



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022**

### **Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport**

**METROPOLITAN ROADS, WOMEN'S SAFETY AND THE PREVENTION  
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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# METROPOLITAN ROADS, WOMEN'S SAFETY AND THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

## Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)

### Staying Home Leaving Violence

1. As the \$19.8 million announced for the extension of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program on 10 February 2022 was part of the \$32.5 million announced by then Treasurer Dominic Perrottet and Attorney General Mark Speakman on 14 June 2021, can the Government detail what the remaining \$12.7 million from the 2021 announcement will be allocated to?

#### Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government has committed \$32.5 million over four years to expand Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV). This includes \$19.8 million to expand the SHLV program from 33 existing locations to reach 70 locations across the state, focussing on areas with high demand. Details on the further expansion of the program will be finalised shortly.

2. Can the Government provide more detail on the recently announced expansion of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program as follows:
  - (a) Who are the 28 providers who will be expanding their Staying Home Leaving Violence program?
    - i. Until when is each Staying Home Leaving Violence provider funded for its existing service?
    - ii. Where will each of these providers be expanding their service to cover?
    - iii. How much has each provider been allocated?
    - iv. Until when is each expansion funded?
    - v. In relation to the expansion, is there a formal provision with each provider for an extension of funding?
    - vi. If so what is that formal provision?
    - vii. Has the provider already received the funding for the expansion?
    - viii. Is the provider still in negotiations with the Government to expand their services?
    - ix. If so, when will the provider have their expansion funding agreements finalised?
  - (b) What is the demand data which identified these locations as the most suitable?
  - (c) How has the NSW Government liaised with the sector to identify geographic areas of need for these new shelters?
  - (d) Which of the providers are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled?
  - (e) How is the effectiveness of this program assessed and measured?

#### Answer

I am advised:

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(a)

For the locations of the expanded services see response to question taken on notice on transcript page 19 - Staying Home Leaving Violence.

All providers have been paid and none of these providers are still negotiating the expansion locations.

(b) – (c)

Demand has been assessed through a desktop analysis of BOCSAR data on domestic and family violence rates per 100,000 people, domestic and family violence (DFV) assaults per location and overall population data to identify districts with the greatest unmet demand.

(d)

Two Aboriginal organisations deliver the SHLV program.

(e)

The SHLV program is currently being evaluated by UNSW.

3. Noting the first press release announcing \$32.5 million in funding for the Staying Home Leaving Violence program was released on 14 June 2021 and the second press release detailing \$19.8 million from the same funding allocation was released on 10 February 2022, how does the Government explain the eight month delay between the initial announcement and the rollout of funding to the program providers?

### **Answer**

I am advised:

There was no delay. Following the budget announcement, the NSW Government worked with the existing providers to finalise details of the expansion.

On 10 February 2022, the NSW Government announced that nearly \$19.8 million would be spent over four years to expand the SHLV program. All providers have been paid.

4. Will the funding announced in 2021 for the Staying Home Leaving Violence expansion be sufficient to address the waiting lists and demand for the service in current locations?

**Answer**

I am advised:

DCJ will carefully monitor, with service providers, whether the expanded services are meeting demand.

5. How will the Government increase the number of Aboriginal controlled organisations delivering services to Aboriginal people as part of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program?

**Answer**

The NSW Government will continue to prioritise Aboriginal people as it expands the delivery of the SHLV program.

6. Is the intent of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program expansion to provide the service across the State?
- (a) If not, how much of the State will be covered?
- (b) Are there any particular areas that will definitely not be included in the roll out?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to the state-wide expansion of the SHLV program across NSW.

**Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control**

7. The NSW Government supported the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control's 'Recommendation 1: That the NSW Government should respond to the Domestic Violence Death Review Team evidence, by criminalising coercive control. However, commencement of a criminal offence should not occur without a considerable prior program of education, training and consultation with police, stakeholders and the frontline sector. Following drafting and legislation of such an offence, and prior to commencement, implementation should be assisted through a multiagency taskforce.'
- (a) What education and training has been undertaken with police, stakeholders and the frontline sector as a result of this recommendation?
- (b) What consultation has been undertaken with police, stakeholders and the frontline sector as a result of this recommendation?
- (c) Has legislation criminalising coercive control been drafted?

i. If not, where is the process up to?

- ii. If so, what steps are being taken to create a multiagency taskforce?

