

QUESTIONS TAKEN DURING THE HEARING
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2007-08

QUESTION 1

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Are you able to provide details of all the payments made to investigators for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 periods and the names of the companies involved?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes, for 2007-08 it was \$258,972. The figure for 2006-07 I will need to take on notice, if I could?

Answer: The amounts spent on external investigators to investigate incidents involving staff were \$491,670.87 in 2006/07 and \$545,007.95 in 2007/08. There were 55 new investigations in 2007/08. Of these, 40 investigations were finalised. The \$258,972 quoted at the hearing reflects the cost of these finalised matters.

The other figure, being \$545,007.95, is the total amount spent on investigations in 2007/08. This includes investigations that may have commenced prior to 2007/08 or have not yet been finalised.

QUESTION 2

CHAIR: Thank you. Minister, is DADHC currently funding Tai Chi lessons for staff in an environment where people are waiting desperately for urgently needed services?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: I will take that on notice, unless the Director General can give me an answer?

Mr O'REILLY: We certainly do not allocate money for staff to attend Tai Chi lessons. I would have to check with the regions if anything has happened there, but to my knowledge absolutely not.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: So you do not have a budget for staff morale type activities?

Mr O'REILLY: For staff development and workforce training, but it does not include Tai Chi.

Answer: Staff at DADHC's Penrith office have initiated Tai Chi in their personal time. The sessions are held during their lunch period once a week. A staff member has volunteered to lead the class and there is no funding for these sessions from DADHC.

QUESTION 3

CHAIR: How many DADHC employees are on the displaced public servant list currently?

Mr O'REILLY: As at 30 June, 11 permanent employees are currently unplaced in a permanent position but have been provided with meaningful work in a temporary capacity. I then have a breakdown of those 11, but it is only 11 out of nearly 13,000 staff.

CHAIR: Is that a movement up or down on last year?

Mr O'REILLY: It would be roughly the same. If there is a position that includes surplus the staff are advised. They are aware that they have salary maintenance for a maximum period of 12 months. We look at alternate positions that are vacant at that level and if they have the expertise to be able to move directly into those jobs. If not, they are reported to the Premier's Department and Cabinet where they are on a displaced list for the whole of government.

CHAIR: So you would have a list of how much that costs the department in a financial year?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes, I would just go back and get the figures for you.

CHAIR: Thank you, if you could take that on notice?

Mr O'REILLY: Absolutely.

Answer: In the 2007/08 financial year, there has been no cost incurred to DADHC, as all displaced officers were gainfully employed on alternative duties.

QUESTION 4

CHAIR: You may need to take on notice or you may know the answer in terms of how many staff are currently on workers' compensation and what the cost of that was for the 2007-08 period?

Mr O'REILLY: I can say that the workers' compensation premiums for the department have dropped by several million dollars over the past 12 months. The only problem with the numbers is that there are going to be people who are off and then come back to work, so I am not sure if the figures are going to mean anything.

CHAIR: If you would provide us with what you are able to?

Mr O'REILLY: Okay.

CHAIR: If you can tell us how many currently are and how many were—

Mr O'REILLY: Certainly.

CHAIR: Are you going to take that on notice?

Mr O'REILLY: If I could, yes.

Answer: From 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, a total of 1144 workers compensation claims were opened. As at 30 June 2008, 908 workers compensation claims remained active (i.e. 'open'). The workers compensation premium has reduced from \$37,951,160 in 2005/06 to \$26,959,576 in 2007/08. In 2007, DADHC received a Risk Management Award - Injury Management, from Treasury Managed Funds reflecting the improvements made in reduced cost of claims, reducing claim numbers and improved management of workplace injuries.

QUESTION 5

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: And each of those persons is in a desperate situation. You spoke about a budget increase. In 2006 there was an increase of \$514 million to fund 990 additional places. How many of those places were taken up by 30 June this year?

Mr O'REILLY: The Stronger Together document identifies how many places we have to achieve each year. To date we have exceeded those targets. I will have to get the report to show you where those places are.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: I am happy for you to take that question on notice. I reiterate my concern: since 2006 you have had budgetary increases for 990 places. I want to know how many increased places have currently been taken up?

