



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

MEMORANDUM

To	Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC Hon Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC Revd Hon Gordon Moyes MLC Hon Melinda Pavey MLC Hon Christine Robertson MLC Hon Henry Tsang MLC	cc:	Hon Don Harwin MLC Hon Peter Primrose MLC Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC Hon Amanda Fazio MLC Hon John Ryan MLC Hon Eddie Obeid MLC
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From Tanya Bosch

Subject **Answers to questions on notice – Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, Youth**

Date 26 October 2004

Reference

Please find attached a copy of the answers provided to the questions taken on notice by the Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC, Minister for Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Youth, at the Budget Estimates hearing on Friday 17 September 2004.

Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth



Mr John Evans
Clerk Assistant
Procedure and Administration
Legislative Council Office
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEES**

22 OCT 2004

RECEIVED

John
Dear Mr Evans

Attached are answers to Questions Taken on Notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Department of Community Services and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care held on 17 September, 2004.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for these to be published in the next Legislative Council Question and Answer Paper.

Yours sincerely

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

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth



Mr John Evans
Clerk Assistant
Procedure and Administration
Legislative Council Office
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEES**

19 OCT 2004

RECEIVED

Dear Mr ^{John} Evans

Please find attached a response to Reverend Gordon Moyes Question that was Taken on Notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 17 September 2004.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this to be published in the next Legislative Council Question and Answer Paper.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Carmel Tebbutt in cursive.

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

QUESTION ON NOTICE – LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 1, 2, 3, 4 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Hon John Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

- (1) What was the cost of the study undertaken by the University of Wollongong, which studied the cost of providing supports to adults with a disability?
- (2) Can you supply a copy of the \$165,000 consultant's report that was prepared some time ago to review day programs, which was commissioned "to inform the review of the ATLAS services"?
- (3) Can the Minister provide the Committee with a breakdown of the staff-participant ratios under the current ATLAS program? Can you give us an indication of what is anticipated under the Community Participation Program?
- (4) Can you provide the Committee with a breakdown of the number of people who are currently assessed as having high, medium and low support needs on ATLAS?

ANSWERS

- (1) The cost of the study being undertaken by the University of Wollongong is \$170,619.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Staffing ratios are a matter for individual service providers and vary according to the service offered and client needs.
- (4) High = 424
Medium = 360
Low = 891
Unknown = 20.

Approved



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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

*Rec'd 19/10/04
BT*

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 5 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Mr John Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

How many residents from stage one of the devolution program remain to be relocated after December 2004?

ANSWER

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care anticipates that approximately 100 residents included in Stage 1 of devolution will remain to be relocated after December 2004.

Approved



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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 6 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

Which services participated in the pilot program for the [ATLAS] reform process?

ANSWER

Greenacres Association – Southern Region
Job Support – Metro South East Region
On Q Human Resources – Northern Region
Sunnyfield – Metro North Region
Valmar Support Services – Western Region
The Spastic Centre – Metro North Region

Approved



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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTER FOR AGEING MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 7 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Hon John Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

Is it possible to give the Committee statistics on the budgets allocated to each of the regions, and details as to what is now funded on a regional basis and what is funded centrally?

ANSWER

Indicative budgets for each region for 2004/05 are as follows:

Regions	\$'000
Hunter	97,152
Northern	24,344
Southern	31,987
Western	33,872
Metropolitan North	38,465
Metropolitan South East	24,589
Metropolitan South West	32,997
Metropolitan West	86,311
Central Office	
Grants (HACC, Disability and Ageing)	830,916
Central Management	78,803
Shared Services	43,890
Superannuation/Depreciation	54,454
Guardianship Tribunal/Disability Council	7,624
Total Expenditure Budget	1,385,404

These figures cannot be compared to last year's Regional budget as the Grants Budget is held centrally.

Regional Budgets fund activities in the following business streams:

Community Access

The delivery of post-school programs, early intervention and prevention strategies including therapy, behavioural intervention and community support services

Accommodation & Respite	The delivery of the Department's accommodation services and centre-based respite.
Service Development & Planning	The monitoring of services delivered by all providers, and management of relations with provider.
Central & Regional Management	The management of Business Streams, Central Policy Development and Shared Services

All grant funds are Program Managed centrally but project managed on a Regional basis. Policy is developed centrally.

