

# **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

## **Questions on Notice**

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

<p><b>Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Harrison)</b></p>
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Hearing: Wednesday 11 September 2024

**Answers due by:** 5.00 pm Wednesday 9 October 2024

**Transcript Page 3**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: In what way are women uniquely affected by disasters in ways that men are not? Ms JODIE HARRISON: Women are disproportionately affected during disasters because of the role that they play within their families. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry, could you explain that a bit more? Ms JODIE HARRISON: Quite often, women are the primary caregiver and therefore, when disasters occur, they are required to pull the family together more. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And that gives rise to unique legal needs, which is why it's in the gender equality statement? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW Gender Equality Budget Statement notes that a gender impact assessment highlighted that women are more likely to seek assistance from the Disaster Response Legal Service.

Research has indicated that women tend to be at greater risks of slower recovery and higher insecurity from disasters. They are more likely to be unemployed, less likely to keep their pre-disaster job, and slower to return to paid employment. Recovery efforts can be influenced by traditional gender norms, which often associate women with caring responsibilities, potentially exacerbating women's share of unpaid work in the aftermath of natural disasters. Disasters also exacerbate the likelihood of gender-based violence affecting women.

**Transcript Page 3**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: The Disaster Response Legal Service—is that unavailable to men? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll need to take that on notice. I don't think so, but I'll need to take that on notice.

The Disaster Response Legal Service is available to people impacted by disasters regardless of their gender.

**Transcript Page 4**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: With respect to that increased investment, Minister, of the \$48 million that was announced on 8 May to roll out Staying Home Leaving Violence statewide and to expand the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service, how much of that money will be allocated to Staying Home Leaving Violence? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think there is about—\$48 million has been invested into Staying Home and Leaving Violence and the Integrated Domestic And Family Violence Service. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Yes, that's what I said. How much of that goes to Staying Home Leaving Violence as opposed to the Integrated Domestic And Family Violence Service. Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes, I have got it here. It is about \$30— The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Do you need to take that on notice, Minister? Ms JODIE HARRISON: No, I just need to add up these figures because I've got it over four years. I will take that on notice, though, because I've got the figures combined with the Integrated Domestic And Family Violence Service. I think it's about half.

I am advised:

A total of \$25.9 million over 4 years of the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) emergency funding package will go towards new and expanded Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) services to achieve statewide coverage. \$9.8 million will fund 4 codesigned, Aboriginal led SHLV models to provide culturally safe family violence responses. \$10.5 million of the emergency funding package will go toward new Integrated and DFV Services over 4 years.

**Transcript Page 6**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You're confident that those services have enough workers in place to accommodate the extra work you're asking of them? Ms JODIE HARRISON: Part of the reason that there's been a bit of time taken in the rollout is to identify with providers that they are likely to be able to get workers on the ground quickly. Then on top of those 14 LGAs there will be 12 new Staying Home Leaving Violence services covering 24 local government areas, and that will be through a tender process from October. We expect that those services will become operational by mid-2025. By mid-2025 we expect that all local government areas in New South Wales will have a Staying Home Leaving Violence service. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Could you provide on notice, Minister, the 14 LGAs where the contract variations will occur and the 24 LGAs where there will be new services rolled out by the middle of next year? Ms JODIE HARRISON: The 14 LGAs where the contract variations are occurring and the 24 LGAs— The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could provide those on notice, that would be great. Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes, we can provide that on notice.

I am advised:

LGAs to be covered by contract variations:

1. BLAND
2. CARRATHOOL
3. MURRUMBIDGEE
4. COOLAMON
5. LOCKHART
6. BERRIGAN
7. MURRAY RIVER
8. EDWARD RIVER
9. BOGAN
10. WARREN
11. COBAR
12. GWYDIR
13. PORT MAC HASTINGS – address partial coverage
14. CLARENCE VALLEY

LGAs to be covered by new services procured in October 2024

1. COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL
2. HILLTOPS
3. TEMORA
4. SNOWY VALLEYS
5. BALRANALD
6. CENTRAL DARLING
7. BOURKE
8. OBERON
9. HORNSBY
10. RYDE
11. HUNTERS HILL
12. NORTHERN BEACHES
13. LANE COVE
14. KU-RING-GAI
15. MOSMAN
16. NORTH SYDNEY
17. WILLOUGHBY
18. CANADA BAY
19. STRATHFIELD
20. BLUE MOUNTAINS – currently covered by pilot
21. WINGECARRIBEE
22. WOLLONDILLY

- 23. GOULBURN MULWAREE
- 24. UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE
- 25. YASS VALLEY
- 26. SNOWY MONARO – currently covered by pilot
- 27. GUNNEDAH – currently partially covered

**Transcript Page 11**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Can you point to the actual provision within the funding agreement that precludes some organisations from applying? Ms JODIE HARRISON: Off the top of my head? No, I can't. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Could you take that on notice and provide a copy of that from the agreement? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think you've probably already got a copy of the agreement but, yes, I can take that on notice—not a problem.

