

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - Supplementary Questions

QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. JAN BARHAM MLC

LEAVING CARE

1. How many young people in NSW OOHC left care permanently (not through adoption) in 2009 and 2010?

Of the overall 3,037 children and young people who exited care during 2008/09, a total of 2,467 had not re-entered care as at 9 November 2011. Of these, 517 (21.0%) had exited care because they had turned 18 years.

Of the overall 3,087 children and young people who exited care during 2009/10, a total of 2,571 had not re-entered care as at 9 November 2011. Of these, 573 (22.3%) had exited care because they had turned 18 years.

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

- a) statutory out of home care?**
- b) supported out of home care?**
- c) voluntary out of home care?**

Of the 2,467 children and young people who had exited care during 2008/09 and who had not re-entered care at 9 November 2011, 866 (35.1%) were in statutory care, 1,368 (55.5%) were in supported care and 83 (3.4%) were in voluntary care arrangements. The remaining 150 (6.1%) had no information specified about the care arrangement.

Of the 2,571 children and young people who had exited care during 2009/10 and who had not re-entered care at 9 November 2011, 915 (35.6%) were in statutory care, 1,441 (56.0%) were in supported care and 109 (4.2%) were either in voluntary or after care arrangements. The remaining 106 (4.1%) had no information specified about the care arrangement.

3. Could the Department provide the average cost of care per child per service per year listed above?

The average cost of care per child per service covers a number of categories of expenditure, and is not therefore available in a reportable form.

4. Numbers of young people in out-of-home-care increase each year but the budget commitments remain the same. How will the Department deliver the same level of care to more young people with the same amount of money?

Under the NSW 2021 Plan the Government has committed to reduce the number of children and young people entering statutory out of home care by 1.5% per year.

5. The QLD government supports an annual 'leaving care' month for young care leavers, will funding be provided for this to be implemented in NSW?

There are currently no plans to introduce a leaving care month for young care leavers in NSW.

6. The QLD government funds the production and distribution of 'Transitioning from Care Kits' for young care leavers - will these arrangements be adopted in NSW?

While Community Services is aware of the Queensland 'Transitioning From Care Kits', they are not being considered in NSW. Currently young people transitioning from care in NSW are assisted by a suite of leaving care resources developed in 2010, including the 'Your Next Step' resource that young people receive as part of leaving care planning which starts at 15 years of age.

7. Will the Government begin transferring case management of children in out-of-home-care to the NGO sector as early as January 2012?

The planned commencement date for the gradual transfer of responsibility for the provision of OOHHC services to NGOs is January 2012. The transfer of case management responsibility between Community Services and NGOs commenced in July 2009 and will continue as part of the OOHHC transition.

8. As this rapid transition begins how will the government support NGO's in continuing to meet the needs of young people and carers they work with?

The intention is for the transition to be gradual. The rate at which it occurs will be driven by the non-government sector capacity to meet demand while maintaining the quality standards of care provided to the children and young people already looked after by NGOs.

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

Procedures for preparing a young person for leaving care have been revised to incorporate new leaving care resources and to ensure that leaving care planning commences at an early age. In addition, a systems based case planning template has been developed to ensure that young people leave care with a plan that is focussed on their successful transition to independent living.

10. Last year the ALP committed to "work closely with young people who are leaving care", does the current government have similar commitments?

Community Services continues to work closely with young people who are leaving care. Preparation will usually commence at the first placement review after the young person's 15th birthday at which time both the young person and their carer are given information packs about the support that is available, the planning process and, for the carer, how to help a young person prepare for leaving care. Planning continues from that point through placement reviews, case planning meetings or as requested by the young person or their carer.

11. How much of the Community Services budget was allocated to helping young people leaving care to get their driver's license?

- a) 2010/11
- b) 2011/12

The Ministerial Guidelines on the provision of assistance after leaving out-of-home care allow for Community Services' payment of ten driving lessons where this would improve a

young person's employment prospects. In cases where the young person has no access to a private vehicle, the payment of additional lessons may be considered. The total amount spent in the nominated years cannot be disaggregated.

OUT-OF-HOME CARE

12. What measures has the government enacted to ensure coordination and service delivery of the Keep Them Safe funding in regards to smaller NGOs who represent Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse young people?

A number of initiatives are directed at strengthening capacity of services to work with children and young people from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. These include:

- In 2010/11, services funded under the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) were realigned to reflect Keep Them Safe directions.

During this reform process non-government organisations, including small agencies that represent Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse young people, were maintained and supported through the transition process.

The services were realigned into two streams, the Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) program and the Community Builders program. EIPP includes more direct services for children, youth and family support. The Community Builders program focuses on community development. 187 youth services were streamed into EIPP from the funded Community Services Grants Program. 71 youth services were streamed into Community Builders.

- Community Services funded three peak bodies, ACWA, FamS and YAPA to support non-government organisations through the implementation of the reforms. YAPA undertook a significant piece of work researching the needs of youth workers and youth services. It provided feedback from 565 youth workers surveyed across NSW: *Youth work snapshot 2011: Survey of youth service and workers in NSW*. It is a comprehensive report and provides current information on service provision issues and strategies impacting young people and youth workers. It can be a useful tool for organisations interested in improving their working and building capacity to support young people.
- Community Services is currently trialling three projects with NGOs to increase the numbers of foster carers from Arabic-speaking, Greek and African communities to support children and young people in need of care.
- Community Services has continued its capacity building work with Aboriginal services through the Aboriginal Services Capacity Building Initiative (ASBCI) which commenced in 2006. This program aims to double the number of culturally appropriate out-of-home-care (OOHC) placements for Aboriginal children and young people in NSW. Phase 2 of the program commenced in July 2010 with Community Services funding four organisations to develop support services and strengthen their position to become OOHC service providers in the future. The services are providing family preservation and foster care recruitment/support with a view of attaining accreditation from the Office of the Children's Guardian. The four services are based in Tamworth, Coffs Harbour, Wollongong and Narrandera.

- AbSec and ACWA's Growth Partnership Project is developing partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations to build the capacity of Aboriginal NGOs to deliver family and community services in areas with high Aboriginal populations and limited access to services. Non-Aboriginal agencies will develop their cultural capacity and the project will develop a model of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal partnerships all within the spirit of Keep Them Safe child protection approaches and wellbeing services.
- NSW Family Support has been funded to work in Armidale area to strengthen the capacity of small to medium service providers to deliver better service outcomes for clients. A special focus of this project is partnering Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal providers.

13. Will the Department of Premier and Cabinet continue to play a role in coordination of Keep Them Safe funding? A) If yes, how?

NSW Treasury and the Department of Premier and Cabinet are responsible for the coordination of Keep Them Safe funding.

Treasury and DPC would consider any changes to the current allocations within the funding package of Keep Them Safe.

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

- a) statutory out of home care?**
- b) supported out of home care?**
- c) voluntary out of home care?**

As at 30 June 2011, non-Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW in:

a) statutory out-of-home care:	8,056
b) supported out-of-home care:	3,734
c) other care arrangements:	46
Total:	11,836

Note: This includes 'not stated' Aboriginal status.

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

- a) statutory out of home care?**
- b) supported out of home care?**
- c) voluntary out of home care?**

As at 30 June 2011, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW in:

a) statutory out-of-home care:	3,757
b) supported out-of-home care:	2,297
c) other care arrangements:	6
Total:	6,060

16. Can the Minister provide an expenditure breakdown of the \$183m promised to out-of-home-care and leaving care specifically?

The combined out of home care and leaving care budgets for 2011/12 are \$700 million. It unknown where the figure of \$183m was sourced.

Budget per BP3 for 2011/12	
Grants & subsidies (funded programs)	307,780
Foster Care Allowances and Contingencies	199,693
TOTAL OOHC (excluding caseworker costing)	\$507,473
Employee related	133,518
Operating expenses	52,110
Depreciation & amortisation	7,230
TOTAL OOHC	\$700,331
Included in the above in Foster Care Allowances & Contingencies for Leaving and After Care is approximately	1,600

17. Can the Minister provide information on which of the 111 Wood Inquiry recommendations have:

- a) Been adopted**
- b) Been adopted but not implemented**
- c) Been adopted but implementation has stalled**
- d) Not been adopted**

- a) 107 recommendations were adopted by the previous Labor Government.
- b) All adopted recommendations have been completed or are currently being implemented
- c) Nil
- d) Recommendations 8.3, 10.10, 16.9 and 18.2(b) were not accepted by the former Government. Actions are now progressing under the Liberals & Nationals Government in line with rec 18.2(b) on income management.

18. Are there staff positions unfilled in the Brighter Futures Program for the 2010-2011, and if so, for what period?

During 2010-2011, the numbers of Caseworker positions that were unfilled in the Brighter Futures Program at each month (as at the dates shown) were:

- 10 July - 24 positions,
- 10 August - 23 positions,
- 10 September - 20 positions,
- 10 October - 18 positions,
- 10 November - 15 positions,
- 10 December - 16 positions,
- 11 January - 25 positions,
- 11 February - 18 positions,
- 11 March- 19 positions,
- 11 April - 22 positions,
- 11 May - 23 positions,
- 11 June - 25 positions.

This represents an average of 20.17 FTE vacant positions per month over 2010 - 2011. Additional to this, an average of 64.92 FTE positions were filled but temporarily vacant

over the same period due to leave without pay or the substantive occupant acting elsewhere.

19. Are their positions in Brighter Futures filled and, if not, how are those savings used in Community Services' overall expenditure?

An average of 274 of 359 Brighter Futures Caseworker positions were filled and occupied (i.e. the position holder was not acting elsewhere or on leave without pay) throughout 2010 - 2011.

20. What action has the government taken, or intends to take, in response to the NSW Ombudsman Keep Them Safe? Special Report to Parliament under s31 of the Ombudsman Act 1974 - August 2011?

In his report, *Keep Them Safe? Special Report to Parliament under s31 of the Ombudsman Act 1974*, the NSW Ombudsman made three recommendations.

Sub-groups of the Keep Them Safe Senior Officers Group have been formed on responding to the particular issues raised by the Ombudsman in recommendations 1 and 2 of *Keep Them Safe? A Special Report to Parliament under s31 of the Ombudsman Act 1974*.

In relation to recommendation 3, it is noted that the Keep Them Safe Action Plan included a commitment to progressively evaluate implementation of the Keep Them Safe reforms. An Interim Review of Keep Them Safe is currently being designed, with findings due to be reported to Government in 2012. The particular concerns of the Ombudsman will be incorporated into that review.

A Strategic Impact and Outcomes Review of Keep Them Safe will be conducted in 2014.

21. How many Aboriginal agencies have been accredited for out-of-home-care for the period 2010/11?

Nine accredited Aboriginal agencies provided OOHC services in 2010/2011.

22. Can you comment on what progress has been made in regards to developing a program in NSW which is similar to the Victorian program called "Lakidjeka"

The Protecting Aboriginal Children Together (PACT) is the NSW adaption of Victoria's Lakidjeka Program that was developed in consultation with Absec. Two Aboriginal NGOs have been funded to commence service delivery in late 2011 in two sites: Moree and Shellharbour.

