

**GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1**

**Tuesday 6 June 2000**

**Examination of proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas**

**PREMIER, ARTS AND CITIZENSHIP**

**The Committee met at 5.30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS**

Reverend the Hon. F. J. Nile (Chair)

The Hon. D. T. Harwin  
The Hon. A. B. Kelly  
The Hon. J. M. Samios

The Hon. P. T. Primrose  
The Hon. H. S. Tsang  
The Hon. Dr P. Wong

---

**PRESENT**

**The Hon. R. J. Carr**, *Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship*

**Premier's Department**

**Dr C. Gellatly**, *Director-General*

**Cabinet Office**

**Mr R. Wilkins**, *Director-General*

---

**CHAIR:** I welcome you to this public hearing of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1. I thank the Premier and his departmental officers for attending tonight. We appreciate your co-operation.

**Mr CARR:** Thank you.

**CHAIR:** At this meeting the Committee will examine the proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for the portfolio areas of Premier, Arts and Citizenship. Before questions commence, some procedural matters need to be dealt with. As you would be aware, paragraph 4 of the resolution referring the budget estimates to the Committee requires the Committee to hear evidence on the budget estimates in public. Under Standing Order 252 of the Legislative Council, this Committee has resolved to authorise the media to broadcast sound and video excerpts of its public proceedings held tonight. The Committee's resolution conforms with the guidelines governing the broadcast of proceedings adopted by the Legislative Council on 11 October 1994. The attendant on duty has copies of those guidelines.

I emphasise that only members of the Committee and witnesses before it may be filmed or recorded. People in the public gallery are not considered to be part of the proceedings and, therefore, should not be the primary focus of any filming or photographs. In reporting the proceedings of this Committee, as with the reporting of both Houses of Parliament, media representatives must take responsibility for what they publish or what interpretation placed on anything that is said before the Committee.

While there has been provision in previous years' budget estimates resolutions for Committee members and substitute members to refer directly to their own staff at any time, there is no such provision in the current resolution. Members and their staff are therefore advised that any messages should be delivered through the attendant on duty or the Committee clerks. For the benefit of members and Hansard, and the effective operation of this Committee, it is important that departmental officials identify themselves by name, position and department or agency before answering each question.

There is wide latitude allowed in asking questions on any of the budget estimates and related documents before the Committee. However, when a member is seeking information in relation to a particular aspect of a program or subprogram it will help the Minister and the Committee if the program or subprogram is identified. For the benefit of the Premier and any other witnesses participating, the Committee has agreed on the following format for this hearing: It is a mix of portfolios, so questions can be asked of those areas under responsibility of the Premier. In principle the Committee has agreed on this allocation of time: 30 minutes for the Opposition; 15 minutes for the Hon. Dr P. Wong; and 15 minutes for me. My time includes a small portion if the Government members have a question they wish to ask. That will be repeated twice in the two hours for this hearing. Even though we have allocated two hours for this hearing, if at the conclusion of the hearing members have not asked all the questions to which they require answers, the Committee may decide to hold additional hearings before it is required to report on 23 June.

Premier, I understand that the lower House is sitting. Are you required to attend divisions this evening?

**Mr CARR:** I think I am required.

**CHAIR:** Anticipating that, the Committee agreed prior to the hearing that if that becomes necessary the Committee will adjourn until you return. I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Point of order: Premier, will the head of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, Mr Kerkyasharian, and the head of the Ministry of Arts, Mr Evan Williams, be in attendance?

**Mr CARR:** No.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** For any particular reason?

**Mr CARR:** Not that I am aware of.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Last year, as Minister for the Arts you provided \$750,000 to assist the Museum of Contemporary Art. Why is there no provision for that in this year's budget?

**Mr CARR:** We are discussing with the City of Sydney plans it has developed for the future of the museum. We are close to concluding a memorandum of understanding with the Lord Mayor. It is a university

institution; it is not a State Museum. Our commitment, made in the time of the Wran Government and honoured by the Greiner Government, to the museum has been the provision of the building. We have made a grant of something like \$100,000 to assist with some activities. While I have been Premier, I have given them an additional floor in that building by moving out Tourism New South Wales. We have assisted the museum in those three ways but, until that recent grant of \$250,000, have not gone beyond that. We have seen it as a university institution. I am looking fairly kindly on the bid by the Lord Mayor to take over the recurrent costs of the museum and to explore an expansion of the museum, funded by the city. That has not been concluded although I think it is close to being concluded.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Will that dialogue also involve Sydney Cove?

**Mr CARR:** No, I am not inclined to the view, given the interest that the city council is expressing, that the management and assumption of responsibilities for the museum by the Sydney Cove Authority is a more attractive option. I would prefer to explore fully the prospect of it becoming a city council run museum.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Is it a fair comment that the Museum of Contemporary Art plays an important role in contemporary art in New South Wales and Australia and that every effort will be made by you as Premier to ensure that it continues?

**Mr CARR:** Yes. I would go beyond that. I would say that Sydney must continue to have a Museum of Contemporary Art. The Museum of Contemporary Art must continue in that building. In a city as big as Sydney, a city with as many cultural institutions as Sydney, supported—and supported generously—by the State, it is not unreasonable for us to explore a bid by the city council to run one of those institutions. But I would need to be satisfied that that will ensure that the people of this great city still have a museum where the contemporary imagination can be expressed. We have a very attractive, dynamic and vibrant museum of the art of the modern and earlier times, that is, the Art Gallery of New South Wales. But it is appropriate that we have a museum devoted to the contemporary imagination. So I give those two guarantees: one, we will continue to have a contemporary art museum; and, two, it will be in that building. Meanwhile, we will continue to explore with the city council arrangements under which it might take responsibility for it.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-49, subprogram "Ministerial and Parliamentary Services". I note from the line item "Operating Statement" that the Government overspent by \$1.209 million on press secretaries, researchers and administrative staff, in the form of "Employee related expenses" and "Other operating expenses", during 1999-2000.

**Mr CARR:** Could you highlight the line?

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** At page 2-49 is "Operating Statement", then "Expenses" and then "Operating expenses—Employee related, Other operating expenses", with three columns of figures. I refer to the "Employee related" figure and the figure for "Other operating expenses". I am comparing the budgeted figure and the revised figure for 1999-2000 in terms of the two categories of "Employee related" and "Other operating expenses". What was the reason for the overrun? Why did this overrun occur in the year leading up to a State election?

**Mr CARR:** There has not been an overrun. Your assumption is incorrect. I am advised by Dr Gellatly, the head of the Premier's Department, that that figure does not reflect an overrun. I will shortly give you figures that show that the commitment within my administration to personal staff is less than that of my predecessor as Premier, Mr Fahey. I am advised that the difference of \$1.2 million between the estimate for 1999-2000 and the revised estimate for that year is due simply to a reallocation of funds from State Administration Services division—as noted in Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-55—to Ministerial and Parliamentary Services division. No additional funds have been allocated to the department for this adjustment.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Did you want to add anything to that?