Mr O'REILLY: Are you talking about accommodation places?

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: Yes.

Mr O'REILLY: We do not get that money in one hit; we get it over five years. Each year we have a target. If I had the Stronger Together plan with me I could tell you exactly.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: Take that question on notice. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Answer: In *Stronger Together*, the NSW Government has committed to providing an additional 990 accommodation support places over the first five years of the plan. In the first two years, DADHC has allocated 315 additional accommodation support places to young people leaving care, people in contact with the criminal justice system and other people deemed to be in the greatest need. In addition, DADHC has established the first accommodation support model for young people in or at risk of entering nursing homes (4 places) and 30 innovative specialist support places have been allocated for Aboriginal people on the mid-North Coast and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities in South West Sydney.

The remaining places will be allocated over the next three years as set out in *Stronger Together*.

As at 30 June 2008:

77 clients have been accepted into the Criminal Justice Program. Of these clients, 25 were living in a range of custodial or other temporary placements pending the construction of their new accommodation. Four clients were living in other accommodation support services having successfully exited the Program.

113 young people had been transitioned to disability support services under the Young People Leaving Care Program.

95 people had been placed in general accommodation services funded under *Stronger Together*.

QUESTION 6

Mr IAN COHEN: My question is quite specific. We are not talking about elite athleticism, be it with a disability. I am talking about people with disabilities. You have situations where people with quadriplegia can have or should have activities that can encourage exercise within the realms of their abilities. I am just wondering whether you have ordinary people, not elite sportspeople, with disabilities who are very much impacted upon to give them activities?

Mr O'REILLY: We do. I can give to you the sporting arrangements that have happened across New South Wales through the grant we have given Sport and Recreation separately for people, not elite sportspeople, who have a disability to be able to participate in sport. They have to report to us each year on where the money has gone, what sport and how many people have been involved who otherwise would not have been able to participate.

Mr IAN COHEN: What are the active sports? I know we have disabled surfing, but it is totally privately funded without government support.

Mr O'REILLY: Wheelchair basketball.

Mr IAN COHEN: Government supported?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes.

Mr IAN COHEN: Financially?

Mr O'REILLY: Absolutely.

Mr IAN COHEN: How much?

Mr O'REILLY: I would have to get out the figures. We recognised that people with disabilities were not getting access to sporting arrangements. We then worked with Sport and Recreation and gave it \$1 million to be spread over the three-year arrangement solely to target people who wanted to do sport but who happen to have a disability.

Mr IAN COHEN: What would have been done with that \$1 million? Of that \$1 million what benefit would a person with a disability have gotten on the ground, if you like?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: I think that would be best answered by Sport and Recreation. The money has gone to that department; it is in a position to answer that rather than us.

Mr O'REILLY: There is sail ability, wheelchair basketball. There is—

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: Riding for the disabled.

Mr O'REILLY: —riding for disabled, tag—

Mr IAN COHEN: Is riding for the disabled supported by government funding?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes.

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: In some places.

Mr O'REILLY: I am very happy to be able to get you the first year's return on what has been achieved.

Answer: DADHC provided the NSW Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation with a \$1 million grant to further participation opportunities for people with a disability in sport and recreation. The focus of the program is on participation opportunities in local communities.

Of this grant, \$250,000 pa has been allocated over four years to the Disability Sport Assistance Program, with 27 projects funded in 2007/08. These are on the ground programs, such as sailing, skiing, swimming and football.

QUESTION 7

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: The level of unmet need for supported accommodation in New South Wales is around 1,700. How does that compare as per the percentage of population with Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia?

Ms McALPINE: I do not have that off the top of my head. I will take it on notice.

Answer: The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare has qualified estimates that, for people with a disability in Australia, around 28,000 had an unmet need for accommodation support and respite in 2005. The figure per State/Territory was not estimated.

QUESTION 8

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How many clients with disabilities in New South Wales are entitled under the Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement criteria to be considered for accommodation supports who currently do not have access to them? Is that the 1,700 figure?

