

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-2023
Answers to Supplementary Questions
Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

FINANCE, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Annual property tax for first home buyers

1. How many first home buyers were expected to enter the property market in 2021-22 and 2022-23 under current stamp duty collection policy?
2. How many first home buyers are expected to enter the property market in 2021-22 and 2022-23 following the introduction of an annual property tax?
3. In relation to the 6000 first home buyers expected to potentially apply for an annual property tax instead of paying stamp duty, how many are expected to enter the housing market solely because of the change in policy?
4. Has modelling been carried out by Revenue NSW, or another agency, on which suburbs or local government areas are likely to have annual property tax increases as a result of increasing land values due to housing targets, re-zonings or changes to density planning controls?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - i. Will modelling be carried out with the view to identifying suburbs that are likely to have annual property tax increases due to increasing land values?
 - (b) If so, which suburbs or local government areas would see the highest increases in property tax?
 - (c) If so, what is the breakdown of property tax increases due to increasing land values, per suburb or local government area?

ANSWER:

Questions 1-4 should be directed to the Treasurer

Government procurement - Small and Medium Enterprises

5. How many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) bid for Government contracts or tenders in the 2020-21 financial year?

ANSWER:

3,984

- (a) How many SMEs were successful in winning Government contracts or tenders in the 2020-21 financial year?

ANSWER:

2,751

6. How many SMEs bid for Government contracts or tenders in the 2021-22 financial year?

ANSWER:

3,535

- (a) How many SMEs were successful in winning Government contracts or tenders in the 2021-22 financial year?

ANSWER:

2,225

7. Is data gathered on whether SMEs that have successfully won a Government contract or tender completed any of the four online training courses announced in October 2021 to help small businesses win Government tenders and/ or contracts?

- (a) If so, how many of the SMEs that secured a Government contract or tender in 2021-22 had completed at least one of the online courses?

- i. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Getting Business Ready” course?
- ii. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Finding Opportunities” course?
- iii. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Selling to Government” course?
- iv. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Successful Supplying” course?

- (b) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

NSW Procurement does not hold this data as agencies manage their own procurement. Questions about the online training courses to help small businesses win Government tenders and/ or contracts should be addressed to the Minister for Small Business.

Electric vehicle stamp duty exemption

8. How many applications for electric vehicle stamp duty exemption have been received since

applications opened on 1 November 2021?

ANSWER:

Refer to page 57 of the hearing Transcript.

(a) How many applications were approved?

ANSWER:

Refer to page 57 of the hearing Transcript.

(b) How many applications were declined?

ANSWER:

100

i. What were the main reasons for declining an application?

ANSWER:

Applications were over the \$78,000 cap to be eligible for the duty exemption, or an ineligible vehicle.

ii. How many objections were received and what were the outcomes of those objections?

ANSWER:

Refer to page 56 of the hearing Transcript

(c) What is the breakdown of applications per local government area?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not collect data by Local Government Area.

9. What is the total value of stamp duty exemptions on electric vehicles since applications opened?

ANSWER:

\$7.7 million

10. Is data kept on changes in electric vehicle sales year to year?

(a) If so, what were the quarterly sales of electric vehicles in NSW in 2020-21 and 2021-22?

(b) If not, how is the program monitored to determine whether it is achieving its objective of increasing electric vehicle sales?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

11. Is data kept on the best-selling electric vehicle models in NSW?
 - (a) If so, what were the top three electric vehicle models sold in NSW in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years?
 - (b) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

12. What is the average electric vehicle purchase price listed in applications for stamp duty exemption applications received in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years?

ANSWER:

Applicants could apply for the exemption from 1 November 2021. For FY 2021/22, the average purchase price for approved applications was \$63,697.

13. What is the average sales price of electric vehicles in NSW?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

14. Have there been any changes to the eligibility criteria since the program was introduced?

ANSWER:

No

- (a) If so, what changes were made?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

15. What was the target number of applications for electric vehicle stamp duty exemption in the 2021-22 financial year?
 - (a) Was that target met?
 - (b) If the target was not met, has any analysis been undertaken to determine why people are not applying for the program?
 - i. If so, what was the outcome of that analysis?

