



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Family and Community Services
Women

Friday 12 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Wednesday 7 November 2012

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Questions from the Hon. Helen Westwood MLC

1. Last year you informed the Committee that, over the forward estimates (2011-2012 to 2014-2015), Family and Community Services will save \$76 million implementing the Government's wages policy: *Estimates 2011-Response to Questions on Notice* page 1
 - a. Has the \$76 million amount been revised? If so, what is the current amount?
 - b. What proportion of this will have to be saved by the Community Services division of Family and Community Services?
 - c. What savings did Family and Community Services achieve in 2011-2012, by program:-
 - i. Expressed as a dollar amount?
 - ii. In reductions in full-time equivalent staff?
 - d. What reductions in service has this resulted in, by program?
 - e. What savings will Family and Community Services achieve in 2012-2013, by program:-
 - i. Expressed as a dollar amount?
 - ii. In reductions in full-time equivalent staff?
 - f. What further reductions in service will this result in, by program?
 - g. What savings did Family and Community Services achieve in 2011-2012, by division;-
 - i. Expressed as a dollar amount?
 - ii. In reductions in full-time equivalent staff?
 - h. What savings will Family and Community Services achieve in 2012-2013, by division:-
 - i. Expressed as a dollar amount?
 - ii. In reductions in full-time equivalent staff?
 - i. What are the efficiency dividend savings measures for Community Services, for each of 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015?
2. In February this year, you announced changes to the Housing Register and, in particular, that persons would be removed from the Register if they failed to respond to contact made by Housing NSW or a registered Community Housing Provider.
 - a. How many persons were on the Register as at 16 February 2012?
 - b. How many persons are on the Register today?
3. You were asked a QoN by the Member for Keira: "*Will there be any mechanism for persons who are removed from the NSW Housing Register to be reinstated to where they were if they can demonstrate that they were not reasonably able to remain in touch with Housing NSW or*

a participating community housing provider?" In your answer on Notice published in Q&A Paper No. 73 1718-Public Housing Properties you did not address this point at all.

- a. What policy or mechanism for a person who has been removed from the Register to be reinstated to where they were, if they come within one of the exemptions?
4. From March 2013, the Clean Energy Supplement paid by the Commonwealth Government to public housing tenants will be included as "assessable income" and 25% will be charged as increased rents.
 - a. How much money will be raised by the NSW Government from this decision?
 - b. How much of this money will go into maintenance and repairs for public housing?
5. Last year you said the public housing maintenance/repair backlog was \$300 million: (see Estimates [Finance and Services] Mon 24 October 2011, p39)
 - a. Over what timeframe will you address the backlog?
6. What is the value of repairs and maintenance to public housing stock carried out in the 2010-2011 financial year?
7. What is the value of repairs and maintenance requested for public housing stock by tenants through Housing NSW for the 2011-2012 financial year?
8. Why did the completed Land repairs decline from 92% in 2010-2011 to 87% in 2011-2012?
9. What percentage of repairs requested will be completed in 2012-2013?
10. Why did the public housing responsive maintenance orders that exceeded the applicable targets increase from 8% in 2010-2011 to 13% in 2011-2012?
11. How many responsive maintenance orders did this comprise?
12. What were those responsive maintenance orders for?
13. What percentage of the responsive maintenance orders will be exceeded in 2012-2013?
14. What mechanisms or procedures are in place in your agency to escalate the priority of maintenance requests and orders?
15. What mechanisms or processes are in place to ensure contracted services have been delivered and to standard?

16. Earlier this year, The Hon. Adam Searle MLC asked some questions of your staff regarding appointments, or non-appointments to the AHO Board, which had been advertised at the end of 2011 and closed in September 2011.

- a. What is the term of office for the Chairperson of the AHO Board?
- b. Why have you still not appointed a Board for the AHO?
- c. Do you intend to abolish the Board?
- d. In the absence of the Board, how are its functions carried out and by whom?

17. Last year, Mr Allen informed the Committee on Notice (*Estimates 2011-Response to Questions on Notice* page 3) that core services undertaken by Housing NSW for the AHO are covered by an 8 per cent management fee based on gross market rent of AHO properties and that extensive modelling was then underway to "*ascertain how this fee will be disaggregated between Housing NSW and the Department of Finance and Services within the existing budget envelope.*"

- a. Can you now inform the committee how those rents are shared or "*disaggregated*" between Housing NSW and the AHO, in detail?

