

UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

Thursday 6 June 2019 - Estimates Committee A (Petrusma)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Thursday 6 June 2019

MEMBERS

Mr Finch
Ms Forrest (Chair)
Mr Gaffney
Ms Lovell
Mr Valentine
Ms Webb

IN ATTENDANCE

Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Women, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Disability Services and Community Development

Ministerial Office

Will Joscelyne, Chief of Staff

Aboriginal Affairs

Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities Sport and Recreation
Anthony King, A/G Manager Office of Aboriginal Affairs
Bronwen Pinkard, Principal Business Analyst
Michael Giudici, Surveyor General, Location Services Land Tasmania
Ms Louise Wilson, General Manager Natural & Cultural Heritage
Mr Steve Gall, Director Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

Women

Ginna Webster, Secretary
Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation
Nick Atkins, A/G Manager Policy and Programs
Bronwen Pinkard, Principal Business Analyst
Mandy Clark, Executive Director, Standards and Performance Communities Tas

Sport and Recreation

Ginna Webster, Secretary

Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation

Helen Langenberg, Manager Sport and Recreation

Paul Austen, Director, Tasmanian Institute of Sport

Mark Green, Manager, Grants, Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Branch

Bronwen Pinkard, Principal Business Analyst

Disability Services

Ginna Webster, Secretary

Peter White, Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability and Community Services

Rod Fazackerley, Principal Financial Officer

Ingrid Ganley, Director, Disability and Community Services

Community Development

Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities Sport and Recreation

Nick Atkins, A/g Manager, Policy and Programs

Mark Green, Manager, Grants, Sport & Recreation Infrastructure

Rod Fazackerley, Principal Financial Officer

The committee met at 4.40 p.m.

DIVISION 10

(Department of Aboriginal Affairs)

CHAIR (Mrs Forrest) - Welcome, minister, to the last session of our Estimates hearings for this year. We invite you to make an opening comment and we will move on from there.

Mrs PETRUSMA - First, I would like to acknowledge and pay my respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who are the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of the land on which we gather today and acknowledge their Elders past, present and emerging.

I am extremely grateful to the Premier to have been given the responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs, a portfolio focused on improving social, cultural and economic outcomes and promoting greater understanding and acceptance of Aboriginal culture. I, along with the entire Hodgman Liberal Government, have a genuine desire to make a positive difference; a true difference that recognises Tasmania's remarkable over 40 000 years of continuous Aboriginal heritage and culture and one that points to a brighter future for Aboriginal Tasmanians.

Since coming to Government, we have focused heavily on resetting our relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the Premier set a strong agenda designed to make a real difference to the lives of Tasmania's Aboriginal people. Over the last year I have had the immense privilege to continue that work on behalf of the Government and today, more than ever, we remain steadfast in that commitment. To demonstrate that, our commitment today to the reset is as strong as ever, the 2019-20 state Budget invests new funding of \$542 000 across the forward Estimates to support

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activities and initiatives. This includes money across the forward Estimates so as to support greater involvement of Aboriginal communities in Government decisions and policy-making. We have allocated \$5 000 per annum over the forward Estimates to support emerging Tasmanian Aboriginal female leaders and to promote career pathways for Aboriginal girls through an awards program. We are also continuing to invest in initiatives and events that help us to continue to reset momentum like our heads of agency forums, regional reconciliation festivals and events, including the three new events we announced last week, and ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities on important government policy.

Our work also continues on closing the gap, working on initiatives that support Aboriginal Tasmanians impacted by family violence. We have also added more teaching resources to the Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture framework in the Department of Education and Training and I am also delighted to say that we released our new Aboriginal employment strategy for the Tasmanian State Service as well as our new Aboriginal and dual naming policy yesterday. We are conducting at the moment a review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 to follow on from the amendments made in 2017.

Mr VALENTINE - If we move to output 6.4, page 39, how many FTEs are involved with this output?

Mrs PETRUSMA - As at 31 March 2019, direct staffing for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs was 5.31 FTEs.

Mr VALENTINE - Given the significant number of tasks this output has to achieve, is that enough? One would think that activities associated with improving social culture, economic outcomes, resetting the relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, policy development relating to eligibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs, addressing the Closing the Gap framework, family safety, consulting on Tasmania's dual naming policy, land return and joint land management; that is a lot of different things to cover and I wonder if that will be sufficient for this important area, as I am sure you will agree it is -

Mrs PETRUSMA - Very much so.

Mr VALENTINE - going out to 2022-23. It begins in 2018-19 with \$1.302 million and ends in 2022-23 with \$1.197 million. It goes down. Perhaps if you could comment on that in the first instance and I might go to some of those individual tasks expected to be undertaken.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The reason the appropriation goes down across the forward Estimates is that two initiatives that were originally funded under the Office of Aboriginal Affairs have now moved to different departments. For example, the Aboriginal Trainee Ranger program is now under the Parks and Wildlife Service in DPIPWE and the family violence initiative is now with the Department of Education because it's being delivered through their Child and Family Centres. If that \$250 000 is taken into consideration, there's been an increase in the funding. The forward Estimates includes an extra \$542 000 invested in this output as new funding for initiatives in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs this year.

Mr VALENTINE - Where is most of that going, that \$542 000?

Mrs PETRUSMA - There is new funding to go to maintaining our relationship with TRACA and to have more consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. There's also \$5000 a

year for a new awards program for Tasmanian Aboriginal young women, especially teenagers in the secondary schools, as well as to allow us to do more events for the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. During Reconciliation Week last week, we announced we would be providing \$15 000 toward three new reconciliation events to be held across the state; one in the north, one in the north-west and one in the south. It is to help maintain the relationships we are building up. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has undertaken to hold heads of agency forums. The aim of the forums is for Tasmanian Aboriginal communities gather for forums with all the heads of agency presenting. The communities are able to bring their concerns and have direct dialogue with heads of agencies in the different portfolios because Aboriginal affairs are managed across government, with about \$10 million being spent on initiatives.

Mr VALENTINE - When you're consulting with the Aboriginal community, you mentioned TRACA, which is one group. What about the other groups, are you dealing with them individually or are you trying to deal with them collectively in some forum?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I acknowledge the great work of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal Heritage because consultation with all the respective Aboriginal communities is vitally important, whether it is in regard to the dual naming policy, Aboriginal Heritage or the review we are conducting at the moment. The State Service Management Office has now released an Aboriginal Employment Strategy. The land return has all gone out. The office of Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal Heritage make sure they consult with the different Aboriginal communities across Tasmania.

Mr VALENTINE - The performance information is sparse, going to page 32

CHAIR - We're having a blitz on performance information, just so you know.

Mr VALENTINE - On page 32 one line says -

Actions on schedule against the milestones and time frames identified in the Aboriginal reset.

It has 2017-18, 77 per cent; 2018-19, 80 per cent; and 2019-20, 80 per cent. It does not really tell us a lot in terms of how each of these aspects of your operations is going. If I work my way through the activities associated with improving social, cultural and economic outcomes, can you put some specifics around exactly what is included in that particular aspect? You mention schools and the like, but I would like you to detail that a little more finely - how that is going, whether it is achieving what you set it out to achieve?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The respective initiatives are mainly all in regards to our reset agenda. In regards to the schools, for example, in education there is a focus on Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture, especially in the delivery of the Australian Curriculum, which the department of Education is leading in respect of the development of the Tasmanian Aboriginal histories and cultures framework.

This resource is called The Orb and I encourage all members to go online and type in 'The orb Tasmania' - it's the most magnificent resource.

Mr VALENTINE - The Orb?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Orb, o-r-b. It has the most magnificent videos. It's a resource where children and young people can go online and watch videos with people from different Aboriginal communities talking about things like ochre, culture and history. It is a wonderful resource and people all around the world now are accessing this magnificent resource.

Mr VALENTINE - How do you measure the success of that? Are you able to count how many people have actually accessed it or is there some other way of assessing whether it is working?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Orb was officially launched on 15 August, but more additional teaching resources are being developed and included all the time, including practice and lesson plans. It initially included six multimedia living cultures and teaching resources - as I said, ochre, stone tools, dance, shelters, mutton birds and fibres. At the moment there is professional learning and user support of the current focused tasks, but also more releases are to come. There is shell-stringing and food, which was published in May. 'Layers of time' is the next major component; another one under development is connecting to place, which is the third major component. It is continually evolving and being updated, but it is a magnificent resource.

Mr VALENTINE - What about the resetting the relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community component? That says it is actually dependent on Australian Government Closing the Gap actions. Is that a recipe for not going far because you are waiting for them to do something or can you tell me something positive there?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Closing the Gap Framework has been in place for many years, but there is what is called now the Refresh Framework. Closing the Gap is a COAG initiative. In December 2018 COAG agreed to a Closing the Gap Refresh, which is to set the Closing the Gap agenda for the next 10 years. As I said it is a national initiative, so every state and territory is involved in that, as well as the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies. It has now resulted in two primary partnership mechanisms, a joint Council on Closing the Gap and also ministers and peaks representatives.

Through that framework we are investing in initiatives to support that agenda, including family safety workers and also an Aboriginal employment strategy, which was released yesterday, as well as an Aboriginal procurement policy, which we will be releasing next quarter, a new initiative. There are quite a few different ranges of initiatives under the Closing the Gap.

Mr VALENTINE - Does the Aboriginal community itself accept all of this? Are you doing regular consultation around the implementation of that particular line item activity?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Definitely. On every initiative both departments engage with respective Aboriginal communities quite actively. As I said before, the heads of agency forum is a new initiative, one we began last year, and we invite representatives from all Aboriginal communities to come to forums. We will hold three more this year so that the communities actually get to speak to the heads of every agency the Government has, about issues of importance to them, whether in regards to health, education, parks or family violence - whatever initiative is of particular importance. It is a forum for all Aboriginal communities to raise issues directly with the heads of each agency.

Mr VALENTINE - The next one is policy development relating to eligibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That was under the reset initiative. It is a new approach to eligibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs and services. That commenced on 1 July 2016 and all Tasmanian government agencies are working to ensure a streamlined approach for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing that programs services. This is about making sure that in Tasmania, Tasmanian Aboriginal people have the same eligibility requirements as they do under Commonwealth programs. It is to make sure we were in alignment with the Commonwealth eligibility.

Mr VALENTINE - Again, is that acceptable to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community?

Mrs PETRUSMA - We have had good feedback. Some communities might think that the eligibility might need to be different, but this is about reconciling all Tasmanian Aboriginals and making sure that all Tasmanian Aboriginals can access the same services as all other Tasmanian Aboriginals can.

Mr VALENTINE - Addressing the Closing the Gap Framework includes economic development and family safety.

Mrs PETRUSMA - I did talk about Closing the Gap a second ago but in regard to family safety.

Mr VALENTINE - More detail?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The family safety initiative that operates in our child and family centres throughout the state. There are three child and family workers who work specifically in regard to family violence.

Mr VALENTINE - Consulting on Tasmania's dual naming policy? I noticed a few things have come through the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania, and I can see some of that is in action, but do you have any further details on that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The new policy has come out and I can actually table the new policy. If the committee wishes, I invite to the table Mr Michael Giudici, the Surveyor-General, who has been involved in the development of the policy.

CHAIR - Do you have any question to ask the Surveyor-General?

Mr VALENTINE - Not in particular except just to find out a little about how this is approached and the consultation associated with it, but you might be able to answer, minister, rather than the Surveyor-General.

Mrs PETRUSMA - In regards to the dual naming policy, we released it yesterday and already the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance has warmly welcomed the policy as good news for Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. This is because the revised policy ensures that all Aboriginal communities can have a say about place nomination in their area, but they also believe this is now a true self determination which they have been calling on for many years. They are thrilled this policy will at least ensure that each Tasmanian Aboriginal will feel empowered to be able to name features and places that reflect and respect local community groups. TRACA Co-chairs Patsy Cameron and Rodney Dillon said they wanted to make the point that there never was just one Tasmanian Aboriginal language.

As Custodians, they are reviving the languages that were in their own regions and the policy allows for this. We have acknowledged a number of different Tasmanian Aboriginal languages across Tasmania and this policy allows for naming to be done in the Aboriginal language of a particular region.

Mr VALENTINE - And the Aboriginal Centre as well is happy with that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I can say the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre was invited many times to take part in the consultation process. There is a difference of opinion with the TAC, but a reference board is going to be established by the Nomenclature Board in regard to dual naming. We encourage them, when the expression of interest comes out, to apply for a position on the reference board so they can be a part of the dual naming process.

