

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Danny O’Kelly
- Annette Lancy

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 1

**a) Can the department provide an age snapshot of those who are in residential care at the moment?**

**b) How many 6-, 8- and 11-year-olds are currently in residential care?**

**Nick McGOWAN:** Is the department able to come back to us and give us a snapshot – so take today, for example – of those who are actually in residential care at the moment and just give us an idea of what that looks like today?

**Danny O’KELLY:** In terms of an age breakdown, we can, yes. Yes, we can.

**Nick McGOWAN:** And how many units are there in total across the state?

**Danny O’KELLY:** We can tell you there are over 100 units. We have got I think it is 480-odd beds that are funded – and apologies, Mr McGowan, I should know the numbers off the top of my head, because we are working in them every day, but we can provide you with that breakdown.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Well, like you say, it changes. Do you know how many six-year-olds are currently in residential care as of today, let us say, or the last you were aware of?

**Danny O’KELLY:** We can take that on notice, Mr McGowan.

**Nick McGOWAN:** You will take that on notice – okay. The same for eight-year-olds and 11-year-olds, if we could?

*Hearing Transcript, p. 5*

Name of Committee members asking question: Nick McGowan

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

When children and young people cannot stay with parents, the priority of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (department) is to place children in kinship or foster care.

When suitable home-based care options are not available, young people are placed in residential care. At times, this may include children under the age of 12, including where sibling groups are placed together.

On 24 November 2023, a total of 434 children and young people were supported in such placements.

**Table 1: Ages of children and young people in residential care (including tailored accommodation arrangements) as at 24 November 2023.**

| Age           | Number of children and young people in residential care |
|---------------|---|
| 6             | 1   |
| 7             | 1   |
| 8             | 4   |
| 9             | 2   |
| 10            | 9   |
| 11            | 21  |
| 12            | 36  |
| 13            | 52  |
| 14            | 68  |
| 15            | 108   |
| 16            | 94  |
| 17            | 38  |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>434</b>  |

The youngest child in residential care on this date was a six-year-old child with severe disability, diagnosed with several chronic health and medical conditions that impact communication, hearing, mobility, and basic self-care. This placement is being used to support a transition into a long-term home-based care arrangement, with significant modifications underway to make the planned carer's home suitable.

Contingency care arrangements are utilized when there are no other suitable funded residential placements available or where there is an urgent need for a short-term placement whilst an ongoing placement is identified. Contingency care arrangements provide an important safety net for children who are unable to be accommodated in other forms of care.

**OFFICIAL**

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QUESTION 2

- Do you know how much was spent on emergency hotel accommodation (in child protection) during 2021-23?**
- How many children under child protection spent a night in a hotel room in the last two years, for the reporting periods we are looking at?**

**Nick McGOWAN:** Secretary, perhaps a question for you. The DFFH questionnaire, page 64, lists emergency hotel accommodation as a reason for additional funding being required under the child protection budget lines. Do you know how much was spent on emergency hotel accommodation during 2021–23, the last two years?

**Peta McCAMMON:** I do not have that with me today. I will have to take that on notice.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Yes. Can you tell me how many children under child protection spent a night in a hotel room in the last two years, for the reporting periods we are looking at?

**Danny O’KELLY:** I would have to take that on notice.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 5, p.6*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Nick McGowan**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

Placements are made by child protection practitioners as needed, at any time of the day or night. All available placement options are explored prior to a child being placed with a carer in a hotel. At times, children and young people that come into the care of Child Protection may need to be placed temporarily in a hotel, accompanied by a carer, whilst work is undertaken to coordinate a suitable care and placement arrangement. Every effort is made to ensure children placed in a hotel have their individual needs met and supported by Child Protection staff, prior to them being settled into their identified placement.

Data on children and young people placed in hotels for this purpose is recorded on an individual basis, and not at an aggregate level.

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- Annette Lancy

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 3

**How many children did Child Protection intervene with, in 2021-22 and 2022-23, that required a visit to a doctor or hospital before moving them onto the next stage?**

**Nick McGOWAN:** Are you able to shed any light for the reporting periods – both of them – on how many children you were required to intervene with, and/or when you take them away for kin, residential or foster care, whether it has required for a visit to a doctor or a hospital prior to them actually moving on to the next stage?

**Danny O’KELLY:** Immediately at that point, or –

**Nick McGOWAN:** Correct. Before they even get past the first step, they have to go off to the doctor and the hospital first.

**Danny O’KELLY:** We would probably have to take that on notice, in terms of that level of detail, Mr McGowan.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 6*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Nick McGowan**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

When a child is taken into care by Child Protection, the immediate health and wellbeing needs of the child are assessed. If it is determined that a medical assessment or medical treatment is required, this is arranged as a priority.

Children known to Child Protection may have unmet health needs or develop health issues during their child protection involvement. Identified health needs, including what is necessary to address these needs, are documented in the child’s case plan where relevant, and recorded in the health screens in the child’s case file. Child protection practitioners and service providers provide extensive wrap around case management to support children’s immediate and holistic health needs, in line with the Looking After Children framework. This

includes arranging for children and young people to be seen by a general practitioner to assess their general physical health, immunisation, chronic health conditions and mental wellbeing.

For children in care, a medical assessment must be completed by a general practitioner within 30 days of the young person entering care. For children living at home, child protection practitioners work in partnership with parents to actively support their children's health.

Data on the number of medical assessments provided to children as they come into care is not collected as an aggregate figure.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

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PORTFOLIO: PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE / HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Melanie Heenan

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 4

**a) If 24 months is the average waiting time for public rental housing for clients who have received priority access housing or priority transfer location due to family violence, what are the longest waiting times being experienced by family violence victims?**

**Nick McGOWAN:** That would be great, thank you. Secretary, I would like to refer you to page 216, budget paper 3, 2022–23. The average waiting time for public rental housing for clients who have received priority access housing or priority transfer location due to family violence has now blown out to some 17 months – I think you alluded to that in part of your presentation today. That is 17 months, 2021–22 and 24 months in 2022–23. If 24 months is the average waiting time, what are the longest waiting times being experienced by family violence victims?

