

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Questions on Notice

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

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Flynn school

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to the Flynn school:

1. Has a cost-benefit analysis been conducted prior to the decision to establish the children's centre?
2. Has the Flynn community been consulted?
3. How much of the \$4 million (\$3million in 2010-11) committed for the proposed Children's Centre will be allocated for damage repair as a result of the site not being used?
4. Are external security and lighting still in operation at the site?
 - a. If not, why were these discontinued?
 - b. How much would it cost to maintain security and lighting?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes. Cost benefit analysis was undertaken by Munns Sly Moore Architects and Turner & Townsend in 2009/10.
2. Yes. Several meetings were conducted with the John Flynn Community Group.
3. It is not clear that there will be additional costs or that these will be significant. This will be clearer as plans are refined and finalised.
4. Yes.
 - a. N/A.
 - b. For the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010 costs have been \$30,080. (this has been managed by the Department of Land and Property Services)

Territory (WEST) program

Shane Rattenbury MLA: to ask the Minister for Disability, Housing & Community Services

Ref: Budget Paper 3, page 267

In relation to: the Water and Energy Savings in the Territory (WEST) Program:

1. What funding will Housing ACT provide in the 2010-11 to engage in the WEST program?
2. How many households is it anticipated will be able to access the WEST program in 2010-11 with this funding allocation?
3. How many Housing ACT households were referred to the service in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 years?
4. What is the criteria for eligibility to the WEST program?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Housing ACT secure their component of the WEST program through a contract with the YWCA valued at \$35,122 (ex GST) this year.
2. It is expected that at least 50 public housing households will benefit from the program in 2010-11.
3. A total of 69 public housing households were referred to the service in 2008-09. As at 31 May 2010, 33 Housing ACT households have been referred to the service in 2009-10.
4. All households in the WEST program (both public and private households) are referred by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The households have high levels of energy consumption and energy related debt.

Disability ACT funding model

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Disability, Budget paper 4, page 367, output class 1.1

In relation to: Disability ACT Funding Model

In the 2009-10 implementation plan for *Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014*, it states under Action 1 that Disability ACT and CMD will undertake further long term demographic planning and data development on current and emerging needs of people with disability, and then update the Disability ACT Funding Model.

- a) What progress has been made on this project?
- b) What findings has the demographic analysis provided thus far?
- c) In what manner is it envisaged that the Disability ACT Funding Model will change?
- d) In working on this new funding model, how is Disability ACT incorporating the social model of disability, as provided through the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- a) The revised Disability ACT funding model is still being developed.

The model is awaiting the completion of current national work around demand which is being undertaken through the national disability reform agenda as detailed in the National Disability Agreement.

- b) So far, demographic analysis is indicating that the ACT, like most other jurisdictions will experience ongoing pressures such as an ageing population, growth in the number of children with disability surviving birth as a result of medical intervention, the breakdown of natural support including the ageing of carers, and an increasing incidence of complex needs such as Acquired Brain Injury.
- c) The analysis has incorporated new data as it has become available and has also undergone further refinement from the previous modelling work undertaken in 2005-06.
- d) The model is a financial model only, that is driven by demographic, actuarial, and incident data which has been applied to the ACT National Minimum Data Set. It does not seek to integrate social modelling as provided through the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

People with disability who are ageing

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Disability, Budget paper 4, page 367, output class 1.1

In relation to: People with disability who are ageing

On page page 367 of Budget Paper 4 it says that Disability ACT plans to progress the development of an ACT Government policy framework for people with disability who are ageing.

- 1) Is this a whole of government policy?
- 2) What progress has been made so so far?
- 3) What are the timeframes for the policy's development?
- 4) What are the priority policy issues to be dealt with through the policy? (i.e. accommodation, guardianship)

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes this a whole of government policy.
2. Targeted consultations were undertaken throughout February and March 2010.
3. The policy is being developed as part of the 2009-2010 implementation plan for Future Directions : Towards Challenge 2014.
4. The priority policy issues to be addressed through the policy include:
 - Service access;
 - Accommodation;
 - Information and Futures Planning;
 - Supporting Ageing Carers;
 - Community Participation; and
 - Disability and Aged Care Workforce Issues.

Common personal info collection tool

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Disability, Budget paper 4, page 367, output class 1.1

In relation to: Common personal information collection tool

In the 2009-10 implementation plan for *Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014*, it states under Actions 34 and 35 that a common personal information collection tool would be developed and trialled. What progress has been made towards this?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Disability ACT is working on a 'no wrong doors scheme' to assist people with disability and their families to receive information about supports and services relevant to their circumstances; and to apply for multiple supports across the service system using a web-based personal information collection tool. A draft tool has been developed and will be refined following further discussion with key stakeholders from June 2010. A trial of the personal information tool is anticipated from September 2010.

Carers Advocacy Service

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to the Carers Advocacy Service:

1. Was there an ACT Labor election promise to deliver this program?
 - a. How much was promised?
 - b. If this amount is less than promised, why?
2. Do you feel that a whole-of-government approach to disability is important?
 - a. Will this initiative be able to deliver an advocacy service that adheres to such an approach?
 - b. How will this initiative achieve a whole-of-government approach to disability service delivery?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:

1. Establishing a Carers Advocacy Service was an election commitment.
 - a. \$800,000 over four years.
 - b. The Carers Advocacy Service of \$424 000 over four years and the Autism Support Coordinator initiative of \$425,000 over four years delivers the ACT Government election commitment to provide \$800 000 over four years for services that will help carers to make better use of the many services and programs available to them. The Government is delivering this commitment in two parts: to provide support and coordination for carers broadly and for family and carers of people with autism who require more specialised support, guidance and advocacy arrangements.
2. The Government is committed to a whole-of-government approach to supporting people with disability.
 - a. Yes
 - b. The Carers Advocacy Service will support carers in a range of settings including disability services. The Service will also streamline access to information and support services for carers in the ACT.

Commonwealth funding

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to Commonwealth Funding:

1. Due to additional Commonwealth funding, it is noted that 'cost per 1,000 head of population' for disability services will increase from \$197.44 in FY2009-10 to \$210.62 in FY2010-11 (BP4, pg 375).
 - a. What additional Commonwealth funding initiatives will be made available to the ACT Government?
 - b. What will this funding be used for?
 - c. Please provide a breakdown of relevant funded initiatives and description.

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

The increase in cost is not solely associated with the increase in Commonwealth funding.

It represents the total funding increase for disability services between the 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial year. This includes indexation and wage cost growth, and the new initiatives announced in the 2010-11 budget by the ACT Government and Commonwealth funding increases.

- a. The new funding made available under the Disability Assistance Package (DAP) for 2010-11 equates to an increase in recurrent funding of \$1.66m.
- b. The funding will be used to support direct services to people with a disability.
- c. The new Commonwealth funding under the DAP will support:
 - i. Approximately 27 school leavers at an estimated cost of \$450,000pa.
 - ii. New accommodation support places estimated worth \$375,000pa.
 - iii. Indexation on existing services, as the DAP funding includes indexation, approximately \$137,000.
 - iv. The balance will go to meeting service demand that is expected throughout the year, as a result of family breakdown, ABI, spinal injury, degenerative disease and the cost impact of an ageing client cohort.

School leaving age of students with disabilities

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to school leaving age of students with disabilities:

1. What is your position on the DET's proposal to decrease the school leaving age of students with disabilities from 20 years to 18?
 - a. What transition and post-school programs are currently in place to cater to school leavers?
 - i. Can this cater to a demand from a two-year pipeline of students leaving the school system?
 - ii. How much would it cost to ramp up services to meet this demand?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

In accordance with the *Education Act (2004)*, the majority of ACT students with a disability leave school by the end of year twelve with their peers.

It has been the practice for students at Black Mountain School to remain enrolled up until and including the year they turn 20 years of age.

It is appropriate to align the school leaving age for all ACT students and to provide a year 13 where there is a confirmed educational benefit for the student.

- b. What transition and post-school programs are currently in place to cater to school leavers?

Answer:

Disability ACT provides assistance to young people with a disability leaving school, who will not be going on to open employment or are not eligible for assistance from Commonwealth funded employment support services; in the form of:

access to daytime services, or
access to transitional support, or
through the provision of Individual Support Package (ISP).

To ensure that all 2010 school leavers with high and ongoing needs will have equitable access to formal support, Disability ACT will allocate the minimum equivalent of the resources needed for two days participation with a community access service.

This assistance will supplement any other services they access, for example Home and Community Care (HACC) program respite, home help and personal care services, Disability ACT's out-of-home respite, disability specific business and community access services, taxi subsidies and Mobility Allowance.

Those requiring short-term support are being referred now to the new transitional service provided by House with No Steps. Referrals to the Local Area Coordination service and funded programmes which can help with futures planning, are also being made.

- i. Can this cater to a demand from a two-year pipeline of students leaving the school system?

Answer:

Disability ACT will offer the same level of service and support to school leavers in 2011 and 2012.

- ii. How much would it cost to ramp up services to meet this demand?

Answer:

The average annual expenditure by Disability ACT for each school leaver with high needs since 2008 is \$20 000.

The anticipated number of students leaving Black Mountain School with high support needs in 2011 will be 28. The anticipated number of students leaving Black Mountain School with high support needs in 2012 will be 19.

The number of students with high needs, in other schools (including the independent and private colleges) who will need assistance in 2011 and 2012 is not yet confirmed.

Based on the current response to school leavers with ongoing and high needs, the anticipated cost of providing formal supports for school leavers in 2011 and 2012 is expected to be approximately \$600 000 in 2011 and approximately \$400 000 in 2012.

Global Games 2011

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to Global Games 2011:

1. Will the Government be supporting Global Games 2011?
2. In what ways will it be supporting/involved in the Games?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No, Australia was not successful in its bid to host the Global Games 2011. The winning bid went to Italy.

2. Individuals and/or teams wishing to compete in the Global Games 2011 are able to apply for assistance under existing grants programs managed by the of Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services and any other ACT Government agencies as applicable. Applications will be assessed in accordance with relevance against criteria and guidelines.

Housing

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the Minister for the Minister for Disability,
Housing and
Community Services

In relation to housing:

1. What is the status of the Government's plans for inclusive housing?
2. What is the demand for such houses from the disability community?
3. How many houses are being built or planned according to universal housing principles?
 - a. How many of these houses have been allocated to people with disabilities?
 - b. What is the justification for this allocation?
4. Who are the contractors managing the construction of these houses?
5. Where will these houses be located?
 - a. How much will these houses cost?
6. What are the specifications?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The term 'inclusive housing' is not used by the ACT Government.
2. There is no clear correlation between the demand for disability accommodation and the actual needs for adaptable housing. Many people with a disability simply require live-in or drop-in care in their existing home and the houses do not necessarily require modification. Some people with a disability require modified or purpose built housing to meet their complex and unique needs. Many people require access modifications to their properties but are not in receipt of disability support.
3. A total of 297 dwellings being constructed under Stage 2 of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan initiative meet the Class C Adaptable standard as set out in the Building Code of Australia and incorporate Universal Design principles. The allocation of these dwellings is consistent with the requirements of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan initiative. In addition to these houses four disability specific houses are being constructed in Harrison.
4. The construction of the dwellings is being undertaken by a variety of contractors. Housing and Community Services is managing the contractors.
5. The dwellings are located in Bonython, Chapman, Conder, Curtin, Florey, Kambah, Macquarie and Rivett. The cost of construction varies between each site depending upon a range of factors including the site servicing and infrastructure works.
6. The dwellings will meet the Class C Adaptable standard as set out in the Building Code of Australia.

Disability policy

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the Minister for the Minister for Disability,
Housing and
Community Services

In relation to disability policy and the human rights framework:

1. How do the present policies on disability fit within the ACT's human rights framework?
 - a. Is there adequate enforcement of the framework?
 - i. How is it enforced?
 - b. Do people with disabilities have adequate avenues to seek justice?
 - i. What is available to them?
 - c. Do people with disabilities have sufficient access to advocacy and legal services to protect their interests?
 - i. What services and organisations are available to them?

In relation to disability policy and the human rights framework:

1. How do the present policies on disability fit within the ACT's human rights framework?

As with all Government policies, legislation and decision-making, the ACT's strategic and procedural policies, which relates to people with disabilities and their carers, must be compliant with the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)*. The *Disability Services Act 1991 (ACT)* has, for nearly two decades, required specialist disability services to be provided in a manner that is consistent with human rights.

1.a. Is there adequate enforcement of the framework?

Through Disability ACT, the ACT Government is responsible for the provision, funding, planning and evaluation of specialist disability services in the Territory. Section 40 of the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005 (ACT)* gives a person with a disability the right to complain to the Disability Services Commissioner if a service is not being developed; not being provided appropriately; or is not being provided in a manner that is consistent with human rights.

Disability ACT also maintains a quality assurance framework which includes an internal complaints handling system.

1.a.i. How is it enforced?

Part 4 of the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005 (ACT)* authorises the Human Rights Commission to accept or dismiss, consider, conciliate, and to report to the responsible Minister on complaints made against disability service providers. Part 4 of the *Act* authorises the Commission to conciliate complaints and, where appropriate, facilitate the execution of conciliation agreements between the parties.

