

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Questions on Notice

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

<p>Women, Seniors, the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Harrison)</p>

Hearing: Thursday 27 February 2025

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Wednesday 26 March 2025

Transcript Page 5

The CHAIR: Can you in more detail outline that sort of support, especially in relation to women who quite often have to go back to work within six weeks of giving birth? What support specifically has the

Government—are there any cash grants? What is the Government contemplating or what has the Government done in relation to those family arrangements?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Sorry, was that in relation to women who choose to go back into the workforce after six weeks?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Or is that for women who choose not to be in the workforce?

The CHAIR: I think we're looking at both. Particularly, this question relates to women who choose not to be, but I'm asking what could be done to make sure that they don't have to go back as early as six weeks if they're forced to go back.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Certainly all of the cost-of-living measures that this Government is introducing in relation to health, cost of women's health—

The CHAIR: How does that apply in practice?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: It certainly reduces the economic—if a woman feels that she needs to go back into the workforce for economic reasons, it will reduce that particular reason, that particular impost for her.

The CHAIR: If that woman decides that she doesn't want to go in the workforce, then she gets no support. Is that what you're saying?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can take the detail of any financial supports for women who choose not to go back into the workforce on notice, but there are certainly a lot of cost-of-living measures that this Government is implementing, and continuing with, that will assist families in whatever model they choose to live with their family.

The CHAIR: Can you take that on notice? Is that what you're saying?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can take cost-of-living measures for women who choose to stay out of—

The CHAIR: It's not so much the cost of living; it's the support for women who want to remain in the home. That's what I'm talking about. Specifically, what programs are available for women to be able to avail themselves of should they decide not to go back to work after six weeks or as early as six weeks after birth?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I need to take that on notice because that would certainly require—I know there are playgroups and things like that where women are able to take their children to get socialisation and for them to have socialisation as well. They don't sit within my portfolio, but I can certainly find out what I can

I am advised:

Programs provided by the NSW Government include:

- Paid Parental Leave (PPL) – NSW government offers 14-weeks PPL to parents regardless of gender, including a 2 weeks leave bonus if all leave is accessed.
- Supporting Women in Business Grants – The NSW government is investing more than \$1 million in this program which can support women who will benefit from the flexibility of self-employment enabling them to meet their family obligations.

Transcript Page 5

The CHAIR: In the metro areas, what is the Government doing to encourage homemaking by women?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That question is very much, I think, similar to the previous question that was asked, so again I think I'd have to take that on notice.

The CHAIR: I didn't actually understand the answer. You took some of it on notice, but I thought I might come at it a different way.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'm happy to take it on notice

See answer to previous question on notice.

Transcript Page 8

Ms JODIE HARRISON: In Camden, the women's health centre has received additional support, Staying Home Leaving Violence is in place there, and there are additional specialist children's workers being put out there in the Campbelltown area.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: So this is specifically for domestic and family violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That's what Staying Home Leaving Violence and specialist children's workers are. Yes, they're in my domestic and family violence portfolio. In the Campbelltown area, which as well is in the Macarthur area—again, support to the women's health centre for Staying Home Leaving Violence to ensure that women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence can upgrade, get safety upgrades to their home, get casework support and, if they can't live in their home, to actually get safety upgrades to their home of choice. As a result of our expansion of specialist children's workers, the women's health centre there is also receiving new children's workers in that area.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many have gone into the Macarthur area? I'm happy for you to take that on notice.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I don't know. We can probably provide that now, if you'd like, rather than take it on notice. Do you have that, Ms Campbell?

I am advised:

Core and Cluster

The Macarthur Region is located in the DCJ South West Sydney District Of the 49 projects awarded funding under the Core and Cluster program, six of those are located in South West Sydney District, including one project in the Macarthur region (Wollondilly LGA). The Wollondilly LGA project is Aboriginal led and was awarded funding under tranche three.

Specialist Workers for Children and Young People

In the Macarthur area (specifically the LGAs of City of Campbelltown, Camden Council, and Wollondilly Shire), in the last 12 months one service operating two women's refuges has received new funding under the Specialist Workers for Children and Young People (SWCYP) program, from the DFV emergency funding package.

SHLV

The Benevolent Society deliver the SHLV program in Campbelltown and Camden LGAs. A new service tendered under the DFV Emergency Package will commence in April 2025 for SHLV delivery in Wingecarribee and Wollondilly LGAs.

Legal Aid

In 2023/24 Macarthur WDVCS received \$1,821,624 and supported 2,769 women experiencing DFV. In 2024/25 funding has increased to \$2,183,575 through the 2024/25 NSW budget commitments. This uplift will assist the WDVCS to keep pace with increasing demand.

500 New Workers National Partnership Agreement input:

For the 500 workers initiative under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement, DCJ has contracted with one provider to deliver one frontline worker, and another provider to deliver four frontline workers in the Macarthur region. As at 7 March 2025, one provider has one worker on the ground, and the other provider has three workers on the ground. These workers are providing family, domestic and sexual violence services in Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly.

Safer Pathway – Local Support Services

The Local Support Services (LSS) are a state-wide service that support male victim-survivors of domestic and family violence under the Safer Pathway program. Muslim Women Australia deliver the LSS program in the Macarthur region. The LSS program has been in operation since 2016. The Department of Communities and Justice currently contracts nine non-government organisations to deliver the program across NSW to 30 June 2029.

Transcript Page 10

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What's the time frame for this research you're doing to find out who the perpetrators are that are assaulting young victims?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The perpetrator intervention—the perpetrator strategy isn't about identifying who an individual perpetrator is. What it is about—

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: But, Minister, you just said—

Ms JODIE HARRISON: It is about identifying what drives someone to use violence in a domestic setting, and so what interventions can we, as a government, take to change that.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, as I've just said to you, you've got a 15.7 per cent increase over that 12-month period of young victims. You're doing some research into the causes so you can then think about what you'd like to do to prevent this and you can't give me a time frame of when you're going to make a decision and actually implement something to stop a young person being assaulted.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think we will have the perpetrator strategy done by the end of the year.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can take that on notice, but I'm pretty sure by the end of the year

I am advised:

It is intended that the strategy will be completed by the end of 2025.

Transcript Page 11

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Minister, can we talk about the recommissioning program that's going across various streams of funding that impacts on domestic and family violence services? I'm just looking at the 2023-24 annual report for DCJ. There's a line in there on page 57 that says:

DCJ is also undertaking work to analyse coverage and nature of specialist domestic and family violence case management services and map this against need across NSW to build a better understanding of the domestic and family violence services landscape and inform future program recommissioning.