**Answer**

I refer the Member to the NSW Government's response to the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, which stated:

The NSW Government is acting to criminalise coercive control in intimate partner relationships and further strengthen our criminal justice system responses to abuse.

NSW law already recognises that domestic abuse extends beyond physical violence and may involve the exploitation of power imbalances and patterns of abuse over many years but there is more that can be done. The evidence heard by the Committee illustrates that these are complex issues and that reasonable minds differ on whether creating a new offence or improving existing laws is the better approach. The Committee suggested six different legislative reforms which merit further investigation.

The NSW Government is committed to building on the Committee's work by developing and consulting on drafting for a stand-alone offence to address coercive control in current and former intimate partner settings, as well as possible amendments to other existing laws.

Any legislative reform must be approached with great care and caution to ensure it does not unintentionally put in further danger those in our community we are seeking to help. Great care and caution must also be taken to ensure the offence is calibrated appropriately to capture only conduct of the very serious standard deserving of criminal sanction, avoiding over-reach. It is noted that the Committee did not support interference in ordinary consensual relationships and noted that creation of a criminal offence should be carefully considered. The NSW Government aims to introduce a bill to the NSW Parliament in the 2022 Spring Session.

Work to develop drafting for consultation is underway.

8. The NSW Government supported 'Recommendation 8: The Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice should work together with a range of public bodies including NSW Police, Health, Education, Justice, Housing and Indigenous agencies to prevent domestic abuse, with the aim of reducing the numbers of victims and perpetrators of abuse'.
  - (a) What steps have been taken to develop relationships between the Department of Communities and Justice and the public bodies named to achieve this outcome?

## **Answer**

I refer the Member to the NSW Government's response to the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, which stated:

A whole-of-government approach to reduce the number of victims and perpetrators of abuse is critical, and is already occurring, including through the work of the NSW Government's Domestic and Family Violence Delivery Board. We recognise the importance of comprehensive and appropriate training on coercive control across our systems and community.

9. Who makes up the Coercive Control departmental group that is coordinating training and education needs in this area?
- (a) What is it producing in terms of a plan for building inter-organisation support in the area of Coercive Control?
  - (b) When can frontline staff dealing with people experiencing Coercive Control expect to see education and training in this area?
  - (c) How will the NSW Government ensure that First Nations people are meaningfully consulted as part of this process?

## **Answer**

I refer the Member to the Government's Response to the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, which stated that:

A whole-of-government approach to reduce the number of victims and perpetrators of abuse is critical, and is already occurring, including through the work of the NSW Government's Domestic and Family Violence Delivery Board.

In addition, a Coercive Control Coordination Group has been established within the Department of Communities and Justice to assist with coordinating the legislative and non-legislative work program across government agencies and stakeholders to give effect to the Government's response to the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control. The group includes representatives from Victims Services NSW; the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; and the Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery and Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes divisions of the Department of Communities and Justice.

## **Women's refuges**

10. Can the Minister advise how many frontline women's refuges there are across NSW as part of the Homelessness Services?
- (a) What is the total funding to these services from the overall \$2.7 billion in the Stronger Communities cluster?

## **Answer**

I am advised:

Women's refuges provide a crucial service in assisting women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence to recover from abuse and rebuild their lives in safety. There are currently 86 women's refuges in NSW, an increase from 76 in 2014.

Information on funding is available as part of the 2021-22 Budget Papers.

11. How many women's refuges specialise in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and how many are devoted to culturally and linguistically diverse populations?  
(a) What is the total funding to each of these?

**Answer**

I am advised:

All services support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse populations as needed.

Information on funding is available as part of the 2021-22 Budget Papers.

12. How will the NSW Government increase the number of refuge services delivered by Aboriginal controlled organisations?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government has invested a total of \$12 million over three years to expand the number of Aboriginal Homelessness Services through the Aboriginal Homelessness Sector Growth Project (AHS GP).

13. How efficient is the current split between refuge services under FACS and Health and the services presided over by the Attorney-General?  
(a) What mechanisms and measures are in place to ensure there is effective coordination, management and satisfactory program outcomes?

**Answer**

I am advised:

There are a range of governance mechanisms that support effective program coordination

and management between NSW Health and DCJ.