18. Last year, The Hon. Adam Searle MLC asked whether your Government would guarantee funding for the Director's position until all safe houses are operational. My question clearly related to the new Safe Houses under construction. On notice (*Estimates 2011-Response to Questions on Notice* page 10) you said that

"All the five Safe Houses are operational."

And that "*the position of Project Director will continue until March 2012.*"

- a. Why was the Committee informed last year, by an answer given on notice, that all five Safe Houses are all operational, when Mr Allen at Estimates on 12 October 2012 stated that the Brewarrina and Bourke Safe Houses are not yet operational?
- b. Did the Minister authorise the giving of that Answer on Notice? If not, who gave that authorisation?
- c. Why was the funding for the Orana Far West Project Director stopped before the project was complete, particularly when the delays in Bourke and Brewarrina clearly indicate the need for that role?
- d. How many women and children are intended to be served by the safe houses in each of Bourke, Brewarrina and Wilcannia?
- e. What Program funds the capital works element of the Orana Far West Safe Houses Project? Is it Commonwealth funds?
- f. If the Commonwealth funds the Safe House Program, does the Commonwealth have requirements around timeframes for completion? If yes, what are they?

- g. Does NSW risk losing money if the Brewarrina safe house isn't completed within a designated timeframe?
19. During the Estimates hearing Mr Allen stated, "*The Wilcannia Safe House has been completed.*" (*Estimates [Family and Community Services, Women]*, Friday 12 October 2012, p21)
- a. Is the Wilcannia Safe House operational? If not, when will it be in operation and servicing clients?
 - b. When will the Brewarrina Safe House be operational?
 - c. Why is the Bourke Safe House not operational and when will it be?
 - d. What have been the cause of delays in completion of this program?
20. Budget Paper No. 3, p4-7: the Department will supply more social housing in line with *Planning for the Future* target of growing the community housing sector from 13,000 properties in 2007-2008 to 30,000 by 2017-2018.
- a. By how many dwellings did your government increase the supply of social housing in 2011-2012?
 - b. By how many dwellings will your government increase the supply of social housing in 2011-2012?
21. One of your objectives (Budget Paper No. 3, p4-3) is to ensure "Access to affordable housing is improved."
- a. What precise actions or measures will your department take to ensure "Access to affordable housing is improved." in 2012-2013, expressed as an increase in housing stock?

Women

22. Minister the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW receives over \$80,000 of state funding.
- a. Minister, how many women use this service?
 - b. Can you rule out defunding the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW?
 - c. What commitment can you give to women who use the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW that they will continue to have access to such a service in the future?
23. Last year The Hon. Sophie Cotsis MLC asked "of the 5000 Public Sector position cuts, how many are women?" For 12 months, you didn't provide an answer. This year, a total of 15000 public sector jobs will be cut.
- a. How many women will lose their jobs?
 - b. How many women will lose their part-time jobs?
 - c. What is the number of women in the NSW Public Service that are classified as casual?

- d. How many women will lose their casual jobs?
- e. How many women in the NSW Public Service are classified as temporary?
- f. How many women will lose their temporary jobs?

24. Minister, have you visited any Migrant Women's Centres since April 2011?

- a. If so, can you provide a list that specifies which groups were visited, and when they were visited?
- b. If not, why not?

25. Minister you have stated that economic and financial security for women is your key priority.

- a. How many women are employed in the Office for Women?
- b. How many permanent staff are employed in the Office for Women?
- c. How many permanent part-time staff are employed in the Office for Women?
- d. How many temporary staff are employed in the Office for Women?
- e. How many casual staff are employed in the Office for Women?
- f. What funding has been spent on consultants and contractors in the Office for Women in 2011-12?
- g. What has been budgeted for consultants and contractors in the Office for Women in 2012-13?
- h. How many women are employed in Family and Community Services?
- i. How many women are employed permanent full-time in the Office for Women?
- j. How many women are employed permanent full-time in Family and Community Services?
- k. How many women are temporary employees in the Office for Women?
- l. How many women are temporary employees in Family and Community Services?
- m. How many women are casual employees in the Office for Women?
- n. How many women are casual employees in Family and Community Services?
- o. What is the total budget for the Office of Women in 2012-13?

