

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 2

Wednesday 3 September 2003

Examination of proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas

TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION, WOMEN

The Committee met at 5.35 p.m.

MEMBERS

Reverend the Hon. Dr G. K. M. Moyes (Chair)

The Hon. Dr A. Chesterfield-Evans
The Hon. A. Catanzariti
The Hon. C. E. Cusack

The Hon. C. M. Robertson
The Hon. H. S. Tsang
The Hon. C. J. S. Lynn

PRESENT

The Hon. S. C. Nori, *Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women*

Tourism New South Wales

Ms P. Murphy, *Acting Executive Director*

Mr C. Priday, *Corporate Affairs Manager*

Department of Sport and Recreation

Mr D. Clout, *Director, Properties and Grants*

Ms L. Dean, *Acting Director-General*

Mr J. Cuthbert, *Manager, Financial Services*

Department for Women

Ms R. Henderson, *Director-General*

Sydney Olympic Park

Mr B. Newman, *Chief Executive Officer*

CORRECTIONS TO TRANSCRIPT OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Corrections should be marked on a photocopy of the proof and forwarded by 30 September 2003 to:

**Budget Estimates
General Purpose Standing Committee Secretariat
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000**

CHAIR: We welcome you to this public hearing of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2. I want to thank the Minister and the department officers for attending today. We will examine the proposed expenditure of the Department of Tourism first and then the other two after that. There are a couple of procedural matters that we need to deal with. Part 4 of the resolution referring the budget estimates to the Committee requires evidence to be heard in public. The Committee has previously resolved to authorise the media to broadcast sound and video excerpts of these public proceedings. If you want guidelines on this, they are available from the attendants. I would point out that in accordance with the Legislative Council guidelines for the broadcast of proceedings, only members of the Committee and witnesses may be filed or recorded. People in the public gallery should not be the primary focus for any filming or photos. In reporting the proceedings of this Committee you must take responsibility for what you publish or what interpretation you place on anything that is said before the Committee.

There is no provision for members around the table to refer directly to their own staff while at the table. Witnesses, members and their staff are advised that any messages should be delivered through the attendant on duty or through the Committee Clerks. I thank you for identifying your departmental officials. For the benefit of members and Hansard, we have already identified the officials present. Where a member is seeking information in relation to a particular aspect of a program or a subprogram, it would be helpful to all if the program or subprogram was identified. We will do this in 40-minute segments. I will allocate to the Opposition, to the crossbench and to the Government 15-minute segments. We will cheat a little, by a minute on that, to add three 15s up to 40. I am now throwing it over to you. Minister, would you like to make a statement first?

Ms NORI: I am not sure if people are aware that the new amalgamated department only came into existence last Friday. Pauline Murphy was effectively number two of Tourism New South Wales up until that time. The actual DG of Tourism New South Wales has elected not to apply for the new positions. I am pointing out that Pauline has not been acting as the Director of Tourism for more than 48 hours or something like that. Similarly, Lisbet Dean, who was up until last Thursday the acting DG of Sport and Rec upon the gazettal of the notice, became the acting DG of the new department as of last Friday. So they have both been serving in their capacity since last Friday morning. I would like to congratulate them.

CHAIR: That does not put you at a disadvantage, Minister. It means that you have to answer the questions.

Ms NORI: It does not mean anything of the sort, Mr Chairman, necessarily. I should also point out that advertisements have been placed in the media in appropriate places. I think the interviews for the overarching DG are happening in the next week or so. I expect the interviews for the directorships to take place, I would say, a week or so after that.

CHAIR: Were you advised whether you need to attend any divisions at all?

Ms NORI: I have managed to get leave, Mr Chairman. I am paired—well, I hope I am paired—because the Opposition grants it, yes.

CHAIR: You will soon find out. Would you care to open the batting?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Minister, what is your vision for the Department of Tourism, to give me a feel for the next five years?

Ms NORI: There is no department for tourism. There is a Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. That is an important point. I am not trying to be pedantic. The reason for the amalgamation is, in shorthand, efficiency and synergy. When you have two departments, as I had after the State election, they had not been in that combination before. It occurred to me after some time. I took two months to think about it all and examine issues. It occurred to me that we could create some efficiencies and that those efficiencies could then be translated into more funds for programs. They are simply things like IT and HR. You do not need two sections. There must be a way of bringing that together within the two departments and creating some efficiencies. The most important one from my point is also synergy.

There are roles that both departments have that are core business to them and to them alone. But then there is also significant overlap. There is, in my view, an overlap in many instances between Sport and Recreation and Tourism and I want to drive those synergies to the betterment and improvement and growth of both. That is the short answer.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, are there any operating savings accruing from the restructure?

Ms DEAN: With any savings that do come through, it will be in the corporate services area. We expect there might be some but we have not quantified those as yet. We are still working through structures and so forth. Perhaps in the governance area there might be some minor savings, but again, they are not quantified as yet.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Do you have a savings target with the restructure?

Ms DEAN: No.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: So the savings will evolve themselves. Is that how that is going to happen?

Ms DEAN: We will look very carefully and scrutinise the proposed structures that are put forward and we will look for savings wherever they can be made.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The Director-General's position, that would obviously be regraded now that the two organisations have been amalgamated?

Ms DEAN: The position stays at an SES 6 so the former tourism job was a 6 and the former sport and recreation job was an SES 5. But I think the tourism job originally was a 5 but there was a dispensation granted for it to be a 6, is my understanding.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: So the new position will be the same grading. Is that correct?

Ms DEAN: That has been graded as SES 6.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: So the previous Director-General of Tourism has elected not to apply. Is that what you said?

Ms DEAN: That is correct.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Has he been placed on the unattached list or has he been made redundant?

Ms DEAN: He is unattached at the moment, but because of the Rugby World Cup his expertise will be utilised in working with the Premier's Department to make sure that that event is successful.

Ms NORI: Can I take the opportunity to thank the former DG of Tourism, Tony Thirlwell. He had been in the position some 11, 12 years. That is a fairly long time. He has made comments like, "It's time to move on." He is going to look for other challenges. I do want to thank him because he did have responsibility for an important agency through some of the great highlights, for example, leading into the Olympics and of course some of the most difficult times faced by the tourism industry kicking off with September 11. So I want to thank him for his efforts and his stewardship in his time.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: That is something that you can do, is it; you can elect to become unattached when the organisation restructures in that way?

Ms NORI: It is something I would defer to the Public Service on.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I guess I had always understood that to be unattached,

you being removed from your position.

Ms DEAN: I am not sure of the technicalities of that but it was his personal choice not to elect to apply for any of the positions.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Yes, thank you for that. Are you going to be retaining the same number of staff in the new organisation, other than corporate savings, or is it a bit premature to ask some of these questions now?

Ms DEAN: It is probably premature. Again, until we finalise the structures, I would not like to put a number on it or estimate what staff savings there might be. So I am not in a position to answer that.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: For the purposes of planning for this year's budget— negotiations with the Treasury were presumably done prior to the amalgamation. Does this budget represent the individual efforts of the organisation with Treasury in terms of negotiating funding for programs and amounts, and it has then been niched together in the budget papers, or is the budget done on the basis of one organisation?

Ms NORI: No, the budget came down in June this year. It was a bit later this year. No, the budgets were developed prior to the amalgamation or the announcement of the amalgamation; in the case of Sport and Rec, prior to my becoming the Minister as well.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I am trying to get a feel—

Ms NORI: The budget processes were concluded well before the decision and announcement to amalgamate.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: So in terms of asking questions, are we better to proceed to ask about Tourism separately or ask as if it is one organisation?

Ms NORI: Why don't you ask us the question and we will do our best?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Fair enough. I understand that there were pay rises of 4 per cent on 1 January and 5 per cent on 1 July, which would have applied to most of your workforce. Would that be correct?

Ms MURPHY: Yes, there are across-the-board pay rises over a number of years, over a four-year period, some of which are coming through this year.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The main ones that would impact though on this financial year would be the 1 January and 1 July ones. Can I ask what funding you received from Treasury for those pay rises? Did you receive the full 4 per cent and then the full 5 per cent or have you received, as other organisations have, 2 plus 2 per cent?

Ms MURPHY: The same proportions as other organisations; some are internally funded, some are Treasury.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: What is the internal funding requirement for pay rises?

Ms MURPHY: I do not have a specific figure for that but I can supply that to the Committee.

CHAIR: You can take that on notice.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Can you, yes. Sorry, you are from Tourism?

Ms MURPHY: Yes, Tourism.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: And you are from Sport and Rec.

Ms NORI: Yes, but she is acting DG as well.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Do you have a figure from the Sport and Rec perspective as to what that internal funding requirement would be?

Ms DEAN: I do not have a specific figure so we can take that on notice. I would not be able to offer it in a clear manner tonight.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: It would be the major funding requirement for the organisation over the next financial year, wouldn't it?

Ms NORI: In what sense?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: How much money you have to find to pay for the pay rises.

Ms NORI: I do not know if they understand the question, but I have not. Can you make it clear?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: If Treasury is only funding 4 per cent of the pay rises, that means there is 5 per cent—is the flow-on from the end of the last financial year. There is that flow-on, plus there is the 5 per cent that you have to find—sorry, let's combine it.

