

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Gunner to the Minister for Children and Families:

Office of Children and Families, grants and funding for non-government and external organisations

1. Would you please advise what grant, program, project and operational funding was provided by the former Department of Children and Families to non-government and external organisations in the year prior to 24 August 2012.

In the 2011-12 financial year the Department of Children and Families expended \$109.2 million on grant/subsidies/operational funding for non-government and external organisations.

2. Would you please advise what grant, program, project and operational funding will be provided by the Office of Children and Families to non-government and external organisations in the year following the 4 December 2012 Mini-budget.

In the 2012-13 financial year the Office of Children and Families is estimating to expend around \$112 million on grant/subsidies/operational funding.

3. Would you please advise which service or funding agreements currently or previously administered by the Office of Children and Families have been, or will be affected as the result of:

i. machinery of government changes, or the creation of new departments or agencies since 24 August 2012;

No service or funding agreements have been affected by machinery of government changes.

ii. the implementation of measures contained in the 4 December 2012 Mini-budget.

Please refer to the Attachment which outlines those organisations that are affected by mini-budget measures.

4. Would you please outline the specific changes, amendments and monetary adjustments to service or funding agreements between the Office of

Children and Families and non-government and external organisations referred to in question 3 above.

All grants have been reviewed to ensure consistency with the identified priority areas and a reorientation of services towards at-risk and vulnerable children, young people and families.

Service negotiations are currently underway to dissolve some generalist services and a number of youth services as well as to reduce base funding for the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), NT Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) and Safe Aboriginal Families, Together (SAF,T). See Attachment A.

5. Would you please advise what grant, program, project and operational funding provided by the Office of Children and Families to non-government and external organisations will be adjusted or diverted, and by how much, as the result of the implementation of measures contained in the Northern Territory Mini-budget on 4 December 2012.

Funding for youth programs will be reduced overall and the existing service system will be replaced with services for high risk young people in Katherine, Darwin and Alice Springs. Services will provide intensive case management and support to re-establish relationships and connection with education, employment and families.

Family support services are being reoriented to more explicitly support vulnerable and at risk children and families and to work more closely with statutory child protection services. This approach will also include the implementation of associated service specifications and standards.