**Peta McCAMMON:** I do not have that data point, but I think it is probably important for the committee that, obviously, social housing is one very important option for the majority of women who are fleeing family violence, but it is not the only option that we provide. As I said in my slides, notwithstanding the wait times, we are actually allocating more housing than ever before to people on the priority list for family violence. But I might ask Mel, who is the deputy of family violence, in terms of what those other options are, because a really important option is actually keeping women safe at home. So if maybe Mel could give a bit of detail for the committee?

**Melanie HEENAN:** Absolutely. Thanks, Secretary. If we cast back to when women would be first fleeing family violence, there are a range of options that they would have available to come into the system. So there is obviously Safe Steps, which is the 24/7 crisis response across Victoria that is available for family violence victims to contact, as I say, 24/7 to be able to access those kinds of emergency accommodation options. The Orange Doors, of which there are now 18 across the state, are also a really important entry point, where at that point if there is a need for emergency accommodation because risk is assessed to be at that rate or at that level, then there are those types of risk assessments that are undertaken and the triaging I guess around the best possible option for that woman and their family.

**Nick McGOWAN:** I suppose – sorry to interrupt you – but I get all that, right. But this is not new to any of us, and you guys have been doing this for a long time, so you can anticipate where there is going to be growth in family violence because of increased reporting, and there is a lot of that there in the last couple of years, we can see that too – but you anticipated that. So my point is, with these sorts of lists where the median waiting

time is 24 months – much less the extreme of that, whatever that looks like – and if we could come back to that figure, that would be great, because I think we need to understand what it looks like –

**Peta McCAMMON:** Yes, if we have it.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 6-7*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Nick McGOWAN**

## **RESPONSE**

### **Answer:**

Victim survivors of family violence may apply for any Victorian Housing Register (VHR) category where they meet the criteria. There are also specific 'family violence' priority types within three priority access categories on the VHR where experiences of family violence are the basis of eligibility for social housing:

- Priority transfers – family violence (for transfer applicants only)
- Homeless with support – family violence (for new applicants only)
- Special housing needs – family violence (for both new and transfer applicants).

These priority types were introduced in 2016. Prior to 2016, there was no distinction between family violence or homelessness as an applicant's primary reason. The VHR created a distinction in terms of reason to ensure adequate consideration is given to safety matters when housing someone experiencing family violence, and to allow reporting on the outcomes for these needs at a more granular level.

Budget Paper 3 (BP3) reports a performance measure specific to victim survivors of family violence, which is defined as the 'average waiting time for public rental housing for clients who have received a priority access housing or priority transfer allocation due to family violence'. The methodology used for this performance measure counts allocations into public housing from any of the specific family violence priority types listed above. The methodology counts the time that an applicant has been approved for priority access on the VHR, so this could include time spent in any priority access category on the VHR, including applicants who were approved to priority access prior to the establishment of specific family violence priority types.

In 2022-23, 40 per cent of the households recorded in the BP3 measure waited less than 12 months to be housed. The longest wait time for a family violence applicant allocated into public housing in 2022-23 was 121.9 months, although, multiple offers of long-term housing were made to the applicant during this period. Wait times are influenced by a number of factors, including the location preferences an applicant has nominated in their application, the number and types of properties available in these locations, the demand in the areas the applicant wants to live and whether any offers of housing were declined.

Waiting times for victim survivors are also influenced by increasing demand for social housing (public and community housing). In June 2017, there were 1,667 VHR applications approved for the reason of family violence, compared to 4,087 by June 2023. Despite this, there has been a 49 per cent increase in allocations into social housing to family violence victim survivors since 2019-20, with 1,132 compared with 758 in 2019-20.

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PORTFOLIO: VETERANS

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Louise Perry

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 5

a) Can you provide examples of outcomes you have seen from the RSL Active program?

**Michael GALEA:** Terrific. I would also like to ask about – perhaps to you as well, Ms Perry, still in the same veteran space – the RSL Active program. I had the opportunity to actually meet with a bunch of the people that took part in that earlier this year – which was really, really great to be part of – and see what they get out of it. It is basically providing more support for veterans to actually engage in various sporting or other recreational activities. Can you talk to me about this program? This is referenced in the 2022–23 state budget, budget paper 3, page 51, and is outlined in there. Can you please talk to us about what that program has delivered in the two-year period in which we are looking?

**Louise PERRY:** Yes, absolutely. Just give me one second. The RSL Active program, as you have touched on, really provides a way for veterans to connect with other veterans and to develop social networks. It gives them an opportunity to share ideas, to tell stories and to enhance support circles and improve physical and mental health. The uptake of the RSL Active program has steadily increased, which is fantastic, and participating RSL sub-branches run varied activities on a regular basis as part of the program, so everything from yoga, to cycling, to golf and to croquet. We are finding that it is an incredibly well-attended program. What we saw with the funding of the RSL Active program, particularly in the 2022–23 budget, was that it really supported the continuation and expansion of the program to those additional sub-branches, so we were able to move out further. As you know, the program aims to reduce social isolation and improve veterans' mental health, which we see over and over again is a key part of the support that we provide.

**Michael GALEA:** Terrific. Can I ask for some of the, perhaps, examples or in broader terms what the outcomes you have seen from this program are?

**Louise PERRY:** I have not got any outcomes in front of me, but I am super happy to take that on notice and supply you with them.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 10*

Name of Committee members asking question: Michael Galea

RESPONSE



**Answer:**

The 2022-23 Victorian Budget allocated **\$200,000** over two years to support the continuation of the RSL Active program. RSL Active was established and has run continuously since 2016. The program is delivered by RSL Victoria together with RSL sub-branches across the state.

The program offers a range of events and activities for veterans to create and develop social networks, enhance support circles and improve mental and physical health outcomes. Events and activities have been successful in bringing veterans together through outdoor programs, music, art, adaptive sports programs and other social activities. The program also allows RSL sub-branches to connect with veterans, undertake welfare checks and provide referrals to support services, where required. This is having a positive benefit on veterans' health and wellbeing, and community connections.