CHAIR - Are you happy to table that, minister?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes.

CHAIR - Having discussions with Aunty Patsy Cameron and Aboriginal members of my community it seems that, as you have said, there is more than one Tasmanian Aboriginal language and often, depending on which aspect of a feature you're looking at, the name may be different.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That's exactly right.

CHAIR - Navigating this without creating more discontent and division is going to take some sensitive work, how do you propose to manage that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - It has taken a long time to put together a policy that we thought incorporated the views of the wider Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Like you said, we recognise that between eight to 16 different Tasmanian Aboriginal languages may have been spoken and some features might have three or four different names depending on which Tasmanian Aboriginal community was discussing that feature. The policy allows multiple names to be assigned to it, and I might ask Mr Giudici to speak to that.

Mr GIUDICI - The new policy provides for more than one name to be captured in the database, with the history of those names. A selection will have to be made as to which name is to be published on documentation. One of the ways the new policy will provide the board with some assistance is to require us to constitute a new reference group. The reference group will comprise of people with expertise in Aboriginal languages and process and provide advice to the board. The board will still be responsible for deciding but the reference group will be empowered to engage in additional consultation and discussion within the community, particularly in the regional communities, over and above what might have been submitted as a proposal.

CHAIR - Knowing how things are in my electorate; when there is a request or nomination for a name and it is to be determined for that area, will the local Aboriginal community be a part of that advisory group if they're not on the bigger advisory group?

Mr GIUDICI - The local Aboriginal community will not necessarily be represented on the advisory group but they would definitely be engaged with in assessing the veracity of an application, for example, and a lot of weight would be placed upon the views of the local Aboriginal people.

CHAIR - Is there a process for those people to appeal if they felt that their language or their preferred naming of a feature in their area was not being used?

Mr GIUDICI - Yes. All processes will still run under the Nomenclature Board processes, which is under the Survey Co-ordination Act. We propose to have an annual calendar that we'll publish, bearing in mind I've come from a Nomenclature Board meeting this afternoon. It was the first time we have considered the implications of the revised policy and the constitution of a reference group et cetera.

Once we publish a calendar to invite submissions on an annual or biannual basis, we'll take as much time as necessary to progress the discussion of those names in the community. Some of the submissions that came in during the review process said that a long time was needed for that process and that had previously been a curtailed process. Cognisant of that, we subject it will be at least a six-month process or something like that to allow the board and the reference group to consult with the community over and above what might have been done as part of the submission.

A name may be selected by the board at the end of that process, bearing in mind the policy also provides for an opportunity for the board not to name if it considers there is too much community division, which could mean it is deferred for a longer time or not named. Once a name has been selected by the board it, the board gazettes its intention to assign the name. There is a one-month objection period that follows, which is the standard way all names are progressed once they have been assigned. At the end of that one-month objection period, if there are objections, the board considers those objections and makes a recommendation, which is forwarded to the responsible minister, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water. He has the ultimate say. He can agree with, modify or reject the board's recommendation. That is the end of the process.

CHAIR - Minister, who is on the advisory group?

Mrs PETRUSMA - EOIs will be going out by the end of the month.

Mr GIUDICI - We commenced consideration of some terms of reference today.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The policy acknowledges that an incredible amount of work has been undertaken by TAC in regard to palawa kani, and the policy provides for names to be informed by palawa kani as well as other recorded Tasmanian Aboriginal languages, the names TAC put forward before the policy had been reviewed. Now the policy is completed, the Nomenclature Board can look at those names under the policy. We very much want TAC to be involved in this policy.

Mr VALENTINE - As to land return and joint land management, this is high in the minds of many in the Aboriginal community. There have been opportunities as opposed to land returns to occur and, for whatever reason, some of them have been held up. Can you give us an update on the Government's activity in that area?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Tasmanian Government understands the connection to country, land and sea is the most fundamental pillar of Aboriginal identity. As part of the Government's Reset Agenda, we have committed to exploring joint land management arrangements and land return with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. A review of the land return model has commenced. We received 151 submissions when we released a discussion paper in the initial period. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is now undertaking to finish a consultation and feedback report,

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consolidating those 151 submissions, and will be releasing that before the end of this month. We can then begin another targeted consultation period on the preferred options.

Mr VALENTINE - Are changes to the education curriculum and funding arrangements for the sustainable delivery of remote aboriginal housing under your -

Mrs PETRUSMA - We have touched on education -

Mr VALENTINE - Yes. I wasn't sure whether housing, municipal elections and essential services for Cape Barren Island were all under your care and concern.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Funding of \$15.385 million has been allocated to that program under stronger remote aboriginal service projects. In that, we are working with the Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association and the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association in regard to the ongoing management of housing, municipal and essential services on both islands. In regards to these agreements, implementation plans have now been developed to ensure the sustainability of this delivery. This commenced in 2014, the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association implementation plan was approved in November 2017. The Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Implementation Plan through the Municipal and Essential Services was approved on 16 July 2018.

Mr VALENTINE - Just touching on the educational curriculum again, can you give us a bit finer detail on exactly what is happening in that space? We are all going through our educational pathway through this state. There hasn't been a heck of a lot said about Aboriginal History and those sorts of things. Can you expand a bit on exactly what's happening there?

Mrs PETRUSMA - That was all that information I gave on The Orb, that has now been inserted into the Aboriginal curriculums. That was a whole body of work that was done in regards the multi-media platform known as The Orb, which has the focus on Tasmanian Aboriginal History and Culture in the delivery of the Australian curriculum.

Mr VALENTINE - Sorry, I am probably not expressing it properly. The teachers are, I won't say forced, but it is mandated that teachers will provide certain amount of information to their students on the way through. Which particular grades are being targeted with that educational material? Can you give us a little bit of a rundown on that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - It is under the Minister for Education -

Mr VALENTINE - That is why I asked in the first place whether it was fully yours.

Mrs PETRUSMA - I just know because I received an update. I think there was an initial investment of over \$560 000 into this resource, to be developed for young people. I know that schools are using it because I was at Kingston Primary School recently. They had gone through The Orb they wanted to have an Aboriginal flag installed at the school. There is now a flagpole and an Aboriginal flag. I know that other schools are now putting up Aboriginal flags in recognition of the fact that they are going through this resource.

A lot of work and effort has gone into developing the resource. I really encourage all members to have a look at The Orb because you will be impressed by what has been generated, and what now is available. It is part of the Australian Curriculum. Where the Australian Curriculum requires an Aboriginal component, this is what is now being imbedded in the Australian Curriculum.

Mr VALENTINE - And the Tasmanian Aboriginal community is happy with the content of that? That is the important thing.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The good thing about The Orb is that you will see people from different Tasmanian Aboriginal communities in different videos, and in the same video, talking together on ochre, culture. It is a wonderful tool to watch the different people, when they are talking. You will have people like Rodney Dillan talking, Sharni Everett. Wonderful speakers on it, and great resources.

Mr VALENTINE - There is one line of the performance information for all of those particular aspects to what this output deals with.

CHAIR - You asked about that earlier.

Mr VALENTINE - I would like to know if we can get a lot more. Perhaps, some numbers in there next time, rather than just percentage complete.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The performance measures are in regards to actions on schedule against the milestones identified as under the reset. The different initiatives under the reset that shows how far progressed we are. The reset was outlined by the Premier in 2016, so this is to show how those milestones are being achieved.

Mr VALENTINE - Can we get something better for next year?

Mrs PETRUSMA - We can have a look at it. Definitely.

Mr VALENTINE - Please, I would appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIR - Minister, do you have a copy of the schedule that you could provide to the committee? You are talking about the actions on the schedule. Do you have a copy of the schedule?

Mrs PETRUSMA - There were five reset initiatives that were -

CHAIR - But have you got a schedule, the time frame?

Mrs PETRUSMA - At the end of June, we put out an update as to where we track against the reset initiatives. It is a 4-page document that outlines what we have achieved over the year, under the reset initiatives.

CHAIR - I assume that is on the website?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes. Last years is on the website. In a few weeks' time, in July, we will be providing another edition of the Reset Initiatives.

CHAIR - We will move to Output Group 2, Natural and Cultural Heritage.

Output Group 2, Natural and Cultural Heritage

3.3 Aboriginal heritage

Mr VALENTINE - Looking at this particular output, it aims to protect, conserve and promote Tasmania's unique Aboriginal heritage. Can you give us an understanding as to the number of new items that have been located and also protected as a result of this particular output over the last 12 months?

Mrs PETRUSMA - One of the main initiatives under this output at the moment is our review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act that is commenced now. I want to congratulate the department on the work they are doing in regards to this review. When the amendments were passed to what was the Aboriginal Heritage Relics Act 2017, the Government committed to do fuller review within three years. We have commenced that review now. I and the department met with the Aboriginal Heritage Council, the Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance to talk about the review process. A discussion paper has now been released to guide feedback on the design and operation of the Aboriginal Heritage Act. That was released last week and is for a 16-week consultation period. I have a copy of the discussion paper I can table.

The discussion paper is out for a 16-week consultation period, up until 21 September. We have put advertisements in the three regional newspapers on Saturday to encourage people to make submissions as part of the review process. We appreciate the fact that there are many stakeholders who would be interested in the Aboriginal Heritage Act review, not only Tasmanian Aboriginal communities but also like the Master Builders' Association, Home Industry Association, and the TFGA. I signed nearly 100 letters last week to a wide variety of stakeholders to get them to take part in the review. We appreciate that Aboriginal heritage is 40 000 years of culture and it is important to all Tasmanians.

Mr VALENTINE - There were some that were concerned originally that Aboriginal Heritage wasn't included under the general Heritage Act; is that still the case?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The discussion paper allows people to put forward those sorts of comments and feedback. This is to be a thorough review and that's why we are allowing the 16-week consultation process now. There are many stages because we do not have to have this tabled until February 2021 in reality. Parliament doesn't usually sit in February. It will be November next year so that's why we're undertaking a thorough review process to make sure that many stakeholders have their chance.

Mr VALENTINE - Not a small body of work obviously.

Mrs PETRUSMA - No.

Mr VALENTINE - Some of the activities under this, I was informed of work that was going on at [Beaufut ?] in fire management, landscape management, through the Aboriginal way of fire - gentle fire not -

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is right; cold stick burning.

Mr VALENTINE - Can you fill us in on that, and that will probably be all.

Mrs PETRUSMA - In Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania we have what is called the Cultural Management Group and that was established within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to oversee

Aboriginal cultural management outcomes. It is responsible for the assessment of the Aboriginal cultural values project which is due for completion in the next few weeks and would facilitate delivery of a number of projects. Some of the projects include facilitation of a series of Aboriginal community access visits during 2019 to visit cultural heritage sites and landscapes; opportunities for Aboriginal people to access and record rock markings; provision of cultural heritage awareness training, which will provide employment opportunities for Aboriginal individuals and businesses; and opportunities for Aboriginal people to participate in a national indigenous fire workshop, in conjunction with fire competency training by the Parks and Wildlife Service. There is quite a wide range of different initiatives that have been undertaken.

Mr VALENTINE - What about the operations of the Aboriginal Heritage Council? How is that running at the moment and what is the representation on that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I thank and acknowledge the work of the Aboriginal Heritage Council. The Aboriginal Heritage Council has 10 members appointed by the Governor and all members of the council are Aboriginal people, consistent with the Government's Aboriginal eligibility policy. They have equal gender representation and they also have regional representation. All members have experience in Aboriginal heritage matters in their local communities and have strong interest in and understanding of Aboriginal heritage management issues. Their work includes providing advice on a broad range of matters that impact Aboriginal heritage, including recommendations regarding permit applications, consulting with Aboriginal communities and organisations, and providing advice regarding the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act and Aboriginal cultural values.

CHAIR - Any further questions?

Output Group 6 Disability Services and Community Development

6.2 Disability services -

CHAIR - Minister, if you want to introduce your people at the table.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Can I introduce Ms Ginna Webster, Secretary of the Department of Communities Tasmania, as well as Ms Ingrid Ganley, Director of Disability and Community Services.

CHAIR - In view of the time, if you want to make some opening statements we welcome them, but please make them very brief.

Mrs PETRUSMA - In the 2019-20 Budget the state Government is investing more money on people with disability than ever before, including nearly \$1.04 billion in cash and in-kind support over the forward Estimates to deliver on our commitment to the NDIS, including \$244.3 million in 2019-20 under the bilateral agreement with the Australian Government.