Ms NORI: Start again.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Four per cent has been met by Treasury. There is a gap of 5 per cent that has to be met by your department in the pay increases.

Ms MURPHY: From memory, overall, over the period of time that we have to make savings to pay our proportion of the PSA award increases, it adds up to around \$600,000 for the Tourism section of the organisation. Over a period of years we have planned for that and made efficiency gains in various areas of the organisation, such as some things being published electronically now. We have managed to save on hard copy publications et cetera in some circumstances. So there has been a staged savings program that has enabled us to fund the increases.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Minister, what initial budget was allocated in 2002-03 for firstly the ministerial office, and secondly for other ministerial support?

Ms NORI: Office budget \$1.894 million, made up of salaries, rent at GMT and Parliament House and operating expenses.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Sorry, other ministerial support.

Ms NORI: What do you mean?

CHAIR: Communications, staff, public relations.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Other ministerial support to the office executive services, yes, to the office. One is the running of the office and the other one is support to the office.

Ms NORI: But that is within the department. The executive support units are within the department.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: So that is a global budget for the lot?

Ms NORI: I am not understanding your questions. Start again.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: What initial budget was allocated in 2002-03 for, firstly, the ministerial office?

Ms NORI: I am going to have to take that on notice.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Rehome, media monitoring.

Ms NORI: If you could go through them, I might be able to—because I was not quite sure what you meant by ministerial support.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: The global support, yes. I will let you take that on notice then, that is fine. Was your budget revised or exceeded—and if so, by how much—from your initial budget?

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

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: What are the allocations for the Minister's office and other ministerial support for 2003-04?

Ms NORI: I will take that on notice. But I would appreciate—maybe the Chairman can explain this to me. In the past, when we have taken questions on notice, it has been an opportunity for Committee members to also be more explicit about what they are after. I would find that helpful, if that is all right. If you want a breakdown of media monitoring and different things, if you could give me the list, I think that would be clearer.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: We are looking for the allocation at the moment—that is, the global figure for the budget allocation for the 2003-04 for the ministerial office and your projection.

Ms NORI: You have asked me my office budget and I have given that figure of 1.894. That is what I understand my office budget to be.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: What are the details of the ministerial office budget approved by the Minister for the Chief of Staff in 2002-03 and 2003-04?

Ms NORI: It is not in the Tourism budget and it is not in the Sport and Rec budget. I am happy to take those on notice.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: You do not have a Chief of Staff in your ministerial office?

Ms NORI: Of course, I do. I am happy to take all those things on notice. All I am saying is I have come here with documents that relate to the line items of the budget as presented to the House some time ago. That is the information that I have. You have asked me something that is outside of that in terms of the details. I will take that on notice.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I am happy with that.

Ms NORI: I should point out, my understanding is it is not in the budget papers that have been examined.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: The Chief of Staff?

Ms NORI: No, there is no line item in the New South Wales budget that talks about the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Tourism or anyone else, as I know it.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes, but it must be in your budget.

Ms NORI: The department's budget?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes.

Ms NORI: It is not out of Sport and Rec's budget.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: No, ministerial. The last question was specific to the Chief of Staff.

Ms NORI: I am sorry, I have misunderstood you. What are you saying? I have a Chief of Staff, yes.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: What are the details of the ministerial office budget approved by the Minister or the Chief of Staff in 2002-03 and 2003-04?

Ms NORI: I will take the question on notice. I should tell you, I will also seek advice as to whether that is part of this Committee's prerogative.

CHAIR: Yes, it is. We do not have to stick to just line budgets. We can ask any relevant questions on that, including such issues.

Ms NORI: That is not my understanding of the rules, but if that is what you say, I will accept it for the moment. I will take it on notice.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes, and it is fine to be taken on notice because it is the—

Ms NORI: It is not my understanding but—

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: Point of order, Mr Chair. It is my understanding that the Ministers' budgets are not allocated through the departmental budget lines at all, and they are allocated somehow through the Premier's—I am sorry to be vague. I am not precise on it. It is my understanding that is where this confusion is coming from.

CHAIR: It comes back to the issue that there is wide latitude being allowed to the Committees to ask questions, not just on the line items but those that are within the budgets.

Ms NORI: Yes, but you are asking me—

CHAIR: You can take it on notice.

Ms NORI: I will take it on notice, but you are asking me to comment on budgets that come from areas outside my control. Anyway, do not worry, we will take it on notice.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: Minister, I think they are really after how much is the annual salary of the Chief of Staff.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: No.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: Are you giving him any more pay—

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: No. It is the details of the office budget approved by the Minister or the Chief of Staff for 2002-03 and 2003-04. The second part of that question—we are happy for that question to be taken on notice—but you know it is the information that we want to get, and the second part is what variations were required by the Minister or your staff to the department's proposed budget, and for what purpose were those variations proposed, and were they agreed and funded by the department? Minister, what contractors or consultants were engaged during 2002-03 to undertake work or advice in or on behalf of the Minister and/or the Minister's office, and what were the names of those contractors or consultants, the period of engagement, the purpose of the engagement and remuneration paid?

Ms NORI: I will take that on notice.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Minister, I must first ask you about Old Sydney Town. You would be aware of the headlines in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "Farewell to Old Sydney Town forever." As I have been saying, Minister, it has been going downhill for years, and it had a tiny bit of activity last year but was about to die and, sure enough, it has. This was a great adventure. It has basically been flogged off to a Paris based entrepreneur. What does the Government think about marketing tourism sites that obviously are of historical significance, or try to be of

educational significance?

What strategy does the Government have—and your department in particular—to market this? I would like you not only to comment about Old Sydney Town, but the people who eventually got the lease for the quarantine station say that it took eight years of negotiation. The Government wanted to get it off its hands through the National Parks, who could not manage the buildings, and did not really have a strategy, and then the historic people came in. The people who want to go to Fort Denison, the cruises do not go there because it is not up to scratch or reliable or whatever. What is the strategy for joint partnerships with the private industry to identify and restore historic sites and market them, if any?

Ms NORI: In relation to Old Sydney Town, it was a private sector decision. It was not a decision that the Government had any control over. Old Sydney Town does, however, continue to function and operate as an evening function centre, and the operations of the Australian Reptile Park, which is a tourist attraction, on another one of the sites that is owned by the Warwick Group continue uninterrupted, and this site is leased to the reptile park. I have spoken about this in previous estimates hearings. I think this year we are up to \$9 million worth of co-op funding. That is our way of saying money from the private sector that works conjointly with the State organisation, Tourism New South Wales, and the Sydney division, Tourism Sydney, to promote both nationally within New South Wales and internationally. We work with the private sector continually to market this State and to promote tourism in the State.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Minister, can I ask you whereabouts is your marketing being targeted considering SARS and terrorism and the downturn—

Ms NORI: The short answer is—

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Can I finish my questions?

Ms NORI: To finish off with The Hon. Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans, I am happy to provide you with a list of our co-op campaigns and a whole range of campaigns. I could take an hour to go through them all. If you want the detail, I am happy to—

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: No, I want the principle, Minister. Old Sydney Town is not the same as the Reptile Park. The Reptile Park is growing and doing quite well, and Old Sydney Town, according to several articles in the press, has died. If it has a few evening functions, that is a different matter from being run as a theme park.

Ms NORI: Perhaps I have misunderstood your question, but why would I throw taxpayers' dollars at something the private sector has closed? There is not much point sending bus-loads of kids up to Old Sydney Town if it is no longer operating as Old Sydney Town. I am happy to give you details of a whole range of our marketing campaigns for the Central Coast, for different precincts and so on, I am happy to do that in fact for the whole of New South Wales. Did I understand you correctly?

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: No, I do not think so. The point is that if the department cannot manage its icon sites—

Ms NORI: I must stop you there. It was not a site owned by the State Government. It was a private—

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: It ended up being taken over by Westpac Bank, if I recall.

Ms NORI: No, Arthur, you are about four estimates too late, sorry. The State divested itself of its interest in Old Sydney Town some time ago. It is not the business of the State Government to run attractions or assets. Somersby Park was clearly not viable. That is why the private sector operators sold it and, as I understood your question, I thought you said why am I not marketing Somersby Park—Old Sydney Town. Why would I if it is not open?

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: The fact that the Government did badly in marketing is largely why it was flogged off, and we have made that point over several years, Minister. The point is, Sovereign Hill survives by the skin of its teeth in Victoria, but it is privately owned and uses volunteers very intelligently, and that might have been the model for Old Sydney Town, had it worked. But there is a number of other properties which are being flogged off, in a sense, to the private sector because the Government, which basically owns those historic properties, is not doing much with them. The quarantine station is the best known. Fort Denison is barely functioning as a tourist attraction. Goat Island is an—

Ms NORI: I do not own those properties.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: No, but these are potential things that you could market with the private sector, if there was some sort of model for private-public partnership.

Ms NORI: Any private sector operator that knocks on the door of Tourism Sydney or Tourism New South Wales will be given a fair hearing and, not only that, they will given an enthusiastic hearing. We are always looking for ways of having co-op marketing, but to the best of my knowledge people associated with the two sites you have just mentioned have not arrived on our doorstep. Correct?