Where the complaint is a discrimination matter under the *Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT)*, the Commission provides a copy of the conciliation agreement to the ACT Civil and Administrative

Tribunal (ACAT). The agreement is then enforceable as if it were an order of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The *Act* requires the Commission to refer complaints, which it judges to be unable to be conciliated, to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

1.b. Do people with disabilities have adequate avenues to seek justice?

People with disabilities have the same access to avenues for justice as other members of the community. However, in addition the ACT Government has established a Disability Services Commissioner which provides an additional avenue.

1.b.i. What is available to them?

People with disability are entitled to the same level of legal assistance through the ACT Legal Aid and the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre as other Canberrans. Advice on their rights in relation to disability discrimination can also be sought through the ACT Disability Discrimination Legal Service. A number of private legal firms also have specialised in providing legal advice to the disability sector on a pro bono basis.

1.c. Do people with disabilities have sufficient access to advocacy and legal services to protect their interests?

In addition to the services available to the general community, people with disabilities also have access to the ACT Discrimination Legal Service and advocacy agencies that have a focus on people with a disability.

1.c.i. What services and organisations are available to them?

People with disabilities who require assistance in relation to the advocacy and legal services can:

- Apply for Legal Aid;
- Seek assistance from the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre;
- Seek advice from the ACT Disability Discrimination Legal Service;
- Approach a private legal firm for advice or assistance either on a fee for service basis or on a pro bono basis
- Contact Advocacy for Inclusion; or
- Contact Act Disability Aged and Carer Advocacy Service .

Independent Services Support Program

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to Independent Services Support Program:

1. Has a program review been conducted?
 - a. If yes, what were the findings?
 - b. Has there been a lack of funds for ISP services?
 - i. If yes, how much is needed to run a proper program?
2. Are there systems in place to ensure that non-government service providers (respite, carers, and nursing of individuals in their homes) are delivering on services that they have been contracted to provide?
 - a. Does the Government provide Case Workers to ISP funding recipients to monitor funding contracts with service providers?
 - i. If yes, what is the ratio of case worker to ISP funding recipient?
 - b. What financial management systems are in place to guarantee that services are properly invoiced by non-government service providers?
 - c. Do ISP funding recipients have avenues to complain about substandard service provided by service providers?
 - i. If yes, what are these avenues and timeframe for complaints to be addressed?
 - d. Are service providers allowed by the Government to subcontract work to a third party?
 - i. If yes, what systems are in placed to ensure that the service provided is up to standard?
 - ii. If no, what is in place to prevent subcontracting from happening?
 - e. Does the Government require service providers to adhere to formal service quality standards?
 - i. If yes, what are those standards?
 - ii. How are these standards enforced?
 - iii. Are service providers required to have accreditation?
 - iv. If yes, what are they?
 - v. If no, why not and are there plans to have accreditation?
3. Do employees of service providers undergo police checks and psychological testing?
 - a. If no, why not?
 - b. Does the Government view this as a risk to people with disabilities?
 - c. Would this not contravene the ACT's human rights framework?

In relation to Independent Services Support Program:

1. Has a program review been conducted?

There is no program titled the Independent Services Support Program, However, in January 2010 Disability ACT engaged the National Disability Service to conduct an independent review of the Individual Support Package (ISP) program policy.

a. If yes, what were the findings?

The review of the Individual Support Package program is due to be completed in October 2010.

b. Has there been a lack of funds for ISP services?

Over the last four years there has been a 35% growth in the ISP program with the value of the ISP program increasing from \$6.0M in 2006/07 to \$8.1M in 2009/10. There has been a concurrent increase in people supported under this program from 99 in 2006/07 to 122 in 2009/10.

ISP's are one mechanism to fund specialist services for people with disabilities. The ACT Government also allocates funding through grants and through block funding to community services. ISP's are generally allocated when an individual chooses to receive support through an ISP in preference to a block funded service.

Unmet need is recorded on the basis of what service is required rather than what type of funding program (Individual Support Program for example) is requested. Disability ACT has developed a Precis of the Disability Funding Model which is accessible on the Department's website. This funding model will be further informed by work being done under the National Disability Reform agenda.

i. If yes, how much is needed to run a proper program?

Refer answer in 1b.

2. Are there systems in place to ensure that non-government service providers (respite, carers, and nursing of individuals in their homes) are delivering on services that they have been contracted to provide?

Yes. All disability services funded and contracted by Disability ACT are required to complete a variety of reports against services delivered including:

Output reporting

- Report against the contracted Output and Performance Indicators

Quality reporting

- Baseline self assessment against the Disability Service Standards
- Evidence of meeting Performance Requirements and Quality Standards
- Evidence of the development and maintenance of a client feedback mechanism

Financial reporting

- Half yearly and annual Financial Report
- Half yearly statement of financial performance in the form of a Statement of Financial Performance and a Statement of Financial Position

Program specific reports

- For example for the ISP program, the agencies are required to provide a statement of expenditure against the ISP allocation, signed by both the recipient and the agency.

Other measures

- The provision of an annual report and an annual Business Plan

- All agencies are required to maintain receipts and other evidence relating to the expenditure of the funding amount if requested by the Territory
- All agencies are subject to audit and review at the discretion of the ACT Government.

c. Does the Government provide Case Workers to ISP funding recipients to monitor funding contracts with service providers?

No. Disability ACT does not specifically contract agencies to provide case management services for ISP recipients. However Disability ACT does require organisations which hold ISP funding to:

- act as an agent for each recipient, and in consultation with them, manage the planning and purchasing of services;
- charge no more than 10% of the ISP for administration of the package; and
- ensure that expenditure against the individual package is in accordance with an Individual Funding Plan and is in accordance with the Individual Support Packages Policy and Procedures, which is accessible on the Department's website.

ii. If yes, what is the ratio of case worker to ISP funding recipient?

Refer answer 2a.

d. What financial management systems are in place to guarantee that services are properly invoiced by non-government service providers?

All community services funded by the ACT Government are required to:

- report to the Territory, against expenditure for each ISP they auspice, with the signed confirmation by the ISP recipient, on a half yearly basis; and
- maintain receipts and other evidence relating to the expenditure of the ISP funding amount if requested by the Territory.

e. Do ISP funding recipients have avenues to complain about substandard service provided by service providers?

Yes. Each community service agency funded and contacted by Disability ACT is required to maintain a client feedback mechanism. This outlines for ISP recipients, and other service users, their opportunities to complain about the quality of services they receive.

If necessary, complaints may also be raised via:

- Disability ACT's Complaints Framework; or
- The Department of Disability, Housing & Community Services - Consumer Advocacy and Quality Service.

ISP recipients may also raise complaints through merit review agencies or other external bodies such as the ACT Human Rights Commission. A list of ACT and Commonwealth bodies and contact details is outlined at Appendix B of the *Individual Support Packages Policy and Procedures (2007)* which can be accessed on the Department's website.

iii. If yes, what are these avenues and timeframe for complaints to be addressed?

Each community service and merit review agency maintains their own complaints mechanism and timeframes.

Complaints to the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services are responded to initially within five days to acknowledge the response. The recipient will receive substantive feedback against their complaint within 30 days, and the Department will finalise responses within 60 days.

f. Are service providers allowed by the Government to subcontract work to a third party?

Yes.

iv. If yes, what systems are in place to ensure that the service provided is up to standard?

It is the ACT Government's position that all third parties subcontracted by a service provider are required to perform all services in accordance with the original contract.

v. If no, what is in place to prevent subcontracting from happening?

Not applicable.

g. Does the Government require service providers to adhere to formal service quality standards?

Yes.

vi. If yes, what are those standards?

All funded agencies are required to adhere to the National Disability Service Standards.

vii. How are these standards enforced?

All funded agencies are contractually required to complete a baseline self assessment against the Disability Standards. Disability ACT contract managers monitor funded agencies to ensure that each agency is taking steps to address the areas identified for improvement against these standards.

viii. Are service providers required to have accreditation?

No.

ix. If yes, what are they?

Not applicable.

x. If no, why not and are there plans to have accreditation?

Work is being undertaken nationally to determine an appropriate accreditation method for funded services. The requirement for accreditation in the ACT will be informed by this national work.

3. Do employees of service providers undergo police checks and psychological testing?

All agencies contracted by the ACT Government through Disability ACT, to provide services to children and/or vulnerable adults, are required to ensure that all people (whether employees or volunteers, including people serving on boards and committees) engaged by the organisation are *fit and proper*

persons. This includes obtaining a police check or evidence of a valid police check, prior to engagement.

Employees of service providers are not presently required to undergo psychological testing.

h. If no, why not?

It is Disability ACT's experience to date, that the cost of psychological testing relative to the value of the information received, did not merit wide spread adoption of psychological testing in the disability sector.

i. Does the Government view this as a risk to people with disabilities?

In relation to psychological testing, no.

j. Would this not contravene the ACT's human rights framework?

The context of this question is not clear, however, the Governments position on police checks and psychological testing does not contravene the ACT's Human Rights Framework.

Positive ageing

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to positive ageing:

1. What is the impact of ageing on the disability sector?
2. Are there instances where people receiving disability benefits are denied aged care benefits?
 - a. What are some cases of this?
 - b. How often do these cases occur?
 - c. What are the complementary services being offered by the ACT Government?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The impact of ageing on the disability sector has been considered through consultations on the development of the ACT Government policy framework for people with disability who are ageing. The policy is being developed as part of the 2009-10 implementation plan for Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014.

The provision of Disability and Aged Care benefits are a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

Therapy services

STEVE DOSZPOT MLA: To ask the the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to therapy services:

1. What are the suite of therapy services that are provided?
 - a. What are your most heavily subscribed services? Why?
 - b. Which are your most costly services? Why?
2. Currently, how long is the wait to access services from Therapy ACT?
 - a. Has there been any studies conducted to improve its efficiency? Why?
 - i. What were the findings?
 - b. What is the staff turnover rate at Therapy ACT?
3. Presently, it is reported in the Accountability Indicators that 95% of new referrals are actioned within five working days (BP\$, pg 376). What does having one's referral accepted by a team leader actually mean?
 - a. Does a client gain access to services needed within five days 95% of the time?
 - b. How long do assessments prior to referrals take?
 - c. What is the ratio of new referrals to returning referrals?
 - d. What is the waiting time for returning referrals?
4. It is noted that the average cost per hour of therapy service will increase to \$189.38 in FY2010-11 from \$176.27 in FY2009-10 as a result of new initiatives, what are these initiatives (BP4, pg 376)?
 - a. What are the respective values of these new initiatives?

Minister Burch: The answers to the members questions in relation to therapy services are as follows:

1. Therapy ACT offers Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, and Social Work services. Multi-disciplinary services utilising two or more therapists are frequently provided. The services types offered are assessments, individual therapy sessions, group programs, professional development and consultation for other services such as teachers and Disability Support workers, and, parent and public information programs.

1 a) Speech Pathology services are most in demand. Delays in language development are quite frequent and families are aware of expected developmental milestones and seek assistance if these milestones are not met. A large proportion of children with language delay go on to function within normal limits.

1 b) All services are provided free of charge to eligible ACT residents. Individual therapy sessions are the most expensive service type to provide as the therapists time is attributed to one client, whereas group, consultation and education sessions benefit a number of clients. All professions are paid at the same rate as Health Professionals, with levels reflecting their years of experience.

2. Waiting times vary depending on demand and the priority of need. Referral information is utilised to prioritise each referral as Priority 1 (Urgent); Priority 2

(High Need), Priority 3 (Moderate Need) or Priority 4 (Low need). Other priority waiting times vary depending on the number of referrals and their complexity. The current average waiting times are: 11 weeks for priority 2, 24 weeks for priority 3 and 22 weeks for priority 4.

2 a) Therapy ACT has developed a range of strategies over a number of years to address waiting times such as Drop In Clinics and group programs to provide more efficient services. In October 2008 the management team considered the issue of waiting times again and developed a demand management strategy plan which has been progressively implemented over the last 18 months. The key strategy was the provision of additional resources to fund 8 new speech pathologist positions and four new therapists to work with children with autism and implement a playgroup program. Other strategies included the development of more tightly defined clinical pathways for each of the major presenting issues, clear goal setting with clients and families so that there is an understanding of the time limited nature of many services and the development of specialist teams in autism intervention and equipment prescription.

2 b) The turnover rate for permanent staff in the last 12 months is 5%.

3. Referrals to Therapy ACT come either through the Intake Service or through a Drop In Clinic where parents or carers bring their child for a brief consultation with either a physiotherapist or speech pathologist. Some issues can be dealt with at the Clinic and no further referral is necessary. If further assessments or therapy are required the therapist will take the referral, complete a referral form and pass to the Team Leader. Referrals to the Intake Service may be by phone, email, fax or mail. The Intake Service will collect sufficient information to enable the Team Leader to assess if the person is eligible and the priority. The referral is then forwarded to the Team Leader who is responsible for assessing the referral and deciding if the person is eligible, what their priority level is, entering their details onto the data base and notifying the relevant professional group(s) of the referral.

3 a) Priority 1 referrals are either seen or contacted by a therapist to make an appointment within 5 days.

3 b) Most referrals do not require any assessment prior to referral. Additional information may be sought from medical practitioners, school counsellors, and other service providers to aid in assessing eligibility, priority and the most appropriate intervention pathway. Referrals for autism assessment are accepted but not conducted until there is a paediatrician's report, hearing assessment and cognitive assessment available as this information is necessary to enable an accurate diagnosis to be made. Waiting times for these assessments is not in the control of Therapy ACT and data on how long they take is not collected.