23. Could you please provide the following figures for 2010-2011:

The number of children in:

- a) CS Foster care**
- b) NGO foster care**
- c) NGO intensive foster care**
- d) CS: statutory kinship care**
- e) NGO: Residential care**
- f) NGO: voluntary**

- a) 4,339
- b) 2,492
- c) 36
- d) 3,665
- e) 384
- f) 44

Note: These figures only relate to places funded by the Government.

24. Could the Department provide the average cost of care per child per service per year listed above?

The average cost of care per child per service covers a number of categories of expenditure, and is not therefore available in a reportable form.

25. Can you provide information on how many children in 2010-11 were in a continuous out-of-home-care placement for:

- a) Less than one month**
- b) 1 month to less than 6 months**
- c) 6 months to less than 1 year**
- d) 1 year to less than 2 years**
- e) 2 years to less than 5 years**
- f) 5 years or more**

- a) 198
- b) 1,257
- c) 1,221
- d) 2,560
- e) 6,559
- f) 6,089

Note: These figures exclude children and young people who had a non-permanent placement for less than 7 days.

26. \$120m has been allocated to the continuation of the Keep Them Safe program, can you outline what programs and what budget allocations apply to this funding?

The overall 2011/12 Keep Them Safe budget allocation is \$182.9 million. Of that, \$120.5 million is allocated to the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS).

Of the \$120.5 million, \$65 million is allocated to NGO contracted services, \$50.5 million is allocated to services provided directly by FACS, and \$4.7 million is allocated to Prevention and Early Intervention services.

The following table sets-out the specific funding allocations.

Initiative	Budget allocation (\$m)
FACS	
Child Wellbeing Unit	1.425
Alternative Dispute Resolution	1.450
Information Exchange Team and New IT	0.598
Major Change Program Office	1.607
Quality Reviews and Development Plans for Community Services Centres	0.588
Extend eReporting	0.255
Structured Decision-Making Trial @ Helpline & Community Services Centres	3.910
Electronic Record Keeping and Document Management	2.460
Drug & Alcohol Unit	1.261
Transfer of OOHC to NGOs - Data Remediation	0.384
Aboriginal Foster Carers	1.278
Centralisation of Allegation Against Employees (including Foster Carers)	2.312
Review of Government Funding - Purchased Services from NGOs	0.536
Community Services Caseworkers (69)	8.405
Out of home care – Community Services	17.370
Foster Care Recruitment project	3.353
Disaster Recovery*	1.353
JIRT referral unit	0.634
Manager casework qualifications (research and training access)	0.351
Family Group Conferencing Trial	0.160
NGO Capacity Building	0.550
Growing Partnerships (AbSec and ACWA)	0.230
Sub-total FACS	50.5
NGO contracted services	
Brighter Futures	12.933
Intensive Family Preservation (increase by 420 places for children)	8.382
Intensive Aboriginal Family Based Services (increase by 180 places)	6.243
Aboriginal child welfare specialists involved in child protection decisions (based on Victorian Lakidjeka model)	2.027
Out of home care -NGOs	35.736
Sub-total for NGO contracted services	65.3
Prevention & Early Intervention services	
CSGP Parenting skills, general support & integrated services (Community Services)	4.728
TOTAL	120.5

* Transferred to Police and Emergency Services

COMMUNITY SERVICES

27. What is the allocation for Specialist Homeless Services (formerly SAAP) in 2011-12? What proportion of this is funded from the Australian Government?

This information will be available in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

28. Can you provide a breakdown of expenditure by agency under Keep Them Safe since its commencement in March 2009 and the budget allocation for 2011-2012?

Agency	Expenditure 2009* – June 2011 (\$m)	Budget allocation 2011 – 12 (\$m)
Family and Community Services (previously Department of Human Services)	175.0	120.5
NSW Health	40.4	32.4
Department of Education and Communities (previously Department of Education and Training)	18.4	9.3
Department of Premier and Cabinet	11.6	9.3
Department of Attorney General and Justice (previously Department of Justice and Attorney General)	8.1	4.1
NSW Police	8.3	5.1
Legal Aid NSW	0.385	2.2
TOTAL	262.19	182.9

*It is unclear when programs commenced in 2008-09, precise data collection from March 2009 is not available.

29. Can you provide a breakdown of expenditure by agency and region under the Homelessness Action Plan since its commencement in 2009-10?

The State’s 10 Regional Homelessness Action Plans include both initiatives funded by NSW through agency budgets and those funded by the Commonwealth National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. The Homelessness Action Plan and the Regional Homelessness Actions Plans contain details of initiatives funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and are available on the Housing NSW website.

30. What is the allocation for the Community Builders program in 2011-12 (both fixed term and renewable)?

\$48.8 million

31. What is happening with “preserved” services that were funded under the former Community Services Grants Program? These are ones that did not transition into either Community Builders or EIPP.

A review of preserved services is planned for 2011/12 to determine where they best fit in the FACS service system.

TRANSFER OF OUT-OF-HOME-CARE TO NGOS

32. I am aware that the Out Of Home Care (OOHC) Taskforce is talking with NGO providers of OOHC about their current contractual arrangements with the Department. How are these discussions informing the development of 'costing bands' for OOHC? How will these costing bands be implemented under a Transition Plan for transfer of OOHC to NGOs?

The OOHC Taskforce has responsibility for proposing a new contracting framework that includes new unit prices. The purpose of the current discussions is for the negotiation team to gain an understanding of the existing contracted work of the NGO sector. The new unit costs once endorsed by the Taskforce will initially be offered to those NGOs who currently deliver OOHC services. They will also be offered to NGOs wishing to expand their operations as part of a 2012 procurement process rolled out in accordance with the Ministerial Advisory Group's Transition Plan.

33. Can you give a guarantee that 'costing bands' will be applied to new contracts when OOHC is transferred to NGOs? Do you agree that 'costing bands' provide flexibility for different models of care between NGOs?

The unit costs currently under consideration should be flexible enough to account for differences between models of OOHC care being provided by the NGO sector. The unit costs once endorsed will be applied to new contracts when OOHC is transferred to the NGO sector.

34. What opportunity is there to gain greater understanding of the actual cost of OOHC across the different levels of care and models of care?

OOHC unit costs can vary depending on how overheads are apportioned and models of care defined. The report by The Boston Consulting Group located at the address below examines NSW OOHC unit costs in some detail:

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/bcg_report.pdf

35. I am aware that Treasury and the Department have been using language of 'minimum standards' when exploring new contracts with NGOs who provide OOHC. I am concerned that this talk of 'minimum standards' does not measure up to accreditation by the Children's Guardian.

The minimum standards referred to are those required to meet accreditation by the Office of the Children's Guardian.

36. Can you guarantee that contractual negotiations for transfer of OOHC to NGOs will promote accreditation of OOHC providers by the Children's Guardian, and will not open up service provision to cheaper, non-accredited services?

Yes. Service providers that undertake OOHC work as part of the contractual negotiations must be accredited by the Office of the Children's Guardian.

37. Are FACS and Treasury planning to cap the number of entrants into OOHC provided by NGOs under current contracts, and then re-negotiate a second round of

contracts for further growth of services? Would this not be overly cumbersome and potentially a waste of time and money?

Current contracts reflect places currently provided by NGOs. This is necessary to establish a baseline from which the second round of negotiations can commence that will establish both existing and growth contracts at new prices.

38. Would it not be best to roll over current contracts with NGOs who provide OOHC while awaiting the Transition Plan and its costing, then go to the sector with new contracts that provide for growth in a way that is consistent with the Transition Plan? Surely this would be the best way of aligning service contracts with policy reform.

Community Services and the Government negotiation team are working to have new contracts in place for all existing providers by January 2012. This is part of an undertaking given to the NGO sector by the Community Services Chief Executive at a briefing on 10 October around the timing of the implementation of new processes. It is separate from the procurement process which will allocate growth and is informed by the Transition Plan. It is also consistent with the Government policy of a sustainable OOHC sector.

FOSTER CARERS

39. Considering that the payments to Foster Carers will fall by \$30m in 11/12 due to reduction in payments for carers of 16 year olds entitled to Youth Allowance, how does the Government intend to increase the number of foster carers in NSW?

A dedicated, year-round Fostering NSW recruitment line has been established for community members interested in being a foster carer for either Community Services or a non government organisation. Carer recruitment strategies are being implemented within each Region. These strategies include the distribution of information to local communities on fostering, advertising in local media and information sessions on fostering being conducted by Community Services in conjunction with non government organisations. To date 64 Foster Care Information Sessions have been held across NSW in 2011.

40. On what basis was this cut made?

See answer to question 221.

41. Considering the program saw the doubling of adoptions, what evaluations or reports have been done to indicate that this program needed to be cut?

The payment of Youth Allowance is not relevant to adoptions.

42. Will you make this evaluation/report available?

See answer to question 41.

HOUSING

RENTAL AFFORDABILITY SCHEME

43. In section 4-17 of Budget papers 3, I draw your attention to the table under "Housing Policy and Assistance". I note that for the year 2010-11, 1,320 units of accommodation were forecast to be made available under the National Rental Affordability Scheme. Yet, that same table shows that only 348 were actually made available. Can you please explain that significant difference – almost 1000 less than forecast?

Under that National Rental Affordability Scheme, private and not for profit organisations are provided with annual subsidies from the Commonwealth and State governments for all dwellings that are completed and tenanted in accordance with program requirements in the previous year. The forecast figure of 1320 was an estimate of the cumulative number of all dwellings expected to be tenanted in 2010-11. The actual cumulative figure of 977 was 343 dwelling less than expected. The difference in the figures is due to private and not for profit organisations not completing construction of dwellings within the specified period.

HOUSING STOCK

44. 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?

As at 30 June 2011, the total number of community housing properties was over 26,000. This is ahead of forecasted target.

45. 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?

FACS Housing NSW works closely with Juvenile Justice to address the housing needs of young people exiting the juvenile justice system within available housing stock and also in promoting access to the private rental market.

Under the Homelessness Action Plan, Housing NSW is working closely with Juvenile Justice, Health and Corrective Services to develop a framework for multi agency transition planning. The aim of this project is to reduce and prevent the incidence of transition from custody into homelessness.

46. On page 4-6 of Budget Paper 3, it is reported that 5,165 new social housing dwellings were delivered throughout NSW – were those houses built in rural, regional or metropolitan areas?

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 Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.

47. In June, the Government announced that they were transferring responsibility from Housing NSW to the Department of Public Works for implementing 57

incomplete housing projects. How many of these projects have now been completed?

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 the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.

48. How many public housing dwellings are there - in Inner City/Inner West and also altogether in NSW?

As at 30 June 2011, there were over 120,000 public housing dwellings. For the same period, over 19,000 properties were located in the Sydney (Inner City) and Inner West areas.

CRISIS ACCOMMODATION

49. In section 4-17 of Budget papers 3, I draw your attention to the table under "Housing Policy and Assistance". Half way down that table, the figures are listed for "Crisis accommodation places". There's a significant drop from the 2009-10 actual figure of 4,600 to the 2010 – 11 actual figure of 4458 (142 places) and in fact, this coming year's forecast figure of 4530, wouldn't even get us back up to the 2008-09 figure of 4550. Can you please explain this fluctuation?

