



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

ATTORNEY GENERAL AND PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Hearing: Tuesday 2 March 2021

Answers due by: 26 March 2021

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Victims Support Reviews and appeals

1. How many internal and external reviews have been:
 - (a) Lodged,
 - (b) Determined (and with what outcome as a number and percentage of all outcomes)
 - (c) Pending and
 - (d) Settled before a decision is made and what have been the grounds for appeal in:
 - i. 2018-19
 - ii. 2019-20
 - iii. 2020 – 28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

The number of internal reviews:

- (a) Lodged:
 - (i) in FY2018-19 was 449.
 - (ii) in FY2019-20 was 890.
 - (iii) in FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 750.
- (b) Determined*:
 - (i) in FY2018-19 was 448.
 - (ii) in FY2019-20 was 743.
 - (iii) in FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) is not currently available in a readily accessible form.

*Note: The Department of Communities and Justice does not currently hold data on outcomes of determinations for these time periods in a readily accessible form.
- (c) Pending: the number of reviews pending during a date range cannot be provided.
- (d) No internal reviews were 'settled' before being determined.

It is not possible to summarise data on 'grounds for appeal'.

The number of external reviews:

- (a) Lodged:
 - (i) in FY2018-19 was 29
 - (ii) in FY2019-20 was 39

- (iii) in FY2020-21 (as at 31 December 2020) was 15
- (b) Determined:
 - (i) in FY2018-19 was 20
 - (ii) in FY2019-20 was 29
 - (iii) in FY2020-21 (as at 31 December 2020) was 16
- (c) Pending: the number of reviews pending during a date range cannot be provided, matters move from pending to determined in a time period.
- (d) Settled before a decision was made was:
 - (i) in FY2018-19 was 1
 - (ii) in FY2019-20 was 3
 - (iii) in FY2020-21 (as at 31 December 2020) was 3

It is not possible to summarise data on 'grounds for appeal'.

2. How many appeals have been made to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal and on what grounds in:
 - (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2019-20
 - (c) 2020 – 28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

The number of appeals made to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal:

- (a) in FY2018-19, there was one NSW Supreme Court application made in relation to a decision of NCAT
- (b) in FY2019-20 there was one NSW Court of Appeal application made in relation to a decision of the President of NCAT
- (c) in FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) there were no Supreme Court or Court of Appeal matters.

3. What is the number and percentage of unsuccessful claimants who sought internal review in:
 - (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2019-20
 - (c) 2020 – 28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to the response for supplementary question 1 for the number of internal reviews lodged.

The number as a percentage of unsuccessful claimants is not available in a readily accessible form.

4. How many as a number and percentage were legally represented in this process for each of those years?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.

5. How many as a number and percentage of (a) represented and (b) unrepresented claimants who were successful in their review for each of those years?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.

Part 6 Compensation awarded by the court

6. How many Part 6 of the Victims Rights Support Act compensation awards were made over each of the past 5 years?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.

Restitution

7. Once matters are finalised:
 - (a) What amount is recovered through restitution?

Answer

I am advised:

In FY2019-20, \$10 million was recovered from offenders through restitution orders.

8. What's the number of restitution hearings over each of the past 5 years?

Answer

I am advised:

None. There are no provisions for 'restitution hearings' under the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

9. How many applications have there been over each of the past 5 years to:

- (a) Waive restitution in relation to injuries as a result of domestic violence? sexual assault?
- (b) How many (as a number and percentage of total waivers) of applications for waiver of restitution in relation to (a) domestic violence and (b) sexual assault were successfully waived?
- (c) How many (as a number and percentage of total waivers) of applications for waiver of restitution in relation to (a) domestic violence and (b) sexual assault were refused? What reasons were provided?

Answer

I am advised:

There are no provisions for applications to waive restitution under the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

Changes implemented since 1 July 2020

10. What's the number of applications attempted to be lodged with Victims Services that are not accepted for any reason between 1 July 2020 – 28 February 2021?

- (a) What was the reason why the application was not accepted?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information as data on reasons for not accepting an application is not recorded. However, applications may not be accepted for reasons including, but not limited to: incomplete application forms; unsigned application forms; duplicate applications; failure to attach government-issued identification; or failure to include bank account details.

11. How many calls have there been to the
- (a) Victims Access Line (VAL) and
 - (b) Aboriginal Contact Line (ACL) from 1 July 2020 – 28 February 2021?

Answer

I am advised:

The number of calls from 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021 to:

- (a) the Victims Assistance Line (VAL) was 42,614.
 - (b) the Aboriginal Contact Line (ACL) was 1,673.
12. How many of these calls were made by
- (a) applicants
 - (b) advocates assisting applicants?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information as data is not collected for each call.

13. What was the nature of the call referred to in question 2 and what was the response by VAL and ACL?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.

14. How many Victims Support Scheme applications were
- (a) received
 - (b) awarded
 - (c) pending
 - (d) dismissed between 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021 for each of the components of Victims Support relating to:
 - i. people living in regional, rural and remote areas?
 - ii. people who are homeless/risk of homelessness?
 - iii. people currently in prison/detention/closed setting?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold information on applicants' locations in a readily accessible form. The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold information in relating to applications from people who are homeless/at risk of homelessness.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Victims of Crime Interagency Meeting

15. Did the Commissioner for Victims Rights/Services personally attend the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 10 September 2019?

Answer

I am advised:

Yes.

16. Did the Commissioner for Victims Rights/Services personally attend the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 3 December 2019?

Answer

I am advised:

Yes

17. Did the Commissioner for Victims Rights/Services personally attend the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 10 March 2020?

Answer

I am advised:

No. Senior representatives from Victims Services attended the meeting.

18. Why was the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting cancelled on 9 June 2020?

Answer

I am advised:

The Victims of Crime interagency forum scheduled for 9 June 2020 was cancelled to allow time to consider how to best accommodate a full Victims of Crime interagency forum meeting due to the large number of attendees needing to participate online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, the interagency was held as a face-to-face meeting.

19. Did the Commissioner personally attend the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 8 September 2020?

Answer

I am advised:

No. Senior representatives from Victims Services attended the meeting.

20. Did the Commissioner personally attend the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 1 December 2020?

Answer

I am advised:

No. Senior representatives from Victims Services attended the meeting.

21. Has Victims Services changed the practice of taking and circulating minutes from the Victims of Crime Interagency meeting to circulating a record of meeting? Why was this change made? Was it made in consultation with Victims of Crime Interagency meeting members?

Answer

I am advised:

The primary purpose of the Victims of Crime interagency forum is as an informal information sharing space between attendees who are predominantly non-government organisations. Minutes or a record of meeting are not required.

22. The Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 10 March 2020 was from 10am -12.30pm. The Victims of Crime Interagency meeting on 9 September 2020 and since have been 1 hour. Why has the meeting time been more than halved? Was this done in consultation with members of the Victims of Crime Interagency?

Answer

I am advised:

The duration of the Victims of Crime Interagency has been sufficient to adequately cover all scheduled discussion topics. All attendees are invited to submit matters for meeting agendas. The purpose and focus of these meetings has been under review with attendees.

23. Has the Commissioner Victims Rights personally attended meetings of the Sexual Assault Review Committee convened by the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions during 2019 and 2020?

Answer

I am advised:

Yes.

24. Has the Commissioner been invited to attend Corrective Services NSW's Women's Advisory Council meeting? Did she attend? Why not?

Answer

I am advised:

The Commissioner of Victims Services, on being informed of the opportunity to attend meetings of the Corrective Services NSW's Women's Advisory Council, has offered to attend any meetings that include specific agenda items impacting victims of crime. The Commissioner of Victims Services has not since been invited to attend any specific meetings.

25. Which meetings has the Commissioner Victims Rights attended in 2019-20 and 2020-21 as the Commissioner Victims Services? As Executive Director, Victims Services? As both?

Answer

I am advised:

All meetings are attended by the Commissioner of Victims Rights, who is a Band 2 PSSE under the *Government Sector Employees Act 2013*.

