



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Steve Doszpot MLA (Chair), Amanda Bresnan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA

Questions Taken on Notice Annual and Financial Reports 2008–2009

ACT HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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HCSS QTON 09/2	Bill C National Accreditation System	6/1/10
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2008-2009 Annual Report Inquiry



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Mr Hanson : To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to Vacancies

Would you be able to provide that to me or give me a snapshot? That tells us where the vacancies are. As an example, I went around the Phillip Health Centre the other day, and thank you very much for the visit; I was very impressed with what I saw and I thank the staff very much. I saw the dental chairs. I can't remember how many there were; there were about a dozen. But there were two dentists. We then went and looked at where they are making the dentures and so on. Again, there were about a dozen stations and there were two guys working. As I talked to the staff, it seems that across the board in just about every category you look at there are vacancies. I am just trying to get across those vacancies.

That then leads to the broad concern that I have, which is that as we look to expand our health system, we are already in a position where we cannot staff the current system. How do we get to where we want to be in the future, in 10 years time? It is a bit of a long question, but if we start with what are the current vacancies and then, I guess, the question of how that staff profile grows in terms of what we require in the future and how we fill the delta of where we are at now and how we get to that future position.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Nationally, the new agency, Health Workforce Australia, will be working to increase clinical training capacity and numbers within the health workforce.

Locally, the ACT Health Workforce Policy and Planning Unit is inputting into the Capital Asset Development Program through workforce profiling, scenario projection and workforce costings.

The *ACT Workforce Plan 2005-2010* (the Plan) underpins workforce profiles and scenario projections. The Plan has provided background and guidance on how the ACT can develop a flexible responsive health workforce which will ensure future sustainability.

Four objectives and a number of strategies are set out in the Plan to build a sustainable health workforce and copies can be obtained on the ACT Health website at <http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dlpubpoldoc&document=855>.

Progress against the main strategic directions of the Plan is presented in the ACT Health Annual Report 2008-09 (page 189-192).

As the health sector is in rapid change, preliminary work has already commenced on the next Workforce Plan which will cover a shorter timeframe from 2011-2013. This new plan will continue to build upon workforce redesign and productivity activities to achieve a sustainable health workforce for the future.

The Human Resource Management Branch, *Human Resources Strategy 2008-2012* focuses on attracting and retaining people within the ACT Health workforce. The key achievements against the four central themes of this strategy are also presented in the *ACT Health Annual Report 2008-09* (page 194-196).

The ACT Government recognises that the ACT Health workforce is broader than the public sector and that general practitioners have a pivotal role within our system. For this reason work is also focusing on supporting and growing our general practice workforce.

Since the appointment of an ACT Government funded General Practitioner (GP) Marketing and Support Officer in May 2008, to work in collaboration with the ACT Division of General Practice, 19 new GPs have moved to work in the ACT. In addition, the ACT Legislative Assembly committed to invest \$12 million over four years to support and grow the Canberra GP workforce and collaboration with the Australian Government will provide the ACT with an additional 5 GP training positions in 2010.

Approved for circulation

Signature: 

Date: 23.12.09

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher

QTON 09/02

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2008-2009 Annual Report Inquiry

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE



Mr Hanson : To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to Bill C

Just to clarify, what are the professions where there will not be ACT representation?

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

The ACT has practitioner representation on eight of the ten National Boards: Dental, Medical, Nursing and Midwifery, Osteopathy, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, and Psychology.

In addition, there are community members from the ACT (but not formally representing the ACT) on the Podiatry Board and the Chiropractic Board.

The Optometry Board of Australia is the only National Board that has no member from the ACT.

Approved for circulation

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 6.1.10

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
2008-09 Annual Report Inquiry

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE



Mr Hanson: To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to room closure

Would you be able to table the number of days that particular wards are operating without a room open?

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the Member's question is as follows

No.

Our hospitals are very busy and dynamic places. Rooms are occupied and vacated based on demand for care at any given time based on operational needs.

Ward managers work with patient flow coordinators and staff from other areas within the hospital to maximise patient safety and comfort within the context of demand for services. As part of this process beds and rooms may be vacated from time to time.