The Government acknowledges there has been significant changes in the delivery of disability services in the transition to the NDIS, which is why the Government has been working extensively with the NDIA, the federal government, other states and territories as well as the disability sector to help participants and providers to work through the challenges of preparing for and transitioning to the NDIS.

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Disability support services that remain outside of the scope of the NDIS will also be funded, including mainstream children's therapy services, and individual advocacy services, and continuity of support for people with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS.

Ms WEBB - One of the things I'm interested to understand more about is that last part, not so much the money that's going towards the NDIS, which is fantastic, but more the things that still sit outside of it, particularly around continuity of support to people with a disability not eligible for the NDIS. In relation to that, how many Tasmanians currently receiving support services of some sort in the disability sector, including mental health services, will be without a service on 1 July 2019 when the NDIS fully kicks in and those other services that have been in train cease? I am interested in a breakdown of that number of Tasmanians: how many there are in the mental health area and how many are in other areas?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Under the NDIS 10 600 Tasmanians will be eligible for individual support packages and other Tasmanians with disability can come under the NDIS through the information linkages and capacity building programs, so all Tasmanians with disability are able to access the NDIS in some form.

Ms WEBB - Not for supports equal to the ones they might be receiving now; for example in mental health, a range of people who are currently receiving psychosocial support through the federally funded programs, such Personal Helpers and Mentors - PHaMs - Partners in Recovery - PIR - and Support for Day to Day Living in the Community. Some people who have been part of those services will be transitioning to the NDIS and will continue to be supported. Others won't be eligible for the NDIS; they will have been receiving a support service until 30 June this year and then won't be eligible or able to access the NDIS after that point to continue to receive support. I am interested to know about the numbers - that is a mental health example. I am less familiar with non-mental health examples but there may be some, which is why I am asking you how many Tasmanians will be impacted in those categories where they would have been receiving some form of direct support for a disability that they have prior to 30 June this year - or 1 July - and then won't have access to one afterwards.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Right. If they were on the Commonwealth Government-funded supports, the Commonwealth Government has now announced it will be providing \$121.29 million funding in March this year, to ensure there are no gaps in supports for clients who are under the Commonwealth Community Mental Health programs as the NDIS is rolled out. That's directed I think to what you're indicating, the primary health networks, to provide additional support for clients transitioning from the Personal Helpers and Mentors, Partners in Recovery and Support for Day to Day Living in the Community programs. Also, the Australian Government had previously committed \$80 million over four years to a national psychosocial support measure program for people with a severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability, who do not meet NDIS eligibility requirements for severity or permanence. There has been a wide range of work in regard to people with psychosocial disability.

The Department of Communities Tasmania, under Ms Ganley and the team, has been working very closely with the mental health needs and peaks at the NDIA and the Department of Health. Psychosocial supports for other people with mental illness does come under the Minister for Health, but all departments have been working quite closely together to make sure there are strong outcomes and better pathways for people with psychosocial disability. There's part of the transition to the full scheme and there a lot of community inclusion and capacity development funding has gone into

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this as well, including working with the Mental Health Council of Tasmania for peer education and support trials. Under the NDIS act itself, in regards to psychosocial disability, a person meets the requirement of the act if they have one or more impairments attributable to a psychiatric condition and the impairment or impairments are likely to be permanent or result in substantially reduced psychosocial functioning, including communication, social interaction, learning, mobility, self-care and self-management. I might ask Ms Ganley if she has any further information to add.

Ms WEBB - Maybe I can zero in a little bit, which might help Ms Ganley with adding more relevant information.

The part that I am interested in, is, to receive the NDIS Support for Psychosocial Disability, you need the diagnosis and that clear criteria that you read out. My understanding is the continuity of support funding that is coming through Primary Health Tas also has a diagnosis requirement as part of it. I am looking for clarity about whether there will be further support offered for those people who won't be accessing the NDIS because, although they may have previously accessed PIR or FAMS they don't have a diagnosis, and therefore may also find it difficult to access that supplementary avenue for continuity of support through PHT, if there is also a diagnosis requirement in that space. I am particularly interested if we know, here in Tasmania, how many people might fall into that category, and therefore be without an opportunity for support from 1 July?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I have been told that because the Australian Government is committed to further funding, that there will be no gaps. I'm not sure if Ms Ganley has any further information.

Ms GANLEY - Because it is a Commonwealth funded program and sits close in line with the Health portfolio, we don't have a lot of detail in our Communities Tas. We do have a joint group where we do meet with Primary Health Network to get an understanding of what is going on.

What I understand in that space is, it is being set up so that those individuals who are currently accessing those programs will have an ongoing support while their eligibility is tested. In some instances, people are taking a bit of time to go forward and test their eligibility, because of some of their concerns in the psycho-social space about the access to the NDIS.

Once that has been through, then there is that other psycho-social support funding that was announced which the state had to match. That was for individuals who won't be eligible for the NDIS, which I think is the group you are talking about. That is probably a work in progress of identifying who is actually going to get in over the next 12 months in those Commonwealth-funded programs and then what other services and supports need to be in place for people who are truly not eligible.

Ms WEBB - For either the NDIS or for that additional Commonwealth-funded program, do you mean?

Ms GANLEY - For the continuity of support. The continuity of support is really to keep the Mental Health Mentoring programs going until everyone in those programs has had their eligibility tested for the NDIS. Then there are separate programs that the Commonwealth is talking to the state about for non-eligibles.

Ms WEBB - In terms of accessing those continuity of support programs, while that's happening we know that a range of people who currently access PIR, FAMS, Day to Day Living, won't be

eligible for the NDIS. They won't meet that diagnosis and criteria to get that. Do those continuity of support programs also have a threshold of eligibility that rests on diagnosis to access, in the mean time?

Ms GANLEY - We probably need to take that on notice

Mrs PETRUSMA - I have some further information. In regards to what you are talking about, in regards to the continuity of support program, like Ms Ganley indicated, their funding for continual support programs for people not eligible for the NDIS, but are in programs that are transitioning to the NDIS, to ensure continuing support the Tasmanian Government Mental Health, under the Minister for Health, is making an in-kind contribution of \$7 million to the NDIS during this transition phase.

This contribution is for clients residing in identified residential services and receiving personalised support services that are likely to meet the NDIS eligibility criteria. As it is unknown how many people accessing the above services will be eligible for the NDIS, therefore prior to cashing out the service, consideration has been given to how this will be funded in the future. Ongoing work has been undertaken by the Department of Health at the moment to estimate the number of people accessing Mental Health services, who will be eligible for full scheme NDIS.

It has been done in conjunction with the Australian Government who has made an extra \$92 million commitment just for that initiative as well. There is work going on between those two different agencies.

Ms WEBB - I don't believe that what you have just described is the same cohort that I am talking about. It sounds like it is people who are in some sort of residential arrangements and support.

Mrs PETRUSMA - It says it is in regards to continuing supports for people with mental health.

CHAIR - But you did say transitioning to NDIS. It is a different group.

Ms WEBB - I am talking about people who won't be transitioning to the NDIS, who will never be eligible for the NDIS -

Mrs PETRUSMA - It is under the community mental health programs. That is where the Australian Government has committed the \$121.29 million to help the Commonwealth community mental health program under personal helpers and mentors, partners in recovery, and the support for day to day living in the community. The federal government made that commitment in March.

Ms WEBB - As a state Government, are you confident that there will be no people who have been accessing those services, personal helpers and mentors, PIRs, day to day living, who will be from 1 July not able to access the NDIS and not eligible for the continuity of support program because there may be an eligibility criteria they can't meet for that either? Therefore, they will be in a situation where they will have been receiving support but then immediately have it end. Are you confident that there will be no Tasmanians who will be in that situation on 1 July?

Mrs PETRUSMA - This is announced in March to be an additional 12 months' support that is being provided under this program -

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Ms WEBB - Are you confident there will be no Tasmanians on 1 July facing that situation?

Mrs PETRUSMA - If what I am advised this is a 12-month extra program, that these programs have been provided an extra 12 months' support, then that will take it past 1 July but we will have to take it on notice for the Department of Health to advise as to when this quantum of funding goes to. I can only go by the advice I have here. I am advised that these are Commonwealth clients. That is why it is an Australian Government initiative and it is Australian Government funding.

Ms WEBB - It is because of the quantum of services were provided by the state are now tipped into the NDIS basket as a state government they will be people in this state on your watch who may then be without a service that they might need from 1 July, which is why I am asking you about it here.

The other thing I wonder about is, whether the quantum of funding that is provided in the continuity of supports program, as that stop-gap transition arrangement, is equal per person to the amount of funding that was allocated in the PIR or the FAMS program? So whether they will be receiving a similar level of service in that transition program or not. As a state Government, is that something that you feel should be provided at a similar level so the Tasmanian people in that situation aren't left without a similar level of support.

Mrs PETRUSMA - As Ms Ganley have just indicated because they are Australian Government programs, they are the ones that are providing this funding. I can undertake that we will raise it with the NDIA and with the Department of Health to find out what is happening in regards to these issues. The advice we have is that they have provided this extra funding in March to ensure that there are no gaps. We can clarify that.

Ms WEBB - That would be excellent to get that clarity.

I have one further iteration of that. What we have been speaking about here today on this matter relates to people who have already been in services funded under the federal government PIR, FAMS, day to day living, who are transitioning or not to NDIS. I also wonder about Tasmanian people from 1 July this year who may previously have come as new clients to those previously funded services, they will no longer have those services to come to as new clients from 1 July. They will only have the NDIS.

We know the cohort of people who have been accessing those other range of services, a certain portion of them won't qualify for the NDIS. We would imagine thinking ahead if things transpire there would still be people presenting in need of service similar to those services going forward who won't now have an avenue to receive service for their physco-social support because they don't meet the threshold of the NDIS. As a state Government with responsibility in the disability services area, what will you do to provide a service that is comparable for those people going forward as new people coming forward in that space?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I reiterate that mental health services comes under the Minister for Health. Ms Ganley was saying that under the NDIS bilateral there is to be no disadvantage for people who were receiving services, but there is also the ILC framework that is there to provide support for all people with disability. There are four different funding rounds that will be commencing over the next few months, but Ms Ganley might have further information in regard to that area.

Ms WEBB - My understanding of the ILC is that it's not direct services to support you with your particular support needs, say, psycho-social support needs, so the people I'm speaking about will not be picked up with the no-disadvantage aspect because they haven't already been in services. I'm talking about people, who, if nothing had changed, say, in September this year might have presented as a new client to PHaMs or to PIR, the way new clients have been presenting to those services for a number of years now at different times. A person in that cohort, in September this year, for example, would have no PHaMs or PIR to come to for support, may not qualify for the NDIS because many clients who had come to those services for support don't. Where would that new client go, who won't be captured by no-disadvantage because they hadn't been previously receiving support? What will that new client have as an avenue for support, now that we have tipped all our money into the NDIS? Do we have other options or avenues for them?

Mrs PETRUSMA - In the mental health sector, not all of the Tasmanian Government's funding has been tipped into the NDIS. The Department of Health, in regard to mental health, is definitely funding our own mental health services. Ms Ganley can provide further information. The ILC framework is still there for people who have psychosocial disability.

Ms GANLEY - The ILC framework, which is that second tier of NDIA support, funds the local area coordination aspect of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as well as information linkages and capacity building, which can include group-based activities and various types of supports that they have been rolled out in commissioning. Anyone who identifies with a disability, including psycho-social, will be able to approach those ILC services to help connect into other mainstream services. It's really an interface between the new NDIS system and the mainstream services that already exist.

Ms LOVELL - Minister, I wanted to go back to the additional 12 months of funding that you've spoken about. My understanding from what you've said today is that it's transition funding - funding to extend the life of those services, I guess is one way of putting it, whilst -

Mrs PETRUSMA - Just in regard to mental health; that was not in regard to other disability services.

Ms LOVELL - Whilst people are going through the process of being assessed for NDIS? My concern, and I think that is what Ms Webb has also been trying to capture, is the cohort of Tasmanians - and not limited to psychosocial disability but across the board of people living with disability - who will never be eligible for the NDIS. Can you please outline what you are doing as Minister for Disability Services in Tasmania to make sure the needs of those thousands of Tasmanians will be met?