26. How does the Commissioner manage the perceived and/or actual conflict of interest of both roles? For example, at times does the Commissioner feel conflicted in standing up for the rights of victim-survivors and balancing this with cost cutting? How does the Commissioner manage this conflict?

Answer

I am advised:

The Commissioner exercises the functions outlined in Part 3 of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

27. How many victims groups pursuant to section 10(b1) of the Victims Rights Support Act which provides the Commissioner Victims Rights with the power "to provide funding to victims groups approved by the Commissioner" are specifically funded to help victim-survivors collect evidence and lodge Victims Support applications?

Answer

I am advised:

None of the victims groups funded by the Victims Support Fund pursuant to section 10(b1) of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013* are funded specifically for this purpose.

28. How much funding do these victims groups receive each year for the specific purpose of helping victim-survivors to lodge Victims Support applications?

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to response to supplementary question 27.

Domestic Violence Housing Services

29. How is the NSW Government addressing the short-fall in the provision of specialist domestic violence accommodation services (women's domestic violence refuges) to assist women with and without children escaping domestic violence?

Answer

I am advised:

In FY2020-21, \$291 million will be invested in specialist homelessness services, referral services such as Link2home, enhancements for youth refuges and after hours domestic and family violence services, and Homelessness Strategy initiatives. This includes \$68.9 million in homelessness services that have crisis accommodation and provide support to women experiencing domestic and family violence.

In addition to women's refuges, the NSW Government funds a range of other programs that support women who are experiencing domestic and family violence, and may also be at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. This includes, for example, Start Safely, Staying Home Leaving and the Violence and the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service (IDFVS).

Men's Behaviour Change Programs

30. Albury has finally got a men's behaviour change program running, after many years of perpetrators being required to travel 130km to Wagga which is a significant barrier to accessing the program. Unfortunately the new program has only received temporary funding in the context of COVID-19 and no ongoing funding. The program only provides group sessions and not one-on-one counselling or case management which is considered best practice. When will Albury, a

significant regional centre, receive long-term funding for a suitable men's behaviour change program?

Answer

I am advised

In 2021, the Department of Communities and Justice will commence a commissioning process for Men's Behaviour Change Programs in existing and new locations (such as Albury) by approved registered and compliant providers under the NSW Practice Standards for Men's Domestic Violence Behaviour Change Programs.

COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Funding

31. How much additional funding has the NSW Government invested in DFV response and safety measures because of the COVID impact?

Answer

I am advised:

\$33.8 million in additional funding has been invested. This includes \$12.8 million of NSW funding and \$21 million of Commonwealth funding.

Distribution of this funding has been informed by the needs of the sector to support frontline specialist domestic and family violence services, support victim-survivors escape violent homes or remain safely at home, hold perpetrators to account, and/or raise awareness about domestic and family violence and available support services.

Allocation of the remaining \$18 million of Commonwealth funding will occur in FY2020-21.

32. How is the NSW Government preparing for and responding to the longer-term impact?

Answer

I am advised:

The longer-term impact of COVID-19 will be considered as part of the next iteration of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategy.

33. Specifically, what additional funds for frontline services and women's health centres are being committed in this budget?

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to response to supplementary question 31.

COAG National Women's Safety Taskforce

34. When will the remaining \$150 million committed in March 2020 be delivered to women and front-line services in crisis?

Answer

I am advised:

\$150 million is the total of Commonwealth funds distributed across all jurisdictions. The NSW portion of that \$150 million was \$39.65 million.

Frontline domestic and family violence service providers have already benefited from an additional \$33.8 million of government funding as an assistance package during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes \$12.8 million of NSW funding and \$21 million of Commonwealth funding.

Distribution of this funding was informed by the needs of the sector. It was distributed to specialist domestic and family violence services to support victim-survivors escape violent homes or remain safely at home, hold perpetrators to account, and/or programs which raise awareness about domestic and family violence and available support services.

Allocation of the remaining \$18 million of Commonwealth funding will occur in FY2020-21.

35. What is the Attorney General contributing at the Federal level to improve the level and coordination of safety measures for women, including ensuring appropriate and sustainable levels of funding are provided to front line services?

Answer

I am advised:

On 29 May 2020, the Prime Minister announced the continuation of National Cabinet, cessation of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), and the formation of a new National Federation Reform Council (NFRC). The Prime Minister also announced the creation of an NFRC Taskforce on Women's Safety (Taskforce). The Taskforce brings together Commonwealth, state and territory Women's Safety Ministers to continue the critical work of the COAG Women's Safety Council in reducing violence against women and their children.

Under the NFRC framework, states and territories undertake action to reduce domestic and family violence through the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. The Women's Safety Ministers met five times in 2020, with work focused primarily on coordinating the government response to domestic and family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Domestic Violence in the Disability Community

36. What new and dedicated resources are being committed to support women with disabilities who are or have experienced DFV (94% of women with an intellectual disability have such an experience)?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to supporting vulnerable cohorts experiencing domestic and family violence, including women with disabilities, through the 'NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children'. This is available at: <https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/strategies/nsw-domestic-and-family-violence/domestic-and-family-violence-blueprint>.

As part of the Blueprint, the NSW Government distributed a \$20 million Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund, which included funding People with Disabilities Australia's 'Building Access for Women with Disability' project to increase the accessibility of domestic and family services for women with disability. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/commissioning/domestic-and-family-violence-innovation-fund/domestic-and-family-violence-innovation-fund-round-1>.

The NSW Government supports ongoing efforts to build the capacity of the disability sector to respond to domestic and family violence, as well as build the capability of the domestic and family violence services sector to support people with disability. Cross-sector collaboration between disability and domestic and family violence services provides an opportunity to address gaps in knowledge and develop good practice standards to better respond to people with disability experiencing domestic and family violence.

Support for Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic and Family Violence

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

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring all children and young people who experience domestic and family violence are supported, both as individuals, as well as in the context of their family and broader community.

When a child or young person is assessed as being at risk of significant harm, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) can work with the family and refer to other relevant agencies and professionals to ensure the safety of the child. The implementation of the NSW Practice Framework for statutory child protection practitioners includes evidence-informed approaches to respond to domestic violence. This includes safety planning to reduce the risk for women and children and holding men who use violence accountable.

Staying Home Leaving Violence

38. Why is the highly successful Staying Home Leaving Violence program not being rolled out across the state?

Answer

I am advised:

On 26 May 2020, NSW Government announced a \$21 million package to respond to domestic and family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. A funding package was allocated to all Staying Home Leaving Violence services to support victim-survivors to stay safe at home. The additional funding allocated to Staying Home Leaving Violence services was designed to assist them to respond to increased demand, and also to expand to adjacent areas that did not have an existing service. Areas expanded to include: Armidale, Glen Innes, Gwydir, Newcastle, Gunnedah, Werris Creek, Quirindi, Inverell, Armidale Dungog, Shellharbour, Kiama, Bellingen, Dorrigo, Nambucca Valley, Nambucca Heads, Macksville, Bowraville, West Wyalong, Hillston, Darlington Point, Coleambally, Hay, Federation Shire, Greater Hume Shire, Hawkesbury, Camden, Bankstown, Narromine, Gilgandra, Cabonne, Blayney, Goodooga and Cumberland Local Government Areas.

This expansion will be reviewed to inform future funding decisions.

Through the NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023, the NSW Government committed to expand Staying Home Leaving Violence to six new locations. The new locations, Griffith, Albury, Coonamble/Walgett, Port Stephens and Richmond Valley, were selected following an analysis of crime statistics and census data, mapping locations of existing domestic and family violence services and consultation with key stakeholders including Domestic Violence NSW, Women NSW and Department of Communities and Justice Districts. The new services became operational in July 2019.

In addition, Staying Home Leaving Violence services will be evaluated in FY2021-22. This evaluation will serve the basis to inform decisions about any further expansion.

Frontline Domestic Violence Service Funding

39. Is the NSW Government committed to a 50% increase in funding to the specialist domestic and family violence sector to ensure all victim-survivors, vulnerable children and their families receive immediate, effective, high quality specialist support, including those who do not choose to seek redress via the criminal justice system? If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government is spending \$538.1 million over 2020-21 to 2024-25 on domestic and family violence initiatives, which includes \$30.8 million of Commonwealth COVID-19 funding. This funding includes support services for victim-survivors, including those who choose not to seek redress via the criminal justice system.