RSL Victoria has been working with Victorian RSL sub-branches to expand the program across the state. There continues to be a steady increase in the number of sub-branches delivering the program, and veterans participation rates.

Since July 2022, the program has supported over 1,200 veterans to participate, and the number of sub-branches engaged in the program has increased from nine to 15. Veterans subscribing to the RSL Active newsletter has increased by 34 per cent over this period.

RSL sub-branches currently running events include Altona, Ararat, Bentleigh, Greensborough, Inverloch, Kyneton, Mildura, Morwell, Phillip Island, Wangaratta, Warragul, Warrnambool, Western Regions (Melton and Bacchus Marsh) and Wonthaggi.

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PORTFOLIO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Danny O’Kelly
- Annette Lancy

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 6

**In relation to the 41 child death inquiries carried out by the Commission for Children and Young People in 2021-22 and the associated 38 recommendations, please advise which recommendations have been implemented and those that have not.**

**Nick McGOWAN:** That is okay. Just following up from earlier, if you could come back to us in terms of the Commission for Children and Young People, their 41 inquiries and their 28 recommendations – on the recommendations the department believe have been fully implemented and the ones that have not – that would be great.

**Peta McCAMMON:** Yes, sure.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 13*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Nick McGowan**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

In 2021-22 the Commission for Children and Young People (Commission) completed 41 child death inquiries. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (department) assists the Commission during the draft stage of the inquiry process with information on factual accuracy and adverse comments as per the legislative requirements of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012*.

The Commission provides recommendations in the final child death inquiry report after consideration of information provided by all stakeholders consulted in the inquiry process. The department will then provide the Commission the information (evidence and completed actions) to recommend acquittal.

Of the 41 child death inquiries completed in 2021-22:

- 26 inquiries made no recommendations
- 15 inquiries made 28 recommendations.

Of the 28 recommendations made, 18 were for the department and ten were for external agencies/government departments.

Of the 18 recommendations for the department:

- Eleven recommendations have been completed and the recommendation has been acquitted by the Commission
- three are in progress
- four were not accepted by the department as they related to existing policies, processes or planned system reforms.

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PORTFOLIO: PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Melanie Heenan

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 7

**a) Can you provide a list of crisis accommodation providers and what they provide to the department?**

**Melanie HEENAN:** Post a motel option, which of course is not ideal, and if risk is assessed at a certain level, then there could be a placement at a core and cluster refuge. Again, that is very early on in the piece, but it is those core and cluster refuges and the kind of redevelopment of the communal approach, which was a pretty institutionalised approach. The royal commission was absolutely steadfast in its views that there needed to be a much more modernised system of refuges available to women and kids. When women and kids are in the context of core and cluster models, they have got access to all manner of services including connections with homelessness and housing services, so that starts them on that road in terms of being able to make those connections with what could be exit pathways. There is huge demand, and that is partly what we are talking about here. But there are real opportunities for there to be those needs assessed in relation to longer term housing – even shorter term to medium term housing options – and the refuge redevelopment project is but part of that equation. But the crisis accommodation properties are, though small in number, still important. There are partnerships that we have with community organisations such as McAuley community services, Berry Street and Good Samaritan Inn that also have transitional accommodation to assist victim-survivors of family violence.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Would you mind providing a list of those providers and what they provide to the department?

**Melanie HEENAN:** Absolutely. I can give you a sense of that now, but if you would rather move on, that is fine.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 14*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Nick McGOWAN**

RESPONSE

**Answer:**

Family violence refuges provide a short-term safety and support response in a supported accommodation setting to victim survivors and their children who are at high risk of injury or death due to family violence, and who cannot remain safely at home.

There are currently 31 refuges across Victoria run by 24 community service organisations (refuge agencies), including 23 core and cluster facilities which feature independent residential units allowing for independent living, and 24/7 onsite support.

Crisis Accommodation Program properties (CAPs) are standalone residential houses that are used flexibly by refuge agencies to meet the accommodation needs of victim survivors. CAPs are suitable for single household families and are most often used to accommodate victim survivors who need additional support upon leaving refuge so they can then successfully transition to longer term housing.

There are more than 60 CAPs across Victoria.

A list of agencies and the types of accommodation they provide is outlined at **Table 1**, noting some providers have more than one refuge and / or CAP.

**Table 1 – Family Violence refuge agencies and accommodation types (as at December 2023)**

| Agency  | Location           | Refuge Type  | CAP |
|---|--------------------|--|-----|
| Annie North   | Regional           | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Berry Street Victoria                                       | Regional           | Dispersed  | Yes |
| Centre Against Violence                                     | Regional           | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Elizabeth Morgan House                                      | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Emerge Women and Children's Support                         | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| GenWest (formerly Women's Health West)                      | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Georgina Martina Collective (2 refuges)                     | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC) | Regional           | Communal (will be replaced with Core & Cluster)                    |     |
| Good Samaritan Inn  | Metro              | Communal   |     |
| Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service                        | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Kara House  | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Mallee District Aboriginal Service                          | Regional           | Core & Cluster   |     |
| Mallee Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Service         | Regional           | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| McAuley Community Services for Women (2 refuges)            | Metro              | Communal (will be replaced with Core & Cluster) and Dispersed      | Yes |
| Quantum Support Services                                    | Regional           | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Refuge Victoria (3 refuges)                                 | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Rumbalara   | Regional           | Core & Cluster   |     |
| Safe Steps  | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |
| Salvation Army (2 refuges)                                  | Metro              | Core & Cluster and Dispersed                                       |     |
| Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre (2 refuges)         | Regional           | Core & Cluster and Communal (will be replaced by Core and Cluster) | Yes |
| Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency                      | Regional           | Core & Cluster   |     |
| Vincent Care (2 refuges)                                    | Regional and Metro | Dispersed and Core and Cluster                                     | Yes |
| WAYSS Ltd   | Metro              | Core & Cluster   |     |
| Women's Liberation Halfway House                            | Metro              | Core & Cluster   | Yes |

**Refuge Types:**

Core & Cluster – On site 24/7 support services, service delivery area (core), self-contained units (cluster), up to 6 households at a time

Communal – Residential house, shared facilities, 3-6 households – being phased out in line with RCFV recommendation except for Good Samaritan Inn (agency owned) - supported by refuge provider

Dispersed – Single household dwellings, located in close proximity to each other – supported by refuge provider.