**Mr CARR:** Of the \$1.2 million increase from the estimates to the revised estimates, approximately \$1 million is an adjustment specifically for recoverable fleet vehicle costs. No additional support from the Consolidated Fund has been required for this activity in 1999-2000. The Premier's Department manages vehicles for various clients, including the Leader of the Opposition, the Presiding Officers and Ministers. The costs for these vehicles in 1999-2000 were recovered through the revenues as shown in the budget papers.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Other than fleet vehicle costs, what were the other reasons for the reallocation? Is that the whole of the reason for the difference in those figures?

**Mr CARR:** One million dollars of the \$1.2 million is explained by that.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Could you explain what accounted for the other \$200,000?

**Mr CARR:** The balance of the \$220,000 increase from the estimates to the revised estimates is for one reason, apparently, and that is rent at Parliament House for the Premier and the three Ministers supported by the Premier's Department. Charging Ministers for Parliament House rent was initiated after the budget was prepared.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Premier, I refer you to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-126, Art Gallery of New South Wales. In "Cash flows from government" is shown a capital appropriation increase from \$3,348,000 in the revised figure for 1999-2000 to \$7,420,000 for the financial year 2000-01. Could you please explain that increase?

**Mr CARR:** Could we take that on notice and proceeds to the next question?

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Certainly. The next question relates to a line item on the same page, 2-126, to "Payments—Employee Related" under "Cash flows from operating activities". The revised figure for 1999-2000 is \$10,265,000, increasing to \$10,601,000 in the budget for 2000-01. That is an increase of nearly \$300,000. Can you please explain that increase?

**Mr CARR:** I am advised that that is likely to reflect the award increase of 3 per cent.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-53, Strategic Projects. Premier, particularly in reference to the section of the page that deals with staffing numbers for strategic projects under the program "Services for Administration of Government", it is proposed that they are to be increased from 55 in 1999-2000 to 74 in 2000-01, which is an increase of 19, and in the Infrastructure Co-ordination Unit from 5 to 7, giving an increase for the total area of 21. Could you explain why an additional 21 people are needed in this area, and what are their roles and job descriptions?

**Mr CARR:** First, the expansion of the regional co-ordination program into Wollongong, Gosford and metropolitan Sydney increases the establishment by eight. Second is the establishment of community drug action teams. This strategy, which was a major outcome of the 1999 Drug Summit, increased the staff establishment by 13. They are all temporary one-year or two-year appointments. Third, the establishment of a strengthening communities unit incorporates place management. Place management is, for example, when we send an officer into Woolloomooloo to pull together police, Department of Housing and Department of Community Service activities and programs and achieve an improvement in urban amenity.

Also under this category is the establishment of the Migration Heritage Centre, which is doing work towards the proper collection of migration heritage. Still under this third category are the youth partnership initiatives. Altogether, these projects will increase the establishment by five. The fourth area is the restructure of the division, which deleted a number of positions and left a net increase of 21. There has been an increase of two within the infrastructure co-ordination unit. The strategic projects division engages a number of staff on a temporary basis to undertake project work.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I am delighted to see in the budget papers ongoing support for the Migration Heritage Centre. Would you tell me how many staff are working on the Migration Heritage Centre project? What other funding is there in the budget papers for that centre? What activities are proposed for that centre in the next financial year?

**Mr CARR:** The centre was initially a 24-month project. The budget contributions for the 2000-01 financial year will be consolidated revenue for salaries, grants, subsidies and operations, \$375,000; agency contributions from the Ethnic Affairs Commission-Community Relations Commission, \$100,000; and Ministry for the Arts, \$100,000. There has been interest over some years in the prospect of a migration museum. I have seen three migration museums: one in Liverpool, one in Adelaide and the one on Ellis Island. I was quite unimpressed by the one in Adelaide. I thought it was a quite boring presentation of what should be a dynamic area. The one in Liverpool was, I thought, of a higher standard, but it would not be a model for us. Ellis Island was not as interesting as I expected it might be, given the huge flow of human traffic through its portals.

When I was in New York on holidays I went to something on the lower east side of New York that offers a different model for a migration heritage museum. It was called the Tenement Museum project. It offered

a store front on the lower east side and a walking tour through a fascinating area of New York. This area of New York, the lower east side, had been home to every successive wave of immigration from the early nineteenth century right through to the present. On the walking tour, the PhD student who was our guide was able to say, "This was the first German church in the area. The Germans moved out in the mid-nineteenth century. This is today a Fushian community centre. Its loyalties are to Taiwan or to Beijing"—I forget which.

He made the point that migration heritage is a living thing. I thought that was far more fascinating. It held my interest far more than static, traditional museums. The important thing at this stage is that we collate as much of the living material as we can. We see that the grandparents of Greek migrants keep passports, the first letters that went home to the rest of the family on the Greek islands, the record of migrant hostels and all the rest. We collect this material in the most professional curatorial fashion and later it is used as a proper, but also an interesting, collation of immigration heritage.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I am pleased to hear that. Rather than going on about what is obviously a matter of mutual interest I encourage you to go to the Melbourne Museum of Immigration, which is very good.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** I refer to the budget for the Ethnic Affairs Commission. Given your stated commitment to multiculturalism and your acknowledgement that Sydney or the Sydney Basin is the multicultural centre of Australia, why have you reduced the grants and subsidies on page 2-144 of Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, "Operating Statement", line item "Grants and subsidies"—a reduction from \$1,548,000 to \$1,546,000?

**Mr CARR:** That is a \$2,000 reduction.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Yes. I ask, first, about that reduction.

**Mr CARR:** I have no explanation for that.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Bearing in mind that the grants have been fairly static—apparently since shortly after your Government came into office—why would you not consider having at least an indexation for that category of grants and subsidies which relate to structures involved in the front line of multiculturalism?

**Mr CARR:** I think those programs are adequate. I do not want to be partisan about this, but I think that leaders of ethnic communities witnessed a ballooning in grants when Mr Photios was Minister for Ethnic Affairs. We criticised them at the time. Many ethnic leaders did. They saw it as a blatant attempt at vote buying in that portfolio—the so-called Photios grants. I suppose, like any area of government, you could say that it should be increased. On the advice of the Ethnic Affairs Commission I have to say that there is no reason for believing that this allocation is inadequate for the need.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** But you would agree that holding it at basically the same figure means that you are really dropping it every year, through inflation.

**Mr CARR:** Not by much. I maintain the adequacy of the commitment we make. Of course, activities in other portfolios take up a lot of the responsibility to underpin multiculturalism.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Would you acknowledge, however, that there has been an evolving change in demography and that there are more challenges for our multicultural society and greater need for front-line structures?

**Mr CARR:** Only in the sense that you could always make that point. I do not think this is an inadequate program.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Premier, I refer you to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, Page 2-49, the line item "Other expenses", and specifically the line item "Ministerial travel, special reports for the Premier, and unforeseen expenses approved by the Premier". For the year 1999-2000 the allocation was \$263,000. Could you outline the details of what the unforeseen expenses approved by you were as part of that \$263,000 figure?