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Minister, the point I am making is that there is not a model for private-public co-operation to market historic sites in New South Wales. That is why I linked the quarantine station, where they took eight years to negotiate a contract, and Mawland nearly tearing their hair out, and of course some of us do not think the Government should give away control of these things, because there is not a reasonable private-public partnership model to allow for the development, the re-use of historic sites, and the co-operative marketing of those sites in a new context.

Ms NORI: Maybe I could answer it this way, and also answer the Chairman's question at the same time. Despite all the difficulties faced by the tourism industry starting prior to September 11, when the global economy started to go down and we noticed a drop in business travel, but for all intents and purposes starting off at September 11, followed by the war in Afghanistan; the drought is going on there in the background as well; then we have bushfires, followed by the lead-up to the war in Iraq and all the instability that that caused; the Bali bombing; then SARS—despite all that, New South Wales' market share has gone up. It has mainly gone up at Victoria's—where you will find Sovereign Hill—expense.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Where are you marketing particularly?

Ms NORI: In general, what we have done—and the same as the initial Gulf War—when there is a global catastrophe, when quite clearly the global travellers are going to stick to their own domestic market, we tend to switch and emphasise domestic tourism. We have concentrated in Victoria and in Queensland. We are going back into international markets starting about now. Maybe in the next month or so—

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Are you looking to Asia or America?

Ms NORI: We are looking at all our markets. What we do is—and it is no different, I might say, to what the private sector would do—there is no point throwing money at an audience that is not yet ready to listen to you. There is no point throwing money at something, when in fact what is required is a strategic response. We are waiting for things to settle. We waited for things to settle a little. We think that the global traveller is ready to hear a message, so we are going back into that marketplace. I am happy to take you through the details of how we, I think in very difficult times, have done extremely well, because our tourism campaigns have worked. They have worked in regional and trying to get people also into Sydney.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: I think we are talking at cross-purposes, Minister.

Ms NORI: In terms of domestic—

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: You are talking about your marketing of New South Wales generally.

Ms NORI: Yes, that is what I am responsible for.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: I am asking you this: in terms of the role of your department, do you not in any way see your department as co-operating in a proactive model with the private sector to market iconic sites in New South Wales? If they are owned by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife or whatever, you do not see that you have any role in that. Is that correct?

Ms NORI: We do. Of course, we do. Perhaps I misunderstood your question, Arthur, if I might call you that. Of course, we do. We go into co-op campaigns and so on. They have input into our tourism master plan. We are always looking for ways, for leverage.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: I am talking about the individual sites. I am not talking about marketing New South Wales and having that as a spot or a dot point in your brochure or whatever.

Ms NORI: We talk about specific national parks and things that people might want to do when they are in that particular area, where there might be a national park. We talk about all sorts of things.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: I understand you are micro-managing a number of parks, like Centennial Park. I notice you even have E. S. Marks Field, which I will probably come to when we talk about Sport. The sites around the Harbour, I notice that the Federal Government is taking initiatives in Cockatoo Island and so on, through the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. The point I was making and the point that was made by Mawland is that the National Parks and Wildlife wanted to get the quarantine site off their hands, because it was too hard to market. The National Parks and Wildlife gave away the Murrumbateman Caravan Park, which is adjacent there, which has now returned into a good resort, and the Sawpit Creek one. These were potential sites that could have been managed in the public interest. These are currently under another department, but they are potentially tourism marketing sites. If you are marketing tourism and National Parks is merely managing land or the Department of Lands is merely managing it, there is room for a Government intervention, Minister. I am asking you, will there be a model, because Mawland told me there was not a model.

Ms NORI: Perhaps I misunderstood you. Can I repeat, we work with anyone and everyone and we have worked with, for example, National Parks and Wildlife to market and also industry development issues. Obviously we would do that. You mentioned Centennial Park. I was given that in my portfolio in April. One of the reasons for why I wanted to amalgamate the two departments was because I think Centennial Park highlights best what I am trying to achieve. Yes, it is a wonderful park. Yes, it is big R for recreation. It has some tourism potential, done sustainably and so on. It is a wonderful landmark within Sydney. It is something that a visitor could well enjoy, coming to Sydney. Hopefully they will take their time walking around it, spend a whole afternoon and force them to stay in Sydney one more night and pay another night's hotel accommodation. I do very much want to drive the opportunity for joint marketing across an asset, bring Centennial Park in working with the expertise in marketing of Tourism New South Wales, and likewise to a certain extent Sport. I inherited Centennial Park via Sport, by the way.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: In one sense, managing an asset is one thing; marketing a State is another. One would argue that there is not much overlap. If you are seeing your job as marketing and which segment you market, that is one thing.

Ms NORI: No, I see my job as both. Be very clear. I see I have to manage it but I also want to market it. I think there is an opportunity for something wonderful like Centennial Park to become part of the visitor experience to this city, more so than it is at present. Indeed there are a whole range of other assets. Parramatta Park, for example, is another one. The good thing about tourists is, generally speaking, they will take public transport to these places. Generally speaking. I think it is a wonderful

way of broadening the Sydney product. But let me say this: if you do not manage your assets sustainably, they will ultimately lose their tourism value. So I am very conscious of the need to make sure that any product we have is maintained to a high standard and that suitable environmental control—

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: When you say the "product" you have, do you mean ones directly under the control of the department, or any site in New South Wales?

Ms NORI: Everything and anything, including both.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: The historic sites, the re-use, restoration and development of historic sites in New South Wales does not seem to have an umbrella framework for private-public partnerships for sustainable development. Is that the case? If it is the case, are you going to do anything about it? If it is not the case, is some other department doing something about it?

Ms NORI: To the extent that any of the properties that you are referring to are my responsibility, the amalgamation of the two departments will drive that very point even further. I am hardly what you would call a hands-off Minister. I think there are other opportunities going outside my own portfolio to drive that further as well. The department amalgamated officially last Friday. Give us a chance.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: The State as a whole does not have a private partnership arrangement for the development of historic sites. I am saying, are you interested and are you likely to take that—

Ms NORI: I cannot answer for who else manages private—I will say this: I am interested in developing partnerships with anyone and everyone.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Who knocks on the door.

Ms NORI: For every possible opportunity. If it makes commercial sense, if it is going to drive more visitation, if it is going to give people a better experience, hence good word-of-mouth marketing, I will be delighted.

CHAIR: Would you like to follow on with a comment about Luna Park in your next year?

Ms NORI: What did you want to ask me?

CHAIR: What is happening with Luna Park in terms of—you are in a co-operative there, are you not?

Ms NORI: You mean the proposed redevelopment?

CHAIR: Yes.

Ms NORI: I suppose the most obvious correlation to that is the way we work with BridgeClimb. Yes, obviously we do, because at the end of the day, any dollar I can get out of the private sector, liberate some public money that I can put into areas where perhaps there is not as much ability to pay from the private sector

CHAIR: Henry.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: I was going to use the BridgeClimb as an example of private-public sector co-operation.

Ms NORI: We have enormous support from attractions.

CHAIR: Any further questions, Henry? Opposition?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Minister, what is being done to get more events in Sydney? Do we have an events company like the Victorian Major Events company?

Ms NORI: No.

CHAIR: I think we used to.

Ms NORI: If we did, it is well before my time. Our model is different. Can I talk in general terms, and I may as well cut to the chase, because what you are itching to ask me is why are we different from Melbourne. I think that is what you are itching to ask me. That is what everyone else is always itching to ask me, so I assume you are in the same boat.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: No, I want to know whether we have one, because it seems—

Ms NORI: We have a Major Events Board. We have a unit within Premier's that deals with it. I think there was budget amount for it. You realise that is not my responsibility. That comes under Premier's, so again I am straying out of my area.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I would have thought that events would have direct influence on both Tourism and Sport in particular.

Ms NORI: Obviously there is a close link between the two and I work closely with them. It is not within my budget.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Should it be?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Is the forthcoming World Rugby Cup event within your portfolio or is that within the Premier's?

Ms NORI: It is not owned by any Government. It is owned by the Australian Rugby—the ARU out of the IRB. It is not a Government event in that sense.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Would you say there is no connection with Sport and Tourism in New South Wales?

Ms NORI: Clearly there is in terms of marketing and the benefits. If you are talking about the administration, the running of it, absolutely not. It is not ours.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: No, we are not talking about heisting it, the Government putting on the events.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Tony Thirwell was his name, was it?

Ms NORI: Yes, that is correct.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Does he report to your department to act as a liaison there, or is he reporting to the Premier's?

Ms NORI: I assume he will be reporting to the Major Events Board.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: The Major Events Board, do you have a representative on it? What is the organisation of that?

Ms NORI: I have the Chairman of Tourism New South Wales on it. I have the Chairman of Sydney Olympic Park and the Chair of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Council.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: What are the major events that it has brought to Sydney?

Ms NORI: I have to take that on notice if you want details of the list of acquisitions.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Is this an area, with the combination of departments now Tourism, Sport and Recreation, that you would be looking at to bring under your umbrella?

