



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Community Services

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Monday 10 November 2008

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Questions relating to the portfolio of Community Services

15 OCTOBER 2008, 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Questions from Mr. Cohen

1. Under the new preschool funding Resource Allocation Model introduced for the 2008/2009 financial year, how many preschools have received an increase in funding and how many have had their funding held at the 2007/2008 level?
2. Is the Department of Community Services monitoring the impact of the Resource Allocation Model on preschool fees, particularly for those parents who want more than 2 days preschool per week? If so, can the Department provide details of how it will monitor fees?
3. Why is the Government focused on additional places when there are many preschools with vacancies?
4. How will the NSW Government's commitment to increasing participation in preschools match the Commonwealth's Governments commitment to 15 hours per week preschool for all children in the year before school?
5. Will the Minister undertake to adopt for her own portfolio a transparent, publicly accessible reporting regime for the funding and implementation of the Actions in the *NSW Interagency Plan To Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities: 2006 – 2011*, including a publicly available annual report covering at least:
 - a. the amounts and sources of all resources for each of the Plan's Actions relevant to the portfolio;
 - b. the results to be achieved through these resources;
 - c. progress in achieving the results;
 - d. if the results have not been achieved:
 - (i). the reasons for the failure to achieve them
 - (ii) the action to be taken to ensure they will be achieved in future.
6. Would the Minister please identify for the Committee:
 - a. the specific service measures in the 2008 budget papers which relate to the Actions in the *NSW Interagency Plan To Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities: 2006 – 2011*;
 - b. the specific Interagency Plan Actions that these service measures are intended to address;
 - c. whether these service measures involve new funding for these Actions, or the reworking of existing funding to respond to the Interagency Plan's Actions, or the continued rollout of funding already announced for other government initiatives which are consistent with the Interagency Plan's Actions;
 - d. which Interagency Plan Actions cannot be funded from the current budget allocations.
7. What is being done to ensure that the Canterbury area gains its fair share of the new funding for preschool places promised by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments?
8. What priority will be given to this area, Canterbury, in provision of new services?

9. Exactly how many additional places will be available in Canterbury and when?