



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Questions on Notice

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

**Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
(Harrison)**

Hearing: Thursday 21 August 2025

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Wednesday 17 September 2025

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, the Far West and Orana region had the highest rates of domestic violence assaults in the 12-month period to March 2025, three times higher than any other area.

What targeted initiatives have you implemented to address this alarming rate?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Regional New South Wales has higher rates of domestic and family violence than metro, and that has been the case for some time now.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I'm asking, Minister, what specifically have you done to address this significant rise which is clearly being reported?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Expanding Staying Home Leaving Violence was a significant improvement to ensuring that there are services available to people.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: But that was statewide. I'm asking specifically for this area.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Do we have any detail on this area?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can take that on notice.

I am advised:

As part of the DFV emergency funding package, there has been new and expanded Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) services in NSW, including regional NSW. There has been an increase in funding in the Far West (including Orana) with procurement of new SHLV services in Oberon, Bourke, Balranald and Wentworth. There is also procurement underway of an additional new SHLV service in Bourke that has been co-designed with the Aboriginal community, with community consultations underway for a further three additional Aboriginal led co-designed models in the locations of Walgett, Coonamble and Kempsey/Nambucca. In addition, one of the new Integrated Domestic Family Violence program services funded through the DFV emergency funding package will be located in the Far West and this service will be contracted by September this year. Also, with funding through the DFV emergency funding package, the Specialist Workers for Children and Young People program expanded to an additional 10 services, two of which are in the Far West, in Wilcannia and Broken Hill."

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I will ask again: Can you provide the latest information you've received from the Minister in relation to women and children escaping violence in social housing? How

many of that 1,700 have been allocated? You said your office receives regular updates.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: To get the most up-to-date information, it would be better to ask the housing and homelessness Minister.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: No, I'm asking when you received your last one. You

said your office receives regular updates. I'm asking: When was the last update?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll have to check that.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The Minister for Homelessness announced the housing

innovation fund—22 providers. Only seven of those organisations that received funding went to supporting

women and children escaping domestic and family violence. Do you agree with that decision by the Minister?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Sorry, could you repeat that?

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The Homelessness Innovation Fund—you would be

aware of that.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: It is the responsibility of Minister Jackson. Twenty-two

organisations received funding. Out of that funding, seven grants went to organisations that support women and

children escaping violence. I'm asking whether or not you think that is adequate.

Do you support the Minister's

decision to only allocate seven out of 22 to support women and children escaping domestic violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I support the Minister's decision. I know that the Minister is absolutely

working to ensure that women and children who are facing domestic and family violence have safe places to live on an ongoing basis. It's an issue in relation to

housing and homelessness, it's an issue in relation to planning, and

it's an issue in relation to my portfolio for emergency accommodation.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: But only seven out of 22. Do you think that is adequate?

Do you think that is enough to support women and children escaping violence, or should she have done more?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: This is an ongoing program, and that is not the only thing that the housing

and homelessness Minister is doing in relation to supporting women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: You can see the concern here, where your Government is committing 50 per cent to social housing properties. You have no idea what that number is and whether or not they're actually even meeting that target, but what we can see of the innovation fund allocation is that far less than 50 per cent went to supporting women and children escaping violence. Again I ask: Are you actually doing anything to ensure that your Government is delivering on its commitment to support women and children escaping domestic violence?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Absolutely. All you need to do is look at the work that we've been doing in relation to—

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: We are. We see the strategies, the plans and the reports, but this is actually about tangible project funding that not only support them escaping but actually ensure they have long-term housing, and you have no idea what your Government is doing.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That's not true. What I'm saying is that, for the best information in relation to that, if we're not talking about emergency accommodation for domestic and family violence victims and if we're not talking about specialist services that are being provided for domestic and family violence victims, then the best place to ask that question is the housing and homelessness Minister. Her budget estimates, to my understanding, is tomorrow.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Will you commit to actually asking for regular updates in relation to social housing and the target of 50 per cent so that you can give the sector a commitment that you are actually monitoring this?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: As I said, I receive those reports.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Will you provide that update to the Committee by this afternoon?

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

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: For the Core and Cluster program, which was funded under our Government, how many are actually completed?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There are 10 Core and Cluster refuges operating.

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

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take that on notice and come back to you this afternoon. They're in various processes at the moment, so I might get you a more accurate number.

I am advised:

"The NSW Government committed a record \$6.6 billion investment in social housing and homelessness through the 2024/25 State Budget as part of the Building Homes for NSW program. At least 50% of the additional social housing supply being delivered under this program, will be made available to women and children experiencing DFV by 2031.

Homes NSW will report annually on this figure. The first report will be provided in November 2025 following the first year of program delivery and verification of data. "

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The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Good morning to you all. Minister, in the additional budget estimates hearings, you took a question on notice. You told the Committee that the Queanbeyan refuge in particular—to be built as part of the Core and Cluster program—was forecast to commence construction in May 2025. Has that construction started yet?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: My understanding is that the construction is due to start by the end of this month. Obviously, weather can be a problem, but my understanding is that it's on track for commencement by the end of this month.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That is a three-month-odd delay from when you stated last time. Is that all due to weather, or are there other factors as part of that as well?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would need to refer that to—

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll come back with that this afternoon.

I am advised:

Construction of the Queanbeyan Core and Cluster refuge has commenced and is currently scheduled to be completed by mid 2026. Timeframes for the

Queanbeyan project have been impacted by challenges for the provider in obtaining development approval and more recently due to the tender process the provider undertook to engage a suitably qualified builder.

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The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Domestic and family violence services in regional, rural and remote areas don't receive a loading despite the additional costs they incur to deliver services, obviously, across vast geographical areas. Will the New South Wales Government introduce a regional loading for all funding streams that provide domestic and family violence specialist services?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The issue in relation to regional, rural and remote refuges and the costs associated with the isolation is certainly considered through the procurement process. It might not actually be that we use a terminology like "loading", but it is certainly considered during commissioning processes. I'm happy to ask Ms Campbell to provide more detail in relation to that, but there is a recognition that there is increased expenditure in regional and remote New South Wales.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: So that's addressed in one way or another?

ANNE CAMPBELL: It is, and I can give you an example. Recently we've been developing the Staying

Home Leaving Violence model out in western New South Wales. We've actually allocated a higher rate for those

services given the rural and remote location. Those services are expected to commence in Bourke by December,

and then Walgett, Coonamble, Kempsey and Nambucca LGAs as well. It is being co-designed with the Aboriginal community out there, so it has a different name.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Minister, you talked earlier about regional New South Wales having

higher rates of domestic violence. Is the strategy that you referred to earlier in relation to drivers? Are you

specifically looking at why this is the case in regional New South Wales particularly as part of that strategy?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I just want to be clear about the work that we're doing in relation to drivers.

What I was referring to earlier is in relation to the people who use violence strategy. It's really about particular

groups of people who use violence. We certainly did consultations in regional, rural and remote New South Wales to ensure that particular nuances in relation to those areas were considered in relation to the use of violence.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You're not actually breaking down or doing an analysis on why there are higher rates of domestic violence in regional New South Wales or strategies to address that specifically?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: In relation to regional, remote and rural New South Wales, obviously those

consultations will inform what is covered within that strategy. There is an absolute recognition that there are

different types of issues faced in those areas, and that is something that—

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: To break that down further—I understand that. I'm suggesting—

will they be given higher rates? Will there be a prioritisation of what might be needed specifically in these areas

rather than a carte blanche approach of one size fits all? Are we going to break down and see different strategies

for regional, rural and remote areas given higher instances?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I haven't been briefed on the detail of the people who use violence strategy

recently, so I'll refer that to Ms Campbell.

ANNE CAMPBELL: We have consulted with regional and remote parts of New South Wales on this

strategy. We haven't actually briefed the Minister yet on the strategy, so I probably can't say too much further.

Obviously we've been looking at locations where there are higher rates of domestic and family and sexual

violence, and looked at how we target services there. When we did the rollout of the emergency funding package,

we rolled that out to lots of locations in regional and remote New South Wales that didn't have any services on

the ground. I can come back this afternoon with examples of that.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be great. Do you have an idea of when you will be

briefing the Minister? Can we take it on notice to receive some information after that has occurred?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

I am advised:

It is intended that the Strategy to respond to the use of DFV will be finalised before the end of 2025.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In the remaining time, Minister, could you list all the plans and strategies that are currently under your portfolio?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: All of the plans and strategies that are currently in my portfolio? We have,

obviously, the Women's Strategy. I have the Ageing Well in New South Wales strategy for seniors. I have the

Carers Strategy. I have the domestic and family violence strategy. Would you like me to keep going?

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Happy to—and when all the report cards are due. If it's

easier, you could just provide a diagram of all the strategies, all the plans and all the report cards.

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

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Yes, that's fine.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Or I could come back after the break and provide you with a full range.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: No. I'm happy for you to take it on notice.

