

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021
Questions Taken on Notice

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Hearing: Friday 5 March 2021

Answers due by: Wednesday 31 March 2021

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 4-5**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: We will move on to the Greater Sydney Sports grants. I have a copy here of the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund expression of interest [EOI] stage assessment October 2019. This might be for the Minister or Ms Jones. I want to confirm that that was the document that was used to provide assessment and numerical scores for the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund 2019.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Whilst Ms Jones is reviewing, can I just say for the benefit of the Committee that the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund was a program focusing on upgrading and providing new facilities that are multipurpose, improve amenities—

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I did not ask a question about it.

The CHAIR: Minister, could you speak into the microphone?

Dr GEOFF LEE: Sorry. I thought I would help the Committee while Ms Jones is reviewing that document by looking at the great things that the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund is doing in terms of providing valuable infrastructure in our communities throughout Greater Sydney. It upgrades facilities or builds new facilities through a different process. There is a whole criteria and I think that is what Ms Jones is looking at now.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Minister. I can confirm that this is a working document that was used to inform the assessment of the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund for the 2019-20 round.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Were those scores applied as part of the assessment process that was used to determine which grants would progress to stage two? Is that the purpose of that assessment process?

Ms JONES: The document that you have here is an expression of interest assessment for a specific grant project or grant application. The document actually outlines one component of the assessment process, being the Office of Sport assessment. That assessment would then go to the grant assessment panel where it would also be considered by other panel members. This was one aspect of that assessment process.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: But it was a necessary aspect. As part of the various inputs that went into the determination of the grants, this was one box that needed to be ticked.

Ms JONES: Yes. Under the assessment methodology, the grant assessment panel is the panel that actually goes through and assesses all of the applications. This was one component that fed into that grant assessment panel process.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Were EOI stage assessments completed for the 2018 round of the grants?

Ms JONES: Yes, they were.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Why, then, were no EOI stage assessments or weightings provided with the documents requested under Standing Order 52?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice. I was not aware, but I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund 2018/19, Expression of Interest assessments were undertaken using a grants online system. Assessor comments and scoring for recommended projects are contained in the documents provided under Standing Order 52.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 5**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I have an index of the documents that were provided and I can provide you with a copy of that, but I can assure you that they were not provided. I am interested to know if that was an oversight, if it was deliberate or if in fact there were no EOI stage assessments done.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Ms Jackson. I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund 2018/19, Expression of Interest assessments were undertaken using a grants online system. Assessor comments and scoring for recommended projects are contained in the documents provided under Standing Order 52.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 5**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It would be useful if we could have that information by the end of today.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: She is entitled to take it on notice and the resolution is passed as to how long. It does not have to be today.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I am entitled to suggest that if documents that were requested under Standing Order 52 were not provided, then that is a cause for concern. It would be good to quickly ascertain what has happened to those documents.

Ms JONES: For the benefit of the Committee I am happy to ask my staff have a look into that today, but I will take it on notice if I cannot provide an answer for you today.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund 2018/19, Expression of Interest assessments were undertaken using a grants online system. Assessor comments and scoring for recommended projects are contained in the documents provided under Standing Order 52.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 7**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Did you have access to the expressions of interest list? Is that something that was provided to you as part of the brief?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I would have to check with you on the timing. It was just about the time when, from memory, I was appointed, just shortly after, as acting Minister. The expressions of interest were advertised, they were collated and, as acting Minister, a brief came up to me and said—this is from memory—that these projects should go to the second stage, which is the full business case analysis project. I note that some 23 projects were recommended to do a full evaluation based upon their expression of interest and their merit-based expression of interest in terms of where we needed a full business case, which obviously exposes the people that are putting that full business case to a significant amount of costs and resources in terms of actually developing a comprehensive business case that we can actually analyse.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Office of Sport provided a list of recommended projects and not recommended projects.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 8**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: You do not recall at that point whether the full expressions of interest list was provided to you?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I am happy to take that on notice just to double-check and make sure I give the Committee the right answer.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Office of Sport provided a list of recommended projects and not recommended projects.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 8**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Why did applications for the Margaret Whitlam indoor cricket facility, Begnell Field, Emu Plains sport and rec and Henley Park not progress past that EOI assessment on round two and lower scoring applications did? How did that happen?

Dr GEOFF LEE: Certainly can I say that the bottom line is that I have followed the process that was involved and the recommendations that the independent grant panel put up to me. I did not see why I should vary those. There was no compelling case to actually vary those recommendations from the independent panel overseen by a probity officer.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, during the Expression of Interest stage, all applications were assessed against the three objectives of the Fund, strategic alignment, affordability and deliverability.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility
Transcript page 8**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Ms Jones, it was the case that the grant assessment panel are writing their brief to the Minister, they look at the scores that they themselves have given these applications and they say, "We are just going to put a line through these ones that have scored high—Margaret Whitlam cricket, Emu Plains sport and rec—and we are going to circle these ones down here that scored lower and that is what we are going to recommend to the Minister." Is that the kind of work that the grant assessment panel does?

Ms JONES: I think I have been pretty clear about what the grant assessment panel does. In fact, again, the assessment methodology and the probity plan actually outline the scope of the grant assessment panel. I can go through that if you want me to do so. However, **in terms of those specific projects you are referring to, I do not have the full list here with me today. I am more than happy to have a look at those specific projects and provide you with information around the assessment of those projects and the decision-making that was framed around those. I can take it on notice.**

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, during the Expression of Interest stage, all applications were assessed against the three objectives of the Fund, strategic alignment, affordability and deliverability.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility
Transcript page 13-14**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I am indeed, Minister, trying to use specific examples to draw out whether or not the rhetoric around support for women's sport is, in fact, factual. My next example is Pennant Hills Netball Club, which applied for a grant, has 3,500 netball players, received a score of 17 and was not funded. Concord Golf Water Harvesting received a score of 12 and was. How do you justify that? We have had Ku-ring-gai netball, Pennant Hills netball—how do you justify those decisions which go to a genuine commitment to sport? That is where the money is going. How do you justify that?

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: Are we going to go through every project that has not been awarded funds?

Dr GEOFF LEE: Thank you again for a similar sort of question, Ms Jackson. At the risk of repeating my answers ad nauseam because this is my testimony, I will see if Karen Jones would like to make comment as CEO of the Office of Sport.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Minister. I think that at this point it is pretty important to outline that the Greater Sydney Sport Facility Fund is not specifically targeting women and girls in sport. It is a fund that seeks to provide facilities across all Greater Sydney. In fact, the actual criteria and the objectives of the fund are clearly outlined in the grant guidelines and I will quickly go through those. The first objective is to actually increase the number and type of sporting facilities. The second is to improve the standard of existing sporting facilities. The third is to increase participation in sport. For the year 2019-20 Greater Sydney Sport Facility Fund round, whilst it was not an objective, there was prioritisation given to the provision of facilities that support women and girls. Now, as stated by the Minister, in the same year of 2019-20, the Office of Sport facilitated over \$40 million of infrastructure projects—22 projects, actually—that had a priority focus on female-friendly facility and design, and that amount itself actually exceeds the Greater Sydney Sport Facility Fund allocation for that year. We are very strong advocates of women in sport and that is clearly outlined in our Her Sport Her Way strategy. Under that strategy, as I think the Minister has already outlined—we have the Active Kids allocation and the support we provide, particularly to school-age children, including females and girls, to participate and take up sport. We also have a number of other initiatives outlined in Her Sport Her Way. In fact, there are 29 initiatives that aim to increase the number of women and girls playing sport, and that includes investment into sports facilities, maximising investment into women's sport, and supporting the sports sector in ensuring leadership in women in sport. We are into our year two action plan of Her Sport Her Way. I can give you some of the highlights of year one.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: No, thanks. I have the document.