14. What is the current level of demand for women's refuge and outreach services due to COVID and the high level of media exposure in relation to domestic and sexual violence?
- (a) How are surges in demand managed financially by the Department?
  - (b) Have services been allocated additional funds based on increased need?
  - (c) If so, how much?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government funds a range of housing and DFV programs to offset demand experienced by women's refuges.

15. In relation to the 19 October 2021 announcement of 75 new women's refuges to be opened in NSW:
- (a) At what stage is the rollout of these new refuges?
  - (b) Which organisations are being consulted on the rollout?
  - (c) Where will the refuges be located?
  - (d) How were the locations identified?
  - (e) How many refuges are intended for metropolitan areas?
  - (f) How many refuges are intended for regional areas?
  - (g) How many of the refuges will be run by specialist domestic violence organisations?
  - (h) What resourcing will be made available to build the NSW specialist domestic and family violence workforce to enable it to staff these refuges?

**Answer**

I am advised:

DCJ are consulting on service models, potential delivery partners, and locations of greatest need and opportunity, with the DFV, Housing and Homelessness sectors.

**Family Violence Children's Workers**

16. In 2021, a NSW Government commitment was made to fund specialist domestic and family violence children's workers in 20 refuges. Have these workers been employed?
- (a) If so, where are they based?
    - i. What refuges do they service?
  - (b) If not, when will they be employed and offering services?

**Answer**

I am advised:



Relevant providers will receive the funding shortly and can begin recruitment processes as soon as they are notified.

17. Does the NSW Government plan to commit to funding specialist domestic and family violence workers, including specialist children's workers, in all family refuges?
- (a) If so, what is the timeline for their delivery?
  - (b) If not, how does the NSW Government plan to deliver specialist services to children in all family refuges?

**Answer**

I am advised:

No decision has been made at this time.

18. How many dedicated domestic violence specialist children's workers are currently employed by women's refuges in NSW?

**Answer**

I am advised:

This question is best directed to the non-government organisations delivering Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS), including women's refuges.

**Sexual Violence**

19. What action is the Minister taking to ensure that the 1800 Respect helpline is effective in the provision of NSW referral services and supports?

**Answer**

I am advised:

1800 Respect is a Commonwealth Government service. The NSW Government regularly reviews existing services to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

20. How much funding is allocated to the following domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines?
- (a) 1800Respect
  - (b) Full Stop Australia 1800
    - i. NSW Sexual Violence Helpline
    - ii. Sexual, Domestic and Family Helpline

- iii. Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline
- iv. Sexual Abuse and Redress Support Service
- c) Domestic Violence Line
- d) No To Violence

**Answer**

I am advised:

- a. 1800Respect is a Commonwealth Government service
- b. Full Stop Australia is funded by the Commonwealth Government, NSW Health and corporate donations
  - i. NSW Sexual Violence Helpline is funded by NSW Health
  - ii. Sexual, Domestic and Family Helpline is a Commonwealth Government Service
  - iii. Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline is a Commonwealth Government Service
  - iv. Sexual Abuse and Redress Support Service is a Commonwealth Government Service
- c. NSW Domestic Violence Line - FY2021-22 budget \$1,692,480
- d. No to Violence Men's Telephone and Counselling Referral Service and Automatic Referral Pathway - FY 2021/22 budget \$1,971,160.02

21. The NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018-2021 is now expired. When will a new document be developed to set out the direction for the next four years?
- (a) Who has been / will be consulted in the development of a new strategy?
  - (b) Is a review of the 2018-2021 strategy publicly available?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW sexual violence response is currently being developed, and will align with the upcoming National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

A final review of the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018-2021 is currently underway.

22. What is the Government doing to reduce the rates of sexual assault in each of the following local government areas:
- (a) Wingecarribee, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 27.6% per annum over the last five years?
  - (b) Woollahra, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 23% per annum over the last five years?
  - (c) Armidale Regional, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 18% per annum over the last five years?
  - (d) Port Macquarie-Hastings, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 18% per annum over the last five years?
  - (e) Northern Beaches, where the rate of sexual assault has increased by on average 16.3% per annum over the last five years and the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 6.9% per annum over the last five years?