Whilst crisis refuges and transitional housing continues to operate across the State under the current National Affordable Housing Agreement, the Crisis Accommodation Program no longer exists. Instead the 'Housing First' model has become the preferred response to homelessness where homeless people move immediately from the streets or refuge accommodation into their own homes with support tailored to their needs.

50. I'd just like to ask about the Start Safely program to help those fleeing domestic violence. In the Ministerial press release published on the day of the Budget, it was indicated that \$5.5 million would be allocated to the continuation of that project, yet on page 4-4 of Budget paper 3, it states that \$4 million has been allocated to this important program. (a) can you clarify the exact figure and (b) can you advise if the is money going towards new premises or towards existing facilities?

(a) The information provided in the press release is correct. The allocation is \$5.5 million for 2011/12. This figure was rephased from the original \$4 million allocation per year over four years as stated in the Budget papers.

(b) Funds are used to subsidise rent on private rental properties leased by the client.

HOMELESSNESS

51. I noted that \$44.4 million has been allocated to implement the Homelessness National Partnership initiatives. Can you please advise if that figure includes the Commonwealth allocation or if it represents the NSW contribution only?

The \$44.4 million represents the Commonwealth allocation in 2011/12 for National Partnership on Homelessness initiatives including A Place to Call Home.

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

The State's 10 Regional Homelessness Action Plans include both initiatives funded by NSW through agency budgets and those funded by the Commonwealth National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

53. On page 4-9 of budget paper 3, I draw your attention to the table indicating the number of clients who receive assistance under specialist homelessness services with only one support period.

(a) Can you please advise how those figures are obtained?

(b) Can you please confirm if they are unique instances – e.g if someone receives services as a one off then comes back in 6 months and receives another one off assistance package, are they captured in that figure?

(c) The last three figures in that table are eerily similar – in fact they are exactly 27,600. Why is the second last column only an "estimated" actual for the period 2010/2011?

(d) Are you confident that the forecast figure for 2011/2012 is accurate?

(a) This figure was accessed from Table A4 of the NSW SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report 2009-10 (page 11 of the Appendix).

(b) This figure represents individual clients who only accessed one support period (i.e. whereby clients accessing Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS, previously known as Supported Accommodation Assistance Service SAAP) multiple times are not captured more than once in the figure).

(c) The figure of 27,600 is an estimation and was based on the 2008/09 figures. Further, it is likely that this estimation was made prior to the release of the NSW SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report 2009-10 (note that this report was released on 3 June 2011) which is why the actual figure is 31,901.

The SAAP National Data Collection Annual Reports are released approximately a year subsequent to the reporting period. Therefore, only an estimation can be made for the 2010/11 period rather than the actual numbers as the report is likely to be released in 2012.

(d) As noted above, the estimated figures are based on the 2008/09 figures. The actual number for 2009/10 was 31,901. The actual number for 2010/11 will be released in 2012.

54. 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 2009/10?

As a landlord, Housing NSW complies with the Residential Tenancies Act. Similarly, public housing tenants must keep to the terms and conditions of their Tenancy Agreement and meet their responsibilities under Housing NSW's tenancy policies. Housing NSW will take eviction action when all other reasonable options have been exhausted or if the breach is extremely serious. Where possible, Housing NSW will assist tenants to rectify a breach and maintain their tenancy. In 2009/10, there were 148 evictions for rent arrears and 116 evictions in 2010/11. This represents a reduction of 21.6% compared with 2009/10.

55. The Homelessness Action Plan is great in theory but it really does require a whole-of-government approach. Can the committee be provided with an outline of the 2011-12 budget for the Homelessness Action Plan, by government agency and project?

In 2011/12, \$44.4 million has been allocated by the Commonwealth under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness initiatives including A Place to Call Home. The Homelessness Action Plan and the Regional Homelessness Actions Plans contain details of initiatives funded across government under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and are available on the Housing NSW website.

The Homelessness Action Plan is a partnership between a number of NSW Government agencies and governance structures have been established at various levels to coordinate implementation of the Plan. These structures include

- Homelessness Interagency Committee - comprising all partner State Government agencies and facilitates and oversees the implementation and monitoring of the Plan at a statewide level
- Regional Homelessness Committees which are led by Regional Homelessness Chairs (Housing NSW) to engage local government services and non-government organisations in the planning, monitoring and delivery of homelessness priorities.

56. What consideration has been given to the idea of requiring all local councils to have a Homelessness Policy unique to their area and for that policy to be reported on annually?

A number of local councils are currently involved in the Regional Homelessness Committees coordinating the implementation of Regional Homelessness Action Plans across the state.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

57. NSW 2021 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?

The NSW Government has introduced a number of new measures to work towards addressing housing affordability including:

- Establishing the Affordable Housing Taskforce to develop local housing strategies to increase the supply and diversity of housing across NSW and to review the potential use of planning mechanisms to deliver affordable rental housing.
- Amending affordable housing legislation to ensure that new developments are in keeping with local character and that a fair share of dwellings within new developments are targeted to affordable housing.
- Instructing Landcom to target the release of 10,000 new housing blocks within four years to provide critical new supply of land within the Sydney region.
- Passing legislation effective from July 2011 to repeal the 'Homebuyers Tax' on property purchases in order to ease the burden on home buyers.

- Providing a Regional Relocation Grant of \$7,000 to assist families wanting to relocate to regional areas to encourage whole-of-New South Wales growth and to take the pressure off Sydney's housing supply.
- Introducing the 'Empty Nester' Transfer Duty Concession to over 55's for sales between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. This strategy will assist in unlocking and releasing on to the market a supply of larger housing stock that is suitable to the needs of younger growing families.
- Supporting the National Rental Affordability Scheme to increase private investment in the supply of targeted affordable rental housing.

WAITING LISTS

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

In May 2010, community and public housing waiting lists were combined into a single NSW Housing Register. The number of people on the Housing Register as reported in the Annual Report at 30 June 2011 was 46,792.

59. (a) How many people on the waiting list are waiting for Aboriginal Housing? (b) As a percentage of the overall waiting list, how does that figure compare to other States?

- (a) As at 30 June 2011, over 2,200 applicants on the NSW Housing Register were approved for Aboriginal Housing.
- (b) Comparative data from other States and Territories is not available.

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

The majority allocation zones in Housing NSW's Central Sydney and Greater Western Sydney Regions are in high demand. The length of time depends on the type of dwelling sought by the applicant. Many applicants wait over 10 years for a property in high demand zones.

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

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.

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

The number of people on the NSW Housing Register awaiting accommodation varies and changes constantly. Many factors influence how long each applicant waits including the type of accommodation sought (e.g. number of bedrooms, style of dwelling); the type of household (e.g. aged couple, single person); and special needs (e.g. ground floor requirements, modifications).

HOUSING CONTRACTORS

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

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.

64. (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?

(a) & (b) 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.

65. (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?

(a) & (b) These questions 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.

66. 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?

These questions 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.

COMMUNITY MIX

67. When allocating public housing tenants to homes, what consideration is given to the interaction between their needs and the needs of their neighbours to ensure that people are not in danger in their own homes?

Housing NSW has local allocation policies and will ensure that the housing needs of people are taken into consideration when allocating properties. Housing NSW works towards providing a safe and secure environment for all tenants housed in its properties. In the event that tenants become concerned about the behaviour of a neighbour, like all other NSW residents, Housing NSW tenants are able to contact NSW Police in the case of an immediate threat of danger to themselves or their property.

68. What opportunities exist for housing tenants to receive cultural awareness training or similar education initiatives prior to moving into dwellings where they may interact with other cultures for the first time?

Housing NSW sponsors and contributes to a large number of tenant engagement and community development initiatives at a local level, which provide opportunities for tenants from all cultural backgrounds to interact, socialise, and be made aware of cultural issues relevant to their local areas.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING OFFICE

69. 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 2010, there were over 200 Aboriginal community housing providers managing around 9,000 properties across NSW.

70. Can you just explain the process – if someone of Indigenous heritage wants to go on a waiting list for housing, are they automatically put in touch with the Aboriginal Housing Office, or do they go on the general list, or both?

Aboriginal people who apply through Housing NSW and meet the eligibility criteria for social housing and provide a confirmation of Aboriginality will be placed on the NSW Housing Register for mainstream public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office housing. Aboriginal people may also approach Aboriginal community housing providers for assistance. To be eligible for any Aboriginal social housing (AHO or community owned) an applicant must provide confirmation of Aboriginality.

71. How many complaints has the Department of Housing received regarding Aboriginal housing providers, in 2010-2011? What were the reasons for these complaints?

No complaints were received.

72. In regards to the Aboriginal Housing Office. On page 4-27 of Budget paper 3, it's reported that \$13 million has been allocated to provide 30 new dwellings under the general capital works program and \$16.7 million has been allocated to provide 35 new dwellings in remote areas under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. Can you advise exactly where all those dwellings will be provided – the 30 general dwellings and the 35 remote area dwellings?

New dwellings in remote areas under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing are part of a 10 year capital works program. Work for any one program year may be undertaken across financial years. Work is currently underway on over 40 dwellings with the majority being delivered by 30 June 2012.

73. In the financial Statement for the Aboriginal Housing Office, (a) can you please explain where the \$555,000 in "other revenue" came from?

(b) Why was this significantly below the amount of "other revenue" budgeted for (\$1,830,000) & why is there no "other revenue" forecast in the coming year?

(a) The \$555,000 actual other income was mainly comprised of GST, FBT and payroll recoveries.

(b) The original budget of \$1.830 million other income was largely due to the recovery of water rates. During the year, the Aboriginal Housing Office re-categorised this income from "other" to "rental related" income.

74. What current partnerships programs are underway between the NSW Government and Aboriginal community housing providers, to undertake maintenance of housing?

Addressing repairs and maintenance for Aboriginal community housing providers is a key element of the Build and Grow Strategy. Aboriginal community housing providers that participate in Build and Grow Strategy through the Provider Assessment Registration System or by head leasing their dwellings to the Aboriginal Housing Office are eligible to receive repairs and maintenance on their properties.

75. 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?

The Build and Grow Aboriginal Community Housing Strategy is one of a number of initiatives that will improve the housing, health and education outcomes for Aboriginal communities. \$48.651 million has been allocated for the implementation of Build and Grow in 2011/12. This includes \$21 million to repair and maintain up to 500 dwellings for Aboriginal community housing providers in urban and regional New South Wales, \$14.4 million to refurbish 150 Aboriginal community housing properties in remote NSW, \$12.6 million to reform and strengthen the Aboriginal community housing sector through the provision of subsidies and capacity building and business development assistance and \$0.651million for tenant support initiatives in remote areas.

76. In the State Plan a target is listed of "33% reduction in the number of Aboriginal people who are homeless in 2013" (a) what is the baseline?

(b) How many people is this estimated to be?

(c) How do you intend to measure the numbers given that we are repeatedly told the only figures on homelessness are ascertained through the national census each 5 years).

(a) The base figure is as measured at the time of the last national census in 2006.