40. Is the NSW Government committed to prioritising the funding of domestic and family violence prevention and early intervention programs, services and education campaigns to stop the violence before it begins, and to change the culture of gendered violence in NSW? If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to prevention and early intervention as key priorities under the existing 'NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children' (<https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/strategies/nsw-domestic-and-family-violence/domestic-and-family-violence-blueprint>) and the 'NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017–2021' (<https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/download?file=637476>).

To inform this work, the NSW Government became a member of Our Watch in 2019 and established a range of forums to engage with the sector, including victim-survivors as well as the corporate sector. This is in addition to NSW's commitments under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2010-2022, which include a focus on prevention and early intervention. See: <https://www.dss.gov.au/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children-2010-2022>.

While the next whole-of-government domestic and family violence strategy is in the early stages of development, it is expected that it will continue to emphasise the importance of domestic and family violence prevention and early intervention.

41. The recent report *A Wave of Disadvantage* by Equity Economics anticipates a substantial increase in domestic and family violence due to the COVID-19 crisis. How will the NSW Government continue to fund crisis support services on the ground to manage the high level of ongoing needs of people impacted by this crisis?

Answer

I am advised:

The budget to deliver the NSW Government Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: *Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children* (Blueprint) as well as the next NSW whole of government domestic and family violence strategy is \$538.1 million over the four forward years (2020/21 – 2024/25), which includes \$30.8 million of Commonwealth COVID-19 domestic and family violence funding. Supporting frontline services remains a priority under the Blueprint. This is in addition to business as usual funding administered for domestic and family violence services across Government.

42. Is the NSW Government committed to funding primary prevention initiatives in NSW which align with *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia* (Our Watch, 2015), and *Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children* (Our Watch, 2018)? If not, why not?

Answer

Please refer to response to supplementary question 40.

43. Is the NSW Government committed to resourcing a whole-of-government approach to responding to, and preventing, domestic and family violence in NSW, in consultation with the specialist domestic and family violence sector and experts with lived experience? If not, why not?

Answer

Yes. Please see responses to earlier supplementary questions for further detail, with a particular reference in response to supplementary question 41.

Domestic Violence Prevention in Indigenous Communities

44. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations are involved in addressing the devastating impact of domestic and family violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in NSW?

Answer

In 2020, I hosted two forums with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander frontline workers, academics, and people with lived experience of domestic and family violence to inform the Government's ongoing efforts to address the levels of domestic violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities, by developing responses inclusive of the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. More information can be found at:

<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/aboriginal-voices-speak-up-to-help-end-domestic-violence>.

I am further advised:

The NSW Government has supported recommendation 13 of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team 2017-2019 report to support the development of a culturally safe framework for domestic and family violence services to better respond to Aboriginal women and families seeking support. This work will be informed by Our Watch's 'Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children.' See:

https://www.coroners.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/ctsd/coronerscourt/documents/reports/NSW_Government_Response_to_the_DVDRT_2017-19_Report_Recommendations.pdf.

45. Is the NSW Government committed to prioritising the funding of domestic and family violence prevention and early intervention programs, services and education campaigns to stop the violence before it begins, and to change the culture of gendered violence in NSW? If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

Please see response to supplementary question 40.

Companion Animals and Domestic Violence

46. In July 2020, Domestic Violence NSW surveyed over 100 domestic and family violence and community workers, and more than half of the workers stated victim-survivors had disclosed a perpetrator killed their animal or animals. Over forty percent of workers stated victim-survivors with animals had delayed leaving a perpetrator for more than a year due to barriers to accessing support for their animals. Research has shown that a perpetrator's use of domestic and family violence against animals is a high risk factor for homicide. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that people and animals experiencing domestic and family violence can access the supports they need to be safe?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government has amended the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* to provide better protection to animals in the context of domestic and family violence.

- In Section 7 of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007*, the definition of 'intimidation' has been amended to include any conduct that causes a reasonable apprehension of harm to an animal that belongs to, or is in the possession of, the victim or a person that they have a domestic relationship with. Changing this definition will make it explicit that where animals are threatened or harmed to cause fear in another person, this is a form of intimidation. Additionally, intimidation is also prohibited under every apprehended domestic violence order. The expanded definition of intimidation therefore also enhances protections under apprehended domestic violence orders.
- Section 36(c) of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* currently specifies that all apprehended domestic violence orders prohibit damaging or destroying property of the protected person or a person they have a domestic relationship with. The amendments to the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* will mean that this condition explicitly prohibits harm to animals belonging to or in the possession of the protected person or a person they have a domestic relationship with.
- The *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* amendments will commence on 27 March 2021.

In addition, the NSW Government has provided \$500,000 to 19 women's refuges, crisis accommodation providers and animal welfare organisations to enhance and increase their capability and capacity to cater for the pets of domestic and family violence victim-survivors

across NSW. This funding was delivered through the Domestic and Family Violence Pets and Animal Welfare Support (PAWS) Program.

Training for Frontline Responders & Judiciary System

47. Is the NSW Government committed to substantially increasing investment in the ongoing education and training of police and the judiciary in how to effectively and appropriately police and prosecute domestic and family violence crimes, including non-physical abuse? If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government already supports specialist education, training and guidance as a key component of a whole-of-government response to domestic and family violence.

NSW Police Force officers are supported to apply specialist domestic and family violence practice through access to:

- Training in responding to domestic and family violence;
- The Standard Operating Procedures and Code of Practice for the NSW Police Force Response to Domestic and Family Violence Code of Practice (2018);
- Guidance from NSW Police Force Domestic Violence Liaison Officers, supervisors and the NSW Police Force Domestic and Family Violence Team as needed; and
- Support for police prosecutors from the NSW Police Force domestic and family violence team. This includes senior prosecutors from this team managing serious domestic and family cases.

Magistrates are supported to apply specialist domestic and family violence practice through access to:

- Ongoing judicial education on domestic and family violence;
- The Local Court Bench Book, which includes a range of content specifically dealing with or relevant to domestic and family violence matters;
- The National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book; and

The Chief Magistrate's Office, which keeps magistrates informed of legislative and operational changes relevant to domestic and family violence matters.

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

General data requirements

48. How many applications for each aspect of victims support outlined below have been received, awarded, pending, lapsed and dismissed in
- (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2019-20
 - (c) 2020-28 February 2021
 - (d) And what has been their outcome for
 - i. Counselling
 - ii. Financial assistance – immediate needs
 - iii. Financial support – economic loss
 - iv. Recognition payments

Answer

I am advised:

The number of applications received:

- (a) in FY2018-19
 - (i) for counselling was 18,177.
 - (ii) for financial assistance, including for immediate needs and economic loss, was 5,730.
 - (iii) see above for (ii).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 10,827.
- (b) in FY2019-20
 - (i) for counselling was 20,853.
 - (ii) for financial assistance, including for immediate needs and economic loss, was 8,447.
 - (iii) see above for (ii).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 13,958.
- (c) In FY2020-21 (as at 28 Feb 2021)
 - (i) for counselling is 11,506.
 - (ii) for financial assistance, including for immediate needs and economic loss, was 5,129.
 - (iii) see above for (ii).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 7,869.

The number of claims with an approval in:

- (a) FY2018-19
 - (i) for counselling was 17,431.
 - (ii) for financial assistance for immediate needs was 2,019 (4,868 individual expenses).
 - (iii) for financial assistance for economic loss was 778 (2,395 individual expenses).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 7,922.
- (b) FY2019-20
 - (i) for counselling was 20,439.
 - (ii) for financial assistance for immediate needs was 5,344 (14,606 individual expenses).
 - (iii) for financial assistance for economic loss was 987 (3,345 individual expenses).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 7,016.
- (c) In FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
 - (i) for counselling was 11,306.
 - (ii) for financial assistance for immediate needs was 4,073 (11,675 individual expenses).
 - (iii) for financial assistance for economic loss was 531 (1,684 individual expenses).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 6,398.

