



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 21 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Consultancy Bureau

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.52 a.m.): The Consultancy Bureau has been contracted to provide services to assist in the implementation of the Crime and Misconduct Commission report *Protecting children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care*. The Consultancy Bureau has received \$391,560 inclusive of GST for the completion of phases 1 and 2, and the estimated fee for phase 3 is \$158,400 exclusive of GST. The total contract sum is \$549,960. Contract services commenced on 6 January 2004 for a period of almost six months and will finish on 30 June.

I advised the House generally yesterday of the costs that were to be paid to Peter Forster and The Consultancy Bureau. I see there is some suggestion from certain quarters—the Leader of the Opposition and some press reports—that there is a need for more detail, which I am quite happy to present to the House. I thought the figures were sufficient, but I do not want there to be any suggestion that we are not happy to provide this information, because we will.

The contract stipulates three phases. The phase 1 deliverable was the development of a project plan which outlined the tasks to be undertaken to implement the CMC report and the sequencing and timing of these tasks and the resources required for an implementation team. Payment of this phase amounted to \$71,588 inclusive of GST. I have here a number of points. I seek leave to have them incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Payment for this phase amounted to \$71,588 (inclusive of GST). Specifically, this included:

- The establishment of the organisational arrangements necessary to develop the Blueprint including the Implementation Unit and working groups;
- The development of a comprehensive consultation strategy involving key government and non-Government stakeholders on a statewide basis;
- The development of the implementation change strategy showing the sequencing, timing and costs of establishing the child protection arrangements foreshadowed in the CMC recommendations;
- The further development and refinement of the CMC recommendations so that the full implication for implementation could be assessed; and
- Ensure that the CMC recommendations and Gwenn Murray's audit recommendations were scoped in a complementary manner.

Mr BEATTIE: The phase 2 deliverable was the development of the blueprint for implementing the recommendations of the January 2004 Crime and Misconduct Commission inquiry into the abuse of children in foster care. This was presented to the government on 22 March 2004 and released publicly the same day. Payment for this phase was \$319,972 inclusive of GST. Specifically, this included a whole range of points, which I again seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Payment for this phase was \$319,972 (inclusive of GST). Specifically, this included:

- The most effective and efficient process for the implementation of the recommendations of the CMC report, including the sequencing and timing of the transition process, legislative timeframes, budget and resourcing matters;

- The structural arrangements needed to deliver the approach indicated in the CMC report, including advice on how the work of the Department of Child Safety can be clearly delineated from, and yet aligned with, the work of other agencies with an involvement in the area of child protection;
- The future organisational arrangements needed to ensure effective management processes, including the timely development of appropriate information management infrastructure and processes and staff training and development.
- The processes and structures needed to bring about the requisite cultural change in Queensland's child protection system; and
- The most appropriate and effective mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress and provide effective accountability, over time, of the proposed new arrangements to improve service delivery for the protection of children.

Mr BEATTIE: The phase 3 deliverable is for Mr Peter Forster to assist the government with the development and implementation of the transitional arrangements for area office staff in the Department of Child Safety and to finalise advice on the central and regional office structures for both the Department of Child Safety and the Department of Communities. Subject to Governor in Council approval, the estimated fee for this phase is \$158,400 exclusive of GST. Again, I have a whole series of dot points. I seek leave to have them incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Subject to Governor in Council approval, the estimated fee for this phase is \$158,400 (exclusive of GST). Specifically, this will include:

- Provide background and focus to child protection reform activities to ensure personnel within the Departments of Child Safety and Communities and Disability Services Queensland understand thoroughly the change strategies within the Blueprint;
- Design and lead processes to finalise corporate structures of Department of Child Safety and Department of Communities and provide advice on regional/zonal structures as requested by the Directors-General, Department of Child Safety and Department of Communities;
- Jointly with the Minister and new Director-General of the Department of Child Safety, develop/equip leaders, managers, supervisors and change facilitators so that they may discharge their reform roles more effectively;
- Facilitate knowledge and information transfer from TCB to the Implementation Unit to ensure the sustainability of the reform process post 30 June 2004;
- Assist with the appointment of the Director-General, Department of Child Safety as a member of the selection panel;
- Select provisional teams for conducting transitioning workshops in area, regional and central offices;
- Involve these teams in the design of the transitioning workshops;
- Identify the sequencing of transitioning workshops, in particular those area offices which will be established as pilot sites for detailed monitoring;
- Develop and assemble information packages for staff;
- Advise on appropriate engagement strategies including partnership protocols with key non-government stakeholders; and
- Provide advice on matters as requested.

Mr BEATTIE: I do not believe I can be more forthcoming in terms of the detail of where that money was spent. We have announced the amounts. We have announced exactly the areas in which the work needed to be done. I hope that this satisfies both the opposition and any media inquiries. If anyone wants any more information—I say this very genuinely to the Leader of the Opposition—I am prepared to arrange for one of the staff of my department, one of my public servants, or Peter Forster himself, to brief the Leader of the Opposition. I do not want any doubts about the allocation of this money or where it is spent. I think it is value for money. I have enormous faith in Peter Forster. I think he is very good. I do not want any political hoo-ha about the expenditure, so I make that offer on the parliamentary record today.