate walking versions of team sport or programs to encourage the participation of seniors in sport?

Staffing: Volunteers Team, Department of Communities and Justice

99. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total number of FTE staff employed within the Volunteers Team at the Department of Communities and Justice?
100. As of February 2021, what is the total amount of money spent in 2020-2021 on consultancies related to Volunteers policy?
101. What was the total amount of money spent in 2019-2020 on consultancies related to Volunteers policy in NSW?

Student volunteering

102. What was the total amount expended in 2019-2020 to run the up2now website encouraging high school students to volunteer for local organisations?
103. What is the total amount allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for operation of the up2now website encouraging high school students to volunteer for local organisations?
104. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total amount of money spent in the 2020-2021 financial year on the operation of the up2now website encouraging high school students to volunteer for local organisations?
105. As of 26 February 2021, how many schools are registered to use the up2now website?
106. How many schools were registered as of 30 June 2020?

107. As of 26 February 2021, how many students have accessed the up2now website in the current financial year?
108. How many students used the website in 2019-2020?
109. In 2019-2020, how many students have attained a Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program Certificate?
110. As of 26 February 2021, how many students have attained a Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program Certificate in 2020-2021?

Volunteer Recruitment Portal

111. What was the total amount expended in 2019-2020 to operate the Volunteer Recruitment Portal?
112. What is the total amount allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for the operation of the Volunteer Recruitment Portal?
113. As of 26 February 2021, what is the total amount of money spent in the 2020-2021 financial year on the operation of the Volunteer Recruitment Portal?
114. As of 26 February 2021, how many organisations are registered to use the volunteer recruitment portal?
115. How many volunteers have accessed the volunteer recruitment portal in the following financial years:
 - (a) 2018-2019?
 - (b) 2019-2020?
 - (c) To date in 2020-2021?

Volunteer Strategy 2020-2030

116. Given the Strategy covers a period of ten years, will the NSW Government issue an interim report or update in the next decade?
117. What specific funding allocations are allocated in 2020-2021 associated with the delivery of the NSW Volunteer Strategy?
118. What was the total amount of funding spent in the 2019-2020 financial year on developing the Volunteer Strategy 2020-2030?
119. What was the total amount of funding spent in the 2020-2021 financial year on developing the Volunteer Strategy 2020-2030?

120. What was the total number of FTE staff employed in the development of the Volunteer Strategy in the 2020-2021 financial year?
121. As of February 26 2021, In the 2020-2021 financial year, what is the total amount of funding spent on consultancies associated with the development of the Volunteer Strategy?

Volunteer Support Services funding

122. In the 2019-2020 financial year, what was the total amount of funding redirected from Volunteer Support Services to the Targeted Intervention program?
123. What was the total amount of funding spent in the 2019-2020 State Budget on the Targeted Intervention program?
124. Of this funding, how much was accessed by volunteer organisations and peak bodies?
125. What is the total amount of funding allocated in the 2020-2021 State Budget for the Targeted Intervention program?
126. Is money within the Targeted Intervention Program sequestered for use by volunteering organisations only?

Social Housing Properties

127. How many public housing properties are there in NSW as at February 2021
- (a) From this, how many properties are owned / managed by a Community Housing provider?
 - (b) How many social housing properties are owned / managed by the Government?
 - (c) How many properties are owned / managed by Aboriginal Housing?
128. In the estimates hearing Mr Vever's suggested there was 140,000 social housing properties in NSW. Please provide the number of social housing properties including community and Aboriginal housing in each LGA of NSW as at February 2021?

Social Housing Waitlist

129. How many applicants are currently considered priority on the NSW housing waitlist register as at 30th June 2019?
- (a) How many people aged over 55 are currently on the housing priority waitlist?
 - (b) How many males aged over 55 are currently on the housing priority waitlist?

- (c) How many females aged over 55 are currently on the housing priority waitlist?
- (d) How many people identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are currently on the housing priority waitlist?