Note: Data is provided for amounts awarded per unique claim. For immediate needs and economic loss, there may be multiple claims associated with one case (act of violence).

The number of reviews pending during these time periods cannot be determined.

The number of applications lapsed in:

- (a) FY2018-19 was 0.
- (b) FY2019-20 was 0.
- (c) The period 1 July 2020 – 28 February 2021: 0.

The number of claims with a dismissal in:

- (a) FY2018-19
 - (i) for counselling was 316.
 - (ii) for financial assistance for immediate needs was 1,095 (3119 individual expenses).
 - (iii) for financial assistance for economic loss was 448 (1182 individual expenses).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 1,406.
- (b) FY2019-20
 - (i) for counselling was 350.

- (ii) for financial assistance for immediate needs was 3,888 (11,081 individual expenses).
 - (iii) for financial assistance for economic loss was 874 (2,556 individual expenses).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 1,835.
- (c) In FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
- (i) for counselling was 113.
 - (ii) for financial assistance for immediate needs was 2,867 (8,577 individual expenses).
 - (iii) for financial assistance for economic loss was 660 (1,634 individual expenses).
 - (iv) for recognition payments was 1,386.

49. What is the number and percentage of applications for victims support (including components outlined 1.1-1.4) by gender and age?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information in a readily accessible format.

50. How many claims have been received, awarded, pending, lapsed and dismissed by category as outlined in 1.1-1.4 by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people over the last 5 years, including by gender and age?

Answer

I am advised:

The percentage of claims received by applicants who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander:

- (a) for recognition payments in:
 - (i) FY2017-18 was 17%
 - (ii) FY2018-19 was 16%.
 - (iii) FY2019-20 was 17%.
 - (iv) FY2020-21 (as at 31 October 2020) was 17%.
- (b) for financial assistance in:
 - (i) FY2017-18 was 15%
 - (ii) FY2018-19 was 13%.
 - (iii) FY2019-20 was 15%.
 - (iv) FY2020-21 (as at 31 October 2020) was 15%.

Note that applicants are not required to disclose whether they identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The Department of Communities and Justice does not currently hold the other information requested in a readily accessible format.

51. In (a) 2018-19 (b) 2019-20 (c) 2020- 28 February 2021 what is the average payment for:
- (a) Immediate needs?
 - (b) Economic loss?
 - (c) Recognition payments?

Answer

I am advised:

Averages are calculated using the total number of claims determined (ie including unsuccessful claims).

The average award per claim (including unsuccessful claims) in FY2018-19 for:

- (a) Immediate needs was \$1,936.37
- (b) Economic loss was \$2,076.49
- (c) Recognition payments - \$3,891.26

The average award per claim (including unsuccessful claims) in FY2019-20 for:

- (a) Immediate needs was \$3,006.87
- (b) Economic loss was \$1,684.92
- (c) Recognition payments was \$3,681.50

The average award per claim (including unsuccessful claims) in FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) for:

- (a) Immediate needs was \$3,306.00
- (b) Economic loss was \$1,603.75
- (c) Recognition payments was \$3,718.06

Note: Data is provided for amounts awarded per unique claim. For immediate needs and economic loss, there may be multiple claims associated with one case (act of violence).

52. What is the:
- (a) Shortest,
 - (b) Longest and
 - (c) Average time

to determine applications for financial assistance for immediate needs, financial support for economic loss, recognition payment and counselling must be included for (a) 2018-19 (b) 2019-20 (c) 2020- 28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) The shortest time to determine applications for:
 - (i) financial assistance for immediate needs:
 - In FY2018-19 was 1 day.
 - In FY2019-20 was 1 day.
 - In FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 1 day.
 - (ii) financial assistance for economic loss:
 - In FY2018-19 was 1 day.
 - In FY2019-20 was 1 day.
 - In FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 1 day.
 - (iii) recognition payment:
 - In FY2018-19 was 1 day.
 - In FY2019-20 was 1 day.
 - In FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 1 day.

Many applications are incomplete when lodged and so are not ready to be determined. The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold information in a readily accessible form on the average time taken or the longest time taken from when Victims Services has received a completed application to when an application is determined.

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold information on time taken to determine counselling applications for these time periods.

Notes:

- Not all applications are ready to be assessed at the time they are lodged because there is no evidence to substantiate eligibility. The length of time to determination includes time allowed for applicants to gather and provide evidence.
- Noting that claims are open for 5 years, a victim may also claim for expenses up to 5 years after lodgement.

53. How many applicants have responded to the client satisfaction survey in

- (a) 2018-19
- (b) 2019-20

- (c) 2020-28 February 2021
- (d) And a summary of responses.

Answer

I am advised:

The number of applicants who have responded to the client satisfaction survey:

- (a) In FY2018-19 was 599.
- (b) In FY2019-20 was 1,512.
- (c) Is not yet available for FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021).
- (d) In FY2018-19, 66% were satisfied or very satisfied with the service they received from Victims Services. In 2019-20, 78% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service they received from Victims Services.

Counselling

54. What is the:

- (a) number of applications made, number of applications approved and number of applicants who actually attend counselling in (a) 2018-19 and (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020- 28 February 2021?
- (b) number of counsellors in each regional, rural and remote area in which they are located, together with how many new Victims Support clients they assist each financial year?
- (c) number of new Victims Services Approved Counsellors appointed in
 - i. 2018-19
 - ii. 2019-20
 - iii. 2020-28 February 2021
 - iv. And in what geographical areas?
- (d) total number of Victims Services Approved Counsellors?
- (e) average waiting time between the counsellor being contacted and their first available appointment?
- (f) number of applications for counselling where the victim-survivor is located in a closed institution, for example, Correctional Centre, Youth Detention, including the number approved and the number of applicants who receive counselling in a closed institution?
- (g) number and percentage of applications for counselling made more than 10 years after the act of violence and the number and percentage of these relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse?

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) Please refer to the response for supplementary question 48 for the number of counselling applications made and approved. Data on attendance is not yet available for these time periods.
- (b) 47% of Approved Counsellors are located outside of the Sydney/ Blue Mountains region. The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold information about how many new clients each counsellor has assisted.
- (c) The number of new Victims Services Approved Counsellors appointed in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 143 total, with 82 of these outside Sydney/Blue Mountains.
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 144 total with 92 of these outside Sydney/Blue Mountains.
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 166 with 112 of these outside Sydney/Blue Mountains.
 - (iv) as above

Note: Locations are calculated manually using postcodes, so there is a 2% margin of error.

- (d) There are 1,053 active Approved Counsellors as at 28 February 2021.
- (e) The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.
- (f) The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information in a readily accessible format.
- (g) The number (and percentage) of applications for counselling made more than 10 years after the act of violence:
 - (i) in FY2018-19 was 4,993 (27% of all applications)
 - 4,658 (93%) of these related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse.
 - (ii) in FY2019-20 was 5,569 (27% of all applications)
 - 5,184 (93%) of these related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse.
 - (iii) in FY2020-21 (as at 28 Feb 2021) was 3,131 (27% of all applications).
 - 2,895 (92%) of these related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse.

Note: 'child abuse' is not recorded by Victims Services as an act of violence distinct from other acts of violence and so aggregate data could not be readily obtained for the purposes of this response.

55. How does Victims Services check that Victims Services Approved Counsellors are still accepting clients?

Answer

I am advised:

Approved Counsellors are required to update their availability in the online portal which is reflected on the online listing and is refreshed weekly.

56. How does Victim Services check on waiting times to make an appointment to see a Victims Services Approved Counsellor?

Answer

I am advised:

Approved Counsellors are required to update their availability in the online portal which is reflected on the online listing and is refreshed weekly. This includes if they have wait times of over 4 weeks.

57. Noting the significantly high rates of sexual assault and domestic abuse/violence experienced by women prior to entering custody, why has access to counselling in custody been significantly reduced?

Answer

I am advised:

The availability of access to counselling in Corrective Services NSW facilities is a matter for the Minister for Corrections and Counter Terrorism.

