

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 27 July 2017

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

Chair:

Mr L.K. Odenwalder

Members:

Mr P. Caica

Mr D. Speirs

Mr J.A.W. Gardner

Mr V.A. Tarzia

The committee met at 09:01

Estimates Vote

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, \$1,157,391,000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL
INCLUSION, \$196,289,000

Minister:

Hon. Z.L. Bettison, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr T. Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms L. Boswell, Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms A. Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms N. Rogers, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr S. Bucsai, Manager, Strategic Coordination, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr P. Bull, Executive Director, Corporate Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms S. Wallace, Executive Director, Community Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr N. Ashley, Executive Director, NDIS Reform, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms L. Young, Executive Director, Disability and Domiciliary Care Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms S. Barr, Director, Youth Justice, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms K. Tattersall, Director, Screening and Procurement, Financial and Business Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

The CHAIR: Good morning and welcome to Estimates Committee B. Welcome, minister. This is a relatively informal procedure and there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. I understand there is an agreed timetable. Are we sticking with the agreed timetable as far as everyone is aware? So, we are starting with Department for Communities and Social Inclusion this morning and going into Housing SA and taking a break at 10.30am.

If the minister undertakes to supply information at a later date, it must be submitted to the committee secretary by no later than Friday 27 October. A response is to be published during the 14 November sitting week. I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition a 10-minute statement, if they wish. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for answering questions based on about three questions per member, alternating each side, but as I said, it will be a pretty informal procedure.

Supplementary questions will be an exception rather than the rule. Questions must be based on lines of expenditure in the budget papers and must be identifiable or referenced. There is no formal facility for the tabling of documents before the committee; however, documents can be supplied to the chair for distribution to the committee. The incorporation of material into *Hansard* is permitted on the same basis as applies in the house, that is, that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length.

All questions are to be directed to the minister not to the advisers, but of course the minister may refer questions to advisers if she wishes. During the committee examinations, television cameras will be permitted to film from both the northern and southern galleries. I declare the proposed payments open and I refer members to the Agency Statements, Volume 1. Minister, do you have an opening statement?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes. Before I start, let me introduce the people next to me. To my left, Tony Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, and Angela Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services. To my right, Lois Bowell, Deputy Chief Executive.

At the beginning of this session I would like to introduce the others in the room as well. Behind me, to my right, Nancy Rogers, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, and Simon Bucsay, Manager, Strategic Coordination, Office of the Chief Executive. In the third row we have the executive directors with regard to the department. To my right, Peter Bull, Executive Director, and to the left Sue Wallace, Executive Director, Community Services. Then, Nick Ashley, Executive Director, NDIS Reform, and Lynn Young, Executive Director, Disability and Domiciliary Care Services. In the last row is Sue Barr, Director, Youth Justice, and Kelly Tattersall, Director, Screening and Procurement, Financial and Business Services. I have an opening statement.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. Just to clarify, before your opening statement, during the first 45 minutes until 9.45am, you will be appearing as the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion rather than your many other hats.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you. Through the Communities and Social Inclusion portfolio, the government continues to demonstrate its commitment to supporting people and communities who are facing challenges, creating opportunities to participate in a fair and just society and delivering services that improve people's lives. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the achievements in this area during 2016-17.

An increasing number of programs and initiatives target regions experiencing entrenched disadvantage, building local partnerships across community, business, government and non-government industry, using local knowledge and data to identify community aspirations, strengths and challenges. This innovative and integrated work continued to expand and progress in 2016-17, including in Peterborough, Ceduna, Whyalla and the northern and southern Adelaide regions. I would also like to note our support for Good Shepherd finance to launch a microenterprise initiative in northern Adelaide to provide no or low interest loans to support local business ventures.

Addressing the challenges experienced by our most vulnerable groups requires government to make coordinated decisions around the legislative policy and systems changes that will make the most impact. The Making an Impact initiative, launched in 2016-17, is an example of this, bringing together many partners to develop an integrated response to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system.

Also in the youth justice area, on 1 December 2016, the Youth Justice Administration Act 2016 commenced. This important new legislation embeds a service model based on rehabilitation, it promotes the needs and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the justice system and provides a clear legislative mandate for youth justice's responsibilities. The act supports a safe environment for residents and staff of the Adelaide Youth Training Centre, not only through specific provisions for the management of training centres but also through the introduction of the independent Training Centre Visitor.

Domiciliary care has undertaken significant service redesign to align its service delivery to the requirements of the Commonwealth Home Support Program. During 2016-17, the government announced its decision to transfer domiciliary care to a non-government service provider by June 2018. We are committed to ensuring both clients and staff are provided with comprehensive, timely information and other supports to assist them in this transition process.

To enhance the protection of vulnerable people, continuous monitoring of screening clearances commenced on 1 July 2017, meaning real-time information from the South Australia Police, the courts, Department for Child Protection and the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, which may affect an individual's clearance status, is made available to the DCSI screening unit. Screening clearances can be reviewed and revoked based on this information. This replaces the previous process where new information was only captured and reviewed every three years.

The new GlassesSA program commenced in October 2016, replacing the outdated South Australian spectacle scheme. GlassesSA provides glasses at low cost to financially disadvantaged South Australians. Seventy optometrists around South Australia are already participating.

The government's commitment to the welfare of vulnerable South Australians was strengthened with the announcement that from 1 July 2017 utility related concessions will be indexed annually by the consumer price index, resulting in total increased annual concession payments of up to \$54 for eligible households by 2019-20. Indexation applies to the energy, cost of living, water, sewerage and medical heating and cooling concessions. In the last year, approximately \$170 million in concessions and rebates were distributed to assist vulnerable people and low-income people, benefiting more than 200,000 South Australian households.

The administration of concessions continues to undergo improvements. The project to automate and improve processes relating to the cost of living and various utility concessions is progressing well. A new consolidated household concession application process will be available to customers later in 2017.

The important partnership between government and non-government organisations in the community services sector achieved significant results in 2016-17 through the development of the South Australian Not-For-Profit Funding Rules and Guidelines. These will ensure that funding to not-for-profit organisations is managed consistently across government.

This reform was co-designed with the not-for-profit sector and will simplify processes, reduce red tape and support a partnership approach that acknowledges and builds our shared investment in improving outcomes for communities. These are but a few of the many achievements during 2016-17, and I look forward to having the opportunity to provide further information throughout this hearing.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. Member for Hartley, do you have an opening statement?

Mr TARZIA: No, I do not.

The CHAIR: No? Proceed with the questions.

Mr TARZIA: My first question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Sub-program 1.1: Community Connections and Support, pages 106 to 107. My questions relate to the energy concessions program. The minister would be aware that a number of people who have been receiving energy concessions have stopped receiving them and have been advised that they have to reapply and may need to wait for some time for their concession to be reinstated. Why is it that some pensioners, who have been receiving their concession for several years, are receiving letters advising that they are no longer eligible? How many households are no longer receiving concessions and/or having to reapply?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you very much for your interest in this area. One of the key issues here has been the action taken by AGL that has created difficulties and concerns for South Australians. Can I express my disappointment in the process that they have taken. We have been going through a review of validation and reconciliations. As you might recall, the Auditor-General recommended that we continue this process. What that means is that the name on a bill must be exactly the same as on a Centrelink application. So, the energy concession comes from the fact that someone is a low-income earner, and the vast majority of those people, of course, are customers of Centrelink.

What our reconciliation requires is that that name must match the exact name that is on the Centrelink details as they appear on the bill. When we have worked with various retailers about this—we have worked with them about how we can have a very smooth process about making sure this clarification is there—AGL unfortunately made the decision that they would write to 5,000 of their people where there was not an exact match. We are working with the people to make sure we have a 100 per cent match, and we will make sure that will occur as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

Mr TARZIA: How many do not match?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My understanding is there were 5,000 letters that they issued.

Mr TARZIA: Five thousand. As I understand it, though, it is DCSI's role to determine eligibility, not the retailer's.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is correct. It is not that people are not eligible. What we are looking for here is validation and a reconciliation that exactly matches with that held by Centrelink.

Mr TARZIA: How much did DCSI owe in concession payments to electricity retailers, say at 30 June or 1 July 2017?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have a very detailed relationship with the different retail providers. In fact, we have recently gone through a process with them where they gave out concessions that they had not validated and they needed to pay money back to us. As far as that amount goes, let me give you some clarity. In regard to that overcharging by the retailers, that has now all been repaid. The final repayment was made on 31 August 2016.

Mr TARZIA: Regarding the potential backlog of applicants for DCSI, how many applications does DCSI have that are still to be processed?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, we are processing concession applications every single day and, as you heard in my opening statement, we are trying to simplify that so that you only make one application across the range of concessions.

Mr TARZIA: Is there a backlog, and how large would that backlog be with those issues?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not think there is a backlog per se; we are constantly doing it. I will try to get a number for you. As I said, we are constantly processing those. Of course, if you have an increase in the amount of concession applications it may take longer, but obviously we work to do them as efficiently as possible.

Mr TARZIA: What is the average time it takes for applications to be processed by DCSI?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My understanding is that the general average processing is about eight weeks. Obviously, with the simplification of one application, we would expect that to come down very quickly.

Mr TARZIA: Are you saying that you cannot give me the current number of concessions that are outstanding?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You are asking about the actual amount of applications?

Mr TARZIA: Yes, and the amount.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have that figure.

Mr TARZIA: How many staff are allocated to the processing of applications, and approximately how long do they spend on each application?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am informed that about 37 FTEs are working on that processing. We do not have a specific average time that it takes to process them; obviously it depends on the complexity of the application and whether that application has been filled out with all the details on it.

Mr TARZIA: Do you have the total number of customers in receipt of an energy concession as at today?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Approximately 180,000, but I will just see if we have a more definite figure for you. In 2016-17, 180,657 people received the energy concession. You can compare that to, say, water, where homeowner occupiers were 142,596 and tenants were 30,469. Sewerage concession holders were 128,605. As you know, we have also introduced our cost of living concession and about 180,108 people in total received that last financial year. Of course, we also have a few other concessions, such as medical heating and cooling as well as the emergency services levy (fixed property) concession for 134,848.

Mr TARZIA: Have you ever found you have made payments to deceased people?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Energy concessions are made to retailers, and that is taken off the bill.

Mr TARZIA: What was the total number of customers in receipt of an energy concession in 2011?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will have to take that on notice.

The CHAIR: You do not even have to take that on notice; the question is completely out of order. Carry on.

Mr TARZIA: Not really.

The CHAIR: No, it is.

Mr TARZIA: It is comparing to the past—

The CHAIR: No; it is out of order to ask about numbers in 2011. Carry on.

Mr TARZIA: Thank you. If the minister could take that on notice that would be great. Moving on to the—

The CHAIR: No, let me clarify that—

Mr GARDNER: She has taken it on notice.

The CHAIR: She said that, and if the minister is happy to she can give that information to us, but she does not have to.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I withdraw taking it on notice.

Mr TARZIA: Moving on to the Community Infrastructure Investment Fund costings, Budget Paper 5, page 19, paragraph 3. What are the guidelines for this fund?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As you know, this is a new fund that has been in the budget for 2017-18, and I am very pleased that this fund will be there. It is actually being held centrally by the Department of Treasury and Finance, so I do not believe it is actually in these budget papers. It is

not reflected in the budget line here. However, let me talk to you about this new grant. It will contribute to the improvement of infrastructure to support multicultural and community organisations.

As you may have heard me speak of before, we have done quite a bit of work to review Grants SA. It was launched in April 2016. What we wanted to do was make things far more easily accessible. As you know, in Grants SA there are minor rounds that close at the end of every month, so there are 12 rounds of those. There are medium rounds four times a year and then there are major rounds twice a year. Every time they have had those rounds, we have had people and applications that are eligible but we have not had enough money in each round. In fact, I think you have spoken to me previously about this for some of your constituents—

Mr TARZIA: Several times.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —so I know that there is a greater need out there. We have also run some rounds with the Multicultural Infrastructure Grants program where more people applied and were eligible than were funded, so we have this grant and we would expect that that would look at the oversubscription that has happened over the past 12 months.

Mr TARZIA: Has any money been allocated from this fund to date?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would have to take that on notice. I do not believe I have given that authority at this point.

Mr TARZIA: Had any commitments been made to any of these clubs before the budget was released?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No, this is a new grant, but as I said, we will be reflecting on the fact that there was quite a substantial oversubscription not only in Grants SA but also in the multicultural infrastructure funds. I can look at the other members of the committee who are very interested in this area and have been approached by different groups who have expressed their interest in upgrading their community facilities. It may be kitchens or a disabled toilet.

In fact, with the ageing population we have in our multicultural communities, lifts have often been raised. Lifts are very expensive, so obviously in all of these situations most of the communities that are interested in receiving this grant have fundraised and put money aside. What we would see in these grants is the ability to support them to finalise those projects, but of course people would have had to apply for these grants for that time.

Mr TARZIA: I look forward to applying for those grants for communities in my electorate, minister.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I welcome those applications, as I do for any committee members. For those of us who dedicate our time with our multicultural communities, we know that these are growing communities. We have about 200 communities in South Australia. We have those who have been here for many generations and those who are newly arriving and establishing. I had a delightful night with the member for Colton for the Romanian Consulate that recently opened in South Australia. While they do not have a building and they are a smaller group, there are quite diverse groups in South Australia who choose to stay here, raise their families and invest as well.

Mr TARZIA: Moving on to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 105, paragraph 1. Does the Northern Connections program still exist?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

Mr TARZIA: It does? If so, can you advise what funding is included for Northern Connections in each year of the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will get that detail for you. In the 2017-18 budget, it is \$554,000. The role of Northern Connections is to improve our social and economic outcomes in northern Adelaide by identifying issues of regional significance and addressing these, including improved connections across the region, reducing duplication of effort, leading collaborations and partnerships, developing and trialling new approaches, and advocacy for the regions.

They have played a key role in the Thriving Communities component of the Northern Economic Plan, which, as you know, is a collaboration between local, state and federal governments,

and also the university, business and community sectors in the region. The priorities through this plan have been to promote social inclusion, economic development, education, training and work-first development, as well as resilience and wellbeing.

Northern Connections leads this partnership between three Northern Economic Plan councils and Housing SA to do a particular project on street beautification initiatives across the region. The first is the City of Salisbury where they will be looking at social procurement in street upgrades and, where possible, including former automotive workers who are at the heart of the initiative.

Another thing Northern Connections does, along with Southern Connections and the Department of State Development, is to contribute \$20,000 towards the disability Impact Accelerator program. It is a 100-day program that assists teens from eight disability service providers to create new social ventures or enterprises and diversify their revenue streams as they transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

One of the most exciting things that they do, in a very practical partnership with the City of Salisbury, City of Playford and Rotary Club, is to establish the Wheels in Motion program. We know that not having a driver's licence is often a barrier to employment opportunities and so they work on subsidised, supervised driving lessons. Around 200 young people a year access that program. Northern Connections recently provided \$15,000 towards the purchase of two new vehicles for the program to allow for its expansion to include a specialised multicultural women's driving program.

We know they have also worked with the Automotive Transformation Taskforce and local service providers to give 198 automotive workers and their family members assistance through the Beyond Auto service. It is a one-stop shop which connects them with relevant support and outreach programs. Northern Connections has also developed a Beyond Auto employment mentoring program pilot, which resulted in four of the five automotive workers with complex cases to establish new employment or learning opportunities.

Mr TARZIA: Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Sub-program 1.1: Community Connections and Support, page 106, in relation to employment-related screening. Can the minister provide an update for 2016-17 on the number of applications received and applications approved for five types of screening checks undertaken by DCSI? They are:

- child-related employment screening;
- disability services employment screening;
- vulnerable person-related employment screening;
- aged-care sector employment screening; and
- general employment probity screening.

Can you further break this down into student, volunteer and employment applications, please?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Let me talk about the applications that were received for the type of employment screening: 66.67 per cent relate to child related, and that is 94,547; 8,793 for disability services; 16,021 for vulnerable person related; 18,049 for the aged-care sector; and general employment probity, 4,563. So, for the types of applications received for type of employment screening it is 141,793.

I think you also asked a question about volunteers and student applications. I can break that down for 2016 for volunteers on the applications approved. Child related for volunteers was 21,549; for disability services, 1,331; vulnerable person related, 1,377; aged-care sector, 1,926; and general employment probity, 471. The total for volunteers was 26,654. For students in 2016-17: child related, 12,554; disability services, 3,570; vulnerable person related, 8,620; aged-care sector, 8,756; and general employment probity, 838; for a total of 34,338.

Mr TARZIA: How much was collected in these fees for 2016-17?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have an estimated result for 2016 for income in regard to screening: \$6,690,000.

Mr TARZIA: What is the longest period of time that it has taken for a screening to be approved for each of the five types that I mentioned?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The vast majority of screening is completed within 30 business days, and I think we are running at about 96 per cent for those business days—96.1 per cent for those 30 business days—and in fact about 92 per cent for 20 days, that is, business days. So, we have very much increased the efficiency for that. As far as the longest, I would have to take that on notice, but for the vast majority we have really increased the way we ask the questions at the beginning. Of course, you can apply online now. We make sure that people are applying with the correct details from the very beginning.

Mr TARZIA: We are talking months, then, for the longest.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would have to take that on notice. Obviously, you are talking about very detailed information.

Mr TARZIA: Six months? Nine months?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will take that on notice.

Mr TARZIA: No-one knows?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will take that on notice.

The CHAIR: She is taking it on notice, Vince. It is your time!

Mr GARDNER: Fifty-eight advisers and no answer!

Mr TARZIA: I just find it amazing that such a simple question cannot be answered.

The CHAIR: This is your time, the member for Hartley.

Mr TARZIA: What did the Treasurer's NGO indexation announcement really mean? I am looking at Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 105, Program 1: Thriving Communities, Program summary—expenses, income and FTEs, budget line 'Grants and subsidies'. The 2017-18 budget amount is less than both the 2016-17 budget amount and the 2016-17 actual amount. Following the release of the budget, the Treasurer told a SACOSS event that grants for all NGOs would receive indexation of 2 per cent in 2017-18 and 2018-19 and 2.5 per cent in 2019-20 and 2020-21. My question is: to which grant agreements does this indexation apply?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is interesting that you say, 'What does this indexation mean?' I guess for me the most important thing about indexation is the commitment that we have given to NGOs. Subsequent to this indexation, we made the announcement about having consistent indexation coming forward. What that means, along with our commitments of three plus three ongoing, and in fact three plus three plus three for our peak bodies, is it enables them to plan. So, while you are asking to me what it means money wise, there is actually a wider significance to this commitment.

