

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - Supplementary Questions

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?

(a) to (h)

The NSW Government wages policy is 2.5 per cent. Departments are required to internally fund wage payments above this amount. However, Family and Community Services wage increases in 2011/12 and into the forward years is only 2.5 per cent and therefore no offsetting savings are required.

i. What are the efficiency dividend savings measures for Community Services, for each of 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015?

Refer to response to Question 1 from transcript.

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?

Details about the NSW Housing Register, including details about approximate waiting times for each allocation zone, are available on the Housing NSW website. NSW Government reforms are already making the Housing Register fairer and more transparent.

In addition to including applicants who were under previous Labor Governments hidden in the reporting of Housing Register numbers, the NSW Government now requires applicants to maintain contact with Housing NSW or they will be removed from the Housing Register.

Maintaining contact is a simple tool by which Housing NSW is made aware that an applicant is still in need of housing assistance.

Previously, applicants on the Housing Register who had not maintained contact were able to come back years later and keep their place, ahead of applicants who had stayed in touch. This was unfair.

This reform also rewards the personal responsibility of applicants who have stayed in touch as they will move up the waiting list more quickly.

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?

When an application has been closed on the NSW Housing Register, it may be reactivated and reinstated back to the registration date of their closed application if the client meets certain criteria.

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?**

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

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?**

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

6. What is the value of repairs and maintenance to public housing stock carried out in the 2010-2011 financial year?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

8. Why did the completed Land repairs decline from 92% in 2010-2011 to 87% in 2011-2012?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

9. What percentage of repairs requested will be completed in 2012-2013?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

11. How many responsive maintenance orders did this comprise?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

12. What were those responsive maintenance orders for?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

13. What percentage of the responsive maintenance orders will be exceeded in 2012-2013?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

14. What mechanisms or procedures are in place in your agency to escalate the priority of maintenance requests and orders?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

15. What mechanisms or processes are in place to ensure contracted services have been delivered and to standard?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

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?

Three years.

b. Why have you still not appointed a Board for the AHO?

The process has taken some time in order to identify the best possible people to sit on a newly constituted Board for the Aboriginal Housing Office. It was necessary to make sure the right people were involved in the recruitment process, including the newly appointed Chairperson. This process is being finalised.

c. Do you intend to abolish the Board?

No. The Board provides invaluable advice on policies and programs that improves housing for Aboriginal people in NSW.

d. In the absence of the Board, how are its functions carried out and by whom?

Whilst the recruitment process for Board Members is being finalised, the Chairperson has maintained strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders and ensured that the decisions of the past Board were implemented..

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?**

The Aboriginal Housing Office pays 8 per cent of rental income to Housing NSW for services provided. Asset management services provided by the Land and Housing Corporation are paid on a fee for service basis.

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?**

(a) and (b)

Refer to response to Question 10 from transcript.

- 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?**

The Project Director's position was extended until 30 June 2012 as the only work to be completed was the new premises in Bourke and Brewarrina. This work is now being progressed by the Department of Family and Community Services in partnership with the NSW Land and Housing Corporation.

- d. How many women and children are intended to be served by the safe houses in each of Bourke, Brewarrina and Wilcannia?**

The existing Bourke Safe house currently provides up to three women and their children crisis accommodation in any one night.

The new Bourke Safe House will provide accommodation for up to five women and their children.

The replacement Brewarrina Safe House will provide crisis accommodation for two women and their children each night and the new Wilcannia Safe House has the capacity to provide up to five women and their children crisis accommodation in any one night.

e. What Program funds the capital works element of the Orana Far West Safe Houses Project? Is it Commonwealth funds?

The Safe House Program is a component of the Commonwealth/State National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

f. If the Commonwealth funds the Safe House Program, does the Commonwealth have requirements around timeframes for completion? If yes, what are they?

Yes, the NSW Government and the Commonwealth agreed to complete the program by June 2013. However, this timeframe will need to be renegotiated with the Commonwealth Government should an extension be required to complete the Brewarrina Safe House.

g. Does NSW risk losing money if the Brewarrina safe house isn't completed within a designated timeframe?

No.

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?

a. to (d)

Refer to response to Question 10 from transcript.

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?

a. and (b)

Information regarding the number of social housing properties, including community housing properties, is contained in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

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?