Free counselling is available under the Victims Support Scheme to all eligible victims of violent crime, including those who are in custody. This counselling is funded by the Victims Support Fund in accordance with the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

Counselling for victims in custody was paused in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

58. How is counselling for people in custody arranged?

Answer

I am advised:

The availability of access to counselling in Corrective Services NSW facilities is a matter for the Minister for Corrections and Counter Terrorism.

59. Who pays for counselling for victim-survivors in custody?

Answer

I am advised:

All counselling payments under the Victims Support Scheme, including for services provided to clients in custody, are paid from the Victims Support Fund under section 16 of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

Domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and child sexual abuse:

60. What is the number and percentage of applications for:

- (a) Counselling
- (b) Financial assistance for immediate needs
- (c) financial support for economic loss – including a breakdown of actual loss of wages
- (d) recognition payments

that were received, awarded, pending, lapsed and dismissed as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse including a breakdown (number and percentage) of recognition payment categories A-D for:

- (i) 2018-19
- (ii) 2019-20
- (iii) 2020-28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

The number (and percentage) of applications received as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse:

- (a) for counselling in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 14,788 (81%).
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 17,194 (82%).
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 9,535 (82%).
- (b) for financial assistance, including for immediate needs and economic loss:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 3,634 (63%).
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 6,209 (74%)
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 3,998 (78%).
- (c) see above for (b). Data on applications for financial assistance cannot be broken down into immediate needs and economic loss applications.
- (d) for recognition payments in:

- (i) FY2018-19 was 7,481 (69%).
- (ii) FY2019-20 was 10,283 (74%).
- (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 5,769 (73%).

The number (and percentage) of claims as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse with an approval:

- (a) for counselling in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 is not readily available in an accessible form.
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 16,960 (83% of approvals).
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 9,403 (83% of approvals).
- (b) for financial assistance (for individual expenses) for immediate needs in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 3,231 (44% of awards).
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 12,137 (67% of awards)
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 10,029 (75% of awards).
- (c) for financial assistance (for individual expenses) for economic loss in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 1,207 (16% of awards).
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 1,524 (8% of awards)
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 914 (7% of awards).
- (d) for recognition payments in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 5,347 (67% of awards). Of these:
 - 1,622 (30.3%) were awarded a Category B payment.
 - 1,245 (23.3%) were awarded a Category C payment.
 - 2,475 (46.3%) were awarded a Category D payment.
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 4,712 (67% of awards). Of these:
 - 1,441 (30.6%) were awarded a Category B payment.
 - 1,258 (26.7%) were awarded a Category C payment.
 - 2,013 (42.7%) were awarded a Category D payment.
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 4,619 (72% of awards). Of these:
 - 1,400 (30.3%) were awarded a Category B payment.
 - 1,038 (22.5%) were awarded a Category C payment.
 - 2,179(47.2%) were awarded a Category D payment.

Numbers of applications pending during these time periods cannot be determined.

No claims were lapsed during these time periods.

The number (and percentage) of claims as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse with a dismissal:

- (a) for counselling in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 is not readily available in an accessible form.
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 205 (59% of dismissals).
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 52 (46% of dismissals).
- (b) for financial assistance (for individual expenses) for immediate needs in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 2,142 (49% of dismissals).
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 9,546 (70% of dismissals)
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 7,302 (71% of dismissals).
- (c) for financial assistance (for individual expenses) for economic loss in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 706 (16% of dismissals).
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 1,525 (11% of dismissals).
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 1,131 (11% of dismissals).
- (d) for recognition payments in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was 814 (58% of dismissals)
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was 1,081 (59% of dismissals).
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 930 (67% of dismissals).

Note: 'child abuse' is not recorded by Victims Services as an act of violence distinct from other acts of violence and so aggregate data could not be readily obtained for the purposes of this response.

61. What were the reasons given for dismissing applications for victim support related to:
- (a) domestic violence
 - (b) sexual assault?

Answer

I am advised:

The reasons for dismissing applications vary greatly depending on the individual circumstances of any given application. It is not possible to summarise. All decisions are made in accordance with the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*. Applicants are provided with full reasons for dismissal in the notice of decision, and are directed to information on the right to and process for seeking an internal review.

62. How many claims have been rejected in the victims support scheme because of the time limit on how long after the violence claims must be lodged?

(a) Please provide this figure as a number and percentage of all claims made to date.

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this this information in a readily accessible form.

63. How many of these are claims relating to domestic violence and/or sexual assault?

(a) Please provide this figure as a number and percentage of all claims made to date.

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to the response for supplementary question 62.

64. What is the total expenditure in (a) 2018-19 (b) 2019-20 (c) 2020- 28 February 2021 on

(a) Counselling

(b) Financial assistance for immediate needs

(c) financial support for economic loss – including a breakdown of actual loss of wages

(d) recognition payments

(e) and how much as a number and percentage of the total for each aspect of support was awarded due to (i) sexual assault (ii) domestic violence?

Answer

I am advised:

Total expenditure on:

(a) Counselling in:

(i) FY2018-19 was \$20.2 million.

(ii) FY2019-20 was \$22.7 million.

(iii) FY2020-21 (as at 31 December 2020) was \$13.9 million.

A breakdown of counselling expenditure for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence is not readily available.

(b) Financial assistance for immediate needs in:

(i) FY2018-19 was \$5.56 million. Of this, \$3.15 million (57%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$0.43 million (8%) was for victims of sexual assault.

- (ii) FY2019-20 was \$20.56 million. Of this, \$16.69 million (81%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$0.79 million (4%) was for victims of sexual assault.
- (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was \$16.75 million. Of this, \$14.01 million (84%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$0.73 million (4%) was for victims of sexual assault.
- (c) Financial assistance for economic loss in:
 - (i) FY2018-19 was \$2.95 million. Of this, \$0.84 million (29%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$0.39 million (13%) was for victims of sexual assault.
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was \$3.62 million. Of this, \$0.91 million (25%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$0.38 million (11%) was for victims of sexual assault.
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was \$1.85 million. Of this, \$0.55 million (30%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$0.27 million (14%) was for victims of sexual assault.
- (d) Recognition payments in
 - (i) FY2018-19 was \$36.29 million. Of this, \$9.41 million (26%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$16.79 million (46%) was for victims of sexual assault.
 - (ii) FY2019-20 was \$32.59 million. Of this, \$8.17 million (25%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$15.55 million (48%) was for victims of sexual assault.
 - (iii) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was \$28.87 million. Of this, \$7.76 million (27%) was for victims of domestic violence and \$14.7 million (51%) was for victims of sexual assault.
- (e) see above.

65. What is the number and percentage of assaults resulting in grievous bodily harm (GBH) claims where the GBH is a psychological injury that have been awarded? Of these:
- (a) the number and percentage assisted by Victims Services alone in each financial year since the commencement of the new scheme?
 - (b) Where the applicant has been assisted by an advocate since the commencement of the new scheme?
 - (c) Where the applicant has been legally represented since the commencement of the new scheme?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.

66. What is the average payment for:
- (a) Immediate needs
 - (b) Economic loss – including a breakdown of actual loss of wages
 - (c) Recognition payments
- as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse in:
- (i) 2018-19
 - (ii) 2019-20
 - (iii) 2020-28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to response to supplementary question 51.

A further breakdown for the acts of violence requested is not currently available in a readily accessible form.

67. What is the number and percentage of claims involving domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse which were refused, or assistance was reduced due to section 44 [of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*] factors with a breakdown by number and percentage of each of the section 44 factors in:
- (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2019-20
 - (c) 2020-28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

The number (and percentage) of claims involving domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse which were refused, or assistance was reduced due to section 44 factors in:

- (d) FY2018-19 was 7 (6% of all section 44 refusals/reductions).
- (e) FY2019-20 was 7 (9% of all section 44 refusals/reductions).
- (f) FY2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) was 12 (9% of all section 44 refusals/reductions).

The percentage of all claims involving domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse which were refused, or assistance was reduced due to section 44 factors is negligible.

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold a breakdown of section 44 that applied to these decisions in a readily accessible form.