Temporary Accommodation

130. How many individuals received temporary accommodation from 1 July 2019 to 2021 Current date?
- (a) Of these individuals how many have secured permanent tenancy in social housing?
 - (b) Of these individuals how many people were placed in transitional accommodation?
 - (c) Of these individuals how many people were assisted into private rental?
 - (d) How many individuals received more than 28 days of temporary accommodation?
 - (e) How many nights of temporary accommodation have been provided FY 2011-2012 to current, with current being the most recently available data?
131. In the estimates hearing you were unable to provide data on how many people have returned to homelessness from temporary accommodation.
- (a) How is the Government going to address this gap in information?
 - (b) What plans does the Government have to support those individuals leaving temporary accommodation with no permanent tenancy or provisional accommodation?
 - (c) How will the Government record this information in the future?
132. What is the total expense of transportation associated with temporary accommodation from 1 July 2019 to current?
133. Assertive Outreach Programs are currently being delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice in what LGA's in NSW.
- (a) What further opportunities has the Government identified to introduce more Assertive Outreach programs in NSW?
 - i. Which LGA's have been identified for more assertive outreach programs in NSW?
 - ii. When will they commence?
 - iii. By what date will all LGA's in NSW have Assertive Outreach Programs operational?
 - iv. If not, why not?

134. Has the Department undertaken an audit of all Temporary accommodation provider across the state to ensure the safety of people who stay there?
- (a) What are the results of this audit?
 - (b) Has the Department deemed any temporary accommodation unsafe?
 - (c) How many providers of temporary accommodation are there in each LGA?
 - (d) Please list each LGA and the number of temporary accommodation providers?

NSW Carers Strategy: Caring in New South Wales 2020 – 2030

135. Given that there are no specified targets in the NSW Carers Strategy, how do you plan to measure the success of the strategy by 2030?
136. What is the proposed budget for the implementation of the NSW Carers Strategy for 2020-2030? What is the allocation for 2021-22?
137. How does the NSW Government intend to rebuild carer’s trust in Aged Care Facilities after a December 2020 research paper from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety revealed in December 2020 that “Around 39.2 per cent of people living in Australian aged care facilities experience elder abuse in the form of neglect, emotional abuse or physical abuse”?
138. How are carers who choose not to keep their loved ones in the care of Aged Care Facilities due to disturbing experiences and alarming recent statistics being supported?
139. How do you intend to achieve a thorough implementation of all the components set out in the NSW Carers Strategy Action Plan when there is no indication of funding or staffing to achieve its targets?
140. The NSW Carers Strategy Action Plan prioritises four actions:
- (a) Carers have better access to information, services and supports
 - (b) Carers will be recognised, respected and empowered
 - (c) Carers have improved financial wellbeing and economic opportunities; and
 - (d) Carers have better health and wellbeing.
- (e) How are these four priorities ranked when it comes to funding and staffing?

COVID-19

141. During the COVID-19 pandemic how has the government assisted carers who are potentially unable to provide the care they have been providing to their loved ones because they themselves get sick or because they are required to self-isolate?

142. Many carers receiving the Carer Payment who are concerned and upset that their needs have not been sufficiently considered in income support measures which have been introduced to compensate for the impact of the coronavirus. The fortnightly Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 was not extended to carers receiving the Carer Payment or to recipients of Disability Support Pension and Age Pension. Did you as Minister make any representations to the Commonwealth to support carers in NSW about the appropriateness of extend the supplement to carers?
143. Supplies of PPE were sometimes difficult to source during the pandemic though it is appreciated that supermarkets often tried to do the right thing. It is often hard for carers to register for the priority deliveries as they are applying on behalf of someone else. Also, many carers cannot get the essentials they need for many reasons, and often deliveries of things like sanitary products unavailable due to shortages. What has the NSW Government done to assist carers?
144. Carers who are caring for people with continence issues are having particular difficulty getting sanitary products. There has been no program to assist, and things like adult absorbent underwear and toilet paper are essential for hygiene and health of these people. What has the NSW Government done to assist carers?
145. During the pandemic there was a significant focus on aged care facilities but much less on those who are in their homes. Home care workers have reported a lack of PPE, and this was putting workers and those they care for at risk. Additionally, many people cancelled some of these services concerned that they may introduce the virus to their loved ones – and thereby stretching their families and carers further. What did the NSW Government do to assist carers?
146. During the pandemic, carers reported that being cut off from visiting loved ones in facilities are resulting in detrimental outcomes for patients and residents. As you know, family members are still very much relied on for feeding and extra caring within facilities. Even now, some larger facilities strictly manage contacts between residents and visitors. What advice has the NSW Government provided to carers who find themselves in this situation?
147. Respite can provide benefits for carers in relieving their caring burden and supporting them to continue in their role. During the COVID-19 pandemic some centres refused temporary respite due to the safety concerns. The ongoing burden of the caregiving role means that some carers

experience a higher than normal level of stress and anxiety even when other wellbeing and health domains improve through supports. What has the NSW Government done to assist carers to date, and what plans have been made concerning respite services, were another pandemic outbreak occur?