- ii. If not, why not?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

16. When announcing the policy, the Government forecast to see electric vehicle new car sales hit 52% by 2030-31. Is that still the forecast figure by 2030-31?
- (a) If not, what percentage of new car sales is expected to be electric vehicles in 2030-31?
 - (b) What is the new forecast year for electric vehicles to make up 52% of new car sales?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

17. Is a review of the eligibility criteria being undertaken with a view to increasing uptake of the stamp duty exemption?
- (a) Is the Government considering including used electric vehicles or hybrids in the program?
 - (b) What other options are being considered?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

Electric vehicle rebate

18. How many applications for an electric vehicle rebate have been received since 1 September 2021, broken down by financial year?

ANSWER:

Refer to pages 5 and 57 of the hearing Transcript.

- (a) How many applications were approved?

ANSWER:

Refer to pages 5 and 57 of the hearing Transcript.

- (b) How many applications were declined?

ANSWER:

278

- i. What was the main reason for declining applications?

ANSWER:

Applications were for used vehicles, over the \$68,750 cap to be eligible for the rebate, or leased vehicles.

- ii. How many objections were received and what was the outcome of those objections?

ANSWER:

Refer to page 56 of the hearing Transcript

- (c) What is the total value of rebates on electric vehicles?

ANSWER:

\$8.4 million in rebates paid.

- (d) What is the breakdown of applications per local government area?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not collect data by Local Government Area.

- 19. Have there been any changes to the eligibility criteria since the rebate was introduced?

ANSWER:

No

- (a) If so, what changes were made?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

- 20. What was the target number of applications for electric vehicle rebate in the 2021-22 financial year?

- (a) Was that target met?

- (b) If the target was not met, has any analysis been undertaken to determine why people are not applying for the program?

- i. If so, what was the outcome of that analysis?
- ii. If not, why not?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

21. Is a review of the eligibility criteria being undertaken with a view to increasing uptake of the rebate?
- (a) Is the Government considering including used electric vehicles or hybrids in the program?
- (b) What other options are being considered?

ANSWER:

These questions should be directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy.

COVID fines issued to people under 18

22. In relation to infringement notices that were issued to people aged 17 and under for breaches of the COVID-19 public health orders since 1 July 2021:
- (a) What is the breakdown per age and local government area?

ANSWER:

Data is provided for an offence date in FY 2021/22, as at 26 August 2022. A customer may have been issued multiple fines. Revenue NSW does not collect data by Local Government Area.

Age	2021/22	
	Number	Value
13	14	\$8,640
14	289	\$126,360
15	623	\$290,260
16	1,119	\$673,120
17	1,643	\$1,160,180

- (b) What was the total dollar value of infringement notices, broken down by local government area and offence?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not collect data by Local Government Area.

Offence Category	Under 18	
	Number	Value
Fail to comply with noticed direction	1,884	\$2,024,000
Not wear/carry face covering	1,935	\$306,360
Other	24	\$34,000
Totals	3,843	\$2,365,360

- (c) What is the average dollar value of infringement notices, per local government area?
- (d) How many requests for review were received, per local government area?

- i. How many requests for review were successful in having the infringement notice replaced with a caution, per local government area?
- (e) How many went to enforcement stage, per local government area?
- (f) What is the average dollar value of infringement notices that have gone to enforcement stage?
- (g) How many work development orders have been entered into for these infringement notices, per local government area?
- (h) What is the average dollar value of infringement notices subject to a work development order, per local government area?

ANSWER:

In relation to Questions 22 (c) –(h) Revenue NSW does not collect data by Local Government Area.

- (i) How much has been spent on legal fees defending the COVID infringement notices for people aged 17 and under in court?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not hold this information. Revenue NSW is responsible for the collection of fines but is not the issuing authority. If a person elects to have a fine heard in court, the issuing authority is responsible to prosecute the fine.

Garnishee orders protected amount

- 23. What is the current protected amount for garnishee orders?

ANSWER:

\$545.20

- 24. When was the last time the protected amount was increased?

ANSWER:

1 April 2022

- (a) By what percentage did the protected amount increase?

ANSWER:

The protected amount for 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 was \$536.90.

25. Will the Government increase the protected amount by the current inflation rate to factor in the current cost of living?

ANSWER:

The protected amount for garnishee orders is adjusted as provided under the provisions of the *Civil Procedure Act 2005*.

