



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES

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Answers due by: 25 November 2021

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FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES

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

Temporary Accommodation

1. Could the Minister please provide an exact figure for the number people in Temporary Accommodation:
 - (a) at its peak in 2021
 - (b) for each month during 2021
2. Could the Minister please provide the exact number of people in Temporary Accommodation who were previously sleeping rough during 2021?
3. Mr Vevers referred to an aggregate figure relating to people who have recently left Temporary Accommodation, could the Minister please provide a breakdown of people who have recently left Temporary Accommodation and any information held by DCJ on where they intended to go after leaving Temporary Accommodation?
4. How many people accessed Temporary Accommodation in:
 - (a) 2019
 - (b) 2020
 - (c) 2021
5. How many people exited Temporary Accommodation in 2020 and 2021 and entered
 - (a) Social Housing
 - (b) Together Home packages
 - (c) Some form of rental assistance
6. Could the Minister provide figures relating to the number of women who utilised Temporary Accommodation 2020-21?

Older Women and Homelessness

7. Older women (over 55) are the fastest growing group of homeless people in NSW:
 - (a) What specific strategies are being put in place to address this?
 - (b) How many dedicated Specialist Homelessness Services or beds within Specialist Homelessness Services are provided for older women (over 55) who are homeless?
8. How many women over 55 are on the social housing waiting list?

- (a) How many are on the priority waiting list?

Social Housing Waiting List

- 9. When will the social housing waiting list be updated for 2021?
 - (a) Why is this data not updated every month?
- 10. Could the Minister please provide the number of people on the social housing waiting list for the following months in 2021:
 - (a) January
 - (b) February
 - (c) March
 - (d) April
 - (e) May
 - (f) June
 - (g) July
 - (h) August
 - (i) September
 - (j) October
- 11. How many people on the social housing waiting list are currently experiencing homelessness?
- 12. What is the average wait time to secure social housing for those on the social housing waiting list in 2021?
- 13. What is the average wait time for people to access social housing for those on the priority social housing waiting list in 2021?
- 14. Why has information relating to the average social housing waiting list times not been updated since June 2020?
- 15. What is the median wait time, both priority and general, in 2021?
- 16. How many social housing properties were sold in:
 - (a) 2019/20
 - (b) 2020/21

(c) July 2021 – Nov 2021

17. How many applications on the waiting list (general and priority) were fulfilled during the last financial year?
18. Could the Minister please provide an updated breakdown of the social housing waiting list by allocation zone?

Communities Plus

19. Why is there no Affordable Rental Housing for key workers required as part of the Communities Plus project?
20. Why is there a standard 30% social housing allocation rate across NSW as part of Communities Plus when surely some areas require more or less?

Social Housing in NSW

21. On Saturday 16 October 2021 the Minister attended an announcement regarding social housing, where will these projects be and how were these areas decided?
 - (a) How will this recent announcement impact the government's overall commitment to social housing?
22. The NSW government has claimed that they have contributed a "record investment" to social housing this year, do you agree with this statement?
 - (a) Can you explain what "record" is involved in determining this is a "record investment"?

Specialist & Domestic Violence Shelters in NSW

23. It was announced that there would be 200 new social housing dwellings available for people who have experienced DFV. Can you provide all available information on where will they be and when they will be available?
 - (a) Why there are only 200 when DVNSW have suggested 5000 per year are needed?
24. Can you provide information on the timeline and implementation process for the new Housing and Mental Health Agreement?
25. How is the NSW Government addressing the shortfall in the provision of specialist domestic violence accommodation services (women's domestic violence refuges) to assist women with and without children escaping domestic violence?

26. In order to meet the housing requirements of people with disabilities, NSW requires 20,000 accessible and affordable homes over the next four years. Why is the government only providing 800 a year?