DCJ's response

I am advised:

Volunteering Portfolio: The NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020 – 2030 is being implemented. Report Cards on the Strategy's implementation are released every two years. The Report Cards highlight key initiatives commenced, completed and achievements to date. To date, Reports Cards on the NSW Volunteering Strategy have been released spanning the following two year periods 2020/21 and 2021/22 in November 2022, and 2022/23 and 2023/24 in August 2024. The next Report Card for the NSW Volunteering Strategy spanning 2024/25 and 2025/26 is scheduled for release in July 2026. The Report Cards are available at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/community-services/volunteering/resources-for-volunteering-nsw/nsw-volunteering-strategy-report-card>

Carers Strategy: Details of the NSW Carers Strategy are published at <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/community-inclusion/carers.html>

Seniors Strategy: The Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021 - 2031 is a whole of government ten year initiative that is supported by two yearly Action Plans. At the end of each Action Plan, agencies and organisations report on the progress of their actions, and a Report Card is published to showcase

achievements. A mid-term review of the Strategy is planned for 2025/26. More information on the Ageing Well Strategy, Action Plans and Report Cards can be found here: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/community-inclusion/seniors/ageing-well-in-nsw-seniors-strategy-2021-2031/publications.html>

Domestic and Family Violence Portfolio: The Workforce Development Strategy is published on <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/domestic-family-sexual-violence-plans-and-strategies/strengthening-the-nsw-domestic-and-family-violence-service-system.html>

The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022-2027 (DFV Plan) and the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027 (the SV Plan) set out the NSW Government's strategic direction and action to prevent and respond to sexual violence across NSW. The SV Plan is published on <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/service-providers/domestic-and-family-violence-services/NSW-Sexual-Violence-Plan-2022%E2%80%932027.pdf>. The DFV Plan is published on <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/service-providers/domestic-and-family-violence-services/NSW-Domestic-and-Family-Violence-Plan-2022-2027.pdf>. The DFV Plan and SV Plan commit to publishing an annual report card on implementation of these actions, after the end of each financial year. The second public facing report card was published on 4 April 2025 on https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/dcj-website/documents/legal-and-justice/our-commissioners/womens-safety-commissioner/dfsv_plans_annual_report_card_2023_2024.pdf. The next report card will be published by the end of the year.

The Working together to address domestic, family and sexual violence NSW: Women's Safety Commissioner Strategic Plan 2024–2027 provides a roadmap for the Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner's activities between 2024 and 2027. The Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner reports on progress under the Strategic Plan in the Women's Safety Commissioner's Annual Report Card, which is made publicly available each year. The most recent public facing report card was published on 4 April 2025 on https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/dcj-website/documents/legal-and-justice/our-commissioners/womens-safety-commissioner/dfsv_plans_annual_report_card_2023_2024.pdf. The next report card will be published by the end of the year."

WNSW's reponse:

NSW Women's Strategy 2023-2026.

The 2025 report card has been published

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/women-nsw/nsw-womens->

strategy/nsw-womens-strategy-2025-report-card. The next report is due in early 2026.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Welcome back. Just ahead of the break we were talking about Core and Cluster.

It is my understanding that domestic and family violence quality standards were being developed by DVNSW

with DCJ. There was some mention in the workforce strategy, now that I have had an opportunity to glance at it

over the break, that refers to the development of quality standards. Given that there is only \$2.5 million put aside

for the workforce strategy, how much of that will be used to fund the implementation of quality standards?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I don't have that.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can come back this afternoon.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Is that \$2.5 million across three years, or is it just for this financial year?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Just for this financial year.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I understand the sector was saying that, ideally, it should be around \$10 million

in order to implement it over three years. There's a possibility that we will see the additional \$7.5 million coming

in the two years after.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. There was also \$5 million last financial year for the strategy and for a couple

of staff within DCJ and for training materials, but I'll come back this afternoon with greater clarity.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That would be useful. Another issue that I've raised before that the sector has

been concerned about is the failure to provide any new funding to existing women's refugees. I understand the

previous Government put in place the Core and Cluster funding stream and that has produced some new refugees,

but a lot of the existing women's refugees, which have been embedded in their communities for a long time, could

also have expanded those services. I know this was a point of contention under the last Government. Minister,

under your Government, what additional funding is planned to be given to those existing refugees?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That certainly goes to the point you've been making in relation to funding for

frontline services, but it is particularly the refuges you're talking about.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Yes. This is around capital investment, so infrastructure investment, not just the

operational costs. The funding I was talking about before is their operational core baseline funding. This is in

relation to the expansion of existing refuges.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Okay. Certainly, there has been some funding for upgrades in relation to

accessibility standards that have been required to be undertaken by existing refuges. There are some funds for

some capital upgrades, not large-scale ones. That's not to say that in the future there may not be, but at the moment

I can't specify exactly what might be in the future.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Just on accessibility, I mentioned last year the really damning report that came

out saying 0 per cent of existing refuges and services were fully accessible for people with disability. What's that

looking like now? What's the work been to date to address that gap? Have we got better statistics coming out that

you know of?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I don't have that on me. We might need to take that on notice. Ms Campbell

is indicating we need to take it on notice.

I am advised:

"The Quality Standards Project is funded outside of the \$2.5 million allocated to the Workforce Development Strategy.

Core and Cluster projects are built using the Domestic Violence Crisis Accommodation Functional Design Brief as a guide, which has an outcome to:
- give people with disabilities who are experiencing domestic and family violence easier access to crisis accommodation.

Refuges are part of the inclusion policy work that Homes NSW has been undertaking and they may be able to provide more information about the number of disability accessible refuges.

From a recent audit, 9 properties have been fully modified to meet accessibility requirements, and a further 104 properties have been partially modified to improve access, such as through ramps, accessible bathrooms, kitchens or circulation upgrades."

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That takes us to \$36.5 million. What about the rest of the \$272.2 million?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I've got quite a detailed list here. Are you happy for me to go through that?

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Yes.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm just trying to get rid of the ones the Minister has referred to. DV Notify, a digital service pilot expansion, this financial year is \$4.4 million but over the forward estimates \$8.9 million.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Sorry, that was already included in the \$25.3 million that was just read out.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Okay, sorry. Supporting marginal cohorts, maintaining program funding, so that's

\$4.6 million over the forward estimates, but \$2.3 million this year. I'm not sure if you mentioned Safe and Strong

Families targeted early intervention and support. That's \$21 million over the forward estimates and \$7.5 million

this year. Safe and Together frontline service delivery, which is delivered through NSW Health, is \$0.7 million

this year and it goes to \$1.4 million over two years.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Sorry, can I stop you there because it is quite confusing. The headline budget

amount was \$272.2 million. Was that for one year or four years? A lot of the ones we're listing now are—

Ms JODIE HARRISON: That was over four years. Some of the programs may have been for one year.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Some are two years.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: So we can't just say that we'll divide it by four. It's not \$272 million for one year.

It's \$272 million over four years but in a sort of lumpy way. Perhaps we will take the rest of that detail on notice.

Looking at what the Federal funding looks like, how much has been provided under the national partnership funding? How much have you received from the Federal Government over the past three years, and how much of that has been allocated to domestic and family violence initiatives?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Over the past three years, and how much has been for domestic and family

violence? Excluding sexual violence?

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Yes. Do you have that? Again, you could take it on notice, if you like. I'm just curious as to how much is coming through and whether any of that announced budget amount is just for New South Wales funding, or whether it includes amounts that have come through from the Feds.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I can, I hope, assist the Committee. The agreement for 2025 to 2030, over that five-year period, is \$221.2 million.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Sorry, I need to change that. It's very tricky because the national partnership is over five years so the proportion of the funding over four years from the Commonwealth is \$175 million.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: But I said five.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, I know, but it's four years in our budget. That's the tricky bit.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Got it.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Right, so what's the additional amount that the New South Wales Government puts on top of that, then?

ANNE CAMPBELL: The New South Wales—we match it, so the \$272 million would obviously be well over what the Commonwealth—

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Okay, so that's all—I see. So that's \$272 million of additional funds to what the Commonwealth has put in over four years?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Correct.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Thank you, that's really useful. If you could provide, either now or on notice, how that amount has been allocated year on year between domestic and family violence initiatives and sexual violence initiatives, and what they are, that would be really useful. I think we got that information a couple of years back, under the previous Government. It'd be useful to see how that's changed.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: So is that for the past three years, or are you looking at future as well?

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: If you could just look at it over the life of the agreement—maybe that five-year

period—that would be useful. If that makes sense from a financial perspective, that would be the way to do it.