3 c) Data is not kept on the ratio of new and returning referrals.

3 d) New and returning referrals are not treated differently. Therefore the waiting time for returning referrals is as for all referrals, as explained in question 2 above.

4. The average cost per hour of therapy service reduced from \$191.19 in 2008-09 to \$176.77 in 2009-10. This reduction was due to the additional hours of therapy provided because of the new initiatives. The target number of hours for 2009-10, 62,500 hours, was based on the full effect of the new initiatives although they were not fully funded in the first year. In 2010-11 the new initiatives will be fully funded but the hours of direct service delivery will not increase, therefore the hourly rate will rise.

4 a) The new initiatives and their respective values are:

- The full year effect of initiatives in the 2009–10 Budget
 - Play Therapy Services for Young Children \$136,000
 - Addressing Speech Pathology Waiting Lists \$411,000
- 2010–11 initiative
 - Community Based Autism Family Support and Coordination Service \$101,000

QTON – Indexation

Asked by Mr Smyth on 25 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – 1053

In relation to : What makes up the \$1m indexation for Disability ACT?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The indexation approximation comprises 3.3% Community Sector indexation on a grants funding base of approximately \$28.5 million and 2.5% Consumer Price Index on a Supplies and Services base of \$6.9 million.

Total is approximately \$1.1 million in indexation for Disability Services in the 2010/11 budget.

QTON – Staffing

Asked by Mr Smyth on 25 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – 1057.

In relation to : How many vacancies for specialist positions are there across the Department?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

Nineteen positions are currently vacant.

QTON – Cash managed funds

Asked by Mr Seselja on 25 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – 1058.

In relation to: What is the duration and amount of cash management that has been used to date to fund non-government organisations in DACT for WC12?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The payment of wage cost indexation (WCI), on service level agreements commenced in 2006-07. Disability ACT has cash managed this payment prior to the funding being allocated in the 2010-11 Budget. The table below shows the amount required to cover WCI as the value of the service level agreements has grown and the indexation amount has compounded over the years.

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cash shortfall (\$M) | .170 | .321 | .511 | .759 |

QTON – Wheelchair accessible taxis

Asked by Mr Seselja on 25 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – 1080.

In relation to: What is the number of wheelchair accessible taxis in the ACT?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The ACT Taxi Industry Review Discussion Paper released by the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services in April 2010 states there are 26 Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Licences in the ACT, with an additional 5 Conditional Licences issued which are able to transport wheelchairs. This Discussion Paper is available on the Department of Territory and Municipal Services website.

QTON – Autism therapy hours

Asked by Mr Doszpot on 25 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – page 1091

How many children with autism have received therapy services in each of the last ten years?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

Therapy ACT commenced in July 2005. Prior to that the previous Child Health and Development Service and Disability Multi Disciplinary Teams did not collate data based on diagnosis. In July 2006 Therapy ACT began collecting data utilising the National Minimum Data Set required of agencies funded through the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement, now the National Disability Agreement.

Below is the data for the number of children under 16 whose primary diagnosis is recorded as “Autism – including Asperger’s syndrome”:

- 2006-07 (279);
- 2007-08 (336);
- 2008-09 (337); and
- 2009-10 (285) (to end April, unfinalised data).

There will be other children with autism whose primary diagnosis is listed as intellectual disability, and younger children with developmental delays who do not have a formal diagnosis of autism.

QTON – Community Capacity Building Projects supported

Asked by Mr Smyth on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – p 30.

In relation to: Community Support and Infrastructure Grants: What is the funding breakdown across the three categories for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

In 2009-10, \$525,258 was allocated across 45 projects. This included \$25,258 returned from previous grant projects that were not completed.

- Category One (Community Support) eight projects totalling \$152,055.
- Category Two (Non Fixed Infrastructure) 28 projects totalling \$216,134.
- Category Three (Capital Works) nine projects totalling \$157,069.

The 2010-11 Community Support and Infrastructure Grants round will comprise \$500,000. The funding breakdown across categories is yet to be determined.

QTON – Care and Protection system

Asked by Mr Smyth on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – pp 39-41.

In relation to: What was the number of children and young people in OOHC on 30 June 2009?

Asked by The Chair Ms Hunter on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – pp 39-41.

In relation to: What is the number of children currently on orders at home for 08-09 and YTD and has it stayed the same?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The number of children and young people in Out of Home care on 30 June 2009 was 494 (Report on Government Services 2010).

A point in time comparison indicates that of the 545 children and young people on orders in the Care of the Chief Executive on 30 of June 2009, 64 lived at home (Approx 12%) (ref: DHCS Annual Report). The remainder of children and young people were in Out of Home Care placements such as foster care, kinship care and residential care.

Of the 538 children and young people in the Care of the Chief Executive on 16 May 2010,

55 were living at home (Approx 10%). The remainder of children and young people were in Out of Home Care placements such as foster care, kinship care and residential care.

QTON – Youth Services

Asked by Mr Coe on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – pp 56-58.

In relation to: 1. How much do Youth Advisory Council members receive per meeting and how much over the last 2 financial years? What has been paid to YAC members in the past 2 years?

2. Do they receive money for transportation, mobiles, etc? What payments are available to YAC members?

3. Is this a honorarium or a per diem payment?

4. How many people on the consultation register receive mail outs?

1. There are presently 14 Youth Advisory Council members. The Council operates on a Co-Chair model with two Co-Chairs.

Payments for Co-Chairs are \$415 per diem as per Remuneration Tribunal Determination 14, from November 2009.

Payments for all other members are \$50 per meeting as per Departmental Community Participation Payment policy.

Expenditure for 2009-10 to date, to Youth Advisory Council members for attendance at Council meetings is \$11,640.

Expenditure for 2008-09 to Youth Advisory Council members for attendance at Council meetings was \$11,440.

2. The Department occasionally assists with transportation costs for Council members to meetings if necessary. There were no transport costs in 2008-09 and costs for 2009-10 (to date) are \$338.65.

3. Per diem payments

4. As at 26 May 2010 the number of people on the Youth InterACT register is 779

QTON –Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

Asked by Mr Smyth on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – pp 56-58, 74.

In relation to: What were the dates of the four occasions that detainees climbed onto the Bimberi roof? What is the date of the second rectification of access to Bimberi?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

In the 2009-10 financial year, there were four occasions on which young people accessed the roofline at Bimberi, being 9 January 2010, 4 February 2010, 4 March 2010 and 7 March 2010.

The contractor has been appointed and the works requested. Negotiations on the timing of the work are currently being finalised with a view to commence ASAP.

QTON –Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

Asked by Ms Dunne on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – pp62-63.

In relation to: Bimberi: Please provide details regarding the ‘assault,’: time taken to respond to the incident; the nature of injuries sustained; what happened to the staff member; and what happened to the resident?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

During the incident the youth detention officer was punched and kicked by a young detainee. The youth detention officer activated his personal duress and a response was triggered. The response time was very quick and within a minute assistance was rendered. The youth detention officer sustained bruising, swelling and a black eye.

Following the incident, debriefing was initiated and ongoing support offered.

The matter was referred to the AFP. The young person was charged, has entered a plea of guilty but has not yet been sentenced. The young person was also placed on a Safety and Security Segregation Direction, which separates the young person from the rest of the population for a period of 7 days.

Staff are provided with support following any assault. This includes a post incident debrief, support by their line supervisor, access to the Department’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and ongoing monitoring of the staff’s needs by management.

QTON –Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

Asked by Ms Dunne on 26 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – p63 and p68.

In relation to: Bimberi: 1. With regards to the spitting incident, did the detainee have Hep B?
2. Has the officer received counselling and been tested?
3. Is this incident being dealt with in the workers compensation system?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. In relation to individual incidents, the health records of young detainees are protected under the *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997* and *Children and Young People Act 2008*. Bimberi staff do not have access to young people's health records unless there is a need for them to have access to this information in order to manage the young detainee's health needs and risks.

2. Training is provided to all staff in relation to managing high risk young people with complex needs. This includes training in negotiation and de-escalation in order to respond to incidents in which a young person's behaviour presents a risk to staff. It also includes training in procedures for management of bodily fluids with the presumption that a blood borne virus may be present. This information is also incorporated into Policies and Procedures made as Notifiable Instruments under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*.

Following any incident of assault by a young detainee, staff are provided with a post incident debrief, support by their line supervisor through supervision, access to the Department's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and ongoing monitoring of the staff's needs by management in order to assess any other assistance that may be required. In relation to assaults involving spitting, the Department advises the staff member to seek the advice of their medical practitioner in relation to blood testing. Should this be necessary, DHCS will pay for such blood tests. Different types of vaccinations can also be made available to staff and paid for by DHCS, including hepatitis B.

3. To date, there have been no workers compensation claims by staff at Bimberi involving young detainees spitting.

QTON –Official Visitor

Asked by Mr Hargreaves on 26 May 2010: Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – p66.

In relation to: 1. What is the selection process and criteria for appointment for Official Visitors? 2. How long is left in the current appointment/what is the length of their tenure? 3. What was the composition of the recruitment panel?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The Children and Young People Official Visitor is appointed pursuant to Section 38 of the Children and Young People Act 2008.

Nominations to the position were publically sought via the media and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. The complaint guidelines for the position are attached.

Nominations were received, short listed and interviews conducted by the panel described below.

The panel considered the nominations and the range of experiences and expertise of nominees. The recommendation for appointment was based on nominees’ demonstrated skills and experience in engaging with vulnerable children and young people, ability to keep abreast of issues affecting children and young people in the ACT, knowledge of and experience in complaints management, commitment and capacity to fulfil the functions of the role and comply with the requirements of the legislation.

Mrs Narelle Hargreaves OAM was recommended for appointment in the position to the then Minister for Children and Young People, Andrew Barr MLA. Minister Barr supported the recommendation.

The recommendation was agreed by Government, followed by referral to the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs who also agreed to the appointment.

The appointment of the Children and Young People Official Visitor is a Disallowable Instrument, as such, the appointment was notified and tabled at the Assembly for the required number of sitting days.

The appointment was then scrutinised by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

The Instrument of appointment is available on the Legislation Register:
www.legislation.act.gov.au

2. Section 38(4) of the Children and Young People Act 2008 states that an appointment of an Official Visitor must not be for longer than 3 years.

Mrs Narelle Hargreaves OAM was appointed as the Children and Young People Official Visitor via Disallowable Instrument DI2009-64 with her term commencing 8 May 2009 (the day after notification on the Legislation Register).

The Children and Young People Official Visitor has approximately 2 years left of her term, the term ends 7 May 2012.

3. The interview panel comprised:

- A senior OCYFS official (chair)
- Youth Advisory Council member
- Representative from the Public Advocate's office
- Representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service

QTON – Youth Services

Asked by Ms Hunter on 26 May 2010: Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – p73.

In relation to: Bimberi: How many young people have undertaken the Bimberi barista course?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The staff involved in the program are currently working to receive accreditation as trainers and barista machine operators as part of the program. It is anticipated young people within Bimberi will commence their formal Barista training this school term (by July 2010).

QTON –Detail of care and protection funding

Asked by Ms Hunter on Thursday 27 May 2010: Mr Hehir took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 74

In relation to:

Can we have details on the allocation of money for Out of Home Care provided in the budget for 2010-11?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The Out of Home Care Budget is expended on:

- placement costs to non-government agencies who provide staff in residential placements as well as recruitment, assessment, training and support to foster carers;
- subsidies to kinship carers and foster carers as a contribution to the costs of bringing up a child;
- contingency costs for children which cover one off or special additional needs including transport and supervised contact, counselling, tutoring and some medical expenses;
- additional therapeutic services including therapeutic foster carer, consultation and assessment; and
- case conferencing and coordination to divert children from the Out of Home Care system as well as to better coordinate the range of services supporting a child in care.

The exact distribution of funds across these areas is dynamic and reflects changing demand at any given time.

QTON – Young people before the courts

Asked by Mr Smyth on Thursday 27 May 2010: Ms Lambert took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 89

In relation to :

How many young people in the care of yourself (Territory parent) have gone before the courts since the Children and Young People Act 2008 came into being?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

This information cannot be readily attained as a comprehensive data set is not centrally held on these figures. I can clarify that it is procedure that a delegate of the Chief Executive attends the Children's Court (in criminal matters) with the young person where the Chief Executive has parental responsibility. As a requirement of good practice and in line with procedure, this is the young person's caseworker. There may be occasional circumstances where this is not possible. In this case, in all criminal matters another officer is in attendance and will have been briefed in order to inform the court of the case plan and any relevant issues for the young person.

