



Finance and Administration Committee

ESTIMATES 2017

PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Question 1:

With reference to page 3 of the Treasury SDS and its reference to the Back to Work Program (including Youth Boost), could the Minister outline the results of the Back to Work program in the first 12 months of operation and why the program has been extended to cover South East Queensland?

Question 2:

With reference to page 3 of the Treasury SDS, could the Minister provide information on the Government's package to assist workers affected by the closure of sandmining on North Stradbroke Island?

Question 3:

With reference to page 13 of the Treasury SDS and its reference to public sector bargaining, could the Minister provide information on the progress of public sector and GOC bargaining?

Question 4:

With reference to page 13 of the Treasury SDS, can the Minister provide information on how the Government is ensuring Queensland workplaces are fairer and more just places to work.

Question 5:

I refer to page 11 of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service's SDS, can the Minister advise how the \$1 million for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program will support multicultural events and projects in regional Queensland in 2017-18?

Question 6:

I refer to page 11 of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service's SDS, can the Minister provide an overview of how the \$2.1 million Community Action for

Multicultural Society (CAMS) program in 2017-18 will help facilitate social connectedness for culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders?

Question 7:

I refer to page 11 of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service's SDS, can the Minister advise how many organisations that provide services through the \$2.1 million Community Action for Multicultural Society (CAMS) program in 2017-18 are based in regional Queensland?

Question 8:

In relation to page 62 of the Treasury SDS, can the Minister provide an update on the work of the QRIC in implementing the recommendations of MacSporran's Greyhound Commission of Inquiry?

Question 9:

In relation to page 8 of the SDS can the Minister provide an update on RQ's new summer carnival and any plans for the summer carnival in the 2017-2018 calendar?

Question 10:

In relation to page 8 of the NPSR SDS, can the Minister provide an update on the financial support provided to RQ by way of direct funding since the Palaszczuk Government was elected?

Question 11:

I refer to page 13 of the Treasury SDS in relation to delivering workplace health and safety services and ask –

- a. How much advertising was undertaken by the Department related to workplace health and safety services for 2016/17;
- b. In relation to a) what projects were undertaken under this initiative (workplace health and safety services); and
- c. What is the budget allocation for advertising related to workplace health and safety services in 2017/18?

Question 12:

I refer to page 15 of the Treasury SDS in relation to the cost of services provided by the Workers Compensation Regulator and ask –

- a. what is the overall difference between the estimated actual target and the target, noting the cost per worker rose from \$7 to \$9.20; and
- b. what was the total amount paid to tribunal doctors, compared with the budgeted amount; and
- c. how many Medical Assessment Tribunals were projected and how many were held (reported separately)?

Question 13:

I refer to page 19 of the Treasury SDS in relation to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and ask –

- a. what was the budget for this office in 2015/16, 2016/17 and the allocation for 2017/18 (reported separately)?
- b. what was the FTE allocation in 2015/16, 2016/17 and the allocation for 2017/18 (reported separately)?

Question 14:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to country racing and ask –

- a. How much of the \$6M Country and Regional Racing Works Program has been allocated to date;
- b. How were projects identified as part of this process; and
- c. What acquittal process is in place to monitor the implementation of the program?

Question 15:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to country racing and ask –

- a. How much of the Country Racing Support Program was spent on prize money in 2016/17 and what is the allocation for 2017/18; and
- b. How many consultants were paid under this program and what is the total allocation towards consultants in 2016/17 and 2017/18 (reported separately)?

Question 16:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to racing infrastructure and ask –

What projects will be funded in 2017/18 under the \$25M allocation, listed by individual project and the amount of funding allocated to that project?

Question 17:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to supporting renewal and growth in Queensland's racing industry and ask –

How much has been spent in 2016/17 in relation to the consideration of options for the future of Albion Park, broken down into consultants fees, advertisements, council fees, planning fees, legal fees and any other relevant funding spent?

Question 18:

I refer to page 3 of the Queensland Treasury SDS in relation to the Back to Work program and ask –

- a. How many back to work instalment payments have been made as at 30 June 2017;
- b. Of these, how many went to companies with an annual turnover of greater than \$2M;
- c. How many employees withdrew from the program in 2016/17;
- d. How many applications for funding were made by employers; and
- e. Of these, how many were not approved by the Department?

Question 19:

I refer to page 11 of the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services SDS, can the Minister break down what is being funded by the \$7.4 million We Are Queensland program across each year of the program?

Question 20:

I refer to page 11 of the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services SDS, can the Minister advise, for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants, the total number and value of applications received in each financial year but not awarded grants for a) projects and b) events and the reason why the grant was not awarded?