Ms McALPINE: Is that the people who say they need a group home?

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Yes. How many?

Ms McALPINE: Out of the total population, I need to take that on notice.

Answer: See the answer to question 7.

QUESTION 9

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How many clients accommodated in supported accommodation services in 2007-08 across New South Wales were accommodated straight from the family home? Do you keep such a statistic?

Ms McALPINE: No. I would have to take it on notice.

Answer: During 2007/08, DADHC Regions reported that 51 people moved directly from the family home into supported accommodation models.

QUESTION 10

CHAIR: In relation to Aboriginal people with a disability, how much does your department negotiate with other departments in terms of people's home modifications if they have a disability, for example, someone leaving a Correctional Centre who might

need alterations to their house in order to move around in a wheelchair? Do you have any of those negotiations occurring?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: We certainly have a very serious program to deal with people coming out of jail. Perhaps the Director-General might have further detail.

Mr O'REILLY: Can I come back to that? I will find that figure for you.

Answer: Home Modifications are provided by funded service providers under the Home and Community Care (HACC) program – DADHC does not provide this service directly.

The HACC target group is the frail aged, younger people with a disability and their carers.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people fall within the Special Needs category in HACC. This group also includes people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with dementia, financially disadvantaged people and people living in remote or isolated areas.

Referrals for HACC services are managed by the funded service providers.

Priority for service provision is determined by the funded services based on the *NSW Guidelines for Home and Community Care (HACC) funded services*.

Providers are required to consider the following criteria in determining priority of access:

- The level of service to be provided given that HACC funds provision of basic maintenance and support;
- The vulnerability of the individual to further deterioration;
- The effect of service delivery on the carer;
- The likely effect of the service provided in assisting individuals to attain their goals, for example, reduced risk of admission to residential care or maintaining quality of life in the community;
- The effect on other existing and prospective consumers of providing services for this individual; and
- Safety for consumers and staff.

It is the inter-relationship of the factors used for the priority and access policy that determines the overall priority of the particular referral.

QUESTION 11

CHAIR: In relation to support to your staff within the department, I understand the department held an all expenses paid conference at Homebush Bay under former Minister Keneally. It is said that the cost was \$466,000 to the DADHC budget. How many people who stayed at Homebush actually live in the Sydney Basin?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: I think we might take that on notice.

Answer: A total of 350 staff attended the conference. Of these, 107 staff were accommodated from the Sydney basin. Not all these staff were accommodated for the full five days. The program ran a number of evening sessions.

QUESTION 12

CHAIR: Certainly, and could you also take on notice how many of those people were required to attend evening activities and tell us, with \$466,000, how many hours of therapy for children could have been provided? Do you want to take that on notice or answer it now?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: No, I will take it on notice.

Answer: Two hundred and forty DADHC staff attended the evening activities. Additional funds to cover the cost of staff training and professional development, including this conference, were allocated in *Stronger Together*.

QUESTION 13

Mr IAN COHEN: Did you say earlier in discussing that conference that the funds were taken from funds earmarked or part of the Stronger Together Program?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: I do not think I did say that.

CHAIR: I think they might have been taken from what could have been delivery of services.

Mr IAN COHEN: Well, perhaps you could take it on notice if it was taken from the Stronger Together Program?

Mr O'REILLY: Stronger Together provided funding to the department not only for the direct line supports for people with disability, but also for the professional development of our staff. The conference was the first one that our caseworkers have ever had the opportunity to attend or we recruited additional staff and they attended an induction program. It was a five-day conference. The staff who lived in Sydney were invited to stay overnight where they were attending night sessions and training programs. As the Minister pointed out, it cost a grand total of \$1,300 per person, and you would never get it cheaper than that under any benchmark. We had international speakers and parents, who have worked in the service system or tried to get services through the service system, explain their experiences. There was a training program for staff, which is all linked to Stronger Together. It was probably the best conference the department has ever had for staff where they worked incredibly hard but gained incredible skills.

CHAIR: We look forward to further details coming on notice. In terms of respite care vacancies, could you tell us what was the purpose of introducing extended respite care packages?

Answer: There are no respite packages of this type.