I asked a question on notice about which programs were being evaluated as part of the recommissioning process. In response, I was told, "The following programs have undergone evaluation, and the findings will inform the recommissioning." And then it talks about Specialist Workers for Children and Young People, Staying Home Leaving Violence, and the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services. Can you just explain a little bit more about what this recommissioning process is and what impact it's going to have?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: At the moment we're in the process of working with the sector on what the needs are. I know there is concern. I've spoken with services who are nervous about what might happen and, of course, that is going to happen with any recommissioning. Lack of certainty creates nervousness. What we want to do, and what DCJ is doing, is work with services to understand what recommissioning might look like in individual areas, because it's not going to be a blanket approach. Recommissioning is not going to take a blanket approach. It will consider what the program is that is being recommissioned and it will also be what the local environment is as well. Ms Campbell, I'm sure, can give more detail. That's part of what's creating the uncertainty, I think, because there is no one size fits all.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: It is causing a huge amount of concern. We're talking about services that are so underfunded. The idea that there could be even more money taken from them instead of more money being given to them is quite scary. But also, in this answer to the

question on notice, it was said that these three particular reports would inform the recommissioning approach for contracts from July 2026 and then it referred to a report as old as 2018. Are we relying on seven-year-old information to drive the recommissioning process for contracts? That answer makes it look like it has already been reviewed.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Obviously we're not going to use only 2018 information in decisions in relation to recommissioning.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I would hope not.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That would be a bad thing indeed. I'm really keen to make sure that decisions that we make are based on the best information we have at the time. That's why we're working with services and local DCJ offices on exactly what a recommissioning model might look like for each type of service and each area.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Could I ask you on notice to come back after having looked at the answer to this question on notice, which is 3323, whether you stand by the answer to question one? It doesn't seem to accord with what you're saying. I think maybe there is a bit of disconnect. It says, "The following programs have undergone evaluation, and the findings will inform the recommissioning approach for contracts from July 2026", and then it quotes three reports from 2024, 2022 and 2018 for three separate programs. That seems quite extraordinary, if that's the basis on which even a large part of this recommissioning will be conducted.

I am advised:

Program specific evaluations including the three mentioned in QON 3323 (SWCYP, SHLV, IDFVS) include recommendations for service delivery improvements. Recommissioning provides an opportunity to use the findings of these evaluations, combined with other information and data inputs, including location planning discussions with service providers, to inform the recommissioning approach.

Transcript Page 15

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Minister, your release on 27 November 2024 says, "The Core and Cluster program, which has to date delivered 39 refugees across New South Wales"—so 39 haven't been completed or delivered. At this point we're at eight.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There are 39 contracts.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: So the refugees haven't actually been delivered as yet. In terms of what has been delivered, that's eight around New South Wales. Is that accurate?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There are eight up and running at the moment.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: The Queanbeyan refuge was announced in August 2022. Where is that project at?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice. I'll come back.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: The information that I have to hand is that the current timeline is suggesting that construction is going to start in perhaps 12 months. Minister, you have been in government for almost two years. Why are we still nowhere near a shovel in the ground for a Queanbeyan refuge that was announced in August 2022?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: As Ms Campbell indicated, the detail of that one we'll have to take on notice. What I can say is that where there have been delays, they have been for a number of reasons. A lot of them have been to do with planning issues and overcoming particular planning issues.

I am advised:

The Queanbeyan refuge is forecast to commence construction in May 2025.

Transcript Page 15

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Since, realistically, construction won't start for yet another year on the Queanbeyan refuge, will the original budget cover the expected construction costs as of 2026?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can't comment on it because I'm not sure about—

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: So you'll take that on notice to let us know?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can certainly take that on notice. I don't have the information that confirms that timeline that you're giving.
The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You'll take that on notice.
Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes, we can take that on notice.

I am advised:
The Queanbeyan refuge is forecast to commence construction in May 2025.

Transcript Page 18

Ms JODIE HARRISON: After refuge, housing is dealt with by—it's actually Minister Jackson's portfolio. However, I speak with her regularly about the need for places for housing for women and children leaving refuge, and she completely understands what the issues are. The Government is looking at issues like "meanwhile use". Certainly the increase in the number of social housing properties that will be built 8,400 new social housing properties with \$5.1 billion; the largest investment in social housing
The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many of those have been allocated specifically to support women and children escaping domestic violence, considering it was in the joint press release that would be a target group, along with older women?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: Of those, 50 per cent will be prioritised for women who are leaving domestic and family violence.
The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many for older women?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd need to take that on notice. Certainly there was a very clear priority for 50 per cent of them to be prioritised for women experiencing domestic and family violence.

I am advised:
Under the Building Homes for NSW program, \$5.1 billion will be invested in 8,400 social homes, of which 6,200 will be new homes and 2,200 are replacement homes. A commitment under the program is for 3,100 social homes to be prioritised to women-led households leaving domestic and family violence by 2030/31.

Transcript Page 18

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: There were the three announced programs in the emergency funding from May last year—or three components of that emergency funding: \$48 million to expand Staying Home Leaving Violence and also to increase the number of Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services, and \$48.1 million to secure and increase funding for specialist workers for children in refuges. They are the three programs that are also being recommissioned, according to that answer to questions on notice. How are we announcing funding for three programs that then we are also recommissioning or going through a recommissioning process with at the same time?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: The contracts for these new services will align with the recommissioning process.
Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Does that mean none of that money has already been spent?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: No, the money has been spent but the contracts are in alignment with the timing for recommissioning.
Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: So how much has been spent? Has all of that money gone out the door?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: No, it hasn't.
Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: How much has gone out the door?
Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can't tell you the actual dollar figure, but I can tell you where we're at with rolling out—with getting additional services in place.
Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I'm really curious as to how much, because it was emergency funding, which implies that it would have gone out the door. You could maybe come back on notice as to how much has still not been spent.

I am advised:

Through the emergency funding package there was \$48m over four years to achieve statewide access for SHLV services and to expand IDFVS. As the funding was phased over four years we will spend \$5.45m in 2024/25 financial year to procure 14 new SHLV services, to procure three new Aboriginal led SHLV services and 6 new IDFVS services. These new services will have contracts to 2031 and will not be part of the recommissioning process. Existing services (39 SHLV services and 11 IDFVS services) will be part of the recommissioning process.

The emergency funding package also provided \$48.1m to extend and expand the Specialist Workers for Children and Young people in women's refuges. The funding was phased over four years. The Government will spend \$10.2M in the 2024/25 financial year to extend the funding to 22 existing refuges and expand to a further 10 refuges. This program will be recommissioned alongside the women's refuges as the services are attached to the refuge contracts under SHS recommissioning processes.

YTD (February 2025) expenditure:

- SWCYP - \$7,292,124
- SHLV - \$523,980 - noting new contracts commence 1/4/25
- IDFVS - \$150,000 top ups for a number of contracts; procurement underway for new contracts

Transcript Page 20

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: In circumstances where BOCSAR has suggested a certain input into that review but the DV sector is saying something different, how are you resolving those differences in the design?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I might ask Ms Campbell to answer that.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, there has been quite a lot of consultation over the last year, particularly with DVNSW but also with Legal Aid. Those concerns came up probably early last year. I think where we've landed is we're looking at implementing it from the middle of this year, both tools, and there seems to be agreement. But we're also going to include an evaluation after 12 months of operation to make sure that we pick up any concerns or issues in relation to both the new tools—so both the police one as well as the one being used by Legal Aid.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Is the BOCSAR views being prioritised at this point over the views of the sector?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think what BOCSAR has done—and I can come back to you this afternoon—is really look at what the evidence base is and obviously is trying to minimise the number of questions so it ensures that we have the best information to make a determination of risk. They've looked at—both overseas and nationally—what tools are in place. It started with a really long list and has actually shrunk over the period of time. But I can come back with a more specific response to that question.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Yes, that would be good. I think consultation is one thing, but actually how you then take into account those conflicting bits of input is more interesting for our purposes here.