- (f) Mid-Western Regional, where the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 15.7% per annum over the last five years and the rate of sexual assault has increased by on average 12.4% per annum over the last five years?
- (g) Wagga Wagga, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 15.5% per annum over the last five years and the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 13.6% per annum over the last five years?
- (h) Tweed where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 13.7% per annum over the last five years?
- (i) Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 12.8% per annum over the last five years?
- (j) Maitland, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 12.3% per annum over the last five years?
- (k) The Hills Shire, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 11.6% per annum over the last five years?
- (l) Port Stephens, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 11.2% per annum over the last five years?
- (m) Lake Macquarie, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 10.1% per annum over the last five years?
- (n) Shellharbour, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 9.8% per annum over the last five years?
- (o) Blacktown, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 8.1% per annum over the last five years and the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 4.5% per annum over the last five years?
- (p) Tamworth Regional, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 8.1% per annum over the last five years?
- (q) Central Coast, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 7.5% per annum over the last five years?
- (r) Parramatta, where the sexual assault rate has increased by on average 7.3% per annum over the last five years?
- (s) Cessnock, where the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 5.4% per annum over the last five years?
- (t) Mid-Coast, where the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 5.2% per annum over the last five years?
- (u) Campbelltown, where the rate of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences has increased by on average 4.7% per annum over the last five years?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to preventing sexual violence. The NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018-2021 was the most recent NSW whole of government strategy to address sexual violence across the state. The Strategy set out a coordinated approach to sexual assault in NSW, under five priority action areas, including prevention.

The next NSW sexual violence response will align with the National Plan to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Children.

## **Women's Trauma Recovery Centre Illawarra**

23. Has the Domestic and Family Violence Reforms Delivery Board received cross-agency input coordinated by Women NSW in relation to the business case, submitted in July 2021, for proceeding with the establishment of a Women's Trauma Recovery Centre in the Illawarra?
- (a) What did the cross-agency input say in relation to the proposal?
- (b) Has the Domestic and Family Violence Reforms Delivery Board commenced consideration of that cross-agency input and business case?

### **Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government funded the Illawarra Women's Health Centre to develop a business case for the Women's Trauma Recover centre. The business case is currently being considered.

24. Will a Women's Trauma Recovery Centre in the Illawarra be funded from the \$90 million announcement made by the Treasurer and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence on 14 June 2021?

### **Answer**

I am advised:

The model proposed in the business case submitted by Illawarra Women's Health Centre will be considered against a range of competing priorities through the 2022-2023 budget process.

25. When will the Illawarra Women's Health Centre, which submitted its business case in partnership with University of NSW, be informed of the outcome of the lodgement of the business case?

### **Answer**

See response to supplementary question 24.

## **Men's Behaviour Change Programs**

26. What was the total NSW Government expenditure on Men's Behaviour Change Programs in 2020/21?

27. What is the projected NSW Government expenditure on Men's Behaviour Change Programs in *Metropolitan Roads, Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*

2021/2022?

28. Is the Government guaranteeing long-term funding cycles for Men's Behaviour Change Program providers to avoid gaps in specialist providers across NSW?
  - (a) How long are the current funding agreements?
  - (b) Will existing Men's Behaviour Change Program providers be required to tender for their existing services in the upcoming tender process?
29. How is the NSW Government investing in a workforce strategy to attract, retain and support Male Family Violence Intervention specialists?
30. What is the NSW Government's strategy to allow all men in NSW equal access to Men's Behavioural Change Programs?
31. Is the NSW Government investing in expanding the reach of tailored programs including programs for diverse communities such as LGBTIQI+, and men from culturally and linguistically diverse communities?
  - (a) If so, how is this being delivered?
32. Is funding being allocated to partner contact work? This is a core part of Men's Behaviour Change Programs that works with victim-survivors who are not in need of crisis accommodation but need ongoing case management, safety planning and risk management.
33. During the UNSW's 2019 evaluation of four community-based men's behaviour change program pilots, program providers stressed the difficulties faced due to limited resources, which limit their capacity to promote self-care among staff; meet the needs for services and support for participants, their partners, ex-partners or children; and invest resources in workforce development. How has the NSW Government addressed these concerns since that report was released?
34. Has the NSW Government implemented strategies to overcome barriers to participation identified in the UNSW's 2019 evaluation of four community-based men's behaviour change program pilots, which included homelessness, food security and lack of transport?
  - (a) If so, what has been implemented and how has it been delivered?

#### **Answer**

#### **Questions 26 - 34**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is undertaking a competitive tender process to commission Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs). This includes the development of a workforce strategy. The NSW Government has committed \$10 million per annum in the 2021-22 forward estimates to deliver MBCPs and provide support to the sector.