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 1

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the Treasury SDS and its reference to the Back to Work Program (including Youth Boost), could the Minister outline the results of the Back to Work program in the first 12 months of operation and why the program has been extended to cover South East Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Back to Work Regional Employment Package (Back to Work Regional Program) is designed to give businesses the confidence to employ regional jobseekers and provide an economic boost to regions facing challenging times.

The Back to Work Regional Program commenced on 1 July 2016. As at 30 June 2017, a total of 5,275 jobseekers have been employed across regional Queensland by 2,563 employers who have received \$26.4 million in funding.

The Back to Work Regional Program has resonated with employers and the \$26.4 million already invested in regional economies as a result of this program is a significant boost and confidence builder for employers and communities. The Palaszczuk Government committed to delivering 8,000 jobs over two years under this program and we have already exceeded expectations in the first 12 months.

Key statistics from the first 12 months include:

- 2,444 Employer Support Payments
- 2,831 Youth Boost Payments
- 3,112 full-time positions and 2,163 part-time positions
- 1,842 long-term unemployed
- 453 people with a disability
- 3,280 young people (aged 15-24 years)
- 676 mature aged workers (aged 45 and over)
- 633 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers
- 365 jobseekers from a culturally and linguistically-diverse background
- 2,270 women jobseekers.

Due to the Program's success, an additional \$50 million in 2017-18 was announced in the 2017-18 Budget to continue the availability of the program in regional Queensland.

The total Back to Work Regional Employment Program now represents a commitment of \$150 million over two years to creating job opportunities for disadvantaged jobseekers and supporting regional economies.

It is estimated that this additional funding for the Back to Work Regional Employment Program announced in the 2017-18 Budget will support up to 3,400 additional jobs.

Back to Work South East Queensland

Building on the overwhelming success of the Back to Work Regional Program, the 2017-18 Budget committed \$27.5 million to extend Back to Work to South East Queensland (SEQ).

Back to Work SEQ will focus squarely on young people (15-24 years) and long-term unemployed jobseekers to gain employment and create lasting connections to the labour force.

Payments of \$15,000 are available for eligible employers who hire a long-term unemployed jobseeker or \$20,000 for employing a young unemployed jobseeker from 1 July 2017.

It is estimated that funding for Back to Work South East Queensland will support up to 1,500 jobs.

This extension of the Back to Work program will ensure Back to Work provides a State-wide stimulus for private sector employers to take on Queensland jobseekers.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 2

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the Treasury SDS, could the Minister provide information on the Government's package to assist workers affected by the closure of sandmining on North Stradbroke Island?

ANSWER:

The *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015* to end sand mining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019 was passed in the Queensland Parliament on 26 May 2016.

To support the continuing economic viability of the Island, the Queensland Government has committed more than \$23 million for the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy (ETS) to assist North Stradbroke Island (NSI) transition to an eco-tourism hub with a revitalised diverse economy.

In addition \$5 million has been committed for the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme (WAS) to assist workers affected by the cessation of sand mining on the island. The scheme was developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including Sibelco, unions and the community.

Under the WAS, workers affected by the closure of Sibelco's mining operations on NSI have access to a range of financial, employment and training support services, including job search support, training and skills support, housing and commuting assistance, and dislocation assistance.

The Queensland Government has established a permanent office on NSI to support the worker transition and implementation of the ETS. The office is located at 7 Stradbroke Place, Dunwich. The office is staffed with an Employment Services Manager (ESM) who is dedicated to working with affected workers to identify individual needs and support available under the WAS.

As at 30 June 2017, the ESM has met with all 23 workers and one long term casual who have been made redundant and has discussed assistance options with a further 23 workers currently employed by Sibelco.

A total of \$98,689.19 (GST exclusive) has been paid to 27 individuals over 84 payments.

The 27 individuals have been assisted with a range of support, including:

- 7 individuals have been provided with job search support;
- 13 individuals have accessed training and skills support to assist with the costs of training certificates, university courses and tickets;
- 8 individuals have been reimbursed for leave without pay they have taken from Sibelco in order to attend training;
- 9 individuals have been assisted with rent or mortgage repayments;
- 13 individuals have been reimbursed for the cost of ferry travel to and from North Stradbroke Island; and
- 11 individuals have been assisted with motor vehicle registration costs.

The WAS will continue to support workers as redundancies occur and will continue to be available until 2021, approximately two years post the cessation of sand mining on NSI.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 3

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 13 of the Treasury SDS and its reference to public sector bargaining, could the Minister provide information on the progress of public sector and GOC bargaining?