Approved



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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

*Rec'd 14/10/04
BT*

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 8 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Hon John Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

I would like one piece of data that would be helpful. Would you inform the Committee of the number of blocked respite beds and the number of beds that are held by people more permanently, I think more than 28 days. At a later time would you provide that figure by Region?

ANSWER

There are a total of 33 blocked respite beds in the state.

The number of beds blocked in each Region is set out in the table below.

REGION	Number of Beds
Hunter Region	10
Metro North Region	1
Metro South East Region	4
Metro South West Region	2
Metro West Region	7
Northern Region	0
Southern Region	3
Western Region	4
NGO	2
Total Clients	33

A total of 73 clients received more than 28 days of respite care from Departmental services in 2003/04. The number of clients in each Region is set out below:

REGION	Number of Clients
Hunter Region	17
Metro North Region	4
Metro South East Region	6
Metro South West Region	18
Metro West Region	12
Northern Region	2
Southern Region	9
Western Region	5
Total Clients	73

Data for clients using funded non-government services for a period of more than 28 days is not available.

Approved



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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

*Rec'd 12/10/04
BT*

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 9 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

How will the Department monitor the provision of aids and appliances to residents in large residences and group homes?

ANSWER

The introduction of the new Client Information System in 2005 will provide a mechanism to identify specific needs of clients, including their need for personalised equipment.

Approved



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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 10

The Hon John Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth -

1. Will you provide to the Committee on notice details of what the establishment of caseworkers should be; and
2. the number of unfilled vacancies.

ANSWER:

1. There are 1581.5 full time equivalent funded caseworker positions for 2004/05. This includes the first 300 of the new caseworker positions provided by the Government's enhanced funding package:

2003-2004: 150 caseworker positions

2004-2005: 150 caseworker positions

2. The new positions are being filled as they come on line, by means of bulk recruitment. As at the end of June there were also 66.5 full time equivalent vacancies in pre-existing caseworker positions. Two thirds of these were concentrated in the Metropolitan West and Metropolitan South West Regions. The current bulk recruitment exercise included targeted advertisements to these areas. This yielded an excellent response and the Department of Community Services expects to fill all positions by the end of the year.

Approved



Carmel Tebbutt MLC

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

The Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 11

The Hon. John Ryan MLC asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth

Is it a fact that at Broken Hill six of the eight caseworker positions are unfilled, and as a result of not being able to fill vacancies the Wilcannia CSC has been closed for a period of four years?

ANSWER

Broken Hill had an existing establishment of eight caseworker positions prior to the \$1.2 billion enhanced funding package. Of those, there are currently three vacant Caseworker positions. Recruitment for these positions should commence in the near future. Five new Caseworker positions will also be provided through the government's enhanced funding package. These positions will be recruited during the 2004-2005 financial year.

I am advised that the Community Services Centre at Wilcannia has not been closed. While the Department of Community Services (DoCS) has been unable to permanently fill positions at the Community Services Centre over several years, alternative servicing arrangements have been put in place, including Broken Hill Community Services Centre staff responding to child protection reports and visiting Wilcannia on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week.

Approved.


Carmel Tebbutt, MLC

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

The Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 12

The Hon John Ryan asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth -

Has any instruction recently been given to the Department of Community Services to find efficiency gains within the Department? If so, could you give the Committee details of that instruction?

ANSWER

I have not given any specific instruction to the Department of Community Services (DoCS) to find efficiency gains. The Department is nonetheless continually striving to deliver services in the most effective and efficient way possible.

In the context of preparing the 2004/05 budget, funding cuts imposed on the State Government by the Federal Government meant that the forward estimates of all but two general Government agencies were impacted. This required those agencies to find savings in the costs of operations.

Agency 'front line' services were however excluded from the calculation of the funding reduction. In the case of DoCS, the high proportion of front line staff resulted in a minor funding reduction of approximately 0.2%.

These savings were made from a range of savings in DoCS back office operating expenses, in areas such as telephony and communications costs and the move to DoCS' new shared corporate services provider, NSW Businesslink.

Approved.


Carmel Tebbutt, MLC

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

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Parliament House
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QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 13

The Hon. John Ryan MLC asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth -

“What protocols are in place to ensure that well-organised, long-term, community-based playgroups are not just raided by the professionally supported playgroups?”