I am advised:

The 500 Workers Initiative set out in the Commonwealth's Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-27 Schedule (FDSV Schedule) requires NSW to specifically support priority cohorts, including First Nations communities. The FDSV Schedule requires NSW to align its activity with Closing the Gap. NSW's approach supported several commitments under Closing the Gap, including Priority Reform 2: Building the Community-Controlled Sector and Target 13: Families and households are safe, and NSW's fifth priority reform area focused on employment, business growth and economic prosperity via the NSW Roadmap for Aboriginal Business Growth.

NSW proactively supported this commitment by making every effort to prioritise and invite eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to tender for new workers roles.

The National Partnership Agreement for the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-27 for NSW is available at:

<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/sites/federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/files/2024-05/New%20South%20Wales%20%28NSW%29%20-%20Final%20-%20Signed%20Multilateral.pdf>

**Transcript Page 12**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Since you've been Minister, how many new ACCOs have been supported through this funding? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

As at 19 September 2024, NSW has executed contracts with 15 ACCO service providers to deliver 29 new worker roles. In addition, 5 ACCO led Core and Cluster projects have been funded through Tranches 1 & 2.

**Transcript Page 15**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Do you support the call from the police in budget estimates that implementation should be staged or even delayed? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd have to take that on notice. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You have to take on notice whether or not you support that call? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would have to have a discussion with the police Minister on that. I don't know the detail of exactly what that call was.

I support the Government's implementation.

**Transcript Page 16**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How much has been spent on implementing the coercive control legislation? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

\$5.6 million was allocated to support implementation of the coercive control reforms, particularly for training, education and community awareness. A further \$75,000 was allocated to expand community awareness. The Taskforce will monitor resourcing in relation to the coercive control offence in accordance with section 54I (3) (b).

**Transcript Page 16**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry, I didn't mean to suggest that you would. What have you done with respect to that increase in sexual assaults? You acted for car theft and break and enter. What's the response to the increase in sexual assault? Ms JODIE HARRISON: The Government made an active choice to focus—as the Attorney General said on a number of occasions in question time, I believe—on the issues relating to car theft and break and enter. The issue of sexual assault across New South Wales, including in Moree, is an issue that we are dealing with through education, through our primary prevention strategy—through a range of predominantly educational focuses. It's a statewide approach. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So it's an education focus rather than a legal focus for sexual assault? Ms JODIE HARRISON: At this point there have been no legislative changes in relation to sexual assault, with the exception of—the bail laws also relate to sexual assault. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: That we've discussed, yes, but that are yet to be fully implemented. Ms JODIE HARRISON: Yes. There's also increased funding to NSW Health for sexual assault nurse examiners so that every health district has access to sexual assault nurse examiners. That's an issue being led by the health Minister. Full Stop Australia has received increased funding to support their helpline. That was an election commitment of ours. I can provide further information in relation to that on notice.

I am advised: The NSW Government has committed to an additional \$4.2 million funding for the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline over four years, starting from financial year 2023/24 (see <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/pbo/Documents/2023OppositionCostingsandRequests/C1589%20-%20Costing%20-%20NSW%20Sexual%20Violence%20Helpline.PDF>). As of June 2024, a contract is in place with Full Stop Australia—who deliver the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline—to fulfil this commitment.

**Transcript Page 19**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That would be good. How many of the organisations contracted to deliver Core and Cluster services were already providing specialist domestic and family violence services prior to the tender process versus those that didn't? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll need to take that on notice, I think.

I am advised:

There are 28 organisations contracted, or nominated to hold a service delivery contract, for the 39 approved Core and Cluster refuges under Tranches 1 and 2 of the Core and Cluster Program (4 providers will deliver multiple contracts, between 2 and 5 refuges). Of those 28 organisations, 24 were already providing DCJ funded specialist Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) services or Specialist Homelessness Services targeting women and children experiencing DFV, prior to the tender process.

4 were not contracted by DCJ to provide Specialist DFV or Homelessness Services prior to the tender but had relevant experience including Aboriginal Community Housing provision, supporting women leaving violence into crisis accommodation and social housing tenancies; and within Aboriginal Medical Services, including health and wellbeing supports responding to DFV.

The 4 organisations are all Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). Increasing the number of ACCOs delivering Core and Cluster services is a priority for the NSW Government.

**Transcript Page 21**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Have you met with the Minister for Health regarding section 180 of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll need to take that on notice. I've had multiple meetings with the Minister for Health. I'll need to take that on notice.

I am advised:

Questions regarding voluntary assisted dying should be directed to the Hon. Ryan Park MP, in his capacity as Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health.