In 2016-17, the NGO indexation rate for grants and brokerage was 1.7 per cent, and in 2017-18 the standard indexation rate applying to grants to NGOs will be 2 per cent. While I am disappointed to say that I do not have a full extensive list of all the NGO grants we provided at DCSI (as you can imagine, that would be an extensive list), I am advised that the vast majority do receive that standard indexation rate, except there are a small number of exceptions to the default indexation rate, including those negotiated as part of the competitive tender process, and services affected by the transition to new aged-care arrangements and the NDIS.

Mr TARZIA: What is the cost of this measure in the current year and each year of the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It will be 1.7 per cent for 2016-17. You are asking me for a definitive monetary value for that indexation?

Mr TARZIA: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will see what we have.

Mr TARZIA: I cannot see that it was included as a budget measure specifically.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: These budget papers, obviously, are from the Treasurer, so I would encourage you to raise that if you want more specifics.

Mr TARZIA: Okay. Will the indexation apply to multi-year function agreements already in place?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is my understanding. However, we do have some agreements that have state and commonwealth combined funding, and therefore that does not automatically happen with those agreements.

Mr TARZIA: Moving on to domiciliary care, Budget Paper 5, page 21, and also listed in Budget Paper 4, Volume 1 as Program 2: Community Care Services. This is one of several state-run services to be transferred to NGO providers in the lead-up to transition to the NDIS. Amongst other things, some commentary says that the funding includes the provision of case management support to staff materially affected by the reform. My question is: what is the split in funding between the various parts of the package?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: When you ask for the package, you are saying in regard to what is raised here in the budget paper?

Mr TARZIA: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, it is detailed quite extensively about what that money will be spent on here, but I do not actually have the split of the specifics for each of those programs, so I will have to take that on notice.

Mr TARZIA: Getting back to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Community Connections and Support, pages 106 and 107: how much does DCSI owe to energy retailers in energy concessions?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: How much do we owe? You did actually ask me that in the opening questions.

Mr TARZIA: Just to clarify.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My answer would not have changed in the last 20 minutes.

Mr TARZIA: I just thought in case there was a different answer.

The CHAIR: You want an update, then? Is that right; is it the same question?

Mr TARZIA: Yes. Moving back to domiciliary care, Budget Paper 4, Volume 1. How much is allocated for existing domiciliary care staff entitlements?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will have to take that on notice. We obviously do have that figure, but we do not have it with us today.

Mr TARZIA: Why do staff who, I would say, are likely to be in high demand due to the NDIS coming into full operation need to be case managed?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, that would probably be a better question for the Minister for Disabilities. While I am the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion and have responsibility for the domiciliary care staff, I think your question mostly refers to those working for Disability SA now.

Mr TARZIA: How much is being allocated to assist domiciliary care clients' transition?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sorry?

Mr TARZIA: I will repeat: how much is being allocated to assist domiciliary care clients' transition?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sorry, are you talking about domiciliary care clients and their transition?

Mr TARZIA: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The most important thing to me, and I guess the government of South Australia, is the continuity of care during this transition when it happens. What we want it to do is appear seamless to those clients. When the provider is selected—and that process is happening as we speak, and going through—we will work with them about how that transition will happen. I think at this point it would not be wise for me to give you a figure of how that would be. The most important thing is about the clients and the continuity of care.

Mr TARZIA: Moving on to Sub-program 1.2: Community Services, pages 107 to 109. There is a reference on page 107 to DCSI's focus on northern and southern Adelaide. A simple question: how much funding is allocated to each office, how many FTEs are there, and who is the most senior officer?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have just given you that answer for Northern Connections. I will get you a similar response. I will get you those FTEs. For Southern Connections, it is \$278,000 for 2017-18. Let's talk about Southern Connections and what they are doing. Their role is to trial innovative means of tackling social and economic issues of regional significance in southern Adelaide, improving the connections across the region, identifying and reducing duplication of effort, leading collaborations and partnerships, developing and trialling new approaches, and advocacy for the region.

Obviously, a key part of it is to convene, facilitate and resource initiatives with local government, with communities and with the NGO sector and business. One of the key things that they have been doing is regarding social planning activities across the four southern Adelaide councils: Marion, Mitcham, Holdfast Bay and Onkaparinga. It has played a key role in linking southern Adelaide's social infrastructure to the Southern Adelaide Economic Development Board.

They have been at the forefront of brokering opportunities for economic participation for key disadvantaged groups, including long-term unemployed people. This has been achieved through a place-based approach, linking Housing SA tenants to local employer-specific training opportunities. Southern Connections has also been involved in the development of the disability Impact Accelerator program in which 10 organisations are undertaking a transformational co-design process to take advantage of the new opportunities presented by the NDIS.

Southern Connections also continues to lead innovation and youth entrepreneurial activities, including assisting the Happy Valley community to create the Happy Valley Innovation Precinct (HIP HUB) with the goal of fostering youth entrepreneurialism. HIP HUB is driven by business, industry and social stakeholders, who are committed to improve community business and youth outcomes.

Southern Connections has also been a key stakeholder in the Be a Job Maker youth entrepreneurial program through 2016-17, with 14 participants in southern Adelaide successfully completing the program. That is something that I introduced as Minister for Youth and I am very proud of that program. There are two FTEs in Southern Connections and four FTEs in Northern Connections. The most senior person in the south is Chris Karvountzis, who is a deputy director, and Paul Tsoundarou in the north, who is a deputy director.

Mr TARZIA: As a final question, Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, pages 106 and 107, Community Connections and Support, how much money is spent on staff in administering the energy concessions?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think I said to you before that there were 38 FTEs, if that is the correct term. It is not just the energy concessions, there are all the other concessions that we do: cost of living concession, water, sewerage, medical heating and cooling. I think if you are asking me to actually break down the costs just for that—

Mr TARZIA: A dollar value.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: 38 FTEs?

Mr TARZIA: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We would have to take that on notice. We have call centres, there are 28 phone lines and there are people there. Obviously, there is the administration, there is a reconciliation group.

Mr TARZIA: Can you take the dollar value on notice?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: If you want me to carve out that, I will have to come back and take it on notice.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. I will ask you to bring forward any advisers you want for Social Housing and we will move to Social Housing.

Membership:

Ms Sanderson substituted for Mr Gardner.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr T. Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms L. Boswell, Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms A. Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms N. Rogers, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr M. Schutz, Senior Governance Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr P. Fagan-Schmidt, Executive Director, Housing SA.

Mr G. Slack, Director, Strategy and Reporting, Housing SA.

Ms R. Hulm, Group Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Renewal SA.

The CHAIR: Minister, would you like to introduce any new advisers, and do you have an opening statement?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: From my previous time, I am joined by, to my left, Tony Harrison, Chief Executive, and Angela Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services. To my right is Phil Fagen-Schmidt, Executive Director, Housing SA.

I would like to make an opening statement. The Social Housing portfolio plays a critical role in providing vital services to many South Australians, including some of our vulnerable citizens. I would like to put on the record that, during 2016-17, around 90,000 services were provided by Housing SA. This includes tenancy and property management services for approximately 38,000 tenancies, including 2,000 new allocations. This also encompasses support for around 22,000 people who were supported by our specialist homelessness sector, and over 30,000 who were assisted through the Private Rental Assistance Program.

We have also been working hard towards lowering outstanding customer debt and are making considerable progress in this regard, with total debt trending down. I am very pleased that South Australia was successful in its national advocacy to have the national partnership agreement on homelessness extended for the 2017-18 financial year. The state government has provided a contribution of \$9.05 million to match the commonwealth government's offer.

In previous years, the commonwealth did not provide a contribution to cover indexation and equal remuneration order wage increases. For this reason, in 2016-17, South Australia not only matched the commonwealth's National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness funding offer of \$8.87 million but provided an additional \$730,000 for indexation and ERO. I am very pleased that for this extension the commonwealth has provided supplementation, meaning the state government's contribution is slightly less than the previous year.

Can I express my disappointment when the commonwealth did not provide indexation and ERO. This had been a significant achievement for NGO workers. I was deeply disappointed that they did not match it. We did have to come to the party in 2016-17, and I am very pleased that they have acknowledged that this was unacceptable and going forward have included this. In 2017-18, total funding in South Australia specialist homelessness services will actually increase by \$2.5 million, up from \$62.3 million in 2016-17 to \$64.8 million.

In May, the commonwealth announced that the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness will be combined into a single national housing and homelessness agreement, totalling approximately \$1.5 billion per annum to take effect from 2018-19. This funding certainty will stabilise the delivery of important services that assist so many South Australians and sustain many jobs. I look forward to working with my colleagues nationally and across the South Australian government to achieve the best deal for our state under the new arrangements.

We have also been working hard to deliver better value and safer emergency accommodation to people in housing crisis. Following a tender process, new arrangements commenced on 1 July 2017 with a panel of organisations providing services across South Australia. This is a more cost-effective approach to these important crisis services.

I would also like to note the introduction of Code Red and Code Blue during 2016-17, which are providing better support to people sleeping rough during times of extreme weather. After considerable work by Housing SA with our many partners, these arrangements are now in place in regional areas as well as Adelaide.

In March 2017, I announced that the state government is accelerating \$3.4 million worth of Housing SA projects in Whyalla to boost the local economy and create new jobs. This program is increasing local jobs, both skilled and unskilled, and providing training opportunities and apprenticeships. It is also delivering improvements to the quality and amenity of public housing stock in Whyalla.

During the year, we made significant headway on improving housing for Aboriginal people in remote areas under the National Partnership on Remote Housing. Capital works have commenced on 17 new dwellings and 26 refurbishments, which will be completed by 30 June 2018.

As well, we have recently announced a new facility, Ninti Ngura, to be built in Adelaide and provide accommodation for young Aboriginal people from remote areas who are undertaking tertiary study or vocational training. This will draw on \$5.7 million of capital funding under the employment and education housing stream of the National Partnership on Remote Housing.

In 2017, the Housing Improvement Act 2016 and regulations came into effect. This landmark legislation provides measures to ensure housing is safe and suitable for human habitation.

Finally, I would like also to note the significant effort of Housing SA staff providing emergency relief and recovery services in 2016-17, in particular following the extreme weather events in September and October last year and in response to Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017. Following a request from the Queensland government, 34 Housing SA staff were deployed to assist the Queensland response. I want to particularly acknowledge the staff who willingly agreed to travel to Queensland to help out.

I have only touched on some of the many achievements and significant work that has gone on in the social housing portfolio in 2016-17. Our successful year has been built on strong collaboration and innovative work with many partners. I look forward to continuing this work in 2017-18 for the betterment of the people in South Australia.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Member for Adelaide, do you have an opening statement?

Ms SANDERSON: No, I do not.

The CHAIR: Straight to questions.

Ms SANDERSON: My first question refers to Budget Paper 5, page 21, the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Minister, in your opening statement you mentioned that the reason for the 2016-17 figure being higher for state government was that you were covering the

lack of indexation by the federal government. That would certainly account for why that would drop in the 2017-18 year; however, it dropped below the 2015-16 year, so the amount that you are contributing for 2017-18 is less than it was in 2015-16. So, there is less money going into the portfolio.

The CHAIR: Is that a statement or a question?

Ms SANDERSON: That is a question.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I made very clear, we did not have indexation and ERO in 2016-17. Generally, this is a fifty-fifty partnership and our contribution would exactly match what the commonwealth puts in, but that year we had to put in additional funding. With regard to 2015-16, I will endeavour to get that clarification, but we contribute more than \$60 million, as I said in the opening statement, to homelessness. NPA is a significant part of that, and I have been campaigning very strongly since 2014 to have security around this National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. It actually only forms part of what we do. It is about a third of the funding that is there.

Ms SANDERSON: Thank you, minister. Therefore, the total spend for 2016-17 was \$18.47 million and for 2017-18 it will only be \$18.1 million. So, what programs will be cut?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is no cut.

Ms SANDERSON: There is in the total. If you have a look on page 21, there was a \$18.47 million total for 2016-17 and now it is \$18.1 million, so it is \$370,000 less.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is a matched fund, so we match whatever the commonwealth puts up. I can guarantee the commitment that we still contribute \$64 million per year. The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness is one aspect of that. Sorry, but when I look at the budget line you are talking about on page 21, I see that we have operating revenue and operating expenses. What are you talking about?

Ms SANDERSON: There is a National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness table that has the total for 2016-17 as 8.87 for the commonwealth, 9.6 for the state—

The CHAIR: Sorry, member for Adelaide, where is this table?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It talks about 18.1 million.

The CHAIR: I cannot see the table you are talking about here.

Ms SANDERSON: I am waiting for the page; it is in last year's budget paper. This is not my portfolio anymore, as the minister is aware.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: So, we are referencing this budget?

Ms SANDERSON: Yes, however, obviously, this budget refers back to the previous budget. There is \$370,000 missing that was spent last year in the NPA—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Which we spent on indexation and ERO.

Ms SANDERSON: There is still a difference. I can see your indexation went up from 9.24 to 9.6; however, the overall of both is still \$370,000 less than it was last year. So, something is missing; something is not being funded this year that was funded last year.

The CHAIR: That is the assumption you are making.

Ms SANDERSON: Well, it has to be.

The CHAIR: That is assuming the figure you are giving us is correct. I do not have that figure in front of me.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think we are going to have to agree to disagree.

Ms SANDERSON: Okay.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The key thing is that there has not been a decrease in homelessness funding. In fact, we continue to support it, and you have heard me speak many times in the house, as have my colleagues, about our commitment here, whether it be our innovation

around the social impact bonds, around homelessness or our interactive Inner City Street Crew. We have given additional money to go out there and talk to individuals.

I know you are talking about specific figures and you are trying to match the budget paper from last year to this year, but I can only say to you that the commitment this government has to those people—our most vulnerable, sleepers out there who need our help, who come in and who are in overcrowded situations—is that we are there to support them. I would say that we are actively leading through Australia to be at the forefront of how we can support people when they are most vulnerable. We have a very, very active inner city homelessness response here; I think it is about 16 different organisations that we fund in the inner city, not to mention all those throughout South Australia.

Ms SANDERSON: The minister would probably acknowledge the work I also did in lobbying the federal government for that very important money, because the Liberal Party also acknowledges that that is very important money. That is why the drop is of concern to me. We will leave it—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is no drop.

Ms SANDERSON: My second question is on Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Program 3: Social Housing, page 119, Activity indicators. The estimated result for the 2016-17 year is 38,710 and the 2017-18 projection is 34,050, a difference of 4,660. Given that 4,000 properties are being transferred to community housing providers, does that mean that 660 properties will be sold in this following year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sales processes are actually something that Renewal SA takes charge of, so it is best that you speak to minister Mullighan.

Ms SANDERSON: Would that not be against the principles in the NAHA? We are meant to be building up stocks, not selling them.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are about to go into some negotiations with the federal government. I am not sure that they share your view about social housing stocks. Of course, they have an interest in having more affordable housing—we are all on board about that—but I am not sure that is their view. In South Australia we have the highest percentage of social housing in the nation. We run at about 6 per cent and the other states are at about 4 per cent, so we have history here. While we are undergoing some changes with some of them transitioning to community housing, we are above the curve. Whether it is about the 15 per cent that we have in affordable houses in any new development or the fact that we have a land supply for the next 15 years, South Australia is well ahead of the curve on these things.

However, if we are being full and frank here I would not think that during these bilateral discussions the focus will be on having more public housing, but if that is what we want to talk about with the Treasurer—because it will be between the federal Treasurer and our Treasurer, these bilateral negotiations—we will go there. I look forward to seeing what might be your proposal going forward. We have about 40,000 houses at the moment, and it will be interesting to see whether you want to increase that to 50,000 houses. Perhaps today would be a good day for you to talk to me about that.

Ms SANDERSON: My next question is: how many properties does the Housing Trust own as at 30 June 2017?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have responsibility, as at 31 May of the 2016-17 year, for 39,359.

Ms SANDERSON: This next question is a bit more complicated. I am wondering what are the totals on the waiting list and then the breakdown by category—categories 1, 2, 3, low demand, pending—and the total that were housed in each of those categories. Also, the totals for the under 25s on the waiting list and the under 25s that were housed.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The number of households on the register, which is what we call it now—because when someone puts in an application it means that is a live application for both public housing and community housing, so people have to put in only one application now, which is a really important change we now have—is 21,275 as at 31 May. The number of new allocations,

and once again this is obviously one month off a full year, is 1,911. Of those, 1,678 are category 1. The percentage of category 1 and 2 allocations as a proportion of all allocations is 94.7 per cent.

Of course, we cannot talk about this housing register without recognising that there are a number of customers assisted under the private rental assistance program, and 28,820 households are assisted through that program. We also have people who are supported by our private rental liaison officers and 529 customers were housed through that. One of the things you asked about is allocations. Once again, these figures are as at 31 May of the 2016-17 year: category 1 was 1,678; category 2, 131; category 3, 99; low demand, two; and there was one other. The total is 1,911. Once again, that is one month shy of the full financial year.

As always, you are interested in those who are under 25. I am looking at the number of applications where the applicant is under 25. On the housing register by category, once again, this is 2016-17, as at 31 May: category 1, 618; category 2, 274; and category 3, 1,745. The total is 2,663, so we would expect that to be about the same as last year but with one month to go.

Ms SANDERSON: From those figures, if I have them down correctly, there has actually been an increase in the total number of people on the waiting list. Last year, I had 21,079 as at 20 May 2016. That was from an FOI. Then there were 21,275 this year. Can you explain, minister, what policies you are going to put in place to make sure that that is going down rather than up?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There has been a slight increase; there is no doubt at all. I think that is while we are going through a process. We were building a lot of new things. Renewing Our Streets and Suburbs is a process where we have had to do a lot of reallocations within that. Those new houses that are built are going to be far more efficient and their maintenance obviously is going to be less. The vast majority of people on the housing register are single-headed households, which is what is reflected in our households as well. That has been a change over probably the last 10 to 20 years of who we are placing as well.

We know there has been a slight increase, so we continue to work on it. My understanding, when I have interrogated that data, and obviously it is something I spend a lot of time on, is that about 80 per cent of the people on the waiting list do have some form of support from Housing SA—whether it is the private rental assistance program or help with a bond and some money in advance there, that is highly likely. They have gained some support or they might have had some support from the private rental liaison officer. It is not as though you go on the housing register and you do not have any other engagement with us. That does continue.

Ms SANDERSON: Minister, you gave the figure of 39,350 homes as at 31 May this year. Could you break those into vacant, occupied and tenanted. Then there is also the untenanted, which should add to that figure.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The total number of properties is 39,359. The number of tenable stock is 39,133. So, 2 per cent of our stock (822) would be going through that vacancy clean, to go through again. I think that we have responsibility for only 596, so 1.5 per cent of that is ours.

Probably the best thing for me to talk to you about is that we obviously look at the vacancy rates in the private sector to measure ourselves, and that is about 3 per cent. So, we consider that, as at 31 May, only 1.5 per cent of our SA Housing Trust properties managed by Housing SA were vacant. Usually what is happening in that situation, is that the property is undergoing minor maintenance prior to re-letting or is in the process of being offered to a household or is awaiting the new tenants moving in.