ANNE CAMPBELL: We're happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:

The total \$272.7 million is over four years and includes the following funding amounts (totals per program):

Core and Cluster - \$148.8m

Serious Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders - \$9.3 million

NSW Domestic Violence Line - \$2.5 million

Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring - \$4.6 million

DV Notify - \$8.9 million

Safe and Strong - \$21 million

DFV programs (NSW Health) - \$11.2 million

DFV programs (Youth Justice) - \$10.0 million

WDVCAS Hearing Support - \$13.7 million

WDVCAS Co-Location - \$3.0 million

Innovative perpetrator interventions - \$6.3 million

Programs supporting 'at risk' cohorts - \$12.3 million

Sector development programs - \$3.2 million

Sexual Violence programs - \$6.7 million

DFV Workforce Development Strategy - \$2.5 million

Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety - \$3.6 million

DFSV Data Strategy - \$3.1 million

Aboriginal DFSV Plan - \$2.0 million

Funding amounts under the FDVS National Partnership Agreement are set by the Commonwealth Government and allocations are publicly available (<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence-responses-2021-30>)

Lists of funded initiatives is publicly available for NPA 2021-2023

<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/dfv-programs-funding/national-partnership-agreement.html>

Projects funded under NPA 2023-2025 will be uploaded to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website in due course and are listed below:

- Safe and Strong Families; early intervention family support program - \$13 million
- Support for young people in the Justice systems - \$6.48 million
- Programs supporting 'at risk' cohorts - \$4.34 million
- Developing culturally safe and tailored Men's Behaviour Change Programs - \$4 million
- Integrated psychosocial, medical and forensic DFV 24 hr crisis response

service - \$2.48 million

- Closing the Gap Target 13 projects - \$1.7 million
- DV Notify - \$1.56 million
- Aboriginal Wellbeing and Family Violence Prevention program - \$1.5 million
- Uplift Keeping Women Safe in Their Home - \$1.25 million
- Workshops for survivors of child sexual abuse - \$1.1 million
- What's Your Plan - \$1.08 million
- Identifying and responding to coercive control - \$1 million
- Pilot sites for SHLV - \$0.85 million
- Aboriginal Women's Advisory Network - \$0.85 million
- Capability building for social responders - \$0.83 million
- Family Safety Collaboration - \$0.82 million
- LGBTQIA+ DFSV Program - \$0.71 million
- DVSAT evaluation - \$0.7 million
- DV routine screening evaluation - \$0.67 million
- Specialist sector support- \$0.6 million
- Intersectional Service Delivery Project - \$0.45 million
- Identified positions in DVNSW - \$0.44 million
- Case Management Service improvement - \$0.4 million

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The CHAIR: I'd like to speak about the incidence of sexual assault on the rise at present. There are rigid and effective measures for male sexual offenders, but there has been an almost 208 per cent rise in the past two decades in female sexual offenders. The University of the Sunshine Coast reports that while this may appear, in the media, to be teachers with schoolboys, most cases are mothers abusing their own children. There's also very little in the way of rehabilitation for female offenders. Could you, Minister, detail what is being done to reduce the incidence of women offenders and what services exist to rehabilitate them?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Our approach to sexual violence is within our sexual violence strategy and the actions under that of the—I'm happy to probably take that on notice, though. That's a level of detail that I don't have in front of me at the moment, but I might be able to provide it in future.

The CHAIR: Sorry, you said you're going to take it on notice?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can take that on notice.

I am advised:

With respect to services that support women who use violence, DCJ funds:

Community Restorative Centre to deliver the 'The Miranda Project':

<https://www.crcnsw.org.au/services/the-miranda-project/>

Safe Space, an intervention for young people who engage in domestic and family violence.

ACON and Men and Family Centre to deliver the 'Proud Partner' program:

<https://sayitoutloud.org.au/learn-more/learn-more/whats-on/proud-partners-group-program/?state=all>

Yinnar, designed for Aboriginal young women to address violence within relationships and delivered in a safe and culturally appropriate way.

Questions regarding Corrective Services NSW programs should be directed to the Minister for Corrections.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

I will follow up on a couple of matters from this morning. I want to confirm that you made the offer to Ms Webb for this advisory role?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: On what date did you make that offer?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: On 3 June. I'll just check. Yes, on 3 June I wrote to Ms Webb.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Could you table the letter of employment?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: It's not actually a letter of employment because she already has employment.

This was about the work that she will be doing within the portfolio of domestic and family violence.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Could you table that?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll need to take it on notice.

I refer to responses provided to the Legislative Council Questions Without Notice 393 and 394.

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The CHAIR: And the Government view—I know that, unfortunately. Getting back to the Gender

Equality Budget Statement, the Government is also proud that 66½ per cent of New South Wales public service

workers are women and that, by raising their wages, they have decreased the gender wage gap. Minister, does this

mean that only female public servants enjoyed a wage rise?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: No. All public servants, as a result of this Government's commitment to fairness, have had the wages cap abolished.

The CHAIR: Yes, I understand that. As a politician, I'm now subjected to another cap, and I don't have a problem with that. But, if not, then how can you say the gap has been narrowed, if everyone has got the same?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Because the majority of people who work in the public service are female, so the gender pay gap has been narrowed.

The CHAIR: So how is that calculated? I'm an old accountant and I don't really understand how those numbers work. Can someone elucidate that for me, to help me understand it?

TANYA SMYTH: The gender pay gap? There are different ways that that's calculated. The OECD

statistics are different to, say, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. Some will take into account a part-time

role as a full-time equivalent. Some will take into account bonuses and things like that. But it essentially is about

how much men earn per year versus how much women earn per year.

The CHAIR: If they all get the same, are you saying the weighting of more females means you've

reduced the gender pay gap? Is that what you're saying?

TANYA SMYTH: There are three things that contribute to the gender pay gap. One is discrimination,

where employers will—

The CHAIR: Clearly discrimination is not an issue in this one, because the discrimination is the other

way around, if there are fifty-fifty male and female, you've got 66½ per cent female in the public service. Please continue.

TANYA SMYTH: In terms of the pay gap, the reason it still exists is because women take on roles of

caring and other unpaid work in the family and in their community. They'll generally work less hours than men

do, therefore, per year, they earn less than men.

The CHAIR: Even with a 33.5 per cent discrepancy between the two—in other words, nearly twice as

many women work in the public service than men—you're saying there's still a gender pay gap?

TANYA SMYTH: Correct.

The CHAIR: Could you take on notice to show me a calculation of how that is worked out? I'd really like to see that.

TANYA SMYTH: Yes. It's also about the roles that women do in the public service.

The CHAIR: With respect, I understand that. Roles in the public service obviously influence how much you get paid. But I'd like to see how that's calculated, please, if you can do it. Can you take that on notice? Is that possible?

TANYA SMYTH: Yes, okay.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: We'll certainly see whether we can put together a response to that.

(a) The standard calculation used for the public sector gender pay gap measures the difference between the median salary of males and females relative to the median salary of males, with the following caveats:

- uses total annual base remuneration.
- excludes superannuation and allowances of any kind (e.g. bonuses, overtime, shift).
- annualises part-time employees' salaries.
- excludes casual staff.
- includes both non-executive and executive staff.

The formula for the calculation is (Median male salary minus Median female salary) divided by Median Male salary multiplied by 100%. In 2024 this was $(\$106,025 - \$98,351) \div \$106,025 \times 100\% = 7.2\%$

The public sector wage gap in median remuneration is driven by differences in gender profile across different portfolios and occupation groups in the public sector. The median is affected by large groups around the middle remuneration value.

The Workforce Profile Report 2024 stated that, for women, the median remuneration applies to Nurses, and the large size of this cohort means the pay gap is being driven by any changes in the distribution of the remuneration of men. While there were larger increases in the number of women than men in 2024 across all higher salary ranges, this did not reduce the pay gap. (NSW Public Sector and Workforce Profile Reports | NSW Government)

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, previously we've been advised that you will

be establishing the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Lived Experience Advisory Group and that that would

be done in the first half of the year. Has that been established?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: It has been.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many people are on that?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I will refer to—

HANNAH TONKIN: It's 17.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Ms Tonkin has confirmed 17.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you chair those meetings?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: No, I don't. There has been one meeting of that group so far. I attended that.

It's really humbling to be in a room full of people who are willing to give their lived experience and help

government learn from what has been a terrible experience for them. I really look forward to hearing more from

that lived experience group.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Fantastic. I think later this afternoon I might talk a little

bit about more about their role in some of the policy and work that's done. Has the primary prevention network been established?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The Primary Prevention Advisory Group has been established, yes. I was

very keen, after launching the primary prevention strategy last year, that we move forward really quickly on that,

so I established an interim advisory group. But, having said that, that interim advisory group is no longer meeting.

We now have a permanent advisory group, and they have met as well.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Who is on that group?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There are a number of people on that advisory group.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I'm happy for you to take it on notice, if it's easier.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: We can get back to you later today about that.

HANNAH TONKIN: It's a large group, and they only met for the first time yesterday.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The first meeting was yesterday. It is a considerably—it's a really diverse

group. It's really heartening seeing so many people leaning into wanting to be part of stopping violence.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's the one that involves Local Government and

Domestic Violence NSW.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Local Government NSW is certainly a member of that. There is a member

on that advisory group who works for a local council, in addition. There's a wide range of people on that group

and, yes, Domestic Violence NSW is on that too.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Perfect. In relation to the NSW Aboriginal Domestic,

Family and Sexual Violence Plan, when will that be completed?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: The plan is to have that released by the end of the year.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

What role does Aboriginal Affairs have in the development of the plan?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Aboriginal Affairs is certainly consulted in the plan, but the plan is being led

by Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes within DCJ in conjunction with the Aboriginal Legal Service.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Outcomes

Framework—when will that be released?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I might ask Ms Tonkin where we're up to with that because Ms Tonkin is

overseeing that framework.