Ms JONES: Great.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, during the Expression of Interest stage, all applications were assessed against the three objectives of the Fund, strategic alignment, affordability and deliverability. During the assessment of stage 2 applications, each project was assessed against the above criteria and also their contribution to supporting the participation of women and girls.

Ku-ring-gai Netball applied under the 2018/19 Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund.

Pennant Hills Netball did not apply under round 1 or 2 of the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund.
It is not appropriate to compare an application under round 1 with a project submitted under round 2.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility
Transcript page 13-14**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: As part of Her Sport Her Way, it is my understanding that the grant applications that cater for the needs of women and girls will be given priority. Does that not include in funds such as the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund? When you put that in Her Sport Her Way, that does not apply to the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund?

Ms JONES: The Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund is a standalone program in its own right. In the year 2019-20 there was a focus—not an objective but a focus—on female facilities. I think you will find that a number of the projects that did actually proceed did have that focus. **In terms of the individual assessment of applications that you have been pointing towards, I am happy to take that on notice and provide again some information around their decision-making on those individual projects. I do not have that in front of me right now, so I can take that on notice.**

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, during the Expression of Interest stage, all applications were assessed against the three objectives of the Fund, strategic alignment, affordability and deliverability. During the assessment of stage 2 applications, each project was assessed against the above criteria and also their contribution to supporting the participation of women and girls.

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Greater Sydney Sports Facility Transcript page

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I understand that, but we have a document here that suggests that priority will be given to grant applications that cater for the needs of women and girls. We have had an acknowledgement that this is a focus for the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund. We have had Ku-ring-gai netball, Pennant Hills netball, Baulkham Hills netball: 6,188 registered players, 760 teams, 29 clubs. They did not receive any grant funding. They were providing 44 per cent co-contribution to the grant that they were seeking. They never even progressed to the second round. Minister, do you accept that it is not as though there is just one example here of a female-dominated sport grant application that did not receive funding. In fact, there is a pattern. That is why I am going through one by one. Do you accept there is a pattern here of female-dominated sports, big clubs putting in grants and not getting funding?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I do not accept that there is a pattern. They were assessed according to the criteria outlined in the grants program for the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund. I think Ms Jones took on notice to say that she is more than happy to get back to you about the projects and about their focus on women. I do not think she has it at hand, unless suddenly it came to you and you do have it at hand, Ms Jones.

Ms JONES: No.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Or one of your staff may have it?

Ms JONES: No.

Dr GEOFF LEE: We will take it on notice and get back to the Committee for a full and transparent evaluation of evidence provided today.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, during the Expression of Interest stage, all applications were assessed against the three objectives of the Fund, strategic alignment, affordability and deliverability. During the assessment of stage 2 applications, each project was assessed against the above criteria and also their contribution to supporting the participation of women and girls.

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It is not appropriate to compare an application under round 1 with a project submitted under round 2.

**Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund
Transcript page 14-15**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Ms Jones, are you able to provide any more information to us as to how these grant applications for big clubs in female-dominated sports are consistently not being funded or failing even to progress to round two, despite the fact that you have said you will give priority to grant applications that cater to the needs of women and girls?

Ms JONES: What I will say is when you actually publish in your grant guidelines that that is a focus, or focus on anything—it might be a disabled sport, it might be a whole range of things—that will actually attract applications that demonstrate that focus. I think you will find that even the applications that were approved actually have a women-in-sport focus as well. I would be very surprised if not all or at least the majority of applications that were actually presented for assessment included commentary on how they were focusing on women and girls in sport because it was clearly articulated in the grant guidelines that that would be a focus. So good grant preparation would include that. It is a competitive process.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Do you accept there is a difference between a Rugby club putting in a line in its grant application that "We will try to do up the women's change rooms" and an application for a netball club, which is a female-dominated sport that is trying to massively increase the capacity for women to actively participate in that sport? Do you accept there is a difference between those two things?

Ms JONES: No, I do not actually accept that, with due respect. What I do accept is that under Her Sport Her Way the New South Wales Government is trying to increase participation of women and girls across all sports.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: So you do not think there is any difference between a club—if you are looking to support women's participation in sport—that has thousands and thousands of women and girls participating, that is trying to considerably increase the capacity for them to play and participate, and an application for a Rugby club that has thousands of blokes participating, a very small number of women, that puts in a line that says—

The Hon. NATALIE WARD: To try to increase the women participating in Rugby.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: —"We might look at putting some new doors on the—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Order!

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: There is no difference? In terms of actually trying to get more women playing sport, you think that the outcome is going to be the same?

Ms JONES: In terms of those two projects, like I have said before, I will take on notice in terms of the actual assessment behind those, but I will revert back to my previous statement and say that the Office of Sport, New South Wales Government, wants to see growth in women participating in all sports.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, during the Expression of Interest stage, all applications were assessed against the three objectives of the Fund, strategic alignment, affordability and deliverability. During the assessment of stage 2 applications, each project was

assessed against the above criteria and also their contribution to supporting the participation of women and girls.

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Multilingual COVID-19 information
Transcript page 19-20

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I can understand my colleagues asking you to do more because there were complaints at the time that not enough was done. Can I ask, Minister, did Multicultural NSW receive complaints about the lack of multilingual information, in particular around the initial restrictions and testing process?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I will ask Joseph La Posta, otherwise we will take it on notice. To my knowledge there were requests for further translations but certainly no complaints in the traditional sense that "you are not doing anything". In fact, the opposite is true. Can I say that there were no complaints is my understanding, but certainly there were compliments. There were requests for further languages, and can we expand it and change the media that we produce those, how we distribute those and the media that we are using—perhaps whether there was a sign purely in another language or it was a multilingual sign, or the graphics of the layout, those sorts of things. But, contrary to your assertions in your question, this is untrue. I personally and my testimony here, I take an important part today and I take it seriously that, in fact, the multicultural communities and the community leaders and people I talk to were very impressed with the response of Multicultural NSW. To the point, we had a forum just recently in my own electorate at Harris Park, a community forum with business owners, shopkeepers, retailers, restaurateurs, cafe owners, all from non-English speaking backgrounds, mainly from the subcontinent, to come together to look at health advice. Multicultural NSW conducted that to make sure that those proprietors actually were informed with the latest information and their responsibilities. And I think, all reports, they were very well received from the community that I have had reports, as well as Mr La Posta said that the shopkeepers themselves, the restaurateurs all had the COVID-safety requirements in place, because it is important. It is a tourist area, it is an area where lots of people go to experience our own Little India, which we are very proud of. Certainly, from the initial pandemic response and interpretation of health to advertising, where we picked up where the Federal Government left off, we actually targeted advertising programs in the correct media, whether it is online, whether it is in newspapers or on radio, that we did a significant advertising piece. As I understand it, the advertising piece is a continuation of the 156,000-something documents—

Mr LA POSTA: It was 1,569 documents and 400,000 words.