Mrs PETRUSMA - In regard to information linkages and capacity building, all Tasmanians with disability can come under what's called the Information Linkages and Capacity Building Strategy. Chair, I would like to table a document in regard to this strategy because there has been a lot of misinformation and comments that are incorrect that have been outlined in recent times. For example, as the ILC framework articulates, the information and capacity building supports are for all people with disability regardless of whether they are eligible for the scheme because ILC helps people who are not eligible for an individual NDIS plan benefit from a more inclusive, accessible and connected Australia. I'd like to table the document because I think it gives further clarity in regard to comments that have been made. The reason the National Disability Insurance Scheme came into play was to change the role and focus of the Tasmanian Government in relation to the provision of specialist disability services and programs, which was agreed to back in 2013

under the agreement signed by the previous government. ILC-type services are the responsibility of the NDIA. The NDIA has provided bridging funding to existing services, but again, all Tasmanians with a disability not eligible for an individual support plan are able to take advantage of the broader systems of information, connections and support under the NDIS, including mainstream and universal services. Cohort-specific information, otherwise known as ILC programs, were a recommendation of the Productivity Commission when the NDIS first came into being because it is part of a tiered approach. We acknowledge that there will be 10 600 Tasmanians who can access individual support packages, but the Information Linkages and Capacity Building programs are there to help other people who do need support.

Ms LOVELL - On those ILC organisations, you have said again today that 18 ILC-type organisations have been given funding until the end of the year and until the ILC grant process is complete. The funding from there will be on a grants basis, on one-off grants, so they will be structural -

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, it's not a one-off. The grants go for three years. Again, in that document I have tabled it says on page 5, it will include a shift from short-term grants to mostly three-year investments in delivering each program. It does include an allowance for overheads as well.

Ms LOVELL - There is considerable time and costs to organisations in applying for these grants, particularly because a lot of them are volunteer-run or not for profit. Do you expect that all these organisations will be successful in applying for ILC grants?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Ms Ganley and her team have, for the last three years, been working very hard with these organisations, as has the NDIA. I met with the NDIA last week. They were putting a lot of effort into helping organisations to apply for grants, to make sure that they put in for the right sort of grants and for the right amount of funding to be able to continue operating in the ILC framework. Ms Ganley and the team have helped organisations with grant applications, there have been many forums run and there has been a lot of work undertaken. I will ask Ms Ganley to outline some of the work her team has been doing over the past three years.

Ms GANLEY - We have worked really closely with those organisations, met with all of them, worked with them to map where they would fit under the ILC streaming and included some sector development funding to help them look at opportunities to purchase under an outcomes process, and also some consultancy around grant-writing for those who submitted requests for that.

Ms LOVELL - Minister, do you have a contingency plan in place in the event that these organisations are not successful in their grant applications?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The bridging funding has been provided until December this year.

Ms LOVELL - After the grant application, I am talking about.

Mrs PETRUSMA - When I was speaking to the NDIA last week, the intention is that these grants will provide the support for all Tasmanians living with disability in Tasmania to be able to access support under the NDIS.

Ms LOVELL - So you're expecting that they will all be successful?

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Mrs PETRUSMA - The organisations are being provided with support and we need to go through the process over the next few months. Money has been funded to these programs to keep them going until this whole commissioning process has been undertaken.

Ms LOVELL - I understand that. My question is past that point and past the point of the grant applications being assessed and potentially awarded or not. What is your contingency plan for any organisations that are not successful in being awarded those grants?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Our commitment has been that the bridging funding has been provided. After each round, we want to hear from the organisations if they have been successful or not and then work alongside them. The NDIA has given the commitment that they are willing to come down and provide more workshops with providers to assist them in applying for their grants.

So far, under the ILC program, the organisations in Tasmania have already been able to receive \$1 million under the ILC program. That is \$1 million that they would not have received under the Tasmanian state Government. Organisations have already been successful and that is why Ms Ganley and the team have been working alongside these organisations to help them receive funding. The exciting thing about the ILC framework is that these organisations can access more funding than what they would have ever received under the Tasmanian state Government to provide more services and innovative services for more Tasmanians than was ever provided.

Ms LOVELL - There is no contingency plan if they are not successful?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The NDIA has assured us that the people who need the supports - for example, whether it's autism or brain injury or multiple sclerosis - will get more and better supports under the ILC framework.

Ms WEBB - That is pertinent to the question I was going to ask; I was going to put it to you, minister, could you give a guarantee or expression of confidence that a level of support provided to the Tasmanian community through those organisations will be equal to or greater after the grants have been awarded in terms of the same breadth of service, so people who have accessed services through those organisations already will be able to access a similar support of services in another way through the grants awarded under the ILC, and there won't be a diminution of that level of service for the Tasmanian community? I don't mean access to something; I mean the service they need that they currently access now.

Mrs PETRUSMA - When we started off with the NDIS, there were about 3500 Tasmanians receiving individual support packages and there were only about 6500 people who were receiving any supports under all the organisations we're talking about. Now, under the NDIS, every Tasmanian with disability will be able to access some sort of support and connection into mainstream services that wasn't there before. The fact about the NDIS is we are providing over \$1 billion over the next four years to provide more and better supports than were ever provided before to more people than were provided under state government services. That is the beautiful thing about the NDIS. When speaking to the NDIA last week, they said they are willing to come down and provide a forum to all members of parliament because they think it is critically important that all members of parliament understand the NDIS and what is going to be offered. They are willing to come down and hold a meeting and forum with all members of parliament so that members understand what the NDIS is going to deliver and provide so that misinformation is not put out in the community. They do not want people with disability to think that the NDIS isn't working or is not going to provide them with support, and that these people do not come forward

for support. That's what they see as the biggest risk with some of the misinformation out there. The fact is, under the NDIS, all Tasmanians with disability can access ILC supports. We have up to 10 600 Tasmanians who can get individual support packages and we don't want those Tasmanians not to come forward and join the NDIS.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Briefing for parliamentary members would be potentially useful. I want to point out to you that no-one is criticising the NDIS as a concept or questioning that it is delivering excellent support to a whole range of people in our community - and, for a whole range of people, more support than they may have had access to before. That is not in question. You mentioned repeatedly that people can access certain things through an ILC-funded service. That is fine, but if that is not the right support for them or equal to a level of the support they have been accessing, it isn't the support that they need. The questions are not about the value of the NDIS or the value of the ILC-funded services. Of course they have value and will meet some people's needs, but just saying that they are able to be accessed isn't enough for those Tasmanians who might require something different to what they provide. I go back to my original question and I hope we hear back from you on this: how many Tasmanians will be in a situation where they won't be able to access support such that they have accessed once we transition into that space? I just wanted to reiterate that and be very clear what we weren't questioning in this process and the things that were not clear yet.

Mrs PETRUSMA - As I said before, if we go back in time to 1 July 2013, about 3600 Tasmanians were receiving only ISPs. Now, we are going to be going to about 10 600 Tasmanians -

Ms WEBB - I'm not questioning that, minister.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Can I finish, please? About 10 600 Tasmanians will receive individual support packages. We went from about 6500 Tasmanians who were receiving all supports, including under the 18 ILCs, to now all Tasmanians with disability.

The fact we are talking about a huge number of people who can receive supports tells me that the NDIS is going to provide more supports and better supports for all Tasmanians.

CHAIR - We are going over ground we have already covered. To cut to the chase, minister, the question was: how many Tasmanians will fall out and perhaps not get -

Mrs PETRUSMA - All Tasmanians can access supports.

CHAIR - You're saying none.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That's right, all Tasmanians can access supports.

Ms WEBB - So from 1 July this year, we won't hear from anybody who is no longer able to access the support they previously could access?

Mrs PETRUSMA - From 1 July this year, the ILC program is still being rolled out. Am I saying it is going to be a perfect system on 1 July? No. But once the NDIS has rolled out as it is intended to, yes, the system will be a lot better because the ILC rollout will not be complete until later on this year.

I am definitely not saying that on 1 July we are going to have a perfect system. Everyone acknowledges the fact that there are still challenges with getting the NDIS going, but I can tell you that every state and territory government is very passionate about making sure that the NDIS does deliver as it was intended to, and everyone is very committed, including people from the department, who I want to congratulate and thank for all the work they have been doing to make sure that it does.

CHAIR - We are going back over the same information again and again here. Is there a question that remains unanswered?

Ms WEBB - I believe that there is, but that's okay. We can move on from it.

6.3 Community Development - Policy Advice and Ongoing Community Development -

CHAIR - Minister, could you to introduce your new team at the table, please.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Thank you, Chair, I welcome back to the table Ms Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities Sport and Recreation, as well as Ms Ginna Webster, Secretary of the Department of Communities Tasmania.

Ms WEBB - I note in the revenue from appropriation table on page 41, table 2.12, on this line item there is a drop-off in 2020-21 in the funding, which is explained in the footnote as being the completion of one-off grants in 2018 election commitments. I wanted to clarify which commitments were ending at that point and then what was left to be funded under that line item from that point onwards.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The variation in Community Development reflects the completion of one-off grants in 2018 election commitments, including 2018 regional and community grants. That was \$4.34 million in 2018-19, it decreases to \$1.725 million in 2019-20 and then \$125 000 in 2020-21 and \$50 000 in 2021-22 and 2022-23 in NILS grants; that's the main decrease of where it is across the forward Estimates.

Ms WEBB - The things remaining there are being funded - the initiatives continue to be funded?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I have quite a few years of information. Which year would you like it on?

Ms WEBB - Just the first one where it drops off, 2020-21.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The initiatives that continue to be funded are the Agricultural Show Grants program, all the peak body funding - Carers Tasmania peak body funding, the Companion Card, the concessions guide, COTA Active Ageing Plan, COTA core funding, emergency food relief -

CHAIR - Minister, is this perhaps something you could table rather than read it all out?

Mrs PETRUSMA - We'll provide it in questions on notice.

Ms WEBB - One small thing: I noticed when I was looking at the performance information on page 32 in table 2.7, under this line item, I wondered about the apparent drop-off that we are expecting in companion cards being issued from 2018-19 to 2019-20 compared to the years prior

to that. Is there a reason we are expecting to issue fewer companion cards going forward than we have been?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I am delighted to say that this year 298 have already been issued as at 16 May, so we have exceeded the target already for this year.

Ms WEBB - Great, so they were just targets that we seem to be exceeding this year?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, we have exceeded that one by 68 already, year to date, with probably more to be expected.

Ms LOVELL - Minister, your Autism Advisory Panel has submitted its final report and recommendations -

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is under Disability's; I would have to call back different people. That is not under Community Development.

CHAIR - It is mentioned under here; it talks about the Tasmanian Disability Framework for Action in this line item.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Disability Framework for Action, but that is not Autism Services.

CHAIR - Sorry.

Ms LOVELL - That's fine, we can ask that through another channel. We may have the same issue with these other questions, but I'll ask them and you can advise.

NDS Tasmania says that investment in sector development -

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is Disability Services. Community Development really is the peak organisation; it includes organisations like Volunteers Tasmania, Men's Sheds, Council on the Ageing Tasmania - organisations like that.

Ms LOVELL - But NDS Tasmania is a peak body.

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, NDS comes under Disability Services, not Community Development. Community Development comes under what was the Community Sport and Recreation, the former DPAC peaks. Disability Services is what was previously under the Department of Health and Human Services.

DIVISION 2

(Department of Sport and Recreation)

Output group 6

Disability and Community Development

6.7 Sport and Recreation -

Mrs PETRUSMA - At the table for Sport and Recreation, is Ginna Webster, Secretary Department of Communities Tasmania; Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary Communities, Sport and

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Recreation; Helen Langenberg, Manager, Sport and Recreation; and Paul Austen, Director of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport.

Mr GAFFNEY - The preamble says the aim is to encourage all Tasmanians to participate in sport, recreation and physical activity. With our current obesity issues as a state and country it is really important. When you go through the list it says disability, Aboriginal people, Healthy Tasmania outcomes, major/minor grant program, and I will go to those. The sports infrastructure studies, could somebody explain to the board what that one is about?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Are you talking about the new key deliverables?

Mr GAFFNEY - And facilitating sports infrastructure assessment studies.

Mrs PETRUSMA - In regards to sport infrastructures, it is a major initiative we announced as a key deliverable of a statewide strategy for sport and recreation facilities. Playing sport is key to establishing lifelong healthy habits and has a range of individual and social benefits, especially for young people. We have a target of Tasmania being the healthiest state by 2025 and reduce the rates of obesity to below the national average in the same time frame. In 2019-20 we are funding the development of a statewide strategy for sport and recreation facilities to guide investment across Tasmania.