Ms NORI: You are asking me, am I an empire builder?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: No. You were talking before earlier about synergy, and I would think that major events, which are mostly major sporting events—

Ms NORI: I will forever be looking for ways for creating synergies.

CHAIR: You want to get Ron Walker to shift from South Yarra.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: We are looking at the planning and the method and the process. The major events are sporting events, I would think.

Ms NORI: Can I answer the question this way. It is just the timing is accidental, but I want to get the amalgamation of two departments under way and operating. Governments do involve their processes, but I want to get this amalgamation under way. I understand the point you are making.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Why are the Opera House Markets being shut down?

Ms NORI: I have a note on that. I suppose it is the bane of the Minister of Tourism's life that tourism impacts on so many things, but I do not own that precinct. I cannot make that decision.

CHAIR: No, that is owned by Alan Jones, isn't it?

Ms NORI: No, it is not.

CHAIR: It is under the Sydney Opera House Trust.

Ms NORI: It is the Opera House Trust that is responsible for the day-to-day operations, and the trust made that decision in accordance with what they see as their plans for the venue and the precinct—

CHAIR: The Premier has announced that there will be a rescheduling of the proposed date of closing and an inquiry.

Ms NORI: My information is that the stallholders were given three months notice and that the Chief Executive, Dr Norman Gillespie, has had discussions with the representative of the stallholders and explained everything. But again, you are asking me a question that I have absolutely no control over—jurisdiction or anything.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Do you know if it was a decision that was brought as a result of complaints from businesses in the forecourt area?

Ms NORI: No, I do not.

CHAIR: I think the Minister has made the point.

Ms NORI: I am happy to tell you the advice we have received.

CHAIR: Charles, I think the Minister has made the point. It is not her area of responsibility to answer that question. It belongs to the Opera House Trust.

Ms NORI: I am happy to pass on the advice I have been given, if that helps.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes.

Ms NORI: The advice I have been given is that following a review, including market research of the value and contribution of the markets, the Sydney Opera Executive and the trust agreed that

they are not consistent with the Opera House's status as an architectural icon; do not achieve the cultural objectives for which they were continued in 1998—that is the markets—do not act as an attraction in their own right, and do not contribute to extended stay on site or lead to other purchases. That is, I am told, what they based their decision on, but it really is a question for them.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Do you know if the market operators were given a chance to put their case to Opera House management prior to their ambit decision to shut them down?

Ms NORI: No, and I do not know what Professor X said to Professor Y at Sydney University either, which might sound like a strange kind of answer to give to you, but let me tell you, I am happy to co-operate, but you cannot keep asking me questions about things I do not know and could not possibly know. Sorry.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I see that sort of thing as being part of the synergy of a city and a thing that would attract people to go to that end of the city.

Ms NORI: Do you?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Certainly, I do. It can either be alive or it can be dead, and this looks like a decision that has killed off something that I thought was fairly vibrant.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: It is probably about terrorism.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Tourism, I would have thought.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: No, terrorism.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, is the Bourke Tourism Centre part of your area of responsibility?

Ms NORI: In a sense of do I own it? No, I do not.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: No, I understand that you do not own it, but the Government has invested a large sum of money in partnership with the community there and it is a tourism asset to that community. I am wondering if that comes within your portfolio area. Can I ask you some questions about the development of that centre?

Ms NORI: You can. I am always happy to co-operate, but is there a line item in budget about it? No. Do I have anything to do with the management of it? No. Do I have anything to do with it day to day, or my officers at the department have anything? No. But because I am proselytising about the tourism industry, I am happy to answer what I can, but to be honest with you, I think we are way off target in terms of what this Committee is about, but if you want to have a discussion about it I will do the best I can.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The New South Wales Government has contributed very substantially to the development of the tourism centre in Bourke. Have you visited at that facility?

Ms NORI: Yes, I have.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I understand four stages have been started and one stage only has been completed, and it looks like a construction zone. There is no more money to finish it. I wondered if you had any advice, given it is part of the tourism strategy for that region. I understand that your department does not own the building, but its relationship to tourism issues is crucial, and I wondered if you had any information you could give us about its future and whether the State Government will assist with its future.

Ms NORI: Can I say, I visited that centre. It would have been May, wouldn't it?

CHAIR: We did not have any water in the River Darling on that occasion, I would not imagine.

Ms NORI: But there was some water in the little—

CHAIR: Lagoon.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Can I ask why did you visit the centre?

Ms NORI: Because I was in Bourke there once—Mother's Day. It was May. I was in Bourke working on Mother's Day, that is why.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: You were working when you visited the centre so, as Tourism Minister, you accept that there is a connection to a tourism centre in a place like Bourke?

Ms NORI: Yes, I do. However, let me take issue with one of the comments you made that the place looks like a construction site. That was not my impression from my visit in May. Maybe something has changed between now and then, but it was not at the time. Can I also point out that my budget never has a component for capital works. Capital works comes from other budgets from other Ministers. I will often implore, treaty, make representations to relevant Ministers, depending on the nature of the circumstances, to assist with that funding, and I will argue within Government, and make representations within Government, to provide what assistance is possible to the development of that site. It is not my decision, and the money does not come out of my portfolio.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: What is the purpose?

Ms NORI: I only have capital funding for IT. I have no capital funding for tourism or construction.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Can any hope at all be offered for the completion of the facility, that you are aware of?

Ms NORI: When I visited the site in May, they indicated they were going to get in touch with me to make representations through me to the relevant Ministers. To my knowledge I have not received such representations as yet.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Does it concern you; the issue? Unfortunately it seems too many stages were commenced when only one could really be completed.

Ms NORI: In terms of the detail of the construction—

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: It must concern you as Tourism Minister.

Ms NORI: —I have not yet been apprised of the details. I have indicated that they did indicate that they wanted to come and talk to me. They have not yet taken up that opportunity, and when and if they do, I will obviously be in a better position to offer an opinion.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The regional tourism marketing plans, I understand that they have all been completed for the regions across New South Wales.

Ms MURPHY: There are six due for completion this financial year, three were completed last year, and three the year before.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Are you evaluating the outcomes of those plans; whether communities are getting on and implementing them?

Ms MURPHY: Yes, through the regional tourism organisations, which is the forum through which those plans are developed, the regional tourism organisations are then responsible for overseeing the implementation, and we are represented on the boards of those organisations, and we are assisting them in various ways in respect of the marketing and development options and recommendations within the plan.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Are you satisfied that the communities are successfully implementing those plans?

Ms MURPHY: I think there are a lot of very good things happening out of those plans. We are working more and more closely and co-operatively with the regions in terms of regional co-operative marketing, marketing to the interstate; Brisbane, Melbourne and the Victorian markets, et cetera. There are some really practical achievable things coming out of those plans whereas, in the past, it has happened that there have been plans developed which sit on shelves and do not get implemented.

CHAIR: Can you fill me in with some details about what is happening at Broken Hill? I was there to present an award, on behalf of the Prime Minister, for initiatives in Broken Hill and then I went back 12 months later and it seems to have fallen into a hole.

Ms NORI: Unless my people can provide me with a list, I will take it on notice and happily give you a list of the events that we have supported.

CHAIR: Yes, regional areas and so on.

Ms NORI: I can give you some of them, and in fact there are others as well so I will probably do a bit of both; read some out to you now and then complement the list. For example, 160,000 has gone to the RTO. I will have to give it to you on notice.

CHAIR: I am interested in Bourke and I am also interested in Broken Hill particularly.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Some of those plans have recommendations about Aboriginal tourism and, I am sure you aware, with the unemployment levels, particularly in remote parts of New South Wales, tourism is seen as a potential lifeline to those communities. I wondered how you feel progress is going in relation to implementing recommendations about developing tourism capabilities in those communities, particularly emphasising Aboriginal culture.

Ms MURPHY: We have on our staff an indigenous and cultural tourism officer who works with indigenous tourism businesses. We have developed a set of principles for indigenous tourism development that respect and protect the values of Aboriginal culture in New South Wales, and one of our most recent initiatives with the Department of State and Regional Development, we supported a number of Aboriginal tourism operations to participate in the Australian Tourism Exchange. A very big inbound event that happens every year—you may be familiar with it—where the States and the Australian Tourism Commission co-ordinate and collaborate to bring in tourism operators, buyers from all over the world, and international media, to meet Australian operators on the ground, do business and buy those products and get those products into their programs overseas; their wholesale programs.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: In terms of actual on-the-ground Aboriginal tourism services, would you agree that they are in a very undeveloped state in New South Wales?

Ms MURPHY: Yes, it is a very immature tourism product in New South Wales.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Would you agree that there is potential?

Ms MURPHY: Yes.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: That would be an area where they are unlikely to be able to develop those services without assistance.

Ms MURPHY: That is true and that is why we have an earmarked position to offer advice, assistance, point them in the right direction in terms of relationships and linkages within the tourism industry.

CHAIR: Thank you, Catherine. Can I move on from there.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I am not there any more, but I am sure it is still

continuing. You might like to ask my colleague but when I had Small Business and Tourism, we also made sure that Aboriginal small businesses, many of which are tourism operators, received the kind of assistance, training, encouragement and so on, to develop. I have noticed we are well over time for Tourism.

