

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Funding to Council's Community and Cultural Services Service Unit

Question From: Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 11 November 2003

Question:

a. Has Council continued to cut funds to this service unit. How much money was allocated to this service unit in the 1998/99 budget, 99/00 budget, 00/01 budget and 02/03 budget?

Answer: The Administrator advised the budgeted amounts for the last four years were 2000/2001 - \$6.46m; 2001/2002 – \$6.81m; 2002/2003 - \$6.87m and 2003/2004 - \$7.09m so there hasn't been a cut in actual dollars.

Question:

b. How many Council Officers are responsible for Aged Care Services? Are these Officers part time or full time?

Answer: The Acting Director Services advised that Council directly employs two part-time staff in Aged Services. Putting those two part-timers together, its effective fulltime is 1.25 staff.

Question:

c. How many Council Officers are responsible for youth services? Are these Officers part time or full time?

Answer: The Acting Director Services advised that Council has a full time Recreation & Youth Officer, a full time Youth Development Officer and a fulltime Youth & Recreation Administration Officer. In addition there's a range of other staff that come on during peak times such as school holidays. So throughout the year it is an effective full-time equivalent of six full-time staff for that Youth & Recreation Unit.

Question:

d. Does Council have similar programs to Manly Council such as Drug and Alcohol counsellors and family support officer?

Answer: The Acting Director Services advised that Council employs a Family Support Worker, a Youth Support Co-ordinator and a Youth Development Officer. Council does not employ a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor however, it does provide financial assistance on a program basis to the Manly Drug and Alcohol Education Centre.

Question:

e. If no to D, could Council please consider allocating funds in the next Council budget to initiate such programs?

Answer: The Administrator advised that this question would be taken on notice.

Question:

f. Did residents in a community survey conducted by Council agree that they were prepared to pay a certain increase to ensure community services are increased? What action has been taken by Council in this regard?

Answer: The Acting Director Services advised that "Research Solutions" were engaged by Council in 2002 to undertake an analysis of community needs of Warringah's residents. In this survey when residents were asked to prioritise their importance to upgrade services from the current service level Community Services rated 11 out of 38. This information is being used now as Council reviews it's programs in preparation for 2004/05.