This strategy will be done in close consultation with local government and sporting organisations. It will also be used to inform future decision-making to optimise investment to meet the needs of the community right across Tasmania. Many of Tasmania's sporting facilities - including indoor sports centres - require redevelopment or replacement, a statewide facilities strategy will allow us to look at those and cater for increasing usage.

Our main goal is to increase participation of people in sport - especially those who face the most disadvantage - including children and young people, people with a disability, women and socially disadvantaged Tasmanians. Through this process, we will be working with stakeholders and the broader community to improve facilities through sound investment. It will feed into the Government's structured investment review framework.

Mr GAFFNEY - Is that being outsourced or undertaken by people from your department through Sport and Recreation? Whose responsibility is it for the study and how will this take place? Is it consultation? You mentioned various groups What is the time line and who will have responsibility to carry out the project?

Mrs PETRUSMA - One of the major stakeholders is local government for major consultation.

Mr GAFFNEY - Who from the Government will be contacting all these people? Which department will be looking after it?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Sport and Recreation.

Mr GAFFNEY - So they are not outsourcing it. It is in-house?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Elements will probably be outsourced for those we cannot undertake. I will let Ms Kent provide further information.

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Ms KENT - We are still developing the project planning, but it will be based on the work done on the northern strategy last year. The steering committee was made up of organisations including the Local Government Association and other agencies like State Growth. In that particular case, we did outsource to SGS consulting to do some work in the north. They certainly have a good model and anticipate using something like that. The project plan is still to be worked out and will be done with existing resources.

Mr GAFFNEY - And the time frame is that you will report back this time next year?

Ms KENT - Yes, that is the expectation of the minister.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The framework allows us to demonstrate what benefits community needs and to leverage opportunities. It is to inform future decision-making to optimise investment to best meet the needs of the community, but it also allows us to have a framework to take to the federal government as well. We need them to be partners so we want to be able to demonstrate what the actual need is in different regions and in different facilities by doing a thorough process.

Mr GAFFNEY - I think it is a good idea. I only wanted to know a bit more detail about who is going to be responsible for it, so the buck stops there.

The Ticket to Play program you introduced last year with \$3 million, we were informed last year that it was about \$100 000 to set up, \$100 per child. How many children took up the Ticket to Play and what amount remains? There's only \$1 million this year. What was the feedback and evaluation, and how was that done from the pilot project last year?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Ticket to Play has been a fantastic program. I want to acknowledge the great work that Ms Langenberg and her team have put into it. The aim is to give up to 40 000 vouchers to children and young people throughout the state aged five to 17 years, to get them to take part in sport and recreation. We want to get more children involved in sport and recreation who are on a Health Care Card or a Centrelink card. I think over 5000 vouchers have been issued. The department has done a wide body of work. We are doing a lot of analyses, and I can table these as well. Every time we get a voucher, we are mapping where the voucher is going so we can see where the vouchers are being given out. I think 800-something different organisations are registered with Ticket to Play to take part in the initiative. We are also working a lot with the state's sporting organisations, with the AFL, Football Tasmania -

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. For last year, for the \$3 million set aside, how many children -

Mrs PETRUSMA - It was 5070.

Mr GAFFNEY - So what's the total of that? Were they all \$100?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I think the average was about \$93 each, so we are still on track to be doing 40 000 vouchers with the \$4 million.

Mr GAFFNEY - Hang on. Last year you were hoping to get to 30 000 children if there's \$3 million?

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Mrs PETRUSMA - The program didn't commence until February this year because, as we said last year, we had to build the IT system and get all the organisations on board to register. The initiative has continued over a year-and-a-half basically.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay, that's fine. If a child got \$100 last year -

Mrs PETRUSMA - This year - it started this year.

Mr GAFFNEY - In 2018-19?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, but it started February this year.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes, well into the last financial year; if a child got it, can they reapply for it in 2019-20?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The first round goes to November this year and then we are looking to commence it again for the next round.

Mr GAFFNEY - Will the child who gets it in its first year be able to apply for the \$100 again in the second year?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes.

Mr GAFFNEY - Therefore it's not going to get to 40 000.

Mrs PETRUSMA - It's 40 000 vouchers -

Mr GAFFNEY - It's 40 000 vouchers, so it's not 40 000 children.

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, it's 40 000 vouchers; that's what has been provided.

Mr GAFFNEY - And because you had quite a lot of funds left over from this year -

Mrs PETRUSMA - It's been rolled over.

Mr GAFFNEY - That's been rolled over and that's why it was only a \$1 million investment for 2019-20?

Mrs PETRUSMA - That's it.

Mr GAFFNEY - Is it the Government's intention, after it has been running for the 18 months, to then take the next year back up to the original level of \$3 million? Or will that be worked out once you've evaluated the results? I'm trying to understand how you are going to pay for it in future years.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is why the department has been doing a lot of work to get different organisations to take part in the campaign. That includes doing a Facebook promotion, doing it through the different organisations. The Facebook campaign went well. In total, the advertisement reached 32 000 individual people just through our Facebook campaign; however, we can't force people to take it up and that's why we are doing it through a lot of our community sector

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organisations, neighbourhood houses and education. So far we have reached 5000 and continuing because while some young people might not want to participate in winter sport, they might in summer sports.

That is why I will do more to have these young people involved. We have invested in Reclink Australia for the next two years, to have sport and recreation opportunities available for 16-year-olds-plus and why we are trying to have more kids involved. This analysis, whether by age group, gender, location and by sport, can refine how to target our campaigns to have more people, because we want to get those 40 000 vouchers out.

Mr GAFFNEY - Are you able to provide a breakdown of where those vouchers are being used? Is it either through local government areas or schools? I do not know how with regions.

Mrs PETRUSMA - We have it by sport and can table information that shows the sport and check the location.

Mr GAFFNEY - The location is more interesting because I want to see what areas in our communities need to be given a little nudge they should be joining in.

Ms WEBB - You mentioned a high number of sporting organisations involved in this scheme, which is great. Are there any areas around the state with sporting organisations involved where you think their coverage is a light in terms of options for children to find somewhere to use their voucher? Are there any areas of concern where there could be more options for kids?

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is why we are doing all this research. It is a pilot program and there will be a lot of testing to see how it all runs and to gather as much information so we can keep refining it. There are 880 organisations.

Ms WEBB - It is just a simple question.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Again, I applaud the work because they have put a lot of time and effort into the success of this program.

Ms WEBB - It is a great program and I am interested if we are worried about any light coverage of options.

Ms LANGENBERG - The light coverage areas you have asked about are in reality the areas we know where the population density is less so it is problematic then for sporting organisations and others to provide opportunity. For example, the west coast, the far north-west, is pretty good but there is scant coverage on both of Flinders and King islands. Many sporting organisations on King Island are affiliated with Victorian state organisations rather than Tasmanian because of ease of access and lower travel costs to Victoria than Tasmania.

CHAIR - An argument for travel subsidy for those kids.

Ms LANGENBERG - What is of interest is certainly the appetite for the sporting organisations at a state level, which actually want and are providing access to the data we have gathered and the locations. They see them as potential areas of growth and opportunities for them to provide program to encourage people to take up and use their vouchers.

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CHAIR - This is somewhat useful. The islands do not appear and it would be helpful to have some number. There is nothing at Marrawah or Bicheno. I do not know how many people represented Strahan and I cannot even see King Island. It would be helpful to have more breakdown, so we will leave that on notice.

Mr GAFFNEY - From my point of view and, like most members, in my area I will do whatever I can to highlight it to unaware schools so they can be on board, which is why I want the information. It is great.

Mrs PETRUSMA - We have worked with the state's sporting organisations and I can indicate AFL Tasmania said they had a 14.3 per cent increase in registration through the body of work they are doing. The football federation has been working hard, so have other organisations, but I would encourage all members to help us. We can probably provide a flyer or artwork for members to be able to promote on newsletters.

Mr GAFFNEY - The statistics would help us.

Ms WEBB - Before we move on from that, minister, are you able to also table a list of organisations that have registered to be part of that? I know it is a high number.

Mrs PETRUSMA - There are 880 organisations.

Ms WEBB - Yes, but a list of them?

Ms LANGENBERG - They are actually on the website.

Mrs PETRUSMA - So go online and check it out.

Ms WEBB - Quickly, one final thing. I know it is early days in the program and I am a big supporter of it, I think it's a great program. I note though that, to date, the gender breakdown of the kids who have accessed the program is 60 boys:40 girls. Have you got a plan as we continue with this first stage, and certainly as you move into the next year of it, to bring that more into balance and to have more girls accessing this program? Do you have a strategy for that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - We have been investing a lot in trying to get more women and girls to play sport. Statistics are quite low for women playing sport. One of our initiatives is \$10 million that has gone into Levelling the Playing Field, which has had great uptake, because we know that one of the biggest barriers to women and girls playing sport is facilities. The aim of the \$10 million is to leverage about \$20 million of investment. In our first round in 2018-21, the initial investment leveraged \$10.113 million-worth of investment under that program.

If you are female and you belong to a footy club, if there are 36 of you and only one toilet available at half-time, half-time can go for a very long time if you need to use the bathroom. That was only one example from two female football clubs. We have been working a lot with AFL Tasmania; just in AFL, for example, the junior football clubs went from seven to 62 teams in AFLW. Cricket Tasmania is investing extra funding in regards to its women's program. Netball Tasmania is investing extra money into Netball Tasmania.

Ms WEBB - I'm aware of all those, they are great initiatives. Levelling the Playing Field is an excellent initiative, for sure, and is going to go somewhere towards encouraging broadly more

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female participation. I am just wondering for the Ticket to Play program, given what you have seen from your early statistics, whether you are going to implement some strategies to have girls take up that particular effort? I hope to see does happen through particular strategies. This is beyond the excellent, broader strategies you are implementing.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That's part of the research thinking.

CHAIR - It would be helpful to have unisex toilets perhaps more broadly accessed from outside spaces.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is what is happening; Pembroke Park is to have unisex toilets there so all people can access them.

Mr GAFFNEY - I have some questions on Levelling the Playing Field. How much of the \$5 million was spent? I saw 21 were successful in the first round. How much of the \$5 million was left over?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Under the first round, applications that were successful came to a total of \$4.655 million. That is why in the second round, which is now open, over \$5.3 million is available. The EOI process has already been undertaken and those applications are now being reviewed so that we can get the 2019-20 funding out.

Mr GAFFNEY - Could you provide how many applications you had for the first round and from what regions they came? These would be good stats to have.

Mrs PETRUSMA - If it helps, I can actually table the successful applicants for round 1.

Mr GAFFNEY - I'm not talking about the successful ones, which are on your website; I'm talking about how many groups put in for it.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Forty-three.

Mr GAFFNEY - Can you table for us at some stage where those applications came from? In my community, if many people haven't put in for it, it is about alerting them to that fact. Is that possible?

Ms LANGENBERG - The expressions of interest for this 2019-20 round have already closed, so in terms of promoting it, it is a bit late to promote for future rounds.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes, but I'm interested to know which groups in my area have put in and were not successful. They may not be successful in this round, but if I know the table tennis club is looking for some funding, it alerts me to look for some grants where they might be able to get help not from this area.

Ms LANGENBERG - Point of clarification, were you seeking the names of the organisations that applied or just the number from the regions?

Mr GAFFNEY - What's easiest? Can you get -

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Mrs PETRUSMA - It is all about confidentiality so we can probably give you the locations of the applications but not the names of the organisations -

Mr GAFFNEY - That's fine. If you can't give me the names or whatever, just give me locations.

Mrs PETRUSMA - It is a process. It will just be locations of those.

Mr GAFFNEY - I did notice one of them that I'd like to highlight: there was \$630 000 for the Pembroke Park unisex change rooms, which is a significant grant, but they also received \$2.5 million for that same facility, so that's of interest to me. Is that because they weren't given enough money under the first fund, that they should've been given \$3.130 million? Do you see what I mean? They have \$2.5 million from here and they have also got \$630 000 from Level the Playing Field. How did that happen? That seems to be a significant amount of money.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Pembroke Park is actually quite a major development. The Australian Government has committed \$6 million to upgrade the indoor facility. The upgraded indoor facility is going to include basketball courts, gym, office, amenities, storage, canteen, parking access and landscaping. It is going to be a major regional complex that will cater for AFL, cricket, Little Athletics, netball -

Mr GAFFNEY - That's fine. I just want to get back to the finance -

Mrs PETRUSMA - We are providing the change rooms for this huge development being undertaken under the \$630 000.