68. What is the number of applications lodged out of time and the number and percentage of these relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse in:
- (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2019-20
 - (c) 2020-28 February 2021

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to responses to supplementary questions 62 and 63.

Henry Dean relocation

69. The Department of Communities and Justice has announced plans to relocate staff currently housed in the Henry Dean Building to the new public service hub in Parramatta late 2021 for. How much will it cost to move all non-frontline staff and where will the funding come from?

Answer

I am advised:

The relocation of staff from the Henry Deane Building to Parramatta supports the NSW Government's Decade of Decentralisation commitments. The Department of Communities and Justice is still working through precise relocation arrangements, including the implications of COVID-19 and increased uptake of flexible working. As such, final costs for relocation are yet to be determined.

Contractors

70. How many contractors are currently employed within Justice and where are they employed?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold separate Justice contractor information within divisions.

112 contractors are currently employed by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice in former Justice divisions:

- Courts, Tribunals & Service Delivery - 69
- Corrective Services NSW - 41
- Law Reform and Legal Services - 2

71. Why is there a high prevalence of contractors within areas including IT and why does this continue?

Answer

I am advised:

IT projects require contractors at times due to the nature of projects, which requires a workforce approach that flexes up and down based on the number of funded projects. In some cases, contractors with a specific technical capability are required short-term due to the complexity of work.

72. What is the number of independent investigators used within areas such as professional standards for CSNSW and what costs have been incurred?

Answer

I am advised:

None (Financial Year 2020-21 (to 28 February 2021)).

Workers Compensation/Return to Work

73. Budget/premium

- (a) Has there been an increase in the Justice Workers Compensation budget/premium?
- (b) What impact would a premium increase have on each agency's budget and how would this be managed?

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) Yes, there has been an increase in workers compensation premium for the Justice divisions.
- (b) As the premium cost is covered by NSW Treasury, there is no direct impact from these increases on the budget of Department of Communities and Justice. For FY2020-21, Department of Communities and Justice is awaiting advice from icare as to any hindsight debit payment that may be payable.

74. Number of claims:

- (a) How many Workers Compensation Claims has Justice received in the last 24 months?
- (b) What is the breakdown by number of claims received by agency (e.g.: Youth Justice NSW, Sheriff's Office, Corrective Services NSW) in this period?
- (c) What is the comparative rate for the Public Sector in general?
- (d) How many Justice workers are currently on workers compensation?

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) The total number of claims for the Justice area was 253 claims over the previous 24 months. This data includes claims with a date of injury in FY2018-19 and FY2019-20 as reported as at 31 December 2020.

(b)

	Financial year of injury 18/19	Financial year of injury 19/20	Total
Courts and Tribunal Services	99	132	231
Corrective Services NSW	707	791	1498
Justice - Other	14	8	22
Youth Justice	200	158	358
Total	1020	1089	2109

- (c) icare does not supply the Department of Communities and Justice with comparative data for the public sector.
- (d) There are 778 workers who have active claims across all former Justice divisions.

75. Cost/type of injury:

- (a) How much has Justice spent on worker's compensation claims in the last 24 months?
- (b) What is the breakdown of cost of claims per agency (e.g.: Youth Justice NSW, Sheriff's Office, Corrective NSW Services) in this period?
- (c) What is the breakdown of cost of claims per agency and then per type of injury (e.g.: psychological, physical) in this period?
- (d) What are the 10 largest mechanisms of injury or cause of injury for those on workers compensation in Justice?
- (e) How many Workers Compensation Claims have Justice received over the last 12 months for psychological injury?
- (f) Has there been an increase in psychological claims within CSNSW, Youth Justice NSW, the NSW Police Force and other frontline services in the last 12 months?

Answer

I am advised:

(a) \$48,674,899.89 was paid across Justice divisions in financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

(b)

	Financial year of injury 18/19	Financial year of injury 19/20	Total
Courts And Tribunal Services	\$1,474,618.91	\$1,537,189.82	\$3,011,808.73
Corrective Services NSW	\$20,111,843.41	\$15,321,864.77	\$35,433,708.18
Former Department of Justice Central Office	\$1,138,656.39	\$209,930.44	\$1,348,586.83
Youth Justice	\$5,544,339.24	\$3,336,456.91	\$8,880,796.15
Total	\$28,269,457.95	\$20,405,441.94	\$48,674,899.89

This total refers to total paid on the claims occurring in FY2018-19 and FY2019-20 across the Justice divisions.

(c)

	Physical	Psychological	Total
Courts and Tribunal Services	\$1,249,134.08	\$1,762,674.65	\$3,011,808.73
Corrective Services NSW	\$20,200,882.48	\$15,232,825.70	\$35,433,708.18
Former Department of Justice Corporate*	\$571,948.56	\$776,638.27	\$1,348,586.83
Youth Justice NSW	\$4,767,632.77	\$4,113,163.38	\$8,880,796.15
Total	\$26,789,597.89	\$21,885,302.00	\$48,674,899.89

(d)

Number	Mechanism of Injury
(1)	Work pressure
(2)	Work related harassment and/or workplace bullying
(3)	Falls on the same level
(4)	Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down
(5)	Being assaulted by a person or persons
(6)	Exposure to workplace or occupational violence

(7)	Muscular stress with no objects being handled
(8)	Other and multiple mechanisms of incident
(9)	Falls from a height
(10)	Exposure to a traumatic event

- (e) There were a total of 178 claims for psychological injury in FY2019-20.
- (f) As at 30 June 2020, psychological claims have increased in in Corrective Services NSW and NSW Police Force.

76. Return to work:

- (a) Over the last 24 months, what is the average time after an injured worker is cleared for some type of work, that they actually commence work?
- (b) Over the last 24 months, how many injured workers, once cleared for some type of work, have still not been placed into work after:
 - i. 1 month
 - ii. 3 months
 - iii. 6 months
 - iv. 12 months
- (c) What are the main factors influencing delays in returning injured workers to some type of work once they have received medical clearance?

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold this information.
- (b) The Department of Communities and Justice receives reports from icare on the return to work rate, but that metric does not map the date at which a worker was declared fit for some or all duties.
- (c) There are several factors for this, including restrictions being too limited to allow an injured worker to perform any meaningful tasks in the workplace. There is also a delay related to identifying suitable duties when the worker cannot return to their pre-injury location, or if there are non-work related factors impacting their return.

Crown Solicitor's Office

77. Why has the CSO blow it budget by 7 million dollars on a new case management and accounting system known as 'Elite'?

Answer

I am advised:

The Crown Solicitor's Office has not exceeded its budget by \$7 million on the introduction of the Elite practice management system.

78. Despite the expenditure, finance and case management systems have required more manual processing and work. This appears to be a profligate use of public money for the benefit of a private contractor.

Answer

I am advised:

Elite does not require more manual processing and work.

The introduction of Elite has resulted in a number of operational changes, including the following:

- all financial processes are now electronic and are largely automated;
- there has been a significant reduction in transactional and manual processing;
- double handling of documentation for final commercial and administrative checks and approvals has been eliminated.

79. The CSO has kept paying contractors of Elite for over a year, despite originally being contracted for the implementation of the new case management system. There appears to be no transparency in expenditure to the contractor, which gives the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Answer

I am advised:

The Crown Solicitor's Office does not have any contractors engaged through Thomson Reuters, which supplies Elite. All contractors supporting the project, including system specialists, are engaged independently and sourced from small Australian businesses, where possible.

The Crown Solicitor's Office is establishing the Enterprise System team to reduce reliance on the use of contractors to support Elite as it transitions to a business-as-usual support model for Elite. This is expected to be in place by commencement of FY2021-22.

80. Why has the CSO kept contract staff from the private contractor, Elite, on, at the cost of experienced public servants who the CSO now want to make redundant?

Answer

I am advised:

Following a period of review and consultation, the Crown Solicitor's Office is implementing new team structures as outlined in the response to supplementary question 78 above.

Affected staff have been informed about their options and entitlements, including the opportunities available for roles in the new structures.