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PORTFOLIO: MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Louise Perry

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 8

**a) What has been the investment in the Migrant Workers Centre in 2021-22 and 2022-23?**

**Meng Heang TAK:** Do you happen to have figures for the Migrant Workers Centre?

**Louise PERRY:** The Migrant Workers Centre – let me just have a quick look at that.

**Meng Heang TAK:** It is okay if you do not.

**Louise PERRY:** Yes, I can take it on notice and come back to you.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 19*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Meng Heang Tak**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

Since 2021 **\$2,556,000** has been provided to the Migrant Workers Centre through the Multicultural Affairs portfolio. This includes:

- \$1,278,000 in 2021-22; and
- \$1,278,000 in 2022-23.

These funds supported the work of MWC in providing support to migrant workers to seek job security, access to justice, compensation and whistle blower protections.

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PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 9

**Of the 12,000 proposed, how many are new builds and how many are purchases – or is it all new builds?**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Of the 12,000 proposed, how many are new builds and how many are purchases – or is it all new builds?

**Simon NEWPORT:** I do not think I have that breakdown in front of me here.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. Can I perhaps ask you to take that on notice, and in addition, how many will be public housing versus social housing?

**Simon NEWPORT:** Yes. Of course.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 23*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'BRIEN**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

The Big Housing Build is on track to deliver 12,000 new homes for Victorians.

Of the 7,600 homes that are completed or underway under the Big Housing Build to 30 June 2023, there have been 6,992 new builds and 608 purchases from the private market. This includes 3,750 public houses, 3,400 community houses and 450 affordable houses. Planning is underway for the remainder of houses to be delivered under the Big Housing Build.



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PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 10

**a) Is there anything private at all (in the proposed 12,000 new builds)?**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Is there anything private at all?

**Simon NEWPORT:** Out of the big build there was a small component of private, I think, but I think it was a number of around about 500. I would like to be able to clarify that –

**Danny O'BRIEN:** If you could clarify that.

**Simon NEWPORT:** but I think it was quite a small number.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 23*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'BRIEN**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

The Big Housing Build has a target of 500 new private dwellings within the more than 12,000 new homes being delivered.

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PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 11

**a) What was the actual spend at 30 June 2023 on the Big Housing Build?**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Finally on this one, can I just ask what the actual spend at 30 June was on the Big Housing Build?

**Simon NEWPORT:** Yes. Okay. I might have to take that on notice, specifically. Look, can I say that the number which has widely been reported in the press of \$3 billion – I think, you know, the papers do what they do. I think what I would really like to call out is that when you are talking about expenditure on a program, clearly houses do not start and finish within the same financial year, so I would really talk to the huge amount of work that is underway. As I said, 6000 are underway for the Big Housing Build. So when there is talk in the press about \$3 billion being spent to deliver 3000, I hope people do not mind me being frank but that is pretty misleading, because it does not speak at all to the 6000 houses that are in various stages of being underway. So I will of course provide you with that precise information.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 23-24*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'BRIEN**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

The Big Housing Build Program's expenditure to date at 30 June 2023 is \$1.9 billion.

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PORTFOLIO: DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Argiri Alisandratos

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 12

a) Can you provide more specific advice about the Carers Card program?

**Meng Heang TAK:** Yes, thank you. That is very good to hear. Would you be able to talk more about the carers card that we provide?

**Argiri ALISANDRATOS:** Yes. The carers card is also an important initiative that supports carers to enable them to be able to get free access and subsidised access to a range of community events. It is an important program that supports carers in their participation and supports their role in the work they do in supporting their caring partners. I can come back to you with more specific advice about that, because I do not have that in front of me at the moment.

**Meng Heang TAK:** Okay. All right. I am more than happy to come back on that.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 21*

Name of Committee members asking question: Meng Heang Tak

RESPONSE

Answer:

The Victorian Carer Card ('We Care' Card) recognises unpaid carers' contributions to the Victorian community and the lives of the people they care for.

To be eligible to receive a Victorian Carer Card, a person must be a permanent resident of Victoria and either:

- an unpaid primary carer of a person with a disability, a severe or chronic medical condition, a mental illness or someone who is frail, aged or in need of palliative care or
- a foster, kinship or unpaid respite carer.

The Victorian Carer Card provides free and concessional public transport, including, free travel vouchers and free public transport during Carers week. Cardholders can also access thousands of discounts at a range of participating businesses including travel and leisure, education, tourism, health, wellness and retail.

Cardholders can also enjoy discounted entry at many State Government owned venues such as zoos and museums.

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PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 13

**a) How many homes are out of action because of maintenance issues?**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Can I ask also how many homes are actually out of action because of maintenance issues?

**Simon NEWPORT:** How many homes are out of action because of maintenance issues? I would have to take that on notice precisely. I have got vacancy numbers for relettable.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** That would be interesting, if you could take the other one on notice.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 24*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'BRIEN**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

There are 1,333 homes from a total of 64,141\* public housing stock (2.08%) currently vacant due to maintenance works as of 8 November 2023, including:

- 1,025 properties that will be vacant for under three months as they undergo maintenance or more extensive works via the local housing office following a tenant vacating the property, and
- 308 properties that will be vacant for over three months as the property requires an extensive renewal to extend its life cycle, fire damage rectification, or requires modification to suit a tenant's liveability requirements.
- Footnote \* 64,141 public housing stock comprises of 63,087 Rental General Stock properties and 1,054 Rental Movable Units data extract taken from HiiP Rep104 report dated 06/11/2023.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 14

**Can you tell me how many demolished public housing sites the department is currently in charge of that are vacant?**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Broadly speaking, yes. Can you tell me how many demolished public housing sites the department is currently in charge of that are vacant?