Questions about any change to that Act are best directed to the Attorney General.

- (a) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

Phone calls to Revenue NSW

26. In 2021-22, how many phone calls were received by Revenue NSW?

- (a) What is the breakdown of the number of phone calls relating to the following:
- i. Request to review a fine;

ANSWER:

There were 510,545 calls to the Fines & Fees hotline for general information, to request a review, nominate someone else and/or elect to go to court.

- ii. Fines debt;
- iii. Enforcement action of fines;

ANSWER:

For questions 26 (a) (i) and (ii) there were 607,752 calls to the Overdue Fines hotline for general information, to request a payment plan, and/or to discuss fines debt and the options available if unable to pay debt.

- iv. Payroll tax;

ANSWER:

31,712

- v. First home buyer assistance;

ANSWER:

6,279

- vi. Land tax;

ANSWER:

36,826

- vii. Stamp duty;

ANSWER:

47,740

- viii. Parking space levy;

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not maintain this call data.

- ix. Homebuilder;

ANSWER:

8,744

- x. Electric vehicles;

ANSWER:

1,149. The hotline commenced from 1 November 2021.

- xi. Unclaimed money?

ANSWER:

7,735

27. What was the average time callers spent on hold?

- (a) What is the breakdown of average wait times for calls relating to the subject matters above?

ANSWER:

Fines & Fees hotline – 11 min 25 sec

Overdue Fines hotline – 12 min 10 sec

Payroll tax – 3 min 26 sec

First home buyer assistance – 2 min 6 sec

Land tax – 2 min 38 sec

Stamp duty – 2 min 41 sec

Parking space levy - Revenue NSW does not maintain this call data

Homebuilder – 1 min 34 sec

Electric vehicles – 3 min 12 sec

Unclaimed money – 1 min 18 sec

28. How many callers disconnected the call before speaking to a customer service operator?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not capture this data.

29. How many calls were disconnected by Revenue NSW while people were waiting on hold?

ANSWER:

Fines & Fees hotline – 44,405

Overdue Fines hotline – 53,911

Payroll tax – 408

First home buyer assistance – 147

Land tax – 944

Stamp duty – 1,410

Parking space levy - Revenue NSW does not maintain this call data

Homebuilder – 119

Electric vehicles – 22

Unclaimed money – 82

30. How many calls were disconnected by Revenue NSW while a customer service operator was speaking with a caller?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW does not capture this data. Calls may be disconnected by Revenue NSW in instances where the customer is using abusive language or threatens harm to staff.

31. How many callers were referred to the Revenue NSW or Service NSW website instead of receiving assistance over the phone?

ANSWER:

This data is not captured by Revenue NSW. During calls customers may be referred to these websites for additional information or to process transactions where appropriate.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) on the Fines & Fees and Overdue Fines hotlines state:

- Did you know you can manage your fine online without waiting for an representative. Please go to www.revenue.nsw.gov.au by selecting myPenalty, or by downloading the Service NSW app for your mobile, and
- Did you know you can manage your overdue fine online without waiting for an representative. Please go to www.revenue.nsw.gov.au by selecting myEnforcement Order.

32. How many staff are assigned to answer calls and inquiries received via the following phone numbers:

- (a) 1300 139 814;
- (b) 1300 208 528;
- (c) 1300 308 863;
- (d) 1300 139 814;
- (e) 1300 139 817;
- (f) 1300 138 118;
- (g) 1300 655 805;
- (h) 1300 135 627;
- (i) 1300 655 805;
- (j) 1300 130 624;
- (k) 1300 753 822;
- (l) 1300 363 806;
- (m) 1300 139 816;
- (n) 1300 241 869;
- (o) 1300 368 710;
- (p) 1300 139 815;

(q) 1300 214 590;

(r) 1300 366 016?

ANSWER:

Revenue NSW staff may be multi-skilled to provide customer service over one or more call queues within their functional area during the day. Workforce management schedules are used to balance these skills for coverage to manage call volumes. The number of staff on a queue will fluctuate, based on call demand and volumes.

Procurement Policy Framework - conflicts of interest

33. In relation to the current Procurement Policy Framework:

(a) What is the requirement in relation to disclosing personal relationships, such as friendships, while negotiating or administering Government contracts?