**Mr CARR:** The item has been in place for more than 11 years and is intended to meet costs incurred on behalf of the Premier which are not appropriate for debiting to other areas. Expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the Premier as head of government from this source includes expenses such as, one, travel to areas of

New South Wales subjected to fire, flood or other natural disasters; two, travel throughout the State and around Australia and costs associated with Premiers Conferences; and, three, costs associated with Cabinet meetings in rural and regional parts of New South Wales.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Those three categories cover the whole of that amount? Can you detail exactly how much of that \$263,000 is covered by those three categories in terms of unforeseen expenses? Is it all of the \$263,000 or is there a subcategory within that?

**Mr CARR:** No, I cited those as examples. We could take that on notice and get back to you with the full breakdown of that category.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** If I could just come to the recent legislation that has been introduced for the community relations commission. Obviously, certain expenses are involved if that bill is passed. One would want to know where the budget is, say, for the cost of those changes, for example, and the change of name, if that were to occur in any shape or form.

**Mr CARR:** I do not think there would be any significant impact of the change of name. I might say that that legislation is in the Legislative Council. It has been the subject of Committee consideration within the Legislative Council. I think it would be very wrong this evening for me to canvass the merits of that legislation. We did last time we met. It is now in the Parliament. I certainly will not be drawn to canvass that. But I would think the cost of the name change would be absolutely negligible.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** You say negligible, but I suppose you really mean small compared with other costs?

**Mr CARR:** It would be met within the existing budget.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Within the existing budget?

**Mr CARR:** Yes.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Premier, I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-35, in relation to the Families First program. The Minister for Community Services announced to the lower House on 28 October last year that the Government would extend the program by \$29.9 million over the next four years. Can you explain why no more funding has been allocated to the program in the next financial year and why only three more staff have been allocated in this year's budget?

**Mr CARR:** This is page 2-35, the Families First allocation—\$1,100,000?

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Yes, it is the same allocation this year as it was last year—\$29.9 million over four years.

**Mr CARR:** I am advised this is only for the co-ordinators. That is being rolled out over three years. It is being implemented in six areas of New South Wales: south-west Sydney, mid and far North Coast. It commenced in 2000 in the second group of areas: Hunter, Orana far west, and inner west. In 2000-2001, \$1.1 million will enable the Cabinet Office to co-ordinate further development and expansion of the third area: Central Coast, New England and Nepean.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** Mr Premier, will you continue to fund the Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales? If yes, how? If not, why not?

**Mr CARR:** The answer is yes. We will do so taking into account comments made by the Auditor-General and the proper accounting for the use of those moneys; also the need weighed against the need of other organisations that might seek funding by way of grants from the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** I know my question is very similar to what the Hon. J. M. Samios asked earlier but I ask it in a different way. The Government proposes to enhance the community relations role of the Ethnic Affairs Commission upon the passing of the bill through the upper House. The budget estimate for the subprogram "Community Support Services" is \$7.1 million in Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-148. This is similar to last year's allocation. The number of staff remain the same—I think it is 72. How will this budgetary allocation cover the expenses of the increased role of the commission?

**Mr CARR:** You are referring, Dr Wong, to the bottom line allocation, total expenditure \$7,114,000?

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** That is right, yes.

**Mr CARR:** I am advised there is a reduction of only one position in the work of the commission.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** Yes. I am not asking you about one loss; rather, you are proposing there ought to be an increasing role for the Ethnic Affairs Commission. I am asking the same question. With the same budget, how is the Ethnic Affairs Commission going to fulfil this increasing role?

**Mr CARR:** I think it is not a matter of splashing money around; it is a matter of whether we are achieving our objective of inclusiveness and of community harmony. I think by any test we are able to boast that we are one of the most harmonious, multiracial, multi-ethnic, multicultural societies in the world. I see the role of the commission, whatever it is called, as facilitating that: providing a forum where people can assess what is happening in community relations; advising the Government; bringing community leaders together where that is required; and providing a safety valve in community relations. I think we have to start this discussion by saying, "Look, community relations, the relations of different linguistic, ethnic or community groups in our society, represent a great success story."

It is not as if we are administering a system or a society in some sort of crisis. This is not Fiji; it is not Colombia. It is a mature society where people resolve their differences, if they have differences, in a mature way. I think the Ethnic Affairs Commission is assisted in that process. I think there is a case for changing its name and the emphasis it takes for moving beyond the reliance on the term "ethnic" for talking about community relations, for talking about writing multiculturalism into the legislation. But it is a success story, and for that reason we do not see, on a needs basis, on an evidence basis, a case for a significant funding increase.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-150. The expenditure for interpreting and translation services is budgeted to fall slightly, from \$5.371 million to \$5.233 million. The Government has promised to extend interpreter services into rural and regional New South Wales. How will this additional service to regional and rural New South Wales occur without additional expenditure and resources?

**Mr CARR:** It might be best if I seek a document from Stepan Kerkyasharian, the Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, on his plans with interpreter services and report that to the committee.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** Does the Ethnic Affairs Commission provide grants or other financial assistance to organisations which represent particular focus groups within the ethnic communities, such as the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association? The reason I raise the question is so that the Chair is aware that a witness can present a view that has been virtually ignored. In what way would you consider that organisations such as this ought to be supported in view of the disabilities law?

**Mr CARR:** I play no role in determining who receives grants. Until the commission assesses the different applications and settles on its recommendations, I do not know who gets the grants.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** More importantly, how would you explain the response by the Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, when he was invited to launch a report on disability produced by the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association, that a more appropriate person to launch the report would be the Minister for Disability Services, the Hon. Faye Lo Po'?

**Mr CARR:** I have total confidence in his judgment. If you have a Minister for Disability Services, there may well be a case for having her launch a report on disabilities issues. I might add—because it may be helpful—that I am advised by the commission that the 2001 grants program gives priority to projects that target one or more of the commission's priority areas. They are: small or emerging communities, communities that are geographically isolated, groups within ethnic communities with special needs, promotion of interaction between ethnic groups, development of new networks or structures, and promotion of community harmony.

All organisations approved for funding under the 2001 Community Development Grants program are required to enter a funding agreement with the commission. The program includes the provision of core funding to the Ethnic Communities Councils of New South Wales, the Newcastle and Hunter region, Wagga Wagga and the Illawarra. The 2001 grants program will be advertised in early June, with a closing date of 28 July. It is anticipated that recommendations for funding will be submitted to the Premier during December 2000.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** How many regional advisory councils currently exist as part of the Ethnic Affairs Commission? What was the expenditure for the operation of each council in the past year? Furthermore, what projects was each of the councils involved in, what was the expenditure for each project, and what was the outcome of each project with regard to fulfilling the objectives of the Ethnic Affairs Commission?