ANSWER:

In total, 59 agreements have been finalised since January 2015 – 29 public sector and 30 GOCs.

The Palaszczuk Government's wages policy sets out the framework for the public sector enterprise bargaining negotiations and regulated pay increases.

The State Government wages policy is for pay increases of 2.5% to State public servants. It was approved by the Palaszczuk Government in April 2015.

Twelve (12) public sector agreements were settled under the policy in 2016-17:

1. Department of Education and Training State School Teachers' Certified Agreement 2016.
2. Queensland Police Service Certified Agreement 2016.
3. Tourism and Events Queensland Certified Agreement 2016.
4. Stadiums Queensland Staff Certified Agreement 2016.
5. Transport and Main Roads Enterprise Bargaining Certified Agreement 2016.
6. Transport & Main Roads Operational Employees' Certified Agreement 2016.
7. Queensland Public Health Sector Certified Agreement (No. 9) 2016.
8. Queensland Health Building, Engineering & Maintenance Services Certified Agreement (No. 6) 2016.
9. Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 2) 2016.
10. Queensland Fire and Emergency Service Certified Agreement 2016.
11. Queensland Ombudsman Staff Agreement 2016 (Not a Certified Agreement).
12. CITEC – Certified Agreement 2016.

A separate wages policy exists for Government Owned Corporations (GOC).

The GOC wages policy provides for wage increases of up to a maximum of 3 per cent per annum, offset by productivity improvement that is equivalent to one half of the wage increase offer; that is, for a 3 per cent increase 1.5 per cent (half of the increase)

must be funded by productivity improvement, efficiencies or other savings. The GOC wages policy was approved in March 2015.

Seven (7) GOC agreements were settled during 2016-17:

1. CS Energy Ltd Corporate Office Enterprise Agreement 2016
2. Port of Townsville Limited Administrative, Technical, Supervisory and Professional Employees Enterprise Agreement 2016.
3. Port of Townsville Limited Port Services Enterprise Agreement 2016.
4. Port of Townsville Limited Maintenance Employees Enterprise Agreement 2016.
5. Seqwater Enterprise Agreement 2016-2019.
6. Queensland Rail Traincrew Enterprise Agreement 2017.
7. Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited Enterprise Agreement 2016. In principle agreement reached on 11 April 2017.

Both the State Government and the GOC wages policies support the Government's key industrial relations principles for employment security, the role of unions, and affording fair and reasonable wage increases for Queensland public sector employees.

Wages policy is a part of the Palaszczuk Government's suite of measures to ensure fairness in the employment conditions for government employees. This is in sharp contrast to the former Government's approach to its treatment of Queensland's public servants, which was to strip away hard-won conditions and entitlements.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 4

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 13 of the Treasury SDS, can the Minister provide information on how the Government is ensuring Queensland workplaces are fairer and more just places to work.

ANSWER:

On 1 December 2016, a new Queensland industrial relations Act was passed, delivering on the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to Queenslanders to restore fairness to the state's industrial relations jurisdiction.

The *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (the Act), which commenced on 1 March 2017, establishes a sound foundation for a modern, fair and balanced system of industrial relations in Queensland. It replaced the former *Industrial Relations Act 1999* and implements recommendations of the independent review conducted by the Industrial Relations Legislation Reform Reference Group in 2015.

The new Act provides the framework for the state's industrial relations jurisdiction that is fair and just, and supports the delivery of high-quality services, economic prosperity and social justice for Queenslanders.

In addition to affirming collective bargaining as the cornerstone for setting wages and conditions built upon a set of minimum employment standards, the Act ensures transparent and accountable governance and reporting obligations for all registered industrial organisations and employer associations; and promotes a strong and effective independent umpire.

The Act also introduces landmark new protections for workers in the state's industrial relations jurisdiction.

The Act responds to the recommendations in the *Not now, not ever* report into domestic and family violence by legislating for paid leave for victims of domestic and family violence and other employment protections including protection against adverse action for those affected by domestic and family violence. Queensland is leading the way by being the first state to put this entitlement into law. The Act also provides for a right to request flexible working arrangements. This supports the 2016-2021 Queensland Women's Strategy to increase the participation of women in the public service by embedding flexible work arrangements. The Act further promotes participation by women in the public service by more effectively addressing the gender pay gap. The new Act strengthens the equal remuneration legislative provisions by ensuring all new awards are subject to an equal remuneration test.

Equally, the provisions for certifying agreements now require parties to provide information on the steps taken to provide for equal remuneration. The Queensland Government is continuing to play a leading role in the advancement of pay equity, with the Public Service Commissioner initiating a review of pay equity in the public sector.