Carers Investment Program

148. The NSW Carers Strategy 2014-19 included \$5.6 million for a Carers Investment Program over three years (from 1 July 2018) for projects that will improve the well-being of carers in NSW.
- (a) Given this funding ends on 30 June 2021, do you think we now know everything there is to learn about the challenges facing carers and how to better support them?
 - (b) If the answer is no:
 - (c) Why was additional funding not included in the current NSW Carers Strategy: Caring in New South Wales 2020 – 2030?
 - (d) What do you say to recipients of grants from the Carers Investment Program, such as researchers at UTS' Centre for Carers Research who will not receive funding after 30 June 2021?

Aged Care Royal Commission

149. The interim report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found “In the interim, there is a clear and present danger of declining function, inappropriate hospitalisation, carer burnout and premature institutionalisation because necessary services are not provided” and “For carers, too, the wait for care at home can cause considerable stress. The carer worries that the older person is at home alone, or they struggle to balance their caring responsibilities with their own jobs and families.”
- (a) What is the NSW Government doing to address carer burnout?
 - (b) What is the NSW Government doing to help carers alleviate the stress from waiting for MyAgedCare to provide services?

Young Carers

150. Other than counselling provided through the Counselling Gateway, what support is available to young carers?

- (a) How many young carers have sought support through the Young Carers program and what plans are there to extend its availability to more young carers?

Concessions

151. What concessions are provided by the NSW Government for carers?

- (a) For example, Concessional car parking fees at NSW public hospitals are provided to some patients and their careers in recognition of long term hospitalisation and treatment. The cost in 2021-2 is \$14 million – what proportion of that is attributable to carers, rather than patients?
- (b) Patients and carers who are experiencing financial hardship, but do not meet the eligibility categories, are also entitled to concessional car parking. How many carers sought concessional car parking during the pandemic?
- (c) What have you done, as Minister, to ensure carers are aware of the entitlement, and to make it easier to access?
- (d) What consultations have been conducted about the concessions available?
- (e) Does the minister believes the eligibility criteria should be reviewed or whether some concessions should be extended?

Social Housing in the Swansea Electorate

152. How many general and priority applicants are on the NN02 Lake Macquarie/East waiting list?

153. How many general and priority applicants are on the NN20 Wyong waiting list?

154. How much did the Government spend on property maintenance for social housing properties located in the Swansea electorate during the:

- (a) 2018/2019 financial year?
- (b) 2019/2020 financial year?
- (c) 2020/2021 financial year?

155. How much did the Government spend on property maintenance for social housing properties located in NN02 Lake Macquarie/ East allocation zone during the:

- (a) 2018/2019 financial year?
- (b) 2019/2020 financial year?
- (c) 2020/2021 financial year?

156. How much did the Government spend on property maintenance for social housing properties located in the NN20 Wyong allocation zone during the:
- (a) 2018/2019 financial year?
 - (b) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (c) 2020/2021 financial year?

Newcastle Social Housing

157. How many FTE staff were employed by the Newcastle office of Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Housing in each of the following years:
- (a) 2011;
 - (b) 2012;
 - (c) 2013;
 - (d) 2014;
 - (e) 2015;
 - (f) 2016;
 - (g) 2017;
 - (h) 2018;
 - (i) 2019;
 - (j) 2020; and
 - (k) 2021?

158. As of 2/3/21 how many people are on the General Housing Register in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
159. As of 2/3/21 how many people are on the Priority Housing Register in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
160. What is the average wait time for a studio/1 bedroom property in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
161. What is the average wait time for a 2 bedroom property in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
162. What is the average wait time for a 3 bedroom property in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
163. What is the average wait time for a 4+ bedroom property in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
164. As of 2/3/21 how many public housing properties does DCJ housing manage in the NN07 Newcastle zone?