HANNAH TONKIN: It's been finalised. It's just going through the final approvals process at the moment.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you have a date for release?

HANNAH TONKIN: Not a specific date, but it will be soon—in the coming months.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The report card—and I understand one for 2023-24 was released. When is 2024-25 due?

HANNAH TONKIN: That will be released towards the end of this year.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

The people using violence strategy was due to be released mid this year. When that will be released?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Again, I think that will be before the end of the year.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Why has it been delayed?

Ms JODIE HARRISON:

Because having a strategy that doesn't quite get things right would be

dangerous, so we want to make sure that it gets things right. We really wanted to make sure that the consultation

we're doing on the final draft is right, and that's where we're at at the moment.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

Will it have outcomes that are measurable? The

workforce development one doesn't have any outcomes listed or anything that will be measured.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll ask Ms Campbell.

ANNE CAMPBELL: There has been extensive consultation on this, and there are varying views across

various sectors on this particular strategy. I haven't yet seen the draft, but I'm happy to provide that on notice.

I am advised: "As at September 2025, formal checks required to finalise the NSW Primary Prevention Advisory Group (PPAG) membership are being completed. Once these are complete, the PPAG membership will be published on the Department of Communities and Justice website, subject to members' consent.

The OMRF includes annual measures to inform an understanding of whether DFSV prevalence in NSW is stable, increasing or falling. The OMRF comprises outcomes and indicators, under the pillars Prevention, Early Intervention, Response, Recovery and Healing and System Enablers, with corresponding measures for each indicator.

A monitoring, evaluation and learning framework is being developed alongside the People Using Violence Strategy"

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: On the back of those questions, then, I guess there's been a lot of work done by

the sector to focus on children and young people as victims in their own right. I understand, though, that when it

comes to the calculation of service funding, it's not calculated on all people who access the service. If you went

to a women's refuge, you would count the woman but you wouldn't count their children as people who are

accessing the service for the purposes of the funding. Has there been any moves to correct that?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Can I take that on notice and come back, hopefully this afternoon?

I am advised:

All people, including children and young people accompanying their mother

accommodated in women's refuges, are included as clients accessing the service, and reflected in data collection and reporting as unique clients. There are two programs that specifically provide services for children and young people experiencing DFV accompanying their mother to a women's refuge. Funding allocated to these services is for children and young people, specialist workers to provide direct and tailored support to the young people. The programs are specialist workers for Children and Young People and Accompanied Children Support Services

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The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Minister, just to come back to a previous topic of men and domestic violence support, both as victim-survivors and those wanting to seek assistance in preventing domestic violence from a personal perspective, what sort of funding is being allocated to these programs?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Are you after a dollar figure?

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Yes. If you need to, take that on notice. Are you aware? Has there been increased funding for such programs?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: There has?

Ms JODIE HARRISON:

On top of the local support services that I talked about previously and identified all of the services across New South Wales, which covers all of New South Wales, we also provide

Men's Behaviour Change Programs. They have to comply with, certainly, some strict criteria about the way they

are provided because we want to make sure that anybody who goes through a Men's Behaviour Change Program

receives the right kind of information and support. Obviously, it could be dangerous if that's not provided.

The number of Men's Behaviour Change Programs across New South Wales has been expanded. They

were expanded under an emergency package last year. There are still areas of New South Wales where there is no

coverage of Men's Behaviour Change Programs. That's something that we'll look at in future. Men's Behaviour

Change Programs is a fairly new area in this space and it's important that we get it right. I want to make sure the

evidence is there that what we're doing in relation to Men's Behaviour Change Programs is providing the right outcomes. Along with that, we'll be looking at how we might be able to expand programs like Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You can take on notice to furnish some figures around what that increased funding is for those programs?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can certainly provide to you information on where those programs have expanded in recent times.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be great.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can tell you now where we've got Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

Anglicare is a provider of Men's Behaviour Change Programs now in Nowra and Ulladulla. They previously were

the provider in Parramatta and continue to be. Lithgow has recently become covered by a Men's Behaviour Change

Program provided by Plus Community. Forster and Gloucester recently received Men's Behaviour Change

Programs provided by Manning Support Services. Blacktown and Maitland have recently received Men's

Behaviour Change Programs provided by Relationships Australia NSW. Central and Far West receive outreach

programs provided by Mission Australia Central and Far West. That doesn't include where they were previously in existence.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: These are in addition to?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Perhaps on notice you could talk about funding that might be attached to that, and what the increase has been.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I can certainly give you information easily about the increase in Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be great.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I've got that here. In 2020-21, it was about \$10 million. In 2024-25, \$13.1 million,

so it's been going up. Obviously, the emergency package extended that quite substantially. The other thing to note

is that the Men's Behaviour Change Program is under evaluation, so we'll have an evaluation report next year.

That will build, as the Minister alluded to, a much stronger evidence base about what works and doesn't work in this area.

I am advised:

"The 2024-25 NSW Budget allocated additional funding of \$10 million over four years to 2027-28 to expand Men's Behaviour Change Program service delivery."

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Thank you, Chair. I want to pick up on where I was in the last set of questions in relation to migrant and refugee women. My understanding is that the Government provides no funding for refugees to support women and children on temporary visas. Although they can access them, the services can't afford to actually service them because they're faced with having to either turn them away or spend a lot of their own money. DVNSW's research found that 38 women's refugees spent approximately \$320,000 collectively, over a three-month period alone, in 2024. Each service spent approximately \$20,000 on average, and the average cost to support each family was \$4,800 in that three-month period. That includes things like living allowances, medical costs, food, clothing, transport and vouchers. One of the recommendations from DVNSW was \$3.45 million in funding for a two-year pilot across all frontline-funded domestic and family violence services to allow women on temporary visas access to this essential support. I hope that clarifies my previous question. Has the Government done any work looking into that funding gap?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that one on notice. I know we've looked at it in the past. Certainly it may be linked to the current asks of a range of services and priorities, so I'll take that on notice.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Thank you. In a similar vein, I understand that most women on temporary visas are ineligible for the Federal social support system, including access to Centrelink and Medicare, as well as the New South Wales housing and homelessness services. Is this something that has come up in cross-jurisdictional roundtables? Is it a live issue in discussions with the Feds?

ANNE CAMPBELL: In terms of the homelessness services, they are eligible; it's just the social housing aspects—and I need to take on notice temporary accommodation. In terms of your other question, it depends on the type of visa. There's a range of different visas where they are eligible for certain things from the

Commonwealth Government, but then some other visa types aren't. There was work done a couple of years ago

on that—nothing recently though. But, again, I'm happy to take that on notice.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: The Victorian Government provides funding for brokerage specifically for

migrant women on temporary visas, and there have already been reports that that's having quite a good impact. Is

that something the New South Wales Government has considered? Or has there been any discussions on that so

far at a departmental level?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Not to our knowledge.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Not recently, no.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Could you take it on notice, to see if there's been anything?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, happy to do that, Ms Boyd.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:

Thank you. Similarly, I know that there were recommendations that the Government consider funding culturally responsive support for migrant and refugee women. There's been a

number of other really good recommendations in that report. Is there a time expectation for when the Government

might respond to the issues that were raised in that report? Is it a stream of work that the department has been

tasked with doing, for example?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd, again, need to take that on notice, but there have been some initiatives that

have already rolled out in response to some of the issues flagged. There was the election commitment in terms of

the multicultural centre. That has funded it over the forward estimates, I think, for three years, and obviously

there'll be an evaluation. I'm happy to take that on notice because there's been quite a few initiatives where we've

really focused on culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and

particularly in some of the services we see in south-west Sydney—I know there's a number of services—but equally some services out in regional areas.

I know the multicultural service centre—I forget what it's called. It's, I think, run by the Muslim Women Association. We're looking at expanding their support out of Sydney as well, and looking at some communities of practice.

I am advised:

Cross-Jurisdictional and Commonwealth discussions about most women on temporary visas being ineligible for the Federal social support system, including access to Centrelink and Medicare, as well as the NSW housing and homelessness services.

In NSW, Specialist Homelessness Services are available to women on temporary visas. Women's refuges do not impose any restrictions linked to citizenship or residency, such as women who are on temporary or spousal visas. Flexible brokerage is part of the funding model of a number of DFV programs to enable tailored support and care for women and their children experiencing DFV in women's refuges, including the Specialist Workers for Children and Young People (SWCYP) program.

Workforce Support tailored for multicultural communities:

DCJ funds DVNSW (with foundations and Homelessness NSW) to deliver the SHS Industry and Workforce Development Program, which includes supporting migrant women and women on temporary visas to improve culturally safe and inclusive service delivery across the SHS sector, through initiatives including:

- roundtable held in August 2024 focused on access to crisis accommodation for people on temporary visas. Report with recommendations to be launched in mid-late 2025.