The Act also establishes a general protections and anti-workplace bullying jurisdiction within the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to protect workers against adverse action taken during their employment; and provides remedies for state and local government employees similar to those available to private sector workers in the Fair Work Commission.

I am proud to say that the new *Industrial Relations Act 2017* delivers on the Queensland Government commitment to restore fairness to Queensland's industrial relations framework. The new Act creates a fair and just system by making good faith collective bargaining the cornerstone for setting wages and conditions built upon a set of minimum employment standards that create landmark new individual rights and strengthens other protections to ensure fair treatment in the workplace.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2017 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE No. 5

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION

I refer to page 11 of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' SDS, can the Minister advise how the \$1 million for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program will support multicultural events and projects in regional Queensland in 2017–18?

ANSWER

The Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program has a recurrent annual budget of \$1 million, with \$300,000 allocated to projects and \$700,000 allocated to multicultural events through two separate funding rounds.

Under the 2016–17 multicultural projects funding round, the Palaszczuk Government allocated total funding of \$300,000 to 15 projects to be delivered within the 2017–18 financial year.

Eleven of the 15 funded projects will be delivered in regional locations outside Brisbane.

These projects include:

- a Gladstone Linked initiative that engages service partners and migrants in networking activities to promote intercultural connections, create a welcoming community for migrants, and link migrants to local community and services
- a UNITY project in Livingstone Shire that involves multicultural services and community groups in creating an art structure representing unity in cultural diversity, and
- an Indigenous and Muslim Connected initiative in Logan that supports positive interaction among Muslim and Indigenous women and their social development through workshops and social gatherings.

In 2017–18, total funding of \$700,000 will again be allocated to multicultural events held across the 2018 calendar year, which includes committed funding for 28 events outside the Brisbane region that were already approved through the provision of multi-year funding.

The regional-based events with approved funding in 2017–18 include the Multicultural Week and Festival Day in Gladstone, Taste of the World Festival in Rockhampton, Greek Festival in Cairns, FESTURI Multicultural Festival on the Sunshine Coast, Australian Italian Festival in Ingham, Global Grooves in Mackay, Cultural Fest in Townsville, Pasifika Festival on the Gold Coast, Chin National Day celebration in Logan, Delicious & DeLIGHTful Festival in Dalby, and Languages and Cultures Festival in Toowoomba.

The remaining funds of \$300,000 in 2017–18 will be allocated through a funding round for multicultural projects that will be delivered within the 2018–19 financial year.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2017 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION

I refer to page 11 of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' SDS, can the Minister provide an overview of how the \$2.1 million Community Action for Multicultural Society (CAMS) program in 2017-18 will help facilitate social connectedness for culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders?

ANSWER

Building inclusive, harmonious and united communities is a priority of the Palaszczuk Government's Queensland Multicultural Policy *Our Story, Our Future*, which is why we have committed \$2.2 million in 2017-18 to the Community Action for Multicultural Society (CAMS) program.

The CAMS program contributes to this by supporting social connectedness for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals and groups across Queensland.

The 19 organisations funded under the CAMS program deliver a broad range of activities supporting participation in community life to create connected and resilient communities.

Funded organisations facilitate social connectedness through activities that build connection between individuals and groups, develop leadership and build intercultural skills and welcome in the wider community.

These are community-led activities that respond to local need and leverage local partnerships and resources.

CAMS organisations specifically support communities in Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Logan, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Toowoomba, and state wide.

Activities include practical English programs; homework clubs; multicultural playgroups; training in life skills such as computer use, parenting, driving, swimming and growing food; intergenerational engagement activities; mentoring and leadership initiatives; and cultural awareness and capability activities. All activities contribute to improving social connection.

Social ties and confidence to participate in the community are important ingredients for building cohesive communities across Queensland and prerequisites for gaining and sustaining employment.

By building social connection, the CAMS program opens up social and economic opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds across Queensland.

In addition to supporting outcomes in social connectedness, funded organisations highlight significant flow-on outcomes for individuals. Examples include confidence to engage in volunteering, participation in Skilling Queenslanders for Work training initiatives or making contact with potential employers.

The CAMS program is valued for the ways it builds social ties between individuals and groups, removes barriers to participation, and makes a positive difference to people's lives.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2017 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION

I refer to page 11 of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' SDS, can the Minister advise how many organisations that provide services through the \$2.1 million Community Action for Multicultural Society (CAMS) program in 2017–18 are based in regional Queensland?