The Department of Family and Community Services through the National Rental Affordability Scheme is supporting the delivery of affordable rental housing for low and moderate income families.

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?

Community Services does not hold data on the number of people using the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service.

b. Can you rule out defunding the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW?

The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW is currently part of the review of "preserved" services. No decisions have been made on the final outcome of the review.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 23 from Ms Barham regarding the review of preserved services.

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?**

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?**

Yes. The Minister attended the Fairfield Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network - 16 Days of Action Symposium in Fairfield in November 2011.

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?**
17 women are employed in Women NSW.
- b. How many permanent staff are employed in the Office for Women?**
12 permanent staff are employed in Women NSW.
- c. How many permanent part-time staff are employed in the Office for Women?**
3 permanent part-time staff are employed in Women NSW.
- d. How many temporary staff are employed in the Office for Women?**
4 temporary staff are employed in Women NSW.

e. How many casual staff are employed in the Office for Women?

0 (zero) casual staff are employed in Women NSW.

f. What funding has been spent on consultants and contractors in the Office for Women in 2011-12?

Contractor spend - \$241,000

Consultants spend - \$25,000

g. What has been budgeted for consultants and contractors in the Office for Women in 2012-13?

Contractor budget - \$150,000

Consultants budget - \$50,000

h. How many women are employed in Family and Community Services?

16,306.

i. How many women are employed permanent full-time in the Office for Women?

9 women are employed permanent full-time in Women NSW.

j. How many women are employed permanent full-time in Family and Community Services?

7,938.

k. How many women are temporary employees in the Office for Women?

4 women are temporary employees in Women NSW.

l. How many women are temporary employees in Family and Community Services?

1,555.

m. How many women are casual employees in the Office for Women?

0 (zero) women are casual employees in Women NSW.

n. How many women are casual employees in Family and Community Services?

1,714.

o. What is the total budget for the Office of Women in 2012-13?

The budget for Women NSW in 2012-13 is \$7.377 million.

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?

The NSW Government has launched the Women in Trades initiative, a multi-stage project. The first stage involved an audit across NSW government agencies to map existing initiatives that support and promote the recruitment and retention of women in non-traditional trades. The Women in Trades initiative will build on these programs and proposes the development of partnerships with NSW Government agencies to enhance the recruitment and support of female employees, particularly those that employ apprentices in traditionally male dominated trades, such as plumbing.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, Minister for Education.

28. What responsibility are you taking to increase the numbers of women in non-traditional trades in the NSW Public Service?

Refer to answer to QoN 26.

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?**

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Mike Baird, Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

**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?**

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

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%?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

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%?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

36. What is the Government doing about making women aware of the need for regular screening for ovarian cancer?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

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.

NSW Government agencies are tasked with the delivery of services to women and other sections of the NSW community. These services take into account the particular needs of individuals to enable them to participate in NSW social and economic life and build stronger, more sustainable and inclusive communities. NSW Government agencies have policies in place to ensure that services are designed to cater to the diverse needs of all people in the community.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, Minister for Education.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Mike Baird, Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

The Government is implementing initiatives to increase the proportion of women in traditionally male-dominated trades. A number of partnerships with industry leaders have been formed. In April 2012 the Government established the Council for Women's Economic Opportunity (CWEO) which comprises individuals from industry, academia and the community and non-government sectors. Partnerships have also been established with Ausgrid, Supporting and Linking Tradeswomen and Wollondilly Council. The Government will continue to work with industry partners and the community to raise the importance of providing opportunities for men and women in all sectors of employment.

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?

In NSW 84 per cent of single parent families where the parent is employed, and 63 per cent of couple families with both parents employed have their

children aged 0 to 12 years attending childcare (ABS *Childhood Education and Care Survey*, June 2011). Under the COAG National Quality Framework, families with work-related needs have priority access to childcare.

In addition, some two-fifths of families where the female mother or guardian is employed are using a flexible work arrangement to help care for children (ABS *Childhood Education and Care Survey*, June 2011).

The NSW Government is committed to supporting a sector that provides good quality early childhood education and care which is responsive to the needs of children and their families, whatever their circumstances may be. The transfer of responsibility for early childhood education and care to the Department of Education and Communities is a reflection of this commitment.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health.

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?

The NSW Government is committed to improving economic and financial security for women. The current focus of Women NSW is to increase the participation of women in traditionally male dominated trades including those in the mining industry.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, Minister for Education.