**Mr CARR:** The regional advisory committees are in the Hunter, the Illawarra, the Tamworth-Armidale area and western Sydney areas. They are there to identify and provide advice to the commission on ethnic affairs issues affecting people in the region. They monitor and report on the implementation, value and effectiveness of commission initiatives in regional areas. Membership may comprise up to six community representatives appointed for a three-year term and up to four Government representatives for a two-year term. Members of the committee are entitled to a sitting fee; Government members do not receive payment. A commissioner chairs a committee. Regional advisory committees meet four times a year. I will need to get further advice on any spending associated with various activities, if that is acceptable to the committee.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-148, subprogram 19.1.1 Community Support Services. Under the community support services component of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the other operating expenses, separate from the employee-related operating expenses, had actual expenditure of \$1.622 million, exceeding its budgeted expenditure of \$1.179 million by about \$443,000. What items are included in this budget expenditure category and what cause this budget expenditure category to be overspent?

**Mr CARR:** Are you referring to the line item Other operating expenses?

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** That is right, yes.

**Mr CARR:** I am advised that the commission received two substantial increases in funding to undertake one-off special projects which related only to the 1999-2000 financial year. This increase in expenditure is primarily due to these two special projects. One was a GST project, supplemented by Treasury by the amount of \$100,000. It is projected that the implementation of the GST will cost the commission approximately \$160,000. The commission also received \$210,000 funding from the Office of Information Technology to undertake a pilot project in accordance with the Government's Connect New South Wales strategy. The project is called EAC Online Services.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** The Multicultural Arts Alliance was an organisation that represented artists from culturally diverse backgrounds, and it was supported by funding from the Ministry for the Arts. What form of budgetary allocations are made for the next year to assist artists from culturally diverse backgrounds who have specific cultural, linguistic or religious needs?

**Mr CARR:** I might take that question on notice and provide the Committee with an accounting of expenditure in that area. Mr Chairman, you would be aware, of course, of our commitment to Carnivale, but I think we are addressing the question of the Multicultural Arts Alliance. I would need to take that on notice.

**CHAIR:** I wish to ask some general questions. I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-78, which refers to the allocation for the State Electoral Office, and shows payments for candidates, groups and parties. Has any provision been made in regard to the ability of the authority to regain electoral funding, which is now regarded as not meeting legal requirements and necessitating a return of the money, particularly in regard to One Nation?

**Mr CARR:** The prospect of its being repaid is not reflected in this budget.

**CHAIR:** Is your office aware of, or has it given consideration to, the question whether the State Electoral Office has the power to require money to be returned, as it did not expect that would ever occur?

**Mr CARR:** As I would see it, it is a matter between the Australian Electoral Commission and the Crown Law officers. I am very conscious of the independence of the Australian Electoral Commission.

**CHAIR:** It is a legal power that is contained in legislation. That may also require assistance from legal advisers.

**Mr CARR:** Yes.



**CHAIR:** Again in regard to the State Electoral Office, I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-76, line item "Payments to the Commonwealth", which shows the payment to the Commonwealth by the State Electoral Office, which has been increased to \$2.7 million.

**Mr CARR:** Payment to the Commonwealth this year is estimated to be \$2,758,000, which is an increase on last year's allocation. That apparently reflects the agreement entered into between the Commonwealth and New South Wales in 1930, which saw the cost of electoral rolls borne almost entirely by the Commonwealth. The State paid an amount of approximately \$100,000 per annum for roll by-products—such as forms, State roll microfiche, and roll data for members of Parliament—and these costs are being paid from general election funds.

Negotiations were commenced by the Commonwealth in 1990 with the then New South Wales State Government to change the agreement to a user-pays basis so that direct cost of the preparation, maintenance and revision of the joint electoral roll would be shared equally between the Commonwealth and the State. The State's share is approximately \$2.8 million per annum. In 1995 the State Government finalised the new agreement with a commencing date of 1 January 1996. The new agreement retains the present structure for responsibility of the rolls remaining with the Australian Electoral Commission. A formula based on a base fee per elector was established to provide for roll maintenance, computer procedures and consumables, stationery and habitation reviews. That fee has since been adjusted by the measure of underlying inflation and increased elector enrolment.

Similar agreements have been entered into or are under negotiation by the Commonwealth, all States and the Territories. The agreement provides for improved involvement of the State through the State Electoral Office in the security, scrutiny and quality control procedures of roll maintenance, preparation and revision. Negotiations between the State Electoral Office and the Commonwealth resulted in an annual reduction of approximately \$280,000 of the fee payable under the agreement which was commenced in the 1999-2000 financial year. The States, Territories and the Commonwealth continued to seek alternatives to the current electoral roll reviews, that is, the doorknock concept. Further studies using other existing databases are also proposed. Such innovations may result in further reducing roll maintenance costs. That advice is provided by Mr J. Wasson, the Electoral Commissioner.

**CHAIR:** Page 2-15 of Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, contains a heading "Ministry for the Arts." In April 1999 you announced a Ministry for Citizenship. There does not appear to be any budget item for the Ministry for Citizenship. In other words, you are running a Ministry without any expenditure. I am not encouraging you to wilfully spend money.

**Mr CARR:** That is a technical matter. It reflects the fact that in my role as Minister for Citizenship I am serviced by the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

**CHAIR:** For example, the Ministry for the Arts budget was \$55 million and the Ethnic Affairs Commission was \$12.5 million. That would be equivalent to a Citizenship budget. An example of that would be the Anzac Bridge, which is a very good project. Are such projects coming out of any budget item?

**Mr CARR:** A project like that would come out of the Premiers Department budget, not of Ethnic Affairs or Community Relations.

**CHAIR:** As this is a fluid situation, would that indicate that in the future there may be a Ministry for Citizenship for various projects based on future plans?

**Mr CARR:** No. There does not have to be a budget allocation for a Ministry title. Therefore, there would not be a budget allocation for the title Minister for Citizenship.

**CHAIR:** Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-35 shows, under "Cabinet Office", that in 1999 there was a budget allocation for the line item "Special projects" of \$980,000, which does not appear to have been spent. There is no allocation in the current budget for that. Would you like to explain that? Is that taken up in other line items such as "Drug policy" and "Families First" and entered as "Special projects" without indicating what special projects they are under? For example, the line item "Operating Statement", lists "Other expenses" and "Special projects".

**Mr CARR:** I am told that that entry reflects the establishment of the Office of Drug Policy. That office commenced operations in August 1999 to co-ordinate the Government's policy on illicit drugs. The funding for

that came from two sources. One was funds from the Confiscated Proceeds of Crime account, which was \$300,000, and the rest was \$660,000, which came from eight separate agencies. In other words, we require eight other agencies of government to provide funding for the establishment of this unit within the Cabinet Office.

**CHAIR:** The money does not appear to have been spent, unless it was spent under the drug policy. It shows the budget allocation but not the expenditure.

**Mr CARR:** The \$980,000 special projects allocation is not for the drug policy: it is for Families First and the youth programs that I touched on in answer to an earlier question. The drug policy funding, the source of which I explained a moment ago, is \$960,000 in the column for the revised amounts.

**CHAIR:** It has been suggested that it would cost \$1.2 million to establish the shooting gallery in Kings Cross—the medically supervised safe injecting room. Is that amount included in the budget? If not, where is the funding coming from?