(b) Around 700 people.

(c) At this stage, the census is the most statistically reliable measure across the state and by cohort for homeless figures.

RACHEL FORSTER HOSPITAL SITE AT REDFERN

77. Has the Department of Housing had any discussions with other Government departments about the possibility of the former Rachel Forster hospital site in Pitt Street, Redfern being purchased or utilised for community housing?

If Yes – what was the outcomes of those discussions?

If not, can the Minister commit to raising that suggestion in Cabinet?

No.

N/A

The Community Housing Division's Capital Works Program is committed for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

VACANCY RATES

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

The number of Housing NSW properties that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as properties are vacated by tenants. The primary reason for any property being seen as vacant is while the property is cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant, as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act and are then re-occupied. Generally, the vacancy rate of public housing is lower than that of the private rental sector at any given time.

79. 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?

The number of Housing NSW properties that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as properties are vacated by tenants. The primary reason for any property being seen as vacant is while the property is cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant, as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act and are then re-occupied. Generally, the vacancy rate of public housing is lower than that of the private rental sector at any given time.

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

Generally, the vacancy rate of public housing is lower than that of the private rental sector at any given time. The main reasons for properties remaining vacant include where repairs and maintenance works are being undertaken between tenancies or where the property may be identified for sale or redevelopment. Questions relating to the sale or redevelopment of properties should be referred to the Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon. Greg Pearce.

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

In some areas Housing NSW has certain properties that remain vacant for longer than usual because the property has specific modifications or features, is subject to State planning restrictions (such as SEPP 5) or the property is listed for redevelopment or sale. This usually occurs in rural and regional areas where demand for public housing is lower.

TERMINATIONS/EVICTIONS

82. How many "notices of termination" were issued by Housing NSW to tenants in the year 2010-2011? How does this figure compare to previous years?

The Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) is the responsibility of my colleague the Minister for Fair Trading, the Hon. Anthony Roberts. The CTTT has jurisdiction to consider and adjudicate on matters under the Residential Tenancies Act. It has a conciliatory role and matters are often resolved with agreement between the parties at the hearings. A Social Housing Division of the CTTT was established in 2008.

Housing NSW makes an application to the CTTT for a range of reasons, including:

- To gain access to premises where it has made multiple attempts to contact a tenant and may need to carry out repairs or check on a tenant;
- To secure Specific Performance Orders to require tenants to abide to their condition of tenancy;
- To ratify orders for the payment of costs associated with property damage; and
- As a last resort, only, to terminate tenancies if the tenant will not pay rent or abide by other conditions of tenancy.

The Annual Report for the CTTT provides details of applications in the Social Housing Division each financial year and is available on its website.

83. During the 2010/11 period, how many notices did the Department issue to terminate residents without grounds? How does this compare to previous years?

As a landlord, Housing NSW complies with the Residential Tenancies Act. Similarly, public housing tenants must keep to the terms and conditions of their Tenancy Agreement and meet their responsibilities under Housing NSW's tenancy policies. Housing NSW will take eviction action when all other reasonable options have been exhausted or if the breach is extremely serious. Where possible, Housing NSW will assist tenants to rectify a breach and maintain their tenancy. Housing NSW issued seven 'no grounds' termination notices for 2010/11.

84. When sending out eviction notices, or perhaps even warning notices for minor infringements, what steps does the Department of Housing take to advise clients of their rights?

A tenant's rights and obligations are explained before warning letters and/or a notice of termination is issued. Contact details for tenant advice and advocacy services are also included in Housing NSW warning letters.

TENANTS UNION

85.

(a) How many public housing tenancies have been reviewed under Housing NSW's policy of reviewing tenancies continuing eligibility?

(b) How many of those reviewed were found to be ineligible to continue in public housing?

(c) How many of those were actually terminated?

(d) How much revenue been raised by the 'moderate income' rates for public housing rental rebates?

(a) – (d) Under Housing NSW policy, new tenants assign a short, medium or long-term lease that reflects the level and duration of the tenant's need. Before the end of the lease, tenants undergo a lease review to determine if they are eligible for an extension to their lease and if so, the length of lease is then considered.

HOUSING NEEDS NEAR HOSPITALS

86. What policies and procedures does the Department of Housing have in place in regards to the provision of housing near hospitals for those tenants in regular need of medical appointments and or treatments?

When making a housing allocation Housing NSW endeavours to offer vacancies that take into account the client's needs including the need to access medical services.

87. Is there a policy for selecting land close to hospitals to develop 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.

88. Is there a hierarchy for allocation of clients where medical needs are taken into consideration?

When making a housing allocation Housing NSW endeavours to offer vacancies that take into account the client's known needs including the need to access medical services.

MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY ISSUES

89. Given recent publicity over the issue of asbestos in State Government housing provided to police officers, what guarantees can the Government provide that other housing stock (such as community housing and crisis housing) don't pose the same health risks in terms of inappropriate building materials?

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.

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

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.

91. 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?

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.

92. How do these times compare for the same time last 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.

93. Now that Housing NSW maintenance orders can only be obtained through the maintenance line, what procedures are in place to escalate the priority of these 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.

94. I understand that Housing NSW carried out a Baseline Study of Redfern and Waterloo Public Housing Tenants with a report published in April this year.

No answer required, statement only

95. That study found only half of tenants surveyed were satisfied with the services received from their local housing office in the last year. The survey showed maintenance was a big contributor to this dissatisfaction.

No answer required, statement only

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

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.

97. That report was carried out by Sweeney Research. What was the total cost paid to Sweeney Research to carry out that study?

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.

98. We understand the Handyman project had some success in relieving Housing NSW maintenance of small jobs with high administrative overheads but it is being/has been discontinued. What are the reasons for this and under what circumstances might it be revived?

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.

99. 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?

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.

BARANGAROO

100. During last year's Budget Estimates discussions there was some confusion over the percentage of housing stock within that development – specifically on that site – that would be dedicated to either community house or affordable housing. The figure of 2.3% was mentioned at some stage. Now that the Premier officially turned the sod there should be a bit more clarity about the composition of the development. Can you advise the committee on:

(a) what percentage of the development (if any) will provide community housing and how many actual units will that be?

(b) what percentage of the development will provide affordable housing and how many actual units will that be?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who is responsible for the affordable contribution for Barangaroo.

MILLERS POINT

101. In regards to the Departments dealing with properties in the Millers Point area, either via sale or auctioning of properties for 99 year leases, can you advise the committee:

No answer required

102. How many properties have already been auctioned (Between January 1st 2009 and June 30th 2011) and what was the total revenue from these auctions?

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.

103. How many properties are proposed to be auctioned during the 2011-12 financial year and what is the projected income from these auctions

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.

104. How many properties in this area have been sold between January 1st 2009 and June 30th 2011 and what was the revenue from these sales.

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.

105. What projects will be funded by the monies gained through these auctions and sales?

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.

GLEBE AFFORDABLE HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT

106. What is the expected revenue from the sale of public land at the Glebe Affordable Housing Redevelopment?

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.

107. What percentage of the development will provide affordable housing and how many actual units will that be?

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.

108. What percentage of the development will provide community housing and how many actual units will that be?

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.

109. What measures does the Department have in place to support the current residents during the transition?

All existing tenants have been successfully relocated into suitable alternate accommodation. Those tenants that meet the eligibility criteria will then have the option to be relocated back into the completed development.

110. What percentage of the housing at Glebe will be allocated to Aboriginal Housing?

It is anticipated that Aboriginal households will be housed in accordance with normal allocation policies.

HOUSING PATHWAYS

111. In 2010 Housing Pathways was developed by Housing NSW to make the process of applying for priority housing simpler, easier and more efficient for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Can the Minister detail the improvements that have been identified since the implementation of Housing Pathways?

Under Housing Pathways, people seeking assistance from Housing NSW and 27 community housing organisations are required to complete a single application form and are assessed by a single housing provider. If approved for housing, they are placed on a single waiting list known as the NSW Housing Register. Housing NSW and Community

Housing providers are now working collaboratively in a multi-provider system to ensure a 'no wrong door' service delivery approach for clients.

112. Has there been an identified reduction in the time taken by Housing NSW to process applications for social housing and priority housing since the introduction of Housing Pathways? Could the Minister provide details of this reduction in delay to the committee?

Housing Pathways has reduced the duplication in processing applications by introducing a single application form for housing assistance.

REDFERN WATERLOO

113. Does the Government support the key proposals contained in the Built Environment Plan 2 (BEP2) for the Redfern Waterloo area?

(a) Is the Government prepared to fund building/ purchasing 700 public housing units in the City of Sydney LGA to take the one in five families to be moved out from Redfern and Waterloo public housing to make way for more private tenants?

(b) Is it prepared to fund 700 Affordable housing units in the proposed redevelopment?

(c) Is it prepared to fund the retention and renovation of all public housing high rises in Redfern and Waterloo to offer a mix of public and private housing in the high rises?

(d) Currently BEP2 is silent on what will happen with public housing within the heritage conservation area – will the government commit to renovation of these properties or are these to be sold off?

(e) Given the public housing waiting list and the size of the proposed redevelopment will the government look at both not removing 1 in 5 public tenants from the area and instead explore the possibility of building additional public housing in the area in response to the waiting list?

(f) Will the government guarantee that the redevelopment of the walk-ups will not create a private development with public tenants confined to the high rise and the infill housing to be placed around the high rises?

(g) Will the Government support funding for Tenant Advocacy independent of Housing NSW, so that tenants can be independently assisted in taking their tenancy or redevelopment issues up with Housing NSW without their advocates being subject to funding pressure from HNSW.

(h) Will the Government commit funds to a full Master Plan covering all the areas raised in the RWA's Built Environment Plan 2 as the Preliminary Master Plan currently underway fall well short of the comprehensive master plan promised in the BEP2?

(i) Will the Implementation Senior Officers Group (ISOG) still continue to coordinate human services in Redfern and Waterloo? Who will be the lead agency for this?

(j) What consideration has been given to the Premier's Department retaining a whole of government coordination role following this role being lost with the winding up of the RWA.

(k) Will the Redfern Waterloo Human Services Plans be implemented?

(l) Has a second evaluation been made of Human Services plan 1 as originally proposed?

(m) Has there been any evaluation of the implementation of Human Services Plan 2?

(n) What will Government do to improve the integration of human service delivery for people of high and complex needs to ensure current and future public tenants living in higher densities have the services they need and the community has the quite enjoyment it is entitled to?

(o) What is proposed to continue the Aboriginal Employment and Training Programmes run by the RWA?

(p) Will the Employment and Enterprise Plan continue to be implemented and how will progress be evaluated?

(q) How can Employment and Enterprise Plan be expanded to provide all public tenants with the support offered initially to the Aboriginal community?

What mechanism is proposed with the disbanding of the Human Services Ministerial Advisory Committee for Government and Non Government Agencies and residents to liaise on Human Services issues that impact the area?

(a) – (f) This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who is responsible for the affordable contribution for Barangaroo.

(g) Housing NSW funds the Tenant Participation Resource Services Program to provide social housing tenants with increased access to information, advice and opportunities to more actively participate in processes related to their housing, as well as to engage in their communities. Nine Tenant Participation Resource Services are funded by Housing NSW across the state.