We have done quite a bit of work in regard to reducing the time for vacancy cleans and vacancy maintenance. In fact, I think it was our vacancy team that won an award from the Australasian Housing Institute. Our vacancy maintenance crew developed an app to make sure—because you are consolidating quite a few trades at one point to come to a house, and so they have cut that down and we won an Australian award, so we are very pleased about that.

There might also be a time delay in Housing SA putting in place support services for new tenants or the property is located in an area of low demand, such as smaller regional areas. We also have some properties listed as untenable and that includes properties undergoing major

maintenance or under assessment for alternative use, including redevelopment or sale. As I said before, those questions should be directed to Renewal SA whose responsibility it is through minister Mullighan.

Ms SANDERSON: By calculation from your figures, if there are 39,359 total properties and 39,133 are tenatable, the balance of 226 are untenatable.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Without agreeing to your exact figures, your summation—

Ms SANDERSON: That is the basis for—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —is correct but they would usually then be the responsibility of Renewal SA because that would be a significant—

Ms SANDERSON: It is a considerable drop from last year, so I am just wanting the figure, that is all.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, we have become better with this renewing our streets and suburbs process. We are working together more collaboratively to try to reduce the amount of time and make those decisions about those houses very quickly, because what I want to do is rehouse people as soon as possible.

Ms SANDERSON: By calculation, then, I also have 38,311 that were occupied. Is there a figure that verifies that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The figure that I would use is the total number of occupied properties that Housing SA has responsibility for and, as at 31 May, it is 38,537.

Ms SANDERSON: What is the impact of the state's liabilities on the transfer of the 4,000 properties to the community sector?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You will need to direct that question to minister Mullighan.

Ms SANDERSON: Thank you. Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Program 3: Social Housing, page 118, Targets 2017-18:

Work with other jurisdictions on the implementation of a new long-term national funding agreement...

Can the minister provide details about what is anticipated? What will you be advocating?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, as I said before, three times I have spent time with the federal minister for housing to talk about what we are going to do going forward with this. I am very pleased that we now have this ongoing agreement, the NAHA-ha as it is referred to. Each state and territory will have a bilateral conversation and that conversation will happen through the federal Treasurer and the state and territory treasurers.

One of the focuses will be not just on public housing; you may recall that earlier this year we had significant focus on young people and young families being able to buy housing. While a lot of the conversation was around Sydney and Melbourne, there is no doubt that we have had increased prices in Adelaide as well. While my focus is about social housing and housing people through public housing and community housing and supporting them through the bonds and rent in advance, this NAHA-ha will have a much more holistic view than what the federal government wants.

I encourage you, although you are no longer the shadow, to work with our federal colleagues, because we are doing things very well in South Australia in the fact that our Premier, when he was minister for housing, introduced those larger land developments, the '15 per cent must be affordable' housing. If you look around the state, whether it is Bowden or Lightsview or out at West Lakes, and I think, the member for Hartley, out in your area, in Magill, there is a lot more diversity of housing that is now available.

That has been one of the challenges in the past. There were a lot of three-bedroom houses and perhaps a few small units. Now we have more townhouses and things like that. So, while my interest will be about social housing, and it will be about the support for public housing and how we go into the future, I actually think the debate and the conversation will be much wider.

One of the challenges I have, and whoever is the Minister for Social Housing has, is the disparity between private rental tenants, who can get the commonwealth rental assistance, and public housing tenants, who do not. If you are a public housing tenant, obviously we have a system where we look at how much you earn, and the rent is tied to that—it is 25 per cent of your income. If you are in the private sector, however, you also get this additional supplement from the federal government. So, there is disparity within our system between public housing tenants and those people in the private rental sector.

One of my challenges will be to get rid of that disparity and make sure that public housing tenants can also get commonwealth rental assistance. Now, I will be frank with everyone: it has been on the board for about a decade—that this conversation has been happening. I do not think it will happen with this, but I will certainly be raising it with them.

One of the bigger challenges, of course, across the board, is that we now have more single-headed households throughout Australia. The cost for running a household is more significant if you have just one person paying the bills. I am interested in what this conversation will be about, because predominantly the conversation in the wider media was about housing in Melbourne and Sydney and about those first homebuyers getting into their home. While that is important to me, what is most challenging for us here is the sustainability, ongoing, for those most vulnerable in the housing market.

I applaud their commitment. I thank them for their commitment. It has been a bipartisan commitment, but we need to see what that bilateral agreement will say. You know what my area of interest is, but they will have their own views about where they want that agreement to be. But it is ongoing, and I welcome that.

Ms SANDERSON: Can the minister provide data on the number of rental properties and other financial assistance to people in the private rental market and how this compares to other financial years, both number and value?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think you are talking about the private rental assistance, which I think I have already detailed.

Ms SANDERSON: You did, but I could not write it down quickly enough. That was in an opening statement.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think you want a comparison for other years; is that right?

Ms SANDERSON: Yes, please.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Just to remind ourselves, PRAP, as we call it, provides financial assistance for bond, rent in advance or rent in arrears, as well as the provision of information and advocacy services. It enables people to access or maintain private rental accommodation. Financial assistance into emergency accommodation may be provided to people in crisis, such as those fleeing domestic violence or experiencing homelessness.

From 1 July 2016 to 31 May 2017, there were more than 28,800 people assisted through the PRAP. In October of 2016, Housing SA implemented PR Connect, which enables people to apply online for private rental assistance. The first phase included a staff portal for assessments, automated identification verification and targeted communications to customers via SMS and email. Since this implementation, over 29,000 applications for private rental assistance have been submitted online.

One area that is very closely linked with this, of course, is bond claims. We know that often people do not feel that they can challenge the claim made by landlords or agents against their bond. What we have done to do this, particularly where we have provided guarantee of a bond, is that Housing SA will do an investigation on behalf of the tenant to verify the legitimacy of the landlord's claim. This involves reviewing and verifying bond refund forms, invoices and contact with customers, landlords and agents.

Where their bond claims are found to be legitimate, Housing SA will raise a debt against the customer. However, where there is insufficient evidence for a claim, Housing SA will dispute the

claim through the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. This helps ensure the integrity of the bonds claim process and protection for those low to medium-income private renters.

We have worked closely with Consumer and Business Services to improve the processing and validations of these bonds. A new online system, called the new silent tenant system, requires the provision of evidence in support of a bond claim at the end of a tenancy where the tenant has not consented to the release of bond or bond guarantee. This provides greater protection for tenants who are renting privately.

Most importantly, the new process eliminates duplications for landlords and agents, they only have to submit evidence once, and it reduces the administration costs for the agencies. The total active bonds were \$56,159 as at 31 May. I think when you are looking, again just to 31 May, we assessed 39,033 people for PRAP, and the number of people approved was 37,252.

Ms SANDERSON: What was the value of claims paid by the Housing Trust under the bond guarantee scheme for the 2016-17 year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As at 31 May, there were 8,825 claims, for full or partial, to the value of \$7.6 million. Of course, the value of successful bond claims disputed was \$1.1 million, and that is quite significant because this is a saving for those people. They are usually what we call non-tenants, because if not they would have had a debt with Housing SA. This new thing where we query the bond claim has been very important, not just for those people who are vulnerable in the private rental system but also it has reduced the increase in our debt that we have here, and that has been a significant focus for me.

Ms SANDERSON: From the \$7.6 million, would the \$1.6 million have been on top of that, and how much was actually recovered from tenants?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: So, you are talking about debt recovery?

Ms SANDERSON: From the bond, from the PRAP.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will get those figures. Obviously, the vast majority of our tenants do not have any debt. I look at the committee members who have constituents who are members of public housing, and the vast majority of public housing tenants do absolutely the right thing—they pay their rent on time, they pay their bills, they are great neighbours, but there are people who accrue debts.

At 31 May, 81.7 per cent of Housing SA tenants do not have a debt. I cannot emphasise that strongly enough—81.7 per cent. So, we are talking about a minority. Of those who do have a debt, over 58 per cent owe less than \$1,000. What we might have seen is something unexpected, paying back a water bill or something like that, or some unfair wear and tear, the replacement of a door, that they are paying back. So, 79.7 per cent of customers, both tenants and non-tenants, with a debt are on an arrangement to repay, and that is significant. That means that they have acknowledged that they have a debt and they are paying it back.

One of the things particularly about the debt is to make sure that people have an agreement with us to pay it back, so we will do that. I think you were asking something specific?

Ms SANDERSON: Were any of the costs associated with paying out the claims recovered from the tenants? Regarding the bond guarantee, I believe you were saying that \$7.6 million was paid out. How much of that was recovered from the actual tenants?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, our aim is to recover all of that money. As I said, the vast majority of people have a repayment plan to do so. I think you are asking about debts for non-tenants.

Ms SANDERSON: Also the PRAP people who are not your tenants.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No, that is who we call non-tenants.

Ms SANDERSON: Yes, the non-tenants. Private rental have a bond—say it is a \$500 bond. At the end of that, when they move out, I am wondering how much money you have spent paying those out and how much you have recovered from the tenants.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will endeavour to get that figure for you. If you have another question, we will try to get you that figure.

Ms SANDERSON: This is regarding rooming houses, so this is on page 118. Does the government have any plans to address the recommendations in the report, given there was a major report released into rooming houses by Shelter SA in March this year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I know that you are not the shadow minister anymore, but the current shadow did attend a round table that we had, where Shelter SA made a presentation about their rooming house report and raised some of the issues that are in there. I addressed those things that we could work with them on immediately, and there were some other more challenging areas that were probably unsustainable for us to go ahead and do.

Shelter SA published that report in May 2017. The report recommended in broad terms: improved regulation, better use of government data and better access to information for consumers and providers, and more support for rooming house residents. At that round table I chaired on 3 July, we had 22 attendees, including SACOSS, the Principal Community Visitor, SACAT, the Mental Health Coalition, the Public Advocate, Renewal SA, local government and members of parliament. Kelly Vincent also attended.

To go on from that round table, a private rental task force has been established, and that will examine issues that affect people on the margins of the rental market. That private rental task force first met on 30 June and includes Housing SA, Disability SA, Consumer and Business Services, SACAT, the Department for Correctional Services, mental health services, SA Mental Health Commission and the Public Advocate.

Obviously, we already support people who are in rooming houses, usually with financial assistance through bonds and rent in advance, and we will continue to work with it. In 2014, there were significant amendments made to the Residential Tenancies Act 1995 to include rooming house agreements under the jurisdiction of SACAT, and of course we had the introduction in April 2017 of the new Housing Improvement Act that came into force. That has new penalties for landlords who provide substandard homes, powers of entry for authorised officers and powers of review for SACAT, so all parties have affordable and timely access to appeals.

I will continue this work with the private rental task force. While rooming houses are an important part, I am actually interested in looking at people in more vulnerable accommodation situations. People have raised the issue of share housing and things like that. I am interested in looking at different states. We know that Victoria has an accommodation act that covers a lot of this area. While legislation is quite important, I think it is really about the system and how it works.

I thank Shelter SA for raising their issues about the rooming house report. We had a very good round table, and the private rental task force will continue this work, which may potentially include some new legislation but really will look across the board throughout government at how we can support those more vulnerable people who are living in a long-term type of housing accommodation. My grandmother ran a boarding house post World War II, and we still have about 1,000 rooming places around South Australia. I am interested in how we could respond to that sector, but understand there was significant work in 2014.

Ms SANDERSON: Lucky last question?

The CHAIR: If it is very quick.

Ms SANDERSON: It is a very quick one—

The CHAIR: And if the answer is very quick.

Ms SANDERSON: —in reference to the costing of the Code Red and Code Blues for this financial year.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: \$100,000.

The CHAIR: With that, by agreement I declare the examination of the proposed payments adjourned to later today.

Sitting suspended from 10:30 to 10:46.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, \$1,157,391,000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL
INCLUSION, \$196,289,000
DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND AGEING, \$3,748,814,000

Membership:

Mr Goldsworthy substituted for Mr Tarzia.

Ms Redmond substituted for Mr Speirs.

Minister:

Hon. Z.L. Bettison, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr T. Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms L. Boswell, Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms F. Mort, Director, Office for Women, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms A. Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms N. Rogers, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr S. Bucsay, Manager, Strategic Coordination, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

The CHAIR: Minister, you are now appearing as the Minister for the Status of Women. I declare the proposed payments open for examination and I refer members to Agency Statements, Volume 1. I now invite the minister to introduce any new advisers and to give a presentation if she wishes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you, Chair. To my left is Tony Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion; to my far left is Angela Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services; and to my right is Fiona Mort, Director, Office for Women.

I have an opening statement. I am very pleased to be here in my capacity as the Minister for the Status of Women. In 2016-17, a range of initiatives have been supported or undertaken in this portfolio. They aim to support the full and equal participation of women in the social and economic life of the state, as well as enhance their safety and wellbeing. I would like to take the opportunity to advise the committee of a number of these. 'Investing in women's futures: South Australia's women's economic empowerment blueprint' continues to be the basis for strategies to support economic wellbeing and equality.

In 2016-17, these included undertaking the state public sector gender pay gap audit, with results to be released shortly; a new collaboration between the Office for Women and the South Australian music industry organisation, Music SA; a new guide on gender neutral recruitment practices; supporting Equal Pay Day; developing a women's financial literacy web resource; and

various initiatives to promote the uptake of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related study or careers among women.

Promoting women's and girls' participation in STEM is particularly important if we are to address inequality in what has traditionally been a very male-dominated field. During National Science Week 2016, the Office for Women, in collaboration with Microsoft South Australia, held a women in STEM Wikibomb to highlight outstanding women in STEM and inspire young women to consider a career in this field. This was supported by a campaign encouraging women working and studying in STEM to post a photo of themselves on social media using the hashtags #STEMSelfie and #WomenInSTEM thus challenging stereotypical conceptions of what STEM professionals look like.

Building on this important work, the Office for Women is currently working on a strategy to support women and girls along the STEM pipeline as part of the Change the Equation strategy. This will include initiatives at crucial transition points, with the aim of increasing both participation and retention. I would also like to note work that supports Aboriginal women. During 2016-17, the Office for Women coordinated four State Aboriginal Women's Gatherings in Coober Pedy, Yalata, Ceduna and Whyalla. The gatherings are an important connection between community and policy. For example, the Ceduna and Yalata gatherings provided important information to the Office for Women, which has informed work to address domestic and family violence.

With financial support from the commonwealth, we are now implementing new measures in Ceduna and surrounding areas, including Yalata and Oak Valley, undertaking significant work in the NPY lands in collaboration with the Northern Territory government and introducing the SA Far North Legal Services Collaboration Forum. Violence against women continues to be a shared priority across Australia and for the South Australian government, as outlined in our policy A Right to Safety.

The third action plan of the national plan to reduce violence against women 2016-19 was launched by the Prime Minister, premiers and first ministers at the COAG national summit on reducing violence against women on 28 October 2016 in Brisbane. Two round tables were held in South Australia to inform the priorities and actions in plan—one for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and one for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. I would also like to note funding to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service, which was doubled in October 2016, and the ongoing excellent work which continues through initiatives such as the Multi-Agency Protection Service and the Family Safety Framework.

Finally, I would like to mention the Women's Information Service (WIS), which will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2018. To commemorate this event, a history project has begun, collecting oral histories from former staff and volunteers. This builds on the digitisation of key documents, which have been made available on the social media platform Pinterest. This ensures the history of this Australian-first service and the inspirational women who were pivotal in its establishment and development are remembered. I am proud of the achievements made under the Status of Women portfolio in the past 12 months, and I look forward to continuing to work towards equality and safety for all women in South Australia.

The CHAIR: Excellent. Thank you, minister. Member for Adelaide, I presume you are the lead speaker for this section. Before we go on, I should clarify that we, by agreement, are looking at the Office for Women until 11.15, and then until 11.45, Office for the Ageing and then until 12.15, Office for Youth.

Ms SANDERSON: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 111, regarding domestic violence. How much funding did this state government contribute to programs in 2016-17 and 2017-18?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Let me run you through the summary of the state government investment initiatives to combat and prevent violence against women. It is a broad and varied span of initiatives across government portfolios, so we do not just add up the figures and produce an estimate of total funding, but I can go through the areas that we do. Some of the measures funded under the women's portfolio include:

- ongoing commitment of \$104,707 per annum for the position of the Senior Research Officer (Domestic Violence) in the Coroner's Office;
- \$176,639 per year for the Family Safety Framework, of which \$126,000 is from the Victims of Crime Fund;
- approximately \$706,000 per annum for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service;
- approximately \$108,000 per annum for the Domestic Violence Response Review, otherwise known as the Early Warning System;
- \$7.8 million over four years for the implementation of the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009, which was introduced in 2010-11, including \$470,500 in 2016-17 for the Women's Safety Contact Program;
- \$102,500 2016-17 for the Aboriginal men's violence intervention program delivered by Kornar Winmil Yunti;
- \$40,000 in 2014-15 for the establishment and \$11,000 per annum for the maintenance of the Domestic Violence Serial Offender Database;
- an additional \$683,000 over four years, which commenced in 2015-16, to extend the Multi-Agency Protection Service to include non-government women's domestic violence services. Of course, there is significant support under the specialist homelessness support and family violence services, which are under the social housing portfolio;
- \$14.4 million in 2016-17 to provide support to 20 specialist domestic and Aboriginal family violence services;
- \$614,000 allocated by the South Australian Housing Trust for the Kurlana Tanguinya New Dreams program, which provides a specialised response to Aboriginal women and children experiencing violence;
- \$100,000 provided to the Department of State Development for a range of community-led initiatives focused on primary prevention and education to address domestic and family violence across the NPY lands. The Northern Territory government provided a \$50,000 contribution to these initiatives; and
- \$143,000 provided to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement to administer the funds to progress the Far North legal service collaboration forum.

The 2016-17 state budget for the South Australia Police in relation to the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme included \$1.3 million to implement the IT system. Across multiple departments, we are contributing to the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. This follows initiatives under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, including a contribution to Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). That is an annual funding of \$121,730. Our Watch receives \$83,000 per year through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Of course, even as I read out this area as the Minister for Social Housing, we contribute \$64 million per year for homelessness response, which we have just talked about. Not all of that is related to DV, but there is a considerable amount that goes from that in relation to DV. That is just a snapshot of those programs we have; I do not have a definitive figure for you at this point to compare year upon year. We do know that our Premier has led the nation in these discussions, whether it be including DV leave schemes for the public service or introducing White Ribbon accreditation. I am very proud of the work we have done in this area.