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.

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, Minister for Education.

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?

The Government works with the NSW Council for Women's Economic Opportunity on this issue. Other stakeholders are consulted as required.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

The NSW Government is committed to the promotion of women into leadership and decision-making roles. In particular, the Government is engaged in strategies to increase the representation of women on NSW Government-appointed boards and committees.

The NSW Government actively supports women in local government. In March this year, the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Women presented the 2012 Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government, which recognised the outstanding contributions and achievements made by women in an elected and staff capacity in local government in NSW.

In September 2012, the NSW Government encouraged women to stand in the local government elections. The Division of Local Government worked with the Australian Local Government Women's Association and Women NSW to develop tools to assist councils and communities to encourage more people from diverse groups to stand for election to council.

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?)

Since the election of the O'Farrell Government, the number of women on Government Boards has increased. As at June 30 2012 women comprised 38 per cent membership of Government Boards.

The Government is implementing a suite of initiatives to increase gender diversity on NSW Government boards and committees. These include the development of information by Women NSW to provide advice to women on becoming 'board ready' and to support government agencies in implementing strategies to increase women's representation on boards. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has reviewed the guidelines regarding government boards and committees to make expectations of gender equity clearer. DPC also recently placed advertisements in all major newspapers encouraging members of the community, particularly women, to sign up to the Government's boards register.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

The NSW Government's current priority is to implement strategies to create greater gender diversity on NSW Government boards and committees. Strategies to influence greater gender diversity on boards of external companies may be considered by the Government at a future date.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 54.

56. Does the Government plan to identify which groups of women are represented on NSW public Boards and Committees? If not, why not?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

57. What is the government doing to address the very low number of women on club boards?

The Government is leading the way with implementing strategies to achieve greater gender diversity on NSW Government boards and committees however it does not specifically intend to target the representation 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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, Minister for Education.

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?

The NSW Government is dedicated to improving responses to all forms of violence against women. In 2011/12, the Government spent over \$13 million on specific initiatives to respond to domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

The Government's current focus is on the development of a new Domestic and Family Violence Framework which will ensure that the NSW Government response to violence against women is cross-agency, integrated and informed by the non-government sector.

In 2013, the Government will assess the need for a separate framework to address sexual violence prevention. This year, Women NSW will be highlighting the importance of sexual violence prevention during the 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women, commencing 25 November 2012, with White Ribbon Day.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Minister for Transport.

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?

Women NSW has formed a partnership with SALT, which has included funding to conduct *Skill Women* workshops – an initiative aimed at exposing women and girls to the types of tools used in various trades - and to launch its website.

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.

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?**

The International Women's Day Grants Program is currently being reviewed by Women NSW.

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?

The NSW Women of the Year awards have been improved and launched in 2012. Nominations for 2013 NSW Women of the Year will open in late November 2012.

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?

This question should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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?

The *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award 2009* and the Personnel Handbook provide parental leave conditions for employees.

An employee has the right to his or her former position if resuming duty immediately after a period of parental leave, or after a period of work on a part time basis following parental leave, in accordance with subclause 75.11 of the Award.

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?

Under the *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award 2009*, an employee on parental leave has the right to request to return from a period of full time parental leave on a part-time basis until the child reaches school age. The request may only be refused on reasonable grounds related to the effect on the workplace or the Department's business.

Flexible work practices in accordance with local agreements and policies are available to all NSW Government employees.

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

All managers within the NSW Government have access to the Award conditions of their employees and the Public Service Commission Personnel Handbook. Specialist advice on questions of parental leave conditions is available to managers and employees through the Human Resources section of their Department.

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

a. Did occur?

Yes.

b. If so, where and when?

Consultations were held in September and October 2012 across 14 metropolitan and regional locations.

c. Were they open to the public?

No. In this early development phase of the framework, the consultations have targeted service providers who are experts in their field.

d. How many members of the public attended?

N/A

e. How many Government agencies' representatives attended?

Approximately one third of participants from the September round of consultations were government representatives.

Numbers are not yet available from the October round of consultations.

f. Which non Government agencies attended?

Around 70 non-government agencies from the domestic and family violence sector attended.

g. If they did not attend, why not?

Those who did not attend generally cited work commitments as a reason for not attending. October consultations have seen higher participation numbers based on the positive feedback from the first round of consultations.

h. Are many more meetings planned?