- practice guides, training and resources for women's refuge staff to support migrant and refugee women, and ongoing engagement with the Refugee and Migrant Community Advisory Committee to inform workforce strategies."

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The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Well, you've got plenty of time to ask your own questions. Coming back to whether there's no follow-up in that respect, what is the relationship, then? I understand you will direct calls to that particular commissioner. Is that the same with any complaints that you might have within the aged care system? Because I assume that you don't take specific complaints about aged care either. That would be redirected to the Federal body as well.

JEFF SMITH: Correct. Where those calls come in, if they come in through a helpline, they are appropriately directed to whichever agency, Federal or State, is best equipped to deal with it. The space that we occupy is where the abuse, neglect or exploitation is in relation to accusations regarding, essentially, family and friends.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Of the 35 staff, do you have a bit of a breakdown of how many are working within investigations? I assume you do some investigations—or is it purely policy? Which areas are your staff divvied up?

JEFF SMITH: I don't have those exact figures.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: If you can take it on notice, that's fine.

I am advised:

There are 12 staff working in the Community Supports and Investigations Unit in the ADC. Of the 12 staff, 10 undertake investigations in relation to reports about abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults with disability and older people.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Thank you very much. I might actually just go back to some questions and to get some clarification in relation to Ms Webb's employment. I understand that she resigned or announced her resignation on 7 May to take effect on 30 September.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I do not have the May date. It was definitely in May. Her resignation was to take effect 30 May and her ceasing duties in her role on 7 May to enable a transition of leadership, as I understand it.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: You were contacted in May by her or by the Premier's office?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: No, by neither. By the Cabinet Office.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: By the Cabinet Office. Their approach was to identify work for her in relation to domestic and family violence?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: It was not put, as I recall it, Ms Maclaren-Jones, in those terms. It was that there was an opportunity to do some work in the domestic, family and sexual violence space, and to open discussions about that.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Then those discussions continued over a month to when

she was presented with a letter signed by Minister Harrison on 3 June.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Less than a month, as I recall it. As I understand it, Ms Webb had raised the

possibility of doing some work in this area. It was as a result of that, that the discussions between the Cabinet

Office, DCJ and the Minister ensued.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is it usual practice that if someone is to announce their

retirement or pending retirement three months later to then be given a different special advisory role?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I do not know. My involvement in this was in no way about the employment

arrangements of Ms Webb. It was specific to the identification and development of this piece of work.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The Minister took on notice this morning to provide a

copy of the letter. By any chance, do you have that available now? That was outlining, I understand, the job description.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I have a letter which I wrote on 3 June to the Minister with some notes that I've

written on it, but I have a letter I wrote to the Minister about the role which followed and, in essence, confirmed

the discussions we'd had about the common approach to risk assessment and safety framework piece of work.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Are you able to table that letter?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: As I said, I've actually taken some notes on this. It's not just a clean copy of

that letter. I would be very happy to table that letter when I can and provide it to the Committee.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. So, the Minister didn't actually then write

to Ms Webb. It was the correspondence that went from you to—

MICHAEL TIDBALL: No, she did.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: She did?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: She subsequently did. I do not have a copy of that letter. I can take on notice

whether that letter can be provided, but I imagine it could be.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Thank you. Just to clarify.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Just on that, if I may, that correspondence very much, though, is focused around this piece of work. There was nothing happening within my responsibilities in terms of the employment-related issues that was that was happening elsewhere. It does not fall within my remit.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That would fall under the Cabinet Secretary area or is it—the actual employment. The reason I refer to it is that in the Public Service Senior Executive 2025 Annual Determination, item numbers 38, 39 and 40 refer to Ms Webb's announcement of her resignation, which was in May, and it says, "In the interim, Ms Webb has been seconded to a special role advising the New South Wales Government on domestic violence, that being the Special Advisor on Domestic Violence. Ms Webb still has an effective retirement date of 30 September 2025." It then goes on to say, "Although that role would normally not be expected to attract a salary equivalent to the Commissioner of Police, the Tribunal believes that it is appropriate for Ms Webb to maintain her existing salary (without an increases) until the formal retirement on 30 September 2025." You were not involved in her employment and salary?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: No, not at all.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Which department was?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I would need to take that on notice. Possibly the Premier's Department, but I would want to be very precise in my response. I'd prefer to take that on notice and advise the Committee, if I may.

I am advised:

Ms Webb remains employed by NSW Police Force

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I might move on to some questions around Core and Cluster. Specifically, I want to go through tranche one and two. My colleague might also jump in on some of that.

First of all, all contracts have been signed. Is that correct?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, all construction contracts.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: So getting an idea with all the ones for one and two as to where they're up to, have they commenced, and is there an expected completion date?

ANNE CAMPBELL: That's quite a lot of detail over 49. But, as you know, 10 have already opened.

I'd probably prefer to take it on notice, if that's okay, to give you the detail because some are at various stages of construction, rather than going through all 49 today. There have been delays, as the Minister said this morning,

on a number of those, and that's partly due to either some issues that were discovered post the procurement process

in terms of sites that had been selected, so we've had to shift to other sites.

That's delayed it because you've then

got to do your due diligence on that. There have been issues in terms of construction costs and getting access,

particularly in regional New South Wales, to the right labour, but we're monitoring it really closely.

There have been some hold-ups with DA approvals, but we've now got DPHI involved, and they're doing

a concierge service for the Core and Cluster tranches that haven't been finished, so we've been able to expedite

some of those. In a couple of locations there's been community concerns about having a Core and Cluster in the

neighbourhood, which has been unfortunate, so we've had to work through

those issues because, as you know, we

think these are really important services for women and children, and particularly in regional New South Wales,

where the services perhaps haven't been in place in some of those locations. I'm happy to take on notice more

granular detail.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: With that, could you identify particularly where it's DA or construction, not so much maybe the community issues because that could identify localised issues, but more the broader delays that have been a cause for that?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, and we are working with DPHI at the moment to look at how we can

expedite some of that even further.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Can I just ask specifically about—rather than all the 49—just one.

When I was the member for Monaro, I announced the Queanbeyan Core and Cluster on 25 November 2022. Why

has it been so delayed? Is that attributed to the funding site?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I don't have that detail with me, but, again, happy to take that on notice for

Queanbeyan.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be great. I do understand from having information relayed to me directly from those involved in Queanbeyan that there has been an issue around the funding.

Obviously with that length of delay from 2022—and we're talking about August 2025—I would imagine that construction costs have escalated in that time. Is that part of the problem, and will it be addressed?

ANNE CAMPBELL: We've certainly had a number of projects that have been delayed for a year or two, partly because of the things I talked about earlier, and we've worked with those proponents to make sure that we're—partially in some instances we have provided some additional funding to recognise the change in costs for delays that were outside the control of the provider.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: If you could just clarify which of those issues it is. I don't believe that there were community concerns in that one. I would be interested to hear. Just clarifying that the plan, design et cetera, none of that would have altered in this one instance? The plan and design remains the same?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. I could go back to a question I think Ms Maclaren-Jones had this morning about the use of modular buildings. I have got a little bit more information here for you too, Ms Overall. I should have looked at my notes beforehand. "How many of the projects operational are new builds?" Of the 10 projects that are operational, four are refurbishments and six are new builds. "How many projects are modular housing?"

Three projects from tranche 2 are modular, and one project from tranche 3, with a possible one more from tranche 3, pending the outcome of a building assessment. "How many projects are yet to start construction?" This goes a bit to your question. Fourteen projects are yet to start construction due to being in various stages of planning approvals. "Why was the Queanbeyan project delayed?" Construction was predominantly delayed due to the tender process run by the provider to engage a builder taking longer than expected. The provider has confirmed

the contractor has been engaged and on site as of this week, on 18 August to be precise, and work is commencing

this coming Monday, you'll be pleased to know.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Terrific. And an idea of completion?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I haven't got that much.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Do you think you might be able to ferret down a little bit more and

get something like that to me? There would be a timeline, yes?

ANNE CAMPBELL: There would be a timeline we could provide on that.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be fantastic.

ANNE CAMPBELL:

Obviously it's subject to when they're building something, they might find something, those sorts of things.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to three sites—one in Eurobodalla and the

two in Shoalhaven—all three are tranche 2. Where are they up to? Have they commenced?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

Of the 49 Core and Cluster projects:

- 10 refuges are operational
- Two refuges are preparing for service delivery
- 23 projects have commenced construction or are engaging builders
- Six are waiting on Development Application approval from their respective local council
- Eight projects are preparing to lodge a Development Application

The majority of Core and Cluster projects are due to be completed in 2026.

Note, project completion dates are subject to change. Building timeframes can be impacted by a range of variables including for examples delays in obtaining relevant Council approvals, limited access to qualified trades and building materials, and weather events. Construction of the Queanbeyan Core and Cluster refuge has commenced and is currently scheduled to be completed by mid 2026.