165. As of 2/3/21 how many public housing properties in the NN07 Newcastle zone were vacant?
166. On average, how many properties does a Client Service Officer in the Newcastle DCJ Housing office manage?
167. What impact will this year's efficiency dividend have on the Newcastle DCJ Housing office?
- (a) Will there be any reduction in staff at the Newcastle DCJ Housing office as a result of efficiency dividend?
168. How many tenants in the NN07 Newcastle zone received compensation/rental refund due to maintenance issues in each of the following years:
- (a) 2011;
 - (b) 2012;
 - (c) 2013;
 - (d) 2014;
 - (e) 2015;
 - (f) 2016;
 - (g) 2017;
 - (h) 2018;
 - (i) 2019;
 - (j) 2020 and
 - (k) 2021?
169. How many people are currently homeless in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
170. What is the average wait time for a transfer in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
171. How many cases of anti-social behaviour were investigated in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years
- (a) 2011;
 - (b) 2012;
 - (c) 2013;
 - (d) 2014;
 - (e) 2015;

- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017;
- (h) 2018;
- (i) 2019;
- (j) 2020; and
- (k) 2021?

172. What action is being taken to reduce anti-social behaviour in Hamilton South?

173. What action is being taken to address anti-social behaviour in the Bar Beach Housing complexes?

174. How many tenants in NN07 Newcastle zone have had action taken against them for anti-social behaviour in the NCAT in each of the following years

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017;
- (h) 2018;
- (i) 2019;
- (j) 2020; and
- (k) 2021?

175. How many NN07 tenants brought action against DCJ Housing in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal in each of the following years

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;

- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017;
- (h) 2018;
- (i) 2019;
- (j) 2020; and
- (k) 2021?

176. How many people were removed from the social housing/community housing wait list in each of the following years for not responding to contact made by DCJ?

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017;
- (h) 2018;
- (i) 2019;
- (j) 2020; and
- (k) 2021?

- i. What action is taken to before a person is removed from the waitlist?
- ii. How are people contacted?

Stockton Centre

- 177. What are the plans for the future of the Stockton Centre lands now that the facility has been closed?
- 178. Will the Government consult with the community about the future uses of the site?
- 179. Are there any plans to sell the land?
- 180. Will the history of the site be recognised in any future development?

181. Will the construction of social and affordable housing at the site be considered?

- (a) If not, why not?

Newcastle Community Services

182. How many children at risk of significant harm were in the Hunter New England District for each of the following years:

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017;
- (h) 2018;
- (i) 2019;
- (j) 2020;
- (k) 2021?

183. How many children at risk of significant harm in the Hunter New England District were seen by a caseworker for each of the following years:

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017;
- (h) 2018;
- (i) 2019;

- (j) 2020;
- (k) 2021?

Homelessness

184. In 2020-21 the Budget committed \$291.8m for specialist homelessness services, is that correct?
- (a) How much of an increase in historical funding does this represent over the last five years?
 - (b) Does this investment cater to increased demand?
185. The Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2021 identified that 21,790 people had been unable to access crisis accommodation in NSW, representing a 40.8% increase since 2015-16.
- (a) Can the Minister clarify whether, in light of a significant increase in the number of vulnerable people being unable to access crisis accommodation provided by Specialist Homelessness Services, whether funding for specialist homelessness services will increase at a commensurate rate?
 - (b) What is the NSW Government's plan to address the shortfall in crisis accommodation?
 - (c) Do you consider that in the midst of a health crisis, that it is acceptable that more than 20,000 people were unable to access emergency accommodation?
186. Can you outline whether the funding announced in the Budget has been prioritised to regions most at risk of increased homelessness as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis?
187. Given the impacts of rising homelessness are felt right across the service system, what additional resources has the NSW Government made available to support communities most significantly impacted?
188. The Together Home initiative has been an important partnership between NSW Government and the community sector to keep rough sleepers safe by securing long term housing in the private rental market. But in many areas of NSW, particularly those along the coast, the private rental market is squeezed and there are no affordable rental properties available.
- (a) Is the Government monitoring this situation?
 - (b) Are there figures available on where this problem is most acute?
 - (c) Is there a plan to manage this situation?
 - (d) Will the NSW Government commit to increasing the level of funding for frontline specialist homelessness services beyond 2020-21, to address rising demand due to COVID-19 and pre-existing funding shortfalls for this critical part of the sector?

189. How is the Together Home Initiative tracking and will more money be put into reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness?