(h) – (q) This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who is responsible for the affordable contribution for Barangaroo.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

The Camperdown project will be formally evaluated against the aims of the project.

115. 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)

In regard to Housing NSW's Glebe Affordable Housing Project, the project will target older people and people with a disability. It is anticipated that Aboriginal households will be housed in accordance with the normal allocation policies.

South Sydney Hospital project and the Green Square Affordable Housing Program are being delivered by the City of Sydney whilst the North Eveleigh Affordable Housing project is being delivered by the Sydney Metropolitan Delivery Authority. Questions concerning these projects should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who is responsible for the projects.

116. As we all know, the Department of Housing was split this year into the assets management aspect and the service provision aspect. Can the Minister advise on how the two distinct arms work together – for instance, what processes are in place for information sharing and what is the hierarchy or delegation process in place? What was the reasonings for the split and what difficulties have been identified?

A Ministerial Charter will outline the principles and strategic directions and the means by which both portfolios will work together and support each other to shape housing assistance policy and deliver appropriate and financially viable social and affordable housing assistance to NSW citizens and best possible value to taxpayers. Flowing from the Charter there will be a Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement/s between the two departments which will give practical and operational effect to the Charter. The Government has separated asset management functions to ensure HNSW as a frontline service provider can concentrate on client service delivery while DFS focuses on optimising asset outcomes for clients and Government.

117. We understand some NGOs have put in place programs to build skill sets for unemployed housing residents and to provide alternative Cleaning and Maintenance services. What funding do they require? Is there an ongoing budgetary commitment to support them? Is there any commitment from the government to extend these programs?

Housing NSW funds a number of community based organisations across NSW to support social housing tenants in developing skills and capacity to assist them in gaining employment.

118. How many clients currently receive the Private Rental Subsidy? What is the average length of time for which a client receives the subsidy? What is the average number of applications lodged in the private market before a Private Rental Subsidy client is accepted in the private rental market?

In 2010/11 there were over 2,300 households received Private Rental Subsidy. There is no duration limit on the length of time a client receives the subsidy as it depends on a suitable social housing property becoming available. Data on the average number of applications lodged in the private market before a Private Rental Subsidy client is accepted is not collected by Housing NSW and does not fall within its jurisdiction.

119. How many public housing clients have diagnosed mental health issues? What kind of integration or partnerships exist between Housing NSW and support services for mental health clients?

Housing NSW is not able to identify this information about its clients as this depends on a client making this information available to Housing NSW. However, a National Health Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2007-08 found that 24% of people living in social housing in NSW had a mental/behavioural condition which is current or long term. This compares with 10.9% of the general population of NSW.

Housing NSW assists people with mental health problems who are living in public housing. HASI is an innovative partnership program between NSW Health, Housing NSW and the non-government organisation (NGO) sector which provides housing linked to clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation services for people with a range of levels of psychiatric disability. A new Housing and Mental Health Agreement has also been finalised between

the Department of Family and Community Services and NSW Health which will improve the housing outcomes and general well-being of people with mental health problems who are living in social housing or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Pru Goward

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Women

QUESTIONS FROM THE HON AMANDA FAZIO MLC

120. How much funding in the 2011-2012 Budget is allocated to early intervention service model child, youth and family support?

\$49.3 million

121. How much is allocated for each individual program within the child, youth family support model?

Although the Child, Youth and Family Support subprogram is broken down into Child and Family Support and Youth and Family Support service activities, the funding is not split in this way.

122. In relation to question one (1) above, what is the percentage and dollar increase for each individual program from the 2010-2011 Budget allocation?

The Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) has now transitioned to Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) and Community Builders (CB). CSGP contained different subprograms to EIPP/CB which do not align, and therefore the funding cannot be compared at the subprogram level.

123. In relation to each of the individual programs for child, youth and family support, which of these programs is delivered by non government organisations and which organisations has funding been allocated indicating total amount of funds for each organisation?

All Child Youth and Family Support (CYFS) services are provided by NGOs across the state. Community Services funds by service specification and there are approximately 268 CYFS service specifications operated by approximately 267 service providers. As service specification negotiations are continuing, the number of services in the EIPP subprograms is dynamic. A list of funded services will be available in the 2011/12 Annual Report.

124. How much funding is allocated in the 2011-2012 Budget to the Stronger Families program which commences in January 2012?

The funding for Stronger Families is embedded in Community Services Operations budget and is not a discrete amount.

125. Is the allocation of money on top of the money from the Brighter Futures program or drawn from the total program monies?

Drawn from the overall Brighter Futures Program.

126. Will Stronger Families be delivered by Family and Community Services staff or the non government sector?

Stronger Families will be delivered by Family and Community Services staff.

127. What indicators, factors or evidence will constitute "above the risk of significant harm" threshold?

The Screening and Response Priority tool used at the Child Protection Helpline is a Structured Decision Making tool which identifies whether the circumstances for a child or young person meet the risk of significant harm statutory threshold.

128. How is it anticipated that caseworkers will be able to differentiate between "risk of significant harm" and "above the risk of significant harm?"

Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) is determined at the Child Protection Helpline following the receipt of a report. Caseworkers need only know that the ROSH threshold has been met.

The term 'above risk of significant harm' is not used to differentiate from ROSH in NSW.

129. What training of staff will be undertaken prior to the implementation of Stronger Families?

Training will be provided from January 2012 to all casework and management staff who are moving from Brighter Futures to Stronger Families and will address policy and procedures relating to program changes.

130. How will the \$10 million dollars be allocated to non government organisations to deliver the Brighter Futures Program for young people aged between 9 and 14 years?

Early in 2012 there will be an open tender for trials of innovative Early Intervention services for young people aged between 9 and 15 years.

131. For the 2010-2011 financial year please provide a list of funded organisations/lead agencies delivering the Brighter Futures Program.

Information concerning funded organisations is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

132. Provide details of funding allocations for each of the organisations referred to in question 12 above.

Information concerning funded organisations is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

133. How much Brighter Futures money for 2010-2011 is allocated to non-government agencies in total?

Information concerning funded organisations is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

134. How much Brighter Futures money is allocated to your Department?

Information concerning funded organisations is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

135. How many Community Services Centres is Brighter Futures being delivered from?

Brighter Futures is delivered by 72 CSCs across the state.

136. Provide details of all programs under Brighter Futures for 2010-11

In 2010/11 the Brighter Futures program model included case management plus one or more of the following core service components:

- Quality children's services
- Parenting programs (group based)
- Structured home visiting programs (including parenting programs delivered one-to-one).

137. Are all programs under Brighter Futures which were delivered in 2010-11 continuing in 2011-12?

The same core service components will continue to be delivered under Brighter Futures, with a strengthened focus on casework in relation to parental vulnerabilities.

138. What is the funding allocated to each individual program under Brighter Futures for 2010-11?

Funding is not allocated to individual program components but to the program as a whole.

139. What is the funding allocated to each individual program under Brighter Futures for 2011-12?

See answer to question 138.

140. Which Local Government Areas or Community Services Centres is Brighter Futures not operational in?

Brighter Futures is a statewide service delivered by both non-government organisations and FACS.

141. Is the program Parents as Teachers Born to Learn continuing in 2011-12?

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) program will continue to be provided by PAT-trained Stronger Families caseworkers in 2011-12.

142. How much funding is provided for the program Parents as Teachers for 2011-12?

Training of Caseworkers in Parents as Teachers (PAT) is not funded for 2011-12. Alternative methods of supporting Structured Home Visiting are being explored. PAT costs are currently comprised of registration renewals for 2011-12 which are anticipated to total less than \$25,000.

143. How many Aboriginal families and children have participated in the 2010-11 Brighter Futures program?

As at 30 June 2011, there were 861 Aboriginal families and 2,189 Aboriginal children participating in the Brighter Futures program.

144. What were the individual programs delivered directly for Aboriginal families and children under Brighter Futures in 2010-11?

While there are no individual programs within Brighter Futures specifically for Aboriginal families, the Brighter Futures program model, including case management and core service options is delivered to Aboriginal families in a flexible and culturally appropriate way. Caseworkers may use relevant specific resources from a range of sources.

145. Will all the Aboriginal Programs under Brighter Futures be continuing in 2011-12?

See answer to question 144.

146. Provide details of funding allocation to individual Aboriginal programs under Brighter Futures in 2010-11?

In 2010/11, Keep Them Safe funding of \$8.2 million per annum was allocated to the Brighter Futures Lead Agencies to increase the number of places available for Aboriginal clients and clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The following three Lead Agencies provided Aboriginal specific Brighter Futures services in 2010/11:

- KARI Aboriginal Resources - \$65,211
- Wandiyali ATSI - \$42,497
- Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation – note that in 2010/11 this agency was under a subcontracting relationship with Samaritans Foundation, which received a total allocation of \$98,084

147. Provide details of funding allocation to individual Aboriginal programs under Brighter Futures in 2011-12?

In 2011/12, Keep Them Safe funding of \$8.2 million per annum is allocated to the Brighter Futures Lead Agencies to maintain the number of places available for Aboriginal clients and clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The following three Lead Agencies provide Aboriginal specific Brighter Futures services in 2011/12:

- KARI Aboriginal Resources - \$130,421
- Wandiyali ATSI - \$65,389
- Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation - \$84,993

148. Provide details of which non-government organisations and which areas are delivering Brighter Futures through pathways for Aboriginal families and children.

See Questions 144 and 147.

149. Are any caseworkers from Family and Community Services delivering the Brighter Futures program to Aboriginal families and children and if so where?

FACS staff deliver Brighter Futures to all eligible families, including Aboriginal families, in each CSC where Brighter Futures is offered. The program gives a priority of access to Aboriginal families. From 1 January 2012 families where the 'Risk of Significant Harm' threshold has not been met will be referred directly to Brighter Futures Lead Agencies. From 1 January 2012, Community Services will continue to give priority access into Stronger Families for Aboriginal families where the 'Risk of Significant Harm' threshold has been met.

150. Please provide details of all Family and Community Service funded programs including details of individuals and organisations for 2010-11.

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

151. What percentage of the total Budget for Family and Community services in 2010-11 do funded programs represent?

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

152. For 2010-11 how much did Family and Community Services funded programs cost in total and what percentage of the total Budget does this represent?

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

153. Provide details of each funded program

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

154. Are you able, at this stage, to provide details of all Family and Community Service funded programs including details of individuals and organisations for 2011-12?

This information will be provided in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

155. What percentage of the total Budget for Family and Community services in 2011-12 will funded programs represent?

This information will be provided in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

156. What programs will be directly funded by Family and Community Services for 2011-12?

This information will be provided in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

157. For 2011-12 how much has been allocated to Community Service programs and what percentage of the Budget will this represent?

This information will be provided in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

158. What are the performance based service specifications under the monitoring framework?

In the Community Services funding system, the service specification is the detailed description of the service that a service provider agrees to provide. The service specification is structured in parts, and details:

- the clients to be served
- the geographic locality the service will operate in
- the service activities to be provided -the service results to be achieved
- the levels of service to be provided under each activity.