Dr GEOFF LEE: My apologies. Now we are moving into the communities and we have a whole plan rolling forward to look at how we can work with specific communities where we have identified that the need exists to bolster that response. Maybe Mr La Posta wants to—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Before Mr La Posta answers, Mr La Posta just told us that members of Parliament approached him "Can you do more?" and you also told us that you commenced communication in March. Are you seriously telling us there were no complaints, as you stated, to Multicultural NSW, that lack of multilingual information was a fact? Are you telling us that there were no complaints?

Dr GEOFF LEE: Can I say that I am more than happy—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: You said that, Minister.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I am more than happy to take it on notice. I cannot actually recall someone complaining, saying we have not done enough, which is amazing. When you come from an electorate like Parramatta, they soon tell you what they want to do and they will complain. Were there requests can we do something more for a community? Absolutely, and there will always be those requests. When we are online with 150 religious leaders—and I tried to do a rough calculation of how many people they represent; they probably represent two million people in New South Wales. When you have 150 of those community and religious leaders online, they are not backwards in

coming forwards in telling you exactly what they are thinking. That is why Multicultural NSW did such a good job.

ANSWER

As Minister for Multiculturalism I meet with many people who ask questions and give welcomed feedback about a number of issues.

Multilingual COVID-19 information
Transcript page 21

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: How much funding was allocated to reaching multicultural communities during COVID-19? How much funding? How much money was put out there?

Mr LA POSTA: There are a couple of things to this, and I am not trying to dodge it. It is a layered question because there is a whole-of-government campaign that sits around that which my agency had input into but I did not have direct financial responsibility over it; that sat with the Department of Customer Service, and Minister Dominello and Minister Lee collaborated very closely on that whole-of-government agency, and I can assure you that my team was at every possible meeting to make sure, as we all know, that the culturally diverse people throughout New South Wales had what they needed. The second part to that question relates largely directly to me, which is about translating services. There was never an instance where translated material was not provided to make sure that the public safety messaging from Health—and I am not talking about media releases or press releases but the public health messaging—was not translated into the languages that we identified that were most at need; that came personally from my own agency. **I can take the question specifically on notice, but I can tell you right now that it is a running bill because the job is not done and it is in the vicinity of between \$350,000 and \$400,000 directly on translation costs.**

ANSWER

I am advised:

Between February 2020 and March 2021, Multicultural NSW spent \$306,000 on translating content for multicultural communities, and in the early days of the pandemic the provision of interpreters for special programs. This is in addition to the budget for the NSW Government Advertising campaign managed by the Department of Customer Service.

**Multilingual COVID-19 information
Transcript page 22**

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Minister, how much money was spent on multilingual information and dissemination?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I will refer you back to Mr La Posta's answer and say that it is a significant amount. We are more than happy to take that on notice. I do not think the bill has finally—we continue to translate information, it is a running total. But, as Mr La Posta clearly said, 52 different languages, for the record, 1,569 documents and over 400,000 words are translated. We will continue to do what is necessary to make sure our multicultural communities remain informed and up to date with the latest health information to keep the whole community, not just the multicultural community, safe.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I hear you say "significant amount". What is that amount?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I am happy to take it on notice and get back to you. I just do not have the figure in hand, Mr Moselmane. That is all.

ANSWER

Please see previous answer.

**Active Kids
Transcript page 23-24**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Minister, do you think that your Government's Active Kids program has been fairly rolled out across the State?

Dr GEOFF LEE: Can I say that Active Kids is a \$127 million program, which we will continue to support, as a feature has been a sensational success. Can we do more to promote active kids in the community? Yes, I think we can. I think we should not be complacent.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: My question was: Do you think it has been fairly rolled out across the State? Your answer is, "It has been a sensational success." Is that your answer?

Dr GEOFF LEE: No. As I said, there are issues that we can address in terms of informing people so they can access that opportunity. Over 2.5 million vouchers have been redeemed. It is a huge investment by this Government and certainly the Office of Sport. I will ask Karen Jones to talk about our engagement with sporting organisations that want to be part of the Active Kids vouchers, because they have to register. Can we do more? I am advised that the Office of Sport is currently planning and doing more. That includes the intervention engagement programs with remote, Indigenous and culturally diverse communities as well as children with disability across New South Wales. Encouragingly, over 67,000 children with disability and 126,000 children identifying as Indigenous have redeemed vouchers since the start of the program. I certainly agree that we should not be complacent with the initial success of this program. We need to do more.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: How many vouchers did you say had been redeemed? You said about 2.5 million. You must have a figure.

Dr GEOFF LEE: My note here advises 2.5 million vouchers.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: So 2.5 million vouchers redeemed.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Yes, that is the advice that I have been given.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Is that the most current figure?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I am happy to take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

82% of vouchers created have been redeemed so far since start of the program (as at 10 March 2021).

**Active Kids
Transcript page 26**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Is it right that a third of the vouchers created have not been redeemed? Is that about right?

Ms JONES: I will take the statistics on notice but, yes, there is a difference.

ANSWER

I am advised:

82% of vouchers created have been redeemed so far since start of the program (as at 10 March 2021).

**Active Kids
Transcript page 26**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Have people followed up about why they did not redeem the voucher? You must know who has the vouchers. Do you send a prompt or a reminder?

Ms JONES: The Active Kids program has a very strong evaluation program associated with it and that is a partnership that we have with the University of Sydney and the Sport and Recreation Intervention and Epidemiology Research [SPRINTER] program. They look not only at voucher creation and redemption but also the impact that Active Kids is having on the physical activity and sport participation of school-aged children.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: My question was: Do you follow up with somebody who has printed a voucher that is about to expire? Do you follow up with them and say, "Your voucher is about to expire and you had better get on with it"?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You must know that, Ms Jones. You must know you do not, so just tell us you do not.

Ms JONES: In all honesty, I will take that on notice. We have a full Active Kids team at the Office of Sport that does a number of administrative tasks and that may be one of them, but I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Emails are sent prior to voucher expiry in each year of the program to persons who have applied for a voucher but not yet redeemed. Emails can only be sent to the voucher applicant via the email registered on their MyService account.

Active Kids
Transcript page 27

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Sorry, Minister, I am talking about the numbers for this year because I am going off the numbers for this year. So far in this year—and I did not want to mislead you—there have been 12 vouchers downloaded for Bourke, which is 3 per cent of the eligible population; so far this year there have been five vouchers downloaded for Brewarrina, which is 2 per cent of the eligible population; and so far there have been 57 vouchers, or 7 per cent, in Walgett. Were you aware of those kinds of low rates?

Dr GEOFF LEE: Certainly I would say on those low rates that you have indicated, no, I was not, in terms of Brewarrina and Bourke and those specifics. Can I say that it is available to all school-age children from 4½ to 18 years old. I think Karen accurately reflected the difficulties that we have had during COVID-19 and whether community sports were actually going to be played, but adding to that the winter sports actually have not commenced. It goes in spikes, when winter sport is about to start, but I will let Karen talk about that delayed reaction in terms of demand at different times of year as different sports come on and come off in terms of registrations.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Are you saying that the low rates in Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett are because of COVID?