Sector funding support

190. Regarding the NSW Government commitment to invest \$50m through the Social Sector Transformation Fund:

- (a) How many organisations do you expect will benefit from the Social Sector Transformation Fund?
- (b) Can you explain why an investment of only \$50m has been made?
- (c) Do you consider that a one-off fund of \$50m is sufficient to address a decade of underinvestment by the NSW Government?
- (d) Will the NSW Government commit to further investment in community sector capacity beyond 2020-21, to address rising demand due to COVID-19 and pre-existing funding shortfalls for this critical part of the sector?
- (e) How much of the Social Sector Transformation Fund will go to social services and how much to health services?

191. Regarding the decision by the NSW Government to incorporate a 1.4% rate of indexation into funding agreements the Department of Communities and Justice has with community sector organisations:

- (a) How was the 1.4% rate determined?
- (b) Why this indexation rate less than NSW Health-funded NGOs?
- (c) Does the Government agree that at the very least the rate should cover wage increases determined by the Fair Work Commission?
- (d) Does the Government intend to lift the rate of indexation for these organisations?
 - i. If not, why not?

192. Considering increased demand for NGO services during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, has the NSW Government considered similar supports to NGOs that it has provided for small-businesses?

- (a) If so, what are the supports that have been provided?

Leaving care support for young people leaving out-of-home care (OOHC)

193. During the Budget Estimates hearing into the Families, Communities and Disability Services portfolio on the 26th February 2021, Minister Ward remarked: “a lot of the things that Home Stretch are doing are simply pushing down the road the issues that children and young people will have in their lives and the experiences they will have, rather than investing in that young

person” and that the advice regarding this statement originated in a briefing note. What was the title and who were the authors of the research that formed the basis of this briefing note and/or advice?

194. How many of the 1,757 young people who received financial support from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) during 2019-20 and who had lived in out-of-home care until turning 18:
- (a) received leaving care/aftercare financial support for the first time in 2019-20 after leaving care?
 - i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (a) (i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - (b) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2018-19?
 - i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that is not described was questions 12 (b)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - (c) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2017-18?
 - i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?

- iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (c)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
- (d) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2016-17?
- i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that is not described as questions 12 (d)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not directly related to leaving out-of-home care?
- (e) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2015-16?
- i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (e)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not directly related to leaving out-of-home care?
- (f) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2014-15?
- i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?

- iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (f)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not directly related to leaving out-of-home care?
- (g) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2013-14?
- i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (g)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not directly related to leaving out-of-home care?
- (h) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care in 2012-13?
- i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (h)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - v. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not directly related to leaving out-of-home care?
- (i) had been receiving leaving care/aftercare financial support since leaving care prior to 2012-13?
- i. How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - ii. How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?

- iii. How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - iv. How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (h)(i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
195. How many young people received financial support from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) during 2019-20 who had left out-of-home care after the age of 15 and before turning 18, did not leave care as a result of an order for restoration, guardianship or adoption, and had been in the parental responsibility of the Minister immediately before leaving care?
- (a) How many of these young people received financial support under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
 - (b) How many of these young people received financial support under the Aftercare Allowance?
 - (c) How many of these young people received financial support under a One-off Aftercare Payment?
 - (d) How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not described in questions 12 (a) (i)-(iii), though was otherwise specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
 - (e) How many of these young people received financial support from DCJ under a program that was not specifically related to leaving out-of-home care?
196. What is the average length of time a young person in NSW receives the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
197. What is the median length of time a young person in NSW receives the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)?
198. What is the average length of time a young person in NSW receives the Aftercare Allowance?
199. What is the median length of time a young person in NSW receives the Aftercare Allowance?
200. What was the average amount of money young people in NSW received under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) during 2019-20?
201. What was the median amount of money young people in NSW received under the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) during 2019-20?
202. What was the average amount of money young people in NSW received under the Aftercare Allowance during 2019-20?

203. What was the median amount of money young people in NSW received under the Aftercare Allowance during 2019-20?
204. What was the average amount of money young people in NSW received under the One-off Aftercare Payment during 2019-20?
205. What was the median amount of money young people in NSW received under the One-off Aftercare Payment during 2019-20?
206. What was the full expenditure by the NSW Government on the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) during the years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?
207. What was the full expenditure by the NSW Government on the Aftercare Allowance during the years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?
208. What was the full expenditure by the NSW Government on the One-off Aftercare Payment during the years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?
209. How many young people were receiving ongoing case management and support from a caseworker after leaving out-of-home care for a reason other than adoption, guardianship or restoration during:
- (a) 2019-20?