ANSWER

In 2017–18, the Palaszczuk Government is providing more than \$2.2 million in funding to 19 organisations under the Community Action for Multicultural Society (CAMS) program. Of these 19 organisations, 15 are based outside of Brisbane:

| Location | Organisation |
|----------------|---|
| Cairns | Centacare Cairns |
| Townsville | Townsville Multicultural Support Group |
| Mount Isa | Good Shepherd Parish |
| Mackay (2) | George Street Neighbourhood Centre |
| | Mackay Regional Council (Australian South Sea Islander Communities – statewide) |
| Rockhampton | Central Queensland Multicultural Association |
| Bundaberg | Bundaberg and District Neighbourhood Centre |
| Hervey Bay | Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre |
| Sunshine Coast | Nambour Neighbourhood Centre |
| Moreton Bay | Neighbourhood Centre Caboolture |
| Toowoomba | Mercy Community Services |
| Logan (3) | Access Community Services |
| | Islamic Women's Association of Australia (Muslim women - statewide) |
| | Multilink (Pacific Islander Communities - statewide) |
| Gold Coast | Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast |

A further four Brisbane-based organisations are funded to deliver services that support regional Queensland:

- MDA Ltd regional Grant Access workshops to build communities' skills in identifying funding sources, applying for project/event funding, and managing funds
- Queensland Council of Social Service activities and tools to improve interpreter awareness and practice across Queensland
- Anglicare Southern Queensland (based in Inala, Brisbane) activities benefitting culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Ipswich
- Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma working with leaders from new and emerging communities to increase social capital and connectedness.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 8

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 62 of the Treasury SDS, can the Minister provide an update on the work of the QRIC in implementing the recommendations of MacSporran's Greyhound Commission of Inquiry?

ANSWER:

The final report of the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry (MacSporran Report) was delivered to the Premier and Minister for the Arts on 1 June 2015.

The MacSporran Report set out 15 recommendations and 29 sub-recommendations aimed at improving integrity and animal welfare in the racing industry.

Further, the Queensland Government initiated 75 activities to address these recommendations and sub-recommendations.

To date, the following have been completed:

- 5 recommendations;
- 17 sub-recommendations; and
- 47 Government-initiated activities.

Recommendations implemented include:

- Recommendation 1: Institutional and functional model for integrity management of the Queensland Racing Industry;
- Recommendation 2: Operational model for the commercial business of the racing industry;
- Recommendation 6: Injury Tracking;
- Recommendation 8: Discontinuation of QGreys breeding incentive program; and
- Recommendation 12: Introduction of a lower class of racing to extend the racing career of greyhounds.

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) and Racing Queensland (RQ) share responsibility for implementing the remaining recommendations of the MacSporran Report and co-chair a joint MacSporran Working Group to govern these activities. The status of the remaining recommendations are:

Detecting, assessing, mitigating and prosecution of all breaches of the Racing Act or any other relevant Act (Recommendation 3)

- Recommendation 3 is partially complete. A review of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2002* occurred as part of the development of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* and an MOU between the QRIC, RSPCA and Biosecurity Queensland is in place.
- The QRIC has purchased a case management system and phase 1 implementation is due for completion by the end of August 2017.

Tracking of greyhounds from birth to leaving the racing industry (Recommendations 4, 5 and 7)

- Recommendations 4, 5 and 7 are partially complete. The OzChase system now contains data relating to all stages of the greyhound lifecycle.
- The QRIC has consulted with racing industry stakeholders on the greyhound logbook and a proposed new fee structure.
- All greyhound forms have been redesigned to support lifecycle tracking and forms are being incrementally converted to online SmartForms.

Overbreeding of greyhounds and the issue of wastage (Recommendations 9, 10 and 11)

- The *Racing Integrity Act 2016* provides powers to Authorised Officers to ensure the welfare of racing animals, including the power to issue an Animal Welfare Direction to any person requiring them to provide for the welfare of a racing animal.
- The welfare fund proposed by Recommendation 9 forms part of the greyhound registration fee structure that has been subject to recent industry consultation.
- Draft track standards are being revised by Racing Queensland on the basis of stakeholder feedback and Local Rule 27 – Minimum Standard – Kennelling/housing was published February 2017.
- Racing Queensland have been working with Skills Impact to develop a new racing training package. It has an expected completion date of 31 July 2017.
- The QRIC has published pup socialisation factsheets on its website.

Licensing (Recommendations 13, 14 and 15)

- Racing Queensland has implemented preferred Standards for greyhound racing clubs and commenced a review of the process and documentation required to register tracks for breaking-in, training and trialling activities.
- Operating Guidelines for registered tracks have been developed by Racing Queensland and will soon be distributed to industry stakeholders for review and feedback.
- Once the track registration process has been established, a Statutory Declaration will be required as part of the registration process.

