

Inquiry into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates Inquiry

Questions on Notice – Prevention of Family Violence

taken on 21 May 2026

Witnesses:

- Melissa Horne MP
- Peta McCammon
- Melanie Heenan

QUESTION 1**QUESTION FROM: JADE BENHAM**

How much funding was carried over from last year and in the two years prior, and how much of that was for family violence service delivery or primary prevention?

Jade BENHAM: I'm referring to DPS p. 37 ... in the overall budget, how much of that funding was carried over from last year? ... And then how does that compare to the last two years?

Melissa HORNE: I am going to have to defer that to people that work in the –

Jade BENHAM: You are excused, Minister.

Peta McCAMMON: I am just checking if we have that. If not, I am happy for us to take that on notice in terms of what that looks like. Yes.

Jade BENHAM: Yes. Great. Thank you. And in that, can we also get the two-year comparison and just a response as to whether that is service delivery or whether that is the primary prevention space? That would be fantastic. I am just looking for some data.

Hearing Transcript, pp. 2-3

RESPONSE

The table below provides the funding amounts transferred from one year to the next in the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio for the current year and two previous years for each of the *Family Violence Service Delivery* output and the *Primary Prevention of Family Violence* output.

	23-24 into 24-25 (\$m)	24-25 into 25-26 (\$m)	25-26 into 26-27 (\$m)
Family Violence Service Delivery	9.410	1.425	18.917
Primary Prevention of Family Violence	0	0.500	0
Portfolio total	9.410	1.925	18.917

QUESTION 2**QUESTION FROM: JADE BENHAM****How many personal safety devices were monitored and for what period of time?**

Jade BENHAM: I want to touch on personal safety devices too as a prevention tool. In the last 12 months how many devices were distributed through the government or agencies?

Melanie HEENAN: ... Yes. Ms Benham, ... There were 1161 personal safety devices supported through the flexible support package program, but that does not include the personal safety devices that would have been purchased through the Orange Door's crisis brokerage, which is not as easy to obtain, because the way the data is collected in the client relationship management system is that it sits under crisis brokerage...

Jade BENHAM:.... Okay. Great. How many of those are monitored, and do we have data on what periods they are monitored for?

Hearing Transcript, p.3

RESPONSE

All personal safety devices provided through Flexible Support Packages (FSPs) are monitored by an external provider for three months. If, after three months, further monitoring is required, the case manager can consult with their local Personal Safety Initiative (PSI) Coordinator. If the PSI Coordinator recommends further monitoring, the case manager can then make an application for additional FSP funding to extend the monitoring period.

QUESTION 3**QUESTION FROM: JADE BENHAM****Once personal safety devices are no longer being used, are they discarded or are they reused?**

Jade BENHAM: With those personal devices, once they're no longer being used, are they discarded or are they reused?

Melanie HEENAN: I don't know the answer to that either Ms Benham, I'm sorry.

Jade BENHAM: Could you find out?

Melanie HEENAN: We could definitely find out.

Hearing Transcript, p.3

RESPONSE

Personal safety devices are not routinely collected from victim survivors once they are no longer required – they remain the property of the victim survivor and there is no obligation for the victim survivor to return them.

DFFH is currently reviewing guidance for the Personal Safety Initiative and is considering whether there are opportunities for victim survivors to return personal safety devices for appropriate re-use if they wish to do so as part of the review.

QUESTION 4**QUESTION FROM: JADE BENHAM**

How many L17 referrals were responded to? What proportion were triaged as high risk? Please provide a breakdown of response times for high-risk referrals by number of days.

Jade BENHAM: With regard to L17s, how many were completed in the last reporting period? ... And how many of those you collect the data for are identified as high risk and responded to within 2-3 days?

...

Jade BENHAM: We're just looking for – and I'm happy to take this on notice – we're just looking for a breakdown of response times for all L17s showing how many of them were responded to within a day, 2-3 days. The metrics are I believe one day, 2-3 days, 4-7 days, 8-14 days and then longer than 14 days. Is that something you can provide to the committee?

...

Jade BENHAM: How many [high risk ones] are not dealt with within seven days?

Hearing Transcript, pp.5-7

RESPONSE

All professional referrals, including L17s, are screened and triaged at the eighteen primary sites of The Orange Door network. It is important to note that L17s are only a portion of the full number of referrals received by The Orange Door network. The Orange Door network also receives referrals from other professionals, including child protection, as well as people presenting for help themselves.

The Orange Door has an established triage rating of Tier 1 to 3 for all referrals received, including for L17 referrals from Victoria Police, to determine risk and need and associated priority levels. If a referral is triaged as 'Tier 1', a practitioner has applied their professional judgement and identified several high-risk factors requiring prioritisation for a response. Those referrals triaged as being at highest risk and/or need (Tier 1) will move to the Assessment and Planning teams more quickly than those assessed at lower risk/need.

In 2024/25, The Orange Door received a total of 183,947 referrals, including 95,303 L17 referrals from Victoria Police (52%). Of the L17 referrals received, 60% (56,990) were classified by The Orange Door as 'Tier 1'.

An analysis of referrals into The Orange Door Network for the 2024-25 financial year found that over 97% of L17 referrals that were Tier 1 were screened and triaged within seven days with 3% taking over seven days.

QUESTION 5**QUESTION FROM: JADE BENHAM**

How many households stay in a motel and what is the longest duration of their stay? Please provide a breakdown by length of stay.

Jade BENHAM: How many families – parents, children, victim-survivors – have spent more than a week in motels?

Jade BENHAM: But you would know if there have been stays of a week, more than two weeks et cetera. Can I have those metrics, please?

Melanie HEENAN: I do not have them with me.

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Jade BENHAM: Okay. But you can provide that?

Melanie HEENAN: If we can provide it, we will provide it.

Jade BENHAM: Do you know the longest period a parent with a child has stayed in a motel?

Hearing Transcript, pp.9-10

RESPONSE

In 2024-25 there were approximately 5,601 stays in motels purchased for victim survivor households through brokerage funding and provided through The Orange Door (2,688 stays), Safe Steps (1,393 stays), and family violence case management services (1,520 stays). Figures provided are for motel stays not individual households as individual households may be represented multiple times across these datasets.

	All motel stays	Household w children
The Orange Door		
7 days or less	89.8%	89.1%
2 weeks or less	98.7%	98.1%
Safe Steps		
7 days or less	60.0%	63.8%
2 weeks or less	85.7%	89%
Family violence case management services		
7 days or less	77.5%	74.9%
2 weeks or less	90.5%	89.1%