QTON –No of housing stock

Asked by Mr Seselja on Thursday 27 May 2010: Mr Hehir took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 101

In relation to : Can you please provide the expected stock numbers over the next three years and also as a percentage and break down of type?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The expected stock numbers over the next three years are as follows:

| 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 11,992 | 11,998 | 12,009 |

The percentage and break down of type cannot be accurately predicted given the capital program needs a degree of flexibility, particularly with spot purchases, in order to meet changing demand and needs. The sale to tenant program and Shared Equity Scheme will be driven by client demand. As an indication, the table below shows the break down of type and percentage as at 30 April 2010:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 172 bedsitter units | 1.5% |
| 2,098 one bedroom | 18.2% |
| 3,221 two bedroom | 27.9% |
| 5,078 three bedroom | 44.0% |
| 812 four bedroom | 7.0% |
| 162 five or more bedroom properties | 1.4% |
| 8 boarding houses | 0.1% |
| 11,551 in total | 100.0% |

QTON –Housing tenants earning more than \$80,000

Asked by Mr Coe on Thursday 27 May 2010: Mr Matthews took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 105

In relation to :

Can you please provide the number and percentage of full market renters who meet the criterion of house holds earning over \$80,000 p/a in the first year of data collection?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

208 tenants and their domestic partners paying full market rent had a combined income exceeding \$80,000 gross per annum for the 2007-08 financial year. This is 1.8% percent of all Housing ACT tenants based on 11,253 tenancies.

QTON –Time to respond to complaints

Asked by Mr Coe on Thursday 27 May 2010: Mr Hehir took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 111

In relation to :

What is the time taken to respond to complaints made to the Complaints Management Unit in Housing and Community Services?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

For this financial year to date, the average time taken to respond to a complaint is 34 calendar days (this equates to just under 23 working days).

QTON –Breakdown of community affairs funding

Asked by Ms Hunter on Thursday 27 May 2010: Mr Hubbard took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 116

In relation to :

How is the money split up between multicultural affairs, ageing and women? For the 2009-10 and the 2010-11 financial years?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

For 2009-10 and 2010-11 the split between Multicultural Affairs, Ageing and Women is as follows:

| | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Multicultural Affairs | \$2.974m | \$3.056m |
| Ageing | \$0.999m | \$1.024m |
| Women | \$1.373m | \$1.788m |

QTON –Secretariat support to MACCA

Asked by Mr Seselja on Thursday 27 May 2010: Mr Hehir took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 134

In relation to :

What is the dollar value of support to the Ministerial Council on the Ageing?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

To date, the dollar value of support to the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing in 2009-10 is \$41,400.

QTON –Gov contribution to IWD events

Asked by Mrs Dunne on Thursday 27 May 2010: Ms Whitten took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 139

In relation to :

How much does the Government contribute to International Women’s Day in the ACT?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The total cost for ACT International Women’s Day 2010 was \$11,224. This funding covered International Women’s Day Awards, promotion of International Women’s Day, the “For Love or Money” film festival in partnership with Canberra Museum and Galleries, Canberra Girls Grammar and Australian National University Students Association and participation in external International Women’s Day events. This does not include the Office for Women staffing costs to organise or attend 2010 ACT International Women’s Day events.

QTON –Funding disability agreement

Asked by Mr Doszpot on 25 May 2010 : Ms Burch took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript – 1064.

In relation to: What is the stream of Commonwealth funding flowing into the ACT under the new disability agreement?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The agreement payments are:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 2008-09 | = \$12.46m + \$1.69m in capital funding |
| 2009-10 | = \$13.1m |
| 2010-11 | = \$15.5m |
| 2011 -12 | = \$18.4m Forward Estimate |
| 2012-13 | = \$19.2m Forward Estimate |

QTON –Return to work grants

Asked by Ms Bresnan on Thursday 27 May 2010: Ms Overton-Clarke took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 May 2010 – page 140

In relation to :

What was the number of Return to Work Grants for 2008-09 and 2009-10?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

In 2008-09 there were 81 Return to Work Grants approved. In 2009-10 (to 21 May 2010) 113 Return to Work Grants were approved.

Early intervention

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing & Community Services and the Minister for Children and Young People

Ref: DHCS, BP4, p367, Output Class 2 – Early Intervention

In relation to : Output 2.2 – Children Services

1. In relation to the new childcare ratio requirements from 2012:
 - (a) What assurances can the government give that the regulatory changes relating to child-to-space ratios in childcare centres to be introduced in 2012 will not result in less childcare places being available at existing centres?
 - (b) What support is the ACT Government giving to community based non-profit childcare centres to assist them to accommodate all the regulatory changes that will occur in 2012?
 - (c) What measures does the ACT Government have in place to ensure that there is enough staff available in 2012 if centres decide to expand?
 - (d) How is the ACT Government supporting childcare centres that wish to expand their rooms to accommodate more children under the new policies from 2012?
2. In relation to the impact of portable long service leave on childcare centres.
 - (a) Phil Collins, CEO of the ACT Long Service Leave Authority stated before the Estimates Committee that *“There is no doubt that organisations generally are aware that their costs are going to increase to some extent.”* To what extent will cost increases arising from the introduction of the portable long service leave scheme for the community sector impact on childcare fees?
3. In relation to childcare vacancies:
 - (a) How many vacancies are there currently in childcare in the ACT?
 - (b) Where are these vacancies?
 - (c) Given that the ACT doesn’t keep data on waiting lists, how does the Government plan where new childcare centres should be built?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. In relation to the new childcare ratio requirements from 2012:
 - a) There are no changes to the child- to- space ratio with the introduction of the National Quality Standards from 1 January 2012. The current requirement is 3.25 square metres unencumbered floor space per child. This will remain as the standard for space.
 - b) The ACT Government is keeping services well informed about the implementation of the National Quality Framework through a range of communication channels.

To date this information has been provided to childcare services through:

- relevant Commonwealth and ACT Government websites;

- updates and information at the ACT Children's Services Forum and the ACT Children's Services Directors meetings; and
- quarterly newsletters to the child care sector.

On April 20 the first of a series of National Forums on the National Quality Framework was held in Canberra. This was well attended by the child care sector and provided an opportunity for the sector to ask questions about the National Quality Framework.

Children's services advisers with the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services have commenced discussions with individual centres about the implementation of the National Quality Framework at regular service visits. Advisers will focus on the plans by the centre to move to a 1:4 staff child ratio for children under 2 years. Advisers will work with services to determine the best use of space and allocation of staff to comply with the new ratio requirements.

In June 2010 advisers are participating in national training on the assessment and rating of services prior to trials of the new assessment and rating system to be carried out from June 2010 until December 2010. This training will further assist advisers in supporting services in moving to the new system.

c) Recent initiatives to increase opportunities for training is improving child care staff numbers with a significant increase over the last 2 years. The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services has advised that there has been a 30% increase in the degree and diploma qualified staff working in long day care over the last 2 years.

The Canberra Institutes of Technology's enrolments in the Diploma in Children's Services increased from 156 students in 2008 to 385 students in 2009. Many of these students will be graduating in early 2011 and seeking employment in 2012.

Figures for 2010 indicate a continued increase in enrolments with a total of 500 students studying either Certificate 3 or a Diploma in Children's Services.

The ACT Government is contributing to national work being undertaken in relation to the development of a National Workforce Strategy. In mid 2010 the Australian Government is undertaking a Workforce survey on staff qualifications across Australia. This survey will provide valuable information on the current number of qualified staff and qualification levels of staff working in children's services and preschools.

In 2008, the ACT Children's Services Forum, examined options to address workforce issues in the ACT children's services sector.

Initiatives that have already been actioned include:

- Distribution of a *Contact List* of support services for children's services, management committees and proprietors;
- A *Workshop* on how to market and promote the children's services sector as an employment option of choice;
- Development of a sector-wide information sheet "*Would you like to work with young children?*" targeted to potential recruits to the

children's services workforce. The information sheet was disseminated through the Canberra Careers Market in August 2009;

- Discussions with the Skilled and Business Migration Unit in the Chief Minister's Department to ensure that the *Skills in Demand* report for the ACT reflects the current and future workforce shortages in the children's services industry; and
- Collation of sector-wide data on enrolments in all early childhood training both vocational and tertiary in the ACT.

d) The Children's Policy and Regulation Unit will provide advice to services on options to expand or reconfigure current room arrangements to meet the new standards from January 2012. ACT Government owned services can apply to the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services for capital upgrade funding if expansion is an option. In addition community based services are eligible to apply for Community Infrastructure Grants that may assist and any changes to existing infrastructure.

2. In relation to the impact of portable long service leave on childcare centres.

The determination of child care fees is a matter for individual childcare centre operators to determine, based on their business model.

Factors that contribute to the cost of child care are: staff wages, including long service leave, and conditions; training, food, rent, equipment and insurance, maintenance and buildings and other facility expenses.

3. In relation to childcare vacancies:

- a) The Australian Government collects vacancy data through the Childcare Management System. A recent report published by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations reported 890 vacancies across 105 centre based long day care services in the ACT in the September quarter 2009.
- b) Information on centre vacancies can be obtained from <http://mychild.gov.au/>. The Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations Report does not provide information on the location of the vacancies.
- c) Planning for the location of new child care centres takes into consideration demographic data including population projections, urban growth areas, transport routes and the location of major employment areas. The ACT Government has established a strategic Interdepartmental Committee which brings together a number of important stakeholders including the ACT Planning and Land Development Authority and the Department of Education and Training to focus on future child care planning needs for the government.

Flynn primary school

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing & Community Services

Ref: DHCS, BP4, p367, Output Class 3 – Community Development and Policy

In relation to : Output 3.1 – Community Services - the former Flynn primary school:

1. What proposals have come forward from the community for the future use of the former school?
2. What process was used to assess those proposals?
3. What did the government estimate that implementation of each proposal would cost?
4. How did government respond to each proposal?
5. What consideration was given to those proposals in deciding upon the expenditure of \$4m on a new childcare centre at the former Flynn primary school?
6. With which groups or organisations has the ACT government held discussions in relation to the proposed childcare centre?
7. Which of those groups have visited and toured the Flynn school facility in that process?
8. In relation to the future use of the former primary school:
 - (a) At any time was a joint working group established with the Flynn Community to develop the proposal for the future use of the former school?
 - (i) If yes:
 - When was that working group formed?
 - How often did it meet?
 - What proposals did the joint working group develop?
 - What consideration was given to those proposals in the context of developing the proposal for the childcare centre?
 - Did the joint working group consider the proposal for a childcare centre?
 - If no, why?
 - If yes, did the joint working group agree to support the proposal as submitted to the budget cabinet process?
 - If yes, on what date did the joint working group reach that agreement?
 - If no:
 - why;

- what consideration did the government give to the aspects of the proposal to which the group did not agree when finalising the proposal for submission to the budget cabinet process; and
 - when will the group be given the opportunity to consider the detail of that proposal and comment upon it?
- 9.** In relation to the part of the former Flynn primary school that is not to be occupied by the childcare centre:
- (a) What is its proposed use?
 - (b) How does this use dovetail into the proposal for a childcare centre?
 - (c) What is the proposed timetable?
 - (d) What is the proposed cost?
 - (e) What community consultation process will be followed to test those proposals?
 - (f) Specifically, will the joint working group be invited to test those proposals? If no, why?
 - (g) Will the community have an opportunity in any other way to collaborate with the government to develop proposals for future use?
 - (i) If yes:
 - how will that collaborative process be implemented;
 - when; and
 - how will collaboration partners be selected?
 - (h) What is being done to ensure all and any aspects of the works involved in refurbishing the facility for the childcare centre will not have to be modified or replaced when the balance of the centre is refurbished for future use?
 - (i) What consideration is the government giving to establishing a community-based management and consortium approach as has been suggested by the John Flynn Community Group?
- 10.** In relation to ensuring protection of the heritage value and significance of the Flynn school and grounds:
- (a) When will a conservation management plan be prepared for the site?
 - (b) If no such plan is contemplated, why?
 - (c) How will any such plan be incorporated into the proposals for the future use?
- 11.** In relation to the proposed childcare centre:
- (a) At any time since Flynn primary school was closed have any not-for-profit or for-profit childcare operators made any application, submission or proposal to any department or agency of the ACT Government for establishment of a childcare centre at the former Flynn school?
 - (i) If yes, what applications, submissions or proposals has the government received?
 - (b) What assessment has the government made of those applications, submissions or proposals?

- (c) To what extent were these applications, submissions or proposals considered and taken into account in developing the proposal for a childcare centre?
 - (d) Did the demographic research, which was conducted by Purdons part of the 2007 consultation process, lead to a recommendation to have the former Flynn school demolished and replaced with housing?
 - (i) If yes, what new information has influenced rejecting that recommendation in favour of the proposal for a childcare centre?
 - (e) What specific areas of the Flynn school will the childcare will occupy?
 - (f) How does this compare to the proposal put by the John Flynn Community Group?
 - (g) If any differences arise:
 - (i) why; and
 - (ii) what consultation process was followed in developing the variation?
 - (h) What works are proposed at the school?
 - (i) Are any demolition works or other alterations to the fabric of the building proposed?
 - (j) What additional structures are proposed?
 - (k) Where will they be situated?
- 12.** In relation to maintenance costs for the former Flynn primary school
- (a) What was the cost in each financial year since the school was closed for repairing damage, vandalism or other matters of deterioration?
 - (b) Specifically, what was the cost in each financial year since Flynn primary school was closed for:
 - (i) repairing or replacing external windows and doors;
 - (ii) removing/covering graffiti; and
 - (iii) repairs to internal structures, fixtures and fittings?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. Proposals for a broad range of uses have been received in relation to the former Flynn school, proposals were received from the John Flynn Community Group, the Belconnen Community Council and from others.
2. The process for receiving proposals has not been concluded and no decision has been made regarding specific uses other than the pre-school already announced.
3. Cost indications were developed for a range of options based on the extent of refurbishment and not for a specific use. The upper level of cost was in excess of \$10 million.
4. The government will provide a response after an open and equitable process has been undertaken, including a public call for proposals.