The welfare outcomes sought by the MacSporran recommendations, including visibility of and accountability for training methods, are being further supported by other process and business improvements already implemented by the QRIC, including:

- The formation of a dedicated kennel inspection team which will ensure all licensed kennel facilities are subject to routine welfare inspections; and
- An enhanced sampling regime which now sees 100% of winning greyhounds tested for prohibited substances.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 9

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 8 of the SDS can the Minister provide an update on RQ's new summer carnival and any plans for the summer carnival in the 2017-2018 calendar?

ANSWER:

Racing Queensland has advised that its analysis of wagering data shows that total turnover for the new Queensland Summer Racing Carnival increased 7% compared to last season. Given there was one less meeting this year, on a per race basis this equates to an increase in average turnover of 22%.

This included a record breaking Magic Millions day which exceeded \$50 million in wagering turnover for the first time.

Racing Queensland, at this stage, is not proposing any significant changes to the successful summer carnival and is planning to:

- retain the three Summer Crown Bonus Series;
- incentivise the Villiers/Bernborough double to attract prominent interstate horses;
- increase the prize money for the strongly performing Bernborough Handicap to \$300,000 and Nudgee Handicap to \$125,000, as part of a strategy to further enhance the status of the Summer Racing Carnival feature races; and
- retain the very successful Origin Jockey Series with the aim of attracting top international riders.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 10

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 8 of the NPSR SDS, can the Minister provide an update on the financial support provided to RQ by way of direct funding since the Palaszczuk Government was elected?

ANSWER:

In 2015-16, the Government provided \$31.66 million from the Consolidated Fund to Racing Queensland (RQ) to meet a forecast cash shortfall to June 2016.

In August 2016, additional financial assistance of up to \$10 million from the Consolidated Fund in 2016-17 was approved and paid in June 2017, due to a further forecast operating loss. These funds were provided to ensure RQ would remain solvent.

The financial assistance to RQ in 2015-16 and 2016-17 was provided on the basis that RQ will repay these funds once it is financially able to do so.

Additional Government funding which supports Queensland's racing industry, although not directly supporting RQ, has included the:

- Country Racing Support Program, which provides \$21 million over four years, to support continued provision of non-TAB racing across Queensland. The program comprises allocations of \$6 million per annum in 2016-17 and 2017-18, \$5 million in 2018-19 and \$4 million in 2019-20; and
- Training Track Subsidy Scheme, which provides \$2 million per year to assist thoroughbred race clubs to offset the costs of maintaining training facilities. Of the \$2 million provided, \$1.2 million is paid directly to race clubs while \$0.8 million is provided to clubs through payments administered by RQ.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 11

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 13 of the Treasury SDS in relation to delivering workplace health and safety services and ask –

- a. How much advertising was undertaken by the Department related to workplace health and safety services for 2016/17;
- b. In relation to a) what projects were undertaken under this initiative (workplace health and safety services); and
- c. What is the budget allocation for advertising related to workplace health and safety services in 2017/18?

ANSWER:

In 2016-17, the Department spent a total of \$974,189.35 to run advertising related to work health and safety. This consisted of \$241,832.43 in production costs and \$732,356.92 in media placement costs.

Advertising campaigns included:

- Only 3% of Queenslanders work on farms but nearly 30% of workplace deaths happen on them
- Ride ready (quad bike safety)
- Playing it safe with Shane Webcke
- Safe Work Month
- Child safety at home-based workplaces

In 2017-18, budget allocation for work health and safety advertising is \$300,000 for the *Ride ready* quad bike safety campaign only. The campaign will run in three bursts around each school holiday in September, Christmas and Easter. Advertisements will run on social media, on targeted websites and in newspapers and further market research will be commissioned in September to track the campaign's ongoing impact on community attitudes and behaviours around quad bike safety.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 12

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 15 of the Treasury SDS in relation to the cost of services provided by the Workers Compensation Regulator and ask –

- a. what is the overall difference between the estimated actual target and the target, noting the cost per worker rose from \$7 to \$9.20; and
- b. what was the total amount paid to tribunal doctors, compared with the budgeted amount; and
- c. how many Medical Assessment Tribunals were projected and how many were held (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