A separate service specification is negotiated for each separately identified sum of funds in each funding program. At any given time, Community Services administers around 3,600 separate service specifications across its funding system.

The service specification is the key document for Community Services' routine formal monitoring of service provider performance.

159. Has performance evaluation been carried out for 2010-11 for each Family and Community Services program?

There are a number of ways in which the performance of FACS programs is evaluated.

Budget Paper 3 provides a high level report on the performance of FACS programs each year, which includes a range of performance indicators and service measures.

Furthermore, most programs have reporting and monitoring frameworks in place. For example, many programs where NGOs provide services are undertaken through performance based contracts, which include clear reporting and monitoring frameworks. In addition to this on-going performance monitoring, a number of in-depth program evaluations are undertaken. For example, Brighter Futures was evaluated in 2010/11 and new programs such as Intensive Family Support and Intensive Family Preservation are currently under evaluation.

160. If an evaluation has been conducted what outcomes have been achieved as determined by the evaluation for 2010-11?

Brighter Futures was found to have performed well. Opportunities for improvement were identified and are being implemented.

161. Have there been any incidents which have occurred in the delivery of these funded programs, and if so, provide details from the 2010-11 financial year to date.

Incidents are managed within the terms of the service specification.

162. In 2010-11 how much money was spent on the Community Services Grant Program?

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

163. For the 2011-12 Budget, how much money has been allocated to the Community Services Grant Program?

From 2011/12, the Community Services Grants Program no longer exists. Funding under this program has been realigned into Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) and Community Builders (CB).

164. In 2010-11 how much money was spent on the Keep Them Safe Program?

\$151,548,000 was allocated for the whole-of-government KTS program.

165. Is the \$183 million allocated to the Keep Them Safe program in 2011-12, for supporting and responding to children at risk across government, drawn from the Family and Community Services Budget?

No. Keep Them Safe projects have identified funding allocations across portfolios.

166. What is the Family and Community Services component of the Keep Them Safe Budget and how much of this will be allocated to non-government organisations for 2011-12?

See answer to Question 26.

167. In 2010-11 how much money was spent on the Community Builders program?

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

168. For the 2011-12 Budget how much money has been allocated to the Community Builders program?

See answer to question 30.

169. In 2010-11 how much money was spent on the Indigenous Child and Family Centres including programs and capital works?

\$2.6 million for programs and \$454,000 for capital.

170. For the 2011-12 Budget how money has been allocated to the Indigenous Child and Family Centres including programs and capital works?

\$7 million for programs and \$14.4 million for capital.

171. Where will capital works take place in 2012 for Indigenous child and family centres?

Building works are scheduled to commence in all nine Centre locations (Mt Druitt, Minto, Ballina, Nowra, Gunnedah, Toronto, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge and Doonside) in March 2012.

172. Provide a breakdown and details of the Capital Works program for 2011-12.

Capital Works Program - ACFC'S 2011/12

Task Name	Target Start	Target Finish
Brewarrina		
Development consent	01/12/2011	01/03/2012
Tender Documentation	15/12/2011	15/03/2012
Tendering	15/03/2012	15/04/2012
Tender Assessment	16/04/2012	01/05/2012
Commission Builder	01/05/2012	01/06/2012
Construction	01/06/2012	26/06/2013
Gunnedah		
Development consent	01/12/2011	01/03/2012
Tender Documentation	15/12/2011	15/03/2012
Tendering	15/03/2012	15/04/2012
Tender Assessment	16/04/2012	01/05/2012
Commission Builder	01/05/2012	01/06/2012
Construction	01/06/2012	26/06/2013
Lightning Ridge		
Development consent	01/02/2012	01/05/2012
Tender Documentation	01/05/2012	01/07/2012
Tendering	01/07/2012	01/08/2012
Tender Assessment	01/08/2012	15/08/2012
Commission Builder	15/08/2012	15/09/2012
Construction	15/09/2012	30/06/2013
Nowra		
Development consent	01/12/2011	01/03/2012
Tender Documentation	15/12/2011	15/03/2012
Tendering	15/03/2012	15/04/2012
Tender Assessment	16/04/2012	01/05/2012
Commission Builder	01/05/2012	01/06/2012
Construction	01/06/2012	26/06/2013
Toronto		
Development consent	01/12/2011	01/03/2012
Tender Documentation	15/12/2011	15/03/2012
Tendering	15/03/2012	15/04/2012
Tender Assessment	16/04/2012	01/05/2012
Commission Builder	01/05/2012	01/06/2012
Construction	01/06/2012	26/06/2013
Doonside		
Development consent	01/12/2011	01/03/2012
Tender Documentation	15/12/2011	15/03/2012
Tendering	15/03/2012	15/04/2012
Tender Assessment	16/04/2012	01/05/2012
Commission Builder	01/05/2012	01/06/2012
Construction	01/06/2012	26/06/2013
Ballina		
call tenders	17/11/2011	15/12/2011
Close tenders	15/12/2011	15/12/2011

Tender Assessment	17/12/2011	22/12/2011
Prepare recommendation	23/12/2011	23/12/2011
Contract Administration		
LoA (letter of award)	01/03/2012	01/03/2012
Startup meeting	02/03/2012	02/03/2012
Access to site	02/03/2012	02/03/2012
Construction	03/03/2012	30/06/2013
Campbelltown		
Development consent	01/02/2012	01/05/2012
Tender Documentation	01/05/2012	01/07/2012
Tendering	01/07/2012	01/08/2012
Tender Assessment	01/08/2012	15/08/2012
Commission Builder	15/08/2012	15/09/2012
Construction	15/09/2012	30/06/2013
Mount Druitt		
Development consent	01/12/2011	01/03/2012
Tender Documentation	15/12/2011	15/03/2012
Tendering	15/03/2012	15/04/2012
Tender Assessment	16/04/2012	01/05/2012
Commission Builder	01/05/2012	01/06/2012
Construction	01/06/2012	26/06/2013

173. How much money has been budgeted to improve assessment tools and information management systems to better support casework practice and to identify families at high risk?

Under the 3 year Keep Them Safe (KTS) funding to implement Structured Decision Making (SDM) to improve consistency and reliability in assessments and better support caseworkers, a total of \$8.9 million was budgeted.

174. How much of the Keep Them Safe Budget of 2011-12 is allocated to non-government organisations and what percentage of the Keep Them Safe Budget does this represent?

\$85 million is allocated to non-government organisations, representing 46% of the total Keep Them Safe budget for 2011-12.

175. How much money is allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for Intensive Family Support programs and services through Family and Community Services?

\$5.7 million

176. Has the funding increased for 2011-12 for Intensive Family Support programs and services through Family and Community Services, and if so, by how much in actual and percentage figures?

Funding to Intensive Family Support services, under the Early Intervention and Placement Prevention program, is expected to increase from 2010-11 to 2011-12 due to indexation. This information will be available in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

177. How much money is allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for Intensive Family Support programs and services through non-government organisations?

\$5.5 million

178. Has the funding increased for 2011-12 for Intensive Family Support Programs and services through nongovernment organisations, and if so, by how much in actual and percentage figures?

See answer to question 176.

179. In 2012-11 [sic] which non-government organisations provided services through the Intensive Family Support Program and where were these services delivered?

At this stage there are 25 Intensive Family Support service specifications across NSW. As negotiations are continuing the number of service specifications and the locations are dynamic.

180. How much money is allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for Intensive Family Preservation and Services through Family and Community Services?

\$3.9 million

181. Has the funding increased for 2011-12 for Intensive Family Preservation programs and services through Family and Community Services, and if so, by how much in actual and percentage figures?

Funding to Intensive Family Preservation services, under the Early Intervention and Placement Prevention program, is expected to increase from 2010-11 to 2011-12 due to indexation. This information will be available in the Family and Community Services 2011-2012 Annual Report.

182. How much money is allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for Intensive Family Preservation programs and services through non-government organisations?

\$3.6 million

183. Has the funding increased for 2011-12 for Intensive Family Preservation programs and services through non-government organisations, and if so, by how much in actual and percentage figures?

See answer to question 181.

184. In 2012-11 which non-government organisations provided services through the Intensive Family Preservation program and where were these services delivered?

At this stage there are 15 Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) service specifications across NSW. As negotiations are continuing the number of service specifications and the locations are dynamic.

185. For both the Intensive Family Support and Intensive Family Preservation programs, what funding is allocated for the 2011-12 Budget for Aboriginal children and families and provide a breakdown of the individual services to be delivered.

Funding for these programs in the 2011-12 Budget is not specifically allocated for Aboriginal children and families.

186. For both the Intensive Family Support and Intensive Family Preservation programs, provide a breakdown and funding expenditure for the individual services delivered in 2010-11.

Information concerning funded programs is available in the Family and Community Services 2010-2011 Annual Report.

187. How many staff employed by your Department in 2010-11?

Family and Community Services (FACS) had 21,791 employees (17,828 FTE) as at 30 June 2011. The majority these employees work in direct client service provision

188. How many caseworkers were employed by your Department in 2010-11?

The head count of Caseworker staff employed by Community Services between July 2010 to June 2011, including those who were employed during the entire period, and those who commenced or separated during that period was 2321. In addition, 40 caseworkers were employed by Ageing, Disability and Home Care as at 30 June 2011.

189. Which Community Service Centres in New South Wales do not have a full quota of caseworkers allocated? Why?

From time to time, all Community Services Centres experience vacancies arising from staff movements, transfers and departures.

190. What was the separation rate for permanent Community Services caseworkers in 2010-11?

The separation rate for permanent Caseworkers in Community Services during 2010-2011 was 8.77 per cent.

191. What was the separation rate for temporary Community Services caseworkers in 2010-11?

The separation rate for temporary Caseworkers in Community Services during 2010-2011 was 18.54 per cent. This includes both temporary staff whose contracts expired and temporary staff who ceased prior to their contract end date during the period.

192. How many vacancies for caseworkers currently exist?

The number of vacant Caseworker positions as at the end of October 2011 is 157. Of these, 36 positions are protected program funded (eg Keep Them Safe), the remaining 121 vacancies are not funded.

The number of vacant caseworker positions as at the 30 June 2011 was 193.

193. Provide a breakdown of the number of caseworkers in each Community Service Centre in 2010-11.

As at 30 June 2011, there were 2320 caseworkers in caseworker positions in a range of locations such as Community Services Centre, Joint Investigative Response Teams, Intensive Family Based Services and other programs.

194. Provide a breakdown of the number of caseworker positions currently vacant in each Community Service Centre.

See answer 192.

195. Given that the Department's full time equivalents will stay basically the same, how do you explain a reduction of 10 percent (\$2.5 million) in employer related expenses this year?

The Family and Community Services employee related budget for 2011/12 of \$1.438 billion is an increase of \$102.5 million (7.6%) on the 2010/11 budget.

196. As to the 2011-12 budget, there is a \$3.8 million reduction in other operating expenses - what services, programs and resources will be cut to accommodate this reduction?

The Family and Community Services 2011/12 operating expense budget of \$333.8 million is an increase of \$34.1 million (11.4%) on the 2010/11 budget.