Ms REDMOND: Supplementary, please, Mr Chairman. Minister, in that answer you mentioned an amount that I think in your overview you said was put towards domestic violence, which was from the Victims of Crime Fund. Could you explain how that works? Are you saying that is money that is taken from the fund to put towards domestic violence programs, or are you counting money

from the fund that is paid to women or men who are victims of domestic violence and saying that is part of the government overview as to what the government is contributing?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I am advised, the Victims of Crime Fund is used to support programs in this space. It provides a general grants stream operating to improve overall community safety to address criminal reoffending and offending. This can include programs increasing the safety of women and their children. Victim Support Service received \$97,000 for counselling and therapeutic services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence.

The City of Salisbury received \$99,000 to deliver a whole-of-community approach to DV. Helping Young People Achieve (HYPA) received \$80,000 to deliver an early intervention program addressing domestic violence in relationships. If you have further questions about the Victims of Crime Fund, I recommend they should be directed to the Attorney-General.

Ms REDMOND: I want to ask you, minister. You have raised it, and I want to be very clear about what it is that the Victims of Crime Fund is being used for because my understanding is that when an offender goes into court, or even if you have a traffic offence, there is an element in the payment of your fine that goes to the Victims of Crime Fund, which is specifically set up to compensate victims of crime.

Compensating victims of crime after the event is a very different creature from prevention. I am not suggesting that prevention is not a worthwhile thing, I am just puzzled that the government is (a) taking the money, or (b) claiming the credit for using money that is actually paid by offenders and not provided by the government.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I understand your point, but the money I have spoken about is supporting people who have been victims of crime.

Ms SANDERSON: On that point, you have listed quite a few initiatives for the victims of domestic violence. I was recently in Berri at a domestic violence refuge where eight women and their children who had come into that service had come in as a result of one male perpetrator. More needs to be done, so what is the government doing for the perpetrators?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: This is not only a concern for South Australia but also nationally, about perpetrators and how we prevent them from continuing to reoffend, how they address their actions. One of the things we do is this domestic violence serial offenders database, so we capture that information as well. I think some of the things you would be interested in include supporting these perpetrators and acknowledging the work they have done. I will get you some details on that.

In 2015, the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 was amended to include a provision that offenders who breach an order to attend a treatment program can be made, by the courts, to pay for the treatment, and fined if they do not attend. Those who perpetrate domestic violence can be required by the court, after an assessment process, to undertake a rehabilitation program, and if the person breaches this order they may be required by the court to pay for the cost or part of the cost of the program, and fined if they do not attend. These government-funded perpetrator programs are currently available in metropolitan Adelaide, Mount Gambier and Port Augusta, with the Attorney-General's Department leading this work.

There are also a number of other rehabilitation programs for perpetrators offered by non-government organisations. We have actually taken on some work and were funded, through the commonwealth, for the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions; South Australia was funded to do this work. So, as I said, we have those rehabilitation programs and we will continue to do that work with ANROWS, through the Australian national research organisation, to build an evidence base that contributes to policy and practice development, and participating within that.

As I said, we have this funding agreement for the implementation of the COAG-endorsed National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions; that was \$230,000 and \$252,000 in 2015-16, \$98,675 in 2016-17. That is so that we can develop a statewide framework using the standards to inform the development of future responses. This is an area I have particular interest in, and I think it is really in the beginning stages of how we address the perpetrators.

With many of the government responses we are responding after the event, so one of the things you see with the national plan is raising issues about equality between boys and girls and men and women to try to stop it before it starts. We have also spent a lot of time supporting people who have experienced domestic violence. Equally, I would like to have some focus on those who are perpetrating the violence because, as the member for Adelaide has expressed, these are often not just one-off events with one individual and a partner but are often repeated events. We need to stop them as soon as they come to our attention and support that person to acknowledge what they have done and try to turn that around.

There has been considerable work done in many different areas on this. I am very proud of the work that the Office for Women has done in regard to these national standards, and I congratulate them on their work. However, we are just at the beginning here, and we need to continue that work.

Ms SANDERSON: You mentioned registration of offenders. In America that registration is actually available publicly so that women are kept safe and, say, eight women might not fall into the same trap. Is that publicly available?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is not publicly available at this stage, but there have been some discussions about various types of programs or disclosure schemes, one referred to by the Chair, who raised this about Clare's Law. That was raised recently in the DV discussion paper. It is called the DV disclosure scheme and I expect that in the near future we will be making some announcements around that. That would enable people to ask about the history of that person. It involves the police and any records they might hold.

I look forward to providing more details in the near future. The Attorney has the lead on that. While we have the DV serial offenders database that is not publicly available, my understanding is that those working in the domestic violence services do have access to that, but we are looking at other areas through this DV disclosure scheme. Once again, I thank the Chair for raising this. He saw what happened in the UK and he suggested that we could have that in South Australia.

Ms SANDERSON: How many perpetrators were ordered to attend treatment, how many attended for the 2016-17 year and how many fines were collected from those who failed to attend?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The projection is that we would expect that about 50 per cent of defendants will complete a program. The estimated results were 437 of the assessments undertaken, and 308 is the number of offenders accepted onto the domestic violence perpetrators group.

Ms SANDERSON: So, 308 were ordered to attend and 50 per cent attended. How many fines were received for non-attendance from the 50 per cent who did not attend?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We would have to seek that information from the courts. We can take that on notice. I think that is a very interesting question.

Ms SANDERSON: Previously, the commonwealth government funding has provided \$1.19 million for the Keeping Women Safe in their Home program. How many applicants were there for this service in the 2016-17 year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Are you talking about the Staying Home Staying Safe program?

Ms SANDERSON: It has been named different things in different portfolio areas.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is funded through my other portfolio of social housing, which obviously we have already discussed, but as this is a very important program, I will get an answer before the closure of this session because I have my staff here from the department who will find that. Can I clarify that there has been some crossover because we had a program and then there was some support from a commonwealth-funded program as well. There is Staying Home Staying Safe and then there is also—

Ms SANDERSON: That is okay; we have Housing—no, we have already had Housing.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have just been given some information about this. There is \$617,000 in this year's budget for 2017-18. It is part of Staying Home Staying Safe, which is funded through the commonwealth Department of Social Services under a keeping women safe program and they deliver domestic violence safety packages. That provides a safety package and an audit.

The safety packages provide up to \$2,000 per person for security measures, including security screens, new locks and personal alarms.

In South Australia, this program is delivered by the victim support services in partnership with Housing SA. During 2016-17, the program was expanded and an additional funding of \$1.2 million was provided by the commonwealth, enabling the program to increase the number and type of security items fitted to properties. Eight hundred and eighty-eight women accessed and benefited from the Staying Home Staying Safe program in 2016-17.

Ms SANDERSON: Can the minister list all metropolitan and regional services for domestic violence and detail what types of services are provided, such as legal services, and which of these have crisis accommodation?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is quite a lot. We will talk about the domestic violence support services. I am happy to run through and look at the differences we have here. These are domestic violence specific specialist homelessness services. Statewide we have:

- Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway Service (the provider is the Domestic Violence Crisis Services) and for 2016-17, \$610,700 and in 2017-18, \$634,200;
- Statewide CALD Domestic Violence Service through the Migrant Women's Support Services, \$567,000 in 2016-17 and \$588,800 in 2017-18;
- Statewide, Staying Home Staying Safe, which I have spoken to you about, is a partnership with the Attorney-General's Department and Victim Support Service, \$606,800 in 2016-17 and \$617,100 in 2017-18;
- Metrowide, the Adelaide Domestic Violence Crisis Accommodation Service, Bramwell House through the Salvation Army, \$265,700 in 2016-17 and \$275,300 in 2017-18;
- Eastern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, the provider is the Central Domestic Violence Service, \$1 million in 2016-17 and \$1,078,200 in 2017-18;
- Western Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, also provided through the Central Domestic Violence Service, \$1.1 million in 2016-17 and \$1,103,800 in 2017-18;
- Southern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, run by the southern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, \$995,700 and \$1,034,000 in 2017-18;
- Southern Regional Aboriginal Domestic Violence and Family Violence Service, run by the Southern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, \$732,700 in 2016-17 and \$750,400 in 2017-18;
- Northern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, run by the Northern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service Incorporated, \$1.5 million in 2016-17 and \$1,515,900;
- Northern Regional Aboriginal Domestic Violence and Family Violence, Nunga Mi:Minar, \$733,900 in 2016-17 and \$760,400;
- Eyre and Western, which is the Ceduna Regional Domestic Family and Violence Aboriginal Service, the Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie, \$881,400 in 2016-17 and \$913,300 in 2017-18;
- Eyre and Western Port Lincoln Regional Domestic Violence Service, Yarredi Services, \$543,600 and this year \$564,500;
- Eyre and Western Whyalla Regional Domestic Violence Service, run by Centacare, \$434,600 in 2016-17 and \$450,400 this year;
- Coober Pedy Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Service, run through the Uniting Care Wesley Country SA, \$571,200 last year and \$591,900 this year;
- Far North the NPY Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Service, run by the NPY Women's Council, \$483,000 last year and \$500,400 this year;

- Port Augusta Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Service, run through Uniting Care Wesley Country SA, \$458,700 last year and \$475,300 this year;
- Mid North Domestic Violence Service, run by the Uniting Care Wesley Country SA, \$434,700 and \$450,000 this year;
- Murray Mallee and the Adelaide Hills Domestic Violence Service, run through Centacare, which I think would be accessed by the member for Heysen and the other member's electorate through Centacare, \$688,300 and \$713,200;
- Limestone Coast Domestic Violence Service, run by Centacare, \$519,200 last year and \$538,000 this year; and
- Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Domestic Violence Service, run through Junction Australia, \$241,800 last year and \$250,600 this year.

Ms REDMOND: Supplementary, minister. In all of the domestic violence facilities through the state, and taking into account where there are accommodations provided, are there any accommodations provided for men who are the subject of domestic violence from their female partner?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Men experiencing that would access the general specialist homelessness services.

Ms REDMOND: It is just that yesterday on Radio National there was specifically a discussion on this point, and one particular man rang in to say that there is nowhere for him to go without having to leave his children in the situation where they are then left in the care of the abusive partner, and the children may therefore be at risk. Is that issue being addressed by this government?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We would treat that person as someone experiencing homelessness who has responsibility for children. One of the things we have just done is run a tender about emergency housing, and what that tender focused upon is the fact that it is often not single individuals but is parents with children. That new tender would be a panel of crisis accommodation, usually hotels and facilities, and we would be able to accommodate them through that.

The CHAIR: By agreement we move now onto ageing. I refer members to the Agency Statements, Volume 3.

Membership:

Mr Knoll substituted for Ms Sanderson.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr D. Frater, Deputy Chief Executive, SA Health.

Ms Skye Jacobi, Executive Director, Policy and Governance, Department for Health and Ageing.

Ms J. Walters, Director, Intergovernment Relations and Ageing, Department for Health and Ageing.

Mr J. Woolcock, Chief Finance Officer, Department for Health and Ageing.

The CHAIR: I would like to welcome the Minister for Ageing to the table. Would you like to introduce your new advisers, minister, and then if you have a statement?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I certainly would. To my left is Don Frater, Deputy Chief Executive, SA Health; to my far left is Skye Jacobi, Executive Director, Policy and Governance; to my right is Jeanette Walters, Director, Intergovernment Relations and Ageing; and on the second table is Jamin Woolcock, Chief Financial Officer.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Do you have an opening statement?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, I do. We all know that South Australia's population is ageing. Not only are the numbers of older people increasing, but their diversity is also increasing, with the definition of 'older' now spanning multiple decades and generations. Whilst older people have diverse life experiences, levels of health, education and wealth, the importance of feeling valued, maintaining independence and staying connected is common to all.

The Office for the Ageing leads the state government's work in supporting South Australians to lead productive and active lives as they age, in line with the state ageing plan and its strategic priorities: health, wellbeing and security; social and economic productivity; and all-ages-friendly communities.

In May, I launched the Age Friendly SA Strategy to set the direction for building South Australia's capacity as an age-friendly state. Shaped by the voices of over 425 older people who contributed to the first Statewide Conversation with Older South Australians late last year, the strategy focuses on five key priorities that serve as enablers to ageing well:

- ensuring our home, communities and environments are inclusive, accessible and designed to support independence and active participation;
- creating opportunities for older people to make a contribution to their community, feel heard and engage in lifelong learning;
- making it easier to get around by promoting safe, reliable and accessible transport options, including opportunities for walking and cycling;
- creating environments and communities that bring together people of all ages and support intergenerational connectedness; and
- delivering age-friendly services that are inclusive of and respectful to the needs and wants of older people.

An early action under the strategy was the establishment of an Age Friendly SA Grant Round, offering grants of up to \$25,000 for projects that contribute to an age-friendly South Australia. Grants totalling \$150,000 were awarded to eight local governments and community organisations in the inaugural round, which was announced at the launch of the strategy in May, and included a specific northern suburbs grant in support of the Northern Economic Plan.

Over the next three years, the South Australian government has committed \$600,000 to Age Friendly SA grants, which will enable local governments to continue their important work in developing age-friendly communities across the state. The second Age Friendly SA Grant Round will open in August.

The Retirement Villages Act: the critical reform of this sector will be achieved with the planned commencement of the Retirement Villages Act 2016 on 1 January 2018. The commencement of this new legislation is a final step in a series of reforms for retirement villages, which also includes the introduction of better practice guidelines for retirement village operators and an advocacy service for retirement village residents.

The new act is the result of over three years' significant consultation, and successfully balances increased consumer protection with the interests of operators across the diversity of retirement village operations. It will deliver greater transparency, greater certainty and some much needed protections for current and future residents of villages in South Australia.

It introduces a disclosure statement that makes clear the fees and charges for which a resident will be responsible on entry, whilst living there and on leaving a village. The act also introduces an 18-month buyback provision, giving residents certainty on arrangements should they want or need to leave the village.

Education of the sector and residents about the changes will commence in August, following publication of the regulations. The commitment to safeguarding the rights of older South Australians stretches beyond the retirement villages sector. Over the last two years, the South Australian

government has done much work to raise awareness about elder abuse, recognising the signs, knowing how to respond and strengthening measures to support prevention through the implementation of the Strategy to Safeguard the Rights of Older South Australians and Action Plan.

This year, the state government launched its third awareness campaign, a new look Stop Elder Abuse media campaign, which ran for six weeks over June and July. It focused on raising awareness amongst volunteers and carers, as well as the general community. In particular, the campaign promotes the Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line and referral service. It is funded by the South Australian government to provide free confidential information and support to older people experiencing abuse, or concerned family, friends or service providers.

However, awareness is only the first step. There is still much work to do in this space, and that is why in 2017-18 the Office for the Ageing will undertake a review of the implementation of the safeguarding strategy, as well as the development of a whole-of-government elder abuse prevention policy to further protect older South Australians.

Significant economic opportunities arise from our state's ageing population, which is not only growing in size but changing in terms of expectations about how older people can and should live. We know that people are living longer than ever before, but they are also living better, maintaining activity and continuing their involvement in all aspects of life.

Social and economic productivity is an area of particular focus, and housing and urban design are being increasingly recognised as critical enablers to people being able to maintain independence and remain connected to their communities as they age. The need to better understand the housing needs of an ageing population, the economic opportunities generated by unmet need, have been the motivating factors for the Design Innovation in Social Housing 90 Day Project, which the Office for the Ageing led this year in partnership with industry, government and the community.

The opportunity to trial innovative, age-friendly housing through co-design was offered through Renewal SA's urban renewal program, with Renewal SA keen to better understand and respond to the needs of Housing SA tenants as they grow older so that new homes can be designed for purpose to meet diverse support, care and lifestyle needs now and in the future.

This work continues with a housing industry briefing planned in the next few weeks to build on this initial work, recognising both the economic opportunities for industry and also the importance of the co-design process for ensuring that a product is fit for purpose and meets the needs of its intended end user. These initiatives provide an insight into the important work that is underway to ensure South Australia remains responsive to the needs of older people and is a great place to spend a lifetime.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Member for Schubert, do you have an opening statement?

Mr KNOLL: No.

The CHAIR: Any questions?

Mr KNOLL: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 33, sub-program 1.2. We notice that there is a reference to aged care in there, in the description/objective, so we will take that as being where we should start. Can the minister confirm that the Office for the Ageing is funded for 2017-18 and each year of the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

Mr KNOLL: Can you confirm what the budget or the expected result was for 2016-17 for the Office for the Ageing?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The estimated result in 2016-17 is \$3,793,000, and the original budget was \$3,780,000. The budget for the following year is \$4 million.

Mr KNOLL: The budget for the following year. So, you are saying for the 2017-18 year it is \$4 million. Do you have the other years of the forward estimates there as well?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The forward estimate budgets?

Mr KNOLL: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No.

Mr KNOLL: Can you commit to providing us with that information?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Certainly.

Mr KNOLL: Thank you. How many FTEs are there in the office currently, let's say for 2016-17 and budgeted for 2017-18?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There are 24 budgeted for 2017-18, and 24 currently there.

Mr KNOLL: Is that expected to change over the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have the forward estimate plan in front of me. There was an increase, though, from 2016-17 to 2017-18 of six FTEs, which was associated with the continuation of the commonwealth government-funded Aged Care Assessment Program. That is funded through to 2017-18.

Mr KNOLL: Sorry, you said that in 2016-17 there were 24, and you then said that in 2017-18 there were 24?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: In 2016-17, the actual was 24, but we estimated that there would have been 18, but with the continuation of the ACAP program. I guess one of the questions you are talking about is the future of the Office for the Ageing. One of those conversations would be around the continuation of the commonwealth Aged Care Assessment Program. I think our current contract goes to 2017-18, so depending on where the commonwealth goes with that, that would have an impact on the Office for the Ageing.

Mr KNOLL: If I can move on now to the Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line that you talked about in your opening statement, what was the operating cost for the phone line in the last financial year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We give the money to the Aged Rights Advocacy Service to run that. I will just get that amount for you. It is \$80,000.

Mr KNOLL: Is \$80,000 the allocation for the 2017-18 budget as well?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

Mr KNOLL: Is this phone line budgeted out towards the forwards?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It currently is how we distribute the Office for the Ageing budget, but our agreement with the Aged Rights Advocacy Service is annual.

Ms REDMOND: Can I just clarify? When you say that there is \$80,000 to the Aged Rights Advocacy Service, is that just for that particular aspect, or does that include the phone line for the retirement village advocacy service?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The retirement village advocacy is a separate program. I can get a figure for that as well.

Ms REDMOND: So, what is the total paid to the Aged Rights Advocacy Service?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We fund them for three different programs: obviously, The Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line, the retirement villages advocacy, and I think we give them some money for some advocacy work. I will just get you that figure.

Ms REDMOND: What sort of advocacy work is that, apart from elder abuse and retirement villages?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That enables them to support the wider South Australian community who are older and have questions about that advocacy area.

Ms REDMOND: Advocacy regarding what?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Around elder abuse.