Dr GEOFF LEE: No. What I am saying is that there are a number of reasons why there is a disparity between how many have been redeemed and—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I have not given you that data. This is not about the disparity between redeemed—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: David, let him answer.

Dr GEOFF LEE: —my advisers say that the website notes that 711 have been through Bourke and 1,315 in Walgett have been downloaded.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Over the course of the whole of the program. I am talking about this year.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I will take it on notice. I agree with you, if those are the figures that are justified. I am happy to accept those.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The numbers provided were correct at the time of the hearings.

Since that date numbers for the listed Local Government Area have increased substantially as families register for their chosen activities.

Areas identified as Remote NSW are known to have a lower uptake within the program due to additional barriers evident in these communities.

The Office of Sport has an engagement strategy including partnerships with local schools to support these communities, and has been working on improving access since the program's inception in 2018.

**Active Kids
Transcript page 28**

Ms JONES: Yes, thank you. If I can just answer your previous question, Mr Shoebridge, on whether or not we remind people about the expiry of the vouchers that they have created. I am informed to say yes, we do. We do actually send targeted emails to parents and guardians who have actually created vouchers but have not yet redeemed them. That might be whether or not they have redeemed one or two vouchers during the calendar year.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Per child.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms Jones, I have had reports from a number of parents who have not had that. Is it across the board or is it targeted?

Ms JONES: I will take the detail of that on notice but I am advised by my Active Kids team that, yes, we do actually follow up on vouchers that are not redeemed. In terms of take-up rates, particularly out in regional New South Wales, what I can add to what the Minister has already commented on is that in 2018 more than 36,000 Active Kids vouchers were created for children in regional New South Wales, particularly those who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children. In 2019, as a result of direct targeting by the Office of Sport and the Active Kids team, that actually increased to 62,000 redeemed in regional locations. At the Office of Sport we have actually undertaken a range of initiatives to improve the uptake and redemption of Active Kids vouchers, particularly in our Aboriginal and Indigenous communities. In some of the communities that you actually referred to, including Menindee, Walgett, Taree and Moree, more than 500 children in these communities are actually supported directly to participate in the program.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms Jones, do you have any data on the differential between the proportion of First Nations kids who have had vouchers created as against non-First Nations kids?

Ms JONES: I can take that on notice. Yes, we do have that data.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Does it also include vouchers proclaimed or redeemed?

Ms JONES: Redeemed, yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Could you provide that on notice?

Ms JONES: I will take it on notice. Thank you.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Since the start of the program 74% of eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children have created vouchers, compared with 64% of eligible children who do not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Since the start of the program 59% of eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children have redeemed vouchers, compared with 52% of eligible children who do not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Since the start of the program 59% of eligible regional/remote children have created vouchers, compared with 66% of eligible metro children.

Since the start of the program 49% of eligible regional/remote children have redeemed vouchers, compared with 54% of eligible metro children.

The regions and remoteness is defined by ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>

**Active Kids
Transcript page 28**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You talk about the global number created in regional New South Wales. What is that as a percentage of eligible kids in regional New South Wales?

Ms JONES: Again, I will take that on notice. That is a level of detail that I do not have with me today.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Since the start of the program 74% of eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children have created vouchers, compared with 64% of eligible children who do not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Since the start of the program 59% of eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children have redeemed vouchers, compared with 52% of eligible children who do not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Since the start of the program 59% of eligible regional/remote children have created vouchers, compared with 66% of eligible metro children.

Since the start of the program 49% of eligible regional/remote children have redeemed vouchers, compared with 54% of eligible metro children.

The regions and remoteness is defined by ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>

**Active Kids
Transcript page 28**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Again, can you give the differential between eligible kids in regional New South Wales as opposed to metro?

Ms JONES: Yes, we can do that. I will take that on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Again, if you could break it down into the vouchers created and vouchers redeemed?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice, yes. That level of detail I do not have with me.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Since the start of the program 74% of eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children have created vouchers, compared with 64% of eligible children who do not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Since the start of the program 59% of eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children have redeemed vouchers, compared with 52% of eligible children who do not identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Since the start of the program 59% of eligible regional/remote children have created vouchers, compared with 66% of eligible metro children.

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The regions and remoteness is defined by ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>

**Active Kids
Transcript page 28-29**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Can the vouchers be used for sports camps, Ms Jones?

Ms JONES: The vouchers are for sports programs and they have to be for a continuous period of at least eight weeks.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What is the rationale for excluding sports camps, particularly over the school holidays and the like? This is often an area where parents would see huge value in having a voucher. Why exclude sports camps?

Ms JONES: The objective of the Active Kids program is to instil good behaviours in children to have physical activity. By instilling those behaviours over a regular period, over a longer duration, has proven to demonstrate that those habits are then carried on hopefully through all of their lives.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Given at best we are getting take-ups of vouchers across the State in the order of 32 per cent in terms of the eligible population, don't you think it would make sense to expand the criteria, to expand the reach of the program to include, if nothing else, sports camps—you know, having kids go to an athletics camp over the school hols, or having kids go to a tennis camp over the school hols, rather than potentially sitting on the sofa with their device?

Ms JONES: The actual parameters of the program have been in place now for at least three years and have actually demonstrated through the evaluation of the program that it is quite successful in terms of improving the physical activity levels of school-aged children and also the habits that they are creating, to carry on with that physical activity through their lives.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But if you are only getting to 32 per cent of the eligible population—it may work for that 32 per cent. What about the 68 per cent that have not been touched? And it is more than that if you account for vouchers redeemed.

Ms JONES: That 32 per cent that you refer to is something that I will take on notice and qualify for you. I will get you the accurate figure around participation in the program.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The percentage mentioned by Mr Shoebridge MLC only relates to 2021. From January to 5 March 2021, 32% of the eligible child population has already created a voucher for this calendar year.

Active Kids is a calendar year program, so to accurately measure uptake, it is appropriate to look at the overall population uptake numbers at the end of the calendar year.

In 2018 53.2% of the eligible population created a voucher

In 2019 62.5% of the eligible population created a voucher.

In 2020 64% of the eligible population created a voucher.

Year on year growth is attributed to increasing community awareness of the program, and targeted engagement in communities identified as having lower uptake.