- (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?
210. To be eligible to receive the Aftercare Allowance for up to 3 months at a time, a care leaver must be studying full-time (or part time if balancing study with health issues or parenting responsibilities) and be at risk of homelessness without financial assistance. What ongoing assistance is available from DCJ for care leavers who are not studying but are at risk of homelessness without financial assistance?
211. How much money was allocated to each of the following Specialist Aftercare Services for the purpose of providing aftercare services during 2019-20:
- (a) Aboriginal Aftercare State Wide Service
 - (b) CatholicCare After Care Program
 - (c) Family Spirit After Care
 - (d) Relationships Australia (NSW), Central Coast
 - (e) Relationships Australia (NSW), Nepean/Blue Mountains, Northern Sydney & Western Sydney
 - (f) Uniting ACE AfterCare, Illawarra Shoalhaven
 - (g) Uniting ACE AfterCare, Mid North Coast
 - (h) Uniting ACE AfterCare, South Western Sydney
 - (i) Uniting AfterCare Services, Western Sydney
212. How many young people received aftercare services from the following Specialist Aftercare Services during 2019-20:
- (a) Aboriginal Aftercare State Wide Service
 - (b) CatholicCare After Care Program
 - (c) Family Spirit After Care
 - (d) Relationships Australia (NSW), Central Coast
 - (e) Relationships Australia (NSW), Nepean/Blue Mountains, Northern Sydney & Western Sydney
 - (f) Uniting ACE AfterCare, Illawarra Shoalhaven

- (g) Uniting ACE AfterCare, Mid North Coast
- (h) Uniting ACE AfterCare, South Western Sydney
- (i) Uniting AfterCare Services, Western Sydney

Leaving care plans

213. How many young people who are at the following ages and are living in out-of-home care have not commenced their leaving care plan:
- (a) 15 years old?
 - (b) 16 years old?
 - (c) 17 years old?
214. How many young people in NSW left out-of-home care, and did not leave care as a result of an order for restoration, guardianship or adoption, without having a leaving care plan during the years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care

215. What proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people who are currently living in out-of-home care (OOHC):
- (a) are case managed by DCJ?
 - (b) are case managed by an NGO provider?
216. What proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people who are currently living in out-of-home care (OOHC) and case managed by an NGO provider:
- (a) are case managed by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation?
 - (b) are case managed by a non-Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation?
217. How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people living in out-of-home care (OOHC) do not currently have a Cultural Plan?
- (a) How many of these children and young people have been living in OOHC for 0-3 months?

- (b) How many of these children and young people have been living in OOHC for 3-6 months?
- (c) How many of these children and young people have been living in OOHC for 6-12 months?
- (d) How many of these children and young people have been living in OOHC for more than 12 months?

Time taken to complete investigations

218. According to the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2021 (Part F, Section 16, Table 16A.11), the proportion of investigations that are completed within 7 days has decreased from 46.5% of investigations in 2011-12 to 10.9% of investigations in 2019-20. What are the reasons for this change?

Free Safe Drivers Course

219. How many young people who are or were previously living in out-of-home care attended a free Safe Drivers Course during 2019-20?

Fee-Free Training Scholarships

220. How many young people who are or were previously living in out-of-home care received a Fee-free Training Scholarship during 2019-20 by State electorate?

- (a) How many young people applied for a Fee-free Training Scholarship during 2019-20 by State electorate?
- (b) What was the full cost of Fee-free Training Scholarships provided to young people who are or were previously living in out-of-home care during 2019-20?

DCJ Scholarships

221. Applications for the 2021 DCJ Scholarships closed at 5pm on the 19th February 2021. How many eligible young people applied for a DCJ Scholarship by State electorate?

- (a) How many applicants were successful in 2021 by State electorate?

222. How many eligible young people applied for a DCJ Scholarship in 2020 by State electorate?

- (a) How many applicants were successful in 2020 by State electorate?

223. How many eligible young people applied for a DCJ Scholarship in 2019 by State electorate?

- (a) How many applicants were successful in 2019 by State electorate?

224. How many eligible young people applied for a DCJ Scholarship in 2018 by State electorate?

- (a) How many applicants were successful in 2018 by State electorate?

225. How many eligible young people applied for a DCJ Scholarship in 2017 by State electorate?
- (a) How many applicants were successful in 2017 by State electorate?