CHAIR: Yes, I am about to go on. Arthur?

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Information officers, do you have responsibility for tourist information officers in various towns?

Ms NORI: No.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Do you quality control those in any way?

Ms NORI: We run the accreditation program, yes.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: As a person who has travelled quite extensively, one of the things that is very useful is the commonsense things, like having the list of hotels visible in the window when the place is shut, in a typeface that is readable. Very few offices in New South Wales have this. Is there a set of standards and information available for when they are shut, because generally they are only open during office hours and, of course, people arrive at all times?

Ms NORI: That is not quite true. I have struck a few at weekends that are open. They are staffed by volunteers. Do not forget that we have moved into the Gateway Centres which are a touch screen, and hopefully that technology will get cheaper and cheaper and we can roll that out further. But if you have some suggestions like that, I am happy for you to pass them on.

CHAIR: Can we move to Sport, please?

Ms NORI: I am happy to move to Sport.

CHAIR: Government, do you wish to ask any questions on Sport?

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: No, thank you, Mr Chair.

CHAIR: Opposition?

Ms NORI: Can I introduce Darryl Clout from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

CHAIR: Catherine, do you want to start off with your comments about Olympic Park?

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: Yes. My question simply related to the Superdome at Olympic Park, and I understand it is privately owned.

Ms NORI: And not under these good folks' responsibility, in terms of another setting—

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: It is very complicated, is it not, Minister.

Ms NORI: The questions that should be asked now, if I may say, should relate to the operations of what you may recall as the old Department of Sport and Recreation, and now the new Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, but the sport and recreation section of that. Sydney Olympic Park does not come under the administration of that department.

The Hon. CHRISTINE ROBERTSON: Yes, I understand.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Minister, how much money, in regard to the Rugby World Cup, did the Government give to the Australian Rugby Union for the Rugby World Cup?

Ms NORI: I probably have that figure but it does not come under Sport.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: The Rugby World Cup?

Ms NORI: It does not come under the Department of Sport and Recreation's budget, and these good folk are not here to answer that. I am happy to answer it, but can we follow some procedures where we have the correct bureaucrats at the table.

CHAIR: Can I go back to the Olympic Park Authority. I notice under your budget for 2003-04, there is about \$121 million set aside.

Ms NORI: Mr Chair, I am going to have to give you the same answer. I am happy to answer those questions but in that case, if you want to stick to Sydney Olympic Park, I will ask these good folk to retire and I will bring the relevant bureaucrats.

CHAIR: No, we can do that later on.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Could I perhaps ask a question. There was game last year, an Australian Rules game, the Sydney Swans, the Indigenous game at Telstra Stadium.

Ms NORI: When was this, sorry?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: About halfway through the football season.

Ms NORI: This year?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes.

Ms NORI: 2003.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Indeed, one in 2002 and one in 2003. Did your department provide any support or finance to that game?

Ms DEAN: We would probably have to take that on notice, because I do not recall, sorry.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: If you could and if you do, please provide the value of the support and how much money you gave. I would appreciate it. In regard to, again, the Rugby World Cup—and perhaps you could take it on notice—we want to know whether the Minister attached any requirements to the funding given to the Australian Rugby Union. That is, did you ask us that as a condition of receiving the money, they promote New South Wales and Sydney on their web site or include a brochure on New South Wales to ticket purchases?

Ms NORI: Can I interrupt you again. Please, I am not trying to be difficult. I am going to take all Rugby World Cup questions on notice.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes, I appreciate that.

Ms NORI: There is a Rugby World Cup and special events unit in the Premier's Department. You are asking me something over which I have an interest—I clearly have a tourism marketing interest and there is co-operation. I will not force the tourism person to come back but then there is obviously a relationship with Tourism New South Wales in terms of marketing. I think it would be easier if I take all questions on the Rugby World Cup on notice. Mr Chairman, we are straying so far away from my budget line items.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: With due respect, Mr Chairman, you would not expect me to answer a question that applies to the Minister for Energy or the Minister for Mineral Resources or the Minister for Agriculture. I have to say that is the equivalent. I am happy to co-operate. Tourism does have tentacles—

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: With due respect, Mr Chairman, I regard the World Cup as

sport and I regard—

Ms NORI: That is because you do not know, sorry.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: It may well be but—

Ms NORI: Charlie, it is a sport. Clearly, Rugby Union—

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I used to play it, and I thought it was sport.

Ms NORI: If we are going to get down to personal experiences, I am very proud of my son at the moment. But, Charlie, it is a sport—

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: With due respect, what we are linking here—

Ms NORI: But it is not being managed at all by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Minister, with all due respect, I have asked a question here which is linking sport to tourism and that is what I thought were the two areas that we were talking about tonight. If the Government has given funding to the ARU for the World Cup, then we have asked, have you used that as an opportunity and given a condition that they help market that on your web site to get the tourism benefits from a world event.

Ms NORI: It should have been a Tourism question. I thought we had finished with Tourism. Let me give you a short answer. I am happy to give you a detailed answer. I would like to know what hat I am supposed to be wearing at any one particular time.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Sport and Tourism.

CHAIR: You wear three of them, Minister, simultaneously.

Ms NORI: We had agreed earlier that we would separate them. I am having difficulty because I think I am the only one who understands my role. I have talked about the Rugby World Cup taskforce. Can I say there has been joint marketing between the ARU. There are packages. Accor is in there. Qantas is in there. I can tell you about the expected benefits and so on. I can tell you about where the tournament is going to go. These are not decisions that I have had anything to do with. British Airways is also in there, as you might expect. Yes, we are using it as a tourism opportunity. I will answer the detail of your question on notice because some bits of it have not been my responsibility. But I am happy to help.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I am wondering, do you see a flaw in the organisation here? Given the great benefit of sport and tourism to the State of New South Wales—and you are the Minister responsible—but for something like the Major Events Co. and something like this, you do not seem to have responsibility.

Ms NORI: Mr Chair, I am going to have to ask the Tourism person back because the Committee is going all over the place.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: We will take it on notice.

Ms NORI: These folk here really have nothing to do with it, and never have.

CHAIR: It would help me if you could answer the question. Do you have any funding relationship with Rugby International?

Ms NORI: No.

CHAIR: You do not have the administration and you do not have any budget implications either? That helps.

Ms NORI: If I have understood—

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Is the Mardi Gras considered a sport or an event, or is it tourism? One of the questions I had was how many annual events does Sydney have, apart from the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras? Could you provide us with a list of those events?

Ms NORI: I can absolutely provide you with a list of those events, but we go back to Tourism. It is a Tourism issue. I am happy to talk—

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: The Chinese New Year is an event the State sponsors. It appreciates the Minister's support. The Minister supports a lot of events.

Ms NORI: You want a list of every event that is held in Sydney on an annual basis, do you?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Annual events, yes, if you could table those.

Ms NORI: I will take those on notice and table them so that you have go the list. Can I talk in general. For example, Monday, I regard the following as an event, it is the Robbie Williams concert that is coming up in December. We are back on Tourism, by the way. We have, through Tourism Sydney, done an arrangement with the promoter, Michael Chugg, whereby there are going to be 15,000 travel packages available interstate to come to Sydney for the Sydney concert. The Sydney concert is on a Saturday night. You can offer a package that includes two nights at the Barclay Hotel. At the lowest entry point of \$491, if 15,000 of those packages are sold, then there will be something like \$4.08 million.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, I think he wanted the list tabled, if that was possible.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Yes.

Ms NORI: Yes, but wanting the list does not tell you how it works. We can achieve great tourism benefit and economic benefit for this State on a very simple, clever marketing deal like that, that costs the taxpayer \$50,000 out of the Tourism Sydney budget. That money did not go into the hands and the pocket of the promoter. It has gone towards the advertising campaign to drive those 15,000 packages into Sydney. There will be similar arrangements with Lion King. I do not have the details. Lion King will bring a much bigger benefit. This month alone, through the good work of the Sydney Convention and Visitors' Bureau over the last couple of years, we will see coming to fruition approximately \$43 million worth of economic benefit, coming through, I think, about four conventions bringing 8,000 delegates to Sydney. So be clear when I give you a list of the events. It is somewhat, if I may say, naive, to want to list events and use the word "event" in its common parlance sense and not recognise the role of conventions, shows, concerts and other things—and the clever ways that you can market those to drive benefit with relatively little input from the taxpayer, saving its money for better things.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: May I ask a Sport question?

Ms NORI: Good, please do, because that is who we have here at the table. I would be delighted.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, did your department make a submission to the Alcohol Summit?

Ms DEAN: We prepared a background paper but we did not prepare a submission as such.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Has the new department now estimated the scale of sponsorship money from the alcohol industry on sport in New South Wales?

Ms DEAN: No, we have not made that estimate. That is a grey area to try to grab at. We are aware of it, and we looked at that as part of the background paper.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: What issues did you address in the background paper?