Older People and Homelessness

27. What is the NSW Government's standard definition of older people?
28. Why do different policy documents recognise older people as those over 55 years but the age of priority for social housing is 80 years?
29. What specific measures are in place to support older people over 55 to provide early intervention and prevention services and to help them navigate the housing system?
30. What proportion of the new social housing investment announced on 16 October 2021 will be dedicated to older people, particularly older women?
31. In 2020-2021 how many women over 55 accessed:
- (a) Private rental subsidy (RentChoice)
 - (b) RentStart Bond Loan program

Audit Office Report – Responses to Homelessness in NSW

32. The 2021 NSW Audit Office report found that the construction of purpose-built accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, and for older women, is significantly behind schedule. Is this true that the projects are behind schedule?
- (a) How many homes have been delivered against forecasts to date under the program to construct purpose-built accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence?
 - (b) How many homes are remaining to be delivered?
 - (c) When will the remaining homes be delivered?

Together Home

33. Of the people allocated Together Home packages in 2020-21, how many were male and how many female?
- (a) What was the age distribution of those recipients?

34. Has a proportion of the Together Home packages been allocated for older women who were at risk of homelessness?
35. How many people who accessed Together Home packages have transitioned into long-term housing solutions in:
 - (a) 2020
 - (b) 2021

Link2Home

36. Has the Government undertaken an evaluation of the effectiveness and reach of the Link2Home program?
37. What are the age and gender profiles of people who interact with Link2Home?
38. How many calls to link2home in:
 - (a) 2020
 - (b) 2021
39. How many calls on link2home were disconnected or discontinued?
 - (a) How many, if any, calls went unanswered?

Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF)

40. How much total funding is allocated for programs addressing social and affordable housing and homelessness in 2021-22?
41. Considering that SAHF is the second-best performing fund returning 8.2% yield since its inception in 2017, are there any plans in place to expand this program?

Youth Services

42. The HYAP (Homeless Persons Assistance Program) program was developed in response to Going Home Staying Home not making effective provision for under 16's and this early intervention program has been working well. During the covid period, additional funds called FOCAS Brokerage model have been made available to help these young people in accessing education. Seeing the success of this initiative why is it not being continued beyond June 2022?
43. Is additional funding being secured for the HYAP?

- (a) why/why not?
 - (b) how much additional funding is available for HYAP?
44. The Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Program for young people aged 16 to 18 requires more medium-term supported accommodation services, especially in country and regional Australia. Does the Minister consider SHS a high-priority area?
- (a) What is being done to meet the needs of young people requiring medium term accommodation?

Foyers

45. Why has NSW stalled the progression of introducing more Foyers?

Community Services Sector

46. Will the NSW Government make a commitment to longer term contracts of 5-7 years for the community services sector?
47. What will the NSW Government do to assist the community services sector to access funding by reducing the amount of paperwork involved with accreditation, regulation and compliance?

Managed Alcohol Program

48. Is the Minister aware of the Managed Alcohol Program proposed by St Vincent's Health Network and St Vincent de Paul to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness and severe alcohol dependence?
- (a) Is the Minister willing to provide funding to the program to ensure it is able to proceed?

Homelessness

49. Will the new Premier continue with the Premier's Priority regarding halving street homelessness by 2025?
50. Does the new Premier intend to develop any new priorities in relation to homelessness?
51. How much funding is allocated for specialist homelessness services in 2021-2022?
- (a) How much of this is allocated for services in regional NSW?

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Budget allocations

52. What proportion of the NSW child protection and out of home care budget was allocated to the provision of Aboriginal community-controlled child and family supports?
53. What proportion of targeted early intervention service funding is provided to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations?
- (a) Why is this not equal to the proportion of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care as recommended in the Family is Culture Review?
54. How much money has the NSW Government allocated to the implementation of the 125 recommendations of the landmark 2019 Family Is Culture Review recommendations report aimed at reducing the disproportionate and increasing number of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW?
- (a) How much of this has been allocated internally at the Department of Communities and Justice and how much externally to Aboriginal organisations?
55. How much funding has the NSW Government allocated to the implementation of the Aboriginal Case Management Policy (ACMP), Rules and Practice Guidance, including to the establishment of Aboriginal Community Controlled Mechanisms, Community Facilitators and Aboriginal Family Led Decision-Making?
- (a) How much of this has been allocated internally at the Department of Communities and Justice and how much externally to Aboriginal organisations?
56. How much money has the NSW Government directed to research, in particular, Aboriginal-initiated and led research, to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care?