It would not be appropriate to redirect resources from clinical areas to collect such data. Instead, ACT Health monitors indicators such as bed occupancy rates to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of services.

Approved for circulation

Signature *K. Gallagher*

Date 6/1/10

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES****2008-2009 Annual Report Inquiry**

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE



Mr Doszpot : To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to Consultation

It is in relation to page 158, consultation, briefing and reporting. It refers to eight reviews and one audit conducted by Walter Turnbull. The committee notes that these are not reported in section C14, government contracting, which is pages 222 to 228. Can you outline the process for engaging Walter Turnbull and why this contract is not reported in C14, noting that, obviously, contracts of less than \$20,000 have a different process?

Mr Cormack: I will make some comments on that, but also, just seek to confirm those. Walter Turnbull is part of an ACT government-wide panel of internal audit service providers. I think that is where we have sourced them. In relation to whether they do or do not appear on our list of contractors, I will take that on notice and provide you with some more accurate information.

Ms Bresnan: The process in terms of engaging them is the general part of—

Mr Cormack: Yes, the ACT government has a panel. In years gone by, each agency went out to tender for its own individual audit provider. Now we pick from a range, which is very good for us, because most of them are small engagements, and we are able to get different expertise in different areas brought to bear on the particular audit that is in place.

Ms Bresnan: How many are on the panel?

Mr Cormack: I would have to take that on notice, I am sorry.

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

ACT Procurement Solutions has developed Whole of Government (WhoG) contracts and established arrangements that enable agencies to access a range of inter-jurisdictional agreements. WhoG arrangements are in place for Provision of Internal Auditing Services.

Walter Turnbull were engaged in line with the ACT Government's "Provision of Internal Auditing Services User Reference Guide" (the guide).

This contract was not reported in C14 because the guide notes that: "As these Contracts have already been reported as notifiable contracts there is no need to publicly notify each engagement of the Contractors".

Provision of Internal Auditing Services consists of three categories of Services under a Standing Offer Arrangement and includes a panel contract of eight providers.

Approved for circulation

Signature: 

Date: 18.12.09

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2008-2009 Annual Report Inquiry



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Mr Hanson : To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to Consumer feedback

Is it done by a separate contractor or separate process?

Mr Thompson: As the minister explained, each hospital has a separate consumer feedback process that is run within the separate organisation. So within ACT Health, we have a consumer engagement team which coordinates feedback, both positive and negative, and follows up on complaints. Calvary have a similar structure within their hospital. They are quite separate but they are not outsourced functions; they are core functions to the way that health services operate.

Mr Hanson: Could you provide me with the TCH data? We have got the Calvary data; can you provide me with the TCH breakdown for that as well, on notice?

