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Department of Social Services

Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments

DSS SQ25-000348

Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice

Title: Departmental Staffing

Minister's office comment	Department/Agency Response
At what level has this answer been provided? DSS?	These figures are for DSS only. APS levels of DSS staff who have breached the APS Code of Conduct range from APS3 to EL2.

Contact Officer: Sam Ursich, Branch Manager People Services
Clearing Officer: Joanna Carey
Branch/Group: Corporate and Government Services Group
Position: A/g Group Manager

SQ25-000348

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Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments**DSS SQ25-000354**

Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice

Title: Governance Process – Procurement Arrangements

Minister's office comments	Department/Agency Response
"Does this include ACCOs funded through grant programs?"	No, funding provided to ACCOs through grant arrangements is separate to the contract arrangements awarded to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

Contact Officer: Hitesh Rohra, Branch Manager
Clearing Officer: Hitesh Rohra
Branch/Group: Financial Management and Property Services
Position: Branch Manager

SQ25-000354

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Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments**DSS SQ25-000363****Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice**

Title: National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse – redress payment

Minister's office comment	Department/Agency Response
on point 9 - Cos has noted "It is due to meet again on 8/12/2025	Updates made as per MO request.

Contact Officer: [name], [position], (Must be SES)

Clearing Officer: Must be SES [Name]

Branch/Group: [Branch or Group Name]

Position:

SQ25-000363

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Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments**DSS SQ25-000376**

Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice

Title: WHS and psychosocial hazards

Minister's office comment	Department/Agency Response
Please include full text of Minister's comment verbatim, including relevant excerpt from PDMS item	
<i>Pls confirm these are breaches and not complaints</i>	<p>Question 1 requested information on WHS breaches, confirming no WHS breaches were detected.</p> <p>Question 2, requested information on psychosocial hazards, the table provides a breakdown of identified hazards.</p> <p>The questions did not request information on complaints.</p> <p>No edits made to QON.</p>

Contact Officer: [name], [position], (Must be SES)

Clearing Officer: Must be SES [Name]

Branch/Group: [Branch or Group Name]

Position:

SQ25-000376

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Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments**DSS SQ25-000385****Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice****Title: Leaving Violence Program**

Minister's office comment	Department/Agency Response
Can I confirm the answers to Qs 8 + 9 are accurate?	The data included was quality assured by the providers and the Department. This data is accurate as at 3/11/25 when the QoN was drafted.*
Also, what would comparable EVP timeframes be – assuming there in equivalence.	For the Escaping Violence Payment (EVP), from 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2024, the average timeframe from application to first payment was 21.9 calendar days.

*As it is early in the Program, the Department and Service Providers are improving their Data processes and data definitions. The data may change retrospectively as a result of changes in definitions based on learnings.

Contact Officer: Eve Cordeiro, Branch Manager, Family Safety National Programs

Clearing Officer: Must be SES [Name]

Branch/Group: [Branch or Group Name]

Position:

SQ25-000385

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Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments**DSS SQ25-000494****Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice****Title: Professional development**

Minister's office comment	Department/Agency Response
Please provide further detail on this professional development expenditure as well as how this compares with previous years.	<p>The total figure is made up of the three centralised Learning and Development of cost centres – Corporate Learning and Development, Indigenous Capability Development and SES Development. A breakdown of each cost centre since 2023-24 is provided below.</p> <p>Of note, this figure may be different from previous QoNs as our approach to calculating this number has changed. In the past, we would run the relevant GL code, however this would give a vast amount of data that included amounts that were not associated with professional development, or which could not be verified as being related to professional development. Moving to providing expenditure in these central funding cost centres has been adopted to be more accurate and consistent in our reporting.</p>

Cost Centre	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26 YTD Sept	QoN response - date range 4 May 2025 to 30 Sept
2473 – Corporate Learning & Development	\$ 1,489,559.35	\$ 1,629,272.63	\$ 211,583.64	\$ 423,382.90
1159 – Indigenous Capability Development	\$ 635,740.18	\$ 368,673.24	\$ 46,831.25	\$ 153,764.77
3279 – SES Development	\$ 478,689.91	\$ 606,464.39	\$ 137,661.08	\$ 150,551.80
Total	\$ 2,603,989.44	\$ 2,604,410.26	\$ 396,075.97	\$ 727,699.47

Contact Officer: Sam Ursich, Branch Manager People Services**Clearing Officer:** Joanna Carey**Branch/Group:** Corporate and Government Services Group**Position:** A/g Group Manager

SQ25-000494

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Internal – Response to Chief of Staff comments**DSS SQ25-000718****Email information response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice****Title: Youth Allowance**

Minister's office comment	Department Response
<p>Please provide brief advice as to basis of ongoing fall in numbers</p>	<p>Youth Allowance (Student and Apprentice) recipient numbers are closely related to the unemployment rate, with recipient numbers generally decreasing when the unemployment rate decreases.</p> <p>During the COVID pandemic years (2021 and part of 2022), the number of Youth Allowance recipients increased as more young people found it hard to gain employment and chose to study instead. In the years following COVID, the unemployment rate has been at historic lows, leading to more young people opting to work and a decrease in student payment recipients.</p> <p>In 2025, the economy experienced a slight softening of the labour market, which is reflected in the moderate elevation of Youth Allowance recipients in 2025.</p> <p>The number of students is also impacted by broader changes. Students who combine study and work and who live at home while undertaking education are not always eligible or seeking payment.</p>

Contact Officer: Dani Chatillon, Branch Manager, Carer Disability and Student Payments, s 22

Clearing Officer: Ben Peoples

Group: Participation and Family Payments

Position: Group Manager

SQ25-000718