Ms DEAN: We looked at athlete performance. That was certainly an area of concentration. We looked at the sponsorship area. I think it was largely concentrating on athlete performance in particular in that area. I do not have that paper in front of me to recall.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: In terms of sponsorship, was it spoken in general terms that the alcohol industry is a major contributor to Tourism sponsorships?

Ms DEAN: Is a major supporter of sport.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Any recommendations regarding the future of that relationship between sport and the alcohol industry?

Ms DEAN: Our paper was not to provide recommendations; it was just to provide a background to the summit attendees.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Did you look at what impact the withdrawal of sponsorship from alcohol companies would have on sport?

Ms DEAN: No, we did not.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Is that something that you would be looking at, given the outcome of the summit?

CHAIR: The summit has recommended a hold on advertising of alcohol products with sporting functions, so this could have impact upon your budget?

Ms NORI: Could I answer? The Government was to be looking at the whole gamut of recommendations coming out of the Alcohol Summit and, as far as I know, that will be a Cabinet decision. Therefore, it is not something the department can answer now.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, in relation to the sport and recreation aspect, does the department play a role in developing sporting communities that are remote, low socioeconomic areas? I understand the Department of Sport and Recreation has funded programs again in north-western New South Wales.

Ms NORI: The Government has a lot of programs that are specifically for the bush and it would fit into the kind of category that you are referring to. Would you like to go through some of those?

Ms DEAN: We have a large number of programs, for example, with the Aboriginal indigenous communities. We are working in a couple of areas at the moment. We are working as a part of a Premier's Department grant in Mount Druitt with indigenous communities and the broader community there as well. We also have a large number of initiatives happening in western New South Wales with the indigenous communities where we have a large trainee program that works through our west regional office. We are working closely with the Local Government and Department of Health in those areas as well. We have also facilitated a far-west rugby league competition and a far-west competition during the winter months in the Barwon-Darling Competition.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: What sort of assistance was provided through that program?

Ms DEAN: I do not have the figures in front of me. It was a decline in funding over a number of years, so the community took ownership of that, so I am not sure what the exact funding was proposed for this financial year. We also have provided in recent years sport libraries for remote communities in New South Wales, so communities have access to the sporting equipment that is required, as well as providing capital assistance programs and regional sports facilities programs for regional and rural New South Wales, which help communities in need out west.

Ms NORI: Could I add a couple. I do not think you have mentioned the far-west travel scheme and the country athlete scheme; for example, the country coaches and officials scheme. I think the sport and recreation centres themselves, a number of whom are out of Sydney, are an important part of that, and the eight regional academies of sport, including the Far West Academy of Sport. There is a Youth at Risk Program. There is a Women's Sports Administration Scholarship Program. Our emphasis on water safety in regional—there are programs for the Aboriginal communities, and also the department's mobile coach education service and the sports development program. On top of that, I should point out that the New South Wales Institute of Sport has a unique facility—and the only one in the Commonwealth, so far as we are aware—where we offer a mobile program to give that kind of quality of coaching and service to our regional athletes.

CHAIR: Can we move off Sport and Recreation now and move on to Women?

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: No, I have not asked any questions on Sport and Recreation.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: The E. S. Marks Field, I note there is a mention that it is being restored, Minister. It was under some threat of being closed some years ago, as I recall. There was a campaign to save it, was there not? I used to run there, Minister. It is functioning as an athletic stadium, is it, or athletic training track?

Ms NORI: Yes, it is.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: White City—that is not in your portfolio—that is also under threat, and nothing to do with anything. Is that right? Not your portfolio area? Fair enough. Fox Studios, Minister, you are responsible for.

Ms NORI: No, I own the land, and I am the landlady.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Yes, but you are not responsible for anything that happens there?

Ms NORI: Not in the commercial sense at all, no.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: In a regulatory sense?

Ms NORI: No.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: That is controlled by Treasury, is it?

Ms NORI: I am not sure, but I do not. I am the lessor.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: You are the lessor, yes.

Ms NORI: Ask the specific question. I will take it on notice.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: I am concerned about the odours coming from the workshops; the sports studio precinct. They do not appear to be under South Sydney Council, nor under WorkCover, nor under control of the EPA. There is some doubt about what control there is.

Ms NORI: I will take that on notice.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Minister, in China they have a lot of exercise areas in small suburban parks, and a large number of the population use these to keep fit as they jog around for exercise from little park to little park.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: Dancing, as well. Ballroom dancing as well.

Ms NORI: They do, that is true. They do do ballroom dancing.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: In the street. Are there any plans to do

things like this as part of the fitness in the whole State, which was what you were alluding to earlier?

Ms NORI: What did you say I alluded to?

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: You said that you were taking an interest in the fitness and health of the State as a whole as part of Sport, did you not?

Ms NORI: I did not say it, but of course I do.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Maybe it is in your budget that I have read it, but it is in the papers that the department has the responsibility for this.

Ms NORI: I do think that community fitness programs are important. Can I take you through one initiative that we announced very recently, and it was to do with mothers of young children and newborns, getting them into a park walking club situation. We do run a walking program that encourages local groups. We help them get started with a central phone number, some support material that tells them how to best get a group like this going, how to maintain it, how to keep interest going, the sorts of things they ought to do to plan the walk and so on to get local community groups. There is a surprisingly high number participants in the program across the State, I do not have the number on me, sorry. So, yes, I think it is a good idea.

The Hon. ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: But there is no plans to do it here yet; small exercise areas with strong-looking gym equipment you can climb up, or pull yourself up on or stretch over?

CHAIR: Insurance problems, Arthur.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: Local Government provides that.

Ms NORI: We have a program that encourages walking; using our parks, but not exclusively our parks for walking. That is our version of that program. I do not have a program that sees us sticking gym equipment in parks because that would require Local Government approval, but I am very happy to see our parks used more and more for people to take their fitness and recreation.

CHAIR: Can we move on to the portfolio of Women now? Government, do you have any questions?

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: No.

CHAIR: Opposition?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, I will wait until they settle.

Ms NORI: I would like to thank Lisbet Dean and Darryl Clout. Can I introduce Robyn Henderson, the Director-General of the Department for Women.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, I understand the Women's Grants Program was set up a number of years ago with an allocation of \$1 million. Can you tell me what year that was established?

Ms HENDERSON: It was established in 1995, so it has been going for nine years. Up until now the Government has spent about \$10 million on the allocation.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, every year at these estimates you get asked a question about that, so I will ask that question again. Has there been any indexation or increase in that fund to this year's budget?

Ms HENDERSON: I need to point out that this is my first Estimates on Women.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I understand, thank you. Minister Lo-Po was asked that

question, and I think every year the answer was the same.

Ms HENDERSON: The current allocation in this year's budget is \$1.155 million. The additional \$100,000 came two years ago with the addition of a line item for the Working Women's Centre and the \$55,000 is to include GST and administrative costs.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Basically, it really has not increased at all in eight years—would that be a fair statement—and it has lost value in real terms for eight years?

Ms HENDERSON: I think the department has managed to do different things with the grants program from the way it was originally envisaged. We certainly developed more efficient and appropriate partnerships with communities and community organisations which have extended the capacity of the grants to do more things.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Domestic violence has always been a major issue of interest to women. In the women's grants program I calculate over the last two years the \$2 million worth of projects that are available, less than 6 per cent of that has been allocated to domestic violence projects. The largest priority in the domestic violence projects that were funded was a grant of \$30,000 to the AIDS Council of New South Wales for a Lesbian Domestic Violence Awareness project in Lismore and Wollongong. I am wondering why domestic violence as a statewide issue appears to have been given such low priority.

Ms HENDERSON: Domestic violence has not been given a low priority. It has been given a very high priority by the Government, but in fact the allocation of money to violence prevention programs comes from a whole range of sources. I think it is really important to remember that about \$50 million comes through the Attorney General's Department. You would be aware, of course, that the Department for Women is one of five agencies that is part of the Violence Against Women Program. A very large amount of Government money is pooled to further violence prevention projects. Many of the projects that we fund under the Women's Grants Program are, of course, violence prevention projects but not described like that because their capacity building projects. If you talk about most communities, but in particular, the communities in remote and rural parts of this State, particular Aboriginal communities, the most significant thing you can do is support the capacity building and development of the women—and that is what the majority of these funded projects are.

Ms NORI: Can I point out what that means and what the Director-General is saying—and it is certainly true of the personal experiences I have had when we have gone out to groups and so on—is that it might not be called domestic violence prevention, but it might be about supporting some women there who then through programs develop the confidence to take on the next level of involvement to try and stop the level of domestic violence within their community. It is very clear from them that is what they want, but it may not be called that. The nomenclature may be a little bit misleading.

CHAIR: Following on with the Director-General, I am thinking of some ethno-specific groups with women; for example, in the Auburn area there are three groups with Arabic-speaking women, I understand, who are having to close because they are not receiving funding. Does that come through your department or from community services?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: You must be very worried about that, Minister.

Ms NORI: Can I explain so the Committee is aware of it. The Department for Women does not have—again, like in some ways Tourism—portfolio or jurisdiction over some of the issues that it is dealing with. It does not deal with the issues in a case-work situation. Our role is to raise awareness; to provide these grants that help community groups that in turn help themselves to help themselves; and to do research and advocacy across Government.