26. Minister you have stated that one of your key priorities is an increase in women's participation in non-traditional trade areas. In the document *Women in NSW 2012*, under table 3.2, there are no women commencing plumbing apprenticeships.

- a. What plans does the Government have to increase the involvement of women in plumbing in the NSW Public Service including public trading enterprises and state owned corporations?

27. While your government is cutting \$40 million from TAFE, can you rule out that courses to assist women entering non-traditional trades such as plumbing, electrical and engineering will not be cut?

28. What responsibility are you taking to increase the numbers of women in non-traditional trades in the NSW Public Service?
29. Minister in lieu of your statement that economic and financial security for women is your key priority and that women make up over **60 percent** of the NSW Public Service of which **87 percent** of the part-time public sector work force, your government has applied to the IRC to make a new award, the Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award. The O'Farrell Government's application calls for abolishing:
1. Family Leave
 2. Leave to Care for Family Members (to reframe this as personal carers leave, incorporating Family and Community Services leave)
 3. The domestic violence leave clause
 4. changes to parental leave that particularly affects women with kinship arrangements and long term foster carers
 5. 17.5% annual leave loading
 6. remote area leave allowances
- a. Do you accept that abolishing these conditions will adversely affect women's pay which will result in the pay equity gap widening;
 - b. Will it affect retirement savings and discourage women back in the work force?
 - c. Can you explain how these conditions won't adversely impact on women's economic and financial security?
30. Minister, a recent study on assault-related injuries in Queensland revealed that Indigenous girls face the highest risk of being injured. Can you advise whether the situation is the same in New South Wales, and what your government is doing to reduce this risk and provide support to victims?
31. Does the Government have a policy on sexual harassment in the workplace?
If so, under that policy
- a. how can a victim of sexual harassment make a complaint, and
 - b. what support is provided to them?
32. There is a gender gap of 2.8% regarding women and men's reporting of high levels of psychological distress. Has the Government attempted to consult and or analyse these figures in an attempt to understand why more women are assessed with anxiety, depression agitation and psychological fatigue?
33. Disparities appear between the figures that represent the sexes, regarding hospitalisation for intentional self-harm. Surely there are ties between psychological distress and infliction of self harm? Are these figures a reflection of the unmet needs of different female groups in NSW? What does the Government plan to do about this?

34. Does the Government have a plan, if any, in working towards increasing the rate of women screened for breast cancer aged 50-69 years from 53%?
35. Does the Government have a plan, if any, in working towards increasing the rate of women screened for cervical cancer aged 20-69 years from 56%?
36. What is the Government doing about making women aware of the need for regular screening for ovarian cancer?
37. How does the Government aim to address the differing needs of different female groups within the female population of NSW?

For example, an Aboriginal woman living in rural NSW does not have the same needs as a migrant single mother living in the inner Sydney region.

38. 33% of girls' HSC course completions are in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), compared to 44% of course completions by boys. Does the Government have a strategy in place to target girls from an early age to pursue studies, and ultimately careers, in non-traditional fields?
39. What is the Government doing to address the average decline of 1.8% of employment rates in NSW regions for women since the peak of the Global Financial Crisis?
40. Does the Government plan to address the issues of having 28% of NSW women employed on a casual basis, compared with 21% of men? In this case, 'casual basis' means without leave entitlements. What does the Government aim to do to protect female casual workers in the workplace with the little entitlements offered to them?
41. Have initiatives been undertaken by the Government to reduce the financial and social impacts of workforce gender segregation based on industry employment and education? 14 out of 43 occupational subgroups in NSW are male-dominated. Women make up just 9.7% of the workforce in these occupational subgroups in 2012. These male dominated occupational subgroups inevitably receive higher wages. How does the Government plan to evenly distribute opportunities amongst women and men in these sectors?
42. According to the *Women in NSW 2012* Report, women in NSW with dependent children and who work full-time undertake an extra 40 hours per week on average in unpaid work. Does the Government have plans to provide adequate support and flexibility within the system, so that women, can do the work and care that is needed to sustain our communities?
43. There is a gender pay gap in the NSW public service. On average female public service employees are paid \$71 573 compared to an average of \$76 742 for men. Will the Government openly move to address this issue? If so how? If not, why not?
44. Although women are 70% more likely to finish school and make up 57% of NSW undergraduate students and 56% of NSW post graduate students, they have a lower overall labour force participation rate.. What is the Government doing to address this gap in the NSW

Public Service and what plans does the Government have to assist industry and business to increase female participation in the workforce?

