

**Question on Notice  
No. 503  
Asked on 15 March 2007]**

MR ELMES asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to any reserve, contingency or emergency funding, or funding used for one-off grants, expended by her department/s at the discretion of the minister or chief executive officer-

1. Will she provide for 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date, details of all items of expenditure from such fund/s and or one-off grants including (a) reason for expenditure, (b) total amount, (c) the date each item of expenditure was approved, and (d) the person/s responsible for approval of expenditure?
2. What is the uncommitted balance of these funds at present?
3. Why are the reserve or contingency funding or one-off grants used rather than approved grant funds?

**ANSWER:**

1. The Department does not maintain a reserve explicitly for the purpose of one-off grants. From time to time the Department may make one-off grant payments to organisations in response to submissions by appropriate organisations for services to child safety clients. All such grants are approved by the Minister under the *Family Services Act 1987*.

All grants approved by the Minister are published in the Departmental Annual Report which is tabled in the Parliament in November each year.

To assist the department in delivering a balanced budget each year, contingency funding of \$2M is retained centrally by the Department of Child Safety at the outset of each financial year to meet emergent cost pressures.

In both the 2005-06 and 2006-07 years, the contingency funds were allocated to placement and support packages to provide children with complex to extreme needs safe and supportive placements.

2. There is no uncommitted balance of these funds at present.
3. No explicit contingency funds are set aside for one-off grants.