The third round of consultations will occur in November 2012.

i. If so, where and when?

November 2012

Location	Date
Redfern	Tuesday, 20 November

Wagga Wagga	Wednesday, 21 November
Blacktown	Wednesday, 21 November
Liverpool	Wednesday, 21 November
Coffs Harbour	Thursday, 22 November
Wollongong	Thursday, 22 November
Dubbo	Thursday, 22 November

j. Will they be open to the public?

No.

k. How will the public be informed?

The draft framework will be made available for public consultation in late March 2013.

l. Will non-government organisations be invited to attend?

Yes.

Miscellaneous

73. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

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

The total expenditure on mobile phones by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system is set out in the table below. Note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier's Office	\$103,152	\$76,457	\$68,475	\$27,570
Ministers' Offices	\$475,539	\$358,396	\$120,285	\$169,655
TOTAL	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of the Keneally Government and 3 months of the O'Farrell Government.

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

For Premier’s office and Ministers’ offices, the number of phones lost was:

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	5
Total	6

76. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

For Premier’s office and Ministers’ offices the number of iPads issued was as follows:

	2011/12
Premier	10
Ministers	43
Total	53

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

iPads are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers’ offices.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was as follows:

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	5
Total	6

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

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of iPads lost or stolen was as follows.

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	0
Total	1

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

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

84. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

Division	No of FTE positions
FACS Central office	0.5
Community Services	4.2
Housing NSW	3
ADHC	1.5

Not all media and public relations advisor positions are filled and some of the positions are temporary.

85. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

The Department of Family and Community Services is progressing with an extensive reform program which includes organisational redesign, service delivery improvements and consolidation of corporate functions to enhance efficiency across the Department. This work is not yet completed and may impact on the number of media and public relations officers employed in 2012-13.

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?

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the relevant Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

87. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

88. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

Refer to answer to QoN 87.

89. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

Refer to answer to QoN 87.

90. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

The total budget allocation for the Premier's and Ministers' offices in 2012-13 is \$40,103,650, with \$5,744,883 allocated to the Premier's office and \$34,358,767 to the Ministers' offices.

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?

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

92. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?

The budget allocations for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices are as follows:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Premier	\$7,002,312	\$8,500,000	\$9,075,038	\$5,309,465	\$5,744,83
Ministers'	\$39,673,567	\$40,334,000	\$40,978,962	\$31,516,017	\$34,358,767
TOTAL	\$46,675,879	\$48,834,000	\$50,054,000	\$36,825,482	\$40,103,605

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of the Keneally Government and 3 months of the O'Farrell Government.

93. How many political advisors are in your office?

Refer to answer to QoN 87.

94. How many administration staff?

Refer to answer to QoN 87.

95. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012
Premier	1
Ministers	57
TOTAL	58

96. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) is consolidating its Ministerial and Executive Support Unit to ensure timely, high quality and accurate advice is provided to portfolio Ministers and also support the Executive to deliver on the Government's priorities.

Around 22 staff undertake allocation, coordination and review, and record keeping functions for all Ministerial matters across FACS to ensure advice provided to Ministers incorporates the perspectives of all relevant Divisions, is accurate, reliable and of a high standard, and that records of decisions are retained in accordance with Government Recordkeeping requirements.

97. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

If so, in what capacities?

No.

98. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

99. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices is represented in the table below.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier	\$26,418	\$32,525	\$27,600	\$15,485
Ministers'	\$133,697	\$143,251	\$32,678	\$80,609
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of the Keneally Government and 3 months of the O'Farrell Government.

100. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

Yes.

101. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

This will not be known until restructure plans are further developed.

102. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

Nil.

103. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

As outlined in the 2012-13 budget, the Government's 2011-12 program of voluntary redundancies remains on track to reach its target of 5,000 positions.

A labour expense cap has also been introduced as a new savings measure across the public sector with the target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth.

Directors General have flexibility to achieve the savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. If it was solely achieved through headcount, this would equate to up to 10,000 jobs over four years.

Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

104. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

From April 2011 to 30 June 2012, 151 voluntary redundancies have been accepted across FACS.

105. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

Refer to answer to QoN 103.

106. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?

\$808,000

107. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?