Ms REDMOND: So, it is part of the elder abuse advocacy?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The phone line itself has a direct funding component and then there is some more funding that is around the advocacy, and I will just get that figure.

Ms REDMOND: So, your initial response to the member for Schubert's question about the \$80,000 is not the entire story as far as the elder abuse aspect and the advocacy service go?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: He asked me about the phone line and that is the money for the phone line, but there is some additional money.

Ms REDMOND: No, I asked about the Aged Rights Advocacy Service and how much money they got.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That was not his question, Chair.

The CHAIR: Are you still seeking some advice?

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The CHAIR: No, the minister does not need my protection.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will come back to you before we close today.

Mr KNOLL: Was the elder abuse phone line operational for all of 2016-17, and how many phone calls did the abuse line receive?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that the Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line and referral service continues to provide free confidential advice, information and support, receiving over 490 calls since October 2015.

Mr KNOLL: Is that October 2015 until the end of FY 2017?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Probably until 31 May 2017, I propose.

Mr KNOLL: What hours does the telephone line operate?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: From 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, I am advised.

Mr KNOLL: Given the fact that that is quite a limited time frame, would it not be helpful for those operating hours to be publicised online somewhere?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We advertise the line on the website and have advertised it on the Stop Elder Abuse campaign. Sorry, I think your question was about opening hours.

Mr KNOLL: Sure, except that on the SA Health web page it only indicates days and not times, and given the fact that it is only open six hours a day, it is probably a bit difficult for people to know when to call.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will take your—

Mr KNOLL: Suggestion, help.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —free advice.

Mr KNOLL: Do you have an understanding of how many people call outside of the operating hours, as in leave a message on the—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I guess we are a little in the weeds here, but I will find out if they have an answering machine. They do have an answering machine.

Mr KNOLL: They do.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: When I next have some time with them, I will talk to them about whether these operating hours need to change. I am assuming that the reason it is nine to three is that that is when the majority of calls have been received. If not, I suspect there would be different times.

Mr KNOLL: What is the protocol for when a call comes in outside of operating hours?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think what I am hearing from you is that your concern would be if this was an emergency situation.

Mr KNOLL: Sure.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: In that case I would expect someone to ring an ambulance or police, and that advice is given to people on there. At this point, it is open from nine until three. It seems to me at this point that that feedback has been the appropriate time for them to give that information.

Mr KNOLL: Do you have any visibility of what proportion of callers to the phone line identified themselves as victims of alleged abuse?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have that detail with me today.

Mr KNOLL: Would you be able to get back to me with some detail? What proportion, for instance, were third parties?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My understanding is it is mainly family, friends or service providers who have been calling up. We did this as a pilot phone line and it was evaluated by an independent evaluator to ensure it was meeting its need. We implemented a number of quality improvement measures, enhanced referral pathways, caller outcome monitoring, and we did add additional phone line service hours to that. It did begin as a pilot. We have added to it and obviously looked at the review of how it is, and we will continue to work on that. The other funding, which obviously is part of that referral service work, is \$52,000.

Ms REDMOND: Can I ask a supplementary, please, to the minister? Is there any breakdown in terms of calls to the elder abuse phone line as to whether the complaints are about sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse or financial abuse, and what is the ratio of those various sorts?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have that information today.

Ms REDMOND: Of course you do not; you have only got 20 advisers present.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Okay, of those 490 calls that we have received, obviously when the review happened I would expect that would have provided some breakdown and some themes around that.

Ms REDMOND: Surely, with all the time that is put into preparing for estimates—

The CHAIR: Member for Heysen, this is just commentary.

Ms REDMOND: It is a question about the legitimacy of the minister's answer, given the amount of time and public service—

The CHAIR: I understand your commentary, but the minister is going to answer the question now.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I am advised, the vast majority of concerns are about financial and psychological/emotional abuse. Of course, sometimes people are very reluctant to talk about the concerns they have, but that is the majority of their area of concern.

Ms REDMOND: Surely, minister, it is pretty basic information to classify in terms of phone calls. You know there have been 490 phone calls. Surely, someone knows how many of those were about financial abuse, how many about sexual abuse, how many physical, how many emotional and how many a combination.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Member for Heysen, you and I are in furious agreement. I understand that the information is collected. I do not happen to have it with me here today.

Ms REDMOND: That is what estimates is for.

The CHAIR: So, the minister has undertaken to seek information; excellent. Let's move on.

Mr KNOLL: The same budget line. In reference to the Oakden hotline, did the number of calls to the phone line increase in the first quarter of 2017? When in response to events at Oakden the issue of elder abuse was very much public, did we see a spike in calls to the Oakden hotline?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will ask Don Frater, the Deputy Chief Executive, to speak.

Mr FRATER: The Oakden hotline was run by Mental Health and Health itself, not part of Ageing. I am sure we can look at the question when we get to that minister.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Perhaps I can add that we did run a campaign about Stop Elder Abuse, phase 3 of our campaign, in June and July. I understand there was some increase in calls. From my point of view as the Minister for Ageing, the campaign that we ran, the third campaign we have run about Stop Elder Abuse, did produce some more calls.

Mr KNOLL: I understand that the elder abuse hotline, which obviously was given over to the Aged Rights Advocacy Service, is staffed by people with a level of professional experience. Why was a separate hotline set up specifically for Oakden as opposed to having this referred to the Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line?

Mr FRATER: Yet again, I am sure that is matter that we will be exploring in tomorrow's estimates hearing. The decision to set up a phone line for Oakden was in relation to letters that we had sent out to all of the families of patients asking them if they had any concerns or issues to contact us direct.

Mr KNOLL: Was there any consideration given for the existing abuse prevention phone line being used? Was there any discussion with the Office for the Ageing and this existing service about whether or not it would be appropriate in this circumstance?

Mr FRATER: We did not discuss that with the Office for the Ageing because we wanted those people to contact us direct rather than through a third party so that we could actually provide them with responses to their concerns that they had raised with us direct about the services that were provided at Oakden.

Mr KNOLL: In the instance of the elder abuse phone line, if a call was made in relation to a government-run facility, what would the protocols have been for correspondence or interaction between, in this case, Health and Ageing and the Aged Rights Advocacy Service?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I mentioned before, this was a pilot phone line initially, and then we had this independent evaluator. One of the things was some enhanced referral pathways. So, I think that would be the clarity around the question you are asking. If someone rings up that phone line and asks for help, how are they assisted and what are they given? Obviously, the enhanced referral pathways was something that, after the evaluation, needed to be strengthened, and that was strengthened then.

Mr KNOLL: At what point, would you say, were those strengthened enhanced referral methods put in place?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My understanding is that it was at the beginning of 2016-17, after the pilot Aged Rights Advocacy Service phone line was up.

Mr KNOLL: If you say the connection is between the public-run facilities and the referral service by the Aged Rights Advocacy Service, the question remains as to why there was a need to set up a separate phone line, as opposed to utilising the existing service.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That has been answered.

Mr KNOLL: If I can move on to the UniSA elder abuse prevalence study. Has a report for that study—that the Office for the Ageing funded UniSA to undertake—been completed?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

Mr KNOLL: Is that report available?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It has recently been provided to the select committee chaired by Nat Cook. I also spoke about it on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, as did Professor Wendy Lacey at the conference. We talked about it then.

Mr KNOLL: That is fantastic for those who were there, but is the study available publicly?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That will be happening in the near future.

Mr KNOLL: According to the study, what percentage of elderly South Australians have experienced one or more forms of elder abuse?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: One of the key things about the study was the focus around current data collection points. Actually, this is one of the areas that needs more work. When we did some work through ARAS, the figure was one in 20 older South Australians. As the member for Heysen raised, elder abuse is quite wide: it can be physical, psychological, financial or chemical. One of the things we need to do is look at the different data collection points, for example, GPs, emergency departments and different service providers. So, that was some of the focus of that report. It is work we have been doing for some time.

We have also worked on understanding the data collection practices of the different organisations. They all collect data, but it is about having data that can be useful for all. This was also confirmed by the national inquiry of the Australian Law Reform Commission that says there is a lack of prevalence data nationally and internationally. I understand the Australian Institute of Family Studies is undertaking some scoping work for a national study, which we will also contribute to from the Office for the Ageing.

Mr KNOLL: When will the study be released publicly?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is no particular delay; I expect it to be up in the next week or two. It has been released, obviously, at this annual conference we hold. Wendy Lacey spoke to it at length. We did actually have some media coverage at the time, and, of course, the select committee operating at the moment has access to that report. We will be putting it up shortly.

Mr KNOLL: Has there been any change to any of the existing programs in light of the findings or in light of the study?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I said before, the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), which put out significant work in regard to this, is likely to lead some national work in this area. While we have done this prevalence study, we are going to see what they do in the very near future and add to the work they have done. As I said in my opening statement, the safeguarding of South Australians is an area that we will be reviewing, so prevalence will be looked at there. As far as the next stage of that study goes, we would expect there would be a national lens amongst this.

Mr KNOLL: In relation to adult protection legislation to protect the rights of vulnerable adults, including older people, is the government going to move to enact legislation to safeguard at-risk adults?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is something I am interested in looking at, obviously in looking at the prevalence of elder abuse. There was a Closing the Gaps report in 2011, and we have instituted awareness about elder abuse into different acts when they have come up. I think the next stage will probably be looking at reviewing our safeguarding strategy and moving towards that. That was a request through the Australian Law Reform Commission, that all states and territories review the legislation around this area.

I have had some pretty important conversations with people who are very involved in this. The conversation is probably not just about older people but about vulnerable people in general who are often open to these kinds of areas, and—

Mr KNOLL: When are you looking to enact something or to bring something to the parliament?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am actively looking at what our next stage will be, and that will start with the review of our current safeguarding strategy.

Mr KNOLL: When is that review going to take place?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is happening now.

Mr KNOLL: Is there an expected time line for completion of that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am working on that as we speak, and I will continue to look at where we go. Legislation is one tool we have but there are lots of other areas, and that is why our

elder abuse awareness strategy has been really important. You might recall a book called *Knowing Your Rights*, which was produced with the Legal Services Commission. We are working with the Italian, Greek and Polish communities to raise awareness regarding that *Knowing Your Rights* book, because one of the important things is about people having the confidence to know what their rights are as well.

The CHAIR: We have already run over time, so by agreement I declare the proposed payments for the Department for Health and Ageing be adjourned until tomorrow. The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion is still open so I call on the Minister for Youth to come to the table.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have an advisory group working on that.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister.

Membership:

Ms Sanderson substituted for Ms Redmond.

Mr Speirs substituted for Mr Goldsworthy.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr T. Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms A. Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms S. Wallace, Executive Director, Community Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms N. Rogers, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr G. Myers, Principal Coordinator, Strategic Projects, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms J. Kennedy, Director, Engagement and Grants, Community Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

The CHAIR: Welcome, Minister for Youth. Please introduce any new advisers to the table and then proceed with your presentation, if you wish.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you, Chair. To my left is Tony Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion. To my far left is Angela Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services, and to my right is Sue Wallace, Executive Director, Community Services. I have an opening statement.

Underpinning the work of our youth portfolio is the government's vision for a thriving South Australia where all people actively contribute to building the social and economic wellbeing of their communities. We recognise the importance of providing young people with both the opportunities and supports they need to succeed and become healthy, happy and prosperous. Increasingly, the youth portfolio is prioritising programs and initiatives that support the social and economic participation of young people, especially those who face disadvantage or exclusion.

Our 2017 youth strategy, youTHRIVE, is the third in a series of annual strategies which aims to provide timely responses to current issues and engage with young people in the sector to establish shared goals for long-term investment. Each annual strategy has built upon the last, developing focus and action around key issues, including participation of young people in earning and learning, youth homelessness, and the inclusion and resilience of our most vulnerable groups.

Through youTHRIVE, we are continuing to deliver the Successful Transitions program, which has demonstrated positive outcomes for young people who are disengaged from learning and earning. In 2017-18, we have expanded the employment focus of the program through a collaborative partnership with the Department of State Development. We are also working in partnership with the sector to co-design a youth safety strategy that will harness collective efforts to make an impact on specific issues related to young people and relationship, family and sexual violence. Engagement with young people is fundamental to this work.

We are also demonstrating our commitment to working in partnership through the Community of Schools and Youth Services pilot, an innovative homelessness prevention program being delivered in Mount Gambier by the University of South Australia in partnership with Uniting Communities, the Service to Youth Council and Swinburne University. In 2017-18, we are also extending the innovative Be a Job Maker program to southern and central Adelaide, connecting businesses and young people to entrepreneurial activities and opportunities.

We recognise the enormous diversity of experience, aspirations, circumstances, skills, interests and cultural backgrounds of young South Australians through a range of programs. Under the youTHRIVE strategy, we will focus on working with multicultural communities and young people around media and positive stories. We will also explore ways to build the capacity of groups representing the needs of LGBTIQ young people. We continue to support active engagement of young South Australians through opportunities such as National Youth Week and Youth Parliament.

Mr KNOLL: Referring to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 113. In regard to youth services, minister, obviously there is no FTE, so there is no government personnel allocation to the youth services program, but you are able to outline, I assume, the \$1.8 million in spending and give a breakdown of which NGOs were given grant funding for the 2016-17 year.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Did you ask for 2017-18?

Mr KNOLL: 2016-17.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The Be a Job Maker fund was granted \$50,000 in the budget of last year; the cross sector round table for youth homelessness and relationship/family violence, \$30,020; the northern Adelaide youth justice project, \$67,490; Successful Transitions, \$441,000; and the University of South Australia homeless early intervention pilot, \$150,000. They were the new ones. Those that are ongoing are Community Voices, which was granted \$56,342; National Youth Week, \$127,950; the Port Augusta social vision, \$245,510; sustainable online community, \$57,196; the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia, \$354,177; Youth Network Grants, \$80,000; Youth Parliament, \$50,000; and Youth Volunteer Scholarships, \$25,500. Then we have some sponsorships: SA Media Awards, \$4,400; the SACE Board Art Exhibition, \$1,000; some unallocated sponsorship funds, \$5,100; and the Young Achiever Awards, \$9,500.

Mr KNOLL: I do not need the names of all the groups. I was thinking about the Be a Job Maker program specifically. I have a series of questions. First, what was the breakdown of the \$50,000, as to which NGOs got funding for that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: For the Be a Job Maker program?

Mr KNOLL: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That was the New Venture Institute, part of Flinders University. I would like to talk to you about that program—

Mr KNOLL: Sure.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —because that was something new in the youth strategy last year and we have expanded it. We delivered it in southern Adelaide. It is Flinders' New Venture Institute. I think you are probably familiar with their work. The Career BluePrint, Kiikstart and the Sammy D Foundation did some work there as well. We are harnessing the benefits of emerging technologies, the direction of the change in job market for young people to develop their own start-up microbusiness or confidently pursue further education, training and work in preparation for future entrepreneurial opportunities.

There were 14 participants in part 1 of the pilot program, with eight gaining employment or being self-employed. The second part of the pilot program was in northern Adelaide in May of last year, with some participants graduating initially and more to graduate in the next few months. There will be a regional version of this program delivered in Whyalla commencing in August of this year—Be a Job Maker Whyalla—and adapted to take advantage of local opportunities and resources. In 2017-18, this program will be available to young people living in southern and central Adelaide.

Mr KNOLL: In relation to the northern Adelaide program, how many participants were there as part of that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Seven people have graduated and three have gained experience from that time. These were the initial pilot program outcomes.

Mr SPEIRS: Does that mean there were 21 across the whole program, 14 participants in the south and seven in the north?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As we mentioned, we expect more to graduate from the northern Adelaide program over the next six months, so I would not want to actually put that figure as the definitive figure because it has not been completed.

Mr SPEIRS: Do you know how many are within the program overall?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will have to come back to you on that.

Mr KNOLL: If I could move on to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 109 in relation to Youth Justice—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am sorry, but Youth Justice is actually part of Communities and Social Inclusion; it is not part of Youth.

Mr KNOLL: Okay.

Mr SPEIRS: You said that \$354,000 from the \$1.83 million, being the total value of the sub-program, goes to the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia. Is that an annual figure?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, but they do have a—

Mr SPEIRS: So, obviously you provide them with peak body funding each year, year on year. Is that \$354,000 over three years or just for the—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is the annual figure but we do have a three-year funding agreement with them as a peak body.

Mr SPEIRS: When does that funding agreement come to an end?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: This is the final of the three years, so we will be looking at that, but they do have a three plus three plus three agreement which is based on results-based accountability but to give people security of that going forward.

Mr SPEIRS: Which plus three are we? Are we at the beginning or the—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have just completed the first three years.

Mr SPEIRS: The first of the plus three.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am not sure, member for Bright, if you have intentions about the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia but, yes, the first lot—

Mr SPEIRS: I have a lot of time for the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I just thought I would check.

Mr SPEIRS: In fact, I meet with them regularly. When was the last time you met with the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia, minister? Do you have a regular meeting with them?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes. In my diary going forward, every three months we should have a time that we meet together. It was not as consistent last year and I apologise for that but it should be every three months.

Mr SPEIRS: When was the last time you met with the Youth Affairs Council?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Probably about a month ago.

Mr SPEIRS: Do you meet with the executive director, or do you meet with other staff members, or are they—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Generally, the executive director and the president—that is his role, I think? The chair, sorry. Two of them come to the meeting.

Mr SPEIRS: No worries. That is fine. I will hand back to my colleagues.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I guess there are quite a lot of peak bodies in regard to communities and social inclusion. My endeavour is to try to meet with them on a quarterly basis. Obviously, there are issues that come up from time to time, but that is my intention. My door is always open to them. They are a key provider of our services.

Mr SPEIRS: There was previously an organisation called the Minister's Youth Council. Does that exist anymore, or was that removed when a number of boards and committees were removed across government?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It was removed as part of that, but since my time as Minister for Youth I have been very active, not only with this youth strategy, which is really focused on a year by year outcome basis; probably over the first two years I had individual youth forums, where I met with young people to talk about the issues of concern with them. The work of the Youth Safety Strategy is also having youth forums as part of that engagement as well. My preference is to talk about specific issues at a time of a youth forum. Of course, we can come together and talk about general issues, but usually I try to focus on an issue of concern and take that forward.

Mr SPEIRS: How many of those youth forums have there been in the last 12 months, for instance?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have not had my individual youth forums probably in the last 12 months, but the Youth Safety Strategy did have some.

Mr SPEIRS: In the last 12 months, how many times would you have met with a group of representative young people, either on a specific issue or a broader group as used to happen with the Minister's Youth Council?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would have to review my diary. Obviously, I am out there meeting South Australians day to day, particularly in my area of multicultural affairs. I think it was about three or four months ago that I met the governor of the Youth Parliament this year. We are trying to organise a time; she is going to track me for a day as part of her youth role, and we are trying to work out a good day.