The Eurobodalla and two Shoalhaven projects have not commenced service delivery. The Eurobodalla project requires a Development Application change of use approval in order for the facility to be used as a women's refuge. Of the two Shoalhaven projects, one is due to be completed in late 2025. The other had been delayed due to two site changes and is currently scheduled for completion in late 2026.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Has DCJ done any modelling to estimate how much it would cost to expand that program beyond the current 32 funded women's refuges to all existing refuges, including the new Core and Cluster?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think we have.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Are you able to provide any details?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take it on notice.

I am advised:

The Specialist Workers for Children and Young People program currently funds workers across 32 refuges.

Modelling has been undertaken of what it would cost to expand the program to the remaining women's refuges across the State, which is approximately \$20 m p.a in addition to the current funding provided for the program.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I can ask another question and come back, if you like, while you're finding that.

In the 2025-26 budget, the Government announced \$4.6 million for the Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring program. Does that funding include an allocation to WDVCSs for victim-survivor safety support?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I do not believe so. If my answer is insufficient, I will clarify that, but I believe not.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: The domestic violence duty solicitor program is not available in all local courts on ADVO list days for victim-survivor support. Will that be expanded, particularly for regional areas? Has there been any work done on that?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I am straying close to the Attorney General's estimates, but can I say I would never sit here and say that there is not a need that is unmet. Legal representation is—the importance of it is acknowledged.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Are you able to take on notice whether or not there has been any work done in relation to modelling for that expansion?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I can. Can I just indicate I would want to interface with Legal Aid in responding to that question.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Ms Quincey, are we—

JENNIFER QUINCEY: No, I don't have that information in front of me, so we can take that on notice.

HANNAH TONKIN: I've got it, Jen. There are 11 across New South Wales:

The Moriarty Foundation

in Dubbo; CatholicCare, Central Coast; Zen Tea Lounge Foundation, Cumberland; Consent Labs, Sydney;

Prosper, which is a mix, so Sydney, Lismore, Penrith and Wollongong; People with Disability Australia, Sydney;

Men and Family Centre, Lismore; Weave Youth and Community Services, Randwick; Young Women's Alliance,

Lake Macquarie; the Trustee for Top Blokes Foundation, Cessnock; and Settlement Services International, Coffs

Harbour—so a large number in regional New South Wales.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: In relation to domestic and family violence and disaster planning, I've asked

about this previously, but is the New South Wales Government doing any work with Gender and Disaster Australia

to incorporate the National Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines into New South Wales disaster

planning, response and recovery? It's a very specific question.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: That question is, like, on a pinhead. I will not try to talk my way through it

because I need to take that on notice, noting that the Premier's Department also has a role in some of this work.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: If we could go back to the funding breakdown, again, I'm trying to get a bit of

an understanding of how much is newly allocated and how much is repeat funding from previous announcements.

In the 2024-25 budget, we had \$245.6 million being allocated to domestic and family violence. I understand that

was over four years but, again, it's patchy as to where the amounts are. Are you able to tell us how much of that

\$245.6 million is included in this \$272.7 million for the 2025-26 budget?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm not going to attempt to calculate it now, but I'm happy to take that on notice.

It's not my strength; I need a calculator.

I am advised:

"Disaster Response Legal Service is available to anyone impacted by a disaster. People can call the DRLS on 1800 801 529 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. People can also find information and resources on the DRLS website: disasterhelp.legalaid.nsw.gov.au

On 20 August 2025, Disaster Welfare participated in a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional focus group as part of the National Gender and Emergency Management (GEM) Guidelines Review. The discussion centred on the shared responsibility of agencies to make every effort to deliver centred support to individuals affected by disaster events, and to proactively plan for the unique needs of their communities. Group participants expressed a strong commitment to understanding the demographics of their regions, particularly those most likely to require assistance during response and recovery phases. This includes ensuring that staff are well-prepared, appropriately trained, and familiar with the GEM guidelines to provide inclusive and effective support.

Disaster Welfare's core responsibilities are activated during the response phase of an emergency, with the management of evacuation centres and the coordination of emergency accommodation, provision of basic sustenance and material aid. To strengthen our capacity to deliver person-centred support, Disaster Welfare is currently refreshing all training modules. Staff are trained to "Look, Listen and Link", a guiding approach that encourages attentiveness to individual needs and connection to appropriate services and resources available within the evacuation centre. In addition, Evacuation centre exercises are facilitated by Disaster Welfare, using realistic scenarios based on the lived experiences of disaster affected individuals and families. These exercises are designed to embed the "Look, Listen and Link" principles into practice, ensuring our Disaster Welfare staff are well prepared to respond with empathy, awareness, and effectiveness.

Disaster Welfare has also invited Gender and Disaster Australia to deliver short 'lunch and learn' training sessions open to all volunteer Disaster Welfare staff across NSW Government agencies. This content is currently being developed."

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Learning that \$272 million is all new funding, previously, we were talking about exactly how how much was included. I think we got to the \$25.3 million amount, we had the \$11.2 million amount and then, Ms Campbell, you were stepping me through a few of the others. I think we got to another 32 and a bit. That leaves about \$220 million. Are there any big-ticket items that you can list in that \$220 million that are new?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think I mentioned the Safe and Strong Families, Targeted Early Intervention, so that was \$7.5 million. The WDVCS hearing support program expansion is \$6.7 million, and this is all this

financial year. Over the forward estimates, it's \$13.7 million for that particular one. Sorry, I should have said with the TEI one, that's \$21 million over the forward estimates. What else is looking large? The Serious Domestic

Abuse Prevention Orders is \$9.3 million over four years.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I think we had that one in the \$25.3 million.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes. The DV Notify you've talked to, and the rest are a mixture over the forward estimates of \$1.4 million through to about \$7 million. There's one called "Youth Justice culturally appropriate alternative to short-term remand", which is \$3.8 million this year and \$7.6 million over the forward estimates.

Again, happy to provide that on notice.

I am advised:

The total \$272.7 million is over four years and includes the following funding amounts (totals per program):

Core and Cluster - \$148.8 million

Serious Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders - \$9.3 million

NSW Domestic Violence Line - \$2.5 million

Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring - \$4.6 million

DV Notify - \$8.9 million

Safe and Strong - \$21 million

DFV programs (NSW Health) - \$11.2 million

DFV programs (Youth Justice) - \$10.0 million

WDVCAS Hearing Support - \$13.7 million

WDVCAS Co-Location - \$3.0 million

Innovative perpetrator interventions - \$6.3 million

Programs supporting 'at risk' cohorts - \$12.3 million

Sector development programs - \$3.2 million

Sexual Violence programs - \$6.7 million

DFV Workforce Development Strategy - \$2.5 million

Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety - \$3.6 million

DFSV Data Strategy - \$3.1 million

Aboriginal DFSV Plan - \$2.0 million

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The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Could I please burrow down a little bit further into the men's behaviour programs? The funding you mentioned was \$13 million for 2025-26. Is that right?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That's what I recorded just before the break. That has actually

decreased from what it had been in 2022.

ANNE CAMPBELL: It should have increased, because it was for additional sites.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That's one of the things that I'd like to clarify. The information—and I'm not suggesting that it couldn't possibly be incorrect. In 2022 the New South Wales and Federal governments jointly invested \$18 million—that was \$15.8 million from New South Wales and \$2.2 million from the Feds—with a view to triple the number of programs available in New South Wales. Then in 2025—so 2024 was \$10 million, you said, and then it has just gone to \$13 million. You might want to check that 2022 figure, if that is correct, from \$18 million.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm sure it's in here. I'll take that on notice.-

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That's fine, if you're able to check that for me, because I would be interested in confirming if that's the case. Is it possible to request a breakdown of that funding with the expansion of these sites?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You can get that? That would be terrific. My understanding—and the reading that I've done about it—is that demand for these services is very high and there are waitlists. Is that correct?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm not sure if there are waitlists. I don't know, Ms Quincey, if you've got more details.

JENNIFER QUINCEY: We're going through a process with the Men's Behaviour Change Programs of introducing a minimum dataset and improving our data collection. We're working with all the providers on that.

We are aware that there are some waitlists for some providers, but those waitlists can also be influenced by—someone might be on a waitlist, but then they're assessed as not eligible. There are different categories that we're working through to get some better data on what that looks like and what demand looks like. But, as it isn't a statewide service and it has recently been expanded, we know that there is more demand than spaces with what is currently there.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Yes, definitely. Are those criteria for who qualifies for assistance in that space publicly available?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: I'd have to have a look. We've got quite detailed practice standards for the Men's Behaviour Change Programs. Providers have to go through a registration process. I don't know if every program has exactly the same criteria, but we can take that on notice.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: If it's possible to have that provided, I'd be very interested to see that. C Coming to the participants, are they all self-referring or do they also come through the justice system?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: I think it's a combination.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: I imagine some of these programs are only for those who come through the justice system. Is that how it would work as well, or would it be open to all?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: No. I'll take that on—

MICHAEL TIDBALL: They're all voluntary, aren't they?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I think an important point to be made here—

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: So they're all voluntary?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Exactly. I'm happy to be corrected by my wonderful team. But, as the nature of the programs is voluntary, it's—

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL:

That's even whether they're through the justice system or an individual—

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Correct.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: It's all self-referring?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: They're not imposed.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: So there are no court-imposed requirements in that regard? You

talked about the report that is coming. Is that the 2024 ANROWS report undertaking an evaluation of the Men's Behaviour Change Programs? Is that it?