**Western Sydney Community and Conference Centre
Transcript page 29-30**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I might ask a couple of questions about the grant to Penrith Panthers. Is this still an Office of Sport initiative? Does it still have carriage of the Western Sydney Community and Conference Centre project, obviously considering it has previously been acknowledged that it contains no actual sporting amenities?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I think you are referring to a 2015 election commitment, is that the one?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: The 2015 election commitment was for sports facilities, so I am not really referring to that because we are now talking about something completely different but, yes, that is the money trail.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I am advised that the contribution for that project was a matched contribution from the Australian Government funding. The commitment was made to support the local tourism and entertainment economy and to support the construction of a stadia facility that would benefit the local community. The conference centre would feature floor space and be equipped to host large events, trade shows and exhibitions. It was originally intended for the centre to include indoor facilities for sport. However, these were removed from the scope in 2017. In March 2020 responsibility for the administration of the 2000 election commitment to the Western Sydney Community and Conference Centre was transferred from the Minister for sport to the Minister for housing and property. The funding agreement for the Penrith Panthers is being managed by housing and property. I will ask Mr Coutts-Trotter to add anything.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Only that, from memory, that transfer happened on 27 March, so quite soon after estimates that year. Housing and property have taken it on and have been managing the contractual arrangements since then.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In terms of how much money has been paid so far and other details of where that expenditure is up to, that is no longer something for which you are responsible?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: No, it is housing and property within the DPIE cluster.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Can I just add, Ms Jackson, in an article in The Sydney Morning Herald dated 11 March 2020, it was stated that the Opposition had referred these matters to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Therefore, it is probably not appropriate to undertake further review of the documentation relating to these matters because it has been referred.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Is it being investigated by ICAC?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I do not know.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Then that is hardly an answer.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I am just saying what the current state is.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The fact that it has been referred does not mean that it is being investigated.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Take a point of order if we are going to get into a conversation about it, because it is not even your time, is it?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has the Office of Sport transferred money to DPIE for the purposes of them continuing the management of the project?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I will take that on notice, unless Ms Jones—

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I do not have an answer, I am just looking to my colleague, Ms Jones.

Ms JONES: Yes, with the actual transfer of the funding agreement over to housing and property, the funds were also transferred across.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Twelve million dollars?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Funding for the remaining milestones was transferred to DPIE.

Voucher uptake
Transcript page 33

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I do. I was just waiting for the Minister to take a breath. First of all, Ms Jones, I think I put to you that there had been a 32 per cent uptake of vouchers. I think that was only this year's uptake to date. I think a fairer reflection—when I went back and looked at the website for the last two years—is it is about 68 and 67 per cent in terms of the uptake for vouchers. I thought I should not leave the 32 per cent unaddressed on the transcript.

Ms JONES: Thank you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Perhaps if you could give the actual uptake—the redemption rates for the last few years—that would be helpful.

Ms JONES: Yes.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The percentage mentioned by Mr Shoebridge MLC only relates to 2021. From January to 5 March 2021, 32% of the eligible child population has already created a voucher for this calendar year.

Active Kids is a calendar year program, so to accurately measure uptake, it is appropriate to look at the overall population uptake numbers at the end of the calendar year.

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In 2020 64% of the eligible population created a voucher.

Year on year growth is attributed to increasing community awareness of the program, and targeted engagement in communities identified as having lower uptake.

**Her Sport Her Way/Active Kids
Transcript page 34**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Just on the voucher uptake, there has been a persistent differential. It has actually got marginally worse between 2019 and now. It was at about—the figures say 48 to 52 in 2019, and then it went down to 47 to 53 last year, and it is still at 47 to 53 this year. Despite those projects that you talk about in terms of the voucher programs, it has got marginally worse.

Ms JONES: And that could be due to a multiple of factors, including COVID-19.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Did COVID-19 delay the rollout of the Her Sport Her Way strategy?

Ms JONES: No, it did not.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do you have a target date for when you are going to have parity on the voucher program?

Ms JONES: No, we do not, but I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Active Kids program supports all children across NSW to participate in organised sport and active recreation. The NSW Government will continue to work with those population groups with lower uptake to address their particular barriers to participation.

**Her Sport Her Way
Transcript page 34-35**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The final page of your Sport Her Way document shows an ongoing and persistent gap between girls participating in, I think, three sporting or sports-like like events a week compared to boys. There does not seem to be a target for when you are going to bridge that gap. Is that right?

Ms JONES: The overall objective of Her Sport Her Way is to encourage the growing participation of women and girls in sport, and we do that via all the different focus areas and pillars through that program. I will take on board what you are saying around that ongoing gap and take that—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What about the absence of a target?

Ms JONES: Again, I will take that as well.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Minister, do you think if you are going to try to achieve something that a good way of starting is having a target?

Dr GEOFF LEE: We are absolutely committed to doing everything we possibly can. I am happy to take that on notice as the—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You will take on notice whether having a target is useful? Is that what you are doing?

Dr GEOFF LEE: No, I am just saying that we have said we will take it on notice in terms of the target, but I am pleased to say that this Government—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: There is no target.

Dr GEOFF LEE: —is totally committed to increasing the participation of women and girls in sport.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms Jones, is there a target?

Ms JONES: There is no target but, as I said before, Her Sport Her Way is a research-based strategy. So I will look into the fact as to whether or not a target was actually canvassed as part of that research and I can provide you that information.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: So, Minister, please do not take on notice whether there is a target or not; that was not helpful. Because there is no target.

Dr GEOFF LEE: My apologies.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You have heard that twice now from Ms Jones.

Dr GEOFF LEE: My apologies, Mr Shoebridge. I would not want to delay you.

Ms JONES: Can I just say that the overall aim of the strategy, though, is to get more women and girls participating, not just a target.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: All right. Ms Jones, I think it would be really helpful if we got an answer about what, if any, consideration was taken for targets and why they are not part of the strategy.

Ms JONES: Yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Perhaps you might take on notice any reflections on why, despite Her Sport Her Way being into its second year, the data has degraded slightly in terms of the vouchers.

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

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Her Sport Her Way Strategy has a number of objectives, including to increase the number of women and girls playing sport. The Office of Sport develops Annual Action Plans under Her Sport Her Way which outline the specific actions that will be implemented during that year and associated targets and milestones.

The difference in voucher uptake by gender has remained roughly consistent over the life of the program to date, with a slight closing of the gap (from 5.6% difference in 2018 to 2.8% YTD for 2021) demonstrated in the data for vouchers created.

(Figures represent proportion of eligible population)

2018 - 50.2% F vs 55.8% M

2019 - 60.1% F vs 63.5% M

2020 - 62.3% F vs 65.3% M

**Her Sport Her Way
Transcript page 35**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Perhaps you might take on notice any reflections on why, despite Her Sport Her Way being into its second year, the data has degraded slightly in terms of the vouchers.

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

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Her Sport Her Way Strategy has a number of objectives, including to increase the number of women and girls playing sport. The Office of Sport develops Annual Action Plans under Her Sport Her Way which outline the specific actions that will be implemented during that year and associated targets and milestones.

The difference in voucher uptake by gender has remained roughly consistent over the life of the program to date, with a slight closing of the gap (from 5.6% difference in 2018 to 2.8% YTD for 2021) demonstrated in the data for vouchers created.
(Figures represent proportion of eligible population)

2018 - 50.2% F vs 55.8% M
2019 - 60.1% F vs 63.5% M
2020 - 62.3% F vs 65.3% M

**Scripture in NSW public schools – Vishwa Hindu Parishad
Transcript page 38**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Minister, does Multiculturalism NSW have any oversight of the fact that one far-right Hindu extremist organisation called Vishwa Hindu Parishad, which is designated as a militant extremist religious organisation in the Central Intelligence Agency's The World Factbook, is providing scripture instruction in New South Wales public schools? Do you have any role in vetting that or speaking with the education department and reviewing who is providing scripture lessons in New South Wales public schools?