**Transcript Page 22**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: When does that review commence? Ms JODIE HARRISON: It will be the statutory review, I believe. I'll need to confirm that.

I am advised:

Questions regarding voluntary assisted dying should be directed to the Hon. Ryan Park MP, in his capacity as Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health.

**Transcript Page 23**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, what programs or initiatives does your Government run to recruit, train and recognise Indigenous volunteers in New South Wales? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'd need to take that on notice. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Are you aware of any? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

Under the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020 - 2030, a number of initiatives support the recruitment, training and recognition of volunteers, including Indigenous volunteers. These include the: NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal; NSW Volunteer Charter; NSW Youth Volunteering Guidelines; NSW State of Volunteering Research Initiative; sponsorship of the annual NSW Volunteering Conference; and the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

**Transcript Page 24**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Do we need legislative change to protect women-only spaces? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll have to seek advice on that. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You'll get back to us on that? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take advice on it. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So, you'll take that on notice? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW Government is not proposing any legislative change for women-only spaces. The NSW Government is committed to protecting the safety of all women through a suite of policies including the inaugural NSW Women's Safety Commissioner Strategic Plan and the Pathways to Prevention Strategy.

Recognition that women are a diverse group with differing needs has also informed the NSW Government's decision to establish the NSW Women's Advisory Council and the NSW LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council. These groups ensure representation of diverse cisgender and transgender voices to inform policy that upholds safety for all women.

**Transcript Page 25**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Can you tell us more about what exactly this Premier's taskforce is working on? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll ask Ms White. I'm happy to take that on notice, because it's not within my portfolio. Actually, I would ask that you refer that to the Premier.

I am advised:

The NSW Government, through the Premier's Department, is currently establishing an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council and a Cross-Portfolio Committee on LGBTIQ+ Issues. The Council, comprised of 16 community representatives, will facilitate ongoing consultation and engagement with LGBTIQ+ communities across the state. The Cross-Portfolio Committee will bring together senior government officials and community representatives to coordinate efforts across government and enhance collaboration and partnerships. Both the Council and Committee will advise the government on matters impacting LGBTIQ+ communities and significantly, will contribute to the development of the first whole of government NSW LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy.

**Transcript Page 27**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I understand that budget bid was for \$14 million over four years to address the core work plus the OCV scheme and then to provide for some growth. MICHAEL TIDBALL: It would be more than that. On the figures I have, over three years I think that the total funding required is over \$7 million a year. Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: So maybe that was \$14 million additional that was requested. MICHAEL TIDBALL: Possibly, yes. Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: And of that we didn't get the full amount. How much of that \$14 million additional was given then? MICHAEL TIDBALL: I am happy to check this on notice because I want to be pristinely accurate in what I say. My understanding is the funding that has been available has been continued, and the shortfall would need to come from DCJ. That is the gap or shortfall which, as I said, we've done in the last two years that we will fund.

I am advised:  
The Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC) has a baseline budget of \$5 million plus escalation. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has reprioritised additional funding to mitigate the shortfall faced by the ADC bringing their total available funding to \$7.03 million in 2024/25. DCJ will continue to work with the ADC to mitigate their funding pressures.

**Transcript Page 28**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Can I ask you about the PWDA Building Access project? In the last estimates I asked you about this. You weren't familiar, at the time, with it and the findings about just how inaccessible domestic and family violence services are for people with disability. I think there were zero services that they'd found to be fully accessible, which was pretty extraordinary. I see that you have since met with the PWDA. You met with them in April. What has been done in relation to that building access project and getting funding to allow full accessibility for domestic and family violence services? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I think that funding actually sits within Minister Jackson's portfolio, but I'm happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:  
All women's refuges are required to provide reasonable access to all clients including those with a disability. New women's refuges under the Core and Cluster program are required to meet the NSW Department of Planning's DFV Crisis Accommodation Functional Design Brief as the best practice model, which includes ensuring access for varying levels of mobility and disability.

Commencing in 2017, the Building Access for Women with Disability is a project delivered by People with Disability Australia. The project provides domestic and family violence services with information, support and resources to increase the accessibility of services for women with disability. Each year, five services across the state are selected and supported to audit their own physical environment, informational resources, policies,

procedures and attitudinal accessibility, with support from women with disability who are recruited to assist in the process.

The Project is currently funded through the Department of Communities and Justice with Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement funding. Current funding is until 2025 and an evaluation is underway.

**Transcript Page 28**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Minister, your Government cancelled the regional seniors travel card and implemented instead a 4¢ discount on fuel with United Petroleum. How many seniors have signed up for this discount card and received the 4¢ discount? Ms JODIE HARRISON: The 4¢ discount wasn't actually implemented by this Government to replace the regional seniors travel card. The 4¢ discount is provided by United Petroleum, who has signed up to the Seniors Card and Senior Savers Card to provide discounts in relation to fuel. I would welcome any fuel provider to sign up to the seniors cards to provide exactly the same discounts, to provide it as widely as possible. As far as actual numbers who have signed up for that 4¢ discount, I would have to take that on notice because that information is held by United Petroleum.