**Simon NEWPORT:** I would have to take that specific number on notice.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. And perhaps looking at it, I guess the question is: at any given time there will be some that are being rebuilt, but if there are any that are either long term or are not proposed to be rebuilt, if could you provide that, that would be –

**Simon NEWPORT:** Yes, there would be, and we can provide that information.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 25*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'BRIEN**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

The Housing portfolio has 237 vacant land parcels that do not currently have homes on them or construction activities underway. Of these:

- 196 sites have been allocated to a delivery program such as the Base Building Program, Big Housing Build, Regional Housing Fund or Commonwealth Social Housing Accelerator Fund.
- 29 sites that have been approved for sale to support capital recycling and investment in new housing.
- six land parcels that cannot be redeveloped due to being leased out, restrictive controls or site constraints (land size too small, and / or restrictive overlays such as public acquisition).
- six sites are under review and not yet allocated to redevelopment program.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Louise Perry

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 15

- a) How many Community Infrastructure Fund projects in 2021-22 and 2022-23 were in the outer-suburban growth areas?
- b) Can you please provide a list of the recipients, the organisations and their locations for those grants?
- c) Can you also provide a list of the recipients and locations for the Multicultural Festival and Events program in 2022-23?

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Well, we will decide that, Ms Perry. We will start with multicultural if I could. The Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund supported 99 projects in 2021–22 and 32 projects in 2022–23. Is it possible to get a list of the recipients, the organisations and their locations from those grants?

**Louise PERRY:** I think that should be possible, yes. If it is not in the annual report, we will be able to get that for you.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Yes. We are particularly interested to know how many are in outer-suburban growth areas, but presumably if you tell me where they are, we will be able to work that out. It is not publicly available, is it, on a website somewhere?

**Louise PERRY:** I would be surprised if it is not in the annual report. I think we publish where those grants go. But I will look into it.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Yes, if you could look anyway. We often get told that it is in the annual report, and good luck finding it.

**Peta McCAMMON:** Yes. I think the annual report provides the recipient of grants and the amount. It might not give us detail about which particular grant program, but anyway, we will take that on notice.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** If you could provide that –

**Louise PERRY:** I can confirm it is in the annual report.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** If you could provide that detail that I have asked for, that would be great. Likewise, the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program supported 697 festivals in 2022–23. Could we get a list of those too?

**Louise PERRY:** Yes.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 27*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'Brien**

## **RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

**a) How many Community Infrastructure Fund projects in 2021-22 and 2022-23 were in the outer-suburban growth areas?**

In 2021-22, five projects and, in 2022-23, eight projects were awarded in outer suburban growth areas through the Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund. Outer suburban growth areas have been identified as the local government areas (LGA) of Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Whittlesea and Wyndham as defined in *Victoria's infrastructure strategy 2021-2051* (Infrastructure Victoria).

**In 2021-22, the five projects by LGA were:**

Casey: 2 projects

- \$39,368 – Buddhist Vihara Victoria Inc
- \$500,000 – St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Inc

Hume: 1 project

- \$32,500 – Samadhi Buddhist Meditation Association Inc

Whittlesea: 1 project

- \$75,000 – St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral Parish Melbourne North

Wyndham: 1 project

- \$51,790 – Virgin Mary Mosque

**In 2022-23, the eight projects by LGA were:**

Casey: 1 project

- \$48,000 – Daarul Arqam Australia

Hume: 5 projects

- \$36,545 – Hume City Council
- \$8,840 – Hume City Council
- \$281,587 – Nepali Community Centre
- \$150,202 – Kali Mata Mandir Craigieburn
- \$100,000 – North Victorian Buddhist Association

Wyndham: 2 projects

- \$126,692 – Sikh Community of Western Victoria
- \$6,723 – Asian Business Association of Wyndham

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Annual Report 2022-23 (Appendix 3) contains a list of organisations and payments that were provided through grant programs delivered by the Multicultural Affairs portfolio.

**b) Can you please provide a list of the recipients, the organisations and their locations for those grants?**



**2021-22 Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund by organisation and location**

| <b>Account Name</b>  | <b>Project LGA</b>    | <b>Current Amount Contracted</b> |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Australian Croatian Association<br>Stjepan Radic Ballarat          | Ballarat              | \$80,103.74                      |
| Association Of Eratya Inc  | Bass Coast            | \$11,000.00                      |
| Bhaddeka Vihari Padanama Ltd                                       | Baw Baw               | \$221,807.72                     |
| Mata Chintapurni Arts/Education<br>and Cultural Centre             | Brimbank              | \$500,000.00                     |
| Buddhist Vihara Victoria Inc.                                      | Casey                 | \$39,368.00                      |
| Nevoliany Scopia Social Club                                       | Darebin               | \$44,023.18                      |
| Greek Orthodox Parish of Saints<br>Methodios and Kyrillos, Preston | Darebin               | \$38,700.00                      |
| The Hindu Society of Victoria<br>(Australia) Inc                   | Frankston             | \$111,135.82                     |
| St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox<br>Church Inc.                 | Casey                 | \$500,000.00                     |
| St Anthony's Parish  | Glen Eira             | \$97,000.00                      |
| Beth Weizmann Community Centre Inc                                 | Glen Eira             | \$53,650.87                      |
| The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion                            | Greater Bendigo       | \$430,717.47                     |
| Druze Community Charity of Victoria                                | Greater<br>Dandenong  | \$500,000.00                     |
| Serbian Orthodox Church & School<br>Community St Stefan            | Greater<br>Dandenong  | \$489,500.00                     |
| Wellsprings for Women  | Greater<br>Dandenong  | \$42,178.64                      |
| Victorian Tamil Association Inc                                    | Greater<br>Dandenong  | \$60,000.00                      |
| Association of Ukrainians in Victoria                              | Moonee Valley         | \$124,731.37                     |
| Siasi Uesiliana Tauataina'otonga I<br>Aositelelia                  | Greater<br>Shepparton | \$96,723.76                      |
| Centre for Participation   | Horsham               | \$14,339.48                      |
| Samadhi Buddhist Meditation<br>Association Inc                     | Hume                  | \$32,500.00                      |
| Sant Nirankari Mandal Australia Inc                                | Knox                  | \$32,124.00                      |
| Australian Multicultural<br>Community Services Limited             | Maribyrnong           | \$500,000.00                     |
| Maltese Community Council of<br>Victoria Inc.                      | Melbourne             | \$148,152.72                     |
| Islamic Council of Victoria Inc                                    | Melbourne             | \$42,445.00                      |
| Sunraysia Alevi Turkish Association                                | Mildura               | \$32,985.00                      |
| The Korean Society of Victoria<br>Australia Inc                    | Monash                | \$73,500.00                      |
| Da Vinci Social Club   | Wangaratta            | \$18,388.91                      |
| North East Multicultural Association Inc                           | Wangaratta            | \$58,822.50                      |
| St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral<br>Parish Melbourne North       | Whittlesea            | \$75,000.00                      |
| Virgin Mary Mosque   | Wyndham               | \$51,790.00                      |