The purpose of the Extended Family Support Program is to assist families at risk of relinquishing the care of their child or young person with a disability. The focus of the support provided is to strengthen the ability of families to care for their child or young person or to restore care arrangements. This support is not limited to respite and there are no extended 'respite care packages'.

QUESTION 14

CHAIR: In terms of specific respite centres could you tell me the longest period of time a child has lived at the Mannix centre, the Grosvenor centre or at Greystanes?

Ms McALPINE: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer: The Mannix Centre previously provided permanent accommodation for children with disabilities. All children were relocated to appropriate community-based accommodation services prior to 31 December 2005.

Two children previously lived in blocked respite at the Grosvenor Centre for a period of one year.

The maximum length of time any child was at Greystanes prior to devolution was 18 years.

QUESTION 15

CHAIR: How many child and adolescent clients blocked a complete respite house because of behavioural disorders in 2007-08?

Ms McALPINE: I would need to take that on notice too.

CHAIR: Could you also give us a period of time for that?

Answer: One child/adolescent client with challenging behaviours blocked a complete respite house during 2007/08. The client was in respite for 1102 days prior to exiting in November 2007.

QUESTION 16

CHAIR: Minister, could you tell us how many DADHC employees earned more than \$200,000 last year?

Mr O'REILLY: That would only be the senior executive service staff. I am trying to think of the cut-off point for an SES4 or an SES5. It would probably be around SES4 and above.

CHAIR: You could take that on notice and provide us with the breakdown.

Mr O'REILLY: It is probably a dozen.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: This information used to be provided in annual reports.

CHAIR: Could you provide the breakdown of those employees on those wage scales and how many there are, starting at more than \$200,000? We would also be interested to know how many earned more than \$100,000.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Let us say from \$200,000, from \$150,000 to \$200,000, from \$120,000 to \$150,000 and from \$100,000 to \$120,000, and what was the entire wages bill for DADHC's 23 executive positions in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

CHAIR: Will you take that on notice?

Mr O'REILLY: Not a problem.

Answer:

For the 2007/08 financial year:

- 10 DADHC employees earned more than \$200,000;
- 17 DADHC employees earned between \$150,000 and \$200,000;
- 61 DADHC employees earned between \$120,000 and \$150,000; and
- 131 DADHC employees earned between \$100,000 and \$120,000.

QUESTION 17

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: I would like to ask Mr O'Reilly or one of the two deputies a question. As one involved in service provision with large numbers of disabled people, one of the things I found most helpful under the Home and Community Care Program was home maintenance and modification services. Could you give me an update? How many not-for-profits are involved in being funded by your department to provide home maintenance and modification services?

Mr O'REILLY: I do not have that information with me but we will go to our grants register and provide that.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: Thank you. It is a very important service and I hope it is not decreasing.

Mr O'REILLY: No, I can say the budget has increased but I will give you that list.

Answer: DADHC funds 112 home modification services and 111 home maintenance services in NSW. Of these, 179 are non-government services. DADHC's information system does not specify the difference between 'not for profit' or 'for profit'. In practice, the majority of the non-government organisations would be not-for-profit.

HACC Home modification and home maintenance total funding has grown from a \$20.6 million in 2003/04 to \$30.2 million in 2008/09, an increase of 47% over a six year period.

QUESTION 18

Mr IAN COHEN: My understanding, and correct me if I am wrong, is that in 2004, 13 out of 10,000 student children between zero and five years of age in New South Wales were recorded as having autism whereas in Western Australia the figure was 22 in 10,000. These figures are further polarised in older age brackets. Could you explain the differences there?

Mr O'REILLY: I can only go on the research that I am aware of. The figures for ASD that we have worked on with Aspect, which is the peak body we deal with for autism and to which we have given quite a few grants over the last few years to address the growing problem of autism—the figures they have been using have been around 60 in 10,000.

Mr IAN COHEN: Perhaps you could check that out and take it on notice. If there is an underestimation—your figure may be an overestimation or it may be correct—of the prevalence of ASD in New South Wales, will the department recalibrate the program funding priorities and address the demand for early intervention programs?