45. Women are more likely to experience poor mental health than men: women are more likely than men to report high levels of psychological distress (12.4% to 9.6%), to be hospitalised for intentional self harm and to lodge workers compensation claims relating to mental disorder. Of these, only a small proportion access services, suggesting a high rate of unmet need. What plans, if any, does the Government have to address this issue?
46. The Mining boom has created significant growth in the male-dominated disciplines of engineering and earth science. What strategies does the Government plan to employ in addressing this issue and elevating the status of women in these industries?
47. Women's further study and career options may be constrained by their course choice at high school. How does the Government plan to target women and their future choices at this critical time?
48. What will be done about the considerable variation among subgroups of women in regards to Vocational Education and Training (VET)? In the case of women with disabilities, they are considerably under represented. They make up 19% of the NSW population, but comprise just 6.5% of VET Students.
49. The gender gap is wider and more prevalent between men and women in the top 40% of the workforce than in the bottom 60%. Who does the Government plan to consult regarding this issue of representation in the workplace?
50. Patterns of labour force underutilisation closely follow the economic cycle, with the gap between men and women increasing during the global financial crisis. In February 2012, NSW women workers had a higher rate of unemployment than men – 5.7% compared with 4.8%. How has the Government addressed this issue?
51. In NSW, there are gender gaps ranging from 30-46 percent in the proportion of women and men standing for election at all levels of government. This means that men in NSW are two to three times more likely than women to stand for election to political office." (2012, p. 91) Does the Government have a strategy, if any, to encourage women to undertake leadership roles in all aspects of the community, including local government?
52. "Ten years ago, in 2002, women's representation on NSW Government boards and committees was almost the same as it is today (at 37%)." (2012, p. 95) Does the Government hold plans to address these stagnant figures and create policy to increase and equalise the status of women in leadership and representative roles? How? (or, Why not?)
53. Can the Government explain why women's representation in Senior Executive Service (SES) positions in the NSW public sector (25%) is disproportionately low compared to their representation within the total public sector workforce (60%)?

- a. Has the Government undertaken any consultations with relevant stakeholders on how to improve women's representation in the SES?
54. Can the Government provide an indication as to whether they plan on approaching and consulting with the boards of ASX 200 Companies in NSW regarding the figures that portray women as only one sixth of all directors in these Companies?
 55. Does the Government plan to work with companies to establish measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity and disclose the proportion of women in senior executive positions and on boards in line with the Australian Securities Exchange's 2011 Corporate Governance Principles?
 56. Does the Government plan to identify which groups of women are represented on NSW public Boards and Committees? If not, why not?
 57. What is the government doing to address the very low number of women on club boards?
 58. Does the Government plan to address why, despite the greater numbers of women who, over the decades have worked in the teaching profession, representation of women in the top ranks of the profession is still disproportionately low compared to men?
 59. Recorded crime statistics for 2010 showed that women are nearly five times as likely to be sexual assault victims as men. As one of the Governments main points of focus is violence and sexual assault prevention, what measures, if any, has the Government put in place to reduce these figures?
 60. According to the ABS *Personal Safety Survey (PSS)*, 20% of women did not use public transport alone after dark because they felt unsafe, compared to 5 percent of men.
 - a. Does the Government have any plans to address this issue?
 - b. Does the Government plan to consult with Transport for NSW to come up with new strategies?
 61. How is the Government supporting the work of SALT (Supporting and Linking Tradeswomen), a not-for profit organisation and support network run by volunteers who are passionate about supporting women considering a career in the trades?
 62. The erosion of associated rights to maternity and parental leave by narrowing the coverage and excluding foster, surrogate parents and kinship arrangements from entitlements, this is detrimental not only to women, but to the families. What is the government doing planning to do to rectify this situation.
 63. There still remains a substantial gap between the rates of domestic violence of women and men. The right to domestic violence leave has been reduced in status as a separate right and has now been rolled into Miscellaneous Leave for NSW Public Servants. How does the

elimination of this entitlement operate under the Government's grand Policy for Women that addresses Domestic Violence cases amongst women in NSW?