**Mr CARR:** I am advised that that is a matter for the Minister for Health.

**CHAIR:** It is in the budget of the Minister for Health?

**Mr CARR:** Yes.

**The Hon. H. S. TSANG:** Page 2-5 of Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, under the Premier's Department, Strategic Directions, states:

The Department will continue to provide services which focus on:

- ◆ Whole-of-government co-ordination of major business, investment, and community proposals and initiatives.

What plans does the Government have to capitalise on the Olympic Games and capture investment and trade for the State?

**Mr CARR:** We have a great opportunity with the Olympics to see that the Games, the attraction of significant business people to this city, provides us with long-term economic advantages. We expect a huge number of world business leaders, overseas media, political decision-makers, and most significant international companies to be represented in Sydney. We are targeting them with a \$3.6 million trade and investment drive. It is a comprehensive plan to sell Sydney and New South Wales as the place to invest in the Asia-Pacific region. It is about making the Games work for us to generate jobs.

The plan includes special events for business visitors. We anticipate, and indeed we are planning, more than 60 business events, international board meetings, briefings and trade presentations to be held at the New South Wales Trade and Investment Centre and Country Embassy during the Olympics. There will be 46 international chambers of commerce involved, because they have already been briefed on business opportunities, and 110 consulates. Also, 168 attaches have been briefed about trade and investment, 315 international companies have been asked to participate, and 122 councils and 326 regional New South Wales businesses have been briefed on Olympics opportunities. We expect that to come to the attention of more than 500 world business leaders, Olympic sponsors, and business leaders from Sydney who will be involved in four major promotional events.

We are staging the events that will bring visiting international business people together with people who might link up to them from Australia. In addition to this Business Visitor program, there will be a \$1.8 million business advertising campaign to promote New South Wales. *The Wall Street Journal* and *Financial Times* are publishing features on Sydney. There will be advertisements and in-flight videos and magazines, advertisements highlighting New South Wales as a place to invest will be run on CNN in 67 hotels in Sydney, and print and television advertisements will appear in the major business media throughout the Games.

The Sydney Media Centre will service about 5,000 so-called unaccredited media at Darling Harbour. The Department of State and Regional Development, Tourism New South Wales and the Sydney Harbour Foreshores Authority will give the media detailed fax sheets, research material, images and story leads about New South Wales that will offer them itineraries within the State. Our goal will be to get them out there to look at New South Wales beyond Sydney. They will also highlight the business competitiveness of Sydney and regional and rural New South Wales.

There will be promotional material, a new State and Regional Development information booklet promoting the ability of New South Wales to meet corporate location and expansion criteria. A CD-ROM and booklet promoting the case studies of international businesses based in New South Wales will be made available to business people at the international airport. A video welcoming business visitors to New South Wales will be playing at the airport, and a guide to business assistance will be offered by the Department of State and Regional Development.

The Australian Technology Showcase provides a platform for 208 world-class technologies from across New South Wales. That will be on show at Fox Studios, including 55 from regional New South Wales. Investment 2000 is another program, with more than 1,000 senior business people having attended international briefings on the benefits of doing business in New South Wales. Of the 200 international business leaders that have visited Australia, 20 companies have now committed to investment, and that has been running for some years. We work with the Commonwealth, and Westpac is the private sector sponsor.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** In the second reading speech of Mr Iemma on that bill—

**CHAIR:** We need to be careful with a bill that is before the Legislative Council.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** It is related to the budget.

**CHAIR:** The question must be related to the budget, not to the bill.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Under the standing orders it relates to budget related papers.

**The Hon. P. T. PRIMROSE:** It is clear that questions should not relate to debate for the current session. I do not take a point of order, but it should be clear that this matter is still before the House.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Indeed. I will leave it to the judgment of the Premier as to whether he wants to answer it.

**The Hon. P. T. PRIMROSE:** No, it should be left to the judgment of the Chair. I draw attention to the content of the question and the guidelines used by the House.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** The question is important in relation to budget expenditure.

**CHAIR:** The preface to the question was in relation to a debate in the House. I suggest you ask a question without referring to the debate.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** We have been informed that \$80,000 has been spent on a youth centre or youth space in Stockland Mall in western Sydney. Where does the \$80,000 appear in the operating statement of the commission on page 2-144?

**Mr CARR:** I do not know. I would have to get advice and report back.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** Is it paid out of the commission's budget?

**Mr CARR:** Is it the Equal Space project?

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** It is at Stockland Mall.

**Mr CARR:** I can give you the information on that. It is called the Equal Space project, a pilot project. It is looking at best practice to meet the mutual interests of young people, retailers, shoppers, shopping centre management, security staff, and the use of commercially owned public spaces. It is dealing with the presence of young people, sometimes in significant numbers, in shopping centres and the challenge that this poses for security staff and sometimes for older people who may find the presence of young people in such public spaces as shopping malls threatening or intimidating.

The project targets young people from this area of great cultural diversity. I think Fairfield has more cultural diversity, with a higher proportion of its population drawn from a larger number of ethnic and cultural backgrounds than any other parts of the State. It targets young people in this community. It is also an area with

the highest proportion of young people aged between 15 and 24 years, with 65.5 per cent of that group speaking a language other than English. The project commenced in January 1999, hosted by the Parks Community Network at Stockland Mall, Wetherill Park, funded for \$80,000 by the Ethnic Affairs Commission under its Community Partnership scheme, with a contribution of \$20,000 from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, a Commonwealth authority.

The project brings together young people and other stakeholders to work on creative solutions to address the mutual needs of young people, shop owners and the general public, who can be at odds with each other in these spaces. It has, first of all, developed a positive rapport between young people and retailers, Stockland Mall management and security staff; second, worked with security staff to develop best practice policies and procedures; and, third, established a centre with six computers, including computer tuition and Internet access in the Wetherill Park library, with the ongoing maintenance costs being met by Fairfield Council. It has organised activities for young people based on needs and interests—basketball, soccer competitions, self-defence classes, dance parties, photography classes, and surveyed attitudes for the use of public space by the young through questionnaires. Finally, it would appear under that category, to be found on page 2-148, "Grants and subsidies". I think that probably gives you as much information as you are seeking.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** On that point, Premier, as that figure has not increased over the years in any notable fashion, would that not have been a reason for an increase? At least, should there not have been another provision made for that particular funding?

**Mr CARR:** I would take the advice of the staff of the commission on that. They look at the applications that come in. Again, I would find myself relying on their advice.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-99, and the line item "Art Policy Formulation and Review, Cultural Grants Program and Other Arts Assistance". Under "Cultural Grants Program—Funds distributed" are listed in the columns the expenditure for various years. Premier, in the 1998-99 financial year \$3,567,365 worth of funding grants were approved by the Government without reference to the Arts Advisory Council. That is based on information that has been supplied under freedom of information. Why were the grants approved without reference to the Arts Advisory Council first? In the 1999-2000 financial year, how much money was approved by the Government without reference to the Arts Advisory Council? In the financial year 2000-01, what is the forecast for the amount of money to be approved by the Government without reference to the Arts Advisory Council? Given that, on average, approximately 20 per cent of allocated funds were approved by the Government without reference to the Arts Advisory Council, what steps is the Government taking to reduce this high level?