ANNE CAMPBELL: No, that's not it. It's not due until next year.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: December 2026?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes, and it's being conducted by ANROWS with the Melbourne Institute and Rodney Vlasis as well.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That's an evaluation of the Men's Behaviour Change Programs that are in place right now—that are in existence. That's not necessarily these new sites; that's what has already been in existence?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think we'd be picking up on the new sites as well.

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes, we would. It would be all New South Wales funded Men's Behaviour

Change Programs. That would be the ones that were originally funded, and the ones that have been funded through the expansion money as well.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: I may be jumping the shark on this, but is there any information to

hand, prior to when these results will be produced next December, as to evaluation criteria or what it is that they'll

be looking at in terms of these programs? Is that available earlier?

ANNE CAMPBELL: We can look at the scope. I think we can provide on notice the scope of the evaluation.

I am advised:

The Men's Behaviour Change Program (MBCP) budget has not decreased since 2022. It has increased from 2024-25 with the additional \$10m over four years invested to expand MBCPs

Information on Practice Standards for MBCPs can be found online at <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/dfv-programs-funding/men-s-behaviour-change-program.html>

The MBCP Evaluation will include the 17 community based MBCPS that are delivered across 35 locations in NSW. Included in scope of the MBCP Evaluation is:

- Assessing the extent that MBCPs delivered their intended outputs at the whole-of-program level
- Assessing the extent that MBCPs funded by DCJ achieved their intended outcomes at a whole-of-program level
- Assessing the appropriateness of the MBCP Program Logic
- Assessing the appropriateness of MBCP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Exploring the key differences between MBCPs and how evaluation findings appear to vary based on the key differences identified.

The evaluation will not evaluate individual MBCPs, MBCPs not registered as compliant against the NSW Practice Standards or MBCPs that are not community based.

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The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I have a couple of questions in regard to the workforce strategy announced this morning. It's \$2.5 million for this financial year. Has any budget been allocated for beyond, or is it just for this?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Just this first, yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What will that cover?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I might hand over to Ms Quincey because she's right across this.

JENNIFER QUINCEY: I can answer that. What has been specifically allocated for the strategy is the

\$2.5 million from this year. There's also work from other funding from the national partnership agreement and within existing resources that's supporting work underneath the strategy. Then there was also some funding in the emergency package that goes towards some of the actions as well. There's a mix of funding to allow us to progress some of the work.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And that's on top of the \$2.5 million?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What's the total amount for this financial year?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: This financial year it's about \$3.5 million. In addition to that—it came up earlier this morning, around the quality standards. That's a separate piece of work as well. There's separate funding for DVNSW on that as well.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Have you factored in evaluation of the strategy?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes. We're developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to go against the strategy and the actions, and that will then align with the work that we're doing on the data strategy and also the outcomes monitoring and reporting framework as well.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:
In the strategy—and it's what we already know—

particularly burnout with staff and vicarious trauma, is there anything that's actually being worked on now to address that, or is it all within the strategy and some more planning?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes, it's within the strategy. Because it's a 10-year strategy, we've learnt a lot from what other States and Territories have done. Other States and Territories that have a 10-year strategy have rolling three-year action plans. So where this strategy has engaged with workers and experts saying these are the things we need, the first step is then to develop the detail of what they are. That doesn't mean that nothing's happening, but it means that where we've identified something from that research and that consultation, such as more standardised or more consistent clinical supervision, then how do we roll that out and what does that look like? That doesn't mean that clinical supervision isn't happening at the moment. It is built into services and providers, but we're hearing it needs to be improved from the workers, so the first step is working through what that looks like.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is the intent to also have three-year action plans?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: Yes.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: So it will be three years.

JENNIFER QUINCEY: There are rolling three-year action plans that support the 10-year strategy.

What that allows us to do, which we've seen other States and Territories do quite well, is then be able to refresh and learn as you go and also, if there's more funding available and as the workforce changes, we can iterate as we need to.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: When is the first action plan report likely to be announced or released?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: I'll have to take that one on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The All In early childhood pilot—I understand that has been funded for four years.

ANNE CAMPBELL: That's correct. It was under the emergency package.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Where would that be piloted?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Let me just find it for you.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is it commencing this financial year?

ANNE CAMPBELL:

It's already commenced. There were already existing services prior to the enhancement. In 2024-25 there was \$1.9 million—this is the enhancement under the emergency package—in

2025-26, \$2 million; in 2026-27, \$2.1 million; and in 2027-28, \$2.1 million. In total, it's \$8.1 million, and the

Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre has been contracted to deliver the All In program expansion through until 30 June 2028.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you know where it will be rolled out to?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I do have that in here, but I'm happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

Has it been budgeted for—an evaluation of the program?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm pretty sure it has. Let me take that on notice just to confirm.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Also the time frame around the evaluation—when will

that commence and when are we likely to have the outcome of it? In relation to SafeWork NSW, I'm interested to

know how many workshops have been held with employees on the drivers of workplace gender-based violence and prevention.

JENNIFER QUINCEY: That falls under the primary prevention strategy work. I think that's where

that's coming from. We'll have to take that on notice—the number that have occurred so far.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Also, how many have they held since they received the funding, and are there any more planned for this financial year as well? In relation to the interim evaluation report on the NSW Volunteering Strategy, I just wanted to know if that has commenced?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think that's been finalised. I'll take it on notice but, without opening my folder,

I'm pretty sure it's been finalised.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

Could you also advise who was involved in the consultation on that evaluation—who conducted it, what the outcome is and if it can be released?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll just see if I've got it here. It's not jumping out at me, so I'll take that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Wait a minute; there's another note.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: There were some volunteers. It's not always raised.

ANNE CAMPBELL: The NSW Volunteering Strategy report card is released every two years. The first report card, spanning 2020-21 and 2021-22, was released in November 2022. The second report card, spanning 2022-23 and 2023-24, was released in August 2024 and is on the NSW Volunteering website. The third report, spanning 2024-25 and 2025-26, is scheduled for release next August. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: There is also meant to be an interim evaluation report—not the report cards.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, there's another one. Yes, I know this one. The strategy notes that the interim evaluation report will be prepared and released in 2025-26. Obviously, we've passed that. This report will consider the initiatives implemented and data from a range of sources, such as the New South Wales state of volunteering research initiative. I'll need to take on notice the time frame around that.

I am advised:

The first action plan for the Workforce Development Strategy is under development.

Safework NSW is funded under the NSW Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy to Prevent Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028 to deliver face-to-face workshops to employers on the drivers of workplace gender-based violence, and preventative actions they can take. No workshops were slated for delivery in 2024/25 as the focus was materials development. For 2025/26, the workshop schedule is now being developed noting these workshops will run throughout 2026.

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The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Still on domestic and family violence, the Primary Prevention Multi-Year Partnerships Grant Program is \$5.2 million. Is that correct?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: How much of that was allocated to programs in regional New South Wales?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll have a look. There's lots being allocated. I've got a note on regional New South Wales.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Excellent. That's what I like to hear.

ANNE CAMPBELL: It's very thick. It used to be thinner.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: I have to admit, Ms Campbell, I do appreciate the old-school variety and not just turning to the laptop and AI. Who needs that? Do it properly.

JENNIFER QUINCEY: I've got them.

ANNE CAMPBELL: You've got it. That's why I've got Jen here today.

JENNIFER QUINCEY:

I've got all of this: the Moriarty Foundation in Dubbo; we've got the CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay in Central Coast; Zen Tea Lounge Foundation in Cumberland; Consent Labs across Sydney, Western Sydney and regional New South Wales; Prosper Project Australia in Sydney, Lismore, Penrith, Blue Mountains and Wollongong; People with Disability Australia in Sydney, Wollongong, central and west Hunter and Wagga Wagga; the Men and Family Centre in Lismore; Weave Youth and Community Services in Randwick; Young Women's Alliance in Lake Macquarie; Top Blokes Foundation in Cessnock; and Settlement Services International in Coffs Harbour as well. They should all be publicly available and, if not, they will be shortly.

BIANCA JARRETT: Can I also add to that?

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Yes.

BIANCA JARRETT: There's also \$3.7 million in addition for Aboriginal Community Safety Grants, and 23 of the 32 grant projects are regional and rural based. I can provide them on notice.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be lovely, if you could do that. I would very much appreciate that, and that information would be very helpful. Mr Tidball, we talked about the Seniors State budget for 2024-25—the \$9.7 million from last year, rather than forward. Can you let us know some or all of how that

was allocated and to what during that that period?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I can indeed, and the person on the right is safe on this question. If I can take you through—

ANNE CAMPBELL: It is \$10.1 million for 2025-26.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: It is \$10.1 million for 2025-26.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: No, for 2024-25. But please have that handy. I'll be interested to know that as well for 2025-26.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Do you want it? That's really simple to read.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Yes, absolutely. Let us know that, but I'm also interested in 2024-25.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Connecting Seniors Grant Program for 2025-26, \$840,000; Seniors Festival, including \$200,000 in grants, \$500,000; seniors concerts, \$1.75 million—

HANNAH TONKIN: It's 1.475.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I apologise—\$1.475 million for seniors concerts. Seniors programs, 3.415.