64. The removal of leave loadings reduces women's total annual income. As there is a difference between men's and women's average earnings in the public sector, this will exacerbate the lower level of women's overall earnings. What does the Government plan to do about this gap?
65. There are 240,000 women employed in the NSW public sector out of a total of 390,000 employees. Women will share a disproportionate burden of the changes being introduced by the Government. Did the Government consult any parties on these matters before making the cuts? Do they plan to follow up with an investigation on the consequences for women of such cuts?
66. On 10 September 2012 the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women recommended that "workplace/industrial relations and health departments need to work collaboratively on the long-term impact (physical and emotional) of domestic violence in workplaces". Does the Government have plans to collaborate with all parties, including unions, on this matter? If not, why not?
67. A number of remote and rural councils missed out on the International Women's Day Grants to local councils because the criteria set for them was that "grants would cease to be available once the maximum number of successful applicants was reached".
 - a. As rural and remote communities and councils are the most in need of assistance, will the International Women's Day Grants continue to be offered to councils?
 - b. If so, will the criteria be altered to include a needs basis as well that acknowledges the needs of these communities?
68. Will the Government reinstate Woman of the Year awards to coincide with International Women's Day in 2013? If so, when will nominations open? If not, why not?
69. Were you or your office consulted about the Government's *Maternity at Work* document? If not, why not, if yes what was your contribution?
70. Is it NSW Government policy that female public sector workers who have recently become mothers are guaranteed they can return to their substantive position with the current level of pay, conditions and responsibilities?
71. Is it NSW Government policy to guarantee that permanent female public sector workers returning from parental leave are
 - a. guaranteed the option of returning to part-time work or flexible work hours if they choose?

- b. what measures are place to ensure that relevant workplace managers comply with this policy if it exists?

72. Can you advise if the proposed consultation meetings on domestic violence being conducted by KPMG on behalf of the Government

- a. did occur?
- b. if so, where and when?
- c. were they open to the public?
- d. how many members of the public attended?
- e. how many Government agencies' representatives attended?
- f. which non-Government agencies attended?
- g. if they did not attend, why not?
- h. are any more meetings planned?
- i. if so, where and when?
- j. will they be open to the public?
- k. how will the public be informed?
- l. will non-government organisations be invited to attend?

Miscellaneous

73. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

74. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?

75. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

76. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

77. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

78. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

79. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

80. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

81. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

82. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

83. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

84. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
85. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
86. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
87. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
88. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
89. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
90. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
91. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
92. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
93. How many political advisors are in your office?
94. How many administration staff?
95. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
96. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
97. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
If so, in what capacities?
98. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?
99. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?
100. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
101. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

102. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
103. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
104. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
105. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?
106. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
107. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
108. What is your Department's catering budget?
109. What is your Department's stationary budget?
110. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
111. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?
112. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
113. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
114. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
115. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
116. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?
117. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
If yes,
- a. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - b. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - c. On what date was the funding advanced?
 - d. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - e. Was any funding withheld or returned?

- f. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
- g. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012
- h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

118. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

119. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

120. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

121. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

122. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:

Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

- a. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- b. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- c. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
- d. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- e. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- f. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

123. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?

124. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?

125. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

126. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

127. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?

If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?

128. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?

129. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?
130. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;
- a. Who conducted the training?
 - b. When was it conducted?
 - c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - d. Who paid for the training?

End of questions from the Hon. Helen Westwood MLC.

Document tabled by the Hon. Adam Searle MLC

During the hearing into Family and Community Services, the Hon. Adam Searle MLC questioned **Mr Mike Allen**, Chief Executive, Housing NSW, and Acting Chief Executive, Aboriginal Housing Office, about the operation and management of the Brewarrina safe house.

In connection with this line of questioning, the Hon. Adam Searle MLC tabled a response prepared by the Minister for Family and Community Services to questions on notice taken during the 2011 Budget Estimates Inquiry.

Please see the highlighted hearing transcript, page 21, for the context of this question. A copy of the document tabled by the Hon. Adam Searle MLC has also been provided by the Secretariat.

Questions from the Hon. Jan Barham MLC.