The Crown Solicitor's Office is phasing out the use of contractors as outlined in the response to supplementary question 79 above.

NSW Crime Commission

81. Is the budget of the NSW Crime Commission sufficient to support its operations in disrupting organised crime?

Answer:

I am advised:

The NSW Crime Commission will discharge its responsibilities to the best of its ability with the budget it is provided with to support all of its operations in disrupting organised crime.

82. Are any of the proceeds of asset seizures made by the NSW Crime Commission put back into resourcing of law enforcement?

Answer:

I am advised:

All proceeds of asset seizures made by the NSW Crime Commission are processed to contribute to the Confiscated Proceeds Account.

Specialist Domestic Violence Refuges

83. How is the Government addressing the short-fall in the provision of specialist domestic violence accommodation services (women's domestic violence refuges) to assist women with and without children escaping domestic violence?

Answer

I am advised:

In FY2020-21, \$291 million will be invested in specialist homelessness services, referral services such as Link2home, enhancements for youth refuges and after hours domestic and family violence services, and Homelessness Strategy initiatives. This includes \$68.9 million in homelessness services that have crisis accommodation and provide support to women experiencing domestic and family violence.

In addition to women's refuges, the NSW Government funds a range of other programs that support women who are experiencing domestic and family violence, and may also be at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. This includes, for example, Start Safely and Staying Home Leaving Violence, Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service (IDFVS)

84. How many specialist domestic violence refuges in NSW in 2021 are recurrently Government funded and managed solely by women for women drawn from local communities as they were pre-2014?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government provides funding to 86 women's refuges through specialist homelessness services, to deliver women's only crisis accommodation. Of the 86 government funded women's refuges, 66 are refuges which operate from government owned properties. Another 20 refuges operate from non-government or privately owned properties. Women's refuges funded through the NSW Government's Specialist Homelessness Services program are managed by non-government organisations that have been selected through a competitive procurement process, in line with the NSW Government's Procurement Policy Framework. DCJ does not hold information about the number of SHS providers that are managed solely by 'women for women drawn from local communities'

85. Do you accept that the idea of considering homelessness to be generic was a mistake and that domestic violence and homelessness are distinct and different?

Answer

I am advised:

Domestic and family violence and homelessness are distinct but interconnected. Domestic and family violence is the main reason that women and children leave their homes in Australia. In

FY2019-20, 39% of clients who presented to specialist homelessness services in NSW identified as experiencing family and domestic violence.

86. What are the current bed rates, on average, of the new service providers?

Answer

I am advised:

The Specialist Homelessness Services program does not collect information on bed rates. The capacity of any women's refuges is dependent on a range of factors, including:

- the intensity and combination of client needs at any given time
- the willingness, or ability, of women to share rooms
- the needs and configuration of families.

Consultation

87. What past and current consultations are you conducting with service users (women who have used services or need to use one) and experienced domestic violence trained workers both past and present?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government partnered with Domestic Violence NSW in 2020 to host three forums for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander frontline workers, corporate leaders, and victim-survivors of domestic and family violence as well as academics in a range of capacities. The Department of Communities and Justice continues to meet regularly with sexual, domestic and family violence peak bodies and sector representatives to ensure that investment and support is based on current needs, expert advice and input from frontline specialist services. These meetings include members of the NSW Women's Alliance, and representatives from LGBTIQ+, culturally and linguistically diverse, Aboriginal and disability focused organisations. In addition, the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021 will be renewed this year in consultation with the domestic and family violence sector and victim-survivors with lived experience.

88. Who are you consulting with (apart from Deloitte Economics and KPMG) to determine effective strategies and services for keeping women and children safe from violent partners and ex partners?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government consults with the specialist domestic and family violence sector on an ongoing basis, including through the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council. Victim-survivors with lived experience will be consulted with as part of the renewal of the domestic and family violence strategy.

Case Management support for victim-survivors

89. In January 2020, the Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Mark Speakman said "The NSW Government is currently exploring options for a state-wide case-management model to provide a more intensive level of support to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence who need it."

- (a) Why hasn't there been progress on meeting this critical service gap for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence?
- (b) When will this be rectified?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government continues to explore options for state-wide case management to provide a more intensive level of support to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence who need it. This work had been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19.

Core funding for WDVCSs / Safer Pathway

90. As per Legal Aid NSW's annual report, WDVCS client numbers have increased by more than 35% without any increase in their core funding.

- (a) Why hasn't this been rectified?
- (b) What is the plan for remedying this unacceptable gap in funding?

Answer

I am advised:

The Legal Aid NSW annual report for FY2019-20 notes that there was an 11.7% increase in the number of Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) clients since the previous year.

The 35% increase noted by the Hon Mark Buttigieg refers to an increase in the number of service events provided to clients by WDVCSs between FY2018-19 and FY2019-20. A service event

refers to any action taken by a WDVCAS to assist a client. This can include, for example, providing information to clients via telephone, assisting clients in person at court, connecting clients to other services (e.g. accommodation, casework, counselling, legal advice) and supporting clients in relation to Safety Action Meetings.

In FY2020-21, WDVCASs will receive over \$28 million in ongoing funding and \$1.38 million in one-off funding to assist with managing the impacts of COVID-19.

Aboriginal Women and Children

91. Considering the impact of domestic and family violence in the Aboriginal community, does the NSW Government intend to fund primary violence prevention initiatives in New South Wales which align with [*Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children*](#) (Our Watch, 2018)? If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to responses to supplementary questions 40 and 44.

92. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are experiencing violence can access specialist and culturally safe support?

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to response to supplementary question 44.

93. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations are involved in addressing the devastating impact of domestic and family violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in NSW?

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to response to supplementary question 44.

Domestic violence and disabilities

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

Answer

I am advised:

Please refer to response to supplementary question 36.

Domestic violence and children

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

Answer

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring all children and young people who experience domestic and family violence are supported, both as individuals, as well as in the context of their family and broader community.

I am advised that when a child or young person is assessed as being at risk of significant harm, the Department of Communities and Justice works with the family, other agencies and professionals to ensure their safety.

Support for children and young people will also be considered in the development of the next whole-of-government domestic and family violence Strategy, due to be finalised in 2021.

The Department of Communities and Justice is also currently undertaking work to improve family preservation in NSW, which includes supports for children and young people who have experienced domestic and family violence

96. When will children be recognised as victims in their own rights and be offered child appropriate support services and therapies to process trauma?

Answer

I am advised:

Acknowledging children and young people as victims in their own right, incorporating their voices in the reforms that affect them, and explicitly acknowledging their human rights forms Recommendation 2 of the evaluation of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint Strategy, and will be considered in the development of the next NSW whole of government DFV Strategy, due to be finalised 2021.

Children who are victims of violent crime, including domestic and family violence, are eligible to apply for financial support, free counselling, and a recognition payment under the Victims Support Scheme. In addition, children who are injured as a result of witnessing a violent crime are eligible to apply for free counselling. Counselling is available and provided by approved social workers, psychologists, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists with experience in providing

trauma-informed therapeutic services to victims of crime and includes counsellors who specialise in working with children.

Many services, including child clients of the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services (IDFVS) program are considered as clients in their own right and direct services are provided to children. Direct services to children are negotiated and agreed by the parent client of the service. These services can include but are not limited to:

- emotional and practical support
- safety planning
- risk assessment using the mandatory reporting guidelines
- therapeutic support (where specialisation exists within the service).

Impact of COVID 19

97. Many domestic violence services witnessed increase in demand in 2020 compared to 12 months prior, as a result of COVID-19.
- (a) Will the Government commit to increasing the level of funding for frontline domestic violence services beyond 2020-21 to address this rising demand?
 - (b) How much additional funding has the NSW Government invested in DFV response and safety measures because of the COVID impact?
 - (c) How is the Government preparing for and responding to the longer-term impact?
 - (d) Specifically, what additional funds for frontline services are being committed in this year's budget?