I am advised:

The Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT) redesign has been informed by a diverse evidence base. Following the DVSAT redesign process there will be two separate, but closely related tools, used by the police and safer pathway support services (the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service and the Local Support Services).

The redesigned police DVSAT is an actuarial tool and has been informed by extensive data analysis conducted by BOCSAR, which examined the specific risk indicators that are highly predictive of re-victimisation. The tool is considered appropriate for use by a large, non-specialist workforce at the scene of a DFV incident to triage those matters more likely to be at serious threat.

Legal Aid NSW has led the development of the DVSAT to be used by the safer pathway support service and considered a range of evidence about factors associated with very serious domestic violence. The support services DVSAT has been the subject of extensive consultation with the DFV sector. The support service DVSAT is a structured professional judgement tool, suitable for use by a specialist workforce, which will involve an extended and more nuanced conversation with a DFV victim-survivor to re-assess the level of risk identified by police and support detailed safety planning.

NSW Government recognises that there are inherent challenges in DFV risk assessment. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan is being developed which will inform any future changes that may be required to either tool.

Transcript Page 22

The CHAIR: Maybe it takes a particular frame of mind listening to that campaign in the morning, that's all. Minister, in relation to domestic violence, it has been wonderful to see the work by the current Government on violence against women, and we acknowledge recent raids done by the New South Wales police. But it remains, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, that one in 14 men have experienced sexual or physical violence from a partner, 7.8 per cent have suffered economic abuse at the hands of a partner and, most worrying, 14 per cent of men have suffered emotional abuse from a current or previous partner. I see this constantly in my office when men are expelled from relationships and dragged through the courts.

DV happens in hetero and homosexual relationships. Due to the stigma attached to male victims, it still goes under-reported and men are three times more likely to commit suicide. Today's estimates focuses on women and domestic violence but, even though men's reported rates are less, they remain still too high. Last year I called on the Government to appoint a men and boys Minister but, of course, was deflected. Minister, how many arrests of perpetrators were made in the last 12 months in situations where men were the victims of domestic violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I don't have the arrests figures. That's something I would have to get from the police. There is certainly no doubt that anybody can be a victim of domestic and family violence. I don't deny at all that men can be a victim of domestic and family violence and sexual violence. We provide services to support men who are victims of domestic and family violence.

I am advised:

7,089 Person of Interest (POI) were proceeded against by NSW Police for a Domestic Violence (DV) assault against an adult male. 1,261 POI were proceeded against by NSW Police for a DV assault against a male child.

Transcript Page 25

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If we can go back to the Commonwealth-funded domestic violence workers—and I understand this morning you indicated that, of the 148.4 Commonwealth-funded domestic violence workers, 140 of those are actually now employed and in the field?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That's right.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And the remaining 8.4, when will those positions be filled?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Of the remaining eight, five full-time equivalent have an offer being made or start date agreed. Two FTE are at interview stage.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: That leaves us with 1.4, if my maths is right.
 MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes. Recruitment has commenced in relation to that last one.
 The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How long was the Commonwealth funding for these workers?
 Ms JODIE HARRISON: It's for—
 ANNE CAMPBELL: Five years, I think.
 Ms JODIE HARRISON: —five years.
 ANNE CAMPBELL: Four or five. I'll come back.
 The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Have you started thinking about planning for what happens when the Commonwealth funding ceases? We have got roughly 150 workers in the field. If the funding is only for a limited period of time, what happens to the services that they're working in?
 Ms JODIE HARRISON: Hopefully whoever is in government at the time continues to work with the New South Wales Government to ensure that domestic and family violence victims get the support they need.
 The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So the plan is to talk to the Federal government. During the last estimates, we were advised that there was specific intention by your Government to target ACCOs. In other parts of the State, there was an open tender. How did you determine which organisations would proceed by open tender and which would be ACCO targeted?
 Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd need to go to DCJ on that. In regard to your previous question for funding for the new workers, the funding is for four years.

I am advised:

Commonwealth funding for the 500 workers initiative is phased over four years from 2022/23 – 2025/26. The recruitment of new workers is progressing in line with NSW's plan. As at 11 March 2025, 152 workers (139.4 FTE) are now delivering domestic, family and sexual violence services across NSW. The remaining 2024/25 quota (nine FTE) have recruitment activity underway.

In line with the principles of the Aboriginal Procurement Policy and NSW's commitment to the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, supporting and building the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) where possible has been a priority for the New Workers Initiative.

In areas where there was one or more ACCOs capable of satisfying this criteria the tender for the New Workers Initiative recommended procuring via direct negotiation or limited invited tender with these ACCOs.

Transcript Page 26

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How many Aboriginal business round tables have been held to support ACCOs delivering domestic and family violence services?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'm not sure of that answer.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Are you able to get back to us on that?

ANNE CAMPBELL: What specific round tables are you referring to?

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Round tables that would support ACCOs delivering domestic and family violence services.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can take that on notice and come back this afternoon

I am advised:

Stakeholder engagement was aimed at supporting stakeholder understanding and gaining knowledge and insights to inform effective delivery of the new Core and Cluster refugees.

Stakeholder engagement included fifteen (15) sessions involving over 700 individuals.

Stakeholder groups included:

- DVNSW Lived Experience Advisory Panel

- Aboriginal stakeholders
- DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Steering Committee
- Aboriginal Women's Advisory Network
- CHPs, SHSs, DFV Specials Service Providers, Peaks, Government Agencies and a range of further participants.

The NSW Government has committed \$1.485 million under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement (NPA) for the Aboriginal Workforce Development Project (AWDP) grant program. The AWDP supports Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering services under the Core and Cluster Program and the Aboriginal Homelessness Sector Growth Project. Grants of up to \$90,000 per organisation can be used for self-determined workforce development needs. Nine services received the grant in Round One in 2024/25 and Round Two of the non-competitive grants program is about to open, with a further five organisations invited to apply. "

Transcript Page 26

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: That would be great. Of the national partnership agreement funding, how much was allocated to domestic and family violence initiatives in New South Wales over the past three years?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Of the national partnership agreement funding?

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Yes.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Over the last three years?

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How much national partnership agreement funding was allocated to domestic and family violence initiatives in New South Wales over the past three years? This was not intended to be a difficult question.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There are a couple of national partnership agreements running in tandem. There's some funding that has been carried forward.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Perhaps while you're looking, you can also let us know how or if that funding changed year on year and what the intentions are with respect to allocations going forward. Is it intended to increase or decrease the amount of funding? Perhaps that all needs to be taken on notice.

I am advised:

The allocated funding to New South Wales under the national partnership agreement is available at: <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence-responses-2021-27>.

Transcript Page 26

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If we go into caretaker, that'll damage those negotiations, I would think. That's why I wondered how far along they were. If we can turn to the Staying Home Leaving Violence program, last year in estimates we learnt that additional resources were announced to extend the Staying Home Leaving Violence program on 8 May 2024. Minister, you and Ms Campbell indicated that tenders for the first round of services would open in October. Did they open in October? How many providers were successful?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, they did open.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Absolutely.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And they closed when?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to double-check that, but with the expansion of the existing contracts, seven services were extended to cover 14 new LGAs. We're currently doing the procurement of 13 new services, covering 23 LGAs.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry, the tender process was for existing services to cover additional areas?