1. How many young people in NSW OOHC left care permanently (not through adoption) in 2011?
2. How many of these listed above (on their leaving day) were classified as:
 - a. statutory out of home care?
 - b. supported out of home care?
 - c. voluntary out of home care?
3. What is the government doing to increase the performance in regards to providing care plans for all care leavers?
4. What priority is given to the provision of Leaving Care Plans with OOHC contracts?
5. How much of the Community Services budget was allocated to helping young people leaving care to get their drivers license?
 - a. 2011/12
6. What measures has the government enacted to ensure coordination and service delivery of the *Keep Them Safe* funding in regards to smaller NGO's who represent Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse young people?
7. Will the Department of Premier and Cabinet continue to play a role in coordination of Keep Them Safe funding?
 - a. If yes, how?
8. How many non-indigenous children and young people in New South Wales are currently in:
 - a. statutory out of home care?
 - b. supported out of home care?
 - c. voluntary out of home care?
9. How many indigenous children and young people in New South Wales are currently in:
 - a. statutory out of home care?
 - b. supported out of home care?
 - c. voluntary out of home care?
10. What action has the government taken to complete the Interim Review of the Keep Them Safe Action Plan?
11. What is the 2012/13 funding allocation for Keep Them Safe and what programs and budget allocations apply to this budget?
12. How many Aboriginal agencies have been accredited for out-of-home-care for the period 2011/12?

13. Can an update be provided on the PACT programs in Moree and Shellharbour.
14. Could the following figures for 2011-2012 be provided for:
The number of children in:
 - a. CS Foster care
 - b. NGO foster care
 - c. NGO intensive foster care
 - d. CS: statutory kinship care
 - e. NGO: Residential care
 - f. CS: Supported kinship care
 - g. NGO: voluntary
15. Could the average cost of care per child per service per year listed above?
16. Can information on how many children in 2011-12 were in a continuous out-of-home-care placement for:
 - a. Less than one month
 - b. 1 month to less than 6months
 - c. 6 months to less than 1 year
 - d. 1 year to less than 2 years
 - e. 2 years to less than 5 years
 - f. 5 years or more
17. Can an explanation of why there are such high numbers of children in statutory care in NSW compared to other states
18. Given that NSW has the highest number of Aboriginal children in Australia and given that they enter OOHC at a rate some fifteen times that of non-Aboriginal children, what specific Aboriginal support services has the government committed to address the cap on the rate of children entering care?
19. Can the Minister explain what procedures were adopted in 2011 when FACS child protection staff eliminated over a quarter (26.2%) reported to FACS for children protection?
20. Given that almost a quarter of the ROSH (risk of significant harm) reported cases in the last quarter of 2011 were responded to in less than 24 hours and a further third responded to within 2 to 3 days, leaving 43% which were attended to some 4-10 days after the report was received. How will the cut to public service jobs in FACS affect the response times for reports of children who are deemed to be at significant risk of harm?

Community Services

21. What is the allocation for Specialist Homeless Services (formerly SAAP) in 2012-13? What proportion of this is funded from the Australian Government?

22. What is the allocation for the Community Builders program in 2012-13 (both fixed term and renewable)?
23. Has the Government undertaken a review of preserved services in 2011/12?

Housing

24. How many properties were made available under the **National Rental Affordability Scheme?**
25. What is the progress to date on achieving the Government's stated aim of making 30,000 properties available for social housing stock by 2017-18?
26. What steps have been taken to increase the housing stock available to young people in critical need of accommodation when they exit the juvenile justice system?
27. How many new social housing dwellings were delivered throughout NSW in 2011/12, could the number of dwellings by Local Government area be provided?
28. How many public housing dwellings are there by Local Government area?
29. How many people are currently on the waiting list for community housing and what are the waiting list times by Local Government area or region?
30. What is the budget allocation for Start Safety for 2012/13?
31. What areas or regions received that funding and what number of people accessed the service?

Homelessness

32. What is the 2012/13 funding allocation under the Homelessness National Partnership initiatives? And what is the State Government funding allocation for homelessness?
33. What specific funding does the budget contain to fund the implementation of the State's 10 Regional Homelessness Action Plans
34. Can the 2011/12 figures for the number of clients accessing specialist homelessness services be provided?
35. How many juveniles leaving detention centres in 2011/12 have been assisted in gaining long term housing, what is the breakdown for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal youth?
36. Under the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan*, a key strategic priority was to reduce evictions from social housing due to unpaid rent. Can the Minister provide details and figures as to how evictions from social housing due to unpaid rent have reduced since 2011/12?