CHAIR: It was basically the support of community groups that I was asking about. Does that come under your portfolio or does it come under DOCS or somewhere else?

Ms NORI: We do not run groups as such. We give grants to people who apply, but we do not provide ongoing funding for a group to run a refuge or anything like that, no. That comes from other

departments.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Can you tell us which programs there are? Is that what you are asking?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I know what the programs are. There is \$30,000 to ACON for a lesbian domestic violence project; and that has been the main community funding that has been given out in the last two years. I am questioning whether this is a serious agenda to advocate for domestic violence, and address the issues of domestic violence in New South Wales. All that I have heard about community capacity building and empowerment, with respect, you could not say—it is an area where the outcomes are fairly imponderable. I understand I cannot ask you about the outcomes of that capacity building.

Ms NORI: Sorry, can I interrupt you. Let me disabuse you of what I think is the misapprehension that you are labouring under. Again, I do not have the bits of paper with me. For example, the grant program is open and receiving applications now. We have what we call the small grants; they are between \$5,000 and \$30,000. Then we have the large grants that go between \$30,000 and \$100,000. Then we have also the partnership projects which are \$100,000 each. Somewhere in my system I have a whole list of programs that have been funded under those. I will take it on notice and I will provide the list to you. The list is very long and very diverse. It is quite wrong of you to single out that one project as the only thing you think we have funded.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: No. I am saying that is the largest domestic violence project you have funded in the two years that are available in the published documents.

Ms HENDERSON: Maybe I could respond to that. I think there has been a very deliberate act on behalf of Government agencies to try and ensure that money is spent in the most appropriate and targeted way possible. The sorts of applications that have come to the Women's Grants Program over the last nine years in relation to violence prevention have often related to programs which required ongoing funding; for example, court assistance programs. These programs cannot be funded under the Women's Grants Program because they are one-off programs. In fact, there has been a lot of activity in trying to get applications such as ones for Court Assistance Programs to go through the right channels; so that they go through the Attorney General's Department.

Some of the violence prevention programs which have been funded in this State have been funded through us, through the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the Attorney General's Department, Police, DOCS and Health. What shows up within our budget allocations is nowhere near the sorts of allocations that are going to domestic violence projects in this State. We have worked directly onto major projects in Menindee in Broken Hill which had allocations of over \$400,000 which came through other agencies. This does not capture the extent of the funding towards violence prevention projects by any means.

Ms NORI: Could I give you two examples. There was a grant of \$100,000. It was a partnership project to the Centre for Refugee Research. That was to undertake research on the extended domestic violence in newly-arrived refugee communities, develop training resources for agencies working with these groups and develop innovative models of service delivery to better address the needs of women and children. Here is an example of one that you would not have had—

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The anti-Phillip Ruddock campaign. That was research—

Ms NORI: Point of order.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I am sorry. I am trying to ask questions about domestic violence in New South Wales.

Ms NORI: I had not finished making comment. For example, the Women's Shelter in Armidale, they received \$6,000 for a positive relationships and self-esteem support program. You would not pick that up necessarily as an anti-domestic violence program but it was. It was about providing training and interpersonal skills, protective behaviours and self-esteem to a group of young

women with a developmental disability who have experienced or are at risk of abuse in a relationship. A feeling safe resource was to be developed. Again you would never pick that up as domestic violence, I do not think, unless you went into the fine print.

CHAIR: It is a preventative work.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Not when they are in the refuge. They have already left home.

Ms NORI: Kelso Community Network short courses for young women, \$23,800; deliver short courses for young women on low incomes who may be at risk of domestic violence, sole parents below 20 years of age and Housing Department tenants to increase self-esteem and develop understanding of health issues, parenting and living skills. These are all very valid and important programs. Hopefully they are about providing the fishing rod and not just the fish; in other words, creating or starting the dynamic of greater responsibility and a sense of autonomy for these people; for example, the program in Tomalla with Mission Australia. We go in for partnerships. We do not necessarily deliver it ourselves. We sometimes do it in partnership with other groups. By the way, the grant to which you refer came before my time as Minister.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: All of the period I am talking about is before your time as Minister.

Ms NORI: How far back can we go in this estimate? Why not ask me something about 1999.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: In fairness, Minister, you were not the Minister for these estimates last year. We have to compare expenditure.

Ms NORI: It is one thing to take me up on this year's budget. To take me to a budget of a previous year is a bit rough.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: In terms of looking at the priorities and the trends in the Women's Grants Program, it is necessary to look at the published information because that is where I get my information about what is in the Women's Grants Programs. I have looked at the two most recent years.

Ms NORI: I hope that you are very satisfied that we are on the right track.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, you were not Minister for the two years for which it was published. I do not understand how, as a member of this Committee, I can look at what is occurring in the program without looking at the two most recent years.

Ms NORI: I hope I have given you some examples that illustrate the kind of work that we are doing and the role that we try and play. It is about trying to create a dynamic of greater self-reliance and self-liberation. A lot of what we have to do, if you understand anything about domestic violence, it is not just the actual logistics, if I can put it that way, of the attack. It is about the self-esteem and the confidence of the woman. There is therefore a whole range of things that may not superficially appear to be related to domestic violence. We feel we can do great good by offering this. I will tell you one other thing. Particularly in Indigenous communities in regional New South Wales, for whatever reason—I think I know the reason—when the Department for Women goes out there with its WOW Program and whenever we go out there, they trust us. They come to us and tell us things and co-operate with us in a way that I am not sure they do with other departments. We have an important role. One of our jobs is to get their trust and then get the agencies who have the budgets, the responsibility and the jurisdiction to deal with it. We are not the police.

CHAIR: Perhaps another one question.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: One more on Women.

CHAIR: I will come back to you, if you like.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: If you would not mind.

CHAIR: Arthur?

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Minister, you said programs were funded when they apply for funds. You have a grants program.

Ms NORI: That is right.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Do you have guidelines for grants that encourage certain types of programs? In other words, do you say, "We need a domestic program in this area"? If one area applies and another area does not, does that mean all your money goes to the one that applies and the area that has not applied does not get anything. That is the logical consequence.

Ms NORI: There is no doubt that we cannot give a grant to someone who has not applied. There has to be an application generated. I have never looked at the ones that have come in and have been rejected, so I am not sure how on target or not on target some of them are. I am quite confident the ones that we have granted are on target for that community. I will get the Director-General to answer the specific details for guidelines.

Ms HENDERSON: The guidelines for the Women's Grants Program are very clear about identifying primary areas. Violence prevention is one of them. In fact, over the last nine years funding programs, many applications have come in for violence prevention projects. The applications are all assessed by the department and then by a committee of independently appointed people who make the priority allocations. I think it is really important to remind you that these are not ongoing funded projects. They are one-offs. For example, in the year before last—and you talked about culturally diverse groups—the Australian Sikh Association sought money to develop specifically culturally aware pamphlets for Sikh women to look at the issue of domestic violence. The program which is being funded to the ANCOR group is to look at particular domestic violence issues amongst women who are refugee or newly-arrived immigrants who have come from violent backgrounds, who are particularly prone to different types of domestic violence.

The answer to your question is, the applications come in from all over the State. The independent committee tries to be as equitable as it can. The department's grants programs have been constantly spread broadly. It is only fair to say that they try and allocate within four main areas, which relate to violence prevention or safety, work, health and wellbeing, and rural and regional capacity building. If you go through the allocations for the previous grants round, you will find that is where they fall.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: One of the things in investigator-driven research, if you want to call it that, is that you give out money and it depends who has a bright idea who gets that money. It is good that it allows innovative things but that does not necessarily feed back into policy. If one area puts up a good grant, it means the other areas are ignored because of opportunity costs. In terms of handing out money for good projects, is that not the same principle; that if someone does not put a grant up for a problem in an area, do you have a mechanism of identifying it and saying what can we do proactively in that area?

Ms HENDERSON: Those are precisely the changes that have occurred with the grants program over the last two years. There were two issues. The grants were very desirable, so that there were a lot of applications. There was a high level of expectation. Most people who put in for them did not have their expectations met. That was one thing. The other thing was that, in order to do what you have been talking about, having identified a high area of need, to target the program towards dealing with that high area of need. We developed the partnership grants component of the grants program, which is three grants of approximately \$100,000 each, to specifically target and look at and research high areas of need. For example, two years ago a project was funded in Orange where there was an identified issue relating to economic development and the needs for different employment opportunities for women.

A research component of that grant was done with Charles Sturt University and the local

community colleges. We worked with the local employment agencies, job networks, to try and match the skills audit that was done by the university and the women that we knew were available for working. That is one type of targeted grant. Another one is currently under way in Redfern where it is a similar economic development project with Aboriginal women who are looking at micro-financing small businesses. Yes, we are trying to target them, but it is difficult with a small amount of money to do it any more targeted a way than that.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Do you monitor the projects of other departments and then work out what percentage of that is associated with your target? For example, if you had a capacity building program, the net result of which was, let's say, a drop in violence to women, it may also improve their literary skills, improve their chance of getting a job and so on. You could technically divide the program up into the departments which were helping: Employment, Women, whatever. Do you monitor those programs? If I were to ask you what positive programs are in place to assist women with domestic violence problems, could you give me an answer with all the other departments? Do you have an oversight function like that?