I am advised:

As at September 2024, 59,022 Seniors Card and Senior Savers Card members have signed up for the discount.

**Transcript Page 28**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you or the department receive any information about the uptake and the locations of where it is used? Ms JODIE HARRISON: The locations of where it's used is publicly available because it's at any United Petroleum station, not just within New South Wales but right across Australia. Seniors who are travelling across Australia can participate in that. As far as ongoing reporting, I'll just ask if Ms Campbell knows. ANNE CAMPBELL: No. I'll take that on notice. I might be able to come back this afternoon.

I am advised:

As at September 2024, 59,022 Seniors Card and Senior Savers Card members have signed up for the discount.

**Transcript Page 30**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: How many recommendations are outstanding and implementable from the 2019 to 2021 report that you referred to? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I would have to take that on notice. I think that's the work that's being currently worked through.

I am advised:

The 2019-2021 Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT) Report contained a retrospective analysis of the nature and quality of recommendations from previous reports and the extent to which they have been implemented. It contained no new recommendations and can be accessed at <https://coroners.nsw.gov.au/resources/domestic-violence-death-review.html#Reports%3Cbr%3E2>.

The NSW Government has allocated \$2 million over four years to support the DVDRT and its work to deliver robust research around risks factors, trends and impact of service delivery in partnership with the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner.



A portion of this funding will support the Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner, in consultation with the DVDRT to undertake a longer-term review of

- previous and outstanding DVDRT recommendations with a focus on their intent and implementation in the current systems context, and
- the process for monitoring and reporting on DVDRT recommendations.

**Transcript Page 33**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: The New South Wales Government responded to recommendation 8.24, which was in relation to a disability inclusive definition of family and domestic violence, with the statement "subject to further consideration". What is that further consideration? This is the definition that at the moment only applies to intimate—well, not quite. It's broader than that. I don't have it in front of me, sorry. Effectively, it's connected to this issue that we had with coercive control being related only to intimate relationship and not carers and everybody else. When it was stated that that was under consideration, what's the process for that?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I can answer that.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I'll ask Ms Campbell.

ANNE CAMPBELL: That particular action, from memory, was for both the Commonwealth and State

to respond to that particular recommendation. There's engagement at the moment with States and Territories and

the Commonwealth to work through that particular recommendation.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: So the Victorian Government accepted that recommendation and committed to

undertaking detailed analysis in relation to it, but we just said, "subject to further consideration"?

ANNE CAMPBELL: And analysis, of course, as well.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: We will be doing that analysis, then?

ANNE CAMPBELL: We will be looking at it, yes.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: When will that be done by?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice.

NSW is supportive of disability-inclusive definitions of family and domestic violence.

I am advised that the NSW definition of domestic abuse, which commenced on 1 February 2024, is aligned to the recommendations of the Royal Commission in relation to both the relationships and conduct covered.

- The current definition of 'domestic relationship' in section 5 of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (NSW) includes both paid and unpaid carer relationships and relationships between co-residents in same residential setting.
- Since February 2024, the Act includes a new definition of domestic abuse supported by a non-exhaustive list of examples, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse, intimidation and stalking. This captures specific forms of violence experienced by people with disability, such as withholding necessary medical or other care, support, aids, equipment or essential support services from a person, or compelling the person to take medication or undertake medical procedures.

I am further advised that the full recommendation from the Royal Commission was for this to be part of working towards a nationally consistent definition. There are complexities with progressing a nationally consistent definition, which is the further consideration that is required. This work is being undertaken through the Standing Council of Attorneys General and National Cabinet, and we are continuing to work closely with other governments.

Legislative definitions which are in place in each jurisdiction do not stand alone and are interconnected with the wider legislative framework of criminal, civil and procedural protections for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

Criminal justice frameworks vary between states and territories and have been developed in response to the unique circumstances of each jurisdiction. For example, in Victoria, the equivalent definition of 'family member' under section 8 of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic) states that "A relationship between a person with a disability and the person's carer may over time have come to approximate the type of relationship that would exist between family members" [emphasis added]. In contrast, the NSW definition deems relationships of paid or unpaid care to be relevant domestic relationships, rather than requiring a further threshold that the relationship be one that approximates a relationship between family members.