Seniors card operations—I can itemise that for you: Tech Savvy Seniors, Seniors' Stories, Seniors Card and other card operation costs for seniors, then the Ageing Peaks Program at \$1.8 million, and that comes to 10.120.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: If I'm able to have that information and the comparison to 2024-25 on each of those programs, and how that may have changed or increased.

ANNE CAMPBELL: The difference between—

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: It's not a lot. What's that—400,000 extra from 2025-26?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think that's indexation, because they're the same programs that were funded last year.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Yes. I'm just ticking off there. I might come back to some other questions about that as well.

Please see attached NSW Aboriginal Community Safety Grant Applicants

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I understand a round table was recently convened with yourself, SafeWork,

Liquor and Gaming, the night-time commissioner and some victim-survivors. Can you give an update on how that went and what next steps are from there?

HANNAH TONKIN: Yes. You mean the one about worker safety and the night-time economy?

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Yes.

HANNAH TONKIN: That was focused predominantly on the hospitality industry. It was co-convened by myself and the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, Michael Rodrigues. As you said, it included a number of the key players from government: SafeWork NSW; victim-survivors, particularly the "sorry, not sorry"

victim-survivors. Also, importantly, there were a large number of industry representatives from the hotel industry, different hospitality industries, and also Merivale and Swillhouse—some of the particular businesses that have been in the news for these reasons. This brought all of them together to have a really robust discussion about the safety of women, in particular, in the hospitality industry—women workers. Full Stop Australia was also there, which was really important. We also had representatives from unions and one academic expert.

Following that discussion, we developed a set of what were the key themes that came out of the discussion. We discussed it with the Ministers. Now there is some follow-up action they we're discussing at the moment. I'm not sure where things are up to exactly, but some of the things that came out of the discussion that we were looking at were things like licences and conditions, and whether you can have that as a sort of lever.

Also, training was a big theme. We followed up on that: What sort of training should be available? Also, they've introduced that the Responsible Service of Alcohol training now needs to include training on sexual harassment.

That's new. There have already been a number of concrete actions that have come out of it, and I think there will be a few more in the next few months.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Full Stop Australia have been advocating for funding to roll out the Good Night

Out pilots, but they haven't got funding as far as I know. Everyone seems pretty keen. What is holding it up? Is it

something that industry should be getting on board with and helping to fund?

HANNAH TONKIN: I'm not actually sure about that. I know that was in their pre-budget submission

that they published earlier this year, but I'm not sure about the reasons. Do you have any more information on that?

JENNIFER QUINCEY: No.

HANNAH TONKIN: We might have to take that on notice.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That would be useful. In relation to the rollout of sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention training through the RSA, my understanding is that only new staff entering the industry or completing an RSA for the first time are going to be receiving it. Is there any move to make it so that it's a compulsory thing going forward with ongoing training for people working in the industry?

HANNAH TONKIN: I'd have to take that on notice.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Coming back to the seniors, how many businesses are now part of the NSW Seniors Card discount scheme?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: We always have that.

ANNE CAMPBELL: We do have it.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: It's a race. It's a reliable one.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: I know. You were prepared for me.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I'm racing you, Anne!

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll let you win. More than 319,000 members have opted in to receive a digital

Seniors or Senior Savers Card as of 10 July 2025.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Are those numbers up?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

ANNE CAMPBELL: More than—

MICHAEL TIDBALL: So, 2,500 participating businesses.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Good.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That's up as well?

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

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You're going to say, "Absolutely it is."

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I am responding to the way you described that. I have no idea. I assume it

would be. I hope it would be. It's 2,500.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: I hope it would be too. Let's perhaps just take it on notice to clarify

if that is an increase. That would be lovely. What about the expansion of offerings? That is where that question was going. If there has been an increase in the number of businesses, what is being offered to Seniors expanding as well?

ANNE CAMPBELL: We need to take that on notice, Michael.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, we agree on that.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be lovely if you could do that. The 2026 Seniors Festival is to take place from 2 March to 16 March.

MICHAEL TIDBALL:

Yes, there is an allocation for the 2026 festival. I believe the number is \$1.925 million to scope, plan and deliver the Seniors Festival, including the Premier's Gala concerts, the Seniors Festival Expo, Seniors regional Christmas concerts and the Seniors Festival Comedy Show.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: You know where I'm going next, don't you? What about regional events on that list?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Which I'm sure are there. I will take that on notice.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be great.

ANNE CAMPBELL: I think this is sort of more—

MICHAEL TIDBALL: There is a regional comedy show.

ANNE CAMPBELL: There is. The regional Seniors Festival Comedy Shows were first held in 2023

in Port Macquarie and since have been held at Batemans Bay and Port Stephens. Locations, dates and venues for 2025 will be announced later this year. I'll have to hold off the locations until it's announced.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Can I just supplement that? Obviously, there is also the Seniors Festival arts program for 2025. That had 35 applicants that sought and were granted funding. It was regionally quite distributed.

I'm happy to name the locations, if you want.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: No, that's okay. But 35 applicants—what's the process? You opened it up so they had the opportunity?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I apologise. My answer is not strictly accurate. So 35 applicants received funding. The actual number of applicants I would need to take on notice

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be wonderful, if you could do that.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: But, as I say, there was a significant number of them—Port Macquarie, Dubbo, Clarence Valley, Wollongong, Bathurst, Gilgandra, Edward River, Narrandera, Inverell. I can keep going, if you want.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL:

No. I'm happy to have that provided on notice. If there are 35 applicants that received funding, there's criteria, an evaluation process that is attached to that as well?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Correct, yes.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Can we see that as well so we know what's involved and how all that happens?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, absolutely.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be very helpful, thank you.

Because we had such a wonderful moment on it last time—as I'm sure that you'll all recall—you will have to know where I'm going next:

Grandparents Day. It is still scheduled for 26 October this year?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Correct.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Has the New South Wales government website been updated with 2025 materials and resources?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to check.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: That would be great. As long as we're going ahead, as we said last

time, grandparents everywhere will be very happy. I'm not one. I'm just saying.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:

Just following on in relation to Seniors Week and regional locations, how are they selected?

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

I am advised:

RSA Training: This question should be directed to the Minister for Gaming and Racing, who is responsible for Liquor & Gaming NSW and the RSA training.

Funding for Full Stop Australia's Good Night Out Program: The 2025/26 NSW Budget does not include funding to Full Stop Australia for the Good Night Out pilots.

Grandparents Day. It is still scheduled for 26 October this year? Has the New South Wales government website been updated with 2025 materials and resources? Grandparents day is held annually on the last Sunday in October. For 2026 the date is Sunday 26 October. Information is available on the DCJ website at; <https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/grandparents-day> "

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ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, absolutely.

I am advised, the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival Grant Program had \$200,000 available to distribute to organisations across the state.

251 grant applications were received and assessed to determine if they met the eligibility criteria and of the applications received, 55 were ineligible bringing the total number down to 196.

Based on the outcomes of the assessment process, 35 applicants were successful in receiving funding.

Of the 35 successful recipients 24 were in regional NSW:

Category: 1

1. Coonamble Shire Council
2. Federation Council
3. Port Macquarie Historical Society Inc.
4. Clarence Valley Council - Clarence Regional Library
5. Clifton School of Arts Inc – Wollongong City Council area
6. Bathurst Seymour Centre
7. Edward River Council
8. Novacare Community Services Limited – Newcastle City Council area
9. Gilgandra Shire Council
10. Mid-Western Regional Council
11. Narrandera Shire Council

12. Hunter Multicultural Communities Incorporated
13. Inverell Community Support
14. Cowra Shire Council

Category 2

1. Bega Valley Shire Council
2. Kiama Municipal Council
3. Kempsey Shire Council
4. Yass Valley Council
5. Wollongong City Council
6. Lockhart Shire Council
7. Dubbo Regional Council
8. Maitland City Council
9. Junee Shire Council
10. Lismore City Council

All applications received are assessed based on quality, reach, budget and whether they met at least two of the following program objectives:

- Supporting a broad range of local community organisations
- Supporting programs and activities in regional NSW
- Fostering partnerships with community groups and services
- Providing programs and activities for diverse communities in NSW+I502
- Supporting projects that empower older people to stay connected
- Assisting organisations to increase capacity of current programs and activities

Summary of assessment process

1. Applications are reviewed by the eligibility team for eligibility and compliance with grant guidelines and eligible criteria.
2. Applications are subject to the assessment process, by an assessment team. Each application is assessed by two members of the assessment team.
3. The assessment team makes recommendations to an assessment panel. Three members, independent of the assessment team make up the assessment panel
4. A delegated DCJ officer on the assessment panel is the final decision-maker, as per the NSW Grants Administration Guide.
5. Applicants are formally notified on whether their application has been successful.