37. What is the 2012/13 budget for the Homelessness Action Plan, by government agency and project?
38. Does the Government provide a funding source for local government to address homelessness ?

Affordable Housing

39. NSW2021 does not include targets to increase affordable housing - only includes land release to allow more houses to be built, (this is not the same thing). Similarly, prior to the election, the then Shadow Planning Minister made a promise to scrap the most recent affordable housing legislation.... What is this Government planning to do to provide more affordable housing for those that carry out our essential services?

Waiting Lists

40. How many people are currently on the waiting list for community housing and what is the average waiting period?
- 41.
- a. How many people on the waiting list are waiting for Aboriginal Housing?
 - b. As a percentage of the overall waiting list, how does that figure compare to other States?
42. What is the longest period of time that someone has been on a waiting list in each of the State's regions?
43. NSW2021 does not include any targets to increase public housing stock to deal with waiting lists. – is there a target?
44. How many applicants are there on the **priority** housing waiting list? What is the average time to wait for priority housing?

Housing Contractors

45. How does NSW Housing select contractors? What are the names of the relevant policies and procedures?
- 46.
- a. How much money did NSW Housing spend on building and maintenance contractors in 2010-11?
 - b. How much money is budgeted to be spent on building and maintenance contractors in 2011-12?
- 47.
- a. How many complaints has NSW Housing received about housing contractors or work undertaken by housing contractors in 2010-11 and 2011-2012?

b. What has been the response to these complaints?

48. What auditing or other review is undertaken by Housing NSW to determine that building or maintenance contracts have been delivered? Will these reports reviews be made public?

Aboriginal Housing Office

49. How many providers of Aboriginal Housing are there across the State and how many dwellings do each of those providers manage in each Region or Council area?

50. How many complaints has the Department of Housing received regarding Aboriginal housing providers, in 2011-2012? What were the reasons for these complaints?

51. How many new dwellings were constructed by the Aboriginal Housing Office in 2011/12 and where?

52. How many maintenance and repair programs were initiated under the Build and Grow Strategy in 2011/12? And what funding facilitated these works?

53. The State Plan targets to support community identity and improve health and education outcomes for Aboriginal communities by implementing the Build and Grow Aboriginal Community Housing Strategy – what funding in the budget has been specifically allocated to this and what are the specific targets?

54. In the State Plan a target is listed of "33% reduction in the number of Aboriginal people who are homeless in 2013"

a. what is the baseline?

b. How many people is this estimated to be?

c. Has there been new figures released as a result of the 2011 Census?

Vacancy Rates

55. How many Department of Housing properties are currently vacant?

56. Can the Minister provide the Committee with a current schedule detailing the list of Housing NSW properties which are currently vacant or empty, the respective time periods for which each of these properties have been vacant and the expected date as to when each of these properties will be available as housing stock?

57. What are the main reasons for properties remaining vacant?

58. Are there some geographical areas that experience higher rates of vacancy than others? If so, why?

Maintenance and safety issues

59. What is the current Department of Housing maintenance backlog in dollar terms?

60. What is the average completion time for maintenance orders in public housing properties to repair
- potentially hazardous faults?
 - faults that pose difficulty to standard of living, such as lack of hot water?
 - other faults?
61. How do these times compare for the same time last year?
62. What will the Government do to ensure maintenance in public housing will be done in a prompt and efficient manner?
63. What is the total spend on maintenance for public housing? What is the average spend per property? Is there a yearly/annual maintenance check/audit of every property?

Miscellaneous

64. How will success or failure of the Camperdown Project be evaluated?
65. What percentage of new affordable housing will be given to Aboriginal people? (e.g the Glebe Affordable Housing Project, South Sydney Hospital, Nth Everleigh and Green Square)
66. What funds are provided to assist NGOs put in place programs to build skill sets for unemployed housing residents and to provide alternative Cleaning and Maintenance services and where are there projects operating?
67. How many clients currently received the Private Rental Subsidy in 2011/12?
68. Has the Government finalised the Housing and Mental Health Agreement and what improvements have been delivered for clients?

End of questions from the Hon. Jan Barham MLC.