Case closures

226. How many cases were opened by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) because of one or more Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) report during the following financial years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?
227. How many cases that were initiated by one or more Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) report were closed by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) due to the reason 'current competing priorities' during the following financial years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2018-19?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2015-16?
228. What proportion of cases were closed by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) due to the reason 'current competing priorities' during 2019-20 in the following districts:
- (a) Central Coast?
 - (b) Hunter?
 - (c) Far West?
 - (d) Murrumbidgee?
 - (e) Western NSW?
 - (f) Illawarra Shoalhaven?

- (g) Southern NSW?
- (h) Mid North Coast?
- (i) New England?
- (j) Northern NSW?
- (k) Nepean Blue Mountains?
- (l) Western Sydney?
- (m) South Western Sydney?
- (n) Northern Sydney?
- (o) South Eastern Sydney?
- (p) Sydney?

229. How many of the cases closed by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) during 2019-20 due to the reason 'current competing priorities' were closed without the child who was the subject of the report having seen a caseworker prior to their case being closed?
230. Of the 38.6% of children who were re-reported within 12 months of case plan closure in 2019-20, what proportion of those children had their case previously closed for the reason 'current competing priorities'?

Child deaths

231. How many of the 97 children and young people who died in 2019 and were known to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) had their cases closed by DCJ within the twelve months prior to their death, other than for the reason that the child or young person had died?

Restructure Management Plan (RMP)

232. The Premier's Priorities include: 'Protecting our most vulnerable children', 'Increasing permanency for children in out-of-home care', 'Reducing domestic violence reoffending', and 'Reducing homelessness'. How will reducing more than 20% of Strategy, Policy and Commissioning (SPC) aid in DCJ meeting the targets in these priorities?
233. When will the business case for the Restructure Management Plan (RMP) be finalised?*
234. How will DCJ manage the increased workloads to frontline staff due to the loss of support functions of the roles being reduced in the RMP?

Re-reporting of children at Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH)

235. Reports show that only 31 per cent of children at Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) are seen by a caseworker. Nearly 40 per cent of children are re-reported within 12 months of their case plan being closed.

- (a) How many children were re-reported through the Child Protection Helpline within 12 months of their transfer to a private out of home care organisation during 2019-20?

Caseworker workloads

236. The Department handles thousands of subpoenas each year (e.g. 2,500 in 2018-19) and under current arrangements, the processing work required for these documents is expected to be done by the relevant local caseworkers. This is creating large amounts of additional administrative work for caseworkers, which is reducing the amount of time they are able to spend out in the field directly supporting vulnerable children and young people. As an example, in 2020, caseworkers in Coffs Harbour estimated that 500 hours was spent on processing subpoenas in just one month. What work is being done to reduce the amount of work being performed by caseworkers to process subpoenas?

Workers compensation

237. What were the costs to DCJ for workers compensation for staff members during the years:

- (a) 2017-18?
- (b) 2018-19?
- (c) 2019-20?

238. What were the costs to DCJ for workers compensation for the psychological injury of staff members during the years:

- (a) 2017-18?
- (b) 2018-19?
- (c) 2019-20?

Alternative Care Arrangements

239. How many children and young people living in out-of-home care are currently housed in an Alternative Care Arrangement (ACA?)

- (a) How many of these were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children and young people?

Carer authorisations

240. How many of the 314 applications for carer authorisation that were refused during 2019-20 were refused due to the quality of housing or accommodation of the applicant?
- (a) What work was performed to assist the applicants to find appropriate housing prior to their application being refused?
241. Does the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) or the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) record the reasons an applicant decides to withdraw their application for carer authorisation where there are no concerns regarding their application?
- (a) If DCJ or the OCG do not collect this information, why is this the case?
 - (b) If DCJ or the OCG does collect this information, how many of the 1,417 applications for carer authorisation that were withdrawn without concerns during 2019-20 were withdrawn due to delays in the application process?

Northcott Enterprise Agreement

242. Can the Minister confirm whether frontline disability services staff transferred to Northcott under the NSW NDIS Enabling Act stand to lose between 10% (for transferred Disability Support Workers with more than 5 years experience) and 25% (for transferred Team Leaders) in pay, plus further reductions in employment conditions as a result of the Northcott's new enterprise agreement?
- (a) How will paying front line disability workers less benefit people with disability in care?