#### **Transcript Page 34**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Minister, are you aware of where in the State, how many and where the gaps are when it comes to people being able to find a safe refuge for their animal if they are forced to flee somewhere where they can't take their animal with them? In Victoria they have a great program, I think as part of their RSPCA funding, where they've got dedicated spots—various pounds and things—for people with domestic and family violence circumstances that they're fleeing. Do you have visibility over where the gaps are in New South Wales and what needs to be done? Ms JODIE HARRISON: I personally do not. We're busy trying to fill in gaps of where refuges are with the program. I know the RSPCA does some really great work in relation to supporting victim-survivors in relation to keeping their pets and being able to financially support them when there is a crisis. I'm not quite sure at the moment whether we have detail of any gaps of pet-friendly accommodation, unless that can be answered— ANNE CAMPBELL: No, I'll take that on notice. I might be able to come back to you this afternoon.

I am advised:

The DV Line supports caseworkers in locating the available crisis accommodation across NSW, including where there are temporary or crisis refuges which can accommodate pets. Women's refuges are required to deliver services aligned with their contract, which may include working with families and their animals, or using brokerage to support the safety and care of animals. The Core and Cluster program is funded by DCJ to deliver an innovative model for women's refuges designed to provide women and children experiencing DFV with self-contained crisis accommodation (cluster), and access to communal facilities (core) for shared spaces and services. All Core and Cluster facilities are required to be accessible for pets and companion animals.

The Community Domestic Violence Program (formerly Safe Beds for Pets program) through the RSPCA can arrange temporary care for pets of people who are seeking refuge due to domestic violence (DV). The RSPCA website provides advice on available capacity for this service. In addition, NSW Police are able to support and protect victim survivors and their pets, as pets are covered under Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVO). Should the offender cause harm to pets they can face criminal charges.

#### **Transcript Page 39**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How would people from those areas be able to interact with the centre? ANNE CAMPBELL: I would need to take that on notice to find out their reach. Obviously they've got a specific funding allocation of \$4.4 million, so it would depend on resourcing, how far they could reach across New South Wales. But happy to take that on notice.

Established in April 2024, the NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety (the Centre) delivers casework, community engagement and sector capacity building in metropolitan and regional NSW.

#### Casework

I am advised:

The Centre employs five specialist domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) practitioners that offer direct, specialist case management for migrant and refugee victim-survivors of DFSV in south-west Sydney. Beyond south-west Sydney, the Centre works with other services to provide culturally responsive practice expertise and support, as well as advice on cultural, community and migration-related considerations.

#### Community education

The Centre's approach to community education helps link cultural gaps by providing guidance on rights, responsibilities and practices in Australia. Community education activities have been delivered or are currently being coordinated in regional NSW, specifically in Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Lithgow, and Newcastle.

#### Sector Capacity Building

The Centre collaborates across women's safety, multicultural and settlement sectors in NSW to enhance capacity for quality, culturally responsive approaches to DFSV prevention, early intervention, response and recovery.

The Safety in Settlement Community of Practice has been established by the Centre to support and promote culturally responsive practice, collaboration and learning among multicultural and settlement organisations in the context of DFSV prevention and response. Members of this forum include settlement and multicultural organisations spanning Newcastle, Central Coast, Tamworth, Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo and Manning Valley.

The Centre is also working to enhance capacities for culturally responsive casework practice through initiation of partnerships with specialist DFSV services in the North Coast and Hunter regions for ongoing collaborative practice support.

### **Transcript Page 39**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could take that on notice, and perhaps also—I don't know whether this is possible—if they have been reaching out to people, an indication of what geographical areas they might have been reaching out to; and also whether there is any possibility or any thought being given to the ability for regional groups to perhaps collaborate with the centre and learn from and extend the footprint and the reach of the centre, that would be great. ANNE CAMPBELL: Happy to take that on notice.

I am advised to:

Refer to the response to the above question for details on community engagement and locational reach. In addition, in line with the NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety's strategy to prioritise settlement locations, the Centre is undertaking activity in Albury. This includes engagement with multicultural organisations (currently in the early stages of outreach), which will be followed by domestic, family and sexual violence organisations, to enable collaborative practice support and raise community awareness.

### **Transcript Page 39**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Just on that, if you can also ask them what their forward plan is on being able to reach out to all the districts, or however it's divided up, and the time frame of that. ANNE CAMPBELL: I do have a note here that says the centre also participates in 25 networks and communities, with a focus on domestic and family violence in multicultural communities. So I'll take that on notice, because I suspect they probably do have a bit more detail.

I am advised:

The NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety's regional engagement strategy prioritises proactive engagement in key humanitarian and migrant settlement locations, as well as locations with significant seasonal and agricultural labour mobility. This initially includes Mid-North Coast, New England and Murrumbidgee Districts. The Centre also responds to direct approaches from services and community organisations in other locations for casework support and engagement activities. Subject to capacity and in consideration of population profile and service needs, in Years 2 and 3 of operation, the Centre will broaden its proactive outreach to remaining Districts across NSW.