Dr GEOFF LEE: I think the provision of scripture in the public school system is a matter for the Department of Education and the appropriate Minister, Sarah Mitchell. I do not—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I asked this of Minister Mitchell yesterday, and I got an answer from Mr Scott, where he said—I will just read it, if you will bear with me—in relation to this: The NSW Department of Education has close connections with the NSW Police Force. We have police officers who work with us. We are informed by them that the organisation that you have spoken of today is not identified as a terrorist organisation or a terrorist organisation in New South Wales. They are not known as an organisation of concern in New South Wales. Where New South Wales police are aware of any concerns regarding any group or organisation known to be in our schools, they advise us immediately. Is it true that there is no reference to Multicultural NSW? The test for scripture is whether or not they are prescribed as a terrorist organisation by New South Wales police with no input from Multicultural NSW?

Mr LA POSTA: Mr Shoebridge, I have no line of sight over this, so I am happy to take it on notice. What I am also happy to do is stand up Community Resilience and Response Plan [COMPLAN], which we have already done specific to the earlier issue you raised, which involves the Department of Education, the New South Wales police, Anti-Discrimination Board, colleagues right across the Government, and the Office of Community Safety and Cohesion, which Mr Coutts-Trotter oversees. I will stand up that group and look into whether there are elements of these sorts of divisive angles with regard to scripture or any of those organisations that you referenced and whether that is permeating our Department of Education. It is our responsibility to inform our Government colleagues if there is any of that sort of activity being undertaken that we are aware of.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Multicultural NSW does not have a role in vetting or reviewing providers of Special Religious Education in NSW public schools.

**Stadium Australia
Transcript page 42**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Obviously there was a previous agreement between the Government and the Australian Rugby League Commission [ARLC] in relation to the grand final at ANZ Stadium, where there was some discussion about that. Was any money actually paid in relation to that agreement?

Ms MATHER: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think so.

ANSWER

I am advised:

No payments have been made by Venues NSW to the Australian Rugby League Commission in relation to the NRL Grand Final at Stadium Australia.

Venues NSW
Transcript page 43

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: You are not aware? Okay. How much office space does Venues NSW lease and where is that office space?

Ms MATHER: Venues NSW actually has offices at the moment in the Entertainment Quarter [EQ]. It is sort of an office space. I could not tell you the actual square metreage but everybody fits in there. So the newly merged entity has actually come together in that same space. We are all together under the one roof. They are temporary facilities. When the stadium is completed next year, we will move back into Moore Park.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: What is the cost of that temporary office space?

Ms MATHER: The temporary office space at EQ?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Yes.

Ms MATHER: I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Agency expenditure is available in the agency's annual reports.

**COVID – recovery
Transcript page 44**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Did the Office of Sport commission Ernst & Young to conduct a report on the financial impact of COVID on State sporting organisations?

Ms JONES: It was not on the financial impact of COVID; it was around the sustainability of the sports sector, how it would respond to COVID-19 and the general impacts to them.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: . How much did that report cost?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice. I think the report is still ongoing, to be honest, so I will take it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Consultancy expenses are published in the agency's annual reports.

**COVID – recovery
Transcript page 44**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In terms of the Ernst & Young report, you said it is still ongoing. When might a final report be available from them? Do you have a time frame?

Ms JONES: No, I do not have it in front of me. Again, I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The report is part of an engagement to produce a report and also to develop a cash-flow modelling tool to assist State Sporting Organisations as part of recovery, which was an initiative suggested by the COVID-19 Sport and Recreation Recovery Group. This engagement is in the process of being finalised and the report was used to provide input to the Community Sport Recovery Package.

COVID – small business support
Transcript page 46

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: We will do that. In the meantime, as Multicultural NSW, would it not have been of interest to your organisation to find out what was going on with multicultural small businesses in terms of COVID-19 and support them?

Mr LA POSTA: A hundred per cent. When we talk about small business grants, that includes our community. If there was government funding available in any sector then we would have helped in making sure that our community organisations, our business chambers and those groups that we partner with would have had that material. We have run forums and other things with those organisations as well, predominantly focused on health and safety piece, to make sure that they have the material they need and all of those things and that the messaging is clear. As the Minister said earlier, we ran one in Harris Park with the Small Business Commissioner and members of his team to listen to any concerns that they specifically had around the recovery, the economy and those things as well. **I can take on notice what we specifically did to support the rollout of the grants or the penetration of that messaging in our communities through translation.**

ANSWER

I am advised:

Multicultural NSW is not responsible for the NSW Government's Small Business Recovery Grant. Multicultural NSW has run workshops for small businesses.

COVID – small business support
Transcript page 46

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes, because I have this table here that basically records some of the small businesses in various electorates. For example, in Seven Hills 94.6 per cent of small businesses missed out. First of all, there were complaints that people did not know about the grants. Secondly, a significant number of businesses never received anything. If the Government puts out a grant for multicultural small businesses then those small businesses, particularly in western Sydney, missed out. In Riverstone, 94.5 per cent of small businesses missed out. In Fairfield, 94.2 per cent missed out. In Lakemba, 94.2 per cent of businesses missed out. The Government creates grants but then over 90 per cent—95 per cent of businesses do not receive it.

Mr LA POSTA: Mr Moselmane, I will not contest any of the facts that you have just put to us.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Propositions, anyway.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: They are facts.

Mr LA POSTA: They are your statement and I will not contest them. As the Hon. Mr Khan said, matters relating to small business do not sit within my remit. Was there a specific multicultural small business grant? I cannot confirm that. My understanding was that the Government launched a small business grants program that all businesses could contest to. In terms of the equity, allocation or any of those things, that is probably best directed to the small business Minister.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: You were partly involved in it, as you have indicated earlier.

Mr LA POSTA: There was a grant of funding. I can take on notice what role our agency played with respect to the dissemination, communication and translation of that material to those multicultural small businesses.

ANSWER

Please see previous answer.

**COVID – small business support
Transcript page 47**

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Can I ask if you can take it on notice in terms of the figure of the grants that were available and what was put out to those small businesses?

Mr LA POSTA: Certainly.

ANSWER

Please see previous answer.

COMPLAN
Transcript page 48

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Are their reports public—COMPLAN's?

Mr LA POSTA: The COMPLAN reports? They have all got meeting minutes and all of those sorts of things as well. It is a report that goes up to our Minister.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: But it is not published for the public?

Mr LA POSTA: It is not published for the public but I am happy to take that on notice around the specifics on those.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: If you do not mind.

Mr LA POSTA: Sure.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Under the NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN), the COMPLAN Committee provides an annual report to the Chief Executive officer of Multicultural NSW detailing activities of the COMPLAN Committee. The COMPLAN Committee's annual report informs the report from Multicultural NSW to the NSW Parliament each year on the state of community relations in NSW (Community Relations Report), as required under the *Multicultural NSW Act 2000*. The NSW Community Relations Report is a public document that can be accessed on the NSW Parliament and Multicultural NSW websites. The COMPLAN Committee's annual report has been published in the Community Relations Reports since the Committee was first established.