ANNE CAMPBELL: That's right. We wanted to get those services up and running quickly.

It was in expanding the locations where this particular program was available.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And you're now looking at 13 new services. Is that right?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Correct.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: New services or new locations?

ANNE CAMPBELL: New services and locations.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: In terms of locations, the seven that operated additional services, what were those locations?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I have got it in here. I can come back to you.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Those 13 new ones, are they in a tender process or are they operating?

ANNE CAMPBELL: They're in a tender process.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You definitely know the areas in which they will be operating?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, we do.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Perhaps you could give us those areas too, when you get a chance. Are you able to advise which LGAs have no access to Staying Home Leaving Violence services?

I am advised:

The 23 additional LGAs to be covered in the new contracts are:

- Balranald
- Bourke
- Canada Bay
- Cootamundra Gundagai
- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Hilltops
- Hornsby
- Hunters Hill
- Ku-Ring-Gai
- Lane Cove
- Mosman
- North Sydney
- Northern Beaches
- Oberon
- Ryde
- Snowy Valleys Regional
- Strathfield
- Temora
- Upper Lachlan Shire
- Willoughby
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly
- Yass Valley

Seven existing SHLV contracts were provided with additional funding to expand their geographic coverage to include 14 neighbouring LGAs, including Murrumbidgee, Carrathool, Coolamon, Lockhart, Berrigan, Murray River, Edward River, Bogan, Warren, Cobar, Weddin, Lachlan, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Clarence Valley.

The Domestic and Family Violence Emergency Package funding has expanded the program to all 128 LGAs in NSW.

Transcript Page 27

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I'm aware that some LGAs are very large. Are there LGAs where there will be partial coverage? By that, I mean where women may be located more than an hour and a half away from services.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could, thank you. It is relevant for a lot of the areas that we're talking about. How many actual workers in the field are we talking about?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It would vary. I'd be guessing, but lots.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Are you able to check that and provide the figures?

I am advised:

The travel time for services in large LGAs is dependent on the physical location of the SHLV office in that region. SHLV services may provide outreach support where the client is more than an hour and a half away from services, and/or brokerage for the client to support travel expenses. SHLV services in regional, rural and remote locations have been provided with additional program funding to recognise the complexities faced by clients over large distances and the higher operating costs for services providing DFV services in outer regional, rural and remote locations.

Transcript Page 28

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How do you test capacity to serve the need if you don't know the worker numbers?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll come back to you on that. We certainly don't go out and say, "In this location, there is going to be 20 workers." It's often not just about the workers; it's about brokerage and it's about safety.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Just from first principles, it would seem to be a basic capacity question to check that that service actually has the capacity to meet the predicted need in a particular area. If you can get back to us, it's a very relevant question for access for women.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Perhaps you will have difficulty with this question, but how many additional workers for the Staying Home Leaving Violence program were added in November last year?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, I'd have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

Seven SHLV services received additional funding to expand their service coverage to 14 neighbouring LGAs in November 2024. This funding is provided to the service provider to deliver program outcomes and DCJ is not prescriptive about the number of staff services recruit to meet service delivery, and services are not required to report on the number of staff they employ. The additional contracted geographic coverage, client case management, case coordination, and brokerage support is managed at a district level.

Transcript Page 29

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Good morning, Minister. I have a few questions around the link between domestic and family violence and animal abuse. I'm just wondering what measures are being developed and implemented within your department to promote research and the knowledge translation on animal abuse as a form of domestic and family violence, to ensure that program's policy and legislation reform is informed by that evidence on how to actually best support people who are in these violent situations but also living with animals

and experiencing that link that we know so much about.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: As I think we've talked about before, animal abuse is a red flag in domestic and family violence. It's something that's considered in legislation, particularly in coercive control, as an indicator. I'm not sure about discussions in relation to the DVSAT. We're finalising that at the moment. As far as research goes into the link, as I said, it is certainly an indicator. Animals are not only used or can be used as a precursor, but they

can be used against victims as well. As far as research that we're formally doing—

ANNE CAMPBELL: I need to take that one on notice

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I'm happy to get any further information about that, so thank you for that. But I guess the question was more about the research that already exists and the information that we have, and how we're making sure that the policy and legislative reform is being informed by the evidence that we already have in this space so that when there are policy reviews happening in this space, we're ensuring that link is included. I appreciate that when I first was elected this was something that was overlooked quite a bit, and that was six years ago. I think we've come a long way since then, but I just want to know how we're making sure that the research—and the most recent research—is actually being incorporated and used in all the policy and legislative work in this space.

I am advised:

Changes will be implemented in April 2025 to the Client Information Management System (CIMS) to enable visibility to the DV Line and DFV services around which women's refuges accept pets, when identifying the most suitable crisis accommodation to place a women escaping DFV with a companion animal.

Core and Cluster input:

Ensuring the safety of victim survivors with a range of needs has been a key feature of the NSW Government's Core and Cluster program. Individual, self-contained units at a Core and Cluster refuge can accommodate women on their own, with accompanying children (including older children), people with disability and women with pets.

In line with the Domestic Violence Crisis Accommodation Design Brief, refuges will have:

- child-focused spaces in communal areas
- equity of access for people of all ages and levels of mobility
- provision for pets inside and outside the building, to allow women and children escaping domestic and family violence to bring their pets with them to safety, minimising disruption and helping create a safe and welcoming family environment.

DVSAT and pets

The DVSAT is the risk assessment tool used to determine the level of threat to a victim-survivor within Safer Pathway and has been undergoing a process of redesign.

The new Police DVSAT has been finalised and includes 11 mandatory questions asked of victim-survivors. One of the aims of the redesign project was to reduce the complexity, and the number of questions, asked of victim survivors. In the development of the Police DVSAT, BOCSAR's analysis determined that a question on harm to animals did not independently improve its ability to predict re-victimisation. When completing the DVSAT, Police will have the opportunity to indicate whether there are any additional factors that increase their concern for a victim-survivor's safety and can upgrade matters based on their professional judgement.

Legal Aid NSW has led the development of the DVSAT to be used by Safer Pathway Support Services (Support Services DVSAT). During their extensive sector consultation, several stakeholders, including Lucy's Project, highlighted the link between domestic and family violence and animal abuse, and recommended the inclusion of a question on harm to animals in the revised tool. The draft Support Services DVSAT includes a question on harm to animals, however, it should be noted the final version of this tool is subject to endorsement.

Transcript Page 32

The CHAIR: So biological women come second to people who imagine themselves, or are transitioning from men, to be women. Does that sound like a logical situation? You're setting up a situation for a crime to be potentially committed, aren't you? That's how you started to answer the question, about a crime being committed.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd have to look at BOCSAR stats to see whether there's any evidence on whether trans people perpetrate crimes—I think the majority of people who perpetrate crimes against women are actually men. They're men. They identify as men.

The CHAIR: So you're saying that, if they identify as a woman, they don't commit crimes in women's change rooms or toilets?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I don't know. I'd have to look at the data on that. But I certainly know that the majority of people who commit violent crimes and sexual assaults against women are men. And they identify as men.

I am advised:

Data on offending by people who are transgender is not reported in recorded crime reports published by BOCSAR. Information on gender in these reports are based on the self-identified gender of the individual as recorded by police.