**Transcript Page 39**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And if we could get a list of the networks—I assume they are localised organisations, but if it's possible for them to provide that. ANNE CAMPBELL: Happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety participates in approximately 25 networks, interagencies and committees, which includes the following:

Local DFSV interagencies and networks

- Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee
- Parramatta Cumberland Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Committee
- Inner West Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
- Canterbury-Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
- Outer West Domestic Violence Network
- Newcastle Domestic Violence Committee
- Wagga Wagga Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
- Hunter Domestic and Family Violence Consortium

NSW-level interagencies and collaborations

- NSW DFSV Sector Group
- NSW Collaboration on the Prevention of Gender-based Violence
- NSW LGBTIQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency
- DVNSW Temporary Visa Community of Practice
- Victims Services Interagency
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program Multicultural Focus Workers Forum

Multicultural Networks

- Humanitarian Settlement Program Network
- Canterbury-Bankstown Multicultural Interagency
- Inner West Multicultural Network
- North Coast Multicultural Network
- St George Multicultural Network

**Transcript Page 39**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Is there a perceived need for any specialist services for seniors and domestic violence? ANNE CAMPBELL: Probably, but I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

There are specialist services in place in NSW that support seniors in relation to elder abuse, including the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission, the Legal Aid's Elder Abuse Service, the Seniors Rights Service, the Let's Talk program and projects undertaken by the NSW Older Women's Network.

**Transcript Page 40**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What is the criteria for the investment grants?  
ANNE CAMPBELL: I don't think I've got the actual criteria here, Mrs Maclaren-Jones, but I can take that on notice.

I am advised:  
Eligible projects must meet the following assessment criteria to be considered for funding:

- meet the objective and scope of the grant program
- demonstrate value for money
- increase reach to a broader range of carers across NSW
- implement ongoing training and education programs
- draw support from and partner with other organisations and/or government agencies to directly reach the target group for training and education
- demonstrate capacity and capability of the applicant to deliver the project and ensure its ongoing benefits to carers.

**Transcript Page 40**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That would be great. Thank you very much. This morning I asked a question about programs and initiatives supporting Aboriginal participation in volunteering, which was taken on notice. Depending on what the answer is, if there are program and initiatives, how much funding has been allocated to those?  
ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take that on notice. It might be in the grants that have been allocated over last year and this year.

I am advised:  
Under the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020 - 2030, a number of initiatives support the recruitment, training and recognition of volunteers, including Indigenous volunteers. These include the: NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal; NSW Volunteer Charter; NSW Youth Volunteering Guidelines; NSW State of Volunteering Research Initiative; sponsorship of the annual NSW Volunteering Conference; and the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. The NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020 - 2030 budget is \$200,000 annually.

**Transcript Page 40**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. In relation to the portal, I'm just clarifying, that is managed through DCJ? ANNE CAMPBELL: I understand that's the case, but I'm happy to correct it on the record if it's wrong. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you track those who register to access the portal? What sort of data is gathered from it? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice.

I am advised:  
The NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal is a key initiative under the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020-2030. The portal is delivered through a multi-year agreement between the Department of Communities and Justice and SEEK Volunteer which provides access to the SEEK Volunteer database and system. As it is directly connected to the SEEK Volunteer platform, SEEK Volunteer operate and maintain the Portal, with a public facing page of the NSW Government's Volunteering webpages. SEEK Volunteer provides the Department of Communities and Justice data monthly on the number of visitors, number of visits, number of expressions of interest commenced, and number of expressions of interested submitted, as well as month on month and year on year trends.

Transcript Page 40

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. I note that \$2 million has been allocated in the budget this year for Return to Work, as part of the carers action plan. Is there any indication of how many women are likely to be supported? Is there a target?  
ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd again need to take that on notice.

This question was later responded to by Ms Tanya Smyth as per page 42 of the transcript.

**Transcript Page 41**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: A quick question in relation to the Drug Summit, which you may or may not be able to help me with: Given the clear link between substance abuse and domestic violence, is this an issue that will be considered at the Drug Summit? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice.

I am advised:

The Drug Summit is led by NSW Health and specific questions on its scope should be directed to NSW Health.

The Drug Summit intends to bring together medical experts, police, people with lived and living experience, drug user organisations, families, service providers and other stakeholders to provide a range of perspectives and build consensus on the way NSW deals with drug use and harms.

**Transcript Page 41**

ANNE CAMPBELL: I might just clarify an answer I provided before. In terms of the volunteering portal, it is funded by DCJ, but SEEK Volunteer actually manage it. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Therefore DCJ or the Government can't access the data because it's managed—

ANNE CAMPBELL: We may be able to do that. I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal is a key initiative under the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020-2030. The portal is delivered through a multi-year agreement between the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and SEEK Volunteer which provides access to the SEEK Volunteer database and system. As it is directly connected to the SEEK Volunteer platform, SEEK Volunteer operate and maintain the Portal, with a public facing page of the NSW Government's Volunteering webpages. SEEK Volunteer provides the DCJ data monthly on the number of visitors, number of visits, number of expressions of interest commenced, and number of expressions of interested submitted, as well as month on month and year on year trends. DCJ can access this data.