\$3.474 million

108. What is your Department's catering budget?

\$798,000

109. What is your Department's stationary budget?

\$3.347 million

110. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

Yes. The Office for Women's Policy was renamed Women NSW. Other agencies in the Department amended branding to reflect the portfolio of Family and Community Services. These changes complied with the NSW Government Branding Style Guide.

111. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

These changes were cost neutral as logos were replaced on websites and electronic templates using existing internal resources. Rebranding occurred through natural 'business as usual' processes when re-ordering depleted stationery, resources or materials.

112. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

The Department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.

113. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Refer to answer to QoN 112.

114. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is currently being finalised for release. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative. 31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

115. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

Refer to answer to QoN 114.

116. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Refer to answer to QoN 114.

117. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?

If yes,

Yes. The Department does provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations.

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?

a. and (b)

Information regarding funding provided to non-government organisations is provided in the appendix to the department's Annual Report in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1984*.

c. On what date was the funding advanced?

Under the terms of the Funding Agreement funding is deposited on the first business day of each quarter starting from 1 July in any given year.

Where a service commences after the first business day of the quarter payment is made via the weekly or monthly payment run, or on request for an ad hoc payment.

d. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?

See response to (a) and (b).

e. Was any funding withheld or returned?

Yes.

f. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?

Funding is returned (recovered) under annual financial acquittals arrangements or returned directly if the organisation is unable to deliver the agreed services. Funding can also be withheld if organisations no longer meet the pre conditions for receipt of Government funds or are in default of their funding agreement with the Department

g. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

Indexation is not applied to non-recurrent grant funds. An agreement is made at a point in time based on known cost factors.

Indexation is only applied to recurrent funds to reflect cost changes over time.

h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Refer to answer to QoN 122.

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

There are around 130 contractors as at 1 July 2012 with an average hourly rate of approximately \$77.00 per hour.

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

2009, 2010 and 2011 data can be found as published in the annual Workforce Profile Snapshot Reports. 2012 data is due to be released when the State of the Public Sector Report is released in late 2012. These reports can be found on the PSC website: <http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/pscinternet/information.page>.

Additionally, NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 prescribes the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

120. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

Refer to answer to QoN 119.

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

Nil.

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?

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

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?

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency Annual Reports.

124. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?

Refer to answer to QoN 123.

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

Refer to answer to QoN 123.

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

Refer to answer to QoN 123.

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?

Yes.

Department of Family and Community Services' Divisions are responsible for assessing and managing proposals that provide good outcomes for communities and align with the department's priorities against a set of criteria. A complete list of organisations is not held centrally.

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

Refer to answer to QoN 127.

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

There is no budget allocation for the Department of Family and Community Services specifically for sponsorships.

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?**

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any Minister.

End of questions from the Hon. Helen Westwood MLC.

QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. JAN BARHAM MLC

1. How many young people in NSW OOHC left care permanently (not through adoption) in 2011?

In 2011-12, 3,276 children and young people exited Out-of-Home Care (OOHC).

2. How many of these listed above (on their leaving day) were classified as: ¹

a. statutory out of home care?

1,293

b. supported out of home care?

1,681

c. voluntary out of home care?

302.

3. What is the government doing to increase the performance in regards to providing care plans for all care leavers?

Non-government OOHC providers are accredited by the Children's Guardian against the *NSW Standards for Statutory Out-of-Home Care 2010*, which includes young people having leaving care plans to assist them in transitioning from care.

While the transfer of OOHC to the non-government sector progresses, Community Services is working to improve its practice by:

- Introducing a new case plan framework that ensures leaving care is the objective of every case plan for a young person 15 years or older in statutory OOHC, and
- Developing the *Your Next Step* resource for young people and *Leading the Way* for carers to help carers and young people participate effectively in leaving care planning with a caseworker.

4. What priority is given to the provision of Leaving Care Plans with OOHC contracts?

Community Services requires that all placement providers funded through the OOHC program are accredited or in the process of being accredited by the Children's Guardian.

¹ Note data was provided in 2011 Budget Estimates in response to similar question.

The development of leaving care plans is also included as a performance indicator in the new 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

While Community Services does not allocate a specific budget to assist young people leaving care to get their drivers licence, the cost of obtaining a drivers licence can be sourced as part of a young persons leaving care plan.

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?