**2022-23 Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund by organisation and location**

| <b>Account Name</b>                                       | <b>Project LGA</b> | <b>Current Amount Contracted</b> |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Polish Sporting Recreation and Community Association Inc. | Brimbank           | \$106,976.00                     |
| Eritrean Orthodox Association in Australia                | Brimbank           | \$156,990.00                     |
| Daarul Arqam Australia                                    | Casey              | \$48,000.00                      |
| Free to Feed  | Darebin            | \$91,069.00                      |
| Sikh Volunteers Australia Incorporated                    | Frankston          | \$250,000.00                     |
| City of Greater Dandenong                                 | Greater Dandenong  | \$100,000.00                     |
| Australia Ceylon Fellowship Inc                           | Greater Dandenong  | \$250,000.00                     |
| Cambodian Buddhist Association of Victoria Inc            | Greater Dandenong  | \$250,000.00                     |
| Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc                         | Hobsons Bay        | \$150,000.00                     |
| AIDA VICTORIA   | Hobsons Bay        | \$150,000.00                     |
| Newport Islamic Society                                   | Hobsons Bay        | \$250,000.00                     |
| Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc.                      | Hobsons Bay        | \$50,000.00                      |
| Nepali Community Center                                   | Hume               | \$281,587.00                     |
| Kali Mata Mandir Craigieburn VIC                          | Hume               | \$150,202.00                     |
| North Victorian Buddhist Association                      | Hume               | \$100,000.00                     |
| Hume City Council   | Hume               | \$36,545.00                      |
| Hume City Council   | Hume               | \$8,840.00                       |
| The Benevolent Association of Nafpaktians                 | Kingston (Vic.)    | \$25,000.00                      |
| Shree Swaminarayan Temple Melbourne Inc                   | Knox               | \$243,750.00                     |
| Eastern Districts Polish Association                      | Knox               | \$103,750.00                     |
| Museum of Chinese Australian History                      | Melbourne          | \$100,000.00                     |
| Nafsika Stamoulis Hellenic Museum Limited                 | Melbourne          | \$33,780.00                      |
| The Lefcadian Brotherhood "Lefcada"                       | Moreland           | \$27,268.00                      |
| St Kilda Hebrew Congregation                              | Port Phillip       | \$100,000.00                     |
| Greek Orthodox Parish of St Konstantine and Helen         | Stonnington        | \$64,845.00                      |
| Sikh Community of Western Victoria                        | Wyndham            | \$126,692.00                     |
| Asian Business Association of Wyndham                     | Wyndham            | \$6,723.00                       |
| Melbourne Karen Buddhist Association Inc.                 | Moorabool          | \$97,890.00                      |
| Russian House Melbourne Inc.                              | Yarra              | \$85,497.00                      |
| Societa' Isole Eolie                                      | Yarra              | \$25,000.00                      |
| North Cyprus Turkish Community of Victoria                | Brimbank           | \$500,000                        |

**c) Can you also provide a list of the Multicultural Festival and Events program in 2022-23?**

In the 2022-23 MFE program, the following number of grants and funding amounts were allocated according to the LGA of the successful organisations:

| Organisation LGA            | Number of grants approve | Sum of Amount Approved |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Melbourne                   | 29                       | \$                     |
| Monash                      | 45                       | \$                     |
| Wyndham                     | 31                       | \$                     |
| Yarra                       | 25                       | \$                     |
| Moreland                    | 12                       | \$                     |
| Brimbank                    | 18                       | \$                     |
| Maroondah                   | 6                        | \$                     |
| Darebin                     | 21                       | \$                     |
| Knox                        | 13                       | \$                     |
| Hume                        | 20                       | \$                     |
| Casey                       | 24                       | \$                     |
| Greater Shepparton          | 6                        | \$                     |
| Greater Bendigo             | 9                        | \$                     |
| Maribyrnong                 | 15                       | \$                     |
| Banyule                     | 3                        | \$                     |
| Greater Dandenong           | 18                       | \$                     |
| Whitehorse                  | 21                       | \$                     |
| Kingston (Vic.)             | 9                        | \$                     |
| Melton                      | 14                       | \$                     |
| Benalla                     | 1                        | \$                     |
| Frankston                   | 7                        | \$                     |
| Boroondara                  | 6                        | \$                     |
| Glen Eira                   | 13                       | \$                     |
| Moonee Valley               | 5                        | \$                     |
| Bayside (Vic.)              | 10                       | \$                     |
| Whittlesea                  | 14                       | \$                     |
| Hobsons Bay                 | 9                        | \$                     |
| South Gippsland             | 1                        | \$                     |
| Port Phillip                | 6                        | \$                     |
| Ballarat                    | 6                        | \$ 19,700              |
| Golden Plains Shire Council | 1                        | \$ 16,000              |
| Manningham                  | 8                        | \$ 16,000              |
| Cardinia                    | 6                        | \$ 15,899              |
| Hepburn                     | 1                        | \$ 14,244              |
| Greater Geelong             | 5                        | \$ 10,334              |
| Stonnington                 | 3                        | \$ 9,000               |
| Surf Coast                  | 2                        | \$ 5,480               |
| Latrobe (Vic.)              | 2                        | \$ 4,000               |
| Nillumbik                   | 2                        | \$ 4,000               |
| Wodonga                     | 2                        | \$ 4,000               |

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

|                            |   |    |       |
|----------------------------|---|----|-------|
| Yarra Ranges               | 2 | \$ | 4,000 |
| Colac Otway                | 1 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Horsham Rural City Council | 1 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Macedon Ranges             | 1 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Mildura Rural City Council | 1 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Statewide                  | 1 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Swan Hill                  | 1 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Loddon Shire Council       | 1 | \$ | 1,700 |

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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PORTFOLIO: YOUTH

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Louise Perry

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 16

On youth, the 2021–22 budget provided funding to support young Victorians at risk of disengagement from the community, including those from culturally diverse backgrounds and also from Aboriginal backgrounds.