Transcript Page 32

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, your Government announced that Community Justice Centres will close on 30 June. What advice have you received about alternative arrangements for voluntary associations?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I haven't received advice because that sits within the Attorney General's portfolio.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, you'd be aware that there are a number of voluntary organisations, like Men's Sheds, that use the model constitution prepared by NSW Fair Trading to engage with CSC in relation to internal dispute resolution. As Minister for volunteering, I am interested to know what is the alternative arrangement for these organisations.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Again, that sits within the Attorney General's portfolio. The issue of CJs sits within the Attorney General.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I'm aware of that, but you're the Minister responsible for volunteering and, if a volunteering organisation can no longer go to a CJC to deal with internal disputes, what is your advice to volunteer organisations?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would have to look at the decision. I can't predict what decision the Attorney General is going to make.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The decision has already been made that these will be closed. I am asking what your advice to volunteer organisations is. Will you consider providing financial support to these organisations to deal with disputes?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would have to get advice from the Attorney General on alternatives. Mr Tidball, do you have further information?

I am advised:

Alternatives to the use of Community Justice Centres are a matter for the Attorney General and NSW Fair Trading.

Transcript Page 36

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Taking you to a different topic, what specifically are you doing to protect against the exploitation and trafficking of overseas women into commercial surrogacy to support the aspirations of families in New South Wales?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: We have laws in relation to that.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Which laws deal with protection of overseas commercial surrogates trafficked into surrogacy slavery? The 97 women that the Anti-slavery Commissioner warned us about in the equality debate trafficked into slavery in a clinic used by New South Wales families, from Moldova, Estonia and other European countries—what is being done to protect those women from slavery?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take that on notice.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I assume nothing then.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I said I would take that on notice.

I am advised that:

The Surrogacy Act 2010 is administered by the Attorney General and questions in relation to the regulation of surrogacy should be referred to him.

Transcript Page 38

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I'll go back to the strategy, Minister. One of the priority areas is establishing a domestic and family and sexual violence primary prevention network across New South Wales local governments. In addition, you're also wanting to see a rollout of primary prevention training and education in local government. Are you providing additional funding to councils for this rollout or is it an expense that will need to come from local government?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I believe that there will be funding for local government within the strategy.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, we'll have to take that on notice and come back this afternoon.

I am advised:

Local Government NSW has been funded \$0.92 million across the four years of the Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028. This funding will support Local Government NSW to work in partnership with councils, a range of local government networks and related organisations to increase understanding and awareness of primary prevention and build capacity and capability. Local government organisations are also eligible to apply for the Multi-Year Partnerships Grants program. This program provides up to \$4.25 million of funding over three years to organisations already undertaking primary prevention of family, domestic, and sexual violence in local, place-based settings. This grant is designed to support community-led, three-year initiatives with clear and actionable delivery plans across metro, rural, and regional NSW that engage a range of different communities and marginalised cohorts. Local councils can apply as individual organisations or with other eligible partners.

Transcript Page 38

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, in relation to the number of women in leadership positions across the public service, you said that you are committed to seeing an increase. What is the number now and what is your target?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: It's not high enough.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I'm happy for you to take that on notice. Do you have a target percentage that you wanted to increase by or a number?

I am advised:

In 2024, 49.0% of senior executives in the NSW Government were women up by 0.7pp from 2023 (Workforce Profile Report 2024).

Women represent half of the population of NSW, and would expect this would be reflected in senior leadership roles.

Transcript Page 39

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That \$25.8 million underspend in the Commonwealth-funded domestic and family violence program—is that the workers? Or is that something different?

ANNE CAMPBELL: No, it's probably a mixture of a couple of things under the domestic and family violence NPA. Again, we are able to roll that funding over from one financial year to the next as long as it's within the two years. So that money is available in the budget this year.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Are you able to tell me what that comprised and why it didn't go out the door?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think it was timing in terms of funding allocation, but I'm happy to take that one on notice and come back to you.

I am advised:

Any delay in capital projects have had a flow on impact on the roll out of funding for service delivery, resulting in a program underspend.

The underspend in the Core and Cluster program budget for 2023/24 has been carried forward to 2025/26, to ensure the funding is available to support the delivery of the projects.

The reported \$25.8 million underspend in Commonwealth funded Family Domestic Violence programs relates to funding allocated to NSW under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) Responses National Partnership Agreement 2021-27, specifically FDSV Responses 2021-23, the 500 workers initiative and FDSV Responses 2023-25.

This reported underspend is due to a reprofiling of budget across financial years for multi-year agreements to reflect service delivery timeframes.

Transcript Page 39

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That would be really useful. This is for DCJ as a whole; I'm not sure which bit is related to this portfolio and which isn't. I'll ask the question and we'll see. Apparently there was a \$105.7 million decrease in employee-related expenses in DCJ compared to what was budgeted but a \$105.7 million overspend in contractor expenses. Effectively, we've spent less on employees but the same amount on contractors. Because of that, there's an \$18.4 million increase in payroll tax. Can you talk to why we are taking on more contractors than we thought we would and which department or areas that was in?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Ms Boyd, I'm really going to struggle to do that without taking it on notice. If I get the chance to look at what I have here through the afternoon and I can give you an intelligent response, I will. Otherwise I will take it on notice.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: The other one maybe you could take on notice is, I know that the Auditor-General picked up on this liability for lodged, not-yet-paid claims related to domestic violence and other offences. I think we had \$73.1 million unbudgeted victim service actuarial adjustment—this is probably one for the Auditor-General.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: It is the Attorney. I can come with a response tomorrow on that one.

I am advised:

The increase in spending on contractors and the contingent workforce is tied to specialised, project-based IT requirements. The Employee Related Expenditure Budget

within the ICT function is used interchangeably to acquire specialised ICT skills for time-sensitive projects. Key projects include:

- The resourcing of the whole-of-government Process and Technology Harmonisation program
- IT technical specialists needed to support whole-of-department IT projects and digital service delivery
- ChildStory-related costs, which support frontline service delivery in Child Protection, Permanency, and Youth Justice.

The mention of an increase in payroll tax indicates that the original budget for payroll tax was under-stated. The commentary in the Annual Financial Statements is based on the original budget and does not account for in-year budget approvals from NSW Treasury/Expenditure Review Committee i.e., increase in HomesNSW ERE expenditure. The original budget assumed some contractor labour would be used to deliver the abovementioned programs. It's important to note that payroll tax is directly linked to Employee Related Expenditure, not Contractor Expenditure.

Transcript Page 41

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: A little bit related is the work that was being done around drink spiking, but also something that we've talked about before, which is needle spiking. I shudder every time at the idea of needle spiking. It seems to be related but also something in its own class in terms of the stories we hear about men going into nightclubs and spiking people with needles, potentially not for any particular reason. I find it extraordinary that they would just want to incapacitate a person. Has that been on your radar? Specifically, has there been any additional training or anything rolled out to police as to how they might respond? Are there any updates there?

HANNAH TONKIN: I think it's terrifying. I know we discussed this a bit at the last budget estimates. We've seen some of these incidents overseas. There were a few things during schoolies in Queensland. We haven't seen as much, as far as I'm aware, in New South Wales, but it's definitely a problem around the world. It may well be only a matter of time. I'm not aware of any active training, but it's something that I can follow up on with the police in my role and with other government colleagues. I'd be happy to do that.