The coordination and high quality service provision to Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse young people is ensured by the following measures:

- Monitoring of Keep Them Safe (KTS) progress through the KTS milestones reporting system;
- Monitoring regional service coordination and implementation through the KTS Regional Project Managers program; and
- Supporting the development of increased capacity through KTS initiatives such as the Sector Support Project and via non-government peaks, such as AbSec.

7. Will the Department of Premier and Cabinet continue to play a role in coordination of Keep Them Safe funding?

a. If yes, how?

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) does not fund KTS. Funding is allocated by Treasury direct to the relevant agencies. The only KTS funding held by DPC relates to the evaluation of KTS programs. DPC will continue to chair the KTS Senior Officers Group which is overseeing the implementation of KTS.

8. How many non-indigenous children and young people in New South Wales are currently in:

As at 30 June 2012, Community Services recorded 11,882 non-indigenous children and young people in OOHC in NSW.

a. statutory out of home care?

8,137

b. supported out of home care?

3,706

c. voluntary out of home care?

39.

9. How many indigenous children and young people in New South Wales are currently in:

As at 30 June 2012, Community Services recorded 6,287 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC in NSW.

a. statutory out of home care?

4,035

b. supported out of home care?

2,249

c. voluntary out of home care?

3.

10. What action has the government taken to complete the Interim Review of the Keep Them Safe Action Plan?

The Interim Review is expected to be completed by December 2012.

11. What is the 2012/13 funding allocation for Keep Them Safe and what programs and budget allocations apply to this budget?

Total KTS funding is \$172.1 million in the 2012-13 budget. This includes:

- \$42.6 million to Prevention, Early Intervention and Placement Prevention services;
- \$8.2 million to improving services for Aboriginal children and young people;
- \$32.2 million to changes to the child protection system;
- \$18 million to increased investment in the acute system; and
- \$71 million to OOHC.

12. How many Aboriginal agencies have been accredited for out-of-home-care for the period 2011/12?

The Office of the Children's Guardian website lists fully accredited Aboriginal agencies.

13. Can an update be provided on the PACT programs in Moree and Shellharbour.

Shellharbour PACT has been operational since April 2012. Twenty one families with approximately 40 children are currently engaged with the service.

The PACT service and Shellharbour CSC report a good working relationship that supports good casework with Aboriginal families.

The Moree PACT Service experienced delays in retaining and recruiting staff. However, it is now fully staffed and the official launch of the PACT Service is 5 November 2012.

It is expected that the service will begin work with Aboriginal families prior to this date.

**14. Could the following figures for 2011-2012 be provided for:
The number of children in:**

a. CS Foster care

4,403

b. NGO foster care

2,610

c. NGO intensive foster care

N/A

d. CS: statutory kinship care

3,848

e. NGO: Residential care

478

f. CS: Supported kinship care

5,451

g. NGO: voluntary

42.²

² The 42 children/young people at (g) above are classified as voluntary/non specific. This classification is based on a child/young person's legal status record. The total of 42 children/young people are also included in data at (a) to (f).

15. Could the average cost of care per child per service per year listed above?

The average cost of care in 2010-11 for the following services is listed below:

a. CS Foster care

\$25,000

b. NGO foster care

\$48,000

c. NGO intensive foster care

\$80,000

d. CS: statutory kinship care

\$21,000

e. NGO: Residential care

\$176,000

f. CS: Supported kinship care

\$20,000

g. NGO: voluntary

As per contract.

16. Can information on how many children in 2011-12 where in a continuous out-of-home-care placement for:³

a. Less than one month

219.

b. 1 month to less than 6 months

1,209.

c. 6 months to less than 1 year

³ This information will be available in Community Services' Annual Statistical Report 2011-12 to be published in early 2013.
Note data was provided in 2011 Budget Estimates in response to similar question.

1,209.

d. 1 year to less than 2 years

2,198.

e. 2 years to less than 5 years

6,386.

f. 5 years or more

6,931.

17. Can an explanation of why there are such high numbers of children in statutory care in NSW compared to other states.

Contributing factors for the high number of children in statutory OOHC compared to other states include: the need for a stronger focus on prevention, early intervention and family preservation strategies to keep children and young people safe with their families; longer stays in OOHC; and fewer restorations of children and young people to their families.

NSW has introduced a number of reforms to address these issues which are starting to have an effect. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Report *Child Protection Australia 2010-2011*, the number of children entering OOHC in 2010-11 in NSW was 3,542, which is 600 fewer than in the previous year.