- Can you provide a complete list and description of all the programs that were delivered under that funding?
- Can you provide any sort of feedback or criticisms of the programs that you received, and the success of them?

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. That might be a question for us to ask the minister. Just on youth, the 2021–22 budget provided funding to support young Victorians at risk of disengagement from the community, including those from culturally diverse backgrounds and also from Aboriginal backgrounds. Can you provide a complete list and description of all the programs that were delivered under that funding?

**Louise PERRY:** Not here today, but I am very happy to do that. Was that the supporting at-risk young people package?

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Yes. Page 47 of the 2021–22 budget, and the same for the Aboriginal children as well. If you are happy to provide that information –

**Louise PERRY:** I am happy to provide that information.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** And any sort of feedback or criticisms of the programs that you received, and the success of them – if you could provide some information on that, that would be wonderful.

**Louise PERRY:** Anything we have got that does not identify anyone in particular.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Thank you.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 28*

Name of Committee members asking question: Danny O'Brien

**RESPONSE****Answer a)**

The 2021-22 Victorian Budget provided funding to support young Victorians at risk of disengagement through two packages in the Youth portfolio:

- The **Engaging and Supporting At-Risk Young People** package provided **\$18.4 million** over two years to build protective factors around young people at risk of disengagement, including African and Pasifika young people. These investments are also designed to strengthen and build social cohesion and provide access to opportunities and services for young people and their families.
- The **Strengthening Youth Participation and Connection** package provided **\$6.9 million** over two years for programs which aimed to provide access to equitable opportunities to rural and regional young people. This included funding for the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program.

Key programs and initiatives supporting young people from multicultural communities and Aboriginal communities as part of this investment are:

- **Community Support Groups (CSGs)** – six CSGs engaged and supported more than 3,000 South Sudanese, Somali and Afghan young people and their families annually across the north, west and southeast of Melbourne. Support was provided through referrals to community services and relevant agencies. CSGs provide holistic family support packages and parenting programs, sport and recreation activities to engage young people, with a focus on culture and religion.
- **Le Mana Pasifika Project (Le Mana)** – delivered by the Centre for Multicultural Youth, Le Mana provided direct intervention and support to Pasifika young people and their families to improve engagement and support, including in schools, community-based youth programs and through individual casework.
- **Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program (AYMP)** – delivered in partnership with the Youth Affairs Council Victoria and the Koorie Youth Council, this initiative provided community-led mentoring programs delivered by five Aboriginal-led organisations across Victoria. The program enabled Aboriginal young people to build connection to culture and community, enhance life skills, wellbeing and strengthen education, and provide training and employment pathways.

A suite of specialist services to compliment the work of CSGs and Le Mana provided wraparound supports and sport and recreation activities to the most at-risk young people who engaged with these programs, including alcohol and other drug support. Organisations funded to provide wraparound supports included:

- **Youth Support and Advocacy Service** – provided alcohol and other drug support to young people experiencing disengagement, from predominantly African and Pasifika backgrounds.
- **Foundation House** – employed trauma-informed mental health and wellbeing practices to address critical barriers to effective social and economic participation experienced by South Sudanese and other African Australian young people.
- **Western Bulldogs Community Foundation** – supported the delivery of the GOAL Mentoring Program, improving young people's education outcomes, employment opportunities and access to services through mentoring and leadership programs for young people from African backgrounds.
- **The Huddle** – provided opportunities for African and Pasifika young people to partner with North Melbourne Football Club players with the aim of improving social cohesion, education outcomes, employment opportunities and access to services that contributed to an increase in social capital.

**Answer b)**

The programs listed above have produced positive outcomes for young people at risk of disengagement. Feedback on, and evidence of, successful delivery include:

- Six CSGs supported more than 3,000 young people in 2021-22, delivering activities and supports that they reported to have improved their health and wellbeing, and provide opportunities for recreation, education, training, and employment.
- Le Mana provided direct intervention and support to over 800 Pasifika young people annually. In 2022-23, Le Mana worked with 16 schools across Melbourne to facilitate interventions, cultural capacity building and support. Young people were supported in areas including employment, educational engagement, cultural safety, family and community connection.
- The CSGs and Le Mana were found to be effective by an independent evaluation in 2022. Improvements to the program's alignment to Government outcomes and the measurement of outcomes to better capture positive impacts were suggested and have since been implemented.
- The CSGs and Le Mana (including the funded wraparound services) are facing growing demand for support from multicultural young people and their families. CSGs are increasingly providing critical assistance to young people and families to access and navigate other essential services such as housing, settlement, employment and educational services.
- The delivery of 25 cultural events, excursions and camps to support Aboriginal young peoples sense of cultural identity through participation in the AYMP program in 2021-22. Feedback from Aboriginal communities, including via the Koorie Youth Council, confirm the importance of the program in delivering community-led, culturally safe mentoring which builds strength in culture and connection to community.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 17

**a) Can you provide engineering or condition assessment reports of the towers (that are going to be demolished)?**

**Ellen SANDELL:** So do we know when the last condition reports were done of the towers – within the last five years?

**Simon NEWPORT:** No. There certainly have been reports that have examined – I have obviously not read every single one of the reports. I have read at least three or four of them in detail. There are reports obviously that exist which go through the condition. We have all heard about the \$2.3 billion projected figure that would be required to at least maintain the properties in some element of working order. That was the genesis of that number, that series of reports.