Answer

I am advised:

- (e) The NSW Government considers domestic and family violence to be one of the most serious and devastating crimes in our community and is committed to continuing to improve our efforts to address it. To support this commitment, the NSW Government is investing a record \$538 million over four years to address domestic violence through a range of measures including primary prevention and early intervention, upholding victim safety through civil and criminal measures, perpetrator interventions, public awareness campaigns, and the NSW Domestic Violence Line and the Men's Referral Service helplines. This is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars our government spends each year to combat domestic and family violence through mainstream services in justice, police, health, child protection, social housing and homelessness services.

To address the reported increase in demand for frontline domestic violence services, an additional \$30.8 million of Commonwealth COVID-19 stimulus funding and \$12.8 million in NSW funding has been allocated in the 2020-21 FY.

- (f) Please refer to response to supplementary question 31.
- (g) Please refer to response to supplementary question 32.
- (h) Please refer to response to supplementary question 31.

Redundancies within the Stronger Communities Cluster

98. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Department of Communities and Justice from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

There were 431 redundancies finalised across the Department of Communities and Justice during the period 1 July 2020 to 10 March 2021.

- (a) Redundancy-affected positions were in various areas of the department subject to business requirements.
 - (b) Redundancies occurred across metropolitan and various regional areas based on business requirements.
 - (c) The 431 redundancies were finalised on various dates throughout the period 1 July 2020 and 10 March 2021.
 - (d) The savings per annum achieved by these redundancies is \$40,614,476.50.
99. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Department of Communities and Justice?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?

(e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

There are a number of proposed redundancies in the Department of Communities and Justice that are yet to be announced and finalised as outlined below.

- a) The following departmental areas/divisions will have affected positions and redundancies that are yet to be finalised:
- The Corporate Services and Disability Divisions have 5 employees who have been declared excess and are currently seeking re-deployment across the NSW government sector in line with the Managing Excess Employees policy.
 - The Strategy, Policy and Commissioning Division has released a draft restructure management plan for consultation. The division has a planned reduction of 175 out of 815 roles and has implemented a voluntary redundancy Expression of Interest (EOI) program. As at 26 February 2021, 158 EOIs had been received.
 - The Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services Division launched a restructure management plan on 15 January 2021. The division has a planned reduction of 28 out of 66 roles. Those staff in roles that are declared excess to requirements will have a choice to seek re-deployment across the NSW government sector in line with the Managing Excess Employees policy.
- b) The location of impacted roles is primarily metropolitan areas.
- c) The dates for proposed redundancies is yet to be finalised.
- Strategy, Policy and Commissioning division - the voluntary redundancy expressions of interest program is yet to be finalised.
 - Corporate Services and Disability Divisions - if, at the end of their retention, the excess employees have not been redeployed, the Department may make the employee forcibly redundant.
 - Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services Division - is yet to confirm which roles will be declared excess.
- d) The dates for the announcement of proposed redundancies is yet to be finalised.
- e) The full projected monetary value of redundancies for the Department is yet to be finalised.

100. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at Multicultural NSW from July 2020 to date?

(a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?

- (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
- (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
- (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil redundancies finalised from July 2020 to date (at 28 February 2021).

101. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at Multicultural NSW?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil redundancies proposed and/or announced.

102. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Office of Sport from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Three.

- (e) Human Resources and Finance
- (f) Greater Sydney
- (g) 11 July 2020, 8 August 2020 and 29 August 2020
- (h) \$18,330 per annum.

103. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Office of Sport?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?

- (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
- (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
- (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
- (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

104. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the NSW Institute of Sport from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

105. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the NSW Institute of Sport?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

106. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at Venues NSW from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?

(d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

107. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at Venues NSW?

(a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?

(b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?

(c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?

(d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?

(e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

108. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at Fire and Rescue NSW from July 2020 to date?

(a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?

(b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?

(c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?

(d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

109. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at Fire and Rescue NSW?

(a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?

(b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?

(c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?

(d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?

(e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

110. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the NSW Rural Fire Service from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Three (3) redundancies were finalised from July 2020 to date.

- (e) The roles were previously allocated within Regional Services prior to Area Operations realignment.
- (f) Albury, Young and Batemans Bay.
- (g) 9 July 2020, 3 September 2020 and 26 November 2020 respectively.
- (h) Nil savings. Area Operations realignment resulted in deletion of certain roles and the creation of other roles in regional locations.

111. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the NSW Rural Fire Service?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

One (1) redundancy.

- (f) Regional Services (Region East).
- (g) Hornsby.
- (h) Date to be finalised.
- (i) August 2019.

- (j) Nil savings. Realignment resulted in deletion of certain roles and the creation of other roles within Area Operations.

112. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the NSW State Emergency Service from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

113. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the NSW State Emergency Service?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

114. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at NSW Police from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

In regard to the NSW Police Force, eight redundancies were finalised in that period.

- (a) Corporate areas.
- (b) Sydney Metro.

- (c) 24 July 2020, 15 October 2020, 15 October 2020, 26 November 2020, 26 November 2020, 27 November 2020, 10 December 2020, 19 March 2021.
- (d) No savings were realised as funding from these positions is repurposed into new positions within the restructuring commands.

115. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at NSW Police?

- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
- (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
- (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
- (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

116. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from July 2020 to date?

- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
- (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
- (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

116. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from July 2020 to date?

- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
- (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
- (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

117. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions?

- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
- (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
- (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
- (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

118. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at Legal Aid NSW from July 2020 to date?

- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
- (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
- (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

One redundancy has been finalised.

- (e) Human Resources Division
- (f) Sydney
- (g) 6 January 2021
- (h) \$37,301 per annum.

119. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at Legal Aid NSW?

- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
- (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
- (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
- (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

120. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Judicial Commission of NSW from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

121. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Judicial Commission of NSW?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

122. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Registrar of Community Housing from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

123. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Registrar of Community Housing?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Strategy, Policy and Commissioning Division of the Department of Communities and Justice, which includes Registrar of Community Housing, implemented voluntary redundancy expression of interest program in February 2021. As at 26 February 2021, 158 expressions of interest were received. The Department is in the process of confirming those expressions of interest and considering where offers can be made.

124. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Office of the Children's Guardian from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

There have been 2 voluntary redundancies from the Office of the Children's Guardian since July 2020 (to February 2021).

- (e) Both positions were in the Office of the Children's Guardian.
- (f) Both positions were based in Redfern.
- (g) Both voluntary redundancies were finalised in the 2020-21 financial year.
- (h) Both positions were Clerk Grade 11/12 (one full-time and one part-time).

125. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Office of the Children's Guardian?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?

- (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
- (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
- (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
- (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

126. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Office of the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

127. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Office of the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

128. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the NSW Crime Commission from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?

- (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
- (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
- (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

129. As you are the lead Minister for the Stronger Communities Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the NSW Crime Commission?

- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
- (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
- (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
- (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
- (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

Employees

130. Minister, for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your portfolio:

- (a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
- (b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees— both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (d) What is the average remuneration received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (e) What is the highest remuneration for male employees— both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (f) What is the lowest pay received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?

- (g) What is the average remuneration received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
- (i) What is the highest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (j) What is the lowest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (k) What is the average number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (l) What is the highest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (m) What is the lowest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (n) What is the average number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (o) What is the highest number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (p) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (q) What is the average number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (r) What is the highest number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (s) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (t) What is the average number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.
- (v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
- (w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?

Answer

I am advised:

Information on senior executives and other associated information is publicly available in agency annual reports.

Additionally, the NSW Public Service Commission's State of the NSW Public Sector and Workplace Profile reports provide annual data relating to the proportion of women in the NSW public sector by cluster, remuneration, and grade. Both reports are available at www.psc.nsw.gov.au.

131. Cluster Secretary- for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your Cluster:

- (a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
- (b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (d) What is the average remuneration received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (e) What is the highest remuneration for male employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (f) What is the lowest pay received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (g) What is the average remuneration received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
- (i) What is the highest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (j) What is the lowest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (k) What is the average number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (l) What is the highest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (m) What is the lowest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (n) What is the average number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (o) What is the highest number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (p) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (q) What is the average number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (r) What is the highest number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (s) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (t) What is the average number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.

- (v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
- (w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?

Answer

Please refer to response to supplementary question 130.