ANSWER:

Under the devolved procurement environment, government agencies define conflict of interest management processes internally. The Procurement Policy Framework requires agency staff to follow their agency's procedures to manage conflicts of interest, both real and perceived.

(b) Who is responsible for ensuring conflicts of interest or personal interests are declared in compliance with the Framework?

ANSWER:

The Secretary or head of a government agency is responsible for the management of the procurement function. This is delegated to relevant executives dependent on the agency structure. These officers are responsible for ensuring conflicts of interest or personal interests are declared in compliance with the Procurement Policy Framework.

(c) What are the ramifications for not properly disclosing conflicts of interest or personal interests?

ANSWER:

Agencies determine the ramifications for agency staff not properly disclosing conflicts of interest or personal interests, in accordance with the agency Code of Conduct and the Government Sector Employment (GSE) Act and GSE Rules.

Ramifications for agency staff of breaching the Code of Conduct and GSE Rules can range from being removed from a procurement process, disciplinary action such as a

caution or reprimand, reduction of the employee's classification/grade/remuneration or termination.

Agencies will also refer allegations of corrupt conduct or fraudulent activity to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the NSW Police or the NSW Government Ombudsman as appropriate.

- (d) What role, if any, can Ministers or their offices play during the negotiation or administration of Government contracts?

ANSWER:

Evaluation of tenders, negotiations, contract award and contract anagement are public sector responsibilities, under the authority of the Secretary or agency head. The Minister, or their delegate, is responsible for the allocation of funds, including to commit expenditure when awarding a contract. Ministers or their offices may be apprised of progress on significant procurements in their portfolio, such as the release of a request for tender, shortlisting of potential suppliers, outcomes of the process and any issues arising during delivery of the contract.

Emergency procurements

34. During the 2021-22 financial year, what emergency procurements were reported to the NSW Procurement Board?
35. During the 2022-23 financial year to date, what emergency procurements were reported to the NSW Procurement Board?

ANSWER (Questions 34 and 35):

Consolidated lists by cluster of emergency procurements made under Section 4 of the *Public Works and Procurement Regulation 2019* were reported to the NSW Procurement Board at each of its quarterly meetings.

Procurement Board Direction (PBD) 2021-01 Support for flood affected communities

36. In relation to page 50 of the April 2022 Procurement Policy Framework that states "You should ensure that you maintain information about procurements covered by PBD 2021-01 and the outcomes achieved in supporting local businesses. This information will assist the Procurement Board to evaluate the effectiveness of this Direction", what is the reasoning behind not making the retention of information about procurements covered by the PBD 2021-01 a mandatory rule?

ANSWER:

Note: PBD 2021-01 was replaced by PBD 2022-01 in July 2022 when the provisions were extended to cover Finance, Employee Relations

the floods occurring in June and July 2022. This update will be reflected in the next update to the Procurement Policy Framework.

Works following emergency situations, such as floods and bushfires, may be arranged in limited timeframes with the focus on a timely response. These works may also be undertaken on a whole of government, community-focused basis, involving entities that are not covered by the Procurement Policy Framework such as local councils, community groups and cross-border agencies.

The Procurement Board weighs considerations such as reporting requirements alongside the need to streamline procurement, particularly in emergency situations. Mandating further reporting and additional requirements increases the complexity of the procurement process and can delay procurement outcomes.

Accurate reporting on local participation is also reliant on information provided by suppliers. During the time-restricted response to an emergency, mandating additional reporting is burdensome as suppliers may have limited ability to collate data for government.

The Board has balanced the need for information to measure the impact of the board direction with the ability of agencies and suppliers to respond by providing agencies with discretion to determine how best to collect and report outcomes.

Supplier conduct

37. What adverse findings against suppliers were reported to the NSW Procurement Board in 2021-22?

ANSWER:

The Procurement Board was advised at the February 2022 meeting that Supplier Matrix Group Pty Ltd (Matrix) had gone into liquidation. Matrix was removed from Buy.NSW and the relevant procurement schemes.

(a) Have any of those suppliers been engaged in subsequent Government contracts following an adverse finding?

ANSWER:

Not according to data available to NSW Procurement.