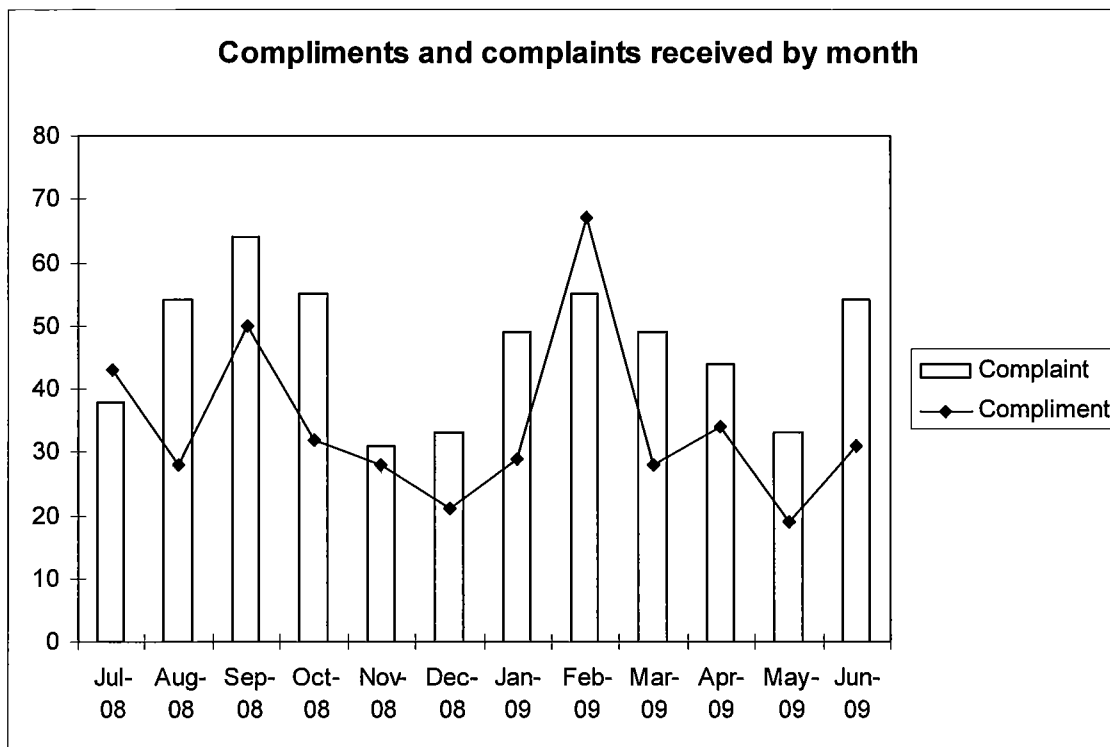
Mr Thompson: Yes, we can provide that data. I do not have in front of me the time series that you see for Calvary, but we can provide it in that format.

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

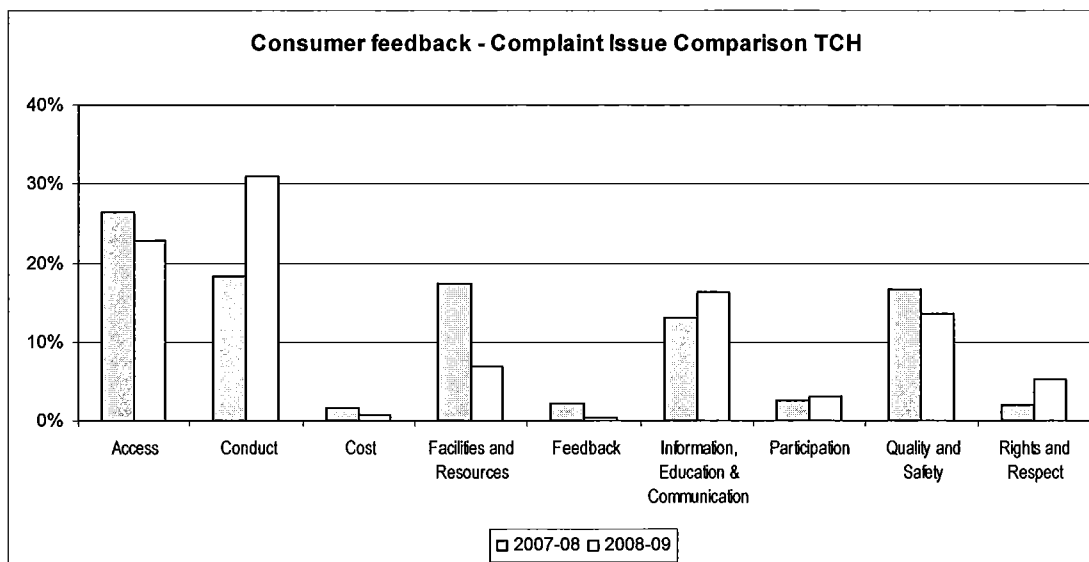
ACT Health values consumer feedback.

The ACT Health Annual Report 2008-2009 records all feedback, including complaints, compliments and comments for all ACT Health Divisions and Service Areas.
The Canberra Hospital data was not separated out this year.

The Canberra Hospital data is provided in graph format identifying compliments and complaints by month and the type of issues raised in the complaints as requested.



The Canberra Hospital is a major tertiary hospital and in 2008-2009 the total number of complaints received was 559. This represents a decrease of 7.3% since the previous year where the total number of complaints was 603. The total number of compliments increased by 26 % from 303 the previous year to 410 this year.