35. The National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 highlights the importance of The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan and the need for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to be appropriately funded to become registered Men's Behaviour Change Program providers. How much funding is going towards Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver these programs?
- (a) How many Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations are currently delivering Men's Behaviour Change Programs?
  - (b) Is this number expected to change as the scope of Men's Behaviour Change Programs is increased?
  - (c) Does the NSW Government have a plan to increase the proportion of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering Men's Behaviour Change Programs?
    - i. If so, what are the details of its aims, timelines and expected outcomes?
  - (d) How many Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations are registered with NSW Department of Communities and Justice?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is working to increase the capacity of ACCOs to assist people affected by domestic and family violence.

36. What are the NSW Government's plans for investing in an evaluation framework to inform and strengthen the evidence base, to evaluate what works and to improve perpetrator interventions, including Men's Behaviour Change Programs?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is currently undertaking a commissioning approach for MBCPs. As part of this process a MBCP program logic and monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed in consultation with the MBCP sector.

37. The 2018 BOCSAR review of the EQUIPS Domestic Abuse program found no significant treatment effect for those who start DVEQUIPS for both general re-offending within 12 months from referral and re-offending with a DV offence within 12 months. Has any further evaluation been undertaken indicating these outcomes have changed?
- (a) The review further stated, despite the relatively large number of DV offender programs which have been delivered across Australia over the last decade, very few rigorous outcome evaluations have been undertaken. How is the NSW Government measuring the success of its programs?

- (b) Has the NSW Government undertaken any evaluation into the effectiveness (or adequacy) of the EQUIP program's allowance of 20 two-hour sessions (40 hours) for each participant?

**Answer**

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Corrections as the Minister responsible for Corrective Services initiatives including EQUIPS Domestic Abuse Program.

**Domestic Violence**

38. How much of the \$90 million announcement made by the Treasurer and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence on 14 June 2021 has already been committed?
- (a) What projects and programs has it been committed to?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The \$90 million announced on 14 June 2021 has two parts. Part one is \$60 million in NSW 'matched' commitment to a new two-year National Partnership Agreement (NPA) with the Commonwealth from 2021-2023 and part two is \$32.5 million for the expansion of SHLV.

39. What input did the Department of Communities and Justice have into planning for the allocation of the \$464 million domestic violence investment announced by the NSW Government in 2021?
- (a) What areas covered in the announcement were identified as priority needs for the Department of Communities and Justice?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice prepared a Strategic Business Case to inform the \$484 million domestic and family violence investment announced by the NSW Government in October 2021. All components of the package were identified as priorities for the NSW Government.

40. Is there a plan to introduce the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service Program to each of the following local government areas:
- (a) Ku-ring-gai, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 28.3%

- per annum over the last five years?
- (b) Upper Hunter Shire, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 20.8% per annum over the last five years?
  - (c) Inverell, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 19.1% per annum over the last five years?
  - (d) Coonamble, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 18.6% per annum over the last five years?
  - (e) Nambucca, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 15.9% per annum over the last five years?
  - (f) Hornsby, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 14.5% per annum over the last five years?
  - (g) Leeton, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 14.3% per annum over the last five years?
  - (h) Lismore, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 14.1% per annum over the last five years?
  - (i) Bathurst Regional, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 13.5% per annum over the last five years?
  - (j) The Hills Shire, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 12.7% per annum over the last five years?
  - (k) Dubbo Regional, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 11.9% per annum over the last five years?
  - (l) Broken Hill, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 11.4% per annum over the last five years?
  - (m) Bourke, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 11% per annum over the last five years?
  - (n) Sutherland, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 10.7% per annum over the last five years?
  - (o) Eurobodalla, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 10.4% per annum over the last five years, and 26.2% per year over the last two years?
  - (p) Ryde, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 10.4% per annum over the last five years?
  - (q) Forbes, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 9.2% per annum over the last five years?
  - (r) Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 8.8% per annum over the last five years?
  - (s) Mid-Western Regional, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 7.7% per annum over the last five years?
  - (t) Lithgow, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 6.9% per annum over the last five years?
  - (u) Muswellbrook, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 6.6% per annum over the last five years?
  - (v) Wagga Wagga, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 6.1% per annum over the last five years?
  - (w) Shoalhaven, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 5.8% per annum over the last five years?
  - (x) Parramatta, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 5.5% per annum over the last five years?