I am advised:

The Women's Safety Commissioner is engaging with relevant stakeholders to understand if and how needle spiking is covered in police training.

Transcript Page 42

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I might move to some of the specifics in the actual domestic family violence plans and the report card that came out. I notice that there's a total of 41 plans and I think 14 sexual violence plans that are yet to be commenced. Is that correct?

HANNAH TONKIN: Do you mean actions?

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Yes. Actions, not plans.

HANNAH TONKIN: The plans are both five-year plans. The actions were deliberately set up to be

staggered over the five years. It was never intended that they would all begin at the beginning. It's deliberately staggered. It has been quite strategic, that whole plan, about what would begin when. So that's right that there are still actions that are still to be progressed, but they will be within the five-year frame.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In total how many actions are there?

HANNAH TONKIN: There are 137.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many have commenced?

HANNAH TONKIN: There were initially 75 selected for implementation in the first 18 months. All of them have been completed or they're underway, so that's all on track. I think that's where we're up to in the first report card, is the 75 actions out of the 137. They were all underway or completed as of the end of 2023.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many are yet to commence?

ANNE CAMPBELL: In my note it says 67 actions from the DFV plan have been identified for implementation in 2024-25.

HANNAH TONKIN: I think quite a few of them have commenced already. I'm not sure how many of those haven't actually commenced. Those are the ones that have been identified for this financial year, but I think many of them have already started.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. Things like the common approach to risk assessment and safety has started. We're well down the track on that. The New South Wales domestic and family and sexual violence outcomes monitoring and reporting framework is expected to be launched in the first half of this year. There's a 10-year domestic and family violence workforce development strategy, which is in development, and, as we've mentioned before, the establishment of the lived experience advisory group is underway.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: So a total of how many are yet to be commenced out of that 137?

HANNAH TONKIN: If you want a number from today, I'd have to take that on notice, because what we have are the numbers from the report card, which is now a previous reporting period. I can take on notice the number from today.

I am advised:

As at 30 June 2024 (the most recent whole-of-government data available), 110 of the 137 actions in the NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plans were in progress or complete.

Transcript Page 43

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the review of kindergarten to year 10 syllabus, which is about ensuring age-appropriate content that is consistent with education on safe, healthy and respectful relationships, could I get an update as to whether the review has commenced and when it's likely to be finalised?

ANNE CAMPBELL: There was some funding that came through the primary prevention strategies. That was \$8 million to develop and commence implementation of a holistic respectful relationships education curriculum.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is that the All In pilot?

ANNE CAMPBELL: No, that's different. That was funded under the emergency package, the All In pilot, but it's also part of primary prevention.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The time frame in relation to the syllabus review and when it's intended to be implemented.

ANNE CAMPBELL: The funding is across four years. I'll take that on notice and get an update from Education on that.

I am advised:

The curriculum is the responsibility of the NSW Education Standards Authority. The Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-10 syllabus, where RRE is explicitly taught, was released in 2024. This syllabus has strengthened content to deliver RRE. It will be implemented in NSW schools in 2027.

Transcript Page 43

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: If you could outline with the All In project, is that also \$8.1 million over four years?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, that's \$8.1 million over the forward estimates, and it's funded to deliver workshops fortnightly, online learning sessions, resources and parent packs to support families and address gender equality, and a pilot has been delivered by Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre. There was a one-off grant approved of \$500,000 by Minister Harrison to continue the All In project until March 2025, while we do the procurement process for the rest of the funding. The expansion will be contracted by April of this year.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How much of that eight has already been—

ANNE CAMPBELL: I need to take that on notice—500 at least, obviously

I am advised:

Of the \$8.1 million allocated to the program, \$0.5 million has been allocated to Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre to continue delivery of the program. The remaining funds are subject to an active procurement process.

Transcript Page 45

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: The ActiveStrongerBetter program—are you aware of that one in relation to seniors?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll need to double-check.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: It's in the Newcastle and Hunter region.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Is that funded under the connecting seniors program?

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: It's supported by NSW Health and managed by Hunter Ageing Alliance and NovaCare community services.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll need to take that on notice. It may be something delivered through NSW Health.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Again it may not be your question to answer but if we could add to that, if it is possible to furnish that information, whether funding for the program has been or will be extended beyond July 2025.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. I am happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:

NovaCare Community Services Limited were successful in the Connecting Seniors Grant program for 2025 to deliver the ActiveStrongerBetter Seniors Exercise Program (\$30,000) <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/grants/grants-closed/connecting-seniors-grant-program-2025.html>.

Transcript Page 45

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: If not, could you direct us where we might need to go with that? New South Wales Grandparents Day 2025—have New South Wales Government websites been updated with the date for the 2025 celebrations?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll need to take that one on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW Grandparents Day will take place on Sunday, 26 October 2025. The NSW Government website has been updated: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/grandparents-day>.

Transcript Page 45

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the delivery and operation of new women's refuges, in particular the eight existing refuges of Core and Cluster, it refers to "children and young people and

Aboriginal people". Are they specific Core and Cluster for young people under 18 or is it—this again is page 13.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Is that in Ms Tonkin's report?

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Yes.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can only talk about Core and Cluster where we do have specific ACCOs that have been contracted to deliver those services. In terms of young people, I'd need to take that on notice.

I am advised:

There are no Core and Cluster women's refuges that specifically target unaccompanied young people under 18. The Support and accommodation provided through Core and Cluster facilities is targeted to women of all ages, with or without children, who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness due to DFV, including Aboriginal women and children, women and children from CALD backgrounds, and LGBTQI+ women.

Transcript Page 45

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: On the app, we talked last year—and I think you touched on it this morning as well—about the co-design models. You used an example of one last year. In the new tranche, are there any new co-design models that have been identified or will be supported?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I need to again take that on notice. We're just negotiating contracts at the moment with the tranche 3 providers. But I can take that on notice

I am advised:

Four Aboriginal led projects were awarded funding under Tranche 3.

Aboriginal and non Aboriginal Community Housing Providers funded to deliver Core and Cluster facilities work closely with relevant stakeholders, particularly the DVF support service, to design the women's refuge.

Transcript Page 46

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, I've got that here—raising awareness of sexual violence through the sexual violence fund, so, as you said, 14 early intervention and response projects that address sexual violence in high-priority groups. That included things like the release of the sexual harassment e-learning package for the retail and hospitality sectors by the Department of Communities and Justice—that was in partnership with the Australian Human Rights Commission—and the development of local resources and delivery of community activities as part of the NSW Health Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention program. There has also been the release of a multi-agency public framework for preventing and responding to problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children and young people by New South Wales Ministry of Health and the publication of Safety in Action 2022-2024, which outlines sector-wide collective actions to guide the implementation of the Children First strategy, which runs until 2031, by the Ministry of Health.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is it possible to get a breakdown? Has it gone to 14 different organisations?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Could we get a breakdown of those 14?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

The Sexual Violence Project Fund has awarded 14 organisations to deliver early intervention and response projects that address sexual violence. A list of grant recipients and project details is available on DCJ's website <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/dfv-programs-funding/nsw-sexual-violence-project-fund.html>

Transcript Page 46

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Also, when they commenced and what the time frame is, whether it is two-year or four-year funding.