The CHAIR: Not today!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Today could have been the day! I think the engagement with young people is quite high across the portfolio, whether it be volunteers—as you know we have our volunteer traineeships and scholarships. Just a few weeks ago, I was up at Flinders University meeting with those media students who have put together our Community Voices online. That was all young people in general putting that together.

Mr SPEIRS: Would you say on average that you meet with groups of young people on a weekly or monthly basis, or less than that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would not say more specifically in my portfolio as Minister for Youth. Probably my greatest level of engagement is through my Minister for Multicultural Affairs role. This weekend I am going to a Kurdish youth event; they are very young people. I am constantly meeting young people who are involved in the management of those organisations as well.

Mr SPEIRS: That is all from me at the moment.

Mr KNOLL: Can I ask what the FTE level is within the Office for Youth, so the actual for 2016-17 and the budget for 2017-18?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: One of the things that we do is that we combined the staff through the Office for Youth with carers and Multicultural SA. There was an integration that was completed in 2015-16. It is an organisational structure that consolidates the salary budgets to better reflect the manner in which the portfolio responsibilities are supported. Staff are no longer allocated to offices but according to function, including event coordination, grant and program management, and policy. We found that this was a more efficient and effective approach than a number of small offices.

The policy lead for each portfolio is now located within a consolidated policy team, enabling integrated policy and program development. As you know, a range of grant funding under Multicultural Affairs, Youth And Volunteers is now administered in an integrated manner through Grants SA.

Mr KNOLL: That is okay except you are saying that there is no specific FTE allocation for the Office for Youth, but you say there is a policy lead within there. So, you have no indication of what sort of FTE allocation, even if it is nominal, as people share jobs between different sub-programs?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have 120.9 FTEs within that division of community services, and within that 120-plus there are 107 FTEs who work in: grants management, 28; community sector capacity building, 14; policy development, 22; and place-based and Aboriginal programs, 43.

Mr SPEIRS: Would you be able to give a breakdown of what percentage of time those 120.9 FTEs would spend on youth-related activity?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would have to take that on notice and come back. We felt that this was the best way to support the program. One thing in particular is the accessibility of the Grants SA program. You can apply for grants at the end of the month, every month, for grants up to \$5,000. We have tried to look across that portfolio and gain some of those efficiencies, whilst also maintaining very high-quality policy programs and administration.

As Minister for Youth, I have been very pleased with the quality that we have. I think the Youth Strategy, which is updated year upon year, based on those significant programs, has given us really high engagement, and is particularly interested in the breadth of issues raised in regard to young people.

Mr SPEIRS: Minister, in the 2007-08 financial year, so 10 years ago, there were 30 FTEs in the Office for Youth, give or take. Obviously, that has diminished to zero specific FTEs now. I understand what you have just said, but we have gone from 30 in 2007-08 to zero specific FTEs now. Is that correct?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Member for Bright, you are not measuring apples with apples here.

Mr SPEIRS: Neither is the government.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I have just said, 120 FTEs are part of that, of which the 107 is detailed within that. We are supportive of young people in South Australia and we have been very proactive with the strategy. I think you are trying to make a point with which I disagree.

Mr SPEIRS: Fair enough. There is an Office for Youth insignia now, but there really is no Office for Youth anymore. The functions and roles of the Office for Youth—and let's not argue whether they are being done better or worse than they might have been in the past—are absorbed into the wider aims of the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion. Is that correct? So, the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion has a broad remit for youth issues—yes?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: In the opening statement, and in the first question I had, which was about grants, I outlined very clearly to you about our youth-specific programs through the Office for Youth. I am satisfied, and in fact I put great focus on this area as part of my portfolio. I think you are trying to make a point with which I completely disagree. Obviously, you have the opportunity in the near future to put forward your thoughts on how this should be administered. I am hearing that perhaps you would like to restart a separate area for youth—that is fantastic.

Mr SPEIRS: No, I am just wondering: is there a tangible Office for Youth anymore where a group of staff sit together with responsibility for youth and come up with ideas for the young people of South Australia? Do they sit in the same part of a building? Is there a sign? Is there an Office for Youth?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

Mr SPEIRS: So, it is a place? I could go there if I sought a ministerial briefing and a tour?

Mr KNOLL: Is it a physical office or is it a virtual office?

Mr SPEIRS: Or is it a figment of the government's imagination?

Mr KNOLL: An ethereal office.

Mr SPEIRS: Does the Office for Youth exist or is it simply a title on an organisational chart?

Mr KNOLL: Well, it cannot be on an organisational chart because there are no staff.

The CHAIR: Do we have any more questions?

Mr SPEIRS: I asked a question.

The CHAIR: We seem to be going round in some rhetorical circles here.

Mr SPEIRS: No, it was not rhetorical.

Mr KNOLL: If I wanted to go and visit the Office for Youth, where would I go?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You would ring my office and you would ask to have a briefing with regard to youth activity.

Mr KNOLL: No, if I was a young person and I wanted to go and visit the office—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion is based at the Riverside building and you could go there. I would suggest that you ring up and make an appointment to talk to someone who is within the Office for Youth, working on these programs that I have outlined.

Mr KNOLL: Do you have the budget allocation for the forward estimates for the youth services sub-program?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have what we have before us here. I have no indication that we would not be continuing these programs into the future.

Mr KNOLL: Sorry, but that is not my question. Budgeted on a four-year program: we know that the government produces budget estimates over a four-year cycle. That is how you get to budget surpluses or deficits. Do you have what the budget is over the forward estimates for the youth services sub-program?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have no understanding or would not expect there to be any significant change. As I continue in my role as Minister for Youth—and I look forward to doing that—I will continue to have a similar budget line or increased budget line to put forward these programs. I have no concerns that that would go forward in the forward estimates.

Mr KNOLL: Let me ask the question in a different way. Is the youth services sub-program funded for the out years, or is it the case that there is a budget allocation in the 2017-18 budget but there is not one in the out years of the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that it will continue to be funded, with indexation. As you know—in fact, I am not sure if you were here before—we have done quite a bit with the non-government sector to look at that indexation upon grants. From 2017-18, that will be at 2 per cent, so those people delivering those services and grants for us will have that 2 per cent increase.

Mr KNOLL: Do you have a date on when the youth strategy for South Australia will be released?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Generally, I release it around Netfest, which is something that is run by the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA). In general, I have done it in late February or March, when they hold that.

Mr KNOLL: This is the 2018 strategy?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

Mr KNOLL: Who are you working on at the moment in developing the strategy?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: One of the key things that I would expect to come through that is about following on those programs that we are already doing. In particular, we would expect to take the work around the youth safety strategy to the next stage. I might ask Sue to detail any specific engagement that we are having.

Ms WALLACE: We have had some early discussions with YACSA on developing the options for the youth strategy for 2018.

Mr KNOLL: Are they the only body? Are they the only external organisation?

Ms WALLACE: That is the first discussion that we have had.

Mr KNOLL: Are there any other discussions that are likely to take place between now and February with other organisations?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Well, of course, particularly in the youth safety strategy, which will be a key focus in this next stage, I think we have multiple people as part of that engagement program. We have had several round tables on that. I did go along to the first round table. It is a cross-sector round table, obviously looking at homelessness, family relationships and violence, in relation to the development here.

Those round tables were in October and November last year and February this year. We had about 90 representatives, and also people from the peak bodies of DV Coalition, YACSA and Multicultural Youth South Australia. From that, we are doing a series of youth engagement forums that follow on from those round tables. We did some trials of that youth engagement process. They were completed on 2 June, and the strategy will be complete at the end of 2017. What we usually do when we come for a strategy is to go back with the final strategy and have that last engagement with people before we proceed that.

The member for Bright asked some questions previously about recent engagement. Of course, 34 young people attended that engagement process, supported by MY Health through SA Health, Multicultural Youth SA and Uniting Communities. We continue to do that work and I would expect in the next strategy that the work that we do there would be a very key focus.

Mr KNOLL: Moving quickly to the Microenterprise Development Program, which is part of youTHRIVE, is the government contributing money to this program?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The microenterprise program was funded through Communities and Social Inclusion and we are going to do some additional work with young people in northern Adelaide to be connected into that program, but it is actually not funded from this youth services line.

The CHAIR: By agreement, I declare the proposed payments be adjourned until later today.

Sitting suspended from 12:15 to 13:15.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, \$1,157,391,000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL
INCLUSION, \$196,289,000

Membership:

Mr Tarzia substituted for Ms Sanderson.

Mr Griffiths substituted for Mr Speirs.

Mr Gardner substituted for Mr Knoll.

Minister:

Hon. Z.L. Bettison, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr T. Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms S. Wallace, Executive Director, Community Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms A. Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms N. Rogers, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr G. Myers, Principal Coordinator, Strategic Projects, Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms J. Kennedy, Director, Engagement and Grants, Community Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

The CHAIR: I welcome back the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Before we get started, there is an agreed time frame: 1.15pm to 2pm is Multicultural SA, and 2pm to 2.30pm is Office for Volunteers. I declare the proposed payments open for examination. I refer members to Agency Statements, Volume 1. I now invite the minister to introduce any new advisers she has with her and then make an opening statement, if she wishes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I welcome my new committee members here today. To my left is Tony Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion; to my far left is Angela Chooi, Director, Strategic Finance, Financial and Business Services; to my right is Sue Wallace, Executive Director, Community Services. I have an opening statement.

In South Australia, we can pride ourselves on the vitality and overall success of our multiculturalism, but we must also acknowledge the enormous scope of effort that underpins this success. This includes the government's strong partnership with the multicultural community and sector. Also fundamental is a commitment to not only celebrating and promoting our state's vibrant multiculturalism but recognising and responding to the diverse needs, aspirations and contributions of those who choose to call South Australia home.

Some of our communities have become well established over generations; others are recent. People come to South Australia to work or study, they come to pursue opportunities, they come to join families and loved ones and they come fleeing unspeakable trauma. They come in hope of a better life. Our multicultural program must reflect this diversity of need, strengths, perspectives and circumstances.

The Multicultural Action Plan for South Australia 2017-18, which is developed in consultation with the sector, is one way this government is demonstrating its commitment to responding to our diverse communities. Officially released in November 2016, the action plan demonstrates our commitment to building, strengthening and celebrating our multicultural communities and ethos. Implementation of the action plan is well underway with:

- the development of the South Australian interpreting and translating policy for migrant and non-verbal (sign) languages, a whole-of-government interpreting and translating policy which commences from January 2018;
- the development of a Say No To Racism training package, which will be implemented as a full-day course by the South Australian division of the Institute of Public Administration Australia in late 2017;
- the continued development of the Living Safe Together program in partnership with the commonwealth government, including the development of the Youth Inclusion Intervention program; and
- a cultural awareness training module for public sector staff, which will be available in late 2017.

Our Multicultural Infrastructure Grants program has continued to support grassroots infrastructure for communities—places where they can connect with each other and with the wider community. The program allocates \$1 million per annum to support community organisations in constructing or upgrading facilities.

In 2016-17, six organisations received this funding. The Stronger Families, Stronger Communities Grants program provides one-off funding to community organisations for projects that address priority needs and issues and improve outcomes for culturally diverse communities. From 2015-16 to 2016-17, the program had a budget allocation of \$2 million, with 13 organisations receiving funding over the two-year period.

The Grants SA program also includes multicultural communities as a priority group and provides further opportunities for one-off funding throughout the year. In 2016-17, \$450,000 was available to develop and strengthen multicultural communities and organisations, with 103 projects receiving funding. We also continue to celebrate our cultural diversity through a vast number of multicultural festivals and events. Some of these are iconic events that have been well-established over generations.

Importantly, we also provide support for new and emerging communities to share their cultural heritage, including through the third Multicultural Festival, which will be held in Rundle Mall on Sunday 5 November this year. It has been a privilege to continue to serve as Minister for Multicultural Affairs during 2016-17 and to support this government's vision of an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where diversity is understood, valued and supported.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all our multicultural communities for the wonderful contribution they make to a strong and resilient South Australia. I make mention of the bipartisan relationship both sides of parliament express and commit to our multicultural communities. I am very committed to our communities, and I see that that commitment is also followed through.

It is a great joy of mine to be the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I know, through the years I have had this role, that I have got to know the South Australian community in greater depth than I ever would have. I think the shadow, if I may speak on his behalf, would probably express the same opinion. It is a unique role within the South Australian government, but it is a role that is incredibly important and a very special opportunity.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Member for Morialta, do you have an opening statement?

Mr GARDNER: Yes, very briefly. Can I thank the minister for her opening statement and reflecting on the importance of the bipartisanship of multicultural affairs as a policy area. It is very important that new people coming to South Australia do not feel alienated in any way for having a different heritage and stories in their culture, and in fact feel that they are celebrated across the South Australian parliament. This is something I think is very important. I have some questions, sir.

The CHAIR: Yes.

Mr GARDNER: In relation to the multicultural part of this department, as best I can tell most of the multicultural matters are contained within sub-programs 1.2 and 1.5 on pages 107, 108 and 112 of Budget Paper 4, Volume 1. I cannot imagine too many questions coming from outside those

budget papers. I will start with sub-program 1.2, page 108, as a reference for all my questions. If there is anything else, we can deal with that as it comes.

At last year's 2016 estimates it was identified that the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) received \$409,000 out of sub-program 1.2's funding line. That included four full-time equivalent staff, three of whom I think were directly working for SAMEAC and one for Multicultural SA, but all were funded under that same line. In addition to that, the SAMEAC chair's salary was listed as \$27,000, and that was in addition to those four FTEs. Can the minister first clarify: does the \$27,000 salary for the SAMEAC chair come out of the \$409,000 allocated to SAMEAC in the 2016-17 budget year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that it does, and there is no material change in the department's allocation to support the commission. It is \$410,000 in this year's budget.

Mr GARDNER: So, the minister has confirmed \$410,000 for 2017-18. Do you have a figure for each year of the forward estimates for SAMEAC?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have that detail, but I would expect it would be a similar amount of money going forward.

Mr GARDNER: Of the \$409,000 that was budgeted for SAMEAC in 2016-17, do we have an estimated final result or a final result for how SAMEAC went, whether they were right on the money for that \$409,000 figure?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, they were. The estimated result is \$410,000.

Mr GARDNER: Confirming that going forward for 2017-18 we continue with four FTEs plus the SAMEAC chair?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that in 2016-17 we have three full-time equivalents. I am not sure where the fourth came from.

Mr GARDNER: In the 2015 estimates the minister identified that back then it was \$304,000 for SAMEAC, which was three full-time staff plus \$105,000 for Multicultural SA to support SAMEAC, which, I am told, was a fourth. Last year, with all the funding being moved into sub-program 1.2, I think we established that it was four full-time staff and \$409,000. That is where mine are coming from. Is that correct?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that there have been some different divisions within community services as to how that is allocated. If you are asking me about the FTEs for SAMEAC, I would say three FTEs. Of course, there are supplies and services and those board fees as well, which takes us to \$410,000.

Mr GARDNER: Is there a person working for your department whose full-time job is to assist SAMEAC and who is not counted in those three FTEs under SAMEAC?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will ask Sue Wallace to detail that.

Ms WALLACE: Staff across the division of community services support the work of SAMEAC, so there is constant interaction between support for SAMEAC and the work of the division. There is also a direct report line for one of the staff members supporting SAMEAC back into the division.

Mr GARDNER: What is the financial value of that report line?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think we might go to the FTEs that are involved. As you might recall from previous conversations, we have combined within the organisation Volunteers, Youth and Multicultural. So, what we have are 120.9 FTEs across that community sector. Grants management is 28 FTEs, community sector capacity building is 14 FTEs, policy development is 22 FTEs, place-based Aboriginal programs is 43 FTEs and the corporate allocation is 13.9 FTE allocation. That is across that division. Of course, we have had some changes where the interpreting and translating centre now sits within DCSI's corporate services division, and that probably has some changes from previous times.

Mr GARDNER: In relation to the funding in Sub-program 1.5: Multicultural Services, page 112, is any of that \$3.4 million directed by the work of SAMEAC and, if so, how much? Does any of that money go towards supporting SAMEAC?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that is purely the grant line we have that is detailed in sub-program 1.5.

Mr GARDNER: That is the multicultural grants?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am happy to detail those grants—

Mr GARDNER: We could potentially consider that later, but that is not my question. That is just those grants which are determined by the department. What grant programs, if any, are determined by SAMEAC?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is no direct funding that SAMEAC directs. However, two representatives usually sit when we make decisions on Grants SA, as part of the Grants Assessment Panel. Historically, members from SAMEAC have always had a role in that assessment or advisory process, and they continue to do so, amongst other people as well.

Mr GARDNER: When did SAMEAC cease to have a role in determining those grants, other than the members of SAMEAC who now sit with the grants assessment panel? When was that change made?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would argue that they never ceased having a role within that.

Mr GARDNER: Can I ask the question in a different way then, perhaps: when did the process change?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As you may recall, Grants SA commenced in April 2016, and that is when the new procedure started. As I am advised—and I stand to be corrected—it was never purely just SAMEAC members making that decision. Members of the department always sat on the GAC, the previous grants advisory committee, and not just SAMEAC.

Mr GARDNER: Indeed; so since April 2016 we have had the new model. SAMEAC members sit on this panel only for the assessment of multicultural grants; is that correct?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No, they sit across the board. It is not just two people, but two people each time. As you might know, we do the minor rounds, finishing at the end of every month. The medium round is four times a year and the major round is twice a year. The commitment to being on the assessment panel is quite significant. We train several SAMEAC members who nominate to be available. It would be potentially two different people every time we bring together this assessment panel. We find that the more often they do that the more efficient and the quicker they are.

Mr GARDNER: Is there a publicly available list of the members of the grants committee and how often they have sat as part of the panel? If not, are you able to provide that information? I am particularly interested in the SAMEAC members who have participated in this.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We do not have a list in front of us. Whenever I note the outcome of these grants, there is mention of who is on the panel at that time, so it will take some time for us to get that. I can be very clear to you that a variety of people spend time on those grants programs.

Mr GARDNER: How often does that panel meet? How often has it met?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, it would have to meet at least once a month because of the minor rounds. I will ask Sue for those details.

Ms WALLACE: The minor round meets monthly, the medium round meets four times a year and the major round of \$50,000 a year meets twice a year.

Mr GARDNER: There have been 18 meetings per year, then. I appreciate that the minister said that she will be able to get back to me in relation to the SAMEAC members sitting. If we are talking about 18 meetings of this group, can we have a list of who sat on those panels for those meetings?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have a problem with sharing that information with you. The key thing I would say is that this was a pilot program that we started last year, and we have made tweaks to make it work as efficiently and effectively as possible, but that process has remained the same.

Mr TARZIA: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 112. The financial table shows an increase of \$33,000 in expenses for multicultural services in the 2017-18 budget. Can the minister explain where the additional \$33,000—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I understand that is indexation. It was 1.7 per cent in 2016-17 and it will be 2 per cent in 2017-18.