The number of children exiting OOHC in NSW in 2010-11 was 3,034, almost 100 more than in the previous year.

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?

There is no 'cap' on children entering care.

Specific Aboriginal Services aimed at keeping Aboriginal families safely together include the Aboriginal Intensive Family Based Services (IFBS) and Protecting Aboriginal Children Together (PACT).

Aboriginal children and families are given priority access to other services, such as Strengthening Families, Brighter Futures and some Early Intervention and Placement Prevention Programs (EIPP). Tools to assist caseworkers to

work effectively with Aboriginal families are also used to support better outcomes for Aboriginal families.

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?

Changes to the risk of significant harm legislative reporting threshold introduced in January 2010 have resulted in fewer reports being made to the Child Protection Helpline. In addition, following the introduction of robust screening and response priority tools at the Child Protection Helpline, also since January 2010, fewer risk of significant harm reports have been forwarded to Community Services Centres.

During 2011, new safety and risk assessment tools were adopted in all Community Services' regions. As a result, there has been an increase in the number of face-to-face safety and risk assessments being completed by Community Services, up 27 per cent since last year.

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?

There are no plans to reduce Community Services front line child protection caseworker positions.

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?

The total Specialist Homelessness Services program budget in 2012-13 is \$134.48 million which includes \$68.65 million funded by the Australian Government.

22. What is the allocation for the Community Builders program in 2012-13 (both fixed term and renewable)?

The 2012-13 Community Builders program budget is \$50.23 million which includes:

- Fixed Term funding of \$8.84 million; and
- Renewable funding of \$41.39 million.

23. Has the Government undertaken a review of preserved services in 2011/12?

Yes.

The former Labor Government began a review process of the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) in 2010, reclassifying 830 services into two new programs, “Community Builders”, and “Early Intervention and Placement and Prevention” (EIPP). Services which could not be classified became “preserved”.

The Government undertook an independent review of “preserved” services in 2011/12 in the context of the Department’s continuum of care and support.

The findings of the independent review will assist in identifying how funded services align with the Department’s core responsibilities to ensure funding is appropriately targeted. The report is currently being considered and no decisions have been made as yet.

Housing

24. How many properties were made available under the National Rental Affordability Scheme?

As at 30 June 2012, in NSW, 1,298 NRAS dwellings have been completed.

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?

Details regarding the number of social housing properties, including community housing properties, are contained in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

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?

New models of accommodation and support for homeless young people and young people exiting OOHHC or juvenile justice will be investigated as part of the Specialist Homelessness Services reform.

A youth private rental subsidy was recently announced and will be piloted in the Hunter. This will assist young people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to access private rental properties..

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services, who has responsibility for public housing assets.

28. How many public housing dwellings are there by Local Government area?

Details about the NSW Housing Register, including details about approximate waiting times for each allocation zone, are available on the Housing NSW website.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 28.

30. What is the budget allocation for Start Safety for 2012/13?

The budget allocation for Start Safely for 2012-13 is \$6.6 million.

31. What areas or regions received that funding and what number of people accessed the service?

Start Safely assistance is available across the state. In 2011-12, 717 clients were assisted and the total expenditure was \$2.7 million.

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?

In 2012-13, the combined allocation from both Commonwealth and State Governments is \$73.6 million under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. The NSW Government has provided a matched contribution of up to \$241.3 million over the four years of the Agreement.

33. What specific funding does the budget contain to fund the implementation of the State's 10 Regional Homelessness Action Plans?

In 2012-13, \$29.482 million is allocated specifically to initiatives in the 10 Regional Homelessness Action Plans.

34. Can the 2011/12 figures for the number of clients accessing specialist homelessness services be provided?

Details are publicly available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website.

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?

No data is available to respond to this question.

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?

As detailed in the NSW Homelessness Action Plan 2009-2014, the strategy proposed to reduce evictions in social housing due to unpaid rent was to introduce compulsory rent deductions for public housing tenants. The introduction of compulsory rent deductions requires a change to Commonwealth legislation. The Commonwealth Government is yet to make those required legislative changes. There is currently a voluntary Rent Deduction Scheme available to Centelink recipients.

37. What is the 2012/13 budget for the Homelessness Action Plan, by government agency and project?

Contract details for projects funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness are available on the Housing NSW website.