Answer: The estimated number of children diagnosed with Autism each year has been based on an accepted prevalence rate of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the community and takes into account the age at which diagnosis normally occurs.

This estimate is not derived from Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement data.

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders (2007) report titled *The Prevalence of Autism in Australia*, found there are significant differences across Australia in the way children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are diagnosed, directed to services and are offered support schemes.

There is currently no international medical classification code specifically for Autism Spectrum Disorder. Neither is there any definitive diagnostic test for the disorder¹. The result is that there is variability across professionals in the assessment and diagnosis of autism.

Autism disorder can be reliably diagnosed between the ages of two and three years.² Some people with autism are not diagnosed until their adolescent years when behavioural or mental health issues emerge.

Differences between States can result from different rates of reporting by services and professionals for the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set, different approaches to diagnosis and the nature of services provided.

DADHC will continue to monitor current research and data on the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder and the need for early intervention programs.

¹ Roberts, J. & Prior, M. (2006). *A review of the research to identify the most effective models of practice in early intervention of children with autism spectrum disorders*. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Australia.

² MacDermott, S., Williams, S., Ridley, G., Glasson, E., & Wray, J. (2007). *The prevalence of Autism in Australian: Can it be established from existing data?* A report prepared for Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

QUESTION 19

Mr IAN COHEN: Do you acknowledge that home and community care, or HACC, funding for community transport services is needed to increase mainstream services in rural and regional areas?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: I might take that question on notice.

Answer: HACC community transport provides “services for frail older people, younger people with disability and their carers who require transport services with appropriate support to enable them to remain living independently in the community. These specialised transport services support the needs of individuals who cannot access mainstream services so that they can access community activities and services. Assistance with transport may be provided either directly or indirectly”.

The NSW HACC State Plan for 2007/08 provided a budget of \$39.8 million for community transport. HACC community transport funding has grown from \$24.3 million in 2003/04 to \$39.8 million in 2007/08, an increase of 63% over a four year period.

QUESTION 20

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How many New South Wales children with disabilities in total, under any scheme by any name, are living out of the family home and being cared for and supported by staff paid by the State of New South Wales who are not foster carers or Aboriginal kinship carers?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: We will take that on notice.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Can that answer include the house that has just been opened at Mudgee, which you mentioned in your previous answer?

Answer: For the 2007/08 year, DADHC provided out-of-home care for 25 children and 26 young persons in both accommodation and extended respite services, and funded services for 35 children and 35 young persons in both accommodation and extended respite services. As the data for funded services is derived from MDS reporting for 2007/08, some services do not return MDS data and the data may be incomplete. The data also contained a number of reporting anomalies such as incorrect service type data. Where it was possible to identify this data it has been excluded.

QUESTION 21

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: In relation to children with disabilities living outside foster care or the family situation, what percentage of the cost for out-of-home placements of children with disabilities is absorbed by DADHC and how much is absorbed by the Department of Community Services [DOCS]?

Mr O'REILLY: We will take that on notice but I am not sure whether we can give you that information.

Answer: It is not possible to provide a comparative costing between the two agencies.

QUESTION 22

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: I was of the understanding that the Mannix Centre was a place for children with disabilities.

Ms McALPINE: It closed and devolved into community group homes.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How many group homes cater for children under the organisation?

Ms McALPINE: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer: The Mannix Centre closed in December 2006. The 26 residents (25 adults and one child) moved into five group homes.

For the 2007/08 year, DADHC provided services to children (under 16 years old) in five group homes, and to young persons (16 and 17 years old) in 11 group homes.

The 2007/08 MDS data returns from DADHC funded services included 19 service outlets reporting provision of group home services to children and 17 outlets reporting provision of services to young persons.

It must be noted that some services do not return MDS data, and the data may be incomplete. The data also contained a number of reporting anomalies, such as incorrect service type data. Where it was possible to identify this data it was been excluded. "Service outlets" are identified based on funding agreements, and each outlet may not be a group home.

QUESTION 23

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How many New South Wales children with disabilities between the ages of seven and 17 are living in households with paid staff?

Mr O'REILLY: The family care model?