Family is Culture

57. Regarding the implementation of the Family is Culture Report recommendations, have there been improvements against relevant indicators, including:
- (a) Fewer police contacts with young First Nations people?
- (b) Fewer child removals?
- (c) Fewer newborn removals?

- (d) Fewer “poor removal“ events (e.g. police involved)?
- (e) Increased numbers of cases maintaining contact with family and kin?
- (f) Increased numbers of restoration?

Child removals, Guardianship orders

58. How many Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care were adopted in the past financial year?
 - (a) How many of those were adopted by non-Aboriginal carers?
59. How many Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care were moved onto guardianship orders in the past financial year?
 - (a) How many Aboriginal children and young people are on guardianship orders in total?
 - (b) How many Aboriginal children and young people who were moved onto guardianship orders have since returned into out of home care?
 - (c) With the rollout of the Aboriginal Guardianship Support Model, co-designed by AbSec and local communities, beginning in the trial sites of South West Sydney and the Hunter, when is this support planned to be rolled out state-wide?
 - (d) What is being done in the period until then to support Aboriginal children and families moved onto guardianship orders seeing as there has been such a marked increase?
60. How many individual Aboriginal children experienced removal out of Culture, even if only for one night?
61. In the past year, how many guardianship orders were made by consent?
 - (a) How many of those relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children?
 - (b) Of those guardianship orders in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, how many were for non-Aboriginal carers?
62. Of the case reviews that were undertaken of kids in out-of-home care in the past year, how many considered the potential for successful restoration?
 - (a) Can you provide the relative data comparing Aboriginal kids in care as against non-Aboriginal kids in care and the proportion that get restored?

63. How many—and if you can, what proportion—of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care are placed in relative or kinship care?
- (a) Of those children, how many and what proportion are placed in relative or kinship care with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of their family?
 - (b) How many and what proportion are placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster carers?
 - (c) How many and what proportion are managed by an Aboriginal community controlled organisation?

Children in juvenile detention

64. Regarding children between the age of 10-13 in juvenile detention, how many are Aboriginal and what percentage do they make up?
65. Has any funding been allocated to activities related to raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14?
66. Without raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14, how would NSW meet Closing the Gap target 11, reducing the rate of Aboriginal children in detention by 30%?
67. What are the reporting mechanisms for non-Aboriginal organisations that receive allocated Aboriginal funding?
- (a) Are there plans to make information on this available to increase the accountability of organisations that are receiving funding?
 - (b) With significant funding going to non-Aboriginal organisations for Aboriginal initiatives and little transparency, does this not go against Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2 (building the Aboriginal community-controlled sector)?
68. How much funding has the Department of Communities and Justice set aside to increase the cultural capability of its staff?
- (a) How will this be achieved? Through what programs/training

Aging out of care

69. How many young people left out-of-home care because they turned 18 last year?
- (a) Of those children last year who left care because they turned 18, how many of them received financial support?
 - (b) What was the average financial contribution made to support those children?

70. How many children in out-of-home care were able to remain in their out-of-home care after turning 18?
- (a) How many carers received financial support to allow them to do so?
71. In the last financial year, how many children leaving out-of-home care at age 18 were instead referred to homelessness support services within 12 months of leaving care?

Risk of Serious Harm Reports

72. How many children have been reported at risk of serious harm in the most current 12-month period?
- (a) Of these, how many were First Nations children?
73. Of those children reported at risk of serious harm, how many children were not seen by a caseworker?
- (a) Of these, how many were First Nations children?
- (b) Of these, how many cases were closed because of competing priorities?

Miyay Birray Youth Service

74. Has funding been reinstated to the Miyay Birray Youth Service's "Street Beat" program?
- (a) If not, why not?

A Place to Go

75. Has there been an evaluation conducted of the "A place to go" program?
- (a) If so, are the findings available publicly?
- (b) If not, when will the evaluation be completed?