Mr TARZIA: Is the minister able to provide a breakdown of the total number of expenses within multicultural services?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, it will be our grants program, including the core funding. I am happy to go there, if we are all ready. Perhaps I could talk through the key parts to this, and then if we wish we can go further. Are you asking about the 2017-18 year, or you would like to focus—

Mr GARDNER: 2017-18.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There was \$450,000 for the Celebrating Diversity program. That includes our major festivals and three-year funded festivals and the Multicultural Festival, which I mentioned will be in November this year. There is \$400,000 in core funding and other contributions, and I will talk through that later. There are Grants SA and Multicultural SA one-off grants of \$400,000; Stronger Families, Stronger Communities, \$1 million; Multicultural Infrastructure Grants, \$1 million. That takes us to the \$3.34 million.

Mr KNOLL: Is there a breakdown on the Multicultural Infrastructure Grants?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I can do that. While we are looking for that, in regard to the core funding in the budget of 2016-17, it was \$10,000 to the Australia Day Council; \$22,550 to The Ethnic Broadcaster; Multicultural Communities Council of SA, \$186,441; the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, \$53,124; the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Inc., \$10,000; the Don Dunstan Foundation, \$5,000; the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia, \$95,630; and the women's leadership course, \$12,000. That is our core funding.

You were asking about the infrastructure grants program. The six projects that were funded through the Project Proposal stream in 2016-17 comprised the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Inc. as a contribution towards building a new facility, including a community hall and accommodation block; the Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre, to upgrade an existing facility to include a separate community activity room; the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, to upgrade facilities—

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, do you also have the dollars attached to each of those areas?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sorry—the Sri Lankan figure is \$45,117; the Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre, \$150,000; GOCSA, \$200,000 to improve disability access, upgrading the Olympic Hall foyer to make it wheelchair accessible and installing a disability access toilet; the Guru Nanak Society of Australia Inc., to renovate the temple to accommodate weekly community programs for families living in Port Augusta and the Iron Triangle to include a small library and kitchen upgrade, freestanding pergola and paving, \$20,000; the South Australian German Association, to improve disability access by installing accessible front foyer doors, a scissor lift to the bistro area and two unisex disability access toilets, \$150,000; and the Vietnamese Women's Association, to install a stair lift to provide access to people with a disability, \$11,000.

In 2017-18, there was \$1 million budgeted that will be done over two rounds. The priority for 2017-18 is to increase the accessibility of facilities. Five people were successful in the first round: the Community Centre, Serbia and Montenegro SA Inc., to install a new front-loading dishwasher to make volunteer kitchen work easier and safer, \$16,055; the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia trading as the Ridleyton Greek Home for the Aged, towards building a gym which meets the specific needs of older people, \$100,000; Alliance Francaise d'Adelaide Inc., to install

wheelchair accessible ramps at the front of the building and renovate internally and externally, \$34,364; the Australian Refugee Association for funding towards a shared multicultural community hub, \$89,735; and Amazing Northern Multicultural Services Inc. for funding towards the upgrade of facilities, including a kitchen and toilets for \$90,000. There is a second round of multicultural grants.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I am impressed that within 27 days of a financial year you have spent that level of funds already.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Because, under Treasurer's Instructions, we need to spend the money in a set period of time, we advertise prior to the beginning of the financial year for it to be spent within that year. We have learnt a lot with this infrastructure program because it was a new program less than two years ago, and one of the things was to make sure that people were ready. I like to describe us as the icing on the cake—not the cake, the flour, the eggs, the milk or the butter, one might say.

We need to have people at a certain readiness, so we have looked at project proposals. For example, people have to have council approval, have the designs made up and be able to complete it. So, we learn how to work well with people. We are doing a lot more engagement with communities to make sure they understand at what point they need to be before they put their applications in.

Mr GRIFFITHS: The applications cannot be funded retrospectively for projects already undertaken, only for those in the planning.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No.

Mr TARZIA: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 105. Outlined in the financial table, it states that the total number of full-time employees in the program Thriving Communities has a total of 753.6 FTEs. Can the minister please provide a breakdown of the number of FTEs within multicultural services as at 30 June 2017?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sorry, the Thriving Communities sub-program does not relate to multicultural affairs, and I detailed earlier how we break down the FTEs.

Mr TARZIA: So, in Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 105, you are saying that the Thriving Communities program—

Mr GARDNER: Thriving Communities includes multicultural services.

Mr TARZIA: Yes, from page 105 it does appear that—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My apologies. That is where the staff are located.

Mr TARZIA: Could you elaborate on that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My apologies again. There are no FTEs allocated to the sub-program. As I said before, we consolidate those with the Office for Youth, Volunteers and Carers and Multicultural SA. We have a consolidated policy team enabling the integrated policy and program development there and, therefore, employee expenditure and FTEs are reported in Sub-program 1.2: Community Services. I detailed that breakdown just before. So, it is 120.9 FTEs: grants management, 28; community sector capacity building, 14; policy development, 22; place-based and Aboriginal programs, 43; and then we have a corporate allocation of 13.09.

Mr TARZIA: How much is allocated to the one-off grants program from multicultural services?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is 400,000 but, of course, when you are considering all of that funding you would have to look at the major festivals and the three-year festivals, so that is a combination.

Mr TARZIA: I am sure this is the part we have all been looking forward to: is the minister able to provide a breakdown of all the organisations that were successful in receiving 2016-17 grants from Multicultural Affairs? Can this include the amounts and what the grant was for, and if you have allocated to them for 2017-18 as well?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: This is specifically for multicultural funding. While I read these multicultural ones, because of the way we have reformed Grants SA, multicultural groups have also been able to sometimes get money through what was the Charitable and Social Welfare Fund or stuff for volunteers as well, but primarily it is through multicultural. That is just to say that, when they have been applying, they can do that.

Mr GARDNER: Minister, can I quickly clarify, before you go through the multicultural list: those multicultural groups that did receive grants through one of those other two programs you have just identified, are they going to be included in the list you are about to read?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I can detail those for you. It is just a handful, but I am saying that probably was not something that they looked at previously. I think you are specifically asking about the Grants SA one-off or are you asking for major festivals and three-year festivals as well?

Mr TARZIA: Grants from multicultural affairs.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will start with the major festivals then. The major festivals are the Unmasked African Festival, \$20,000; the Alliance Francaise, the French markets, \$15,000; the Australian-Indonesian Association of SA, Indofest, \$20,000; the Chinese New Year festival, \$30,000; and the Carnevale Italian Festival. To be clear on this, it was \$21,800 this last financial year, but they are changing the date, so I have worked with them; they traditionally get a much higher amount of that money. There is the Phillipine Fiesta, which is one of our new major festivals, \$15,000; the Glendi Greek Festival, \$60,000; the Indian Mela, \$30,000; Salam Festival, \$15,000; Schutzenfest, \$20,000; and the Tet Lunar New Year, \$30,000.

The three-year festivals are the Onam Festival, which is the Adelaide and Metropolitan Malayalee Association, \$5,000; the Newroz Festival of the Adelaide Kurdish Youth Society, \$10,000; the Adelaide Tamil Association, Sangamam festival, \$5,000; Congolese Community Network Access, cultural festival and independence day, \$5,000; Croatian Sports Centre SA, through the Croatian Food and Wine Festival, \$5,000; Dozynki, the Polish Harvest Festival, \$10,000; the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Third Archdiocesan District—Intercommunities Council, which does the Glenelg Greek Festival, \$5,000; the Norwood Greek Festival, \$5,000; GOCSA, which does the Hellenic Cultural Festival Odyssey, \$5,000; and GOCSA, the George Street community Greek festival, \$5,000.

Further, there is the Greek Orthodox Community of the Nativity of Christ Port Adelaide and Environs, Semaphore Greek cultural festival, \$5,000; the Guru Nanak Society, Lohri Mela, \$5,000; the Holy Mary of Montevergine Association, \$5,000; Eid al-Fitr, for the Islamic Information Centre, \$5,000; the Japan Australia Friendship Association, the Kodomo no Hi, known as Children's Day, \$10,000; the Korean Culture and Food Festival, \$10,000; the Laziza festival, \$10,000; the Liberian cultural festival, otherwise known as the Kendeja FEST, \$5,000; the Middle Eastern Communities Council of South Australia, Nowruz—Middle Eastern New Year, \$5,000; and the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia, SA Refugee Week, \$10,000.

There is also the Pan-Macedonian Association of South Australia, the Dimitria Greek Festival, \$5,000; Port Lincoln Tunarama Inc., Mosaic on Eyre event, \$5,000; the Riverland Youth Theatre and Riverland Multicultural Forum, Riverland Harmony Day, \$5,000; the Sikh Society of South Australia annual Vaisakhi dinner, \$5,000; the South Australian Bangladeshi Community Association, Bijoy Dibosh Festival, \$5,000; the Dutch Community Incorporated, Dutch festival, \$10,000; the Zhu-Lin Buddhist Association, Chinese New Year celebration, \$5,000; and Welcome to Australia, Walk Together, \$10,000.

The multicultural funding in the minor rounds—this is obviously people applying at the end of every month; they can apply through that—are the Kannada Rajyotsava celebration of art and culture, \$3,500; Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Samitee, Shivgarjana Adelaide live music band, \$1,500 and the same group and a similar event in 2016, \$2,340; Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara, Sri Lanka New Year 2017, \$4,500; Adelaide Tamil Association, Deepavali Festival of Lights, \$5,000; the Afghan National Association of Australia, Nowruz Afghan New Year event, \$800; the Arabic Language and Culture Association of South Australia, the monthly Arabic cultural exchange session, \$5,000; Armenians connect and celebrate, through the Armenian Cultural Association of South

Australia, \$3,500; and the Carabinieri, the yearly anniversary dinner dance showcasing Italian culture and uniforms, \$2,500.

It also includes the Australian Donna Association, exploring the legacy of the Italian language across generations of women, \$5,000, and the Australian Irish Dancing Association, showcasing the culture of Irish dance, \$5,000. Adelaide Migrant Resource Centre had MYLink Strengthened Connections, \$5,000, and a Syrian Young Active Ambassadors Positive Stories Project, \$4,800.

The list includes the South-East Asian Women's Association, upgrade of office equipment, \$5,000; the Austrian Association of South Australia, 60 Year Gala Ball, \$3,000; and the Bangladesh Puja Cultural Society have Bengali New Year, \$4,200, and Kali Puja 2016, \$1,255.

Further, it includes the Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia, settlement day event, \$5,000; Bosniaks' Association, outdoor upgrade, \$4,734; Bosnian Herzegovina Muslim Society, a dishwasher, \$3,947; Bund der Bayern, purchasing traditional costumes, \$3,500 and they also received microphones for \$2,900; C.a.F.E Enfield childcare centre, multicultural families with special needs support group, \$2,025; Cambodian New Year Festival, \$5,000; digital literacy for seniors, \$4,878; and Chinatown Double Seventh Festival, \$5,000.

It includes Chinese Music and Arts, which received three grants, one for the CALD youth forming Chinese Orchestra purchasing instruments, \$4,507, and the purchase of costumes and stools, \$3,007, and the set-up and pilot of Young Oriental Harmonies, \$4,388; Christian Outreach Centre, sponsoring of Lifeforce Bubble Ball Soccer, \$4,200; Divine Orchestra Music Ministry purchasing a PA system for the Wild Night in Australia program—I highly recommend it—\$5,000; FICSA, Club 60 at the Federation of Indian Communities, senior events, \$4,800; the Filipino Settlement Coordinating Council of SA, independence day community celebrations, \$5,000; Freedom Ministries, community food project, \$5,000; Ghana@60 independence day celebration, \$3,225; and Gurjari SA's Navratri Garba, \$3,090. I did go to that and it was 12 hours of dancing, which I did not do, but it was quite an exceptional event to go to.

The list continues with the Hindu Council of Australia's Deepavali Mela, \$5,000; Hungarian Korosi Csoma Sandor Cultural Circle, upgrading digital equipment, \$1,800; IAASA's India's independence day celebration; Iranian Women Organisation, which is a new organisation set up just recently, Nowruz Bazaar, \$4,480—

Mr GARDNER: Sorry, minister, how much was the Indian Australian Association just before?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That was \$2,500. It is separate to the Mela. It is a different event that they have. Continuing the list, it includes the Iraqi Community Cultural Association, \$3,500; Iraqi Families United of South Australia's Iraq Annual Dinner, \$2,100; JusticeNet SA, legal practice resources for volunteers, \$4,725; Keli Adelaide, \$5,000; Kenya Association, \$4,913; the Fly Away identity workshops with Afghan Youth for Lutheran Community Care, \$4,613; Magwi Development Agency, volunteer training; and Many Threads Fund, independence day and graduation, \$3,220. MCC have several: learning from each other, \$2,000; multicultural youth development project, \$2,500; Harmony Picnic Day, \$5,000; and a multicultural playgroup, \$4,337.

It also includes the Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia, data projector, \$2,243; Overseas Chinese Association, Mid-Autumn Festival, \$4,600, and the 35th anniversary celebration open day, \$5,000; Pakistan-Australia Literary Forum, \$2,200; Panache Adelaide French Theatre, \$5,000; and Papua New Guinea Association, independence day, \$1,600.

It continues: Pashtun Association equipment needs, \$714; Punjab Aussie Association of South Australia, Vaisakhi Mela, \$4,700; Reedbeds Community Centre, Big BBQ, \$2,653; Shruthi Adelaide, Celebration of Womanhood, \$3,170, and Young Talents Day, \$3,020; Sinhala Broadcasting Service, community radio, \$2,500; Somali Bantu Community Association, community tours, \$5,000; Bor community, their community national day, \$3,053, and communication tools to improve information, \$3,450; Telangana Association, festival, \$2,150, and basic assets for the community; the Bangladeshi Community Association, Bengali New Year Festival, \$3,000; the Swiss Club of South Australia, anniversary celebration, \$4,036; and, the Burundian community, 12th anniversary and Multicultural Independence Day celebration, \$3,500.

Further, we had the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia, Italian playgroup, \$4,995; the House of Arts and Culture, Seeking the Light Valentine Night, \$3,500; Latvian Relief Society, new oven and stove, \$2,098; the Slovenian Club, enhancing communication and engagement, \$5,000; Uniting Church in Australia, equipment for op shop, \$1,748; the Vietnamese Catholic community in SA, family day, \$3,500; Turkish Association of South Australia, celebrating the Turkish Republic, \$2,367; the United Sudanese Community Association, equipment, \$4,924; the Vietnamese Community in Australia, Trung Thu—Vietnamese Children's Full Moon Festival, \$4,000; the Fiji Association, cultural dinner, \$3,000; and, the Zomi Innkuan Adelaide have three grants: thanksgiving day, \$5,000, office equipment, \$5,000, and, national day celebration, \$2,000.

There are medium rounds as well, including: the Adelaide Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Samitee Incorporated, \$9,000; African Communities Council, purchase of office equipment for Elizabeth office, \$7,620; Alliance Francaise d'Adelaide, floor coverings, \$9,981; the Australia Day Council of South Australia, the city parade workshops, \$7,149; Australian Refugee Association, Harmony Day and Refugee Week, \$7,520; and Centacare Catholic Family Services, Youth Mental Health Resource Translation Project, \$12,570.

CO.AS.IT—something that the member for Hartley is very aware of—have done an excellent pilot, which is building wellbeing and resilience across CO.AS.IT Ageing Italian Community, \$17,418. While we are talking about CO.AS.IT, they have done these apps to help with communication for those people often going back to their birth language. Now they have collaborated with both the Bhutanese and the Vietnamese communities to develop this app. I have to say, excellent work, and I am really proud of the work they have done.

The medium round continues: Cyprus Festival, \$16,332; Greek Orthodox Community and Parish of Norwood and Eastern Suburbs, supply two new electric ovens, \$13,660; IAASA, equipment for the hall, \$18,975; Let's Talk Together Association, \$6,058; the Vietnamese Women's Association, Looking Back...Looking Forward, \$10,842; and, Volunteering SA and NT, management conference, \$16,500.

In the major rounds, we have the Australian Refugee Association, crucial comforts, \$5,000; Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast, Me and IT, \$7,000; SIN, the multicultural project officer for CALD; Teen Challenge SA, reroofing client and volunteer rehabilitation facilities; and the Anangu Aboriginal Corp.

I think a few crossed over. For the minor rounds, Adelaide Bangladeshi Cultural Club, for their festival, received \$1,254, under what was the CBSA. ARA received \$5,000 for their multicultural hub. The Puja society received \$3,526 for Durga Puja 2016 and Saraswati Puja 2017. Emo'ya'M'bondoo, a Sudanese group, received \$4,820 for some office equipment.

Magwi Development Agency received \$5,000 for women of strength supporting each other, MCC training resources for digital life admin, crockery and a multicultural playgroup. The Pashtun Association received money for equipment. The Tanzanian Community Association received \$1,525 for the Family Day Out. The Burundians received \$2,350 for their soccer community event. There is more availability across those grants, but most multicultural groups apply for the SA grants program.

The CHAIR: I hope that answers your question, member for Hartley.

Mr TARZIA: I am happy for you to take this on notice, minister. Is the minister able to provide a breakdown of all the organisations who were refused 2016-17 grants from multicultural affairs? Can this include the reasons as to why these groups were refused the grant funding?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: When you say 'refused', first of all—

Mr TARZIA: Declined.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I just need to clarify. When people apply to Grants SA, there are some people who are ineligible to apply because it does not fit our grants criteria, then there are people who are eligible but it was oversubscribed. Are you keen to know who was eligible but did not get a grant?

Mr TARZIA: Correct.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: They would not have got a grant because they would have been ranked by the assessment panel.

Mr TARZIA: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not know if I have all that information. I will have to take that on notice and see what I can provide for you. It is obviously quite substantial. It is probably equal to the amount of people I have just read out now.

Mr TARZIA: The omnibus questions are:

1. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors above \$10,000 in 2016-17 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, listing the name of the consultant, contractor or service supplier, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment?

2. In financial year 2016-17 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what underspending on projects and programs (1) was and (2) was not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2017-18?

3. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, please provide a breakdown of attraction, retention and performance allowances, as well as non-salary benefits, paid to public servants and contractors in the years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

4. For each agency for which the minister has responsibility:

(a) How many FTEs were employed to provide communication and promotion activities in 2016-17 and what was their employment expense?

(b) How many FTEs are budgeted to provide communication and promotion activities in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, and what is their estimated employment expense?

(c) The total cost of government-paid advertising, including campaigns, across all mediums, in 2016-17, and budgeted cost for 2017-18.

5. For each agency for which the minister has responsibility:

(a) What was the cost of electricity in 2016-17?

(b) What is the budgeted cost of electricity in 2017-18?