HANNAH TONKIN: They run until 30 June 2025 and all the Sexual Violence Project funds have been funded.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Are there plans for any of it to be rolled over or will they all just cease at 30 June?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think we're working through that at the moment and, obviously, looking at what the outcomes were. They were specific grants. We'll take that on notice, but I think we're still in the planning phase.

I am advised:

The Sexual Violence Project Fund provides \$10.5 million in grants to support one-off and time-limited early intervention and response projects that address sexual violence. Projects run for two years from July 2023 to June 2025.

Transcript Page 46

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Just going back to my earlier conversation today about the very popular and well-received regional seniors concerts throughout New South Wales, I am wondering how many regional concerts are being planned or that we can look forward to?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think, with the regional conferences, they do alternate across the State each year. But I'm happy to take that on notice and come back.

I am advised:

The NSW Seniors Festival holds a range of concerts and events across the state to ensure everyone can participate.

The Regional Seniors Christmas Concerts have been held annually in regional NSW and outer-metropolitan Sydney since 2013, providing an opportunity for regional seniors to attend a free professional performance in their local area. Major considerations when determining locations, includes census data using age demographics, Seniors Card membership statistics, venue suitability and cost, and ensuring an even geographical spread of all Seniors Festival events and past festival events.

Work has commenced to identify locations for this year's concerts with an announcement expected to be made in the second half of 2025.

The Seniors Festival Comedy Shows encourage seniors and older people to see the lighter side of life as part of the festival's cultural activities.

In 2025, the regional show was held in Port Stephens on 6 March.

Transcript Page 46

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be good. As MPs, we've been receiving feedback that approval for NSW Seniors Festival grants has been difficult and weighted towards larger projects. Can you talk to any of that?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Which particular grant program, sorry?

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: The NSW Seniors Festival grants.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think I've got something here. There are almost 50 events across metro and regional areas. There are 360 affiliated events run by councils and community organisations. Just looking specifically, the Premier's Gala Concert will be held on 12 and 13 March at the International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I think on the grants question we will need to take that on notice.

There is nothing in our notes that covers that.
The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You can take it on notice.

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) administers a \$200,000 Seniors Festival grants program to help community organisations across the state host festival events.

The NSW Seniors Festival grants program is linked to the Ageing Well in NSW Seniors Strategy 2021-2031, which aims to encourage seniors to remain active in their communities and access information services that promote healthy ageing.

It also encourages seniors in NSW to enjoy new experiences, continue learning, stay active and connect to their communities.

Funding approval is given to applicants that meet these strategic aims and they are also selected for the best use and broadest distribution of funds, to maximise the benefit for seniors in all parts of NSW.

This year, 35 applicants received grant funding, including organisations in Port Macquarie, Dubbo, Clarence Valley, Wollongong, Bathurst, Gilgandra, Edward River, Narrandera, Inverell, Cowra, Bega Valley, Kempsey, Coonamble, Camden, Hornsby, Newcastle, Burwood, Yass Valley, Maitland, Campbelltown, Blacktown, Sutherland and Fairfield.

Transcript Page 48

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The Aboriginal Women's Advisory Network, could you advise who is on that and how often it meets?

BIANCA JARRETT: I can answer that. The network is co-chaired by Wirringa Baiya and the Aboriginal Legal Service, and then there are other various women from community who make up the rest of the membership. I can provide you a list on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That would be great.

BIANCA JARRETT: I believe they meet quarterly, but I don't want to speculate, so I can provide you that on notice.

I am advised:

Aboriginal Women's Advisory Network (AWAN) is chaired by the Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Ltd. The executive council membership consists of the aforementioned co-chairs, three community members and eight representatives from key stakeholders within the sector. For further information, please refer to: <https://www.awan.org.au/>.

AWAN meets regularly, with a membership of approximately 450 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women from across NSW. AWAN's connects with its members in the following ways, hosting members' only online forums and providing network updates through its bi-monthly newsletter and social media channels.

Transcript Page 50

GILLIAN WHITE: Deputy Chair, while Ms Campbell is looking for that, I wanted to come back on a matter that you asked the Minister earlier, in terms of percentage of roles in the New South Wales public sector grades held by women. We have that data in the NSW Women's Strategy. We've published the first of a baseline report card, and there will be another one soon. In that latest baseline report card, 53 per cent of grade 11/12 positions in the New South Wales public service are held by women, and 42 per cent of senior executive positions are held by women.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you have that breakdown across each of the departments/agencies?

GILLIAN WHITE: I think we do have that data available to us. I don't think we've published the whole in this summary, because it's a summary across all three pillars of the Women's Strategy, with key datapoints. But we'll consult with the Public Service Commissioner and

take that on notice.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I've found the note, but it doesn't have the answer that you want: the wait time. What I do know is that the line receives between 1,500 and 200 calls a month. If there had been issues in terms of the wait time, we would know about it. But I will follow that up and take that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And if you have a comparison from a 12-month period?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, we can do that.

I am advised:

The average wait time (i.e. before being connected with a person) for a call to the Domestic Violence Line across 2023/24 was 00:01:57.

Transcript Page 50

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I understand the Safe Places Inclusion Round closed in January. Do you know when successful applicants are going to be announced?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Are we back a topic?

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Yes. Sorry, I'm jumping. I'm aware that it's Federal funding.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I would need to take that one on notice. It's probably here somewhere.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The reason I ask is whether or not you envisage any issues with the rollout and the funds going to those applicants because of the election and caretaker, or anything like that.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice is not aware of any issues with the roll out of this funding to NSW grant recipients.

Transcript Page 52

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I'm not at all querying the decision that the taskforce came to, to follow the Corrections model. I'm simply asking whether, as part of the review process, it was, "Okay, Corrections does this in this capacity. Private providers are doing it in this capacity. Let's have a quick look at the private providers." That's all the question is.

GILLIAN WHITE: Absolutely, Ms Carter.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

GILLIAN WHITE: There were those preliminary lines of inquiry, and it was identified pretty early on in the taskforce work that Corrections was the most appropriate model.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: The legislation passed in June. Would it be correct to say the taskforce began meeting at, let's say, the end of June?

GILLIAN WHITE: I think I might have that information somewhere close by. I will come back to you, Ms Carter.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I might leave my other questions until tomorrow.

GILLIAN WHITE: Apologies. We notified agencies that we were concluding the taskforce in February of this year. As the reforms had commenced in October, we did have a meeting after the commencement. I will have to take on notice when the first meeting was, but we had a series of meetings over that time period.

I am advised:

The Cabinet Office led cross-agency working group (CAWG) to set up bail electronic monitoring held its first meeting on 21 May 2024. As per the evidence given on 27 February 2025 by Ms Gillian White, Deputy Secretary, Social Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, The Cabinet Office, the CAWG did look at other models of bail electronic monitoring that were operating (refer to page 51 of the hearing transcript).

Transcript Page 52

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Is there a scheduled review date for "Is it working? What do we need to change?" Or is this an ongoing process?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: There will of course be ongoing monitoring. We could give you more specifics on that on notice or at tomorrow's Attorney's estimates.

I am advised:

The Cabinet Office led an implementation working group, which concluded. Corrective Services NSW are responsible for monitoring people on bail under the regime, and NSW Police remain responsible for the enforcement of bail conditions as normal. These operational arrangements are supported by the Bail Regulation (Part 4, Division 4). Corrective Services has been managing implementation and monitoring, including a cross agency group, with DCJ representation.