The complaints data is categorised by issue type. The most common issue raised by complainants is conduct. One complaint may identify more than one issue.

Approved for circulation

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

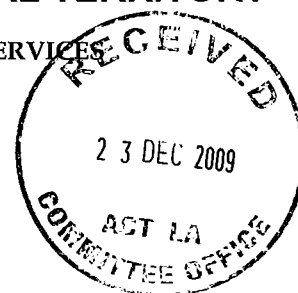
Date: 23.12.09

By the Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2008-2009 Annual Report Inquiry



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Mr Hanson : To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to Workforce modelling

Does the \$63 million, I think it is, in the budget for scoping of the CADP and the planning for that include workforce modelling?

Ms Gallagher: Workforce modelling has been done as part of the CADP, yes. I would be surprised if you do not have all that data in your FOI.

MR HANSON: I am still trying to get across it. You talk in broad terms about programs. If we are in a position now where we cannot staff wards—

Ms Gallagher: We are not in that position. We have had a 30 per cent increase in bed numbers and we are staffing those beds. Six or seven years ago, we were staffing 670-odd beds. We are now staffing nearly 900. So we are not anywhere near a position where we cannot staff wards. In any health system there will be times when you close beds. That will be for different reasons.

We are growing our workforce every year. In some areas I think we are surprised at how well we are doing in actually recruiting staff to the health system. But it is not something that we focus on more. It is a big part of the work that the capital asset development plan team have been doing on workforce. It is nationally something that all governments have recognised as one of the biggest risks in terms of the future of our health system; hence the establishment of an agency.

We are not in denial over it at all. There is a lot of work that goes on. We are happy to provide you with vacancy rates. We can give the nursing one now and then follow up shortly on the other

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

- The October 2009 overall full-time equivalent (FTE) vacancy rate for nurses was 2.2% (108.6 FTE) across the organisation. This represented a decrease from 3.0% (140.9 FTE) in May 2009.

- The May 2009 full-time equivalent (FTE) vacancy rate for doctors for was 6.48% (21.44 FTE) across the organisation.
- The May 2009 full-time equivalent (FTE) vacancy rate for allied health was 6.56% (41.3 FTE) across the organisation.

Approved for circulation

Signature: 

Date: 23.12.09

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MRS DUNNE Asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

Could you, on notice, give us the block and section numbers and the number of dwellings that you are proposing?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The block and section numbers for Supported Accommodation on Community Facilities land are:

Bonython	Block 8, Section 21	37 units
Conder	Block 3, Section 228	53 units
Florey	Block 6, Section 145	34 units
Curtin	Block 7, Section 99	12 units
Chapman	Block 70, Section 11	31 units
Macquarie	Block 11, Section 54	13 units
Kambah	Block 1, Section 172	47 units
Rivett	Block 4, Section 29	70 units

The total number of proposed dwellings is 297

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Date.....

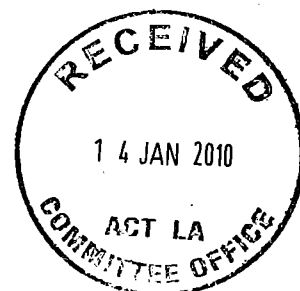
21/12/09

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MRS DUNNE: Asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

Can you advise the committee of how much time the Therapists spend at the schools with the children?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Therapy ACT provides individualised services to all clients on a needs basis and services may be provided in a range of places, including client's homes and schools.

In 2008-09, Therapy ACT provided 58,738 hours of service with 5,335 hours of service (9% of total hours of service) to clients within school settings. This included 895 hours within preschools. This time was spent in both Government and non-Government educational institutions.

In comparison, 35,736 hours of service (61%) were provided at Therapy ACT clinics, 5,818 hours (10%) within client's homes, 341 hours (1%) within childcare centres, and 11,508 hours (19%) within other settings, including community venues.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA
Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Date: 8/1/10

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



THE CHAIR Asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

As a supplementary on that, can you give us an indication of what is the stock of two, three and four-bedroom houses?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

As at 14 December 2009:

- (1) 653 – two bedroom houses
- (2) 4461 – three bedroom houses
- (3) 773 – four bedroom houses

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Burch".