- a. The cost of services provided by the Workers' Compensation Regulator target amount for 2016-17 was based on a budget of \$16.7 million, however the estimated actual for 2016-17 was \$21.9 million, a difference of \$5.2 million. The main reasons for this difference are:
 - The payment of the Queensland Ambulance Service Grant of \$3.9 million for the cost of the provision of transport and pre-hospital patient care of injured workers was not taken into account when the budget was estimated;
 - Increased regulatory costs, including an additional 93 Medical Assessment Tribunal sessions and changed administrative arrangements at a cost of \$1.6 million; and
 - Savings made of approximately \$0.3 million.
- b. The budget estimate was based on a budget for tribunal doctors of \$6.4 million. The actual amount paid to tribunal doctors in 2016-17 was \$8.04 million. The difference is due to an increase in the number of tribunal sessions and administrative change in the manner in which tribunal members are remunerated to align with other government tribunals (i.e. from July 2016 tribunal members are included on payroll and receive superannuation benefits rather than being paid as contractors).
- c. The budget estimate for 2016-17 was based on the projection of 1,250 Medical Assessment Tribunals for the year. There were 1,343 Medical Assessment Tribunals held in 2016-17, or 7.44 per cent more than expected.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 13

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 19 of the Treasury SDS in relation to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and ask –

- a. what was the budget for this office in 2015/16, 2016/17 and the allocation for 2017/18 (reported separately)?
- b. what was the FTE allocation in 2015/16, 2016/17 and the allocation for 2017/18 (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

Workplace Health and Safety Budget

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland had the operating budget for 2015-16 of \$63.6M, for 2016-17 of \$62M and for 2017-18 the estimated budget is \$63.7M.

As identified in Page 19 of the SDS the increase in funding for Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is the result of the increase in grants funding from WorkCover Queensland, an increase of \$1.740M or 3.45%.

Table 1 WHSQ Funding Table

| Year | Actual Budget | Estimated Budget |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2015-16 | \$63.6M | |
| 2016-17 | \$62.0M | |
| 2017-18 | | \$63.4M |

Workplace Health and Safety FTEs

Workplace Health and Safety had the following budgeted FTEs of 457 for 2015-16, 470 FTEs for 2016-17 and 470 FTEs for 2017-18.

The increase of FTEs between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was largely due to the Machinery of Government changes associated with the shifting of the Office of Industrial Relations from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to Queensland Treasury.

Table 2 WHSQ Budgeted FTE Table

| Year | Estimated Budgeted FTEs |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 2015-16 | 457 |
| 2016-17 | 470 |
| 2017-18 | 470 |

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 14

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to country racing and ask –

- a. How much of the \$6M Country and Regional Racing Works Program has been allocated to date;
- b. How were projects identified as part of this process; and
- c. What acquittal process is in place to monitor the implementation of the program?

ANSWER:

I can advise that:

- a. The program funding of \$6 million has been fully allocated for projects to be completed at racing clubs throughout Queensland across all three racing codes. Racing Queensland has allowed a small contingency amount in accordance with appropriate project management practice.
- b. The allocation of funding was determined through club submissions and Racing Queensland assessment. Projects that addressed animal welfare, health and safety, and operational issues were prioritised.
- c. A robust acquittal process will be implemented as part of the Grant Deed for the program. Racing Queensland will maintain responsibility for managing implementation of all projects and will be required as part of the Grant Deed to report periodically to the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing that projects are being completed in accordance with the approved list of projects.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 15

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to country racing and ask –

- a. How much of the Country Racing Support Program was spent on prize money in 2016/17 and what is the allocation for 2017/18; and
- b. How many consultants were paid under this program and what is the total allocation towards consultants in 2016/17 and 2017/18 (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

In relation to the Country Racing Support Program funding I can advise:

- a. The \$6 million allocation for 2016-17 was apportioned with the primary purpose of maintaining existing levels of country racing prize money and race meetings. The intention is for the \$6 million allocation for 2017-18 to be used in the same way.
- b. Racing Queensland advises there were no consultants paid from the program funding in 2016-17 and there is no forecast for consultants to be paid from the program funding in 2017-18.

The Country Racing Committee was fully consulted and supported the allocation of funding.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 16

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to racing infrastructure and ask –

What projects will be funded in 2017/18 under the \$25M allocation, listed by individual project and the amount of funding allocated to that project?

ANSWER:

In June 2017, I announced \$13 million in funding for the redevelopment of the Ipswich Turf Club and \$6 million under the Country and Regional Capital Works Program. The Country and Regional Capital Works Program will assist clubs across the three codes of racing.

Racing Queensland has advised that it will present a number of other capital project business cases during the 2017-18 financial year. The scope and quantum of these projects have not yet been finalised.

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 17

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 8 of the National Parks, Sport and Racing SDS in relation to supporting renewal and growth in Queensland's racing industry and ask –

How much has been spent in 2016/17 in relation to the consideration of options for the future of Albion Park, broken down into consultants fees, advertisements, council fees, planning fees, legal fees and any other relevant funding spent?