Racism

Transcript page 48-49

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I am not sure whether you would know, Mr La Posta, or you may have heard of the attack on Cumberland City councillor, Kun Huang?

Mr LA POSTA: Yes, I have been made aware.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Have you made any contact with the councillor?

Mr LA POSTA: I have not.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Has anyone else in Multicultural NSW contacted him?

Mr LA POSTA: I can take that question on notice and ask my engagement or resilience teams if they have reached out to the councillor.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Anti-Discrimination NSW receives and handles complaints regarding racial discrimination and vilification. Questions about complaints received by Anti-Discrimination NSW should be directed to the Attorney General.

Racism

Transcript page 49-50

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Thank you for that, Mr La Posta. Will you contact the councillor?

Mr LA POSTA: **Can I just take that on notice, Mr Moselmane?** And I only say that because—just let me think through that. It is not to say that we will not. Any member of our community has our support but, at the same time, I am also very mindful that the appearance of the CEO of an agency contacting someone can then create precedents in all sorts of different things across the board. What I do not want to do is potentially make this a political matter. What I am happy to do is think about the right way to be able to support this individual to know what supports are there and, more importantly, empower this individual with any sorts of avenues that the New South Wales Government makes available to them, through the Anti-Discrimination Board, the New South Wales police and others, so that, if any member of their community is experiencing similar things, they know who to talk to, to deal with these sorts of matters.

ANSWER

Please see previous answer.

**Community Sport Recovery Package
Transcript page 50-51**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: I just wanted to ask Ms Jones some more questions about the Community Sport Recovery Package. In the development of that \$23.7 million package, were the State Sporting Organisations consulted by the Office of Sport or anyone in the development of that package?

Ms JONES: Not specifically, but consultation was very regular with State Sporting Organisations around what the impact of COVID-19 has been on the sport sector and also what their immediate needs were.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Did you look at other relief packages in other Australian States?

Ms JONES: Yes, we did. We did actually have a look at what the other jurisdictions were doing and I am pleased to say that the Office of Sport and the New South Wales Government were one of the first ones to offer such a large package.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: How much of that package has been spent? Has the full amount been acquitted?

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice because it is still ongoing. I cannot actually give you a final figure. For instance, at the moment, we are actually having a cross-border fund component to that for sporting clubs, particularly grassroots sporting clubs, that may be registered in New South Wales but actually play in Victoria in competitions. They were not captured as part of the first round of the grassroots allocation, so we are working our way through those clubs now. I will take it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised

The Community Sport Recovery Package amount has not yet been finalised or fully acquitted (for example, the COVID-19 Cross-Border Sport Fund).

**Grassroots Sport Fund
Transcript page 51**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In terms of the Grassroots Sport Fund—you mentioned the thousand dollar payments—there were 12,500 clubs referred to in the announcement when the announcement was made. How many local sporting clubs have been awarded money?

Ms JONES: Again, I will take that on notice because it will also depend on the settling of the cross-border fund in relation to that as well, because they are grassroots clubs that would receive that. But you are right. The original announcement included 12,500 and that was based on information that was given to us by State Sporting Organisations.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: So it would be useful to have both the number of clubs and also the percentage of eligible clubs.

Ms JONES: Sure.

ANSWER

I am advised

The final number of potentially eligible clubs provided by State Sporting Organisations was 9,902.

Interpreters
Transcript page 55

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Okay. I will move on to a couple of other questions in that area. Given that providing access to justice for all members of the diverse New South Wales community is a Government responsibility, what funding has been provided to deliver interpreting and translating services to New South Wales courts?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: We might flip between us. We are a very satisfied customer of the interpreting and translating service that my colleague was describing. Obviously when it comes to access to justice it is a fundamental service and it is so important that the work of interpretation is accurate, and that can be a real challenge in an environment as anxious as a court. So we value the quality of the service. **I can take on notice how much we spend on the service, unless you have the figure, Mr La Posta.**

Mr LA POSTA: The Government underwrites it for \$5 million a year, and then any shortfall in that we cover it for the moment. What we do not want do is ever get into a situation where people do not have the access that Mr Coutts-Trotter spoke about.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: And has it been \$5 million every year? I don't have the budget in front of me.

Mr LA POSTA: Mr Moselmane, this is a fantastic question. It has been more than that. That is part of the reason why we need to modernise our award because our cost to service has gone above the remuneration that we get from providers and others such as the courts. It then comes as a hard cost to our agency. What we will not do is not send the interpreters to the courts because people have an entitlement and a right to that service. We will not get in the way of that.

ANSWER

I am advised:

In 2020-21, funding for interpreting and translation services to NSW Courts is \$5million, the same as the previous financial year.

Interpreters
Transcript page 55

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Absolutely. The next question is of a similar nature, but regarding the NSW Police Force. What funding is the Government providing to NSW Police Force to ensure that high-quality, professional interpreting and translation services are accessible to members of the community engaged with the criminal justice system?

Mr LA POSTA: The courts are our biggest client at the moment, although I hope to get lots of our Government colleagues on board as more clients come, Mr Moselmann. The second biggest client is the NSW Police Force. We provide the majority of interpreting services into police stations for everything from a statement affidavit right through to some of the most heinous crimes that police navigate and negotiate. And it is our interpreters who are often the people who play a critical role in the interpretation of the material between the various different parties and our police force. With regard to the contracts and the specifics of the contracts, they are matters that are commercial in confidence, which I cannot disclose. But the reality of the service is, in dialogue with Commissioner Fuller, who has been incredibly supportive of our service as well, we hope to maintain and grow our work with the NSW Police Force, as they understand that the demographic of our State, as you know, is changing more and more, and these services are only becoming more and more important for more and more people.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Can you take on notice the part about the funding?

Mr LA POSTA: The specifics on the funding?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

Mr LA POSTA: Certainly.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

**Coordinator of Settlement
Transcript page 56**

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Thank you. Just a quick question on the status of the Coordinator-General for Refugee Resettlement, Peter Shergold.

Mr LA POSTA: He has been given an upgrade. He is now our Coordinator General of Settlement, which is a broader role. The reason I am very favourable to his role having a broader remit is, for anyone that knows Professor Peter Shergold, he is a man of great substance and also influence. He is wonderful at bringing our Federal Government colleagues to the table on all sorts of weird and wonderful issues that relate to our new and emerging communities. I think it was probably about nine months ago that he signed a two-year extension in that role, which is very much about providing targeted support to our refugee and brand-new migrant cohorts, and helping make their settlement journey as successful as possible. I think it is important to acknowledge that the responsibility of settling these cohorts, particularly refugees, is not a State responsibility, it is a Federal responsibility. But because of the sheer number and the role that our State plays in terms of is national significance—somewhere I think between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of these cohorts, and new and emerging communities settle in New South Wales—it is important that we have people like Professor Shergold, who can bring all of that together and help us navigate our Federal Government colleagues, then connect with mayors, local councils and all of those things on the ground to help advocate and represent their interests in the State and Federal context as well.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: The description of his job is somewhere on the website?