Mr GAFFNEY - Hang on, if you have \$6 million from the feds, and \$2.5 million out of your key deliverables, plus you had to come up with half the money, I suppose - 'Pembroke Park: funding of \$2.5 million is provided over two years from 2020-21' - and then you've \$630 000 from - I don't mind, I just want to understand how that works. It looks to me like the federal government said 'We'll come up with \$6 million, but you have got to come up with half to match it', and that's how you've come up with the money - \$2.5 million and \$630 000 - is that it?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I believe the council is providing funding as well. It's a big master plan, it's a big regional complex. Our grants that we are committed to include the \$630 000 and, as you identified, the \$2.5 million committed as part of this major redevelopment, but it's a funding partnership as well with the Sorell Council and the Australian Government. It's a major development.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes, that's fine.

With your Level the Playing Field grants, I know you received 43 applications and in regional terms there were - how do you ensure the funding gets spread throughout the state? It is an interesting mix of criteria. Can you give me some idea of how you assess the project? The west coast and rural and regional places perhaps don't have the number of children but the weather is just as bad there as it is anywhere else, so how do you work through the criteria for that?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I'll ask Ms Langenberg to provide further information.

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Ms LANGENBERG - Under the first round of Levelling the Playing Field in 2018-19, the priority was for AFL and cricket, and that was clearly stated. Part of that process was to talk particularly with those two sporting organisations about the priorities for their sport, as well as looking at a range of other factors that included contributing funding, whether that was from the club or local government. Also looking at the need, both locally and regionally with an overlay to consider the factors of your concern. Rather than another facility in North Hobart, a facility where there no facility in close proximity was certainly considered as a factor when trying to have an even spread. It was not so much about making it equal, but population's access to a facility close by. In relation to that, here are layers of assessment.

For the 2019-20 round, the priorities are certainly not as clear as they are for cricket. It is supported for other sports and a similar process will be undertaken looking at those factors, again of the other contributors, whether local government through councils, the sport concerned or, in this case, from some contribution from the Australian Government through the recent election factored into the mix.

Mr GAFFNEY - If you can get the money, you should jump at it.

You mentioned Reclink and funding being available for George Town, Risdon Vale, Glenorchy and Brighton. I imagine there is a synergy in trying to promote sports in that area, and Reclink is one way of doing it, which is great. An amount of \$195 000 was set aside for the Football Tasmania Board over three years. Is that for running the board or are the members of the board remunerated? What are the funds for? I would think most of the people in those roles would be volunteers.

Mrs PETRUSMA - It is for the establishment and operation of the board and part of that amount goes to the executive chair's remuneration. It is for the establishment, operation and remuneration of the chair.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. Do we know what that is? If you do not have the answer, you can provide at a later date.

Mrs PETRUSMA - We think it is around \$30 000.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yearly?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes.

Mr GAFFNEY - There is \$960 000 over four years for cricket in the north and north-west.

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, that is statewide.

Mr GAFFNEY - And an extra \$200 000?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Big Bash League and Women's Big Bash League.

Mr GAFFNEY - Not for facilities?

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, because with BBL and WBBL people want to have games in the north and north-west, and this is to make sure more games are provided statewide.

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Mr GAFFNEY - Good. So that is the \$200 000?

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is right.

Mr GAFFNEY - Is the \$240 000 per year for coaching and management?

Mrs PETRUSMA - That goes towards the total cost of \$1 million to Cricket Tasmania to allow them to do the Tigers women's and men's teams. The women's team did exceptionally well this year through having extra funding. This is to help them have the two teams, one club culture they have put in place is enabling Tasmania to have its own women's team competing on the national stage.

Mr GAFFNEY - That is good. If we are talking about elite athletes, and we should - we did well at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and the 2020 Olympic Games are coming up - how many TIS-sponsored athletes do we have this financial year? They operate on a calendar year.

Mrs PETRUSMA - We currently support 163 athletes through various levels of targeted assistance under the TIS.

Mr GAFFNEY - Of those, how many are athletes with disabilities or have an Aboriginal background? In your preamble it says 'supporting Aboriginals' and disabilities.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Mr Austen may know, but the funding we are providing for the sporting access fund is to enable more people with disability to compete on the national and international stage but Mr Austen might be able to provide further information in regards to those cohorts at the elite level.

Mr AUSTEN - We do not have any specific information about people from an Indigenous background captured as part of our scholarship process. In relation to athletes with a disability or Paralympians, currently there are four on scholarships.

Mr GAFFNEY - How are you increasing sport and recreation by all Tasmanians, including people with disability and Aboriginal people? What programs have you that specifically encourage Aboriginal people to participate?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Department of Communities Tasmania, through CSR, coordinates twice-yearly disability sport and active recreation network forums - alternating between the north and the south - to provide opportunities for representatives from state sporting organisations and disability service organisations to work together. We provide funding and support to ParaQuad, Physical disABILITY Sports, New Horizons and Special Olympics to work with the sport and recreation sector.

For example, with Paraquad, there is \$150 000 over three years to implement physical disability sport initiatives. They do that under the banner of Physical disABILITY Sports Tasmania to employ a sport and recreation development officer, to increase opportunities for adults and children with physical disabilities to participate in sport and recreation activities. They have developed Wheelchair Basketball in all regions of Tasmania and sports such as Wheelchair Aussie Rules for people with physical disabilities.

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Special Olympics: we have provided \$500 000 in funding through Events Tasmania to support events coming up in 2020 and 2022. We also provide funding to New Horizons each year of \$60 000 through the State Grants Program to support inclusive sport provisions as well.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you. Did you mention Aboriginal-specific funding?

Mrs PETRUSMA - With Aboriginal Tasmanians, Communities Sport and Recreation provides specific offices that provide different initiatives to Aboriginal Tasmanians. I might get Ms Langenberg to elaborate.

Ms LANGENBERG - We have two identified Aboriginal sport and recreation positions within Communities, Sport and Recreation. We work closely with Aboriginal community organisations and sporting organisations through a range of programs to increase participation. Examples such as the Kingborough Tigers Football Club with its Aboriginal round; we also in the past supported the Rocherlea round held annually as part of football. On-ground support for the Evonne Goolagong Foundation's 'Come and try tennis' day which in 2019 was held in Cygnet, previously it was held in Burnie.

We have helped develop a women's health education, empowerment and self defence program with Womensport and Recreation Tasmania. Supporting preparations for a team to compete in the indigenous national university games. It is about brokering and working with a range of organisations to try to promote sport and recreation and physical activity for community members.

Mr GAFFNEY - What national or international sporting events the Government has helped sponsor should we expect in Tasmania this financial year?

Mrs PETRUSMA - If they come here, most national events come under Events Tasmania. My portfolio is more about increasing grassroots participation and looking at disadvantaged Tasmanians. The two in my area are the BBL for the north and north-west and providing \$100 000 a year to Hockey Tasmania to enable the women's and men's teams to participate on the national stage. Other events are more expensive than the sport and recreation budget, so they come under Events Tasmania because they could be quite a lot more dollars than what is under the Sport and Recreation banner.

Mr GAFFNEY - Why would the hockey and cricket fall under your banner and the other sports fall -

Mrs PETRUSMA - If you look at the ICC World Cup, for example, it is \$3 million so that comes under Events because it is a significant event that is also used to market and attract people from all around Australia and the world to come to Tasmania for eight days of cricket games with international teams.

In regards to different ones we are sponsoring under Sport and Recreation, we are sponsoring -

- National Road Series for men and women and the Oceania Road Championships in cycling
- Canoe Tasmania at the Australian wildwater racing and Australian slalom championships

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- Golf Tasmania - Deaf Golf, Australian men's interstate and Australian women's interstate championships
- Australian Sailing Limited multiple national championships
- Australian Karate Federation Tasmania - the 2019 Australia Karate National Championships
- BMX Tasmania - the National Series Stage 7 Championships
- Tasmanian Squash Racquet Association - the Australian Junior Individuals and Australian Junior Teams Championships
- Eightball Tasmania - the 29th Australian Junior Eightball Championships -

Mr GAFFNEY - That is fine, I knew there was a range.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The highest amount we are giving is \$6000, so they are small amounts.

Mr GAFFNEY - I knew there was a grants from Sport and Recreation that could be accessed by minor sports and groups. That was important to table. Thank you; that is all from me.

CHAIR - Did anyone ask about the key performance indicators in this line item? No? The blitz on key performance indicators continues. In Sport and Recreation the only one is that the performance of Tasmanian athletes are benchmarked at international sporting events - it is great to look at how our elite athletes are going. However, surely our focus and assessment of our performance indicators, particularly outcomes-based ones, should be focused on our children. We have all these projects we have just talked about that provide great opportunities, so why don't we have performance indicators showing the number of children engaging in these projects? Possibly even the opportunity of tracking their continued involvement in sport and the number of women's facilities being developed, and all these things we know are just so lacking in this state?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Participation data on children is collected by AusPlay; that is why it is not in ours because it comes under the AusPlay data, which is conducted by Sport Australia. Sport Australia is the organisation that tracks the sport and physical behaviours and activities of Australian adults and children. The latest figures were released on the 30 April 2019. That is where we get our data about those specific cohorts. I can read out what the figures were if you want them.

CHAIR - No, I am interested in the outcomes of your programs.

Mrs PETRUSMA - We have the AusPlay data.

CHAIR - But is that linked to your programs?

Mrs PETRUSMA - We take it into consideration but the small sample size of the Tasmanian collection means it is limited data for the state. I might get Ms Langenberg to provide further information.

Ms LANGENBERG - The sample size for Tasmania and the national data collection is so small as to be unreliable in terms of reporting mechanisms. We have to institute other measures to measure the effectiveness of our programs. Some of that is through monitoring the membership and participation rates of the state's sporting organisations, which they also break down into region, gender and a range of other slices and dices including age.

CHAIR - You do have some of that data then?

Ms LANGENBERG - We certainly track that; we have been tracking that annually with the state's sporting organisations that we fund and look at it in terms of trends and opportunities for that to increase.

CHAIR - These are the sort of things I am talking about. Are any of these initiatives, particularly those in place for some time, value for money.? Here we are scrutinising a line item and there is no performance information to tell us whether it is good, bad or indifferent or whether you are throwing it down a black hole.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That is why I can indicate under Ticket to Play, for example, that we are tracking that information. The AFL is providing us with regular feedback as to how that is increasing.

CHAIR - We can hope to see some performance indicators next year?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, to assess how participation is going?

Mr VALENTINE - It would be good to get something here.

CHAIR - That is what I am saying, some performance information here that gives some clarity because if something is not working we should not keep doing it. If it is, sure. Anyway, that's my beef on performance indicators.

DIVISION 2

(Department of Women)

Output Group 6

Disability Services and Community Development

6.5 Women's Policy -

Mrs PETRUSMA - Can I introduce at the table Ms Ginna Webster, Secretary, Department of Communities Tasmania; Ms Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation; and Ms Mandy Clarke, Executive Director, Standards and Performance.

CHAIR - Do you want to make a brief opening statement, minister, in relation to women's policy?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Tasmanian Government is committed to creating a more inclusive Tasmania that empowers and enables women and girls to fully participate in our social, political, economic and community life. This output contributes to the development of policy that increases social and economic participation of women and girls and promotes gender equity and opportunities for women's leadership and participation. Key initiatives delivered through this output include the Tasmanian Women's Strategy, the Women on Board Strategy, advice from the Tasmanian Women's Council. Under the Tasmanian Women's Strategy, we have released the Financial Security for Women Action Plan and released fact sheets on a biennial basis. The Women on Board Strategy is going exceptionally well because boards now have 44.9 per cent women.

CHAIR - What board did you say?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Tasmanian Women on Boards Strategy.

CHAIR - What was the percentage?

Mrs PETRUSMA - As at 31 March 44.9 per cent and tracking exceptionally well.

Ms LOVELL - Have you sought further advice on why women are losing jobs in Tasmania?

Mrs PETRUSMA - As at April 2019, 6000 more women are employed than in March 2014.

Ms LOVELL - That is not the information I have. The information I have is there was a reduction from April 2018 to -

CHAIR - She said 2014

Ms LOVELL - Yes, I know but I am wondering about last year.