**Mr CARR:** This is how the system works. The vast majority of grants are considered at the annual assessment round of the Arts Advisory Council. Some committees, such as performing arts, touring and indigenous arts, have more than one assessment round. Because they have more than one assessment round, and the Arts Advisory Council meets only once per year, those committees make recommendations direct to the Minister for the Arts. So, after approval by the Minister, the grant details are then provided to the next meeting of the Arts Advisory Council for its information.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Does that account for the whole of the \$3,567,365 in that year?

**Mr CARR:** I would seek advice on that. I simply make the point that, according to the Ministry for the Arts, there were no cases in which the Minister for the Arts and/or the Ministry for the Arts overruled, amended, rejected, increased or in any other way altered a grant recommendation from the Arts Advisory Council.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** So therefore you are confirming that all of that figure of expenditure was based on those supplementary areas that you mentioned?

**Mr CARR:** To the best of my advice, it is based on the procedure I have outlined.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-101, "Operating statement", and in particular to the line item "Sales of goods and services". What explains the falling projected sales of \$3,060,000 for 2000-01 from a budgeted figure of \$3,659,000 for 1999-2000, and a budgeted \$4,691,000 in 1998-99, as set out in Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-101? Are any measures being undertaken to reverse this trend? There seems to be a downward trend in the sales of goods and services relating to the State Library.

**Mr CARR:** I will seek advice on that. I wonder if, while I seek that advice, I could answer an earlier question from the Committee about the budget of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. This was about the expansion of the budget of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The major feature of the capital program is the provision of budget support of \$15.2 million over three years, commencing in 2000-01, for the building extensions and the collection digitisation program. The building extension program includes the development of the Asian gallery.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** The second Asian wing.

**Mr CARR:** Yes, long sought by the Art Gallery. As the Hon. J. M. Samios appreciates, the Asian collection is one of the specialties of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. It also involved the relocation of the level 5 restaurant and an enlarged conservation studio and sculpture garden. The digitisation program will record works of art in a digitised or electronic format in order to support and increase ease of access to the art collection and research databases. As part of the gallery's mission to increase and improve the collection, funding of at least \$1 million from its own resources will be allocated to the acquisition of works of art. I think we will have to take on notice the question concerning the State Library. It is a fair question. We will need to search for an answer and come back to you.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I refer now to overseas travel. I am aware, of course, that figures for the 1998-99 year are listed in the annual report. I, therefore, direct your attention to the current year, 1999-2000, for which we do not yet have an annual report. How many overseas trips have you taken in the current financial year and to where? What class did you travel, with whom did you travel and how much was the cost?

**Mr CARR:** This information has been provided in answer to an Opposition freedom of information request. It was released in March. I am happy to refer the Committee to that. The documentation is there. I will distribute the documentation again, but it was made public in March through a freedom of information request. I will seize this opportunity to add one thing, that is, the comparison of overseas travel under my administration with that of my predecessor, which certainly puts things in a useful context. As you would know from the release of information on freedom of information on 9 March, the total cost of these visits for me and my staff in that year was \$159,000. I have taken out a comparison with the travel costs of my predecessor, John Fahey, as Premier. During his last full financial year in office, that is, in the 1993-94 financial year, the expenditure was \$312,000. So taking that as a rough guide, it could not be said that the expenditure under my administration is excessive. It is quite dramatically less than that of my predecessor.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** My question was about this financial year. The freedom of information request was in March. Would you supplement the answer that you gave in relation to the freedom of information request? Would you bring it up to date?

**Mr CARR:** I have not been overseas since March.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-102, Cash Flow Statement, line item "Payments, Employee related". I refer again to the State Library of New South Wales. Why has there been a fall in expenses from \$23,791,000 in 1999-2000 to \$21,258,000 in 2000-01?

**Mr CARR:** In February 2000 the State Library implemented a work force management plan. That document sets out how the library can develop core services and expertise to respond to current client service needs and reposition the library to meet the emerging and new information and research needs of clients. As part of the implementation of the plan, the library developed a voluntary redundancy program in consultation with staff, the Public Service Association and Treasury. A number of redundancy packages have subsequently been offered to staff who expressed an interest. The lower level of expenditure on employee-related expenses from 2000-01 is a result of the expected take-up of the program, with a net reduction in staff of 30 full-time equivalent positions.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-19 is an extension of the section on the State Library of New South Wales. In about the fourth paragraph on page 2-19 is the following statement:

An allocation of \$3.7 million has been provided for the acquisition of collection material including books, journals, pictures, maps, manuscripts, CD-ROMs, newspapers and electronic materials.

The equivalent volume of last year's budget papers listed an allocation of \$4.066 million for this form of acquisition. What is the reason for the shortfall or the reduction this year in the acquisition budget? Why has that

funding been reduced? How many items of collection material, broken down by subject, will not be purchased due to the \$300,000 budget cut? What impact will that have on the operations of the State Library and its provision of services to the public?

**Mr CARR:** I would need to get an explanation from the library on how its acquisition policy is accommodated within that budget outcome. I have not got it with me.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** I refer to page 2-105 of Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, Program 12.1 State Library, line item "Outputs, Local councils connected to NSW.net". On page 2-103 of the previous year's Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, the number of libraries connected was forecast to be 90 in the year 1999-2000. This year's budget papers list only 80 as having been connected. How do you explain that shortfall?

**Mr CARR:** I would need to seek information to give you an adequate reply.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I refer to page 2-19 of Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1—the page on which my last question was based. This time I refer to the Australian Museum. A newspaper report in the *Australian* on 26 May referred to the fact that the Djamu Gallery had its annual funding cut by \$880,000 by the Australian Museum and, as a result, it is expected to close later this year. What has been the level of assistance to the gallery since 1998 when it opened? Why has the assistance been cut? Is a level of assistance proposed for the 2000-01 financial year? Is the newspaper correct when it states that the gallery will close later in the year? As the gallery is one of the few public galleries devoted solely to indigenous art, what alternatives will be introduced to support indigenous art?

**Mr CARR:** I can confirm that the Djamu Gallery will close. The actual closing date is yet to be determined. There is one reason for it, that is, the low level of attendance. The collection is a good one; it is a quality collection. I suspect that the problem is the location. Customs House has not provided a setting that draws people in to see this fine collection of Aboriginal art. It has cost the museum \$800,000 to maintain it. It is an allocation that cannot be justified. It is one of those cases like the Mint Museum that used to be offered by the Powerhouse Museum in the Mint Building. It did not receive enough public support to be maintained. The museum has a strong case that its resources can be better used. Again, I think the problem is not the quality of the collection—

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** The flawed approach to Customs House?