**Ellen SANDELL:** And so there are no reports that are publicly available or could be provided to the committee, such as engineering reports, condition assessments?

**Peta McCAMMON:** I know we have got a number of inquiries for documents, so we are happy to take that on notice.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 33*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Ellen SANDELL**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

On 15 Nov 2023, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) was informed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet of an Order to Produce Documents which encompassed the information requested in this Question on Notice. This order to produce process documents is being conducted in conjunction with the Victorian Solicitor General's Office. The release of any documentation relating to engineering or condition assessments will be via this process. The Committee will be informed of the progress of this process and be provided with documentation accordingly.



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 18

**a) Can you provide a breakdown of market versus affordable housing for ground lease 1 and 2 sites?**

**Ellen SANDELL:** Sorry, I am just confused because you were saying that 100 per cent of ground lease 1 and 2 is social housing.

**Simon NEWPORT:** No, no, no, sorry. Ground lease models 1 and 2 are that the properties are building the consortia and run in management by a community housing provider. I gave you the social housing component, which will be a subset of that.

**Ellen SANDELL:** Understood. So do you have figures for the remaining houses on those sites that are not social housing – the breakdown of market versus affordable?

**Simon NEWPORT:** I would have to take that on notice. I think I have only got that on an individual project-by-project basis.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 33*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Ellen SANDELL**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

The Ground Lease Model 1 program will deliver 669 new social, 354 affordable and 346 market rental homes.

- The Flemington site includes 290 social homes and 354 affordable homes, including 7 Specialist Disability Accommodation.
- The Brighton site includes 151 social housing and 140 market rental homes, including 8 Specialist Disability Accommodation.
- The Prahran site includes 228 social homes and 206 market rental homes, including 11 Specialist Disability Accommodation.

Across the four Ground Lease Model 2 program sites, more than 650 social homes, 180 affordable homes, 470 market rental homes and 55 Specialist Disability Accommodation homes will be delivered. This is a 31 per cent increase in social housing across the sites.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: HOUSING

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Simon Newport

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 19

**a) Can you provide a breakdown of the \$939 million for grants and other expense transfers, page 199 of the 2022–23 annual report?**

**Ellen SANDELL:** Okay. Thank you so much. So in the annual report for DFFH 2022–23 the financial statements show an expenditure of \$939 million for grants and other expense transfers. Could you tell us what is contained in that category? So it is on page 199 of the 2022–23 annual report, \$939 million for ‘Grants and other expense transfers’.

**Peta McCAMMON:** Sorry, that is the DFFH rather than –

**Simon NEWPORT:** Look, I would have to provide all of that detail. I have got here a note that says that that additional increase is resulting from the Social Housing Growth Fund. I would have to check and provide you with the detail, but I would say that that is the Social Housing Growth Fund and other funding arrangements that flow out of Homes Victoria.

**Ellen SANDELL:** Thank you.

**Simon NEWPORT:** I do not have a specific breakdown of what that \$939 million is here in front of me.

**Ellen SANDELL:** Are you able to provide it?

**Simon NEWPORT:** Of course.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 33*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Ellen SANDELL**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

- Grant funding is money given to not-for-profit organisations for specified purposes. Grant funding directed at achieving goals and objectives consistent with government policy.

- Homes Victoria distributed \$939.5 million in grant funding to multiple community housing agencies (mainly from the Social Housing Growth Fund) and providers of homelessness and family support services in 2022-23. A breakdown is provided below:

| <b>Grant funding category</b> | <b>Amount (\$m)</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Housing                       | 466.0               |
| Homelessness                  | 345.5               |
| Family Violence               | 128.0               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>939.5</b>        |

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO: WOMEN

Witnesses:

- Peta McCammon
- Louise Perry

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 20

**a) The 2022–23 budget papers include an output for supporting gender equality and better outcomes for women across economic security, safety, leadership, health, wellbeing, everything – amazing. What are the big-ticket items under that initiative?**

**Lauren KATHAGE:** If I have time, I just want to touch on some questions about women if that is okay and equality, gender equality. The 2022–23 budget papers include an output for supporting gender equality and better outcomes for women across economic security, safety, leadership, health, wellbeing, everything – amazing. What are the big-ticket items under that initiative?

**Peta McCAMMON:** We have got Ms Perry back again. I think Lou can talk to us a bit about some of the economic programs that are being rolled out. Also, I think the gender equality commissioner is a really important part of this as well in terms of the accountabilities back to the public sector in terms of employment, pay equity, which I know we have talked about at this committee before as well. But perhaps, Lou, some of the budget initiatives from the last two years –

**Louise PERRY:** Absolutely.

**Peta McCAMMON:** because we know also obviously gender equality has a direct impact to family violence, so it remains a really critical area of focus from a prevention point of view as well. Oh, sorry. I did not do that deliberately, I promise. ...

**Peta McCAMMON:** We are happy to take that on notice. Sorry, Lou.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 41-42*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Lauren Kathage**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

The 2022-23 State Budget invested \$8.4 million over three years to advance gender equality (Source: 2022-23, BP3, p. 39; 52; 52-53). The investment supported a range of initiatives outlined below:

- \$3.1 million to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry into economic equity for Victorian women. In 2022-23 the department allocated the first \$840,000 to a mix of targeted initiatives aimed at boosting

women's participation in non-traditional fields. This included projects that enable students to 'try a trade,' provide mentoring to support women already employed in energy and manufacturing to advance to more senior positions, and work with employers to promote more respectful and inclusive workplaces for women, First Nations and culturally diverse communities. Additionally, the department has partnered with Women with Disabilities Victoria, the state's leading representative body for women with disabilities, announcing a \$400,000 investment in the Sharing our Expertise project.

- \$2.7 million (comprising \$1.1 million in output funding and \$1.6 million in asset funding) to upgrade the Gender Equality Act's reporting platform and develop a dispute resolution case management system.
- \$2.4 million for the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector to provide training, education and resources to conduct gender impact assessments across government.
- \$0.2 million over two years to deliver the Women of Colour leadership program. This program supports women of colour who aspire to senior executive roles.