**Transcript Page 42**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I'd like to ask some questions about the SafeT pilot program at North Ryde. Is there anyone who can help me with those questions? ANNE CAMPBELL: What was it called, sorry? The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: SafeT pilot program at North Ryde. ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd have to take that on notice. MICHAEL TIDBALL: We will need to take that on notice. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Okay. It's to help women and families transition out of domestic and family violence. ANNE CAMPBELL: I need to take that on notice. I think that specific program—I'm happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not allocate funding to The Northern Centre to deliver its SafeT service.

**Transcript Page 48**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How often does the taskforce meet? MICHAEL TIDBALL: I believe monthly. GILLIAN WHITE: Monthly, and I think we're up to either our third or fourth meeting. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: When was it established? GILLIAN WHITE: I'd have to take the exact date on notice. Either May or June. MICHAEL TIDBALL: We'd be happy to do that, Ms Carter.

I am advised:

The DFV Taskforce was established on 13 June 2024.

**Transcript Page 48**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You may not be able to satisfy me here. I understand that if there was a specific issue about the review that would go to the guilt or innocence of the person who has been accused of the murder, discussion of that may prejudice the trial. But how can discussion of policy matters and interaction with government agencies of a person who is now deceased influence the outcome of a criminal trial? GILLIAN WHITE: I think, overall, constantly in government we are looking at service mapping and journey mapping of how to reduce any gaps and think about the best service response to people. At that broad level, Ms Carter, it will be factored into all of our deliberations. But the specifics of this review were quite focused, and so it is not being shared widely within government, let alone externally, while criminal proceedings are on foot. I think that's all we can really say at this stage. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I remain confused by that, I must say. Will that change if the accused opts for a judge-alone trial? GILLIAN WHITE: I would have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

While the Government would like to make as much information as possible available to the public, it is critical that there is no prejudice to the ongoing police investigation and criminal proceedings or a coronial investigation. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has provided strong advice that any public commentary on the substance of the review could hamper the police investigation and jeopardise the Crown's capacity to prosecute the matter. The review will therefore not be made public or tabled until the criminal proceedings have concluded, regardless of whether the accused opts for a judge-alone trial.

**Transcript Page 48**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I go back to some seniors questions to start. In relation to Seniors Card holders, do you have the number of people that hold a Seniors Card? ANNE CAMPBELL: There are approximately 1.97 million Seniors Card and Senior Savers members in New South Wales. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is it possible to get a breakdown by postcode? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't have that with me today.

I am advised:

A breakdown of Seniors Card members by location is not currently available. The database is being upgraded to improve reporting and analysis.

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Also, how many new businesses have registered for the Seniors Card for 2024? ANNE CAMPBELL: Seniors Card members have direct access to online discounts and benefits from more than 3,000 participating businesses across the State, and from legacy businesses that accept the card at the point of sale. The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you know what the figure was for 2023? ANNE CAMPBELL: I think it was similar, but I'm happy to take that on notice.

I am advised:

In 2023 there were approximately 2,300 participating businesses. As at Budget Estimates there were 3,000 participating businesses.

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you also, then, have a breakdown of the types of businesses, and by location or postcode? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice. I'm not sure how easy that is to get because some businesses operate across the State and may be in every geography. Others only work in specific locations.

I am advised:

A breakdown of participating businesses is available on the Seniors Card website:  
[https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-08/Seniors%20Card%20Directory%202024\\_120824.pdf](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-08/Seniors%20Card%20Directory%202024_120824.pdf)

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. The next one you might need to take on notice as well—in relation to the Young Carer Awareness Training and information sessions that were held over the 2023-24 period. ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

There were 6 Young Carer Awareness Training sessions delivered by Carers NSW in 2023/24. In addition, 6 other information sessions about young carers were provided by Carers NSW to sector stakeholders in 2023-24.

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And how many were located in schools and universities? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll take that on notice too.

I am advised:

Of the 12 Young Carer sessions held in 2023/24: 2 were held at school camps, 1 was held at a university campus, and the remaining 9 sessions were not held onsite.

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The other one is the carer employment program and the level of accreditation for DCJ. ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice. I know we do have policies for staff members who are carers, but I'm happy to take that one on notice

I am advised:

DCJ achieved "Level 2 Commit" accreditation on 5 October 2021:  
<https://carersandemployers.org.au/news/nsw-government-employer-accreditation>

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: That's fine. In relation to the Homelessness Innovation Fund that was announced yesterday, I note that DVNSW was there as well. I'm wondering whether or not there has been an allocation of funds that will go to support older women and also for domestic violence victims. ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm happy to take that on notice. It's obviously under Minister Jackson's portfolio, but we can come back to you.