- (y) Cumberland, where reported rates of domestic violence have increased by on average 4.2% per annum over the last five years?

**Answer**

I am advised:

No decision has been made to expand the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service Program.

41. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are experiencing violence can access specialist and culturally safe support?

**Answer**

I am advised:

There are specific services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which provide crisis accommodation and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are experiencing domestic and family violence.

The NSW Government has invested \$12 million over three years to expand the number of Aboriginal Homelessness Services.

The Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) covers all NSW Local Courts, with each service having a dedicated Aboriginal Focus Worker.

The NSW and Commonwealth Governments fund a number of specialist domestic and family violence Aboriginal legal services.

42. The NSW Government has committed to reduce the incidence of DFV by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls by 50% by 2031. What steps are being taken to target this vulnerable population and achieve this target?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The Department is working alongside the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited, the nominated Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations partner, to progress work on Closing the Gap Target 13.

43. Does the NSW Government intend to fund primary violence prevention initiatives to align with Our Watch's recommended actions to:
- (a) Address the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities?
  - (b) Address the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonisation for non-Indigenous people, and across Australian society?

- (c) Address the gendered drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government will address primary prevention in the context of developing the next NSW plans for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, which will align with commitments under the next National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.

44. The Premier's Priority of reducing the number of domestic violence reoffenders by 25% by 2023 primarily relies on working with perpetrators. How are women and their services being supported to help achieve this outcome?
- (a) How are resources being allocated to ensure women and children are safe and that the perpetrator cannot access them and reoffend?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is investing record funding to prevent Domestic and Family Violence and protect victim-survivors. The NSW Government will address primary prevention in the context of developing the next NSW plans for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, which will align with commitments under the next National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.

45. What are the evaluation results from the pilot project of co-locating Domestic Family Violence support services in six NSW hospitals?
- (a) If the results are not available, when will they be?

**Answer**

This is a matter for the Minister for Health.

46. The Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021 is now expired. When will a new document be released to set out the direction for a domestic violence system for the next five years?
- (a) Is the Government developing a new document in collaboration with external stakeholders?
- (b) If so, with whom?
- (c) Is a review of the 2016-2021 blueprint publicly available?

## **Answer**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is working with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories to develop the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032. NSW will develop whole-of-government implementation plans following the release of the National Plan.

47. Women residing in remote and very remote areas record higher rates of domestic assault and victimisation than women in major cities. What specific actions and/or programs are targeting this vulnerable population?

## **Answer**

I am advised:

- Services such as SHLV and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service all operate in regional and rural areas.
  - The \$426.6 million funding package for housing and related supports to deliver and operate approximately 75 extra women's refuges will include a focus on regional and rural areas. This will support up to an additional 2,900 women and children escaping DFV each year.
  - Danica Leys, CEO of the Country Women's Association NSW, has been appointed to the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council to ensure the views of regional and rural communities are represented.
48. Who are the current members of the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council?
- (a) On what dates were meetings of the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council held in:
- i. 2021/22
  - ii. 2020/21

## **Answer**

I am advised:

The current members of the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council are as follows:

1. Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
2. Dr Annie Cossins, Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Law, UNSW
3. Christine Robinson, Coordinator, Wurringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
4. Danica Leys, Chief Executive Officer, Country Women's Association NSW
5. Delia Donovan, Chief Executive Officer, Domestic Violence NSW
6. Eloise Layard, Program Coordinator – Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence, ACON
7. Hayley Foster, Chief Executive Officer, Full Stop Australia

8. Dr Jo Spangaro, Professor and Head of Social Work, School of Health and Society University of Wollongong
9. Kerry Stubbs, Director, Northcott Innovation
10. Leesa Waters, Deputy CEO, NAPCAN
11. Lizette Twisleton, Head of Sector Development, No to Violence
12. Maha Abdo, Executive Officer, Muslim Women Australia
13. Mary Karras, Chief Executive Officer, Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
14. Philippa (Pip) Davis, Principal Solicitor, Women's Legal Service NSW
15. Sal Dennis, Director, Insight Exchange Foundation
16. Violet Roumeliotis, CEO, Settlement Services International

In 2020/2021, the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council met on the following occasions:

- 20 February 2020
- 30 September 2020
- 1 December 2020
- 27 April 2021

In 2021/2022, the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council met on the following occasions:

- 21 July 2021
- 16 December 2021
- 16 February 2022

### **Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service**

49. The Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service has had a 28.7% increase in clients since 2016, when it last had an increase in base funding. How is the NSW Government planning for the increase in demand for domestic violence and support services based on the continued effect of the pandemic?