Ms HENDERSON: We do. The department has developed an audit process over the last five years. Every year it audits all the Government agencies in the State. It can tell you not only who is doing what in the area of violence prevention but precisely where they are doing it and for how much. It provides a useful tool to identify gaps in service provision. That information is provided by all the agencies across Government. Clearly, when the Department for Women works on any project, it does so in partnership with other agencies.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Could you then answer what positive programs are in place to assist women who are victims of domestic violence and what is the number of places in refuges, for example? Could I ask those two questions and you give me an answer from your audit database?

Ms HENDERSON: We could, probably not down to the detail of the number of women in those refuges, because that is data that is located in the SAP database in DOCS. We could certainly tell you the number of funded places in the State and we would be happy to do that. We do, of course, produce every year an action plan on violence prevention which details the sorts of activities that are occurring around the State. We would be happy to provide that to you.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Have you advocated workplace based child care facilities? Where have you advocated that and how successful have you been?

Ms HENDERSON: I think every year I get asked the same question. The fact is that this is a DOCS funded area of work. We work with DOCS on policy issues around child care. We have no role in the allocation of funding.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: No, but it would be lovely to know how they are going. DOCS is short of monitoring bodies, as they always tell us, and very keen to have more. I thought perhaps you might be able to use that as a performance indicator of how they are going on that.

Ms HENDERSON: I cannot answer your question.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: From your audit database that you were telling us about.

Ms HENDERSON: The audit database will provide you with a level of information about where these places are located.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Not how many there are?

Ms HENDERSON: Yes, and how many there are.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: Minister, the Asian community and the Arabic-Indonesian community are now the second and third largest community groups in Australia and in New South

Wales. How much of your program is proactive in terms of helping women of Asian and Arabic background? On your Advisory Committee to the Minister, are there many advisers on the Committee that are of Asian or Arabic background?

Ms HENDERSON: The Premier's Council for Women has a representative of the Chinese Women's Association, Bee Koh, who advises through the Premier directly through the Minister. Similarly, Maha Krayem Abdo is a member of the Premier's Council for Women also. Probably more importantly, the department works closely with the peak women's organisations of which the Muslim Women's Association and the Chinese Women's Association are two of the most important layers. The last two meetings of the peak women's groups have been held with something like 50 women's organisations in those women's places. The 50 women's organisations went to the Muslim Women's Association and to the mosque with the women to try and develop cultural awareness amongst the groups. We have funded through the grants program a range of programs for various Asian women's groups. We have worked very closely with them.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Minister, I had a meeting this morning with Ms Ros Abra, who is the only accredited female boxing referee, I understand, in New South Wales. She had come to me with a question in regard to the age of boxing. This probably goes across your other portfolio as well. I understand the age for young people to enter the sport of boxing is 14 in New South Wales and is 10 in every other State. Her concern was that many young, particularly indigenous people who come along wanting to enter the sport, are prevented from doing so. I wanted to ask you, is there any intention to change that policy, to reduce it to 10 to bring it in line with other States?

Ms NORI: We are back to Sport, are we? I do not think it is unreasonable that we go through portfolio by portfolio.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Surely this is an issue for Women, is it not?

Ms NORI: No, it is an issue for Sport.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: She came to me as a woman.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: What, equal opportunity for 10-year-old girls to get their heads punched in? I do not think the advocate is going to be much good.

CHAIR: I hope, Minister, your answer is that you intend to raise the age, not lower it.

Ms NORI: You are quite right, it is 14. The matter was addressed under national competition policy. The State Government has addressed its position to the Commonwealth in respect of this act. It considers that there is an inherent and broad public benefit in regulation participation in dangerous combat sports, even where medical opinion is divided. Accordingly, it is not proposed to alter the regulatory framework at this time.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Thank you. That is a very good answer, Minister.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Minister, in the relationship between alcohol and violence, did the Department for Women make a submission to the Alcohol Summit?

Ms HENDERSON: The Department for Women worked with DOCS on their submission. We produced in Sport and Recreation a series of fact sheets which related to violence and risk-taking behaviours of young women.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Did the Department for Women itself make a submission to the Alcohol Summit?

Ms HENDERSON: No. Our submission was part of the DOCS submission. We worked together on it.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Do you accept that there is a relationship between alcohol and violence?

Ms NORI: I accept there can be in some circumstances, but let me assure you, a bloke does not have to be drunk to indulge in domestic violence. I think it is important in public policy terms that we recognise that, while clearly there is a relationship in some circumstances, there is not always. If we assume that it is only ever associated with alcohol consumption on the part of the perpetrator, we would be making a very big public policy mistake.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I understand that, but there are a number of links on the issue. In fact, domestic violence was not a key area of discussion at the Alcohol Summit. Public violence was. The concern emerging is that, as people are cracking down on public violence and removing people who are inebriated from the streets and they are going home, that could have an unintended consequence of increase in domestic violence.

Ms HENDERSON: Domestic violence was a key part of the discussion in the Families Working Group. There were a number of recommendations that came out of the working group in relation to recognising the links between violence and pregnancy and alcohol. Probably three-quarters of the work that the Aboriginal people did on the day before the summit itself put a high focus on Aboriginal family violence and domestic violence. It reinforced the important not to put alcohol as the cause of violence but an accompaniment.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: That was because the information provided on the web site suggests alcohol is not the cause of domestic violence and that it is important not to talk about domestic violence in terms of alcohol, which is an ideological position.

Ms HENDERSON: I think that that position has certainly shifted a lot. There is no question that the majority of people who work in the field would say there is no causation, but there are certainly linkages.

Ms NORI: Do you think alcohol is a major cause of that?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Yes, I believe that. Certainly in the communities we have visited, where the amount spent on alcohol increased, the level of domestic violence did increase. The police statistics that were used to show the number of offenders correlated exactly with that. The other interesting issue was that certain types of alcohol seemed to engender even more aggressive behaviour. In Brewarrina, for example, they banned the sale of moselle. That is believed to have substantially decreased the family violence going on in the home. Minister, can I make a comment. The temperance movements were the original women's movements that formed into the suffragettes movements.

Ms NORI: We are going back at 75 years.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The issue of alcohol and its relation to violence has a long tradition of being an important issue for women. That is why I am concerned that, is it that alcohol and violence is slipping or is the whole issue of domestic violence being downgraded as a women's agenda issue.

Ms NORI: Not at all. I strongly believe that, if you are going to get the right public policy outcome in anything, if you do not understand the real genesis of the problem, you will never get the right public policy decision. You will never get the outcomes that you are seeking to achieve. Whilst I accept that alcohol is then and that there are some people for whom it is associated exclusively with their drinking, I think there is a continuum. I certainly think there are people who do not have to drink in order to indulge in these behaviours. I fundamentally believe that, whilst alcohol will get rid of someone's inhibitions perhaps, I do not believe it is the fundamental cause. I believe the fundamental cause to be the fact that the people who perpetrate these acts are bullies. They are hopelessly insecure individuals. They are almost always suffering from some level or degree of pathological controlling jealousy. These things have to be looked at.

If you think it is just a matter of booze, then you are going to miss out on public policy

programs that might direct themselves to those other issues. There are plenty of drunks who do not punch their female partners. There are plenty who are sober when they do it. I think you do have to recognise the full gamut or you will miss out. I do not see this as downgrading the issue at all. I think it is a nonsense to say it is one thing or another. Quite clearly it is a continuum.

The Hon. HENRY TSANG: Do you think gambling perhaps is one layer on top of drinking?

Ms NORI: I would have thought when humans behaved badly—this is not rocket science—that any other stress factors within their lives are likely to exacerbate the bad behaviour. In that general sense, in some circumstances I am sure the gambling causes fights which leads to this, that and the other. At the end of the day, it is not good human behaviour. It has to be a function of dysfunction. I do not believe alcohol is the only source of dysfunction, nor do I ignore the importance of alcohol.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: Minister, I was impressed by this audit. The audit database of programs for the successes of other departments seems a good idea. Is that a public document and, if so, is it available on the web?

Ms NORI: I cannot hear you.

Ms HENDERSON: The audit is a dossier which is put together electronically. It is placed on the Human Services Intranet. Agencies contribute their data electronically. The printout of the audit database is not available publicly because it is so huge. It can be available to you. You would not want to have to give it out all the time, because the information is very large. What comes from it is a summary version, which is the Women's Action Plan.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: We can look that up on the web?

Ms HENDERSON: No, it is not on the web. This is a software package. What is on the web is the action plan. You can certainly look that up on the web.

The Hon. Dr ARTHUR CHESTERFIELD-EVANS: But that action plan with information is on the web.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: And the Labor Party 2003 election policy.

CHAIR: We have finished our time. Minister. There are a couple of other things. I will ask the Committee to stay behind. I want to thank you, Minister, and the people that have been with you, for attending tonight's hearing. I want to thank the departmental and administrative advisers and also members of the public.

The Committee proceeded to deliberate.