197. What is the savings efficiency/productivity target for your department 2011-12 and how will this be achieved?

The Family and Community Services 2011/12 efficiency/productivity target is \$40.5 million. The savings will be achieved through:

1. Sector wide procurement savings and reduction in expenditure on operating costs.
2. Reducing shared services costs through demand management.
3. Rostering reforms in direct services resulting in savings in agency and overtime costs.
4. Reduction in Non-Government Organisations sustainability funding following the introduction of the Modern Award and the decision by Fair Work Australia.

198. How do you account for projections that Department foster care will rise from \$25000 to \$27000 per person while also projecting that non government organisation foster care will fall from \$48 000 to \$43000?

The Government has considered fixed unit costs to bring in line cost discrepancies between the Department and NGO providers. New unit costs for General Foster Care consider the costs involved in supporting a foster care placement, regardless of whether a child is placed with the Department or an NGO. As cases transfer to the NGO sector, the Department's caseloads drop to be more in line with those of NGOs, pushing the unit cost up for placements provided by the Department.

199. Why has the budget for Business Link increased by 13% (\$9 million)?

The 2011-12 budget for Businesslink has increased due to resourcing additional services being delivered to clients as well as annual salary indexation of 2.5%.

200. What is the socio-economic profile of foster carers in New South Wales?

Community Services does not collect data on the socio-economic status of authorised carers. A recent study has been conducted which examined demographic characteristics of carers.

Yardley, A. Mason, J. and Watson, E. (2009), *Kinship Care in NSW: Finding a way forward*, University of Western Sydney – This study explored the support and supervision provided to kinship carers and also provided data on the characteristics of kinship carers compared to data on the characteristics of foster carers. The study found that:

- Of the 57 kinship carer respondents, 35.1% had a pre-tax household weekly income of \$80-\$500 per week, 38.6% earned between \$500 and \$1000 a week and 17.5% had an income of over \$1000 per week. Of the 49 foster carer respondents, 18.4% had a pre-tax household weekly income of \$80-\$500, 26.5% earned between \$500 and \$1000 a week and 53.1% had an income over \$1000 per week.
- 48.6% of kinship carers reported receiving a Centrelink pension or benefit and 31.9% reported a similar benefit for their partner compared to 29.4% and 19.6% respectively for foster carers. Further, 58.3% of kinship carers reported that they received financial assistance from Centrelink for their children compared to 45.1% for foster carers.
- 35.3% of foster carers held a university qualification and 52% were part of a household where a member held a university qualification compared to 5.6% and 12.7% respectively for kinship carers.

201. How much funding is allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for the joint non government/government ministerial advisory group?

ACWA has been provided with \$250,000 and AbSec with \$150,000 in 2011/12 to assist with their participation in the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG), to consult with stakeholders and provide policy advice on the OOHHC transfer. No funding has been allocated to the experts of the MAG, ie the expert members are not paid roles.

202. How much money was expended in the 2010-11 Budget for adoption services – please break figures down across the adoption permanent care unit, the adoption information unit and the out of home care adoption team?

Intercountry and Local - \$1,728,293
 Out Of Home Care Adoptions - \$1,122,326
 Adoption Information Unit - \$1,017,430
 Total - \$3,868,049

203. How much money has been allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for adoption services – please break figures down across the adoption permanent care unit, the adoption information unit and the out of home care adoption team?

Intercountry and Local - \$1,641,880
 Out Of Home Care Adoptions - \$1,116,297

Adoption Information Unit - This information is unable to be provided following changes to the provision of these services. The Adoption Information Unit is no longer a stand-alone unit with its own cost code. It is now part of a broader unit that provides information to individuals who have had involvement with Community Services.

204. For 2010-11, how many total adoptions were there?

165

205. In relation to the question above, please break these adoptions into the various categories.

70 intercountry
45 out of home care
34 intrafamily
14 local
1 special case
1 former ward adopted by his carers as an adult.

206. In relation to inter-country adoptions for 2010-11 please advise the following:

- a. expressions of interest in adoption lodged,**
- b. applications under assessment,**
- c. applications approved awaiting placement,**
- d. families where child has been allocated,**
- e. families under post placement supervision,**
- f. number of applications lodged in the Supreme Court,**
- g. number of applications pending before the Supreme Court,**
- h. number of applications formally lodged with your Department.**

- a) 133 expressions of interest were received
- b) as at 30/06/2011 there were 24 applications under assessment
- c) as at 30/06/2011 there were 240 approved applications awaiting placement of a child or children
- d) as at 30/06/2011, 21 Applicant received an allocation
- e) as at 30/06/2011, 91 have returned with a child and are under post placement supervision
- f) not available
- g) not available
- h) as at 30/06/2011, 40 applications have been lodged with the court.

207. How many families involved in the inter-country adoption program are currently waiting for finalisation of their application?

There were 420 applicants as at 30/06/2011.

208. Which inter-country adoptions have stopped taking applications or reduced the number they are willing to accept?

Stopped taking applications: Fiji, India, Bolivia
Reduced number of applications: Philippines, Thailand, Korea

209. How much is allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for transfer of out of home care to the non-government sector.

\$8 million

210. How much is allocated in the forward estimates from 2012-15, each year, for the transfer of out of home care to the non government sector?

2012/13 - \$19 million

2013/14 - \$31 million

2014/15 - \$40 million

211. Quantify what savings will be made through reducing carer allowances paid to new carers who adopt children and young people in out of home care. Provide a breakdown of all children in out of home care by category for example relative and kinship care, foster care etc for 2010-11.

Expected savings are \$624,000 over four years. A breakdown of children in out-of-home care is given in the answer to question 23.

212. For the breakdown above, please provide by age.

See answer to question 25.

213. How many Aboriginal children were in out of home care in the 2010-11 financial year?

See answer to question 15.

214. How many Aboriginal children in out of home care were in relative or kinship care?

As at 30 June 2011 there were 3,667 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Relative and Aboriginal Kinship Care.

215. How many adoption applications have been filed by carers seeking to adopt children in out of home care for the 2010-11 financial year?

In 2010/11 adoption applications for 62 children were lodged in the Supreme Court.

216. How many of those adoption applications in the question above have been lodged and finalised in the New South Wales Supreme Court?

In 2010/11 adoption orders were finalised for 45 of the 62 children.

217. How many adoption applications by carers seeking to adopt children in out of home care are currently being assessed by Family and Community Services or other respective agencies but not yet approved or filed in the New South Wales Supreme Court?

As of 31 October 2011, there are 188 children for whom the suitability of adoption is currently being assessed.

218. How many carers who are seeking to adopt children in out of home care have expressed an interest to adopt a child in their care before 6 September 2011?

There are approximately 660 prospective adoptions in the system that are at different stages of the adoption process.

219. How many children in out of home care have been identified by caseworkers for adoption as a suitable permanent option and discuss this with the carer and/or child.

As of 31 October 2011, there were 366 children where an enquiry has been received about commencing the process of exploring adoption.

220. Quantify savings to be made by reducing carer allowance by the amount of the youth allowance when young people turn 16 years of age.

Adjustment of statutory and supported care allowances by the 'independent at-home' rate of Youth Allowance for placements of young people 16 years or older see estimated savings of \$6.97 million per annum and \$24.4 million by 2014/15, based on a commencement date of 1 January 2012.

221. Is the government aware of proposed changes to the Youth Allowance and Family Tax Benefit Part A and what effect will this have on your government's announced policy with respect to youth allowance?

From 1 January 2012 young people under 18 years will not be able to claim Youth Allowance if they live at home, are dependent and are in full-time secondary study. These young people will instead attract a higher amount as a dependant under Family Tax Benefit A.

Young people in out-of-home care are automatically defined as independent by Centrelink due to their out-of-home care status. This means they may continue to claim Youth Allowance.

Young people and carers will be encouraged to contact Centrelink to ensure that they are receiving all the income support to which they are entitled. Carers may continue to claim Family Tax Benefits in place of the young person receiving Youth Allowance.

222. When is it expected that an agreed unit price will be negotiated with the non government organisations with relation to the transfer of out of home care services?

New contracts are to be negotiated in line with the transfer commencement date of January 2012.

223. How much has been budgeted for the social bonds program for Out of Home Care for 2011-12?

This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Michael Baird MP, Treasurer who is responsible for the Social Benefits Bonds program.

224. When will this program commence?

See question 223

225. How much money has been budgeted to improve assessment tools and information management systems to better support casework practice and to identify families at high risk?

See answer to question 173.

PREVENTING BULLYING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST OF WOMEN

226. What is the State Government's policy to prevent the bullying of women in the workplace?

Under federal and state laws, it is against the law to discriminate against people, or to harass them, in matters of employment. The Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW, within the Department of Attorney General and Justice, administers the anti-discrimination laws of NSW and promotes anti-discrimination and equal opportunity principles and policies throughout the state. The Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW also advises the NSW Government on discrimination matters and makes recommendations to the Attorney General.

In the NSW public sector, the *Dignity and Respect: Policy and Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Workplace Bullying* provides an overarching framework to enable agencies to review and develop their policies to eliminate workplace bullying.

227. Has the Premier chaired a meeting of the Premier's Council on Preventing Violence Against Women?

a. If not, why not?

The Minister for Women is the Chair of the Premier's Council on Preventing Violence Against Women. She chaired her first meeting with the Council on 29 August 2011.

228. What is the State Government's plan for the Premier's Council on Preventing Violence Against Women?

The role of the Premier's Council on Preventing Violence Against Women, along with other governance arrangements, will be considered in the course of the review of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan.

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

229. Did the Minister make any announcements during World Breastfeeding Week, 1-7 August 2011?

a) If so what was the announcement?

b) If not, why not?

The Minister for Women did not make any announcements during World Breastfeeding Week. Breastfeeding is principally a health portfolio matter.

230. What support is the State Government providing to the Australian Breastfeeding Association?

The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) is a national non-government organisation funded by both the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and NSW Health.

231. If the State Government is providing support to the Australian Breastfeeding Association, what is the nature of the support and for what period is it being provided?

a) Does the government support breastfeeding lounges?

b) If not, why not?

c) If so, will the government provide additional resources to local community groups and councils to support the establishment of breastfeeding lounges in regional and metropolitan areas?

Details of the amount and nature of current and future funding to the ABA is a matter for the Minister for Health.

WOMEN IN NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES

232. Can the Minister provide information about the number of women currently working in non traditional roles, specifically those employed in 'blue collar' jobs in state agencies and utilities?

As at 2 March 2011 13,870 women were employed in non-traditional roles in the NSW public sector.

233. Can the Minister provide information about how many of these women are employed as apprentices or trainees?

The Public Service Commission does not collect this data. A program of work is currently being explored to consider where further data is needed.

234. Can the Minister provide information about what pay rates these women receive as tradespeople, relative to males employed in the same positions?

The Public Service Commission does not collect this data. A program of work is currently being explored to consider where further data is needed.

235. Can the Minister provide information about how many women tradespeople hold positions as a foreperson or supervisor in their workplaces?

