

MINISTER FOR FAIR TRADING, MINISTER FOR YOUTH, AND MINISTER FOR VOLUNTEERING

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2006-07 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2007-08 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Office for Children			
Total Expenses	12.1	12.3	2.0
Capital Expenditure	0.3	0.1	-71.3
Rental Bond Board			
Total Expenses	33.9	39.4	33.0
Capital Expenditure
Total, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, and Minister for Volunteering			
Total Expenses	46.0	51.7	12.4
Capital Expenditure	0.3	0.1	-66.7

In addition to the agencies listed above, the Minister is also supported by the Department of Commerce (Section 20) for the Fair Trading portfolio area, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Section 2) for the Volunteering portfolio area.

OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

The Office for Children provides administrative and financial support to the Commission for Children and Young People and the Children's Guardian. The governing legislation is the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* and the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Office for Children aims to make New South Wales a better place for children and young people and promotes the best interests and rights of children by working towards the following results:

- ◆ Organisations are child-safe and child-friendly.
- ◆ Child deaths are prevented.

- ◆ Children benefit from improved legislation, policies, practices and services.
- ◆ Children participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

Key services that are provided to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ undertaking background checks and prohibited employment reviews to create child-safe and child-friendly organisations as part of the Working With Children program;
- ◆ reviewing of child deaths;
- ◆ providing policy advice, undertaking research and promoting children's issues;
- ◆ promoting participation programs for children and young people;
- ◆ accrediting of out-of-home care and adoption service providers that demonstrate achievement of approved standards;
- ◆ monitoring the continuing provision of out-of-home care and adoption services against accreditation standards and conditions; and
- ◆ authorising of prescribed employers of children and monitoring of compliance with conditions of their authorities and the mandatory Code of Practice.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

During 2006-07 the Commission for Children and Young People:

- ◆ commenced the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Children and Young People's inquiry into children and the built environment;
- ◆ released new Working With Children Guidelines for Employers;
- ◆ coordinated the involvement of children and young people in the consultations around the development of Health: Future Directions and other key government strategic plans; and
- ◆ published the findings from the research study Children's Understanding of Well-Being.

During 2006-07 the Children's Guardian:

- ◆ measured compliance with legislative requirements of 60 designated agencies that provide out-of-home care, accredited 27 agencies and monitored performance of all 60 agencies through 2,133 case file audits; and
- ◆ granted in excess of 100 employer authorities for the employment of children under 15 years of age in entertainment, still photography and door-to-door sales and monitored compliance over more than 400 productions.

Total expenditure in 2006-07 on Office for Children services is projected to be \$12.1 million.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2007-08, the Commission for Children and Young People will support children by:

- ◆ implementing a certification system for self-employed people in child-related employment;
- ◆ working with local government to develop planning and reporting mechanisms for children and the built environment; and
- ◆ implementing models of participation.

In 2007-08, the Children's Guardian will support children by:

- ◆ implementing the recommendations from a review of its current accreditation process for out-of-home care providers and procedures for the accreditation of adoption service providers; and
- ◆ refining its systems for regulation of children's employment to cater for the increasing demand.

2007-08 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The estimated total expenditure for the Office for Children in 2007-08 is \$12.3 million.

Capital Expenditure

The Office for Children's capital allocation of \$99,000 in 2007-08 is for the purchase and replacement of minor plant and equipment.

RENTAL BOND BOARD

The Rental Bond Board is a statutory corporation, established under the *Landlord and Tenant (Rental Bonds) Act 1977*, and is the custodian of rental bonds taken on private residential tenancies in New South Wales. It comprises five members, one of whom is the Commissioner for Fair Trading.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Rental Bond Board is a self-funding body, and derives its income from net earnings on rental bond deposits.

The Board will administer \$690 million in rental bond deposits on behalf of landlords in 2007-08. These administered funds do not form part of the assets reported within the balance sheet of the Board.

The Office of Fair Trading, part of the Department of Commerce, undertakes the administrative functions of the Board on a user pays basis.

2007-08 BUDGET

Total expenses are estimated at \$39.4 million in 2007-08 (\$66 million in 2006-07 including a \$30 million grant for Affordable Housing). The Board will earn \$42 million in revenue to support its activities. The Board's expenses include provision for:

- ◆ \$16.3 million to administer the rental bond scheme;
- ◆ \$8.6 million in grants supporting 50 per cent of the costs of the residential tenancy functions of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal. The Tribunal can determine matters relating to the termination of tenancy agreements, payment of rental bonds on termination of tenancies, breaches of tenancy agreements and payment of compensation;
- ◆ \$4.4 million in grants including support of 50 per cent of the costs of the Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program. This program provides advice, information and advocacy services to public and private tenants and, where appropriate, people seeking to become tenants. These services are provided in accordance with the *Landlord and Tenant (Rental Bonds) Act 1977*;

- ◆ \$0.9 million to fund the Credit Counselling Grants Program;
- ◆ \$7 million to meet the operating costs of providing information, education and mediation services within the framework of the *Retirement Villages Act 1989* to tenants, village residents, landlords, their agents and village managements; and
- ◆ \$1.5 million to meet the operating costs of strata and mediation services.