ANSWER:

In relation to the consideration of options for the future of Albion Park, Racing Queensland has spent the following in 2016-17:

| Description | \$'000 |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Consultant Fees | 780.0 |
| Advertisements | 0.0 |
| Council Fees | 4.3 |
| Planning Fees | 90.2 |
| Legal Fees | 34.5 |
| Total | 909.0 |

Estimates Hearing 2017 – Finance and Administration Committee

Question on Notice No. 18

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MINISTER FOR RACING AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 3 of the Queensland Treasury SDS in relation to the Back to Work program and ask -

- a. How many back to work instalment payments have been made as at 30 June 2017;
- b. Of these, how many went to companies with an annual turnover of greater than \$2M;
- c. How many employees withdrew from the program in 2016/17;
- d. How many applications for funding were made by employers; and
- e. Of these, how many were not approved by the Department?

ANSWER:

- a. Back to Work Regional Program payments are made in two or three parts depending on the type of payment.

Employer Support Payments (\$10,000 or \$15,000 for a full-time position) are paid in two parts, the first payment of 40% is provided after four weeks of employment and the final payment of 60% is provided on completion of 52 weeks continuous employment with the same employer.

The \$20,000 Youth Boost is paid in three parts. The first payment of 30% is provided after four weeks of employment, the second payment of 35% is provided after 26 weeks of employment, and the final payment of 35% is provided after 52 weeks of continuous employment with the same employer.

As at 30 June 2017, the Back to Work Regional Program has made a total of 5,369 payments to employers. This includes 5,275 first payments and 94 second Youth Boost payments.

- b. Data is not collected on the annual turnover of businesses that apply under Back to Work. Data is collected on the number of employees the business employs. As at 30 June 2017, 526 (10%) of total first payments have been made to employers with more than 200 employees. The majority of first payments (87.3%) under the Back to Work program have been made to small to medium sized businesses of between 1 and 199 employees.
- c. As at 30 June 2017, the Back to Work program has been advised by employers that 148 (2.8%) employees supported by first payments are no longer working with the employer.

- d. As at 30 June 2017, the Back to Work Program has received a total of 6,515 applications from employers (this includes 5,275 approved applications, 460 not approved applications and 780 pending applications – 527 of the pending applications are currently awaiting further information from applicants before they can be finalised).
- e. The Back to Work program staff assess every application for eligibility under the program guidelines. This includes review of the application and support documentation provided by the applicant. As at 30 June 2017, 460 applications for Back to Work payments were not approved based on the assessment of evidence provided by the employer.

Reasons for non-approval are based on the eligibility criteria as set out in the program guidelines, for example:

- employee working as a casual and the program eligibility requires that the position is ongoing; and
- employee was not employed for the minimum hours required for a payment, which are on average 35 hours a week for a full-time payment and 20 hours a week for a part-time payment.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2017 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION

I refer to page 11 of the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services SDS, can the Minister break down what is being funded by the \$7.4 million We Are Queensland program across each year of the program?

ANSWER

This is not a measure in the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Service Delivery Statement. This program is administered by Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2017 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION

I refer to page 11 of the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services SDS, can the Minister advise, for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants, the total number and value of applications received in each financial year but not awarded grants for a) projects and b) events and the reason why the grant was not awarded?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government recognises the importance of the delivery of multicultural events and projects in promoting the benefits of cultural diversity, and has committed recurrent annual funding of \$1 million to the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program since 2015–16.

Under the 2015–16 funding round of the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program, 221 applications were received seeking funding of more than \$2.7 million for multicultural events and projects.

Funding of \$1 million was allocated to 110 multicultural events and 18 multicultural projects to be held in the 2016 calendar year.

Seventy applications seeking funding of \$693,898 for events, and 23 applications seeking funding of over \$453,200 for projects, were unsuccessful.

In 2016–17, 269 applications were received seeking funding of more than \$3.43 million for multicultural events and projects.

Funding of \$1 million was fully allocated to 116 multicultural events to be held in the 2017 calendar year and to 15 multicultural projects.

One hundred and four applications seeking funding of \$885,216 for events, and 81 applications seeking funding of more than \$1.56 million for projects, were unsuccessful.

All applications are assessed under an open and transparent merit-based process by a grants assessment panel comprising external and internal members. Assessments are made by panel members based on merit, and how strongly the application aligns with the funding objectives and criteria to determine application rankings.

It is often not possible to fund all applications due to the high demand for funding. Feedback is provided to unsuccessful applicants, and organisations are referred to the departmentally funded Grants Access Worker at Multicultural Development Australia, who can assist them in identifying possible funding options.