I am advised:

There have been no specific allocations within the Homelessness Innovation Fund in the 2024/25 programs. All applications will be comparatively assessed on their merits against the program guidelines.

**Transcript Page 49**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I move to a couple of questions for Ms McKenzie. In relation to the literature review that I asked the Minister about this morning, I was wondering whether or not you'd presented those findings to the Minister or her office. KATHRYN MCKENZIE: That's a piece of work that was actually done a little while back. We've just published the literature review, and also the research report that accompanies it, this year. I'd have to take that on notice to see whether the previous commissioner had discussed that with the Minister



The UNSW literature review for the Ageing and Disability Commission's Carers Project was finalised in February 2022. ADC records do not identify whether the previous Commissioner discussed the findings of the literature review with the Minister for Seniors.

**Transcript Page 50**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to that research or any additional research, do you have a breakdown by age for carers? Whether it's adult or young carers—did it go into that level of detail? KATHRYN MCKENZIE: I have to take that on—it's a little while since I looked at the research report. There is quite a bit of detail in there. The area that that would be affected by—sorry, while I'm thinking of it, it's obviously reliant on the extent to which we've captured that data in our system. I know that our data in relation to the age of the adult with disability or older person is pretty good, but we don't always necessarily capture the age of what we call the subject of allegation. I can take that on notice and come back to you.

I am advised:

The Carers Project research by UNSW for the Ageing and Disability Commission involved analysis of data from 3,504 reports closed by the ADC in 2020-21. Of the 3,504 cases, 1,141 (32.6%) were included in the analysis as they involved subjects of allegation who were in a carer role in relation to the adult with disability or older person. Analysis of the data from these 1,141 cases identified the mean age of the subjects of allegation as 57.4 years. In comparison, the mean age of the subjects of allegation in the other 2,363 reports closed in 2020-21 was 55.6 years.

**Transcript Page 52**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: A question in relation to women and children with disability flowing from the disability royal commission. Has any consideration been given to broadening legislative definitions of family and domestic violence—picking up what Ms McKenzie was raising, in a sense—to include relationships in which people with disability experience family and domestic violence, which would include carer and support worker relationships, disability-based violence and abuse in all domestic settings, including supported accommodation such as group homes, respite centres and boarding houses. Has any thought or work been done around this? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'm sure there's been a lot of thought around it. I'd need take on notice the specific response to that.

I am advised:

Please see response to question regarding the disability royal commission on transcript page 34.

**Transcript Page 52**

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I would be very interested in the response because I completely understand why this would be appropriate, but you also don't want to dilute definitions either. I would be very interested with the response. I understand the centre in the south-west that we were talking about before, the contract is with Settlement International, I believe? ANNE CAMPBELL: Settlement Services. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Is that the only place or service that focuses on domestic violence services for CALD and multicultural communities, or are there other services? ANNE CAMPBELL: There would be other services.  
The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Would you be able to, on notice, provide a list of what those services were and where they were located?  
ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, happy to.

I am advised:

The NSW Government's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plans include measures to support victims-survivors from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Initiatives include:

- Capability Building for Social Responders – a project to build the capability of faith, community and sporting leaders to intervene early when encountering disclosures of domestic and family violence (DFV).
- Roll out of funding for 23 new frontline workers to support migrant and refugee women experiencing DFV.
- Securing the signatures of 70+ prominent faith leaders to support the NSW Interfaith Domestic and Family Violence Declaration.
- Development of resources on DFV tailored for use by religious leaders.
- Culturally appropriate support for young people including the Voyage Program for Pacific Islander and Maori young people.
- Men's Behaviour Change Programs for men from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Community language resources to support offenders in correctional facilities.
- Community based DFV projects such as the Jesuit Refugee Service's Finding Safety Program and 2Connct Youth and Community's Rethink! Anti-Violence project.
- Projects funded under the NSW Sexual Violence Project Fund such as Prosper Project Australia's 'We Are Survivors' project and Alhubu Alaman (Safe Love) implemented through the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors.
- Settlement Services International's SafePath project.

#### **Transcript Page 54**

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the definition of "domestic setting" for domestic and family violence, does that include group homes, respite centres and boarding houses? ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice to give you a 100 per cent accurate answer.

I am advised:

There is no legislative definition of "domestic setting" in the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (NSW). However, there is a definition of "domestic relationship" (see section 5). "Domestic relationships" is broadly defined and includes relationships where people live together in a single household or a residential facility. This also includes where a person is dependent on the ongoing paid care another person (a paid carer). As such, the definitions in the Act cover carer and support worker relationships and violence occurring within group homes, respite centres and boarding houses.