5. The Joint Steering Committee of the John Flynn Community Group and the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services agreed that they would work towards revitalising the former school as an early childhood precinct and multi-generational hub. The John Flynn Community Group proposed a childcare centre as a part of their proposal. Early Government proposals included one or more childcare centres.
6. Gumnut Place Childcare, Alkira Childcare and Baringa Childcare Centre all requested meetings with the department to discuss the new childcare centre.
7. The Department has not arranged for any of the groups to visit and tour the facility.
8. (a). Yes.
 - (i) A Joint Steering Committee was formed in August 2009 to discuss and if possible, agree an outcome, including the views of residents of Flynn, the wider Belconnen community and the Government. Regular meetings were held, and a range of proposals were considered including the development of one or more childcare centres. The use of part of the building, as a childcare centre was agreed by the Committee.
9. (a). Consideration is being given to include a Regional Community Centre to occupy the section of the former Flynn primary school which will not be used by the proposed childcare centre.
 - (b) Future designs would take into consideration the location, layout and requirements of the childcare centre.
 - (c) Final design and construction of the childcare centre will commence in 2010 and proposals for the use of the remainder of the site will be developed in consultation with the Committee.
 - (d) Yet to be determined.
 - (e) Community engagement and consultation will be undertaken with the Flynn and surrounding communities about future options for the former school building. Input from community services providers from the Flynn and Belconnen region will also be sought.
 - (f) The John Flynn Community Group will be invited to participate in this process.
 - (g) The community will have an opportunity through the consultative process to have input into development proposals.
 - (i) A process for this involvement will be discussed with the Committee.
 - (h) Architects will be engaged with a clear briefing on the entire site.
 - (i) Establishment of a community based management structure and consortium will be tested in consultation with the John Flynn Community Group.

10. (a) The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services has supported a request from Baringa Childcare Centre on behalf of the John Flynn Community Group for an ACT Heritage Grant to undertake a Conservation Management Plan.
- (b) N/A
- (c) If such a plan is completed it will provide input into further development of the site.
11. (a) Yes.
- (i) A waiting list of interested not-for-profit and profitable organisations has been established for DHCS owned Community Facilities across the ACT including the former Flynn Primary School site. From December 2007 to current, DHCS has received one application from a childcare operator seeking space on the Northside of Canberra. DHCS understands that ACT Property Group within the Department of Land and Property Services also has a waiting list for space that may have childcare operators listed.
- (b) No assessment of the proposals has been made. An appropriate allocation process will be established.
- (c) They were taken into account in addition to the broader assessment of childcare in West Belconnen as referred to at (6).
- (d) No. The consultation conducted by Purdons and Associates took a standard set of options for consideration to all communities, some of which mentioned partial or total redevelopment and partial or total demolition of former school buildings to make way for redevelopment. The term redevelopment was not defined but included the possibility of construction of new multi-use community facilities, construction of aged care/assisted living accommodation, or other uses. These options were rejected by the Flynn community, and never progressed to recommendation stage.
- (i) N/A
- (e) Yet to be determined, as final design not complete.
- (f) The estimated space to be occupied is more than that included in the childcare element of the JFCG proposal.
- (g) (i) JFCG's proposal was for a 70 place centre, and the centre that has been funded by the 2010/11 budget is for an estimated 100 to 120 places.
- (ii) Internal research and evidence within DHCS strongly suggests that a new childcare centre needs to be 100 plus places to be financially viable.
- (h) Yet to be determined as the final design is not complete.

- (i) Yet to be determined as the final design is not complete.
- (j) Yet to be determined as the final design is not complete.
- (k) Yet to be determined as the final design is not complete.

12. (a) 2006/07 \$2,688.00
2007/08 \$16,765.00
2008/09 \$8,989.00
2009/10 \$25,884.00

(b) (i) 2006/07 \$2,416.00
2007/08 \$15,457.00
2008/09 \$7,805.00
2009/10 \$12,198.00

(ii) 2006/07 \$0.00
2007/08 \$817.00
2008/09 \$0.00
2009/10 \$962.00

(iii) 2006/07 \$272.00
2007/08 \$491.00
2008/09 \$1,184.00
2009/10 \$12,724.00

QTON –ASBA commencements

Asked by THE CHAIR on 21 MAY 2010: MR McNEVIN took on notice the following question(s):

21 MAY 2010 PAGE 97

In relation to :

How many school based apprentices have commenced to date this year?

MR BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Up to 12 May, 194 students have commenced an Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASBA) in 2010. There are currently another 87 students awaiting approval to commence their ASBA.

ASBAs have commenced in the following industries: animal studies, automotive, business, community recreation, furniture making, construction, hairdressing, horticulture, hospitality, information technology, library/information services, meat processing, retail, sport and recreation, aged care, carpentry, children's services, dental assisting, electrotechnology, disability work, plumbing, refrigeration and air-conditioning.

Housing-Public housing in new suburbs

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 399, output class 1.1

In relation to: Public housing in new suburbs

1. Does Housing ACT pay the same costs as any normal purchaser when it is acquiring land than is newly released, or does it receive any discounts? And if it does receive discounts, what are these?
2. What minimum percentage of public housing in comparison to total housing is the ACT Government committed to providing within new suburbs?
3. What percentage of total housing does public housing make up for each of the following suburbs?
 - a. Bonner
 - b. Moncrieff
 - c. Casey
 - d. Ngunnawal
 - e. Harrison
 - f. Crace
 - g. Wright
 - h. Coombs
 - i. North Weston

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Generally yes, Housing ACT pays the same costs as any normal purchaser when it is acquiring land that is newly released. The exception to these arrangements was the land provided by the ACT Government to support the Federal Stimulus Program including the eight 'Community Facilities' sites and the Braddon car park which were transferred to Housing ACT at no cost. Housing ACT has however, been responsible for site remediation, managing latent conditions, some off-site works and the site servicing including road works.
2. In accordance with the Public Housing Asset Management Strategy 2003-2008, the aim is to align the public housing portfolio so that it is well located across the city. This includes increasing stock levels in growth areas - either spot purchasing or building as appropriate depending on the market, which will vary from time to time.

3. The number of public housing properties in the suburbs listed as at 31 May 2010 are

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| a. Bonner: | 0 |
| b. Moncrieff | 0 |
| c. Casey | 1 |
| d. Ngunnawal | 199 |
| e. Harrison | 5 |
| f. Crace | 0 |
| g. Wright | 0 |
| h. Coombs | 0 |
| i. North Weston | 0 |

Housing ACT does not know how many dwellings there were in Casey, Ngunnawal and Harrison as at 31 May 2010 therefore it is not possible to determine what percentage of the total housing stock is public housing.

Housing first

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 400, output class 1.1

In relation to: Housing First

1. When will the ACT Government first start to implement Housing First?
2. What numbers and/or percentage of homeless clients will be serviced under the Housing First model as compared to existing models?
3. What impact will the introduction of Housing First have on Government funding for existing shelters and refuges?
4. What types of clients will be serviced by the Housing First model?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:--

1. Housing First is not a specific a program, rather a service delivery approach that seeks to minimise the number of accommodation transitions by providing a permanent home as part of the crisis response. This approach also includes the identification of an appropriate support agency to assist the individual or family to resolve crises and to build a network of support. The goal of a Housing First approach is to enable the person or persons to take over the tenancy in their own right and to be able to sustain that tenancy.
2. The Housing First approach is currently embedded in a number of existing programs including A Place to Call Home, the Youth Exiting Detention programs and the Managed Accommodation Program for men exiting the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Under the Place to Call Home program there have been 7 allocations to families where the house was provided as part of the first response.
3. The implication of the Housing First approach is subject to ongoing discussions with specialist homelessness providers. The introduction of Housing First as described in (2) has not impacted on funding for existing shelters and refuges.
4. A Housing First approach can potentially benefit a range of population groups, but will only be applied where it meets an individuals or families needs. This model has been successful where individuals/families have had repeat cycles of homelessness and have not been able to transition to their own home.

Housing-Homelessness services and indexation

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 399, output class 1.1

In relation to: Homelessness services and indexation

On 2 December 2009, at the Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services inquiry into Annual and financial reports 2008-09, the Government indicated that homelessness services funding would be indexed (see page 39 of <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/health07.pdf>).

1. What are the levels of indexation that are to be applied to each of the relevant years? And does the indexation apply from 2010-11 to 2012-13?
2. Will the indexation be applied to all non-government organisations that are funded by the ACT Government to provide homelessness services?
3. How much funding will the ACT Government provide for homelessness services in 2010-11, split into government and non-government organisations, capital and non-capital?
4. How much funding did the ACT Government provide for homelessness services in 2009-10, split into government and non-government organisations, capital and non-capital?
5. What is the predicted level of growth in homelessness experienced in the ACT each year and how far does indexation go towards meeting that need?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:–

1. What are the levels of indexation that are to be applied to each of the relevant years? And does the indexation apply from 2010-11 to 2012-13?

Answer:

The Community Sector indexation rates are outlined in the 2010 ACT Budget:

2010-11 = 3.3%

2011-12 = 3.7%

2012-13 = 3.7%

2. Will the indexation be applied to all non-government organisations that are funded by the ACT Government to provide homelessness services?

Answer:

Yes.

3. How much funding will the ACT Government provide for homelessness services in 2010-11, split into government and non-government organisations, capital and non-capital?

Answer:

Homelessness services (including Community Housing providers) are funded by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

NAHA funding of \$14,549,000 is available in 2010- 2011.

NPAH funding of \$2,060,000 is available in 2010 – 2011.

The ACT Government will fund an additional \$4,503,000 in 2010 – 2011 for Homelessness services (including Domestic Violence Crisis services).

The total amount available of \$21,112,000 is all paid as non-capital to non-government agencies.

4. How much funding did the ACT Government provide for homelessness services in 2009-10, split into government and non-government organisations, capital and non-capital?

Answer:

Homelessness services (including Community Housing providers) are funded by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

NAHA funding of \$14,527,000 is available in 2009- 2010.

NPAH funding of \$1,641,000 is available in 2009 - 2011.

ACT Government only funding for Homelessness services (including Domestic Violence Crisis services) of \$4,458,000 is available in 2009 - 2011.

The total amount available of \$20,626,000 is all paid as non-capital to non-government agencies.

5. What is the predicted level of growth in homelessness experienced in the ACT each year and how far does indexation go towards meeting that need?

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW) report on the homelessness population. The last report “Counting the Homeless 2006” on the ACT (using ABS data from the 2006 Census) by AIHW in June 2009 indicates the number of homeless people fluctuates because people move in and out of homelessness. The report estimated that “a typical point-in-time figure is about 1,360 homeless people, up from about 1,230 in 2001”. There were no predictions of future yearly growth in the report.

Housing-Revised Commonwealth grants - social housing

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 405 and 411, output class 1.1

In relation to: Revised Commonwealth Grants - Social Housing

1. On page page 405 of BP 4 it indicates that the Commonwealth Grant for Social Housing was revised down by \$9.243 million.
 - a. What is the reason for this revision down of \$9.243 million?
 - b. How does this revision affect the number and quality of homes which the ACT Government is constructing or were to receive repairs and maintenance?
 - c. How does this revision affect the figures which the then Minister for Housing reported to the Assembly on 23 June 2009 of there being

“a total of \$103 million of commonwealth funding will be channelled into our social housing. Of this, \$96.5 million will enable the construction of some 320 homes over the next two years. The balance of \$6.5 million will enable the maintenance of around 243 properties.”

- d. When was it decided that the Commonwealth Grant for Social Housing would be revised down by \$9.243 million? And when was the Assembly informed by the Minister for Housing?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1a.) It was the Commonwealth’s decision to reduce the social housing component of the stimulus package by \$750 million of which ACT’s share was \$9.243 million. According to the Commonwealth’s progress report on the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, the Commonwealth announcement of the reduction in funding cited the greater than expected effectiveness of the Repairs and Maintenance funding in returning public housing to stock.

1b.) There is no impact. Whilst the Commonwealth’s funding has been reduced by \$9.243 million, the number of dwellings to be constructed has since been revised upward to 516 units under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. This is possible due to the ACT Government’s own contribution of land and Housing ACT’s own funds of \$13.2 million towards construction.

There was no reduction to the repairs and maintenance funding.

1c.) In summary, a total of \$100.3 million of combined funding has been allocated for construction of 516 homes expected to be completed by December 2010. There has been no change to the repairs and maintenance component.

1d.) The Commonwealth announced the funding reduction in August 2009. The Assembly was advised soon after.

2a.) No. The reference to funding reduction is the difference in expenditure between 2009-10 and 2010-11. The repairs and maintenance component of Nation Building Economic Stimulus Package is a two year program (2008-09 to 2009-10), with \$3.2 million each year. The program is on track. The reduction in funding in 2010-11 reflects the fact that the Commonwealth will not provide funds for Repairs and Maintenance to public housing after June 2010.

2b.) There is nil impact.

2c.) The budget allocation will be spent.