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Yes.

Mr O'REILLY: We will take it on notice.

Answer: DADHC does not keep aggregated data on this age group. There were 47 children between the age of six and 15 years living in accommodation services provided or funded by DADHC and 12 children in alternative family placement funded by DADHC.

There were 57 young persons aged 16 or 17 years who were reported as living in accommodation services provided or funded by DADHC and four young persons reported as living in alternative family placement funded by DADHC in 2007/08.

The data for funded services is derived MDS reporting for 2007/08. It must be noted that some services do not return MDS data, and the data may be incomplete. The data also contained a number of reporting anomalies such as incorrect service type data. Where it was possible to identify this data it was been excluded.

QUESTION 24

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Are there separate homes for adolescents older than 12 and up, 12 to 16, 12 to 18?

Mr O'REILLY: We have very few children in out-of-home accommodation. I will get you those numbers. Our policy is to unite with the family as much as possible. For people over the age of 12, we can get you those figures as well.

Answer: DADHC's draft policy on *Policy to guide the provision of out-of-home placements for children and young people* September 2006 specifies that: "Children and young people should be placed with similarly aged people, with age ranges not exceeding those that may occur between siblings."

On this basis, DADHC provides or funds group homes for children and young persons which may include people across age groups.

QUESTION 25

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: The Minister and the Director-General heard me ask a question just a few moments ago about how much of the pension of a person with a disability is charged as a fee for adult respite care. Do you stand behind your deputy director's answer?

Mr O'REILLY: May I ask what the answer was?

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: The answer was that DADHC does not charge a fee. I asked was it free and I was delighted to hear that you provide a free service. Do you agree with that?

Mr O'REILLY: Any respite centre for a person under the age of 16 is definitely free.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: I did say an adult person on a disability pension. That is not a child.

Mr O'REILLY: No, I am just explaining anyone under 16 is definitely free. People over the age of 16 may be charged a small fee—they may be. I would have to find out what that figure is, sir.

Answer: There is now a no-fees policy for all clients accessing planned respite at DADHC operated centre-based respite services as per the Minister's announcement on 23 October 2008.

QUESTION 26

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: People are being charged over \$200 a week to go into respite care. I have just been told by the deputy director that the department does not charge that. I want to tell you that the department does.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: And the way to get to the bottom of that is for you to tell exactly what case you are talking about.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: No, I am not talking about a case.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: But you must be otherwise you would not pursue that line.

The Hon. EDDIE OBEID: There must be an example.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: There must be an example to justify what you have said otherwise—

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: I can do that but would you take that on direct notice and find out if it is a policy of the department to charge fees? What percentage of an adult disability pension is charged as a fee?

Mr O'REILLY: When a person is in a group home it is 75 per cent of their pension.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: That is right, you are beginning to talk.

Mr O'REILLY: There is not a policy on this, I am only assuming now—once I have the detail I will follow it up certainly—a person is moved out of the home and they have applied the 75 per cent of the pension for, sort of, the border lodging at a respite centre for 24-7. That is the only thing I can assume has happened but I will certainly follow it up.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: That is the nature of respite care that they move out of where they are registered now into a place for respite care. But the deputy director told me unequivocally that you do not charge a fee: it is free. I think there is a problem there.

Ms McALPINE: I would like to clarify if that is a blocked respite situation you are citing?

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: No.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: We can arrange for you to get receipts.

Mr O'REILLY: Once we have the information we will certainly follow this up, sir.

Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES: Do you understand my main concern is that one part of the department does not seem to know what the other part of the department is doing?

Mr O'REILLY: Once I get the information I will be able to clarify that.

Answer: See the answer to question 25.

DEPARTMENT OF AGEING, DISABILITY AND HOME CARE

D08/30378

| | Name | Sign & Date |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Author – coordinated responses | PAB | |
| Deputy Director-General | Carolyn Burlew | Via email 4/11/08 |
| Deputy Director-General | Ethel McAlpine | on file 5/11/08 |
| Deputy Director-General | Jim Moore | on file 5/11/08 |
| Director-General | Brendan O'Reilly | |