

Question on Notice

No. 829

Asked on Wednesday, 18 August 2004

Mr MCNAMARA asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION:

- (1) Will he advise the outcome of the review of the Community Visitor Program and whether there have been any changes to the program as a result?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Community Visitor Program was launched in February 2002. An evaluation of the Community Visitor Program was directed as part of the allocation of funds to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in the 2001/2002 budget process. The evaluation commenced in May 2003 and was finalised in September 2003. The Community Visitor Program Evaluation Report was submitted for Government consideration at the end of 2003.

The responses of key stakeholders to the review questionnaires, focus groups and face-to-face meetings with the consultants indicate strong support for the Program and a desire by stakeholders to work collaboratively to develop it further. The recommendations in the Evaluation Report are in the key areas of Community Visitor practice framework, the Program's organisational and administrative arrangements and information management system.

The Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, has convened a Community Visitor Program Reference Group, comprised of key stakeholders to oversee the implementation of recommendations. The recommendations identified in the report have been noted by the Community Visitor Program Team within the Office of the Adult Guardian and are currently being addressed.

The release of the Community Visitor Program Evaluation Report to the Reference Group and to key stakeholders and Community Visitors has been approved.