Complaints to the NSW Procurement Board

38. In relation to the NSW Procurement Board's handling of complaints about the procurement activities of agencies during the 2021-22 financial year:

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- (a) How many complaints were referred to the NSW Procurement Board, per agency?

ANSWER:

Three complaints were referred to the NSW Procurement Board in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Agency	Number of complaints
Department of Planning and Environment	1
Department of Education	1
Transport NSW	1

- (b) How many complaints were investigated, per agency?

- i. What was the outcome of those complaints?

ANSWER:

Each of these complaints was investigated and resolved by the relevant agency.

- (c) What directions and policies were issued by the NSW Procurement Board regarding corrective action?

ANSWER:

The NSW Procurement Board did not issue any directions or policies regarding corrective action as no corrective action was required

Employee Relations Department of Premier and Cabinet

39. For the Employee Relations Function within Premier and Cabinet please provide a breakdown of how many employees are in:

- (a) The compliance team?

ANSWER:

19

- (b) The public sector team?

ANSWER:

14

- (c) The policy team?

ANSWER:

9

Consultants

40. How many consultants have been engaged to provide Industrial Relations advice on live disputes?

ANSWER:

Nil

- (a) Who has been engaged to provide advice on live disputes?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

- (b) How much has been spent on consultants providing advice on IR disputes for the last four years?

ANSWER:

Nil

Productivity payment

41. Given the 0.5% payment for productivity will come from Departmental budgets, is the Government envisaging that every Department will have the opportunity to apply for this payment?

ANSWER:

Yes, provided that relevant productivity reforms are identified.

42. Will there be a consultation process whereby unions and the Government agencies come to an agreement about possible productivity outcomes?

ANSWER:

Government agencies and unions are encouraged to meet to discuss possible productivity reforms.

- (a) What is the process whereby these outcomes will be measured and accepted?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the NSW Public Sector Wages Policy 2022 for relevant processes.

43. When will the Government be making clear information available to unions and public service

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Departments about the possibility of productivity payments?

ANSWER:

Information about the possibility of a 0.5 per cent increase to wages in 2023-2024 has been communicated to Government agencies and unions in meetings; in the NSW Public Sector Wages Policy 2022 and in the cl. 6A of the Industrial Relations (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2014.

- (a) Will the Government be producing a document outlining this initiative and giving examples of what may be acceptable as productivity enhancements?

ANSWER:

Guidance material will be developed to assist relevant parties

- (b) Have public sector unions been advised of 'productivity enhancements'?

ANSWER:

Parties are encouraged to engage early to discuss possible productivity reforms

- (c) Are agencies and unions in active discussions about productivity payments?

ANSWER:

Parties have been encouraged to engage early to discuss possible productivity reforms

- i. Does the Government have a timeframe?

ANSWER:

The relevant increases are available in 2023-2024.

- (d) Who will determine whether a productivity enhancement is accepted?

ANSWER:

If the employer supports the introduction of one or more of the productivity reforms an application can be made to the Industrial Relations Commission.

- (e) Will the IRC be involved?

ANSWER:

See 43(d)

44. Who is on the Senior Officials Wages Advisory Committee?

ANSWER:

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The Senior Officials Wages Advisory Committee is convened by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and consists of senior representatives from DPC and NSW Treasury. Relevant cluster senior officials, including the Public Service Commission, may be invited to support alignment to Premier's Priorities and other workforce priorities, as per section 7.2 of the NSW Public Sector Wages Policy 2022.

45. Could the Minister please make available the letter about productivity payments that was referred to on page 16 of the uncorrected transcript for the Employee relations estimates?

ANSWER:

Separate letters were sent to each cluster minister. The relevant paragraph reads "*An additional 0.5 per cent may be offered for FY2023-24 where a substantial employee contribution has been made to productivity enhancing reforms and the parties reach agreement on these reforms. Proposed productivity enhancing reforms must be submitted to the Senior Officials Wages Advisory Committee for assessment before proceeding to ERC for approval prior to any offer being made.*"

Industrial Relations Advisory Council

46. Who is currently on the Industrial Relations Advisory Council?

ANSWER:

The Industrial Relations Advisory Council is constituted by 19 members. Membership consists of Minister for Employee Relations (Chair), eight persons nominated by Unions NSW and persons nominated by employer groups such as the Australian Industry Group, the Australian Federation of Employers and Industries, Local Government NSW, and the Master Builders Association of NSW.