Housing-A place to call home

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 3, page 169, output class 1.1

In relation to: A Place to Call Home

1. Noting that \$10m has been allocated for 20 additional dwellings to be provided over 5 years to house homeless families and assist them to sustain tenancies, what organisations are anticipated or are providing the services that will seek to assist these families in maintaining their tenancies and what funding is provided for this?
2. How many of the 10 dwellings that were meant to be complete by end of June 2010 will achieve that? And if any are to be delivered late, when are they expected to be delivered?
3. What is the relationship between 'A Place to Call Home' and 'Housing First'?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:--

1. The initial 7 properties have been allocated in a Housing First approach to families that were applying for a Housing ACT property. The agencies involved in supporting those families are Inanna Inc, St Vincent de Paul, Beryl Inc, Doris Inc, and YWCA Housing Service. Other specialist homeless services may be involved in providing support in future allocations. Housing ACT has provided funding through existing homelessness funding. Agencies are recompensed for support and tenancy management at a rate of \$11,400 pa per tenancy.
2. Seven of the ten properties under the "Place to Call Home" program have been completed and handed over. The remaining three will be completed in early August 2010.
3. A Place to Call Home uses a "Housing First" approach as described in the response to your previous Question on Notice Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 400, output class 1.1

Housing-Narrabundah long stay caravan park

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 405, output class 1.1

In relation to: Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park

1. On page page 405 of BP 4 it says there was \$394 000 spent on upgrading infrastructure at the Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park. Can a breakdown of how these funds were spent please be provided?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

The figure of \$394,000 referred to on Page 405 of BP4 Budget 2010-11 is not an expenditure figure rather it relates to transfers made under S16B of the Financial Management Act.

The total appropriation for the upgrading of infrastructure at the Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park is \$600,000. The improvements undertaken utilising this appropriation include upgrading the fire fighting capabilities through extending the fire service water main (including the installation of additional hydrants), resurfacing, levelling and relaying sections of the road including installing additional speed humps and signage, installing solar hot water systems in the ablutions blocks, surveying structures, external assessment of some structures for building code compliance, upgrading the waste management area, upgrades and extension to the common area lighting, upgrading and extending perimeter fencing and rejuvenating common area landscaping.

Housing-Public housing stock & total housing stock

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 399, output class 1.1

In relation to: Public housing stock in relation to total housing stock

1. What percentage of total housing in the ACT does public housing represent?
2. What figures were used to calculate this? And where was the figure for 'total housing in the ACT' sourced from? (noting that the ABS only calculates this figure in census years).

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

There is no current data readily available on total housing stocks in the ACT. As at 31 May, Housing's stock number was 11,559, an increase of 8 from 30 April.

Staff management

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

BP 4

In relation to : Staff Management within DHCS;

1. How many staff are currently employed by the Department, and what level is each (please provide a breakdown by output and work area).
Answer: This information (numbers and classification level) is provided each year in the Annual Report. Additionally this question has been answered for OCYFS under QON 734.

2. What was the total staff turnover rate in 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date, and what is the budgeted staff turnover rate for 2010-11 (please provide a breakdown by output class and level).
Answer: DHCS turnover rate for 2008-09 was 9% and to date in 2009-10 is 7%. Turnover rates are not forecast.

3. How many positions within the Department are currently unfilled as a result of the Government's staffing freeze?
Answer: There are 14 temporary positions unfilled as a result of the recruitment freeze.
 - a. When will these positions now be filled?
Answer: Temporary positions are filled on an as needs basis.
 - b. How much money has the Department saved as a result of the freeze?
Answer: Staffing savings are the equivalent of the 14 temporary positions as identified above.

4. How many staff receive a total salary of
 - a. below \$70,000,
 - b. between \$70,000 and \$80,000,
 - c. between \$90,000 and \$100,000,
 - d. between \$100,000 and \$110,000,
 - e. over \$110,000; and.
 - f. For each salary range, how many staff are considered administrative or policy, and how many are considered frontline service delivery staff?
Answer: Detailed information on staffing classifications is included in the Department's Annual Report.

5. How many additional staff will be employed in 2010 (in FTE), and what level is each (please provide a breakdown by output and level).
 - a. How many are administrative or policy staff, and how many are considered frontline service delivery staff?
Answer: As per QON 756, 7 additional FTE are required for the 2010-11 budget initiatives noted on pages 92 and 167 of BP3.

6. How much will be spent on training programs 2010-11?
Answer: To be determined.
- What is the purpose of each training program
Answer: As per 1(b) QON 771
 - how many staff are expected to participate?
Answer: To be determined.
7. Will officers attend any training programs in 2010-11 interstate?
 - If so, what is the purpose of these training programs?
 - How many officers will attend?
 - What is the cost of each programs, including travel expenses?**Answer:** To be determined.
8. What training programmes in 2010-11 will be held which will result in no marginal cost to the Department?
Answer: To be determined.
9. What in-house training programs will be held in 2010-11 which will result in a cost to the Department, and what is this cost expected to be?
Answer: See 8 above.
10. What is the average oncost for each employee within the Department budgeted to be in 2010-11?
 - What is included in this oncost?
Answer: QON 767
 - What is the marginal oncost of an additional worker at the current staffing levels in 2010-11?
Answer: The Department does not undertake marginal costing exercises as it is not relevant to its business.
11. What specialist qualifications are required by staff for the Department to undertake its roles and responsibilities?
 - What skills are currently lacking in the Department?
Answer: As per QON 767 (part 4(b)). All specialist skill areas are currently employed in the department.
 - How will these gaps be filled in 2010-11?
 - Has the staffing freeze contributed to this shortfall?
Answer: No, all essential frontline staff can be recruited to during this time.
12. What is the average salary for each employee who has a specialist skill that is required for the Department to undertake its roles and responsibilities? What will be the average salary in 2010-11 (please provide a breakdown by specialisation, output and employee level).
Answer: Health Professional salary levels are specified in the ACT Government's Collective Agreement.
13. What training must employees undertake on a regular basis to maintain their specialist skills, and what is the budgeted total cost of this training in 2010-11?
 - What is the average cost per employee?
Answer: QON 767 (part 7)
 - Who will provide the training?

Answer: Training is undertaken through both Learning and Community Education area of the Department and external providers.

14. What specialist equipment is required for employees within the Department to undertake their jobs, and how will this change in 2010-11? For each piece of equipment:
- how many are required,
 - what is the capital cost of each,
 - what is the running cost of each?
 - Over what period is each piece of equipment depreciated?
 - What equipment will be purchased in 2010-11 for this purpose?

Answer: QON 767 (part 8)

15. How many graduates will be employed in 2010-11?
- What is the cost of employing each graduate, and what is the breakdown of these costs, including oncosts?
 - How many graduates have been employed on average each year since 2001?

Answer: QON767 (part 12)

16. How many staff will be recruited in 2010-11, and how much has been spent on recruitment in 2009-10 to date?

Answer: QON767 (part 13)

- How much is budgeted to be spent on recruitment in 2010-11, and how is this broken down?

Answer: To be determined.

17. How much office space is currently leased by the Department, or the ACT Government on behalf of the Department?

- Will this change in 2010-11, if so how will it change and what is the cost of the change?
- What is the cost of the current lease, what is the make-good provision, and when will this lease be complete?
- If a new lease is to be signed in 2010-11, what is the cost of the lease, what is the make-good provision, and when will this lease be complete?

Answer: Please refer to Assembly QON 775.

18. How many staff, are budgeted to receive HDA in 2010-11? For each staff member,

- why will they receive HDA?
- How long will they be on HDA?
- What is the budgeted expense for staff receiving HDA in 2010-11?
- Please provide a breakdown by output class and level

Answer: Please refer to QON648. In addition, HDA is not budgeted for but is cash managed depending on backfill for staff on contingencies such as maternity leave and leave without pay.

19. How many staff are currently on any form of leave indefinitely?

- What are the reasons for these staff being on indefinite leave?
- Please provide a breakdown by output class and level

Answer: None

IT and Advertising

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

In relation to : IT and Advertising for DHCS;

1. What is the budgeted cost of the provision of IT services for the Department for 2010-11?
2. What is the budgeted or forecast increase in costs for the provision of IT services in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14?
3. What will be the marginal cost and the average cost of the provision of IT services at the forecast staffing levels in 2010-11?
4. How much will be spent on advertising in 2010-11, and what is forecast to be spent in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and how is this spending broken down between i) outputs and ii) design, printing, distribution etc.
5. What form of advertising will be undertaken in 2010-11?
6. What is the purpose of each form of advertising to be undertaken in 2010-11?
7. How much has been spent on graphic design purposes in 2009-10, and how much will be spent on graphic design in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14?
8. How much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date, and what forms of advertising does this include?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The budgeted cost for the provision of IT services for the Department for 2010-11 is \$7.4m.
2. The budget is forecast to increase by the CPI rate each year.
3. Refer to QON 783, 784, 785, 931.
4. The Department does not allocate its budget down to this level. The costs are part of the supplies and services budget as published in BP4 p.386 (DHCS) and p.407 (Housing ACT).
5. To be determined.
6. To be determined.

7. This is not separately itemised and is a component of advertising. See Q8 below.
8. Expenditure on advertising in 2009-10 to date (May) is \$0.120m. This is for general advertising (\$0.08m) and public notices (\$0.036m).

Budgeted costs

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

BP 4

In relation to : Budgeted Costs and DHCS

1. What are the annual depreciation costs for the Department?
 - a. How much depreciation is allocated to small capital items which are used in the day-to-day activities of the Department, and how much is related to major capital works or items?
 - b. What are those major capital works or items specifically and how much is the depreciation for each annually?
2. What capital initiatives will be completed by the Department in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14?
 - a. What was the original cost of those initiatives when they were first considered by Government?
 - b. What is the current budgeted cost of each initiative?
 - c. What are the ongoing costs to the Budget of the initiative, including running costs and depreciation costs?
3. What capital initiatives (or expenditure on capital equipment) were completed/will be completed by the Department in 2009-10?
 - a. What was the original cost of those initiatives when they were first considered by Government?
 - b. What is the current budgeted cost of the initiative?
 - c. What are the ongoing costs to the Budget of the initiative, including running costs and depreciation costs?
 - d. What was the estimated completion date when the initiative was first considered by Government?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The annual depreciation costs for the Department are \$28.3m.
 - a. Depreciation allocated to small capital items is (\$1.4m) and depreciation for major capital items is (\$22.4m).
 - b. The major capital items relate to buildings owned or occupied by the Department and covers more than 100 community, childcare and youth facilities and more than 11,500 public housing properties. It is not possible to provide the annual depreciation for each of these properties.
2. The capital initiatives that will be completed by the Department in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the responses to parts (a), (b) and (c) are shown in Table A.
3. The capital initiatives that were/will be completed by the Department in 2009–10, and the responses to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) are shown in Table B.

Table A – Capital initiatives that will be completed by the Department in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

| Initiative | Completion Date | Original Budget | Current Budget | Ongoing Costs (annual) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Regional Community Facilities and Neighbourhood Halls * | July 2010 | \$22.611m | \$27.250m | \$1.383m |
| Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club | December 2010 | \$1.5m | \$1.5m | \$0.024m |
| Third Child and Family Centre | December 2010 | \$4.2m | \$4.2m | \$0.084m |
| Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Social Housing – Commonwealth Funding ** | December 2010 | \$96.323m | \$100.28m | \$2.166m |
| Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Social Housing – ACT Funding ** | | \$Nil | \$13,200m | |
| Forde Community Centre | June 2011 | \$0.352m | \$0.352m | \$0.010m |
| Replacement of Centre based Respite Houses (feasibility) | June 2011 | \$0.250m | \$0.250m | Nil |
| Bimberi Youth Justice Centre – Body Scanner | June 2011 | \$0.375m | \$0.375m | \$0.037m |
| Refurbishment of Early Morning Drop-in Centre | June 2011 | \$0.750m | \$0.750m | Nil |
| Flynn Childcare Centre | June 2012 | \$4.0m | \$4.0m | \$0.143m |
| Regional Community Facilities Carparks and Building Facades | June 2012 | \$3.162m | \$3.162m | \$0.126m |
| A Place to Call Home | June 2013 | \$10.0m | \$10.0m | \$0.138m |

**Table B – Capital initiatives that will be completed by the Department in 2009–
10**

| Initiative | Original Completion Date | Original Budget | Current Budget | Ongoing Costs (annual) |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Belconnen Community Centre Upgrade Heating and Airconditioning Systems | January 2009 | \$1.0m | \$1.2m | \$0.025m |
| Environmental and Energy Efficiency Upgrades (various facilities) | June 2010 | \$0.900m | \$0.900m | \$0.045m |
| Community and Childcare Facilities Upgrades (various facilities) | June 2010 | \$1.165m | \$0.965m | \$0.023m |
| National Partnership – Social Housing | June 2010 | \$6.439m | \$6.439m | \$0.134m |
| Upgrade Infrastructure at the Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park | June 2008 | \$0.600m | \$0.600m | \$0.030m |

Note:

* The increase of \$4.639m from the original budget of \$22.611m for the Regional Community Facilities and Neighbourhood Halls Project to \$27.250m is due to the provision of additional funds in the 2009-10 Budget 2nd Appropriation as a result of community consultation that required the expansion of the facilities at Cook and Village Creek and the regional community facility at Holt.

** The increase from the Original Budget for the Nation Building and Jobs Plan is the result of the Commonwealth revising the funding to the states and territories for the social housing component of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan economic stimulus program by \$750m. The ACT share of this was \$9.243m. Accordingly the Commonwealth funding for the social housing component was reduced to \$87.080m. Offsetting this was the investment by the ACT Government of \$13.2m, increasing the funding under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan economic stimulus program to \$100.280m to increase the number of dwellings.

