

ATTACHMENT 1: QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

1. If the vulnerable people's register is the Minister's responsibility, was the recommendation of the Bushfires Royal Commission to establish a vulnerable people's register in operation during the floods this year?

(Pages 14-15 of the Community Services portfolio transcript)

Response:

The actual recommendation of the Bushfire Royal Commission was that the State establish a mechanism to help municipal councils to undertake such planning.

The Department of Human Services, with other key stakeholders including Victoria Police, Municipal Association of Victoria, Department of Health, Country Fire Authority and Red Cross is working on an approach to identify and list vulnerable people in communities who need tailored advice of a recommendation to evacuate in the event of a bushfire.

A pilot approach was put in place in November 2010 for that bushfire season and requested relevant health and human service agencies to maintain a register of clients who require tailored advice of a recommendation to evacuate from bushfires.

These same agencies were also requested to advise local governments of an emergency contact through which Victoria Police could access the agency register in the event of a possible evacuation.

Lists of vulnerable individuals at risk in a bushfire were not requested by Victoria Police for evacuation during the 2010-11 Victorian floods. Methods used included use of the emergency alert system, phone messaging, media, relevant agency websites and 'door knocking' affected communities.

Vulnerable individuals housed in community-based facilities such as residential aged care services and hospitals in flood affected areas were moved to safe areas in accordance with established policies and procedures.

2. What is the timeline for the implementation of the recommendations in the Ombudsman's October 2010 investigation into conditions at the Melbourne Youth Justice Precinct and the July 2010 Neil Comrie report?

(Page 18 of the Community Services portfolio transcript)

Response:

Substantial progress has been made against each of the 27 Ombudsman recommendations and each area of action raised by Mr Neil Comrie in relation to Youth Justice Custodial Services. Work is occurring to have substantially implemented most recommendations by the end of the calendar year 2011. For a small minority of recommendations that require a longer lead time, an action plan is underway.