

Question on Notice

No. 663

Asked on 13 April 2010

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION:

What is the average cost saved by the government for every youth kept out of detention centres because of the intervention of non-government organisations and given this saving, how does the Minister justify her department's refusal to provide ongoing support for the New Beginnings program, run by SAPH Vision Quest, which looks after 260 at-risk young people?

ANSWER:

The estimated daily cost for one young person to be kept in detention is \$600 (\$219,000 per annum).

In recognition of the cost of detention and the cost of youth crime to the community, the government invests significant funding to deliver evidence-based programs for at-risk young people.

In 2008–09, \$11.7 million was allocated to 231 services to address risk factors that lead to offending, including:

- substance misuse
- propensity to violence
- poor mental and physical health
- low levels of education
- homelessness
- family dysfunction.

These services were funded following rigorous and competitive funding processes, to deliver services and activities that address the risk and protective factors that contribute to offending and other antisocial behaviour. Funding decisions are made on the relative merit of the applications which are received.

SAPH Vision Quest was most recently unsuccessful in obtaining funding in 2008 and has been provided with feedback to assist with any future funding applications. No further applications have been received.

SAPH Vision Quest is able, along with other non-government organisations, to apply for funding opportunities through the Department of Communities and other sources as they arise.