Screening for silicosis

47. Why is the Government still investing in a second mobile van with an X-ray machine when the research shows high resolution CT scans (HRCT) are needed to adequately screen for silicosis?

ANSWER:

icare is investing in a second mobile clinic to further meet demand for health screening services. As a part of this work, icare is currently undertaking a feasibility study into the provision of in-house CT scanning. While CT scanning is recommended for the diagnosis of dust diseases including silicosis, it is not recommended that CT scanning be undertaken every year. Health monitoring is required each year and X-ray combined with lung function is still the recommended approach for screening (as opposed to diagnostic) purposes for both asbestos and silica related disease. icare will continue to offer HRCT every three years or as clinically indicated, following the referral matrix for CT scanning outlined in the *National Guidance for Doctors assessing workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica dust*.

48. How many Caesarstone workers were screened for silicosis?
- (a) How many Caesarstone workers were found to have silicosis?
 - (b) How many Caesarstone workers screened for silicosis were screened with a high-resolution CT scan (HRCT)?

ANSWER:

As the answers to each of these questions is a number less than 10, they cannot be provided for privacy reasons.

Golder Case Study into silicosis

49. How much did the Golder Associates study "Case finding study into respirable crystalline silica exposure in the New South Wales manufactured stone industry" dated 17 May 2021 cost?

ANSWER:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Fair Trading.

Return to Work Rates Dust Diseases

50. What is the Return-to-Work rate for workers with diagnosed cases of silica-related disease?

ANSWER:

This is not a metric that is applicable to the Dust Diseases Scheme. The Dust Diseases Act does not require workers to return to work and, if the worker has been determined to have an impairment from their disease, offers financial benefits to them regardless of whether they are working or not, under different sections of the Act.

Retraining for silica -related disease

51. Will the Government make publicly available the type of retraining provided for workers, as well as details of new jobs and industries these workers are returning to, as advocated by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians at the 2021 Dust Disease Review?

ANSWER:

The retraining provided to workers is funded by icare and services are provided by Approved Workplace Rehabilitation Providers. Workers are free to explore any opportunities that are available and the plans developed are very individual to the workers skills, abilities and aspirations. Due to the very small cohort (28 workers) and the privacy concerns this creates, this data is not suitable for public release.

52. When will iCare's review to expand financial assistance for retraining and vocational support for people diagnosed with a silica-related disease be completed?

ANSWER:

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All benefits payable under the Dust Diseases Scheme, including services that can be funded, are determined by the legislation. Retraining and Vocational support is available.

Dry cutting at building sites

53. Did Minister Tudehope or his staff report the incidents of dry cutting of kitchen tops at a worksite to SafeWork NSW?
- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If the incident of dry cutting referred to at estimates was referred to SafeWork NSW, what date was it reported?
 - (c) Did an inspector go to the site and inspect the incident?
 - (d) Were any fines given for the dry cutting incident referred to by the Minister?

ANSWER:

The incident referred to occurred prior to Minister Tudehope becoming a member of parliament.

54. How has iCare “instituted a policy of routinely recommending a CT scan for workers with a significant level of exposure to respirable crystalline silica”?

ANSWER:

icare instituted this practice in February 2021 through our screening medical practitioners, offering free CT scans for all workers who had three years of exposure (or had heavy exposure in less time) and who had not had a recent CT. The doctors also exercised their discretion if a CT scan was clinically indicated. All CTs are available free of charge to workers in manufactured stone and have been since this initiative began.

Since the *National Guidance for Doctors* assessing workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica dust was released, icare medical practitioners use the matrix outlined in that document for referring workers for CT scans.

55. How does iCare prompt employers to return their workers for screening?

ANSWER:

Employers have responsibility for undertaking health monitoring for their employees at intervals

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under the appropriate SafeWork Guidelines. Most employers contact icare at regular intervals to schedule this. However, using icare for health monitoring is not mandatory, and employers may choose other providers of this service.

For manufactured stone workers, icare uses a diary system to monitor and contact the employers to return for free screening.

56. Has SafeWork NSW reported to iCare, how many employers have not complied with returning their workers for screening?

ANSWER:

No

57. How many compliance breaches were issued to employers who did not return their workers for screening in the last 3 years?