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

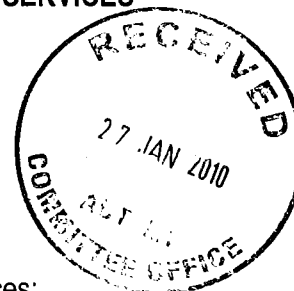
Date: 13/1/10

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MS BRESNAN asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

My question is in relation to the taxi subsidy scheme which is briefly mentioned on page 28. I am hoping to get a bit of information about the amount that is spent on the taxi subsidy scheme and how that has changed over the last couple of years. I was looking at what is spent on it now as opposed to what was spent on it a couple of years ago.

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government has funded the following amounts in taxi subsidies since 2006-07:

2006-07: \$868,819
2007-08: \$1,061,897
2008-09: \$848,206

In the six months from July to December 2009, the ACT Government funded \$472,239.45 in taxi subsidies.

Since September 2008 this program has been funded under Territorial funding which means that funding under the Scheme is not capped and all ACT residents who are eligible can access benefits under the Scheme.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

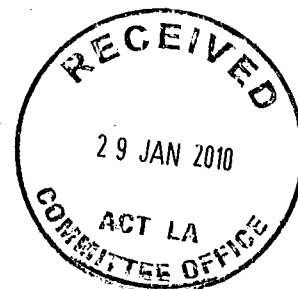
Date: 25/1/10

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MS BRESNAN asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

Community Inclusion Fund. With the projects that wound down, were they wound down because they had essentially come to the end of their life or because they were not able to secure additional funding?

The other programs were able to source additional funding, and I know there were quite a lot of questions about this during estimates. But with those other seven programs, did they wind down because of need or because whoever was running them decided they did not want them to continue, or was it because they were not able to source additional funding?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Of the seven projects that wound down, at least three did not seek additional funding:

- On Track (Richardson Primary School);
- Connect Through Literacy (Southside Regional Community Services); and
- New Horizons (Gungahlin Regional Community Services).

The following four projects did not secure funding from the ACT Government:

- Integrating Frail Aged into the Community (Goodwin Aged Care Services);
- Special Olympics ACT Region;
- Circles of Support (Barnados Australia); and
- Right Turn (Caloola Skills Training and Job Placements).

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

 21.1.10.

Date:.....

**MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MR SESELJA asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs:

Multicultural festival, \$500,000 blow out - Are you able to break up the costs and provide details on what makes up the \$250,000 and what makes up the \$500,000.

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Attached is the budget break up for the 2008-09 Multicultural Festival. The table shows the actual expenditure against each budget item and the associated variance. As detailed during the Annual Report Estimates Hearing, the largest variations are associated with increased community participation and the costs of a larger festival footprint and the decrease in some of the revenue items due to the impact of the global financial crisis.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joy Burch".

29 Jan 10 Date.....

2008-09 National Multicultural Festival		Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Revenues				
	Government Payment for Outputs	433	433	
	Sponsorship	200	90	(110)
	Box office	42	1	(41)
	Stall hire	40	51	11
		715	575	(140)
Expenses				
	DHCS Salaries & Wages	101	101	()
	Waste removal services	20	45	(25)
	Travel & accommodation	48	64	(16)
	Advertising, promotions & shows	196	255	(58)
	Contractor payments	45	84	(40)
	Infrastructure hire	250	384	(134)
	Security services	10	67	(57)
	Insurances	35	35	()
	Miscellaneous	10	29	(19)
		715	1,064	(349)
Net position			(489)	(489)

**MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MR SESELJA asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs:

Multicultural Festival - When was the minister informed that the budget was being blown out and when did the Minister approve the additional spending?

Was the minister kept informed of these changes to the parameters throughout the process?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Minister was progressively briefed on the financial outcome of the 2008-09 Multicultural Festival during March and April 2009 as invoices were received and payments finalised. Briefings included analysis of the factors that caused a loss, against the budget estimate, including the significant increase in community participation driving up infrastructure and operating costs and the loss of sponsorship relative to the year before.