Output programs

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

In relation to : Output programs for DHCS;

1. Please provide a list of initiatives or programs that are run under each output.
 - a. What is the budgeted cost for each in 2009-10 and 2010-11?
 - b. How many staff (by ASL) work in each, and what is level of each staff member?
 - c. What capital equipment is required by each?
 - d. What specialist skills are required by staff in each, and what are the specialists levels?

2. For each program or initiative that was implemented in the 2009-10 budget that relates to DHCS
 - a. How many staff were budgeted to be employed for the initiative, and how many have been employed to date?
 - b. What was the budgeted cost of the initiative for DHCS in 2009-10, and how much has been spent to date?
 - c. What capital equipment was required (including the budgeted cost), and has all required capital equipment been purchased, and if so, what was the cost. If not, when will the equipment be purchased?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1.
 - a. A list of initiatives under each output for 2009-10 and 2010-11 and their budgeted costs is attached (Attachment 1). Given the size and diversity of the services across the Department, it is not possible to list all the programs under each output.
 - b. Staff have multiple responsibilities which can change over time. Staff are therefore apportioned across a number of different initiatives and programs.
 - c. The Department has an Asset Register which is updated through an annual stocktake. Items valued below \$5,000 are not listed and are expensed. IT equipment is leased and not listed.
 - d. Specialist staff in the Department are Allied Health Professionals who are employed in OCYFS and Therapy ACT.

2.
 - a. & b. A list of initiatives under each output for 2009-10 are attached (Attachment 2), including the budgeted cost and actual spend to date (at April 2010).
 - c. There was no capital equipment required for these initiatives.

Attachment 1.

| Initiative | 2009-10 Budget \$'000 | 2010-11 Budget \$'000 |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DHCS 1.1 | | |
| Special Care Packages for Extraordinarily High Needs | 245 | 249 |
| Companion Card | 104 | 97 |
| Expanded Flexible Support Fund | 200 | 205 |
| Transition of Individuals from Hospital to the Community | 750 | 750 |
| Older Carers Respite Program | - | 416 |
| Support for Disability Services | - | 1,200 |
| Community Based Autism Family Support and Coordination Service | - | 101 |
| Client Information Management System | - | 478 |
| DHCS 1.2 | | |
| Play Therapy Services for Young Children | 461 | 597 |
| Addressing Speech Pathology Waiting Lists | 737 | 843 |
| DHCS 2.1 | | |
| National Partnership - Indigenous Early Childhood Development - Third Child and Family Centre | - | 217 |
| DHCS 2.2 | | |
| Youth Advisory Council | 20 | 20 |
| Early Childhood Reform and Supporting Vulnerable Families | - | 379 |
| DHCS 3.1 | | |
| Business and Industrial Relations Support for Community Organisations | 100 | 0 |
| Carers Advocacy Service | - | 100 |
| Warehouse Circus Community Program | - | 70 |
| DHCS 3.2 | | |
| Indigenous Traineeships | 29 | 30 |
| Facilitator for Indigenous Elected Body | 50 | 51 |
| Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services | 50 | 51 |
| Seniors Grants Program | 15 | 15 |
| Support for Valley FM 89.5 Community Radio | 15 | 15 |
| Prevention of Violence Against Women | - | 344 |
| Multicultural Languages Program | - | 25 |
| Multicultural Youth Services | - | 25 |
| Traditional Owners Genealogy Project | - | 50 |
| DHCS 4.1 | | |
| Bimberi Youth Justice Centre Operational Costs | - | 1,704 |
| DHCS 4.2 | | |
| Growth in Out of Home Care Costs | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| Support for Out of Home Care | - | 1,343 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-----|
| HACT 1.1 | | |
| Community Outreach for Rough Sleepers | 180 | 230 |
| Building Housing Partnerships | 160 | 256 |
| Expansion of Transitional Housing Program | 57 | 75 |
| Housing and Support Initiative | 200 | 329 |
| Centralised Intake Service | 100 | 129 |
| Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence | 100 | 0 |
| Youth Foyer Model | 0 | 360 |
| National Partnership - Nation Building and Jobs Plan - Social Housing | 3,226 | 0 |
| Refurbish Early Morning Drop-in Centre in the City (Grant) | - | 750 |

Attachment 2

| Initiative | # FTE Budgeted | 2009- 10 Budget \$'000 | 2009-10 Actual (Apr YTD) \$'000 |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| DHCS 1.1 | | | |
| Special Care Packages for Extraordinarily High Needs | | 245 | 204 |
| Companion Card | 0.5 | 104 | 87 |
| Expanded Flexible Support Fund | | 200 | 167 |
| Transition of Individuals from Hospital to the Community | | 750 | 660 |
| DHCS 1.2 | | | |
| Play Therapy Services for Young Children | 5.6 | 461 | 461 |
| Addressing Speech Pathology Waiting Lists | 6.5 | 737 | 737 |
| DHCS 2.2 | | | |
| Youth Advisory Council | | 20 | 20 |
| DHCS 3.1 | | | |
| Business and Industrial Relations Support for Community Organisations | | 100 | 100 |
| DHCS 3.2 | | | |
| Indigenous Traineeships | | 29 | 29 |
| Facilitator for Indigenous Elected Body | | 50 | 22 |
| Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services | | 50 | 50 |
| Seniors Grants Program | | 15 | 15 |
| Support for Valley FM 89.5 Community Radio | | 15 | 15 |
| DHCS 4.2 | | | |
| Growth in Out of Home Care Costs | 3 | 4,000 | 3,300 |
| HACT 1.1 | | | |
| Community Outreach for Rough Sleepers | | 180 | 130 |
| Building Housing Partnerships | | 160 | 31 |
| Expansion of Transitional Housing Program | | 57 | 0 |
| Housing and Support Initiative | | 200 | 0 |
| Centralised Intake Service | | 100 | 0 |
| Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence | | 100 | 97 |
| National Partnership - Nation Building and Jobs Plan - Social Housing | | 3,226 | 2,263 |

Overhead costs

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

BP 4

In relation to : Overhead costs for DHCS;

1. What are the overhead fixed costs for the Department for 2010-11 and how much is each?
2. How are these costs forecast to change between 2010-11 and 2013-14 (please provide a breakdown by output).
3. What are the variable and marginal costs for the Department for 2010-11 and how much is each.
4. How are these costs forecast to change between 2010-11 and 2013-14, and how has this changed since 2009-10 (please provide a breakdown by output).

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The estimated overhead fixed costs for the Department for 2010–11 are \$17.2m. A break up is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Rent | \$6.7m |
| Utilities | \$1.1m |
| Shared Services | \$3.8m |
| InTACT | \$5.6m |

2. Between 2010–11 and 2013–14, these costs are forecast to increase by the annual CPI rate. As these are overhead costs, they will be allocated to each output on the basis of the number of FTEs in each output in the relevant year.
3. The variable costs for the Department for 2010–11 are \$321.4m. A break up is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Employee Expenses | \$88.8m |
| Superannuation | \$13.6m |
| Supplies and Services | \$84.5m |
| Borrowing Costs | \$4.5m |
| Grants and Purchased Services | \$127.0m |
| Other Expenses | \$3.0m |

The Department does not undertake marginal costing exercises as it is not relevant to its business.

4. Between 2010–11 and 2013–14, variable costs are forecast to increase by the annual CPI rate, or where appropriate, the community sector indexation rate. It is not possible to break down these costs into outputs into the 2013–14 financial year.

Grants programs



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTION ON NOTICE

E10-752



ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

In relation to: Grants Programs and DHCS;

1. What grants programs within the portfolio will commence in 2010-11, and which grants programs will cease?
2. Which grant programs ceased in 2009-10?
3. For each program above, what is the total cost of the program, including a) the cost to administer the program; b) the cost to advertise the program and c) the total amount of grants that are budgeted to be awarded in 2009-10 and 2010-11?
4. For those grants programs commencing in 2010-11, when is the program scheduled to cease?
5. What process will be used to determine the recipients of the grants?
6. Will grants under each program be contingent upon a contribution from the recipient of the grant?


Minster Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. to 6. Details of grants are included in the Departments Annual Report each financial year. Additionally, information is publically available on the grants portal at www.grants.act.gov.au

Grants are administered by various business units across the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services. The administration of grants is undertaken as part of relevant Officers duties.

The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services provides a wide range of different grant programs. Each grant program will have different assessment and selection processes. Grant applications are commonly assessed against criteria listed in the grant application forms and applications are assessed in a transparent and accountable manner.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2010-2011

Signature:  Date: 10/6/10

By the To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Joy Burch MLA

Programs rolled over

E-10/753



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTION ON NOTICE

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Ref: Estimates Hansard, page P636.

1. I note that the financial controller for the Chief Minister's Department noted that some programs rolled over in 2009/10 were then ceased in the 2010/11 budget, therefore disappearing from the budget documentation. Please outline all program funding in the DHCS portfolio rolled over in 2009/10 which then ceased in the 2010/11 budget.

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The table below shows the funding that was rolled over in 2009-10. These funds are not ongoing and have been fully spent on the projects listed.

| Program | Amount ('000) |
|---|----------------------|
| Establishment of Regional Community Facilities and Neighbourhood Halls (demolition and project director costs) | \$1,915 |
| Business and Industrial Relations Support for Community Organisations | \$400 |
| Working with Vulnerable People Checks | \$78 |
| One-off Commonwealth funding for Supported Accommodation Assistance Program – National Child Protection Framework (child support workers) | \$70 |

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2010-2011

Signature:

Date:

11-6-10

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

Environment measures

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

In relation to : Environmental measures for DHCS;

1. What are the estimated greenhouse gas emissions for the Department in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14?
2. What initiatives or measures has the Department implemented in 2009-10 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
 - a. What is the cost of each initiative
 - b. how much greenhouse gas has each initiative saved?
3. What initiatives or measures will the Department implement in 2010-11 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
 - a. What is the budgeted cost of these initiatives
 - b. How much greenhouse gas will each initiative save?
4. How much paper recycling will be undertaken in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, what percentage of total paper used is this, and what benchmark will the Department measure its success in recycling against?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Total greenhouse emissions for all facilities and functions administered by the department are not available.
2. Comparative information of greenhouse emissions, water consumption and other aspects of the departments resource usage will be reported in the Ecologically Sustainable Development section of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services 2009-10 Annual Report.
3. Initiatives will be identified through the energy audits, participation in the Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water, ACTSmart program and changes within the vehicle fleet to more environmentally efficient vehicles.
4. The 2008-09 Annual Report reflects the Department's commitment to paper recycling. It reports that 25.4t of paper was purchased (98% recycled). 56.3t of paper (both purchased and other paper received into the department) was recycled. This is a rate of 225% against the purchased amount and is the benchmark used given the total amount of paper received into the department (through daily correspondence etc) is not measured. Future recycling of paper products will depend on the amount of paper received and will be guided by the ACT Smart Program.

Budgeted costs

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

BP 4

In relation to : Budgeted Costs for DHCS;

1. What is the budgeted cost for the Department in 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 of
 - a. Electricity
 - b. Internet communications
 - c. Telecommunications
 - d. Travel for senior executive staff
 - e. Travel for non-executive staff
 - f. Local travel, including taxis, bus fares, and vehicles
 - g. Printing
 - h. Paper
 - i. Official entertainment
 - j. Consultant's fees
 - k. Office supplies

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Department does not allocate its budget down to this level. The costs are part of the Supplies and Services Budget as published in BP4 page 386 (DHCS) and page 407 (Housing ACT).

The actual costs are reported in the Department's Annual Report.

Budgeted initiatives

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

BP 3

In relation to : Budget initiatives involving DHCS;

1. For each expense, revenue or capital measure reported in Budget Paper No. 3 which applies to the Department:
 - a. what is the staffing increase required
 - b. what are the IT requirements, including those which are to be purchased “off the shelf” and those which are to be custom built
 - c. what is the average on cost per additional staff member
 - d. what consultancies are required, including the purpose of the consultancy and budgeted cost, and whether the contract for the consultancy will be single select or open tender.
 - e. What are the capital requirements, including any equipment that will be purchased
 - f. Has the Department offset any funding to accommodate any part of the initiative, and what was the offset?
 - g. Will the initiative require any form of regulatory change and if so, what change is required, and will a regulatory impact statement be published prior to it being considered by the Assembly?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1.
 - a. Overall there is an additional 7 FTE required for the 2010-11 budget initiatives listed on pages 92 and 167 of BP3, as detailed below.

| Initiative | # FTE |
|---|--------------|
| Early Childhood Reform and Supporting Vulnerable Families | 3 |
| Bimberi Youth Justice Centre Operational Costs | 3 |
| Client Information Management System | 1 |
| | 7 |

- b. Page 134, BP 3 lists \$304,000 for a Client Information Management System for Disability ACT. The other initiatives in the BP3 do not have specific IT requirements.
- c. The average on cost per additional FTE is \$0.032m, including superannuation, worker’s compensation and administrative costs.
- d. A number of the initiatives described in BP3 are a continuance or expansion of existing services provided through service level agreements with the Department by Non Government Organisations that will result in

changes to existing contracts. The Community Based Autism Family Support and Coordination Service and the Traditional Owners Genealogy Project initiatives are likely to involve a select tender process due to the limited field of available organisations with the required expertise.

