

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL
PROPRIETY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2013

QUESTION 1 – PAGE 7

Dr John KAYE: When did that figure of 2068 emerge? When was the first time that was set as the establishment strength of on-the-ground caseworkers?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I think during the 2011-12 financial year but I would have to check that.

ANSWER:

I refer to the answer provided by Ms Chilvers on page 7 of the Transcript.

QUESTION 2 – PAGE 10

Dr John KAYE: I would like to go to the issue of temporary contracts as against permanent employees. Roughly speaking, what percentage of the 2068 staff – and leaving aside the issue of those positions that were transferred to the non-government sector – in the financial year 2010-11 were on temporary contracts?

Ms CHILVERS: I am sorry but I do not have that information here with me. I can take that question on notice of you like.

Dr John KAYE: How many are currently on temporary contracts?

Ms CHILVERS: I am sorry, but it is the same answer, I do not have that information with me.

Dr John KAYE: So can you take both those questions on notice?

Ms CHILVERS: Yes.

Dr John KAYE: In fact, to save me writing it down, could you take on notice the following question: in FTE terms what percentage of frontline caseworkers have been on temporary contracts, beginning in 2009-10 and finishing with the financial year 2012-13?

Ms CHILVERS: Yes

Dr John KAYE: Is there any reason why that data would not be available?

Ms CHILVERS: I do not know about the availability of data going back to 2009-10.

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I would not assume anything about our systems, but if we can provide the data then we will.

ANSWER:

Period	% temps
2009/10	8%
2010/11	9%
2011/12	9%
2012/13	8%

(Figures are presented as a proportion of caseworker FTE during the period).

QUESTION 3 – PAGE 11

Dr John KAYE: What percentage of the caseworker jobs that you have filled or are currently advertising for have been on temporary contracts since the beginning of this year?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: From memory, it is about one or 1.5 permanent appointments to five temporary appointments. We regularly update staff inside the organisation on that ratio so that people know that at present we are hiring a higher proportion of staff on temporary contracts that we will do in time, and we also explain why that is.

Ms CHILVERS: If I could just clarify from a statistical point of view, because there is a greater amount of backfill with temporary caseworkers there will be a higher proportion of temporary than previously because the temporary will be added to the numerator, which is the total number of temporary, and the denominator in the same size. I will put that into the advice I provide on notice.

ANSWER:

I refer to answer 2. During the 2012/13 period, 8% of frontline caseworkers were on temporary contracts. In more recent recruitment the proportion of caseworkers recruited on temporary contracts has been higher however this will reduce in time.

QUESTION 4 – PAGE 16

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: Both measures that Ernst and Young provided of caseworkers numbers – the reference full-time equivalents and capacity – show a reduction in caseworkers of the order of 280 to 300 since this Minister was appointed, do they not?

Ms CHILVERS: I do not think that they compared to that time period, no. I would have to confirm the time covered by the comparison. However it was not when the Minister was appointed.

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: With respect, they reported on 30 June 2011, which is a period shortly after the Minister assumed her responsibilities, did they not?

Ms CHILVERS: I would have to check that.

ANSWER:

The reference date for data in the Ernst and Young report is June 2011.

QUESTION 5 – PAGE 19

Ms CHILVERS: Also between June 2011 and June 2012 there have been briefings about an increase.

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: Which briefings are you referring to?

Ms CHILVERS: We briefed the Minister on the resource allocation methodology in late 2012.

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: Could you provide the Committee with that briefing?

Ms CHILVERS: Yes, I could.

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: Will you take on notice to provide that?

Ms CHILVERS: Yes I will.

ANSWER:

Attached at Tab A is relevant material provided to the Minister.

Funded positions 2012/13, filled positions June 2011 and June 2012

Program	Base funded CW 12/13	Financial FTE (Filled June 2011)	Financial FTE (Filled June 2012)	FTE Funded vacancies
Child Protection	Helpine, Domestic Violence Helpline	189	172	23
	Child Protection	886	856	30
	Intensive Family Based Services	24	20	4
	Casework Specialists	59	56	3
	JIRT	81	65	16
OOHC	OOHC -- General	521	549	-6
	Intensive OOHC Support	22	15	7
	Adoptions, Records Access	18	15	3
SF	Strengthening Families	240	177	63
Total		1,903	1,925	143
RAM Total		NA	1,638	90

Financial FTE excludes CW on Maternity & Long Service leave

QUESTION 6 – PAGE 26

Dr John KAYE: Can you provide on notice an understanding for the year 2012-13 where the money not spent on caseworkers actually was spent?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: I will respond as best we can.

ANSWER:

The Department of Family and Community Services had an expenditure budget in 2012/13 of \$4.9 billion. Of this amount, the Community Services Service Groups, which includes the provision of casework services, comprised \$1.4 billion. All of this \$1.4 billion was spent within the Community Services Service Groups to improve the lives of children and young people.