

## **GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO 2**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2007**

#### **QUESTION 1:**

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- A number of recommendations within the response to the Breaking the Silence report relate to your portfolio. The simple question is: How much funding has been allocated to implement those recommendations? Was any funding allocated and, if so, how much?

#### **ANSWER:**

- The NSW Government's Whole of Government response to the Breaking the Silence report is contained in the NSW Interagency Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities.
- Many of the activities which involve DoCS are incorporated into the reforms currently underway in DoCS. For example:
  - recommendations relating to the Joint Investigation Response Teams;
  - funding of over \$900,000 which has been committed to the five Orana Far West Safe Houses from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Scheme in 2007/08;
  - the Orana Far West Child and Family Development Project which aims to deliver improvements in the key areas of service delivery and governance to the five safe houses in Western Region;
  - \$150,000 over two years to the development of domestic violence assessment tools.

#### **QUESTION 2:**

The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission also disagrees with the name and shame laws. Obviously the Attorney General and the Premier have indicated tentative support for these laws for juveniles.
- Could you tell the Committee your views on the matter at the moment?

#### **ANSWER:**

As Minister for Youth I am very interested in what the NSW Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice has to say. I am waiting for advice from the NSW Youth Advisory Council in relation to this matter. I think it is most important that young people have a say, in accordance with the Premier's Best Practice Principles for Youth Participation.

### **QUESTION 3:**

The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- Are you aware that the disabled services association that caters for all disabled people and has been operating for the past 21 years, has had little success in attracting help from relevant departments despite being lauded as one of the most outstanding successes for disability sports in New South Wales?
- I appreciate your taking the question on notice and as the association is looking for an outcome, within taking that question on notice is providing suggestions of what they do?

### **ANSWER:**

The NSW Department of Community Services has been unable to locate any record of correspondence with a body named the Disabled Services Association. The Association may wish to view the NSW Government's [www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au) website, which provides information on potential sources of funding from both the government and philanthropic sectors.

### **QUESTION 4:**

The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- The New South Wales Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health was launched in 1998 under the New South Wales Youth Health Policy and provided services and advocacy in different ways. I was interested, firstly, in your work with this body, particularly regarding suicides in rural and regional areas, and specifically assisting young people with sexuality issues because that is where we see a spike in suicides. Obviously, the programs need to be quite sensitive. Is that issue being addressed by that particular body and by you?

### **ANSWER:**

The NSW Youth Action Plan *The Way Forward: Supporting Young People in NSW* places special emphasis on helping young people make good choices in relation to mental health. Under the Plan the Government will focus on delivering mental health services that are accessible and relevant to young people. The NSW Youth Action Plan notes that the Government will implement youth-specific initiatives under the NSW Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

The Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health is funded by the NSW Department of Health, and details of issues and actions around suicide and related issues fall within the responsibility of my colleague the Hon Paul Lynch MP, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health).

**QUESTION 5:**

The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- Related to that—and again it may or may not be in your portfolio but I am certainly sure you would understand how it is related—is the education of young people about homophobia. Could you speak to that or take that on notice? I would be interested in what the Government's assessment is of how serious the problem is, and also what services and programs are run to help people.

**ANSWER:**

The Ministers for Education and Health would be best placed to advise on the Government's assessment of this issue and the services and programs that are run to help people.

**QUESTION 6:**

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- Can you confirm that Minister Campbell's announcement about child protection online came the same day as Mike Baird, the member for Manly, and Greg Smith, the member for Epping, held a forum that delivered the same recommendation?

**ANSWER:**

The media release of the Hon David Campbell MP, Minister for Police titled "Government Looks to Tackle Cyber Predators" was dated 8 August 2007. The forum held by Mr Mike Baird MP and Mr Greg Smith MP was held on 9 August 2007.

**QUESTION 7:**

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC asked the Minister for Youth:

- Are there any plans at all to have any sort of review of public space?

**ANSWER:**

The Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Planning is responsible for this issue.

Linda Burney MP  
**Minister for Youth**