Mrs PETRUSMA - As at April 2019, there are 6200 more women employed than in March 2014. In fact, more than 13 000 jobs have been created in Tasmania since this Government was first elected.

Ms LOVELL - I am asking about the period from April 2018 to April 2019. Do you have those figures?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I am going on the fact there are 6200 more women than in March 2014. You need to ask the right minister for the information. I am not the responsible minister.

Ms LOVELL - For women?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I am the Minister for Women, but I am not responsible for those statistics. Those statistics come under the Treasurer.

Ms LOVELL - You said the infrastructure program would provide jobs yesterday. What percentage of women are employed in civic construction and how many jobs are you expecting the infrastructure program to provide for women in Tasmania?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The 2019-20 Budget includes a record \$3.6 billion into intergenerational infrastructure that will create thousands of jobs. Treasury expects employment growth of 10 000 over the Budget and forward Estimates.

Ms LOVELL - That is very positive. What percentage of those jobs would you expect to go to women?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Again, you need to learn to ask the questions of the right minister. It is not in my output, so you need to ask the questions of the right minister.

Ms LOVELL - So as Minister for Women you do not -

Mrs PETRUSMA - As Minister for Women, I am quite happy to talk about the initiatives in my portfolio.

Ms LOVELL - Okay.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The Tasmanian Women's Strategy, the Women's Fact Sheets, everything else in my portfolio, International Women's Day Grants - I am very happy to talk about the things I am responsible for.

Ms LOVELL - Your agency outline also identifies that your role in women's policy is to increase women's safety, health and wellbeing. We know the time of greatest risk to women leaving a relationship is at the time they leave a relationship and being housed safely is paramount to their health and wellbeing. Can you, as Minister for Women, tell us the current demand for emergency accommodation and the current waiting lists at the women's shelters?

Mrs PETRUSMA - As you had the minister Mr Jaensch here today and Housing comes under his portfolio, you need to learn to ask the right minister the questions you are asking. As you know, I am not the minister responsible for Housing. I am happy to answer questions in regard to my portfolio and my output. If you have a question in regards to Housing, you need to ask it of the right minister.

Ms LOVELL - So as Minister for Women, you are not aware of the demand for women's emergency accommodation?

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, I am saying you need to learn to ask the question of the right minister.

Ms LOVELL - Okay, we will move onto the next question. Minister, can you tell us the current demand and waiting list for sexual assault services in Tasmania.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Again you know that is not in my ministry. You are deliberately trying to ask questions you know come under other ministers. The fact is across this Government, every minister is responsible for women in some way shape and form. We have a whole-of-government strategy in regards to family violence. Different ministers are responsible for different initiatives under their portfolios to make sure initiatives are delivered for the benefit of women and their children who, for example, are escaping family violence, or are experiencing sexual violence.

In regards to sexual violence, this Government has spent \$200 000 over the last year developing a new sexual violence and family violence action plan which will be released in the next few weeks. This will contain different initiatives to help to address sexual violence and family violence in Tasmania. Under this Government, an extra \$27 million is invested over the next three years towards different initiatives to help protect women and their children.

Ms LOVELL - You are not able to give me those details?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Again, you know very well Sexual Assault Support Services comes under Mr Jaensch as minister. You need to ask the right minister the questions. If you do not understand which minister has which responsibilities, you need to learn. I am not responsible for those services, but I am responsible for policy and developing initiatives to encourage more women to go on

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boards, for example. Looking at where we came from, we had 33.8 per cent of women on boards; we are now at 44.9 per cent, so that's nearly a 33 per cent increase in the women on boards.

Ms LOVELL - On that number of women on boards because that was one question you were able to answer yesterday, you've given a percentage. Are you able to give a headcount of the number of women on boards?

Mrs PETRUSMA - At the moment there are 881 board members in board positions.

Ms LOVELL - I am happy for you to take it on notice.

Mrs PETRUSMA - We'll have to take it on notice.

Ms LOVELL - You may need to take my next question on notice as well then: the number of women in SES positions and their bands - headcount, not the percentage, please.

Mrs PETRUSMA - As of March 2019, women made up 42.9 per cent, or 66 of 154 positions, of the state Senior Executive Service; that's 42.9 per cent. In March 2014, women were only 28.31 per cent.

Ms LOVELL - Minister, I've asked for headcount, not percentage; and if you need to take that on notice -

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, and I said 66 of 154 positions, so women are making up 66 of 154 positions.

Ms LOVELL - Can you give us the breakdown of bands, or do you need to take that on notice?

Mrs PETRUSMA - That's in the State Service Senior Executive Service?

Ms LOVELL - Thank you.

Mrs PETRUSMA - I'll put that on notice.

Ms LOVELL - Yes. Minister, in your role as Minister for Women, have you made any representations to the Minister for Health to ensure that the full range of reproductive health services for women, including termination of pregnancy, are available in the public health system?

Mrs PETRUSMA - In regard to terminations, the Minister for Health answered these questions during his own Estimates -

Ms LOVELL - I'm asking about representations you've made.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Of course conversations have been held, but the question again falls within an output area of the Minister for Health, which has already been canvassed.

Ms LOVELL - No, Minister, I'm not asking about -

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CHAIR - Order. The question is: have you advocated on behalf of women about access to a full range of reproductive health services? That is the question for you, minister, not for the Minister for Health.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The minister and I have had conversations, but the Government and the Department of Health continue to work with women's health services to make sure that affordable and accessible terminations are available for Tasmanian women. Women seeking access to these services can contact their general practitioner or one of the prescribed health services - Women's Health Tasmania, Family Planning Tasmania -

Ms LOVELL - Minister, that is not the question I am asking.

Mrs PETRUSMA - These conversations have been had.

Ms LOVELL - Have you advocated for the range of services to be available?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Conversations have been had.

Ms LOVELL - That does not tell us much, minister.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Conversations have been had. Affordable and accessible terminations are available to Tasmanian women.

Ms LOVELL - That is not my question, minister. My question was: what representations you have made on behalf of Tasmanian women?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I have said we have had conversations.

Ms LOVELL - That is all you're willing to say?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Affordable and accessible terminations are available for Tasmanian women.

Ms LOVELL - That is not the question. I am happy to move on.

Mrs PETRUSMA - I can provide an answer in regard to the boards. There are 396 women and 485 men.

Ms LOVELL - Thank you.

CHAIR - You said affordable and accessible termination of pregnancy is available for Tasmanian women. Are they available throughout the state?

Mrs PETRUSMA - This is a briefing I have here.

CHAIR - Surely the Minister for Women would know whether a women's health service is available throughout the state?

Mrs PETRUSMA - They are available in Hobart, women can access the Patient Transport Access Scheme.

Ms LOVELL - Going back to my earlier questions, you have been very clear about a number of questions I had that you believe do not fall under your responsibility. Your agency outline describes, under Women's Policy -

This Output contributes to the development and implementation of policy that increases social and economic participation of women and girls, and promotes gender equity and opportunities for women's leadership and participation, financial security, safety, and health and wellbeing.

My question to you is: what is you doing in your role as Minister for Women to contribute to the implementation of policy that delivers those outcomes?

Mrs PETRUSMA - In regards to health and wellbeing?

Ms LOVELL - In regards to financial security. In regards to safety. In regards to health and wellbeing. How can you do that effectively, when you are not aware of the current demand and waiting lists of several of these services that are incredibly relevant to this portfolio?

Mrs PETRUSMA - In regards to health and wellbeing, Levelling the Playing Field, for example, contributes to health and wellbeing for women. This is a \$10 million program directly involved in getting more women and girls participating in sport.

In safety, I take part in the national women's safety meetings and I am heavily involved in the work Ms Clark and her team are doing in regards to women's safety in Tasmania. You weren't here when it all started, but myself, Ms O'Connor and Ms Giddings helped start family violence initiatives in Tasmania - to make it apolitical at the time, to have tripartisan agreement on family violence and to raise the issue of family violence to make sure it was part of a conversation and bring it out of the shadows and into the light. A whole body of work, including \$26 million invested in family violence, was undertaken over the previous term of government. Now, we are investing another \$27 million, including a new sexual and family violence process.

Ms LOVELL - Can you tell us the current demand and waiting list for family violence counselling services in Tasmania?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Again, that belongs to Mr Jaensch as minister. You need to learn to ask the question of the right minister.

Ms LOVELL - You were just talking about the role you play.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The role I play is helping to develop the whole-of-government policy framework, which other ministers and their agencies are responsible for delivering.

Ms LOVELL - Do you feel you can do that effectively without being aware of the demand and waiting lists?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Agencies are expected, under different initiatives, to report on an annual basis about what they are delivering in regards to the different initiatives under their portfolio. My key role within government is to advance and promote the overarching policy framework for

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women under the women's output. This sits within the Department of Communities Tasmania. We help to develop the policy, then the respective agencies, under their respective ministers, are responsible for delivering the different initiatives.

Ms LOVELL - I am happy to move on and let someone else ask some questions. I am surprised as Minister for Women you are not across a number of issues particularly pertinent to women in Tasmania.

Ms WEBB - As a follow up, with a slightly more focused question involved, I note in the same way that part of your responsibility in this portfolio is contributing to the development and implementation of policy across those key areas. Given you are not responsible for particular outcomes in some of those areas mentioned - they fall under other ministers - in your role as Minister for Women and your specified remit to contribute to the development and implementation of policy across those areas, could you perhaps outline for us in the last 12-month period what specific focused meetings you have had with those other ministers on key crisis issues in this state - things like the affordable housing crisis and the place of women with the Housing minister, or specific diarised meetings you've had with the Health minister in relation to the termination of pregnancy issue, or specific diarised meetings you've had to advocate and be involved in the development and implementation of policy when it comes to safety issues for women? Can we have maybe those details, something about the specific activities you've undertaken in a formalised way or perhaps submissions made, questions asked and information sought by people within your department that is trackable?

CHAIR - Let the minister have a crack at that.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Cabinet usually meets weekly, so all these sorts of issues are discussed at Cabinet meetings with all colleagues. In regards to family violence, there is a subcommittee of Cabinet but, of course, all ministers raise issues, so if any woman raises any issue of concern with me in regards to, for example, family violence or sexual violence or housing or whatever, there are processes in place to make sure that need is then referred to the responsible minister. There are conversations all the time. You don't schedule a meeting because if a woman is in need and requires assistance, we deal with it at the time and make sure it's done in a responsible way, so the whole -

Ms WEBB - Perhaps let me clarify, minister; I'm not speaking about specific issues brought to you by individuals, and it's great to hear this is a matter of discussion across all ministers and within Cabinet, that's excellent. What you would understand is that you are the Minister for Women. You are tasked with contributing to the development and implementation of policy that increases a whole range of areas of interest to women. Your women's policy provides specific stats, data and outcome measures on that whole range of policy areas. This should be your core business. What we are interested to know - and what we wouldn't ask another member of Cabinet about, or another minister, happy though we would be that they may at times have those conversations - is what specific meetings you have within that remit to formally undertake the role as the Minister for Women when it comes to those areas?

Mrs PETRUSMA - If we look at it just like the Tasmanian Women on Board Strategy, for example, I've managed to take that, through working with all my Cabinet colleagues, from 33.8 per cent to 44.9 per cent in a few years - that was a huge achievement. We've developed a Tasmanian Women's Strategy. We've developed the Tasmanian Financial Security for Women Action Plan. We are doing International Women's Day grants. We are doing the Board Diversity Governance Program, the Honour Roll of Women. We've developed the Women in Tasmania website where

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women can go and have one website with a directory of services. None of these initiatives were in place before I started as Minister for Women. There's also a Facebook page. I'm looking at initiatives that involve all women so that women have one place to go to for a website to access services. There was no Minister for Women since 2006, so I think in a short time to have taken women on boards from 33.8 per cent to 44.9 per cent shows a lot of effort has been undertaken by the partners here. There would not have been a Family Violence Action Plan if I hadn't kicked it off with Cassy O'Connor and Lara Giddings, so I refute the fact you're saying that there has been no action undertaken.