The Public Service Commission does not collect data on women's employment as forepersons or supervisors. However, workforce data shows that women's representation in senior positions in non-traditional occupations is relatively low in comparison to men, although this is generally at a higher level than in the private sector. For example, ABS data shows only 12.1 percent of Construction, Distribution and Production Managers are women (ANZSCO 133).

236. Can the Minister provide information about the rates of pay for these women relative to males in the same positions?

The Public Service Commission does not collect this data. A program of work is currently being explored to consider where further data is needed.

237. Can the Minister provide this same information (1-4 above) in relation to state owned corporations, as distinct from state government?

As at 2 March 2011 State-owned corporations employed 497 women in non-traditional occupations.

238. Can the Minister provide information about the number of women directly employed in non-traditional apprenticeships and traineeships by state agencies and utilities compared with state owned corporations?

239. Can the Minister provide information about how many women in non-traditional apprenticeships are employed by state government agencies through labour hire companies?

240. Can the Minister provide information about how many women in non-traditional apprenticeships are employed by state owned corporations through labour hire companies?

241. Can the Minister provide information about the pay rates of these women (9 and 10 above) relative to men in the same positions?

RESPONSE – QUESTIONS 238-241:

The Public Service Commission does not collect this data. A program of work is currently being explored to consider where further data is needed.

242. What consultation if any, has there been with community or trade union groups about improving the numbers of women employed in non-traditional roles – in both state government agencies and state owned corporations?

243. What consultation if any, has there been with any industry, business, community or trade union groups about improving career prospects for women employed in non-traditional roles – in both state government agencies and state owned corporations?

244. What consultation if any, has there been with any industry, business, community or trade union groups about improving the wages and salaries for women employed in non-traditional roles – in both state government agencies and state owned corporations?

RESPONSE – QUESTIONS 242 -244:

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that industry, business, community and trade union groups are involved in achieving the *NSW 2021* goal of increasing the proportion of women employed in non-traditional occupations in NSW.

Consultation and communication with relevant bodies has commenced and will continue throughout 2012. This consultation will inform appropriate initiatives to increase the numbers of women employed in traditionally male-dominated roles, and to improve the career prospects, and wages and salaries for women working in non-traditional roles.

245. Can the Minister provide information on how many women are employed as apprentices and trainees in non-traditional roles in the private sector in NSW?

Information on the numbers of women employed as apprentices and trainees in NSW is held by the State Training Services, within the Department of Education and Communities. As at October 2011 38.1% of all apprentices and trainees were women. This figure is not disaggregated by occupation or sector.

ABS 2006 Census data indicated that the proportion of women in the NSW workforce who were employed in non-traditional occupations was 5.8 per cent. As Census data is only available every five years, interim data can be sourced at six monthly intervals from the ABS Labour Force Survey.

At February 2011, the average participation of women in NSW employed in occupations defined as non-traditional was 18.5 per cent (n.84,000)

Work is underway to publish the first Annual Report on the Status of Women in NSW. This will improve the availability of data on women's employment in non-traditional occupations in NSW.

246. Can the Minister provide information on how many of these women are employed as forepersons or supervisors?

The NSW Government does not collect data on women's employment as forepersons or supervisors. However, ABS 2006 census data shows that women's representation in senior positions in non-traditional occupations in NSW is low. For example:

- 4% of Construction Managers are women (920);
- 4% of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticultural Plant Operators are women (89); and
- 5% of Engineering Managers are women (194).

247. Can the Minister provide information on the wage and salary rates of these women relative to men in the same positions?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases average weekly earnings data quarterly which is used to calculate the gender wage gap in NSW. The most recent data (May 2011) shows that the gender pay gap in NSW is 14.3%.

An initial analysis of women working in non-traditional occupations in NSW suggests a gender pay gap exists in male-dominated occupations.

Work is underway to publish the first Annual Report on the Status of Women in NSW. This will improve the availability of data on women's employment in non-traditional occupations and gender pay gaps in NSW.

248. Can the Minister provide information about how many of these women are employed as direct employees and how many by labour hire companies?

NSW Government does not collect data on women's employment by direct employees compared with labour hire companies.

Work is underway to publish the first Annual Report on the Status of Women in NSW. This will improve the availability of data on women's employment in non-traditional occupations in NSW.

NSW WOMEN'S PLAN

249. When will the review of the NSW Women's Plan Occur?

250. Who will conduct the review?

251. When will the details of the review be announced?

252. Will the public have an opportunity to make submissions?

253. If so, when will submissions open and close?

249 – 253 The NSW Women's Plan was released in February 2011. This plan is currently being considered to ensure alignment with the Government's *NSW 2021* plan and priorities.

WOMEN'S INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

254. What funding does the 2011-12 State Budget provide for the Women's Information and Referral Service (WIRS)?

This question is more appropriately directed to the Attorney General as the Women's Information and Referral Service is funded by the Department of Attorney General and Justice.

255. Will the State Government extend the hours that the Women's Information and Referral Service is available for the public to call?

This question is more appropriately directed to the Attorney General as the Women's Information and Referral Service is funded by the Department of Attorney General and Justice.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

256. Does the Minister support the increase of women's representation in senior positions in the public sector from 28% to 35%?

a. If so, how will the government achieve this target?

b. If not, why not?

The *Making the Public Sector Work Better for Women* policy document commits the Government between 2008 and 2012 to increasing women's representation in senior positions from a benchmark of 28% to a target of 35%.

This work is being led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Public Service Commission (PSC). As at June 2010 women represented 30.8% of all employees at Grade 12 and above or equivalent, including SES.

The NSW Government continues to develop leadership skills of women through the Public Sector Management Program and other Executive Development, career mobility and mentoring programs.

PHONES

257. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?

I am advised for all Ministerial offices, there is a total of 151 Blackberries, 19 iPads and 3 iPhones.

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

See answer 257

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

See answer 257

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

See answer 257

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

See answer 257

262. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?

Ministerial offices in the NSW Government from April 2011 to October 2011 spent a total of \$88,902. This compares with \$238,567 spent under the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

263. How many phones or devices have been lost in your office?

For all Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government, there has been one stolen phone, which cost \$577 (ex GST) to replace.

264. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

See answer 263.

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS**265. How many media or public relations advisors are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?**

Media and public relations advisors - not all positions are filled and some of these positions are temporary.

Division	No of FTE positions
FACS Central office	0.5
Community Services	5
Housing NSW	3
ADHC	1.5

266. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

The department is embarking on an extensive reform program which includes organisational redesign, service delivery improvement and consolidation of Corporate and Shared Services to enhance efficiency across Family and Community Services. This work is not yet completed and may impact on the number of media and public relations people employed in 2011-12.

267. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

One

OVERSEAS TRIPS**268. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?**

I am advised 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'.

269. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Not applicable

OFFICE COSTS**270. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?**

I am advised Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

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

I am advised Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

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

I am advised Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

273. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?

Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set out to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

274. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April?

Make-good repairs to the cost of \$3,823.

a. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

See answer 274.

275. What is your office budget?

Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set out to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

276. How many political advisors are in your office?

There are currently three full-time and one part-time policy advisors.

277. How many administration staff?

Currently one.

278. How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?

Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0681—Premier—DEPARTMENTAL LIAISON OFFICERS, that details this information as at 7 August 2011.

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

Each Minister is provided with a Ministerial driver, with the Premier provided with three Ministerial drivers.

CABCHARGE

280. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cab charge since April?

I am advised for all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011.

This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

RESTRUCTURE

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

Yes. The department is embarking on an extensive reform program which includes organisational redesign, service delivery improvement and consolidation of Corporate and Shared Services to enhance efficiency across Family and Community Services.

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

The Minister on transcript has advised that 170 offers of voluntary redundancy are to be made in the Department of Family and Community Services in 2011/12.

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

Redeployments resulting from the Family and Community Services Reform program would be managed in accordance with the Government *Managing Excess Employees policy* which provides for redeployment on former grade. Where an excess employee is placed in a position at a lower grade, they are entitled to three calendar months salary maintenance at their former grade.

284. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

The Minister on transcript has advised that 170 offers of voluntary redundancy are to be made in the Department of Family and Community Services in 2011/12.

AGENCY COSTS

285. What is your agency's catering budget?

The total cost of catering for the Family and Community Services Cluster for 2010-11 financial year was \$806,086

286. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?

As a result of the new Administrative Orders on 3 April, the Department of Human Services (DHS) was renamed the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS). New logos were produced in house to reflect this name change

287. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Logos were replaced on websites and electronic templates using minimal internal resources. Staff were advised to exhaust existing stationery stock and signage has been updated when scheduled for renewal..

288. How much has been spent on stationery?

New stationery was made accessible to staff as online templates to reduce printing costs. Staff were advised to use the online templates and exhaust existing stationery before ordering new stock to ensure additional costs were not incurred.

CORRESPONDENCE

289. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?

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

289 & 290

The Department of Family and Community Services' recommended time frame for competing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 4 weeks from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

While best endeavours are made, it is not always practicable to respond within with this timeframe for a number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources to ensure an appropriate response.

PAYING BILLS ON TIME

291. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

Family and Community Services

Payment Terms	Within new Treasury Guidelines		Within Treasury Circular NSW TC 06/26	
	Number of Invoices	%	Number of Invoices	%
Paid within 30 days	837,052	95%	865,385	96%
Paid after more than 30 days	67,715	7%	39,382	4%
Total	904,767		904,767	

This figure excludes NSW Businesslink Pty Ltd or payments by Resitech for construction works.

NSW Businesslink Pty Ltd

Payment Terms	Within new Treasury Guidelines		Within Treasury Circular NSW TC 06/26	
	Number of Invoices	%	Number of Invoices	%
Paid within 30 days	10,506	71%	12,475	84%
Paid after more than 30 days	4,362	29%	2,393	16%
Total	14,868		14,868	

These figures are for April – October 2011.

292. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?

Refer to QON 291.

IN RELATION TO GRANTS TO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

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

If yes,

- What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
- On what date was the funding advanced?
- What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- Was any funding withheld or returned?
- If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?

Yes, the agency does provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations.

- & 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. 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 the payment is made via the weekly or monthly payment run, or on request for an ad hoc payment.

- d. Information regarding the purpose of grant funding provided to non government organisations is provided in the department's Annual Report in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1984*.
- e. Yes.
- f. 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.

294. 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.

295. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews, if so;

- 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 feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews may be commissioned to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

Pru Goward
Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Women

QUESTION FROM THE HON GREG DONNELLY MLC

296. In relation to Family and Community Services

a. What specific amount of money has been allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for the care and accommodation of girls and women who need support because of an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy?

b. Over the forward estimates what specific amount of money has been allocated for the care and accommodation of girls and women who need support because of an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy?

a. Although Specialist Homelessness Services are not specifically targeted to girls or women in the identified target group, these services may provide accommodation and support to girls and women experiencing an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy. Current recording systems do not collect data on the number of clients in this category.

The Red Cross Young Parents Program is a fixed-term project that specifically targets pregnant or parenting young parents under 25, providing them with accommodation and support. In 2011/12 this service will receive \$1,475,585 under the Brighter Futures Program. This contract is due to expire on 30 June 2012.

b. Nil for this specific need.

Pru Goward

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Women