ANSWER:

Families First supported playgroups differ from community playgroups in that they specifically target families who would not normally access this type of activity. They complement, rather than compete with, community playgroups.

Community playgroups provide an important service to families in NSW. However, they are not always able to make services available to families with a variety of high-needs issues. Community playgroups are also run by volunteer community members, and the number of members tends to vary depending on the community resources available at any particular point in time.

It is possible that some community playgroup members may voluntarily transfer to supported playgroups, to take advantage of the professional staff available to organise and sustain the group’s activities. This is to be expected if a playgroup member is in need of higher level and ongoing support.

Playgroup NSW will continue to be actively involved in *Families First* planning across the state and at regional level.

Approved.



Carmel Tebbutt, MLC
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

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Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR AGEING

MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 14

The Hon. John Ryan MLC asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth -

How many children who are part of the out-of-home care system do not have an allocated caseworker

ANSWER

This specific information cannot currently be reported due to issues around the implementation of the Key Information Delivery System – KiDS.

The new system's implementation has required the development of a new reporting framework for DoCS information and new processes for data extraction and quality assurance. New computer programs are being written to support these processes and to produce reports from the new client system.

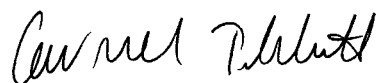
Quality assurance of these key pieces of information is an ongoing high priority for DoCS. In the short term where DoCS cannot verify the quality of data, or if information from the new client system does not accurately reflect DoCS interaction with children and families in NSW, then that information will not be reported.

More than \$600 million in new funding has been flagged for improvements in the out-of-home care sector. The Department of Community Services is using this funding to: expand the range of services to care for children and young people, including those with challenging behaviours, or complex and high levels of need; provide better support for foster carers; and provide better assessment of the needs of children and young people when they enter care.

As I advised the Estimates Committee, an extra 150 caseworkers are being recruited over the five years of the funding package to work in out-of-home care.

The quality of care provided to children and young people will also be enhanced with the introduction of agency accreditation. Under the out-of-home care provisions of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* agencies that provide out-of-home care must meet certain standards in order to be accredited by the Office of the Children's Guardian. These changes also include the introduction of a quality improvement plan for all existing out-of-home care providers.

Approved.



Carmel Tebbutt, MLC
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

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Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR AGEING

MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Date: 17 September 2004

QUESTION NO. 15 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Reverend the Hon Gordon Moyes (Chair) asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth:

What measures are in place under Home Care for the welfare of the carers, not just the clients?

ANSWER

The Home Care Service of NSW offers a range of support measures for carers. These include a particular focus on the needs of carers at referral and assessment, through to specific respite services to assist carers.

At the time of referral, the needs of the carer are considered in determining the priority of the person in accessing Home Care services. This weighting of the functional screening tool utilised by Home Care reflects the attention on carers and the risks associated with the breakdown of the caring relationship. This emphasis is continued into the assessment stage where the needs of the client and carer are jointly considered in determining service needs and possible referral to other funded respite services.

The Home Care Service is also a major provider of respite services for carers. In particular, the Service offers in-home support, live-in care and overnight care within its range of core services. In 2003/2004 the Service assisted over 5,000 clients through the provision of over 500,000 hours of respite, over 13,000 hours of live-in service and nearly 16,000 hours of overnight care.

As well as these hours many of the general service hours provided will also assist a carer by assisting to meet the client's care needs.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carmel Tebbutt', written in a cursive style.

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

The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Question Taken on Notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 17 September 2004.

QUESTION 16

CHAIR: I would appreciate that. Finally, I want to ask Ms Gillian Calvert a question concerning the commission. While we all appreciate the lowering of the incidence of teenage suicide, there is still a significant number of suicides among children and younger teenagers. What interaction is there between the commission and the national suicide prevention strategies and organisations?

MS CALVERT: About two years ago the Child Death Review Team, at the request of the Government, finalised a report on the number of children who had died from suicide and risk taking over a set period of time. We made some recommendations to the Government regarding the updating of strategies that were being run at the State level.

CHAIR: That was the point. What is happening with those strategies?

THE HON. CARMEL TEBBUTT: It might be more appropriate for me to answer because the commission made its recommendations and it was up to Government to respond to those recommendations. The major recommendation, as I recall, was that we needed to update our suicide prevention policy, for which the Department of Health has responsibility.