(c) What is the provisioned cost of electricity in 2018-19, 2019-20 and, 2020-21?

6. For each grant program or fund the minister is responsible for please provide the following information for the 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years:

(a) Balance of the grant program or fund;

(b) Budgeted (or actual) expenditure from the program or fund;

(c) Budgeted (or actual) payments into the program or fund;

(d) Carryovers into or from the program or fund; and

(e) Details, including the value and beneficiary, of any commitments already made to be funded from the program or fund.

The CHAIR: As per the agreed timetable, I now call the minister back as Minister for Volunteers. Welcome, Minister for Volunteers. Do you have any new advisers to introduce to us?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No, the advisers continue.

The CHAIR: Do you have an opening statement about volunteers?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, I do. Communities across South Australia depend on over 900,000 volunteers who support a vast range of activities and services to the value of approximately \$5 billion per year. Our volunteers contribute to the wellbeing of our state. They are in increasing demand in a complex and rapidly changing society and are fundamental to our way of life. Launched

in 2014, the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2014-2020 is an investment in the foundations and the future of our state's volunteering.

This year, the strategy has reached its midpoint, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the significant achievements. This strategy is a world first, bringing together four sectors—the South Australian government, Volunteering SA&NT, Business SA and the Local Government Association of South Australia—in a genuine and sustained collaboration. It demonstrates the real value of partnership and coordinating efforts to support the vibrancy and sustainability of our volunteer sector. It ensures that we embrace new opportunities for harnessing the benefits of volunteering in our community.

One of the strategy's key aims is to maintain a volunteer rate of 70 per cent or higher. I am pleased to say that the Volunteering in South Australia 2016 survey report found that volunteer participation in South Australia continues to remain high, with 68 per cent of the population involved in volunteering. This equates to more than 920,000 South Australians. The recently released figures from the 2016 ABS Census of Population and Housing showed South Australia to have the highest rate of volunteering for the states in Australia, and in the national average we are only second to the ACT.

To maintain this high level of volunteering, we need to encourage young people to volunteer and develop a volunteering ethos that they will carry into the future. The strategy's volunteer recognition scheme is supporting this objective through a number of projects and achievements. Through the WeDo app, we are providing young people with easy access to volunteering opportunities and potential employers with a record of their volunteering hours and contributions. I had the pleasure of formally launching the app during the Royal Adelaide Show in September 2016. Since the launch, there has been a steady increase in users of the app, with downloads increasing to more than 200 per month.

The government recognises the invaluable contributions of our volunteers through a range of events and awards. Most prominently, the state Volunteers Day thank you event and presentation of the South Australian Volunteer Awards was held at the Adelaide Town Hall over the June long weekend. The truly festive event was attended by an estimated 1,000 volunteers and supported by fantastic entertainment courtesy of the Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

During 2016-17, we also recognised outstanding volunteer service through almost 4,500 South Australian volunteer certificates of appreciation and 285 Premier's certificates of recognition. We have also funded many volunteer programs and initiatives through our Grants SA program, which gives volunteer organisations access to a range of one-off funding opportunities throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank again our many wonderful volunteering organisations and volunteers, who truly help to make South Australia great.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister.

Membership:

Mr Bell substituted for Mr Gardner.

The CHAIR: Welcome, the member for Mount Gambier. Are you the lead speaker or not?

Mr BELL: No.

The CHAIR: No? It is the member for Hartley again. Do you have an opening statement, member for Hartley?

Mr TARZIA: No, I do not, Chair.

The CHAIR: Do you have any questions?

Mr TARZIA: We can go into questions. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Sub-program 1.7: Volunteer Services, page 114. Most of the references will be to the above, unless

I state otherwise. With regard to the rewards program for volunteers, you made mention of the WeDo app. Have you downloaded the app?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, I have it on my phone.

Mr TARZIA: Excellent. What has happened to the other elements of the volunteer recognition scheme? For example, I understand there were going to be promotional offers, at one stage.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is about to be released. I will just get those details. The first part was being able to record the number of hours that you did as a volunteer—that was our first step—and also getting organisations to register on to the app. For example, we want Zoos SA and Red Cross to register or put themselves on there, so that if you volunteer they can have that material. My understanding is that the next step will have what we call the reward and recognition aspect—it might be movie tickets and things like that—based on some of the stuff that we have seen internationally.

The other section that I am really interested in is the ability to have the hours, the responsibility and the skills that you have received from volunteering verified by your organisation and to be able to print out that record of volunteering and use it when you are applying for jobs. That will be the third stage that we are doing. We have put considerable resources into this. We think this is an important way to go. That is happening now. I will see if we have a time line: it is coming. Trust me, I am focusing on it with great interest.

Mr TARZIA: When do you think those programs will be rolled out?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I expect by the end of this year—at least the next stage, which is about the rewards and things. There will probably be a trial period to make sure it works as we think it should. Also, of course, we will have to go through a process of having people sign up to receive those rewards. Obviously, I encourage all members of parliament who want to support our volunteers and local businesses that might want to offer some discounts or things like that, to approach Volunteering SA&NT, who are working up the project.

Mr TARZIA: Does the app need ongoing funding to support it, and if so, what funding has the government allocated for this purpose beyond 2017-18?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: At this stage, this is the final year of funding in 2017-18.

Mr TARZIA: Did you say the final year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes. It was \$300,000 for three years: 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. I guess, as we come towards the end, we will have some discussions about ongoing costs to continue to run it. Obviously, the significant costs are in the build and the establishment of that program.

Mr TARZIA: It will require additional funds past this financial year for maintenance and other teething issues, I am sure.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I expect we will work with Volunteering SA&NT—they are our peak body and we give them significant funding—to work out whether that becomes part of their established KPIs and see where that would be, going ahead.

Mr TARZIA: How much has been spent on the development and implementation of the app thus far?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is \$300,000 per year for three years.

Mr TARZIA: That is completely dedicated to the development and implementation of the app; is that correct?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: And the running of the app, obviously.

Mr TARZIA: How many people have actually downloaded the app?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I said, over 200 a month—2,212.

Mr TARZIA: How many have registered from using the app?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There are 1,108, and 829 volunteering organisations are registered.

Mr TARZIA: How many have logged data onto the app?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not think I have that detail here for you today. We will have to come back to you about that level of detail.

Mr TARZIA: How many volunteer hours have been logged?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not have that detail here. Just to recap, as at 30 June this year, there were 2,212 downloads, which is more than 200 per month; expressions of interest registered by potential volunteers, 1,108; volunteering opportunities registered by organisations, 829; and the number of organisations trained to self-load volunteer roles is 138, so they can do it themselves. I expect that the running costs for this going forward should not be substantial. The whole point is that we have created the app and that can then be utilised by organisations and volunteers.

Mr TARZIA: In Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Sub-program 1.7: Volunteer Services, on page 114 there is a reference to grant programs. Which grant programs does this apply to?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is \$924,000 in grant funding to the volunteer sector in 2016-17. The funding for the Volunteer Recognition Scheme—which we have just been talking about—is \$300,000; Volunteering SA&NT, \$298,679; Grants SA, \$250,000 worth of one-off grants. I am happy to detail those grants.

Mr TARZIA: Could you, please?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Okay. The Alford CFS, chainsaw and associated equipment, \$1,527; Animal Welfare League of South Australia, first aid training for thrift shop volunteers, \$1,307; Australia Day Council of South Australia, parade marshal training, \$1,450; Backpacks 4 SA Kids Inc., provision of computer and printer for the warehouse, \$1,232; Camp Quality Limited, volunteer training, \$4,800; Careworks Cottage, clean and work-safe, \$817; Country Fire Service Foundation Inc., volunteer equipment, \$2050; East Torrens Operational Support Brigade, purchase of defibrillator for the Adelaide Hills CFS, \$2,470; and Eastwood Community Centre, Little Library, \$1,932.

There is Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc., office chairs, \$3,850; Heysen CFS Group, Brukunga Brigade, life saving equipment, \$4,000; Holiday Explorers Inc., My Skills + My Social Life, \$560; Mannum Baptist Church, Mother Goose Stories, Songs and Rhyme, community engagement playgroup, \$5,000; Moonta and District Progress Association, equipment for volunteers, \$968; Mt Lofty CFS Group, lifelike realistic training manikin, \$2,500; Norton Summit-Ashton CFS Brigade, first aid course for CFS volunteers, \$1,425; Pashtun Association of SA, equipment needs, \$1,200; and Royal Flying Doctor Auxiliary Port Lincoln, purchase of equipment to broaden fundraising activities, \$3,685.

Then, Royal Society for the Blind, South Australia Inc., ID card creator for volunteers, \$2,565; RSL Largs Bay Sub-Branch, bringing club administration into the 21st century, \$3,050; SecondBite, improve workplace health and safety for volunteers and community agency personnel, \$1,036; Soroptimist International Murray Bridge, wig library, \$2,000; South Australia Telangana Association, purchase of basic assets for SA Telangana community, \$2,277; South Australian Country Fire Service, medical equipment, \$1,304; South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron Inc., life jackets, \$2,330.

Also, St Francis Community Children's Centre, management committee training, \$826; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Association of SA Inc. (trading as SIDS and Kids SA), Greening up SIDS and Kids SA, \$1,441; Tea Tree Gully Country Fire Service, a mini cutter, \$4,723; Terowie Citizens' Association Inc., split system air conditioner, \$3,005; Whyalla Unit SES, Safer Community, \$1,980; Yorke Peninsula Community Transport Inc. (advocated by their local member), manual handling training for community transport volunteers, \$3,300.

The following have also received medium grants: Balaklava Town Hall Management Committee Inc., replacement of stage curtains, \$7,000; Bute Country Fire Service Brigade, FLIR (forward looking infrared camera) project, \$8,114; Community House Port Lincoln Inc., volunteer training, \$13,761; Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc., peer support network, \$2,955; Greening Australia SA Ltd, native plant nursery for volunteers, \$14,875; Lochiel Progress Association, Kick in for Pinery Tank, building resilience and natural disaster preparedness, \$18,920; Northern Volunteering SA Inc., computing, \$11,100; Scouts Association of Australia (SA Branch), installation of safety equipment, \$290; Willunga and District Returned Services League, refreshment reno, \$10,485.

Major grants have been allocated to City of West Torrens council, volunteer training program, \$27,040; Clubhouse SA Inc. 'R.E.V. UP' purchasing a Hyundai iMax, \$34,000; Hamley Bridge Community Association, painting/improvement, \$21,050; Milang and District Community Association Inc., upskilling volunteers, \$6,355; Wandearah Memorial Institute, replacement aged chairs and tables in line with work, health and safety responsibilities, \$11,555.

What you might note is, the vast majority of our volunteer training grants go to regional areas. They are very active at applying for grants and, therefore, they have done extremely well. There is also money towards Northern Volunteering totalling \$37,631, and the same to Southern Volunteering as well. That takes us to \$923,941.

Mr TARZIA: Getting back to the Volunteering Strategy, Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Sub-program 1.7: Volunteer Services, page 114, I note that a target for 2017-18 is to 'Continue to develop and implement actions around the priorities of the volunteering strategy for South Australia 2014-20'. What have been the actions of that strategy so far?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I covered a lot of that in my opening remarks, but I am happy to repeat that. I note the Volunteering Strategy has four partners, including Volunteering SA&NT, Business SA, Local Government Association and SA government through the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion. It is to develop a coordinated approach and it involves the experienced outcomes of organisations involving volunteers and participation in line with our strategic plan. The Volunteering Strategy Partnership Board oversees the implementation of the strategy. There have been four project teams that are part of that. We have 55 volunteer members responsible for the strategic outcomes in the strategy. The focus areas are:

- Team 1: invest in the foundations of volunteering;
- Team 2: promote and inform on the benefits of volunteering;
- Team 3: implement leading practice and high quality standards; and
- Team 4: working together to achieve change.

The key outcomes of the strategy include:

- integrating volunteer management into human resources qualifications;
- development and launch of the WeDo app, managed by Volunteering SA&NT;
- to increase the participation of young people volunteering and create pathways to employment;
- initiating social media campaigns to increase volunteering awareness and participation;
- contributing to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment volunteer guidelines;
- developing resources to help access the need for working with children checks and understanding work health and safety laws related to volunteer activity; and
- managing a grant from the Local Government Association to research mutual obligation requirements between volunteers and local government.

This year, we will be conducting the mid-term review of the volunteering strategy and will ensure an ongoing leading practice governance model is in place to determine the priorities for the second term of the strategy.

I thank the people who have been involved. We have actually asked for considerable time from people, not only the people on the board who have taken the chair roles. The board members are Rosina Hislop, the Independent Chair, who has just recently stepped down from the role; Sarah Scammell, Business SA representative; Evelyn O'Loughlin, Volunteering SA&NT; Justine Kennedy, state government representative; and Lisa Teburea, Local Government Association.

The chairs of the project teams are Janet Stone, Management Consultant and Lecturer at Adelaide University; Nick Begakis, AO, Professional Company Director; Erma Ranieri, Commissioner for the Public Sector; and Tim Jackson, Chair of Volunteering SA&NT. As I said earlier, this is a world-leading partnership and we are very proud of the work that has been done.

Mr TARZIA: Obviously, Volunteering SA is very positive about the strategy and they say that it is a very unique partnership of the partners, including Business SA with corporate volunteering. It is also nonpartisan and you mentioned it has some working groups as well. What further outcomes do you think the minister will anticipate will arise from the strategy in the future?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not think we recognise volunteers enough. In fact, within government we have high levels of volunteering and we have been working very closely with the Office for the Public Sector and the Commissioner for the Public Sector about that. I would like to ask Sue to detail some thoughts she might have about what we will do in the next stage.

Ms WALLACE: The strategy and the governance structure is in the process of a review of the current working groups, as well as the actions under each of those working groups. There has been some informal discussion with the partnership board about the focus for the next 12 months to two years and an interest in really strengthening opportunities by combining the resources from business, local government, state government and Volunteering SA.

One of the ideas that has been discussed is to look at a community like Whyalla that has hit hard times. What can the combined resources of the partnership board and the organisations that they represent put in place to provide additional support for communities that are experiencing particularly hard times?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: To add to that, there are two things that I see happening at the moment. I see that awareness of the role of volunteering is increasing and the value of volunteers is being recognised. It is really being seen as part of the life journey. You spend your younger years growing up and going to school, you spend your middle years raising a family and working hard, but then there is that third stage of life. We really want to encourage people to do active volunteering throughout all stages of their life but particularly at the end.

I think one of the things is an expectation of a richer volunteer opportunity. Perhaps I could say that there are a few of our colleagues within the parliament who might be taking their leave who have exceptional skills. Of course, they might be seeking work in the paid environment, but they would be very well regarded in any volunteer capacity as well. People have higher expectations of what they would like to do as a volunteer. I think we have some work to do in regard to professional volunteer management, understanding how to manage volunteers and how to work with volunteers in what they do.

The second area is a more challenging environment because of moves by the federal commonwealth government to increase people's volunteering to be counted towards receiving their Centrelink payments. Sometimes that changes the culture of the volunteer group as people are not there just because they want to volunteer, they are there because they have to volunteer in order to get their Centrelink payments. I am being open and honest that that is often a different group of people who have different motivations for why they are there.

When I talk to people in the volunteering sector, while they welcome all volunteers, they come with some added areas of management. We have lots of work to do within the strategy. I personally think that having more interesting volunteer roles is something that people, one might say the baby boomers, would expect to have. There is still a bit of a culture that all volunteering positions are entry level and are physical positions, getting in there and doing something, but often it is their business skills or their governance skills that will be most needed in the future.

Mr TARZIA: Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Sub-program 1.7: Volunteer Services, page 114. The state opposition would argue that we successfully lobbied the commonwealth to retain its support for VMP, the Volunteer Management Program. Does the minister support the VMP approach or did she support the proposal that this become a grants program focused on disadvantage?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I was presented with that and some advocacy was requested of me. I think I had some conversations with the federal opposition; I would have to recall that. I have been a very big supporter of supporting volunteer management professionals. One of the challenges we have is an expectation that certain industrial relations rules and work health and safety are maintained whether you are in paid or unpaid employment. I think that one of the challenges, when managing people at all levels, is resolving disputes and having an area of mediation facilitation, being able to roster, working out how people work together and do not work together. I am pleased that that decision has been made. It had been raised with me.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I was very interested in your response about the efforts to be made in the future about encouraging more people to volunteer. I am a believer that we all have a responsibility to contribute more to society, so I completely support you on that. Is there more of a challenge in any particular age profile to make people understand that that opportunity will exist for them, or is it part of the natural progression, that we go through various stages of our lives and then have the end realisation that we can use our skills and knowledge to do things? How do we ensure that younger generations have it at an earlier age? I would love the 15 year olds to actually be volunteering and doing that as part of their life cycle.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think we already have a very proud record of people of all ages volunteering. In fact, often some of our newer people to Australia, or people who have finished their studies or are doing their studies, see volunteering as a great pathway to employment. So, that is what they are interested in doing. I think that we continue to support people across the board.

The one thing I notice, though, is younger people like to be project oriented. Rather than committing to every Monday that they will come and do X, they would like to perhaps offer their services for the day and do a project. Part of that is having the flexibility of volunteer opportunities. Sometimes it is organisations changing their expectation of what a volunteer is. There is a lot of growth in that area.

The thing about it is that it is part of citizenship. The other thing is we do not always recognise when we volunteer. I grew up in the country. There are a lot of people who participate and support sports. Whether they are washing the jumpers, cutting the oranges, running around or doing the goals, they do not perceive themselves as a volunteer, yet technically they are. I think there is a lot of movement for us in recognising the many ways that you volunteer. It is not always formal; it is often informal. It is how you do that and just respecting that role.

There is a bit of challenge, I think, with young people who are interested in volunteering because it is something that they care about or are interested in. It could be an environmental clean-up or teaching English to someone. It is actually about finding what motivates each individual person and providing the opportunity to link them to that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I am a believer that the future is in good hands. Young people will stand up, too.

The CHAIR: I want to thank you, minister, for coming in today. I want to thank all of your hardworking staff for working so hard towards today. Minister, do you have some closing remarks?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have had the great opportunity to do estimates every year. This is the fourth year in my capacity as Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion. I just really want to thank my department. Each of them spend a great deal of time preparing for estimates. Can I particularly point out Nancy Rogers, who I would not mind having in question time; she would be great to have there. She is the Director, Office of the Chief Executive.

I have a very interesting portfolio. There are lots of different areas within the portfolio and that requires quite a bit of consolidation and collaboration. Can I thank my chief executive. Can I thank Angela Chooi. Unfortunately, Andrew Thompson, who is our finance guru, has been unwell, so she has stepped in. To all of the executive directors and directors, thank you.

The CHAIR: There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the proposed payments adjourned until tomorrow.

At 14:33 the committee adjourned to Friday 28 July 2017 at 09:00.