- e. The DHCS capital initiatives are listed at page 167, BP3.
- f. Nil.
- g. Nil.

Working groups

ZED SESELJA MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services; Minister for Children and Young People; Minister for Women; Minister for Ageing; and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

In relation to : Working Groups involving DHCS;

1. How many working groups, consultation groups, inter-departmental committees, roundtables or other intra-Government committees have been created (or will be created) by the Department in 2009-10?
2. Will any working groups, consultation groups, inter-departmental committees, roundtables or other intra-Government committees be created by the Department in 2010-11?
3. For each group, committee or roundtable in questions 1 and 2:
 - a. What is the cost of creating and maintaining each?
 - b. For how long will each run?
 - c. How many staff will regularly be involved?
 - d. How often will each meet?
 - e. Where will each meet?
 - f. Which departments, agencies or non-government organisations will be represented, and what is the role of each?

Minster Burch : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. I refer Mr Seselja to Assembly QON 779 where I have already provided an extensive response to this question spanning 48 pages.
2. This information is not yet available.
3. Again, I refer Mr Seselja to QON 779. In addition, the duration of each committee/group/roundtable depends on its purpose. Communication between key stakeholders and the Government may not have a set end date established given the need for ongoing consultation. However, for bodies that are project based, the duration would be dependent on the parameters of the project. Similarly the number of staff will be determined on a case by case basis.

Variety of community support and development activities

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Ageing, Budget paper 4, page 374, output class 3.2

In relation to: Provision of a variety of community support and development activities

- a) What are the different ACT Government grants, run by various departments, related to ageing?

The ACT Government Grants Portal lists available grants programs across the ACT Government, including the Community Support and Infrastructure Grants; ACT Health Promotion Grants Program; ACT Women's Grants Program; ACT Multicultural Grants Program; ACT Arts Fund; ACT Festival Fund; ACT Heritage Grants Program; and Sport and Recreation Grants.

The Seniors Grants and Sponsorship Program provides funding for activities and events that promote positive ageing in the ACT. The primary aim of the program is to support older Canberrans to maintain their wellbeing and to remain active in their community.

- b) In total how much money is available in community grants in relation to ageing?

In 2010-2011, the Seniors Grants and Sponsorship Program will provide a total of \$100,000.

Housing-Public housing stock

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page 399, output class 1.1

In relation to: Public housing stock

1. Separate to that money provided by the Commonwealth Government through the Social Housing component of the National Building and Jobs Plan, what new money has the ACT Government allocated towards increasing public housing stock since its election in 2008?
2. Where was this new money sourced from?
3. How much of this new money has been spent so far? And what has it been spent on?
4. When is the rest of this money to be spent by? And what will it be spent on?

Community development and policy

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for the Disability, Housing and Community Services and the Minister for Women

Ref: DHCS, BP4, p367, Output Class 3 – Community Development and Policy

In relation to : Output 3.2 – Community Affairs

1. [ref BP4, p 374] How will the budget increase of \$354,000 (5.6%) on the estimated outcome for 2009-10 be spent?
2. [ref BP4, p380, Accountability Indicator(e) and footnote 4] What are the new initiatives that have caused the cost per 1,000 head of population to increase from the 2009-10 estimated outcome of \$17.62 to the 2010-11 budget of \$18.34 (an increase of 4%)?
 - (a) What cost has each new initiative contributed to this increase?
3. Status of Women:
 - (a) In relation to grants programs for women:
 - (i) How many such programs does the department administer?
 - (ii) What is the budget for each of those programs?
 - (iii) What is the nature of the programs and activities for women that received grant funding during 2009-10 to date?
 - (iv) Which of those programs and activities are on multi-year funding agreements?
 - (v) Typically for how many years do multi-year funding agreements run?
 - (vi) What governance requirements does the government place on grant recipients?
 - (b) In relation to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women:
 - (i) What were the major achievements of the Council during 2009-10 to date?
 - (ii) What is the nature of the advice the Council provided to the Minister during 2009-10 to date?
 - (iii) What action did the Minister take in response to that advice?
 - (iv) How has this action advanced the cause of women in the ACT?
 - (v) What secretariat support is provided to the Council?
 - (vi) What is the cost of that support?
 - (vii) Do Council members receive any remuneration?
 - If yes:
 - how much; and
 - who determines the level of remuneration?

- (c) In relation to the Women's Information and Referral Centre:
- (i) What does the centre cost to run?
 - (ii) What staffing resources are provided?
 - (iii) How many women access the centre each year?
 - (iv) What is the trend of that statistic over the past five years?
- (d) In relation to the Women's Plan:
- (i) What were the major achievements and outcomes for women in the ACT from the 2004-09 ACT Women's Plan?
 - (ii) Were any of the objectives of the 2004-09 plan not achieved?
 - If yes:
 - why; and
 - which of these were carried forward to the 2010-15 plan?
 - (iii) What new initiatives, objectives and outcomes will the 2010-15 ACT Women's Plan pursue?
 - When will progress of the plan be reviewed?
 - Who will undertake and report on that review?
- (e) In relation to International Women's Day:
- (i) How much does the ACT Government contribute to International Women's Day in the ACT:
 - in cash; and
 - in kind?
 - (ii) What kinds of programs and activities are offered during the day?
 - (iii) What is the participation rate for each program or activity?
 - (iv) To what extent in the ACT day integrated into the national and international programs and activities?
 - (v) What national or international programs and activities are based or hosted in Canberra?
- (f) In relation to the ACT Women's Register:
- (i) How many women are enrolled on the register?
 - (ii) On average, how many women register each year?
 - (iii) How often is the register reviewed for currency of registrants?
 - (iv) What does it cost to administer?
 - (v) How many women on the register have been appointed to ACT government boards and committees?
 - (vi) In percentage terms, how many women currently are serving on ACT government boards, committees, councils, or the like?

Minister Burch - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The budget increase on the 2009-10 estimated outcome will be mainly spent on the Prevention of Violence Against Women initiative.
2. The initiative that increased the cost in 2010–11 Budget is for Prevention of Violence Against Women.
 - a. This contributed \$0.95 to the cost per 1,000 head of population. The increase was partially offset by the impact of the efficiency dividend savings.
3. **a. In relation to grants programs for women:**
 - i. The Department administers two grants programs for women:
 - ACT Women’s Grants Program; and
 - ACT Women’s Return to Work Grants Program.
 - ii. In 2009-10, for the ACT Women’s Grants Program budget is \$100,000.
In 2009-10, for the ACT Women’s Return to Work Grants Program budget is \$193,000.
 - iii. Projects funded through the 2009-10 ACT Women’s Grants Program will provide activities that improve the status of women and girls in the ACT. A list of projects funded in the 2009-10 ACT Women’s Grant program is at:
http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/grants_and_scholarships#women_sgrants
The Return to Work Grants Program has assisted applicants with education and training fees, IT expenses, transport to courses/study, work related expenses such as clothing, uniforms and equipment and childcare.
 - iv. Neither of these programs is on multi-year funding agreements.
 - v. Not applicable.
 - vi. Recipients of ACT Women’s Grants Program funding are required to:
 - Provide details of incorporation, have an Australian Business Number and appropriate public liability insurance; and
 - Enter into a Deed of Grant with the Australian Capital Territory and comply with the requirements of the Deed including financial acquittal and reporting requirements.

Recipients of the ACT Women’s Return to Work Grants Program funding are required to acquit the funds provided against the agreed expenditure for the grant.
- b. In relation to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women:**
 - i. During 2009-2010, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women engaged with Canberra women and girls in the consultation process to inform the next ACT Women’s Plan. Its members developed a targeted outreach strategy and undertook a ‘listening tour’ during August and September 2009 to ensure diverse groups of women had the opportunity to contribute and provide feedback.

- ii. During 2009-10, the Council provided the Minister with advice on the development of the second ACT Women's Plan including a snapshot of women's concerns.
- iii. The Council's advice is reflected in the *ACT Women's Plan 2010-2015* which was launched by the Minister on 31 March 2010.
- iv. *The ACT Women's Plan 2010-15* provides a strategic framework for ACT Government Departments to work with community organisations and business to progress gender equity and participation.
- v. Secretariat support provided to the Council includes attendance at meetings, administrative support, and catering arrangements and costs.
- vi. \$40,830.
- vii. No.

c. In relation to the Women's Information and Referral Centre(WiRC)

- i. The WiRC budget for 2009-10 is \$381,492.
- ii. There are 3.96 FTE staff at WiRC. The Manager, Office for Women is responsible for this team. The FTE does not include a portion of her time.
- iii. Each year the (WiRC) is accessed by clients visiting the centre, through telephone, e-mail and fax contact and through participation in courses and support groups. The total number of client contacts throughout the financial year of 2008-09 was 11,251.
- iv. The trend is upward.

d. In relation to the Women's Plan:

- i. The achievements of the *ACT Women's Plan 2004-2009* are detailed in the 2009 publications *Looking Forward – Informing a new plan for ACT women and girls* and *Taking Stock - Reporting on the ACT Women's Plan (2004-09) Indicators of Success*. Copies can be downloaded from the Women ACT website:
<http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/publications#act>
- ii. While significant progress was made to progress the six objectives of the *ACT Women's Plan 2004-09*, the ACT Government acknowledged through the release of the *ACT Women's Plan 2010-15* that there is still more to be done to ensure 'that women in the ACT reach their potential, be recognised for their contribution and share the benefits of our community'.

Across social, economic and environmental areas, inequalities still exist between men and women and between different groups of women.

The *ACT Women's Plan 2010-15* builds on the objectives of the *ACT Women's Plan 2004-10*.

- iii. The *ACT Women's Plan 2010-15* outlines strategic outcomes, objectives and priority areas against the economic, social and environmental aspects of life. A critical focus of the Plan is to embed an understanding of the different needs of women and girls and men and boys into policy and

practice, as a mechanism for improving gender equity. A copy of the Plan is available at:

<http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/publications#act>

iii.

- The process for measuring and reporting on progress are outlined on pages 15-17 of the *ACT Women's Plan 2010-15*. The indicators of progress will be revised during the reporting periods and updated where necessary to reflect emerging future priorities.
- ACT Government Departments will report against the objectives of the Plan in their Annual Reports. The Office for Women will publish two reports against the indicators of progress informed by ACT Government Departments and external sources, the first in November 2012 and the second in November 2014.

e. In relation to International Women's Day:

i.

- The total cost for ACT International Women's Day 2010 was \$11,224; and
- In kind staffing costs to organise and/or attend International Women's Day events are absorbed within existing resources of the Office for Women.

ii. Programs and activities to celebrate International Women's Day in Canberra are predominately external events. Organisation were invited to advertise their events in the 2010 International Women's Day Calendar of Events. Details are available at: http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/iwd-calendar_of_events

iii. The ACT International Women's Day Awards Ceremony was attended by 98 guests. Screenings of the film 'For Love or Money' were attended by between 80- 95 people. The attendance levels at external events to celebrate International Women's Day are not known as organisations are not required to report participation numbers to Government.

iv. In the ACT, International Women's Day events tend to focus on activities which celebrate and honour local women and girls.

v. Organisations with a national or international focus are more likely to host activities with a national or international focus. Two examples are:

- the guest speaker at the 10th UNIFEM Canberra International Women's Day Lunch was Dr Hamidah Marican, Executive Director of the Malaysian organisation Sisters in Islam; and
- the Zonta Canberra Breakfast Club hosted a Preloved, Designer and Vintage Women's Clothing Sale to raise funds to support the Zonta Birthing Kit Project in developing countries.

f. In relation to the ACT Women's Register:

- i. 165 women are enrolled on the ACT Women's Register.
- ii. Approximately 10-15 women register each year.
- iii. All women who register on the ACT Register are encouraged to regularly review their details and advise the Office for Women if updates are required.
- iv. The cost to administer the ACT Women's Register is absorbed within existing resources of the Office for Women.
- v.
 - Women on the ACT Women's Register may be appointed to ACT Government Boards and Committees through several different pathways including via the ACT Women's Register.
 - To determine the number of women on the ACT Women's Register that have been appointed to ACT Government Boards and Committees would be a major task, requiring a considerable diversion of resources. In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from the provision of direct services to clients, for the purposes of answering the Member's question.
- vi. Women's representation on ACT Government Boards and Committees is 48%.

Upgrade of energy concessions

Shane Rattenbury MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ref: Budget paper 3, page 94

In relation to: Upgrade of energy concessions

1. What modelling was undertaken to determine the new rate for the energy concession rebate? Can this modelling be provided to the committee?
2. What percentage of the rebate as a proportion of the average annual household energy bill is the government aiming to achieve?
3. What is the mechanism by which the energy concession rebate will be indexed?
Including:-
 - (a) How often will the rate be indexed and when?
 - (b) Who is responsible for indexing the rebate?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:

1. The modelling included consideration of an assessment of ACT energy price movements, comparative jurisdictional energy prices and concession information and consideration of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission, Canberra 2009, *Licensed Electricity, Gas and Water and Sewerage Utilities Compliance and Performance Report for 2007-08*.
2. 15 percent
3. Consumer Price Index announced each year in the ACT Budget.
 - (a) Commencing 1 July 2011 and each financial year thereafter.
 - (b) ACT Treasury calculates the Consumer Price Index each year.