#### **Answer**

I am advised:

In November 2021, NSW allocated the first \$20 million tranche of NPA funding, including \$10.5 million to provide relief to more than 180 specialist frontline services in NSW, including to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services.

50. How will the NSW Government support the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service's NSW Police co-location pilot?
  - (a) What areas of the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program will have to be cut back in order to staff and operate the pilot program without additional funds from the NSW Government?

**Answer**

I am advised:

This will be considered against a range of competing priorities through the 2022-2023 budget process.

**Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund**

51. Who is undertaking the independent evaluation of projects undertaken in Round 2 of the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The Department engaged KPMG Australia to undertake an independent evaluation of projects funded under Round 2 of the Innovation Fund.

52. When will the independent evaluation of projects undertaken in Round 2 of the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund, which was to be completed by 31 December 2021, be released?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The individual project evaluation reports were released to organisations funded under Round 2 of the Innovation Fund.

53. Will the following projects, funded in Round 2 of the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund, whose funding is due to expire on 31 March 2022, be funded beyond that date?
- (a) The Building Access for Women with Disability project, delivered by People with Disability Australia, which is working with domestic and family violence services across NSW to improve their disability inclusion capability and practices.
  - (b) The Firmer Foundations project, delivered by Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, is helping build the financial well-being of women and increasing the capacity of women to leave domestic and family violence situations.
  - (c) The Black Box Parenting project, delivered by Grand Pacific Health, is delivering a series of workshops for clinicians to deliver specialised group workshops for parents with a history of domestic and family violence.
  - (d) The Finding Safety project, delivered by Jesuit Refugee Service, which is delivering a suite of programs aimed at supporting refugee women to increase their understanding of domestic and family violence.

- (e) The Accountable, Respectful and Connected (ARC) Gender Relations project, delivered by Men and Family Centre, is engaging men to challenge and change attitudes and behaviours that support violence.
- (f) The Let's Talk: mitigating the risk and responding early to elder abuse project, delivered by Relationships Australia NSW, is assisting families with conflict resolution where elderly people are involved.
- (g) The ReThink! Anti-violence Project, delivered by 2Connect Youth and Community, which will continue to expand a peer educator project to address the negative attitudes that underpin domestic and family violence affecting young people in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- (h) The DVproject: 2650, delivered by Wagga Women's Health Centre, is a whole of community approach to increase knowledge and challenge attitudes and social norms related to violence and gender inequality.
- (i) Stronger Families, Better Communities, delivered by OzChild, is providing Functional Family Therapy for families with adolescents who are violent.
  - i. Is the NSW Government planning to increase support to OzChild, given that demand is exceeding the organisation's capacity to meet the needs of its client families?

54. When will the service providers be notified of the NSW Government's intention in relation to ongoing funding?

**Answer**

**Questions 53 – 54**

I am advised:

Providers who are approved for an extension of funding will be notified by the Department by 31 March 2022.

55. Is the NSW Government planning to change funding arrangements for these providers to ensure funding certainty to these services?

56. In delivering short-term funding for these services, does the NSW Government take into account the impact a lack of funding certainty has on the provision of quality services long term in areas that have no other options in terms of specialist programs?

**Answer**

**Questions 55 - 56**

I am advised:

Providers funded under Round 2 of the Innovation Fund have been advised that funding is

time-limited. Providers have been asked to describe how their projects will be independently sustained once funding ceases.

57. Where is the KPMG report on the NSW Government's Family Domestic Violence innovation fund?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The evaluation was undertaken between May 2019 and December 2021.

**Commonwealth funding**

58. When will the NSW Government allocate the \$60 million in COVID Domestic Family Violence funding announced by the Commonwealth Government in June 2021?

**Answer**

I am advised:

See response to Supplementary Question 38.

**Domestic and Family Violence Reform Delivery Board**

59. Who sits on the Domestic and Family Violence Reform Delivery Board?  
(a) What is the Board's role and responsibility?  
(b) When does it meet, how are decisions reported, and to whom?