Mr LA POSTA: Coordinator General of Settlement? I am happy to take that on notice, too.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Coordinator General for Settlement is responsible for:

- a) working on place-based initiatives to facilitate opportunities for migrant, refugee and asylum seeker communities to settle and resettle in regional NSW to assist in alleviating settlement pressures in western Sydney;
- b) working with the government and non-government sector to engage youth and other priority refugee and migrant cohorts in their communities;
- c) coordinating the delivery of immediate and long-term settlement services for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in NSW by working with the Australian Government, NSW Government, Local Government and non-government organisations (NGOs), as well as the private sector where appropriate;
- d) chairing the Multicultural NSW Settlement Steering Committee (associated with the Multicultural NSW Advisory Board) comprising of non-government organisation leaders within the sector;
- e) leading public communications regarding the settlement process and, where relevant, work closely with the Premier and Minister for Multiculturalism.

In addition to the above, the Coordinator General provides updates and formal papers to the Premier and the Minister for Multiculturalism, as required. The Coordinator General acts as a conduit to the newly appointed Commonwealth Government Coordinator-General for Migrant Services.

Advertising
Transcript page 56

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: In terms of Multicultural NSW advertising, how many people are on the Multicultural NSW database for community news?

Mr LA POSTA: I would need to take it on notice.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: You can take it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

EmailLink is sent to thousands of people.

Advertising
Transcript page 57

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: For example, on 3 February this year the entire database received an EOI for a lease opportunity for Scheyville Camp Precinct. Why would Multicultural NSW in community harmony send out a lease promotion?

Mr LA POSTA: At times there are a small number of contractual agreements that we have with some of our partners, one being the ABC, where we share jobs or information that is relevant to our community stakeholders. It is not a practice I am overly fond of, and I do not think it necessarily—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: So why is it done?

Mr LA POSTA: To be honest with you, Mr Moselmane, I am happy to take that on notice and think about reviewing that database in its entirety so it (a) becomes more effective and (b) only communicates essential information. I think, like all of us, though, in the past 12 months I have had key, more important things to focus on, which I think we have done largely well. But I am very happy to take that on notice and look at the relevancy of that database because what I do not want is people disconnecting from that database or unsubscribing because they are receiving nebulous or irrelevant information.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Multicultural NSW has recently reviewed its approach to digital communications.

Advertising
Transcript page 57

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: In terms of that advertising, you do not charge for them?

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Yes, do you get money for them?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Do you get money for them?

Mr LA POSTA: There will probably be a small agreement or a transactional agreement that is in place that is about then thinking about how we can reinvest back into that database to think about more targeted messaging or more messaging or to grow the database or those sorts of things.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Can you tell us what sort of amounts? You can take it on notice.

Mr LA POSTA: I am happy to take it on notice. They would not be worth this conversation right now; I can assure you of that. That is why I am very happy to review that service as quickly as possible because what I do not want is MPs receiving emails from us and thinking anything other than, "That is really helpful. I want to share that with my community."

ANSWER

I am advised:

See previous answer.

**Hunter Sport and Entertainment Precinct
Transcript page 61**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: In terms of the Hunter Sport and Entertainment Precinct, has any consideration been given from Venues NSW to actually fund the business case, to commit to getting that happening so that this project can proceed a little bit faster than it has been?

Ms MATHER: This is prior to my time, but I think an application has been made for the development of a strategic business case for funding and we are awaiting that.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Who has that application been made to?

Ms MATHER: I think the application was made—Karen would have been involved in this; it was before my time—to Treasury.

Ms JONES: I will take that on notice. I am not across that yet.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Government remains committed to investing in infrastructure to support local economies across the State including Newcastle.

Within the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct, construction has commenced on multi-million dollar developments including the International Hockey Centre and the Newcastle Knights Centre of Excellence which will benefit the wider Hunter region through job creation and the inclusion of community facilities.

These new facilities will be completed by 2023 and will highlight the NSW Government's commitment to investing in the Hunter-region, as McDonald Jones Stadium prepares to welcome the world for the Women's World Cup.

The NSW Government will continue planning for the 11 Catalyst areas across Greater Newcastle as per the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036. The Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct sits within one of these catalyst areas and continues to be an important part of this planning.

**Hunter Sport and Entertainment Precinct
Transcript page 61**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Has any money been spent on the project so far? How much money have you committed so far?

Ms MATHER: A significant commitment has been made, associated with the two major construction works that are underway at the moment. In relation to Newcastle, in relation to the Newcastle Knights centre of excellence and also in relation to the international hockey centre and then our own contribution to those works in the lead-up to that site planning.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Would you be able to take on notice those actual figures?

Ms MATHER: I can do.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Government remains committed to investing in infrastructure to support local economies across the State including Newcastle.

Within the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct, construction has commenced on multi-million dollar developments including the International Hockey Centre and the Newcastle Knights Centre of Excellence which will benefit the wider Hunter region through job creation and the inclusion of community facilities.

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The NSW Government will continue planning for the 11 Catalyst areas across Greater Newcastle as per the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036. The Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct sits within one of these catalyst areas and continues to be an important part of this planning.

**Hunter Sport and Entertainment Precinct
Transcript page 61**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Thank you, Ms Mather. Will any land from the precinct be sold to fund the project? What is the status of that?

Ms MATHER: I am not aware. I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Venues NSW has no plans to sell any land at the Broadmeadow Precinct.

**Ageing Strategy
Transcript page 61**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Just in relation to the seniors strategy, we have got the action plan for the first year of that 10-year plan. What is the budgetary allocation for both the seniors strategy and the 2021-22 action plan? How much money is attached?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Indeed. I am embarrassed to not have a figure so I will take that on notice and respond to you.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021-2031, is a whole of government commitment. Each agency funds their actions and activities included in the plan.

**Seniors team
Transcript page 61-62**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That would be useful. Just in terms of the seniors team—it might be called the ageing team—within DCJ, how many people are working in that team?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Again, I will take that one on notice if that is okay.

ANSWER

I am advised:

There are 11 roles, and the Seniors Card team who support the portfolio.

**Seniors team
Transcript page 62**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Who do they report to? Which deputy secretary? I suspect that there would be a deputy.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: They report to my colleague Simone Walker.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Are they then included in the reasonably large restructuring?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: They are part of a division that is being restructured. That is why in part I take it on notice, just to confirm to you the—

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: It would also be useful to know if there are any—

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Any changes or reductions in the team associated with seniors.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That is right.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Sure.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Seniors team is subject to the Strategy Policy and Commissioning reforms. Priorities of the ageing strategy will be maintained.

**Seniors Team
Transcript page 62**

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: We heard the other day, 175 redundancies in that team. So it would be useful if you could take on notice how many of those, if any, are planned for the ageing team.

ANSWER

I am advised:

See previous answer.

Suicide

Transcript page 64

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I will come to that point in particular where I think veterans affairs New South Wales or the Minister put out a 5 February press release entitled "Supporting the investigation into veterans suicide". I am not sure whether you recall that? I just want to know how exactly had the New South Wales Government worked with the Federal Government to save the lives of veterans, particularly with reference to that press release?

Ms MACKANESS: You will have to forgive me, I am not sure I saw—

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Do you want to take it on notice?

Ms MACKANESS: Yes. I will have to look at that press release to understand better.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Government supports the National Commissioner for Defence and Veterans Suicide Prevention, through the collection and provision of data on veteran suicide.