

Response to Questions on Notice Pages 16 and 17 of highlighted Transcript

The Hon. SOPHIE COTSIS: I take you back to the \$100,000 grant that was provided. What was it provided to do? What was the grant?

The Grant was approved by the then Minister for Fair Trading The Hon Anthony Roberts MP in the amount of \$91,458 plus GST,

On 18/8/2011 ARPRA made an application to Fair Trading Rental Bond Board to fund this project. The application was made by **Dr Gary Martin** on behalf of ARPRA, which was described as a voluntary organisation that had nil employees. The Application for funding is attached.¹

On 12/10/2011 the then Minister for Fair Trading Anthony Roberts MP wrote to '**Dr Gary Martin**' advising the application had been approved for the sum of \$91,458 plus GST for the project. Although it is unclear if the Affiliated Residential Park Residents Association (ARPRA) was registered for GST at the time, a copy of the letter from the Minister is attached for reference.²

The project was part of the overall review of the Residential Parks Legislation, with the approval being on the provision that ARPRA agrees to complete its consultation with residential park residents **across** the State and submit findings by end February 2012.

It should be noted that the ARPRA state membership was at this time around 3000, this was doubled when the Northern Alliance of Park Residents' Association (NAPRA) amalgamated with ARPRA IN May/June 2012. The aim was to provide a more unified voice.

The final report shows that Forums were held around NSW as follows;

LOCATION	ATTENDEES	DATE
Sydney	745	17 Nov 2011
Central Coast	600	26 Nov 2011
Tweed Heads	957	7 Feb 2012
Newcastle	590	29 Feb 2012
Coffs Harbour	462	14 Mar 2012
Forster Tuncurry	250	28 Mar 2012
Ballina	400	26 July 2012

It is unclear how these numbers of attendees could be verified, for example two IPRAG members attended the Tweeds Heads forum and can attest to the number of residents present, which was approximately 90 in a venue that would hold about 150 maximum.

The survey and report are too large to attach though can be downloaded from ARPRA website.

The final report into the financial aspects of the project is attached, with breakdowns of expenditure.³

The financial report A12 form for ARPRA for 2011/12 is attached, which lists 15,000 members and 2 employees.⁴

The Hon. SOPHIE COTSIS: How many responded to that survey?

Based on figures contained within the Affiliated Park Residents Association (ARPRA) report nearly 6,000 residents answered the survey.

IPRAG NSW has no way of verifying this number.

The report that was produced is entitled "Residential Park Living: Finding the Problems, Looking for Solutions"

This paper can also be accessed on the ARPRA website under 'Submissions and Reports'.

The Hon. SOPHIE COTSIS: How much were they getting?

PAVS funding for its last full year of being funded (ie 2012/13) was: \$227,521.26.

The Hon. SOPHIE COTSIS: Was their funding provided by the Office of Fair Trading?

PAVS was funded as part of the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program which was funded by the Rental Bond Board.

The Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program (including PAVS) was administered by NSW Fair Trading.

Documents Attached:

1. ARPRA Grant Application
2. Confirmation of Funding from Minister
3. Grant - Final Report
4. 2011-12 ARPRA financial report

Response to Questions on Notice Page 18 of Highlighted Transcript

The Hon GREG PEARCE: *There have been suggestions that Residential parks would be appropriate for public housing, particularly short term and crisis housing. What are your views?*

IPRAG NSW recognises this can be quite a sensitive issue with broader social aspects that we may not be so well versed in.

NSW Parliamentary e-brief 11/211 summarises reports and papers dealing with this subject, and we would refer the Committee to these resources.

We would also draw attention to the 2009 Committee report (Homelessness and Low Cost Rental Accommodation) page 4, *“Evidence heard by the Committee from various witnesses has suggested that caravan/residential parks are not an affordable option and that many single pensioners who own their own home are unable to afford the site fees in caravan parks, but that they also cannot afford to relocate their home. The committee is also concerned about evidence that where caravan parks are being used for crisis accommodation there is a high incidence of social problems”*

It should be pointed out that people who rent vans, cabins or other forms of accommodation without owning the home pay substantially more than a permanent site lessee, they are not covered by the Residential Parks Act 1998, but are subject to the Residential Tenancy Act. Unless an agency is funding them then clearly it cannot be considered affordable housing either for public or crisis housing.

In conclusion we cannot see specific advantages top those requiring short term or crisis housing to be accommodated in Residential Parks.

In terms of public or social housing, there may well be merit in alternate models of Park Ownership that are designed specifically for social housing, and we have made a supplementary submission which could be applicable in terms of social or public housing.