**Answer**

I am advised:

The Domestic and Family Violence Reforms Delivery Board brings together relevant principal decision makers from across government to provide strategic whole-of-government direction to reform the domestic, family, and sexual violence response in NSW.

**NSW Police Force Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool**

60. Does the NSW Government have plans to change the NSW Police Force's domestic violence safety assessment tool, in light of the report published by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in February which found it had "poor predictive accuracy in discriminating those who experience intimate partner re-victimisation from those who don't"?  
(a) If so, where is the NSW Government in terms of rolling out a new tool? (b) How would a new tool be developed, and in consultation with whom?

**Answer**

This is a matter for the Minister for Police.

61. In relation to the reserved corridor for the proposed extension of Memorial Drive to Bulli Pass:

- (a) Why isn't the extension of Memorial Drive to Bulli Pass listed as an "initiative for investigation" in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan?
- (b) Is the reserved corridor connecting Memorial Drive to Bulli Pass considered the most appropriate connection to bypass Bulli and Thirroul Villages?
- (c) What are the other options is Transport for NSW considering to resolve traffic congestion through the northern suburbs of Wollongong that are more appropriate than the extension of Memorial Drive?
- (d) Is there another connection/corridor being considered to bypass Bulli and Thirroul Villages?

**Answer**

Transport for NSW is focussing on improving the existing road network and making sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling as attractive alternatives to the use of private vehicles.

Wollongong City Council's Local Environment Plan identified an indicative transport corridor within Bulli. Identifying potential corridors on a Local Environment Plan is often used to help plan and guide new developments and land use changes.

There are currently no connections or corridors being considered to bypass Bulli and Thirroul villages.

62. In relation to the Mount Ousley Interchange Project,

- (a) What planning activities have occurred in 2021/2022? How much did they cost?
- (b) Is the project on track for construction to commence in 2023?
- (c) If not, when will construction commence?



**Answer**

Transport for NSW is continuing planning for the Mount Ousley interchange at the base of Mount Ousley. In addition, it is developing and improving the design of the proposed interchange in response to ongoing community consultation and investigation work.

In May 2021, the Australian Government committed \$240 million and in June 2021, the NSW Government committed a further \$60 million to the project.

63. How many hours did the top 15 highest earning mobile speed cameras in NSW operate over the course of:
- (a) July 2021
  - (b) August 2021
  - (c) September 2021
  - (d) October 2021
  - (e) November 2021
  - (f) December 2021

**Answer**

- (a) 216
- (b) 287
- (c) 293
- (d) 346
- (e) 294
- (f) 311

64. Given the Government has acknowledged that the top 15 per cent of non-business E-Toll customers spend more than \$13 per week, per tag in tolls, how much do the following highest-paying percentiles of motorists pay per week and/or per year?
- (a) Top 14% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (b) Top 13% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (c) Top 12% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (d) Top 11% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (e) Top 10% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (f) Top 9% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (g) Top 8% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (h) Top 7% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (i) Top 6% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (j) Top 5% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (k) Top 4% of non-business E-Toll customers
  - (l) Top 3% of non-business E-Toll customers

- (m) Top 2% of non-business E-Toll customers
- (n) Top 1% of non-business E-Toll customers
- (o) Top 15% of business E-Toll customers
- (p) Top 14% of business E-Toll customers
- (q) Top 13% of business E-Toll customers
- (r) Top 12% of business E-Toll customers
- (s) Top 11% of business E-Toll customers
- (t) Top 10% of business E-Toll customers
- (u) Top 9% of business E-Toll customers
- (v) Top 8% of business E-Toll customers
- (w) Top 7% of business E-Toll customers
- (x) Top 6% of business E-Toll customers
- (y) Top 5% of business E-Toll customers
- (z) Top 4% of business E-Toll customers
- (aa) Top 3% of business E-Toll customers
- (bb) Top 2% of business E-Toll customers
- (cc) Top 1% of business E-Toll customers

**Answer**

60 percent of non-business motorists in Sydney pay less than \$4 a week in tolls per tag, with more than 85 per cent spending less than \$13 a week.

The average non-business toll road user is paying \$7 per week per tag, which compares to \$17 per week paid by the average public transport user.

Transport for NSW only holds data in relation to E-Toll customers. This is only a portion of all toll road users.