CHAIR: I would like to see what the integration is on the national strategy. Perhaps you could take it on notice, and I will look forward to your reply.

ANSWER

The NSW Department of Health has advised as follows:

One of the key requirements of the *NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy* is to have objectives that are consistent with national and international goals.

The *We Can All Make A Difference: NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy* sets out a whole-of-government approach to suicide prevention for all age groups. The Strategy is currently undergoing a comprehensive review. A Whole Of Government Suicide

Prevention Forum held during 2003 identified a number of suicide prevention priorities for incorporation into the revised suicide prevention strategy.

Progress on suicide prevention strategies include:

- An audit of Area initiatives and programs relating to the five Strategic Directions in the Strategy has been conducted.
- A suicide risk assessment and management framework for NSW Health staff have been developed. The framework includes separate protocols for six key health settings. A training and education project is being developed to support the implementation of the framework.
- Discharge and follow-up protocols for NSW mental health services have been developed and are due for release by the end of 2004.
- A youth training module, "Introduction to Clinical Aspects of Suicide Prevention for Young People", has been developed and implemented.

In addition, a NSW Suicide Prevention Steering Committee has been established. The committee will contribute to the review process for the *NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy* and provide guidance to Area Health Services and Non Government Organisations for the implementation of the revised *NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy*.

The NSW Suicide Prevention Steering Committee includes representation from State and Commonwealth Government, Non Government Organisations and the community. The Committee will provide strong community, health, welfare and expert input to assist with the implementation of the national suicide prevention framework. The Committee also includes representatives from the NSW National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group.

Approved



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

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QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
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MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 17

The Hon Patricia Forsythe asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth - “Since *Families First* was introduced as an early intervention program, what benchmarks have been put in place to check whether it is working? For example, are fewer children who have been subject to a *Families First* program being notified to the department?”

ANSWER:

Families First has in place an evaluation plan that includes measuring outcomes for children in NSW. The plan looks at health, well-being and educational indicators. Baseline data is now available for NSW and regions, and this will be updated regularly to measure change.

Over time the impact of *Families First* will be reflected in child protection reports, but this will take time to show at a population level. Research into similar programs indicates a period of 2-15 years but there are already some indications at a local level that a whole-of-government early intervention approach is working. For example, the rate of increase of child protection reports for children under 3 years of age was not as rapid in South West Sydney compared to other regions since *Families First* started. Another example from the mid-North Coast shows improved Year 3 Literacy results in Aboriginal children. There is also data to show that the rate of Aboriginal women receiving antenatal care early in their pregnancy has increased significantly in this region.

A part of the evaluation plan is to set up systems to collect and use data so that change can be measured consistently across regions. With assistance from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Community Services will continue to work on this during 2004-05.

Evaluation of the processes used to implement *Families First* has been undertaken and has shown that good collaboration, expansion in service networks and changes in the practice of existing services have occurred.

It has also shown that early intervention is becoming a part of individual services' service delivery. As a result, services are able to meet a greater diversity of family needs and reach a greater number of families, in particular those families who are traditionally difficult to connect with.

Evaluation of service models is also being planned. Evidence-based models designed to achieve *Families First* outcomes have been implemented and five service models will be evaluated for their effectiveness. These are Health Home Visiting; Volunteer Home Visiting; Supported Playgroups; Schools as Community Centres and Family Workers. Work is progressing at varying stages on these.

Approved.



Carmel Tebbutt, MLC
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

The Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY

QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR YOUTH

Extract from Questions and Answers from the Budget Estimate Hearings on 17 September 2004.

Question No. 18

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Youth – Minister, you spoke in term of inputs rather than outputs; that you have put more money into this. I understand that at the moment you are still using lots of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services – is that the bottom line?

ANSWER

I am advised that NSW places a higher percentage of Aboriginal children in accordance with the Aboriginal placement policy than other States and Territories. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report Child Protection Australia 2002-2003, approximately 87% of Aboriginal children and young persons are placed with Aboriginal Out-of-Home Care Services.

The Department of Community Services is committed to the Aboriginal placement principle and ensuring appropriate out-of-home care placements where possible.

Approved.



Carmel Tebbutt, MLC
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth

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