**Mr CARR:** The flawed approach to Customs House. The fact that when people ruled that Customs House could not be a concert hall—and remember it was a Commonwealth gift to the city of Sydney—it ended up with a miscellany of uses. I wanted it to be a concert hall but the city council of the time was absolutely emphatic there would need to be adjustments in the interior of the heritage building that would be too hard. Now Customs House has ended up with a miscellany of uses and a quite marked adjustment to its heritage frame, namely, the addition of a restaurant on the top. The museum's use of one of its floors has, sadly, not been a success. We as a Sydney community have to think about the optimal use of the public space that Customs House represents. I think we are probably all agreed that we want it to continue with some public purpose, but it might be some years before we settle on the optimal public use.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** Is there an ongoing liability to the State in lease payments for that space?

**Mr CARR:** I do not think so. I will seek advice on that. I should emphasise that the Australian Museum continues its strong commitment to indigenous cultures. Its programs will be integrated with programs at the museum's College Street site. The museum's director, the trust of the museum and Treasury are currently examining what this means in budgetary terms.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-117, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, line items "Regional New South Wales" and "Exhibitions/public programs". This year's budget papers list the number of exhibitions in 1998-99 as nine, in 1999-2000 as nine and nine in 2000-2001. Last year's Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-114, listed the number of exhibitions as 20 in 1998-99 and 19 in 1999-2000. What is the explanation for the difference in figures? Which figures are correct and why were the figures revised?

**Mr CARR:** I am sorry, I will have to take advice on that.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I refer you to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-29, which relates to the Ethnic Affairs Commission. Total Expenses are shown at the bottom of the page. Given that the Opposition

submitted a freedom of information application in November last year and more than seven months later it still has not been finalised, has the Government provided additional resources to the Ethnic Affairs Commission for the processing of information?

**Mr CARR:** I am naturally alarmed that you have been kept waiting an unconscionable time. That is certainly not the spirit of freedom of information. I would seek to rectify it. I do not want to embarrass anyone on the Opposition staff, but I am told a deposit was not paid. I do not want to indict the Opposition on that. We will take advice on it.

**The Hon. D. T. HARWIN:** I am sure that is a malicious rumour, and incorrect.

**Mr CARR:** It might be perfect justification for increasing the allocation of the Opposition office. Someone who occupied the Opposition leader's office for seven long and generally mournful years will have sympathetic consideration.

**The Hon. J. M. SAMIOS:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-29, Ethnic Affairs Commission Strategic Directions. The last sentence states, "A focus for the Commission in 2000-01 will be the extension of interpreter services into rural and regional New South Wales." How much has been allocated in 2000-2001 for this purpose and what benchmarking standards will be utilised to measure the extent of interpreter services?

**Mr CARR:** I think Dr Wong asked me this question earlier, and I have undertaken to come back to the Committee with an account of the commission's plans for the expansion of the service throughout non-metropolitan New South Wales.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** Mr Premier, what was the expenditure in 1999-2000 by museums and other cultural institutions which have been established to represent a particular ethnic, cultural or religious heritage? What were the museums or the cultural institutions? What was the process, if any, including specific criteria to be satisfied, for granting this expenditure? Is a fact that the Government was approached with a request to assist in the establishment of a Vietnamese or an Indo-Chinese museum in Sydney's south-west, and what was the result of this request? What process was followed by the Minister for the Arts to consider this request and what was the outcome of the consideration process?

**Mr CARR:** I am not aware of that request. I am aware that from time to time the question of us supporting a museum sponsored by an ethnic community has been raised—generally informally. The difficulty the Government faces—I think any government would face—is if we make a commitment to fund a museum of one community, we are really honour bound to fund the next community that asks for it and, indeed, any community that asks for it. That is the difficulty. The second difficulty is maintaining some sort of quality. I mentioned earlier that there are museums of migration around the world that are quite disappointing. If a museum is going to attract people, it has to offer quality exhibits. The curatorial work has to be very professional. It has to offer something that people cannot get on cable television or on their video sets. So, the challenge for museums is to provide professionalism and quality, and that takes quite a bit of money.

So, the alternative approach we have taken is what I canvassed with you earlier, and that is the work on migration heritage. I hope we can give advice—professional advice, a book of advice—to migrant communities on how they should collate their heritage so that down the track, when we have a structure for migration heritage, we have the archival material, the exhibition material, that will make it a quality facility. I emphasise that we cannot fund individual community museums, because before long every one of up to 100 communities will be asking, "What about our museums?"

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** How successful was the Partnerships for Migration Heritage Forum conducted by the Migration Heritage Centre in achieving the objective of "generating practical strategies to realise the Government's vision"? What practical strategies have been generated by the Migration Heritage Centre for realisation of the 2000-01 year? What are the budgetary allocations for the following cultural heritage projects: Mapping Chinese Heritage in New South Wales; the Lebanese in the World: The Worlds of Lebanese Australians; Mapping Italian Heritage in New South Wales; Regional and Rural New South Wales Heritage Identification Programs; and Tears, Fears and Cheers: Migration to Australia 1788-1998?

**Mr CARR:** I had the honour of opening that forum, which was held at the Australian Technology Park. There was a very good attendance. It brought together leaders of the different cultures and people from the

arts communities. I am told that it worked very well and it lifted the standard being applied here. Any old museum, any old amateur approach to building a collection, is inadequate. We have to go about this in a thoroughly professional fashion. The forum facilitated exchange between those communities and the cultural sector. Consultation is taking place in regional and rural New South Wales on heritage issues such as protecting a particular site or getting people who belong to a community to protect and donate their family or community material. There is an oral history project with Lebanese and Arab Australians conducted by the Powerhouse Museum, and a range of others. I could ask the people running the centre to provide an account of the emerging work, which I think would be of interest to Dr Wong, Mr Samios and Mr Tsang.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** With regard to the GST and its impact on non-government organisations, can you confirm that all New South Wales Government grants to non-government organisations will be increased by 10 per cent to cover the GST, that non-government organisations must pay on those grants after 1 July? If not, what impact do you estimate the failure to provide additional income will have on the valuable services provided by charitable community-based organisations in the health and welfare sectors and on the local activities of smaller community groups such as sporting groups and ethnic community organisations?

**Mr CARR:** My best way of helping the committee on this subject is to refer you to the Treasurer's statement on this. We will get the Treasury's co-operation in giving you the most clinical statement of the Government's position on grants to non-government organisations and the circumstances under which we can adjust those grants to take account of the impact of the GST.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** In recent months Professor Archer, the director of the Australian Museum, has advocated the use of wildlife as pets. Will you provide full details of Professor Archer's media campaign to persuade Australians that native wildlife should be made into pets, including a list of all interviews with television, radio and print media, and details of all lectures by Professor Archer on the subject of wildlife for pets? Has the Government provided any funding for this sort of activity?

**Mr CARR:** The answer to the last question is no. I would want to be advised about the relevant provisions of the national parks and wildlife legislation. I have been more interested in Professor Archer's even bolder campaign to revive, through most innovative laboratory work, long-dead species.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** The Office for Children and Young People exists within the Cabinet Office. The Office for Children provides assistance to the Youth Advisory Council, which reports to you. How much of the budget expenditure of the Cabinet Office is dedicated to the Office for Children and Young People? What specific programs and initiatives will the office undertake as part of this budget allocation?