The Minister was not required to approve the additional expenditure as the Director, OMATSIA has the delegation to approve expenditure at this level.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Date: 2/2/10

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MRS PORTER Asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

You may want to take it on notice, minister. It relates somewhat to the larger family issue. Page 83 talks about the needs analysis of children in public housing that was done and says that it "will inform future policy and service development". I was wondering if you could, either on notice or now if it is quick, update us about that.

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The final report on the needs analysis of children in public housing is expected to be completed by March 2010. The final report builds on the preliminary draft report which was completed in March 2009. The final report will incorporate the findings of a comprehensive consultation with stakeholders, including children and families with children.

The research has provided useful data about where children are located in public housing, how public housing is allocated to families with children and the timely transfer of families with children.

Housing ACT is also investigating the appropriateness of allocating accommodation to families with children aged under five to multi-unit complexes. The research will be used to inform policy development around allocation and maintenance of tenancies where children are involved.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

22.10
Date:.....

**MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



MS BRESNAN asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs:

My question is in relation to page 212 and the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. It says they have been consulted on water security in the ACT region and also it mentions the Cotter Dam. I do know they have had some involvement in terms of identifying items of cultural heritage which might be a part of the Cotter Dam expansion. I am wondering what level of involvement they had, the communication they had with Actew in the whole process and how that went, Was it an active role?

You said that they went out to the site and provided advice, but was it an active role in terms of actually identifying where the sites were and working with their expertise in doing that?

CHIEF MINISTER - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Ms Meg Switzer, Mr Ray Hezkial and Mr Ron Forrester from the ACTEW Water Security Project asked to attend the United Ngunnawal Elders Council meeting on 29 August 2008 to conduct an information session with the Elders regarding the 'Enlarged Cotter Dam Project'. Following the session some members expressed concern that there could be sacred sites in the area where the construction is to take place. These members encouraged ACTEWAGL to continue consultations with Aboriginal groups to determine the status of sacred sites in the area.

On 26 February 2009, ACTEW Bulk Water Alliance representatives provided members with a presentation on the draft environmental impact statement for the Murrumbidgee River to Googong water transfer project. Members were satisfied that appropriate procedures were in place to manage any risks to Aboriginal sites and objects during the excavation stage.

On 6 May 2009 members toured the Cotter Dam enlargement project and the Murrumbidgee River to Googong Dam water transfer project. Members were impressed with the work carried out by ACTEW in the mapping of sites and their preservation but expressed concern that some of the graves would be covered by the water in the enlarged dam. General support was given by members of United Ngunnawal Elders Council for the projects. One member of the Council remained unsupportive of the project and requested that this be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

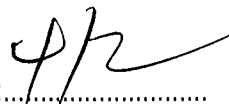
Members also recommended that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be involved in the project in as many areas as possible, with priority being given to Ngunnawal community members as participants in the project as the cultural engagement aspects of this project relate specifically to Ngunnawal country, culture and heritage.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Jon Stanhope, MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs



Date: 

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice



THE CHAIR Asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services:

Can you give us an indication of what the average waiting period is for applicants? Also, what is the longest period that you are aware of for an applicant currently on your books?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Housing ACT has a continuous review process in place. The Standard Waiting list category is reviewed every twelve months and a review is currently being undertaken. The High Need Waiting list is reviewed every six months, with the last review being completed in January 2010. The Priority Waiting list is reviewed three monthly but is subject to a continuous review.

The time an applicant can wait for public housing in the ACT depends on an individual's particular circumstance and housing requirements.

As at 14 December 2009, the average waiting period for ACT public housing is 96 days for priority housing, 507 days for high needs housing and 816 days for standard housing.

At 14 December 2009 the longest waiting time was 13.16 years where the prospective tenant had not disclosed any special needs or hardship and is therefore on the Standard Housing list.

During 2008-09, applicants with the highest needs were allocated public housing on a priority basis, with 80% housed within 90 days of receipt of their application.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA
Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Date: 2.3.10