Ms WEBB - Just excuse me, minister, at no point did I say no action was taken. I would like you to acknowledge that at no point did I say that. I was asking you about what particular actions you had taken in certain directions. I didn't assert anything about the actions that have been taken. In fact, I have high congratulations for the things that you have just listed. I think they are all excellent initiatives and the progress made has been very good, so I would like you to understand and have an indication that you understand that at no point did I criticise those actions.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Thank you, but in regards to -

Ms WEBB - Let me pick up from that, what I did do was ask you specifically: beyond those excellent initiatives and progress made, as the Minister for Women, for example, what have you done in relation to formal discussion and contributions to policy directions on affordable housing and the impact it particularly has on women?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Hobart has a new women's shelter because of the work I undertook when I was responsible in the past. The new Hobart women's shelter.

Ms WEBB - In your role as Minister for Women?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Of course I take an interest in housing, the Rapid Rehousing Initiative for Women Escaping Family Violence was an initiative I developed in -

Ms WEBB - Your previous portfolio responsibilities.

Mrs PETRUSMA - I have taken an interest in those because when women come to me and say they are homeless, need shelter or anything else, I raise it with the minister. Active conversations are happening all the time. Every single one of my Cabinet colleagues is passionate about making sure women in Tasmania are truly included whether it is economically, socially, politically by whatever means possible. That is the reason, through my Cabinet colleagues, women on boards has gone up to 44.9 per cent. It is a collective responsibility across all of Cabinet; in regards to whether it is family violence or women on boards, we all share the load in doing different initiatives in our areas.

Ms WEBB - It is excellent to hear of that level of engagement across Cabinet and excellent that the initiatives have been undertaken. I am going to take what you are saying as there has been no specific action by you as Minister for Women to, in a formalised way, have meetings and conversations or contribute to policy development in key areas of urgent interest in this state such as affordable housing during your remit as Minister for Women. I take it nothing formal has happened in that place?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Far from it, there are weekly conversations in Cabinet around these.

Ms WEBB - Could you show us a diary, a submission made, a letter written or a contribution to policy?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Mr Jaensch is on my same level; I can pop in and see the minister when I want to see him and I can pick up the phone if there is an issue of concern.

Ms WEBB - I feel my question has been answered - we talk. That is great. I am looking at formal actions.

CHAIR - Minister, in terms of policy development and contributions to development and implementation of policy and as the Minister for Women, do you acknowledge access to termination and pregnancy is a health issue?

Mrs PETRUSMA - The access of termination comes under the Minister for Health. It is an issue of great importance to women in Tasmania and is facilitated under the Minister for Health.

CHAIR - Okay, it is a health issue related to the Minister for Health with regard to the policy developed by your Government not to provide termination pregnancy services within our public hospital system. What role did you take as the Minister for Women in the development of that policy? Did you advocate as a minister around the table for access for women all Tasmanian women to a termination and pregnancy health service in our public hospital system?

Mrs PETRUSMA - As I have said before, access for [inaudible].

CHAIR - I know what you have said, my question is not about what is there. At the policy level it says here-

This Output contributes to the development and implementation of policy ...

That is what it is about, so your role as the Minister for Women in the development - not necessarily the implementation here because it doesn't fall within your portfolio area - of the policy that meant women in Tasmania do not have access to a health service for termination of pregnancy in our public hospital system.

Mrs PETRUSMA - That issue has been discussed, as I said before, between myself and the Minister for Health, but an affordable and accessible service is available for women in Tasmania.

CHAIR - That is not the question. What role did you play in the policy development not to provide termination of pregnancy in the public hospital system?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Affordable and accessible abortion or termination -

CHAIR - No, minister. You are completely avoiding the question. Anyone watching this, any woman watching it, would think that the Minister for Women will not stand up for Tasmanian women who seek to access a termination from Marrawah, from Strahan, from King Island, from Flinders Island, from anywhere outside Hobart. Yes, they can get the patient transport assistance, after they have paid for it. All that covers are the travel cost. As the Minister for Women, can you assure the women out there who may be watching that you acknowledge this is a health matter and

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that women have a right to access safe and affordable termination of pregnancy throughout Tasmania where our public hospitals are?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Women in Tasmania can access safe and affordable terminations now.

CHAIR - No, they can't. That is a lie.

Mrs PETRUSMA - They can access safe and affordable terminations and they can access the PTAS system.

CHAIR - I am sure women out there understand what you are saying.

Ms LOVELL - I have a follow-up question to the number of women on boards. I think the number you gave us was 396 women on boards. Can you confirm the number of women in paid board positions compared to the number of men in paid board positions, of the 396?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Of board members who are remunerated by annual fees or sitting fees, women make up 50.5 per cent of those if they are paid positions.

Ms LOVELL - Do we have a number?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Of all board positions paid and unpaid, 31.4 per cent of female board members are remunerated versus only 30.8 per cent of men are remunerated. So, if there are annual fees or sitting fees, actually women receive more remuneration than men.

Ms WEBB - You mean a higher proportion of women receive remuneration than men, I think, minister.

Mrs PETRUSMA - A higher proportion, yes. Of all board members who are remunerated, 50.5 per cent are women versus -

Ms LOVELL - Sorry, there was a number there you gave us, 31 per cent. Is that 31 per cent of the 396?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Not all board positions are paid; of the ones that are paid, 50.5 per cent are women.

Ms LOVELL - Sorry, there was a number of 31.4 per cent.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Of all board positions, paid and unpaid, 31.4 per cent of female board members are remunerated versus only 30.8 per cent of men remunerated.

Ms LOVELL - That is 31.4 per cent of the 396 women on boards.

Mrs PETRUSMA - No, of all board positions, of the 881 total.

Ms LOVELL - I'll go back and read it in *Hansard*. I can ask again if that's not what we're after.

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Mr VALENTINE - Of those who are paid, do you have an average of what they are paid compared to what the men are paid on those boards? No?

CHAIR - We can get that though?

Ms KENT - We'd have to look into our data system to find something on that.

CHAIR - You are acknowledging that a real gender pay gap still exists?

Mr VALENTINE - That's why I want to know. If we can have the average or a breakdown of the paid positions without - that'll be good.

CHAIR - Minister, another one from me. In your role as the Minister for Women around the Cabinet table - I am not asking you to disclose Cabinet deliberations or decisions - how do you approach your role in running the gender lens over every piece of legislation discussed within Cabinet?

Mrs PETRUSMA - In the department, a resource has been developed called Valuing Gender Inclusion, which is available for all departments to use when developing policy and programs. It is publicly available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Women in Tasmania websites. The social, economic and community impact assessments that are built into the Cabinet, budget and grants administration processes also guide consideration of gender equality impacts in decision making. We believe that all good policy analysis should consider the impact of policies on different cohorts, whether it be gender, age, socio-economic status, educational attainments or other factors which is why we have developed the Valuing Gender Inclusion resource.

CHAIR - You personally use this with each piece of legislation or policy position that requires legislative reform?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, it is a resource used for all Tasmanian government agencies; businesses in the community can also access it. There are toolkits to provide a step-by-step guide to help agencies become gender aware.

CHAIR - I am talking about how you use it, minister.

Mrs PETRUSMA - As I said before, economic and different factors also build into social economic and community impact assessments built into Cabinet processes, budget and grant administration.

CHAIR - No, how you use it. I understand how the departments use it; I can pop on and use it if I want to.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, so in our department we have this resource for us to use -

CHAIR - You are at the Cabinet table, not all your staff. I assume that is the case. I do not know how Cabinet works.

Mrs PETRUSMA - All Government departments have access to the resource.

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CHAIR - I know and heard that. I am asking you how you apply it when you are sitting around the Cabinet table arguing whether you should have termination of pregnancy services in public hospitals or whether you need another shelter on the north-west coast.

Ms WEBB - What is happening with affordable housing?

CHAIR - Yes, or there is a particular need with affordable housing or we need legislation to open up land for public housing or whatever. Not your portfolio areas, exactly, which is why I am asking you: how do you apply this tool or any other tool in putting the women's view, as the advocate for women, the Minister for Women? How do you do that around the Cabinet table?

Mrs PETRUSMA - When any policy comes forward, all Cabinet ministers have the opportunity to look at the policy and the resource is there -

CHAIR - No, I am asking you how you apply it.

Mrs PETRUSMA - At a Cabinet meeting, we all look at different initiatives that come through and we all advocate for our different portfolios.

CHAIR - I am asking you how you apply it.

Mrs PETRUSMA - To my own policies or to my Cabinet briefs?

CHAIR - No, in the Cabinet room. You are talking about policies that relate to housing, to violence, police, justice, and health matters: how do you apply that tool or lens personally?

Mrs PETRUSMA - To a Cabinet document, there are pages attached that go to different assessments for every agency when you put forward a submission.

CHAIR - So you just read them?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, you read stacks of papers and you go through it and then if you think it is not accurate or whatever, you talk about it at the Cabinet table. That is what Cabinet is there for, to go through -

Ms WEBB - Included in your documents with every piece of policy or legislation coming to you through Cabinet is the Valuing Gender Inclusion analysis of that policy included for you to read?

Mrs PETRUSMA - There is different information provided at the Cabinet table, but I cannot go into what is in Cabinet documents because, as you would appreciate, it is Cabinet-in-confidence.

CHAIR - No, but you can answer whether there is this.

Ms WEBB - I am not asking for anything specific about that. I am asking you as a matter of course, as a member of Cabinet, when you receive policy or legislation documents to review and discuss in Cabinet across areas - not your responsibility - but you discuss them, do you have on each of those a Valuing Gender Inclusion analysis or review or commentary as part of what you read? We have already established you, in informal ways in those conversations, exercise your representative role and contribution to policy, rather than a formal way.

CHAIR - I assume the other ministers get to read too?

Ms WEBB - Yes, the minister receives her set of documents; I am asking her if it comes with those.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Documents come with the social, economic and community impact assessments built into those documents, so that's built into the documents we receive.

Ms WEBB - So you can see that review -

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes.

Ms WEBB - and not the Valuing Gender Inclusion?

Mrs PETRUSMA - It considers the social, community - so of course, through that -

Ms WEBB - You have gone to the trouble of having this available for everyone; I'm wondering why that's not included too.

Mrs PETRUSMA - The social impact, community impact and economic impact includes all Tasmanians.

Ms WEBB - But you are the Minister for Women.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Yes, women are 51 per cent of the population, so if it is a social, economic and community impact assessment, it assesses the impact on all Tasmanians.

Ms WEBB - We are particularly interested in talking about women at the moment because you are the Minister for Women. To reiterate the question the Chair asked you: given that it doesn't come to you as a matter of course in documentation you receive for Cabinet, the Valuing Gender Inclusion review or analysis or commentary, how do you apply that as the Minister for Women when you look at those Cabinet documents on policy areas that aren't your direct responsibility but you contribute to in conversation? How do you apply it? That's the Chair's question. I am just reiterating it because we didn't have an answer. Do you apply it?

Mrs PETRUSMA - We look at the social, economic and community -

Ms WEBB - So you don't apply the Valuing Gender Inclusion process?

Mrs PETRUSMA - Through the social, community and economic assessments, you see what the impacts are on all Tasmanians.

Ms WEBB - That's fine, so we have established that you, as the Minister for Women, don't apply the Valuing Gender Inclusion -

CHAIR - Order. Let the minister finish her answer.

Mrs PETRUSMA - But also, if a policy comes through, you seek advice from the agency in regards to the Valuing Gender Inclusion program. When an initiative comes through, we always

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seek advice from our own agencies how it is going to impact and it is part of what Cabinet - they go through agencies to get all agencies to comment in regards to what they see the impact is going to be, so you get comments from different agencies - we are allowed to put in our own comments as to what we see the impact is going to be in regards to the people who we deal with in our own respective portfolios.

Ms WEBB - So as a matter of course, you would seek and get input from your agency that presents the Valuing Gender Inclusion analysis of the Cabinet documents you receive?

Mrs PETRUSMA - What the head of agency does is, for example, look at all the cohorts that are in her department on a Cabinet document and would include it. Ms Webster has different cohorts - she has young people, old people, she has women, everything, so she looks at them and comments are provided in regards to the cohorts that are in our particular agencies and how a policy is going to affect those cohorts.

CHAIR - We have to wrap it. We are going to run out of the time we are allocated for the whole day. If there are outstanding questions because we have run out of time, we will put them to you in the budget wrap-up week because the line item will be left open. This is if members still feel their questions are unanswered. Minister, I will draw this to a close on that because we have run out of time. Thank you for your appearance and thank you to your team and all the work they put in to get ready for these hearings. I know it's a large body of work so thank you very much.

Mrs PETRUSMA - Thank you, Chair.

The committee adjourned at 7.28 p.m.