**Mr CARR:** The Office for Children and Young People has an annual allocation of \$280,000 for youth projects. During 1999-2000 the following projects were funded through this allocation: maintenance of the Government's youth web site, \$25,000; operation and support costs, including advertising the call for nominations for the Youth Advisory Council, \$87,000; White Pages Help for Young People page, \$15,000; operation and support costs of the Youth Customer Group, \$11,000; New South Wales contribution to the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme, \$34,000; and a youth media forum "What's the Story: Young people and the Media", \$10,000.

In 2000-01 the funds will be allocated again to the web site, the Youth Advisory Council, the White Pages, the Youth Customer Group and the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme. New projects, however, will include: first, Drug Summit projects, the development of the whole-of-government strategy for vulnerable young; and, second, youth social justice projects, projects arising from the Government's social justice direction statement, to assess to young people to manage credit and debt and to increase young people's representations on government boards and advisory committees.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-15, which states that the estimated total expenses of the Commission for Children and Young People are \$4.9 million. The commission will undertake important programs targeting the welfare of children and young people. Are any of these programs specifically designed to target parents, children and young people from non-English-speaking backgrounds or people working with these groups? If so, what is the specific budget estimate for these programs? What other agencies or departments in the public and private sphere will the commission work with in the planning and delivery of its programs which target people of non-English speaking backgrounds?

**Mr CARR:** I will take this opportunity to say that all government departments and programs are under an obligation to reach out to non-English speaking communities. I would be happy to ask Ms Gillian Calvert,



the director, to provide you with an account of what she is doing to get information to communities of non-English speaking backgrounds. I have a vague memory that when I was briefed by her as the office set up operation there were references to this, but I would need to rely on her to provide accurate, reliable and up-to-date information.

**The Hon. Dr P. WONG:** I refer to Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-5. The budget allocation for the Regional Integrated Service Delivery program is \$3.5 million. What initiatives are planned as part of the program and what are the expected outcomes of the program?

**Mr CARR:** This is a statewide review of service delivery provision across government, with an initial focus on regional New South Wales. The regional integrated service delivery plan outlines how the Government will make sure the community receives the best possible services from government agencies and uses the resources that the Government has in regional New South Wales to strengthen local communities.

Some of the initiatives canvassed in the strategy are: providing one-stop shops for information and over-the-counter transactions; using technology to promote wider access to remote communities using certain specialist face-to-face services integrated and delivered from one place and co-ordinated by one program; making arrangements for recruiting staff across agencies more flexible; looking at communities for joint purchasing locally and ensuring resources such as meeting and video conferencing facilities. We are briefing local representative bodies about this but, fundamentally, I hope that we can use any Government office in a country town to the maximum. If it is an office of agency A, it can provide services on B, C, D and E. That is the focus of it.

**CHAIR:** Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 1, page 2-55, Premier's Department, Operating Statement, line item "Centenary of Federation" shows a large increase from \$6.5 million to \$9.7 million. What is the explanation for that? Does that include any trips to celebrations?

**Mr CARR:** No. Sydney is in fact the focus for the celebration in January next year. In 1901, the Federation was commenced on 1 January with a procession through the streets of Sydney to Centennial Park where all the Premiers and the new Prime Minister, the Governor-General and all other State governments participated in a ceremony that commenced this nation. We have been co-operating with our Federal colleagues in seeing that this coming January we have a very significant commemoration of the centenary. In May next year the focus on the centenary will shift to Melbourne because the first sitting of the Federal Parliament commenced there in 1901. But in January 1901 the focus will be on Sydney.

That funding covers the major community procession through the streets of Sydney to Centennial Park. It covers the event's celebration at Centennial Park. It also covers the series of lectures and forums devoted to themes about the political development of Australia which is part of a plan for the commemoration of 100 years of the Australian nation. The significant increase reflects the fact that this is the year in which it all comes to a head—the year in which the celebration occurs. The committee's membership is bipartisan. It includes community representatives and persons with special interests in education and history.

We are seeking significant private sector sponsorship. Recently I hosted a luncheon with representatives of major corporations to persuade them to look at committing themselves as sponsors. The total State Government package to date, including the 2000-01 provision, is \$19,270,000. That is expected to be augmented by sponsorship funding to be raised through the National Council for the Centenary of Federation Patrons Scheme and sponsorship events organised by the New South Wales committee.

**CHAIR:** Does that include resurrection of the Federation Pavilion in Centennial Park?

**Mr CARR:** No. A pavilion was erected there as part of the 1988 celebration and no structure in Centennial Park is contemplated as part of the celebration.

**The Hon. A. B. KELLY:** Following a question asked earlier by the Hon. H. S. Tsang and in view of my particular interest in this subject, how have country and regional New South Wales benefited from the Olympic Games?

**Mr CARR:** Mr Chairman, the construction of Olympic facilities has been a \$250 million boost for businesses based in regional and rural New South Wales. More than 100 regional and rural companies in the State either have won or have worked on Olympic contracts. These contracts have given the regional and rural companies that are based in this State a unique opportunity to showcase their products and skills to the world.

One example is a Lavington-based company, Xypex, which provided concrete additives to several Olympic venues. As a result, the company has been able to develop exports to South-East Asia. I congratulate the company and all its wonderful employees who have been working so effectively not only to give us Olympic venues but also to win for themselves contracts in the region. National Engineering of Young and Daracon Engineering from the Hunter won contracts totalling \$160 million. National Engineering won contracts totalling \$170 million to provide roofing for several Olympic projects and Daracon Engineering from Wallsend won contracts totalling \$90 million.

The overseas Olympic teams will be training in more than 20 towns and regional centres across the State. The activities of these teams in the lead-up to the Olympic Games will inject approximately \$6 million into local economies. I will provide the Committee with some examples: the Belarus Olympic team will train in the Shoalhaven; the Belgian team will train at a variety of centres on the Central Coast; the Canadian women's basketball team will train at Wollongong; the German hockey team will train at the Tweed; the Ukraine team will train at Albury-Wodonga; the Irish rowing team will train at Grafton on the Clarence; and the Korean hockey team has already been training in Dubbo and Wollongong. They are just some examples. Over and over again I am hearing about teams that will see a beautiful part of this State and will have happy memories of it for all time. Those teams will be injecting money into local economies, but the program provides those local communities with a hook into part of the world tourism market.

**The Hon. A. B. KELLY:** The Orana Foundry in Wellington won \$500,000 of the National Engineering contract as a subcontractor. National Engineering subcontracted some work to that foundry in Wellington.

**CHAIR:** That brings us to the end of our questions, Mr Premier. I thank you and your staff for attending this hearing.

**Mr CARR:** It has been my pleasure. Hold me to my commitment to return to you with the information that I undertook to provide on notice.

**CHAIR:** Staff might summarise those questions.

**The Committee proceeded to deliberate.**

---