Transcript Page 53

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Before I go to my colleague—even though we have been talking quite a lot—can you talk to us about the higher service delivery costs involved in domestic and family violence services in the regions?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Can you repeat that question?

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: It was about the higher service delivery costs; the fact that in our regional, rural and remote areas it actually costs more to provide domestic and family violence services, and the contributing factors to that.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Things would be distance, obviously, and the cost of labour, depending on what kind of service you are commissioning. I am happy to take that one on notice. I don't think it varies significantly in terms of the funding, but certainly we would look at things in terms of geography, distance, brokerage, what other services are available and those sorts of details. But I am happy to take that on notice

I am advised:

Regional loading has been applied to annual funding for the relevant Staying Home Leaving Violence services in the recent procurement for 14 new services to expand access statewide, given the challenges domestic and family violence specialist programs in rural, remote, and regional communities face. The additional funding considers establishment funding for new providers, recruitment and retention of skilled workforce, servicing greater geographies, co-location and outreach opportunities, innovative referral pathways, management and coordination required with limited community services.

Transcript Page 53

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: When it comes to the paper Impact Economics and Policy, it actually says, "DFV services are significantly more costly to deliver in regional and remote parts of New South Wales." There is greater difficulty attracting and retaining staff; higher travel costs; higher brokerage costs, as you mentioned; unique health and safety challenges; and higher heating and cooling costs, due to local climatic conditions. When it comes to regional, rural and remote areas, they also don't receive any additional funding or loading despite these additional costs, do they?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I would need to take that on notice. I do think that is factored into the mode of service delivery, particularly in remote areas of New South Wales. But I think all the other issues you have outlined

are actually the right things in terms of attracting staff out in particular parts New South Wales, which is what we saw was difficult with the recruitment for the, dare I say it, 148 workers. We have now had a really good strategy to really encourage people to apply for

those positions. But it is a struggle, I think, at times, and not just in the domestic and family violence workforce but right across the board, particularly in terms of human services in those locations. They do really difficult work too

I am advised;

Women's refuges contracts are flexible to allow services to adapt service provision to the local context. For regional, rural and remote service provision this flexibility is critical to overcome the barriers and complexities unique to these locations. Program guidelines for the Specialist Workers for Children and Young People (SWCYP) program have been recently revised to enable flexible brokerage to support gaps in local service delivery and / or specialist worker recruitment or development in remote areas.

DFV Services have received a loading for regional and rural locations when compared with metro locations for Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) services in the recent procurement for 13 new services to expand access statewide.

The Core and Cluster delivery model involves DCJ engaging Community Housing Providers to design, construct and maintain the facility and a specialist DFV service to operate the refuge. Both the CHP and service provider are engaged through an open tender process. This model enables providers to accurately identify costs for delivering and operating women's refuges, including refuges located in regional and remote areas of NSW, while also providing the best opportunity for innovation – such as through the provision of complementary development and services on sites, which can enhance value-for-money and drive positive client outcomes.

Transcript Page 53

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: There are another couple of busy weeks ahead. My question is in relation to the Volunteering Strategy report card and the due date for that.

ANNE CAMPBELL: It's not at the front of my note.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I don't think it's in the note.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll need to come back. It's in my head somewhere but it's not coming up to the surface.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That is fine. For the volunteer focus groups that were conducted across rural and regional volunteering, older persons, women and youth, what is the long-term plan? There were quite detailed reports that each of those groups provided and a number of recommendations. What is the plan moving forward to incorporate those recommendations? Will the Government provide a response on it?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I will take that on notice. But I do know that there is quite a lot of additional work being undertaken as a result of those consultations. That includes the New South Wales volunteer recruitment portal and the volunteering diversity and inclusion grants, and part of the pilot round 23 projects to the value of about half a million dollars were funded and the projects have recently been completed. There is also the NSW Volunteer Charter and the NSW Youth Volunteering Guidelines, and the NSW Volunteering Taskforce tabled its report in December 2024. We are currently considering that information.

I am advised:

The NSW State of Volunteering Research Initiative is a key action under the NSW Volunteering Strategy. Focus groups, as a part of this research, were conducted across rural and regional NSW including older persons, women and young people. The long term plan is to enhance our understanding of volunteering and our sector's needs which will inform decision-making and support a culture of excellence and innovation. The sector is able to apply the research findings to their practice in a manner that suits their needs to improve the volunteer experience. Enhanced knowledge helps sector stakeholders to

improve their organisation's and the sector's capacity. The recommendations will be considered as part of the mid-term review of the Volunteering Strategy.

Transcript Page 54

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Can I just get on notice if the Government is going to be responding to the recommendations from each of those various groups and their reports?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW State of Volunteering Research Initiative is a key action under the NSW Volunteering Strategy. Focus groups, as a part of this research, were conducted across rural and regional NSW including older persons, women and young people. The long-term plan is to enhance our understanding of volunteering and our sector's needs which will inform decision-making and support a culture of excellence and innovation. The sector is able to apply the research findings to their practice in a manner that suits their needs to improve the volunteer experience. Enhanced knowledge helps sector stakeholders to improve their organisation's and the sector's capacity. The recommendations will be considered as part of the mid-term review of the Volunteering Strategy.

Transcript Page 54

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: You mentioned the recruitment portal, and I asked about this last estimates. In the response you mentioned that you get monthly data around the visitor numbers and expressions of interest. I was wondering if you have that data. I am happy for you to take that on notice.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think I will take that one on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And also if there are any year-by-year trends, depending on when it commenced.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Okay.

I am advised:

The Government has access to monthly visitor number and EOI data. The data shows year-on-year growth in both visits and EOIs.

Transcript Page 55

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Ms Campbell, you mentioned that there was no discretionary funding for seniors. Might I ask why that is the case?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It's pretty typical in my experience, but happy to take that one on notice.

I am advised:

The Minister for Seniors does not have a discretionary fund. The Seniors budget is allocated to a variety of programs and activities under the Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy, designed to support the implementation of initiatives for seniors across New South Wales.

Transcript Page 56

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Because the information that I received previously when I was here was that was not the case. You may again need to take on notice whether the Minister has discretionary funding for the other portfolios.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I don't think so.

GILLIAN WHITE: I can partly answer. There is a women's discretionary fund for the Minister.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: I'll also ask—again, it may need to be taken on notice—

whether the Minister has requested a discretionary fund for seniors.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Not that I'm aware of, but happy to take it on notice and check with the staff.

I am advised:

Ministerial discretionary funding is not allocated to the Seniors, Carers or Volunteering portfolios with DCJ.

Transcript Page 59

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: This question really arises from the point of order taken before, and it's I guess a process question. Maybe this is for Ms White or Ms Campbell or Mr Tidball. Is it possible to get some sort of road map so we know who is responsible for the implementation of what and therefore we can direct our questions to the right places?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, we can do that.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: We can do that, but can I also say that regardless of how you try to describe things, there is always at the edges—we are very comfortable to respectfully redirect to the appropriate estimates if we believe that is the right thing, so happy to do that. We're also happy to be agile.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Which I understand, but if we are being redirected to the Premier's estimates after that has occurred, that presents some difficulties for us. That is all. The intention is to ask the right person the right questions, but we don't always know who the right person is.

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Premier.