ANSWER:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Fair Trading.

58. In terms of the urgent review of all cases of manufactured stone previously screened for silica-related health condition, please provide a timeframe for the audit to be conducted by iCare?

ANSWER:

icare has, and will continue to, proactively contact manufactured stone employers and their employees for repeat screening. This includes those who may have left the respective employer to prompt them for repeat screening. We refer individuals to CT Scanning where it is clinically indicated and in accordance with the National Guidance for doctors assessing workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica dust.

59. Will the NSW Government and iCare disclose the timeframe of the audit and commit to making its results publicly available within a specified timeframe?

ANSWER:

Due to the low volumes of confirmed Silica cases there are privacy implications that need to be taken into consideration in the publication of data. icare continues to review the situation with the aim of making more information publicly available when this can be done appropriately.

Sole traders – lack of screening for silicosis

60. What is the minister doing to ensure that sole trader manufactured stone workers are monitored in terms of silica dust exposure?

ANSWER:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Fair Trading. Sole traders who approach icare for screening are provided it free of charge.

61. What is the minister doing to ensure that sole trader manufactured stone workers are monitored in terms of asbestos dust exposure?

ANSWER:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Fair Trading.

62. How is the minister ensuring that sole traders regularly attend screenings for dust diseases?

ANSWER:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Fair Trading.

63. Is there a database of sole trader manufactured stone workers?

- (a) If there is no database, how can the Minister ensure that sole trader workers do not contract a dust disease and can seek medical treatment for their dust disease?

ANSWER:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Fair Trading.

Sham Contracting

64. There have been reports of sham contractors working on the Sydney Metro project. What is the Government doing to ensure Sham Contractors are not working in NSW, particularly on NSW Government projects?

ANSWER:

The Supplier Code of Conduct, which applies to anyone doing business with the NSW Government, requires suppliers to “*comply with applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures and good business practices*”. This would apply to unlawful sham contracts. The consequences for not doing so are set out in section 3 of the Code, which is available at: <https://buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/supplier-code-of-conduct>

Third-party contractors or consultancies

65. For every agency, department, or state-owned corporation within your portfolio, please provide the following:
- (a) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in communications services, including:
- i. Contractor name,

- ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (b) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in PR services, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (c) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in marketing services, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (d) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in Government relations or lobbying services, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (e) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in industry or peak body membership, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (f) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in policy or strategy development, including:
- i. Contractor name,

- ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (g) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in project management, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (h) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in accounting and audit, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid

- (i) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in legal services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (j) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in any other services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid

ANSWER:

In accordance with the Government Information Public Access Act 2009 (GIPA Act), agencies, including icare, disclose all contracts with a private sector entity with a total contract value of \$150,000 including GST on the NSW eTendering website., which is the default system used by NSW government agencies.

Disclosed information includes:

- i. Contractor name,
- ii. Contractor ABN,
- iii. Service provided,
- iv. Total cost paid

Disability Employment

66. Across the NSW Public Sector what is the percentage and total number of employees who currently identify as having a disability?

ANSWER:

At June 2021, disability representation in the NSW Public sector is estimated at 2.5 per cent or 9,660 employees.

67. What is the percentage and number of senior managers who currently identify as having a disability throughout the NSW Public Sector?

ANSWER:

At June 2021, disability representation in senior executives in the NSW Public Sector is estimated at 3.0 per cent or 120 senior executives.

68. What is the trend in distribution of workforce (distribution index) for people with disability

throughout the NSW Public Sector?

ANSWER:

At June 2021, the NSW Public Sector disability distribution index is 96.

69. What is the percentage and total number of people who identify as having a disability who are currently employed by:
- (a) Industrial Relations Advisory Council

ANSWER:

The Industrial Relations Advisory Council is not an employing entity.

- (b) ICARE

ANSWER:

40 employees, being 2.6% of the total, identified as having a disability as at 30 June 2022.

70. What is the percentage and total number of senior managers who currently identify as having a disability employed by:
- (a) Industrial Relations Advisory Council

ANSWER:

The Industrial Relations Advisory Council is not an employing entity.

- (b) ICARE

ANSWER:

3 senior managers, being 0.8% of the total, identified as having a disability as at 30 June 2022.