38. Does the Government provide a funding source for local government to address homelessness?

No. However, Local Government works closely with the State Government through the Regional Homelessness Committees to improve local responses 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?

Questions relating to planning legislation should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister Planning and Infrastructure, who has responsibility for planning legislation and reform.

Waiting Lists

40. How many people are currently on the waiting list for community housing and what is the average waiting period?

Refer to answer to QoN 28.

41.

a. How many people on the waiting list are waiting for Aboriginal Housing?

As at June 2012, around 2,300 applicants on the NSW Housing Register were eligible for Aboriginal Housing.

b. As a percentage of the overall waiting list, how does that figure compare to other States?

No data is available to provide a response to this question.

42. What is the longest period of time that someone has been on a waiting list in each of the State's regions?

Refer to answer to QoN 28.

43. NSW 2021 does not include any targets to increase public housing stock to deal with waiting lists – is there a target?

No. The NSW Government does not have targets for public housing or social housing stock numbers.

44. How many applicants are there on the priority housing waiting list? What is the average time to wait for priority housing?

Refer to answer to QoN 28.

Housing Contractors

45. How does NSW Housing select contractors? What are the names of the relevant policies and procedures?

Refer to answer to QoN 63, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 64, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 65, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 66, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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?

As at 30 June 2012, there are over 200 Aboriginal Community Housing Providers which manage over 4,700 properties. The majority of the properties are located in the Northern and Western Regions.

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

Housing NSW does not handle complaints regarding Aboriginal Housing Providers.

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

In 2011-12 the Aboriginal Housing office constructed or acquired 83 homes across NSW for Aboriginal people in need including:

- 38 new homes for Aboriginal people in remote areas of NSW;
- 32 new Aboriginal Housing Office houses across the State; and
- 13 homes through the Employment Related Accommodation program in Albury, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Armidale.

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

This information is publically available in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

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?

In 2012-13, \$35 million has been budgeted under the Build and Grow Aboriginal Community Housing Strategy to support providers and improve housing for Aboriginal people in NSW. This includes repairs and maintenance to improve homes in remote and non-remote locations and funding to improve the capacity of Aboriginal Community Housing Providers.

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?

The 2006 Census data is the baseline data to be used.

b. How many people is this estimated to be?

The revised 2006 Census figure for Aboriginal people who are homeless totals 1,884.

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

The new figures from the 2011 Census will not be released until 12 November 2012.

Vacancy Rates

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

This question should be referred to my colleague, the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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?

This question should be referred to my colleague, the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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

This question should be referred to my colleague, the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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

This question should be referred to my colleague, the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

Maintenance and safety issues

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

Refer to answer to QoN 90, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

60. What is the average completion time for maintenance orders in public housing properties to repair

- a. potentially hazardous faults?**
- b. faults that pose difficulty to standard of living, such as lack of hot water?**
- c. other faults?**

Refer to answer to QoN 91, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

61. How do these times compare for the same time last year?

Refer to answer to QoN 92, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

62. What will the Government do to ensure maintenance in public housing will be done in a prompt and efficient manner?

Refer to answer to QoN 96, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

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?

Refer to answer to QoN 99, Budget Estimates 2011. As advised last year, this question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

Miscellaneous

64. How will success or failure of the Camperdown Project be evaluated?

An independent evaluation of the Camperdown Project has commenced.

65. What percentage of new affordable housing will be given to Aboriginal people? (e.g the Glebe Affordable Housing Project, South Sydney Hospital, Nth Eveleigh and Green Square)

New affordable rental housing is allocated to eligible low and moderate income households, including Aboriginal people, on the basis of need. There are no targets to house specific client groups.

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?

Housing NSW collaborates with a range of services and agencies to support capacity building, skill development and economic participation among social housing tenants, particularly in social housing estates across NSW..

Housing NSW's role is primarily as a facilitator of employment, education and training opportunities which are delivered by other agencies to social housing tenants.

In relation to Cleaning and Maintenance programs, this question should be directed to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

67. How many clients currently received the Private Rental Subsidy in 2011/12?

Over 3,000 households received a 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?

The Housing and Mental Health Agreement was signed by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Ministry for Health in mid 2011. The Agreement has been rolled out over the last 12 months with the development of local plans which contain service and system improvements for clients.

End of questions from the Hon. Jan Barham MLC.

Pru Goward MP
Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Women