

1 September 2003

(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2)

Portfolio

Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care and Youth

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 1. Ms Parker asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—**

In reference to tables 1.6a and 1.6b in the Department of Community Services (DOCS) quarterly child protection statistics. How many of the children involved in the 4,115 cases that were allocated a level 1, response were physically sighted within 24 hours? (Hansard page 3)

ANSWER:

The Department's Client Information System (CIS) does not specifically capture whether a child or young person has been "physically sighted" within 24 hours.

- 2. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—**

- (a) Do cases which are allocated a level 1 priority by DOCS receive a level 1 priority?
(b) Do cases which are allocated a level 2 priority by DOCS receive a level 2 priority, and so on? (Hansard page 3)

ANSWER:

- (a) No, not all cases allocated a level 1 priority receive a level 1 response because ongoing assessment may indicate a different level of response than allocated initially.
(b) No, not all cases allocated a level 2 priority receive a level 2 response and so on because ongoing assessment may indicate a different level of response than allocated initially.

The priority level is based on a judgement at a particular point in time about the nature of a particular case, the specific characteristics of a child or young person and their current situation. Thus the recommended response timeframe may be shortened or lengthened following the gathering of other information and consultation.

- 3. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—**

In relation to a recent matter concerning the alleged employment of two under age girls at a Port Kembla brothel:

- (a) Is the Minister aware that NSW Police raided this brothel in an attempt to locate these girls on Wednesday 20 August 2003?
(b) (i) Did the police report this matter to the DOCS Helpline?
(ii) If so, when did this occur?
(c) (i) Did DOCS staff attempt to physically sight the girls within 24 hours of the report?

- (ii) If not, why not? (Hansard page 4)
- (d) Did the mother of one of the girls contact her local DOCS office on Friday 22 August?
- (e) Has DOCS attempted to speak to this girl's mother or physically sight her daughter since the 22 August?

ANSWER:

- (a) Yes
- (b) (i) Yes.
(ii) 21 August 2003.
- (c) (i) No
(ii) At the time of the receipt of the report the whereabouts of the girls were unknown to the Department.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Yes.
- 4. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—**
- (a) What percentage of the Community Services budget will be delivered by the non-government sector, for each of the various programs?
- (b) Is the percentage of the Community Services budget delivered by non government agencies for each of the various programs, rising or falling? (Hansard page 5).

ANSWER:

- (a) The percentage of the Department of Community Services' budget estimated to be delivered by the non-government sector over the period 2003/04 to 2006/07 is approximately 52.5% on average. The overall annual percentage is estimated to increase slightly over the 4 years of the forward estimate period from an estimated 52.3% in 2003/04. For the financial year 2003/04 the percentage for each of the various programs is as follows:

• Prevention Services	82.1%
• Early Intervention	92.7%
• Intensive and Statutory Intervention Services	2.5%
• Out of Home Care and Adoption Services	36.2%

These figures are estimates only based on the current pattern of service delivery and the actual expenditure will inevitably vary from these estimated percentages.

- (b) See the answer to part (a) above.

5. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

In reference to page 521 of the Budget papers, why has financial assistance given to vulnerable families been cut in relation to prevention services? (Hansard page 11)

ANSWER:

A component of the Departments's budget between 2000/01 and 2002/03 was directed towards the now-completed three-year Meat Industry Restructuring Program. I am advised that the commitment to this program in 2002/03 exceeded the difference in the overall funding for this budget line between 2002/03 and 2003/04.

It should be noted that the 2003/04 State Budget for Community Services included an additional \$47 million for prevention and early intervention services, which includes funding for programs and services for vulnerable families.

6. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

In relation to media monitoring services:

- (a) How much did each of the Departments you administer spend on media monitoring in the previous financial year?
- (b) Who pays for media monitoring services provided to the Minister's office? (Hansard pages 11-12)

ANSWER:

- (a) All costs incurred were appropriate to the needs identified.
- (b) All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.

AGEING, DISABILITY AND HOMECARE

7. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

In relation to licensed boarding houses that closed during this financial year:

- (a) How many residents were displaced?
- (b) What alternative accommodation was provided to the displaced residents? (Hansard page 18)

ANSWER:

- (a) 64
- (b) 45 residents received interim funded supported accommodation and 19 residents received alternative accommodation options.

8. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

Of the 443 residents that have been relocated to alternative accommodation since the commencement of the Boarding House Reform Program in 1998:

- (a) How many currently reside in nursing homes?
- (b) Can you provide a breakdown of their ages?

ANSWER:

- (a) None.
- (b) See (a)

9. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

- (a) What amount, if any, of the total amount in the budget papers will come from fines levied as a consequence of speed cameras?
- (b) (i) Will any of this money be used to fund the Attendant Care Program?
(ii) If so, how much? (Hansard page 20)

ANSWER:

- (a) Fines from speed cameras are not part of my Ministerial responsibility and this matter should be referred to the Treasurer.
- (b) (i) DADHC receives funding through the Annual Appropriation process. Sources of these funds are not the responsibility of my administration.
(ii) In 2003-04 funding of \$15m has been allocated for the Attendant Care Program

10. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

How many people were in the home care service higher needs pool at the same time as being on the waiting list for the Attendant Care Program? (Hansard page 21)

ANSWER:

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11. Ms Parker asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

- (a) How many unfilled positions are there on community support teams?
- (b) How many positions on community support teams are filled by people on three-monthly renewable contracts? (Hansard page 21)

ANSWER:

- (a) The DADHC Staff Establishment shows 130 unfilled positions assigned to Community Support Teams. Over the last 12 months, more than 120 positions have been advertised.
- (b) There are 41 positions filled by staff on 3 monthly renewable contracts.

12. Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC—

In relation to respite care, can you provide the Committee with a breakdown of the location and number of blocked beds? (Hansard page 22)

ANSWER:

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) quarterly respite survey identified 70 places in respite services that had been occupied continuously by the same person for 28 days or more as at 30 June 2003.

The numbers of such places, by region, were:

Metropolitan South West	21
Metropolitan South East	4
Metropolitan North	10
Metropolitan West	23

Hunter	4
Northern	1
Southern	3
Western	4

APPROVED

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth