



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science  
and Technology, Building, Corrections**

Hearing: Wednesday 8 November 2023

**Answers due by:** Wednesday 6 December 2023

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

Phone (02) 9230 2778

[BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and  
Technology, Building, Corrections**

**Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)**

**BETTER REGULATION AND FAIR TRADING**

**Rental Commissioner**

1. What is the role, what are the responsibilities and what are the powers of the Commissioner?
  - (a) By whom is the Commissioner employed and to whom does the Commissioner report?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1721.

- (a) I am advised;

The Rental Commissioner role is a public service appointment and reports to the NSW Commissioner for Fair Trading.

2. What has the Commissioner achieved since taking the role?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Rental Commissioner commenced in her role on 7 August 2023. In that time Ms. Jones has led an extensive engagement and consultation program with key stakeholders in the rental sector. The purpose of these engagements is to inform recommendations for future policy and regulatory responses.

3. What are the Commissioner's accountabilities?
  - (b) How will the Commissioner's success in the role be measured

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The accountabilities for the Rental Commissioner were outlined in the role description published as part of the recruitment process.

- (a) Success will be measured based on agreed objectives set with the Commissioner for Fair Trading within the scope and accountabilities of the role of the Rental Commissioner.

4. What role, if any, does the Commissioner have in relation to the rental law consultation paper and rental reform in general?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1721.

5. Is the Rental Commissioner a voice for the whole rental sector or just a voice for renters as the government's release states?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1721.

**Rental Reform**

6. In relation to the recent rental law consultation paper consultation:
- (a) What are the outcomes to date?
  - (b) How many people were consulted?
  - (c) When will the government act on the community feedback?
  - (d) What is the next step on the reform process?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- (a) The Government held a public consultation on key rental reform commitments from 7 July to 11 August 2023. The consultation received an unprecedented number of responses. Feedback to the consultation is now being closely considered.
- (b) The public consultation received over 16,000 survey responses and over 400 submissions.
- (c) The Government is considering the feedback.
- (d) The feedback to the consultation is being reviewed.

7. In relation to the commitment of the government to end no grounds evictions:
- (a) When will this be actioned and how?
  - (b) On what grounds will a tenancy agreement be able to be terminated?

**ANSWER:**

(a) and (b) Please refer to Hansard from 23 November 2023 for statements I made to the NSW Parliament regarding reforms to no grounds evictions.

8. What is the status of the government's commitment to establish a portable bond scheme?
- (a) What is the timeline to delivery of this to the community?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1849.

- (a) Refer to the response to question 8.

9. Is the government looking to bring in longer term standard lease agreements say of 3 or 5 years?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The standard form residential tenancy agreement already includes a 3-year, and a 5-year fixed-term option.

10. What is the status of any reforms extend fixed term lease notice periods for instance from 30 to 45 days?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

As part of the Improving NSW Rental Laws consultation, the Government sought feedback from the public about the length of notice a landlord should give a tenant if the landlord wants to end a fixed term lease. The Government is considering the feedback.

11. What action if any is being taken to address the concerns of renters in relation to discrimination of certain persons or groups of persons in applying for rental properties?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Government sought feedback from the public about discrimination in the rental application process through the Improving NSW Rental Laws consultation. The Government is considering the feedback.

12. What action if any is being taken to address community concerns in relation to information collection, privacy and security in respect of rental agreements, applications and any materials submitted by consumers?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised; The Government sought feedback from the public about issues relating to the collection, privacy and security of tenants' personal information through the Improving NSW Rental Laws consultation. The Government is considering the feedback.

13. What action if any is being taken to address the use of rent payment apps that do not provide an easy or no fee payment method?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Government sought feedback from the public about the accessibility of free payment methods for tenants through the Improving NSW Rental Laws consultation. The Government is considering the feedback.

14. What actions are being taken to address cases and concerns of people with disabilities being able to live in strata schemes for example to be able to make improvements to their homes in order

to reside there?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Government intends to consult on possible ways to improve the accessibility of strata schemes for people with a disability in 2024, as part of the implementation of the recommendations of the statutory review of strata laws.

15. In relation to the Strata Portal:

- (a) how many strata schemes are on it
- (b) what percentage of strata schemes in NSW
- (c) what plans are there to strengthen or improve their portal
- (d) can it be used more widely in regulation, safety or emergency services.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- (a) 68,437 strata schemes have reported into the Strata Hub as at 16 November 2023.
- (b) There are 85,539 strata schemes in NSW.
- (c) The Government is considering the best use of the Strata Hub.
- (d) Yes.

**Secret Rent Bidding**

16. How many of the stakeholders raised any concern about the proposed reform to address secret rent bidding?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The views of the stakeholders that participated in the *Legislative Assembly Select Committee on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Rental Fairness) Bill 2023* are published on the NSW Parliament website.

17. With that reform subsequently removed from the bill which was passed how will the government now address secret rent bidding?
- (a) When will it be addressed and how?
  - (b) Has an alternative policy reform been developed?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1847.

- (a) Refer to the response to question 17.
- (b) Refer to the response to question 17.

18. Why was there no mention of the government's promise to address secret rent bidding in the Budget Overview document?

**ANSWER:**

Refer to the response to question 17.

19. What was meant when it said that the government would pursue market transparency measures? What measures would be pursued?

**ANSWER:**

Refer to the response to question 17.

**Lithium Batteries**

20. Is there agreement with the ACCC report 'Lithium-ion batteries and consumer product safety' released in October 2023 that the regulatory framework is broken?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1843.

21. How is FT addressing lithium-ion battery product safety to restore consumer confidence and protect safety?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1843.

22. Is the government going to pursue national harmonisation?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1843

23. What action has or will be taken prior to and separate from any national reform process?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1843.

**Underquoting**

24. What compliance activities does FT perform to enforce underquoting laws including to:

- (a) Ensure that the estimated selling price in an agency agreement is a reasonable estimate that can be justified by the agent
- (b) that the price is revised if evidence or circumstances impact its reasonableness

**ANSWER:**

- (a) Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1071.
- (b) Refer to the response to question 24 (a).

25. Is compliance reactive relying on buyers to complain or are there any proactive operations?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1071.

26. How many complaints has Fair Trading received alleging breaches of underquoting laws? How many of these were referred for investigation? What enforcement actions were taken in relation to these complaints?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1071.

27. How many notices have been issued to an agent under section 74 of the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1071.

28. What education does FT undertake of both agents and consumers about underquoting laws?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1071.

29. Is there acceptance from buyers that a price guide is meaningless and that reporting suspected breaches is futile?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice LA 1071.

## **INDUSTRY AND TRADE**

### **NSW INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

30. What are the significant opportunities identified by Investment NSW to further the development of effective industry policy in:
- (a) Agriculture and agrifood
  - (b) Resources
  - (c) Defence and aerospace
  - (d) Clean energy and waste
  - (e) Medical and life sciences
  - (f) Digital systems and software
  - (g) International education and the visitor economy

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Government is developing the first NSW Industry Policy, building on the strengths of the State's economy .

Investment NSW has consulted with businesses across the State in priority sectors that will drive sustainable, high-skilled jobs. This consultation, which has included visits to regional NSW, will help to inform the Government's Industry Policy.

31. What are the challenges identified by Investment NSW that may impact the development of effective industry policy in:
- (a) Agriculture and agrifood
  - (b) Resources
  - (c) Defence and aerospace
  - (d) Clean energy and waste
  - (e) Medical and life sciences
  - (f) Digital systems and software
  - (g) International education and the visitor economy

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Industry Policy will account for the economic state of play in NSW and global trends.

32. What reviews have occurred as part of the framework for each priority industry?
- (a) Are other agencies and departments working with Investment NSW as part of these



- reviews?
- i. If so, which agencies and departments?
  - ii. What is the extent of their involvement in any reviews?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Industry Policy will be informed by previous industry consultation as well as targeted consultation with industry experts, NSW Government agencies, research and industry stakeholders.

33. What are the performance indicators that assist in determining opportunities and challenges in each priority industry?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Industry Policy will assess opportunities and challenges in the NSW economy and provide pathways to achieving productivity growth.

34. Will the NSW Industry Development Framework be reviewed prior to the release of the Innovation Blueprint?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

the NSW Industry Policy will provide the overarching policy framework for the Government's commitment to developing a strong and sustainable innovation sector. The Innovation Blueprint will reflect this.

35. Will the NSW Government refer to and utilise the NSW Industry Development Framework during the development of the Innovation Blueprint?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 34.

**NSW SPACE INDUSTRY**

36. What is the role of the following department/s and agencies in implementing the initiatives of the NSW space industry development strategy (2020).
- (a) Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
  - (b) Investment NSW
  - (c) Office of the Chief Scientist

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Space Industry Development Strategy (2020) includes information about which department leads each initiative and their role. Information is available on:

<https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/publications/industries/space/NSW-space-industry-development-strategy.pdf>

Note references in the Strategy to NSW Treasury as the lead are now the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade.

37. Which of the 13 initiatives, if any, does the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Investment NSW, or the Office of the Chief Scientist have direct involvement with?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 36.

38. What is the status of each of those initiatives?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that all 13 initiatives are currently being delivered. Examples of outcomes can be found at <https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au/priority-sectors/defence-and-aerospace/>

39. Has there been any review into the NSW space industry development strategy (2020)?
- (a) When was this review conducted?
  - (b) What were the outcomes?
  - (c) Is this information publicly available?
  - (d) If not, are there plans for a review in the future?
    - i.If so, when?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised an evaluation will be completed closer to expiration of the Strategy in 2024-25.

40. Going forward will the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Investment NSW, or the Office of the Chief Scientist have additional oversight in the implementation of these initiatives?
- (a) If so, which initiatives?
  - (b) If not, why not?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 36.

## **DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE**

41. How is the Department of Enterprise continuing to support the establishment of the aerospace and defence industry in the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Precinct? Which defence and aerospace companies are set to be located in the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Precinct?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised uplifting NSW's local aerospace and defence industrial capabilities is a focus of the NSW government at the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Precinct.

42. Is the NSW Government still working on MOUs with companies to establish their operations in the Aerotropolis precinct?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Requests about the MOUs should be addressed to the Minister responsible for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

43. What support has the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Investment NSW, and the Office of the Chief Scientist provided to the Department of Planning and Environment to help facilitate discussions with companies to further establish key industries in the Aerotropolis Precinct?

### **ANSWER:**

See answer to Questions 41 and 42.

44. Has there been any change to the size of the precinct for aerospace and defence industry?
- (a) If so, when did this occur?
  - (b) Has industry been informed of any decisions?
  - (c) Has the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade been made aware of any changes to the priority industries set to be established in this precinct?

### **ANSWER:**

See answer to Question 42.

## **NSW Trade Statement**

45. As Minister, what are your priorities for NSW Trade?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Government is reviewing priorities in the trade and investment space.

46. Are you committed to the 2021 NSW Trade Statement?

- (a) Are you on track to double the value of NSW's exports from \$96 billion to \$200 billion by 2031?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised the NSW Government is working to establish priorities in the trade and investment space.

**Initiatives to Increase Exports**

47. As Minister, how are you growing and diversifying NSW exports?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information on the roles and responsibilities of Ministers is available on the NSW Parliament website at <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/Roles-and-Responsibilities-of-the-Premier-and-Min.aspx>.

48. As Minister, how are you building new pathways for NSW exports to have a wider global reach?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information on the roles and responsibilities of Ministers is available on the NSW Parliament website at <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/Roles-and-Responsibilities-of-the-Premier-and-Min.aspx>.

49. Please provide examples of how you have attracted foreign investment and contributed to the growth of Australia's international trade at a state level?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information on the roles and responsibilities of Ministers is available on the NSW Parliament website at <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/Roles-and-Responsibilities-of-the-Premier-and-Min.aspx>.

[Min.aspx](#).

## **INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GRANTS**

50. Regarding the NSW BioSciences Fund:

- (a) When will the program recommence?
- (b) What is the funding allocation to the program in the 2023-24FY?
- (c) What are the forward estimates for this program?
- (d) When the fund opens how will it be communicated to the industry?
- (e) How long will applications be accepted?
- (f) How long will the assessment process take?
- (g) From the date that the fund reopens, when can successful applicants expect to receive funding?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The BioSciences Fund has re-commenced with a total fund of \$4.5 million in 2023/24. Further Information is available on [www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au](http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au)

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>.

51. Regarding the NCRIS Support Program:

- (a) Given applications were submitted in February 2023, why is it going to take over 12 months to assess and announce successful recipients?
- (b) Did the funding amount for this program change during the Government's Comprehensive Expenditure Review?
- (c) Was this communicated to applicants?
- (d) Has any change in funding amount resulted in applicants having to withdraw their applications as the funding amounts would no longer allow them to continue to operate and build capacity and capability?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ms Mildwater outlined the former government's extensive cuts during the Budget Estimates hearing. Page 76 of the Transcript indicates that:

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: All these programs that were paused—could you please confirm that they were actually budgeted for in the 2022-23 budget?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: In the budget last year, yes, they were all included, but over the course of 2022 some of that funding had been reduced. There was a difference between what we had available as funding and what was in the budget papers last year.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Was it a \$700 million difference?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: If you give me one second, the original—the figure of \$700 million that you're referring to is—

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: It's a bit above \$700 million.

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: Yes, it was the original FEF figure. We received a couple of reductions to that during the course of 2022. I think the total reductions to FEF were—let me just see. To FEF we had received—it was originally announced at \$703.4 million. During 2022 it was reduced by \$263.1 million, and then in the pre-election budget commitment \$158.3 million was reduced and another \$15.1 million. Then, in non-FEF funding, there were other savings applied during 2022—in November, \$52.8 million, and in the pre-election budget commitment another \$127.3 million. I think all of those figures total up to somewhere near 650.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Those figures from the Future Economy Fund and then the figures that you just read out—they're all a part of the grants and subsidies line in the budget of the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade. Is that right?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: That's correct. The Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade has communicated with applicants. No applications have been withdrawn.

52. Will the Innovation and Productivity Council continue to operate?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

53. Are there any plans to conclude the operations of the Productivity Council?

**ANSWER:**

Refer to question 52.

54. How much money has been budgeted for the Office of the Chief Scientist in:

- (a) 2023-24
- (b) 2024-25
- (c) 2025-26
- (d) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

2023-24 funding for the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer is included as part of the budget for Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade available at <https://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/>

55. How much money has been budgeted for the Sydney Start Up Hub in:
- (a) 2024-25
  - (b) 2025-26
  - (c) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Forward year profiling will be dependent on programming and property costs.

56. How much money has been budgeted for the Western Sydney Start Up Hub in:
- (a) 2024-25
  - (b) 2025-26
  - (c) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Forward year profiling will be dependent on programming and property costs.

57. How much money has been budgeted for Investment NSW in:
- (a) 2024-25
  - (b) 2025-26
  - (c) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Funding for Investment NSW is included as part of the budget for Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade available at <https://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/>

58. How much money has been budgeted for grants and subsidies within the Department of Enterprise, Industry and Trade in:
- (a) 2024-25

(b) 2025-26

(c) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised forward year profiling will be based on future budget processes.

I understand that Ms Mildwater outlined the former Liberal-National government's extensive cuts to programs within the Future Economy Funds during the Budget Estimates hearing. Page 76 of the Transcript indicates that:

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: All these programs that were paused—could you please confirm that they were actually budgeted for in the 2022-23 budget?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: In the budget last year, yes, they were all included, but over the course of 2022 some of that funding had been reduced. There was a difference between what we had available as funding and what was in the budget papers last year.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Was it a \$700 million difference?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: If you give me one second, the original—the figure of \$700 million that you're referring to is—

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: It's a bit above \$700 million.

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: Yes, it was the original FEF figure. We received a couple of reductions to that during the course of 2022. I think the total reductions to FEF were—let me just see. To FEF we had received—it was originally announced at \$703.4 million. During 2022 it was reduced by \$263.1 million, and then in the pre-election budget commitment \$158.3 million was reduced and another \$15.1 million. Then, in non-FEF funding, there were other savings applied during 2022—in November, \$52.8 million, and in the pre-election budget commitment another \$127.3 million. I think all of those figures total up to somewhere near 650.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Those figures from the Future Economy Fund and then the figures that you just read out—they're all a part of the grants and subsidies line in the budget of the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade. Is that right?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: That's correct.

59. How many staff were employed in the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade on:

(a) 26 March 2023

(b) 1 July 2023

(c) 13 November 2023

**ANSWER:**



I am advised;

Information regarding employee numbers at the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade will be published in its 2022-23 Annual Report.

60. How many staff were employed within Investment NSW on:

- (a) 26 March 2023
- (b) 1 July 2023
- (c) 13 November 2023

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding employee numbers at the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade will be published in its 2022-23 Annual Report.

61. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Minimal Viable Product Ventures grant in each of the following 12-month periods?

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ms Mildwater outlined the former Liberal-National government's extensive cuts to programs within the Future Economy Funds during the Budget Estimates hearing. Page 76 of the Transcript indicates that:

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The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Those figures from the Future Economy Fund and then the figures that you just read out—they're all a part of the grants and subsidies line in the budget of the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade. Is that right?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: That's correct.”

Information regarding grant programs including successful recipients in 2022-23 and future years will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>.

62. How much has been budgeted for the NSW Future Industries Investment Program in:

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Future Industries Program Funding was conceived as a single-round program. The former Liberal-National Government did not allocate funds over future years.

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

63. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the NSW Future Industries Investment Program in each of the following 12-month periods?

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25

(d) 2025-26

(e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Future Industries Program Funding was conceived as a single-round program. The former Liberal-National Government did not allocate funds over future years.

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

64. How much has been budgeted for National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Program in:

(a) 2022-23

(b) 2023-24

(c) 2024-25

(d) 2025-26

(e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ms Mildwater outlined the former Liberal-National government's extensive cuts to programs within the Future Economy Funds during the Budget Estimates hearing. Page 76 of the Transcript indicates that:

“The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: All these programs that were paused—could you please confirm that they were actually budgeted for in the 2022-23 budget?”

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million, and in the pre-election budget commitment another \$127.3 million. I think all of those figures total up to somewhere near 650.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Those figures from the Future Economy Fund and then the figures that you just read out—they're all a part of the grants and subsidies line in the budget of the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade. Is that right?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: That's correct.”

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded. Forward year profiling will be dependent on applications and assessments conducted.

65. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

66. How much has been budgeted for Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) Program in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>.

[funding](#). Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded. Forward year profiling will be dependent on applications and assessments conducted.

67. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

- (a) 83.
- (b) to (e)

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

68. How much has been budgeted for NSW Biosciences Fund in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

69. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the NSW Biosciences Fund in each of the following 12-month periods?

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

70. How much has been budgeted for the Infrastructure Build Out Program in:

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

71. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Infrastructure Build Out Program in each of the following 12-month periods?

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

- (a) 126.
- (b) to (e)

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

72. How much has been budgeted for the Female Founders Program in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

73. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Female Founders Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

74. How much has been budgeted for the Regional Youth Entrepreneurial Activation Program (RYEAP) in:

- (a) 2022-23
- (b) 2023-24
- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded. Forward year profiling will be dependent on applications and assessments conducted.

75. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Regional Youth Entrepreneurial Activation Program (RYEAP) in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded. Forward year profiling will be dependent on applications and assessments conducted.

76. How much has been budgeted for the Social Impact Pre-Accelerator Program in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**



I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded. Forward year profiling will be dependent on applications and assessments conducted.

77. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Social Impact Pre-Accelerator Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

78. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Student Fellowship Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

79. How much has been budgeted for the Student Fellowship Program in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24

- (c) 2024-25
- (d) 2025-26
- (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

80. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Social Impact Pre-Accelerator Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (f) 2022-23
  - (g) 2023-24
  - (h) 2024-25
  - (i) 2025-26
  - (j) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

81. How much has been budgeted for the Tech Central Accommodation Rebate in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information is available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/tech-central-scale-up-accommodation-rebate>.

82. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Tech Central Accommodation Rebate in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding grant programs will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Program guidelines are updated and published as grant programs are announced and awarded.

83. How much has been budgeted for the Jobs Plus Program in:
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

I am advised the program closed on 30 June 2022.

84. How many applications has the Department received and does the Department expect to receive for the Jobs Plus Program in each of the following 12-month periods?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25
  - (d) 2025-26
  - (e) 2026-27

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 83.

85. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Minimal Viable Product Ventures grants program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Department undertakes program evaluations to measure the impact of programs based on a range of metric, including those stated in the relevant program guidelines and the NSW Grant Administration Guide and NSW Evaluation Guidelines.

86. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the NSW Future Industries Investment Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

Refer to question 62.

I am advised;

The Department undertakes program evaluations to measure the impact of programs based on a range of metric, including those stated in the relevant program guidelines and the NSW Grant Administration Guide and NSW Evaluation Guidelines.

87. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 88.

88. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 93.

89. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the NSW Biosciences Fund, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 88.

90. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Infrastructure Build Out Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 88.

91. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Female Founders Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 93.

92. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Regional Youth Entrepreneurial Activation Program (RYEAP), and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 94.

93. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Social Impact Pre-Accelerator Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 92.

94. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Student Fellowship Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 95.

95. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Tech Central Accommodation Rebate, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 86.

96. What metrics will be used to measure the impact of the Jobs Plus Program, and what outcome would be considered successful?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding impact of the Jobs Plus Program will be published in the 2022-23 Jobs Plus Payroll Tax Annual Report.

97. Did the decision to pause grant submissions prior to the advertised application closing date contravene the Tech Central Scale Up Accommodation Rebate program rules?

(a) If no, has an internal investigation been conducted to confirm this?

- (b) If yes, what course of action was taken to compensate applicants?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Tech Central Scaleup Accommodation Rebate program has been administered in accordance with the program guidelines. Grant programs were put on hold in May 2023 due to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review to inform the 2023-24 NSW Budget.

98. Did any applications assessed under the Tech Central Scale Up Accommodation Rebate contravene program rules?

(a) If no, has an internal investigation been conducted to confirm this?

(b) If yes, what course of action was taken to compensate applicants?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Tech Central Scaleup Accommodation Rebate program has been administered in accordance with the program guidelines, including assessment of applications.

99. Did the decision to pause grant submissions prior to the advertised application closing date contravene the Minimal Viable Product Ventures grant rules?

(a) If no, has an internal investigation been conducted to confirm this?

(b) If yes, what course of action was taken to compensate applicants?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Minimum Viable Product Ventures program has been administered in accordance with the program guidelines. Grant programs were put on hold in May 2023 due to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review to inform the 2023-24 NSW Budget.

100. Did any applications assessed under the Minimal Viable Product Ventures grant contravene program rules

(a) If no, has an internal investigation been conducted to confirm this?

(b) If yes, what course of action was taken to compensate applicants

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Minimum Viable Product Ventures program has been administered in accordance with the program guidelines, including assessment of applications.

101. Has the Department conducted modelling regarding the impact of reduced funding for innovation in NSW?

- (a) If yes, what quantifiable effect has reduced funding had on NSW?
- (b) If no, does the Department intend to conduct this

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ms Mildwater outlined the former government's extensive cuts during the Budget Estimates hearing. Page 76 of the Transcript indicates that:

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: All these programs that were paused—could you please confirm that they were actually budgeted for in the 2022-23 budget?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: In the budget last year, yes, they were all included, but over the course of 2022 some of that funding had been reduced. There was a difference between what we had available as funding and what was in the budget papers last year.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Was it a \$700 million difference?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: If you give me one second, the original—the figure of \$700 million that you're referring to is—

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: It's a bit above \$700 million.

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: Yes, it was the original FEF figure. We received a couple of reductions to that during the course of 2022. I think the total reductions to FEF were—let me just see. To FEF we had received—it was originally announced at \$703.4 million. During 2022 it was reduced by \$263.1 million, and then in the pre-election budget commitment \$158.3 million was reduced and another \$15.1 million. Then, in non-FEF funding, there were other savings applied during 2022—in November, \$52.8 million, and in the pre-election budget commitment another \$127.3 million. I think all of those figures total up to somewhere near 650.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Those figures from the Future Economy Fund and then the figures that you just read out—they're all a part of the grants and subsidies line in the budget of the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade. Is that right?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: That's correct.

the NSW Government is committed to developing a strong and sustainable innovation sector that attracts talent to NSW and creates the jobs of the future. We are developing an Innovation Blueprint to ensure funding models are sustainable and best support ongoing growth of the innovation sector.

102. Has the Department conducted modelling regarding the impact of policy changes on

innovation in NSW?

(a) If yes, what quantifiable effect has reduced funding had on NSW?

(b) If no, does the Department intend to conduct this work?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to question 101.

103. Regarding the revised MVP Ventures Grant, will founders be informed of the number of grants that have already been awarded, and how much of the funding pool is still available?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information regarding the grant recipients and amounts awarded will be published at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/mvp-ventures>.

104. How many emails were received by Investment NSW or the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade regarding concerns about pauses to grant programs due to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Questions about the Comprehensive Expenditure Review should be directed to the NSW Treasurer or the Minister for Finance.

105. How much money has been budgeted to deliver the Innovation Blueprint in

(a) 2023-24

(b) 2024-25

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Government is committed to developing a strong and sustainable innovation sector that attracts talent to NSW and creates the jobs of the future. We are developing an Innovation Blueprint to ensure funding models are sustainable and best support ongoing growth of the innovation sector.

106. How much money has been delivered to run an “ideas summit” in February?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to question 105.

107. Who will determine the guest list of the “ideas summit”?



**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The guest list developed by the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade will include leaders from across the innovation ecosystem, including businesses, innovation networks, universities, and government agencies.

108. How much money is budgeted in the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade to continue to operations of the following trade offices:
- (a) New York
  - (b) San Francisco
  - (c) Washington
  - (d) Toronto
  - (e) Santiago
  - (f) Shanghai
  - (g) Guangzhou
  - (h) Hong Kong
  - (i) Taipei
  - (j) Mumbai
  - (k) Bangalore
  - (l) Abu Dhabi
  - (m) Tokyo
  - (n) Seoul
  - (o) Singapore
  - (p) Jakarta
  - (q) Hanoi
  - (r) Kuala Lumpur
  - (s) London
  - (t) Berlin
  - (u) Paris

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The funding allocation is included as part of the budget for Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade available at <https://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/>

109. Can the Minister please provide the title of each role in his Ministerial office?

- (a) How many FTE DLOs are employed in the Minister's office?
- (b) What are their titles?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

That information relating to Department Liaison Officers is available on the Disclosure Log: Government Information {Public Access} Act 2009 (the GIPA Act), Reference number PD\_A5833715 <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/PD%20A5833715%20-%20Disclosure%20log%20-%2020230913.pdf>

The Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

**Building Commissioner**

110. Commonality of design/pattern book designs

- (a) It was recently reported that you presented to the Government on mid-sized complexes which have a commonality of design. Can you outline, in as much detail as possible to the committee, what work you have conducted on commonality of design and the proposals you presented to Government?
  - i. How many stories would be in these mid-sized complexes?
  - ii. How much land would be required for these common designs to be used?
  - iii. Approximately how many apartments would be in these complexes?
  - iv. Do you have an estimate on the time saving this commonality of design approach would have compared to the normal way of building these complexes?
  - v. What about an estimated cost saving?
- (b) How effective do you see the commonality of design approach being, to get home built quicker?
- (c) Have you been consulted by the Government on pattern book designs? What is your view about their effectiveness?
  - iii. Are plans being developed for commonality of design for a range of different building types?
  - iv. If so, which types of buildings? (eg. single dwelling, duplex, high rise)

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- (a) The Building Commissioner has discussed a delivery resource which is now to be called Buildit NSW.
  - (i) to (v) More detail will be available when Buildit NSW development is complete.
- (b) The Building Commissioner has discussed the pattern book concept with a number of people within government.

(c) Preliminary discussions have occurred with Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and other stakeholders. These conversations are at a formative stage.

(i) This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning. DPE is the relevant agency.

(ii) This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning. DPE is the relevant agency.

111. Will the Building Commissioner have his contract extended to work through all of these reforms and changes?

**ANSWER:**

The Building Commissioner's appointment has been extended.

**Building Act**

112. The government is consulting on plans to deregulate swimming pool and spa technician licencing.

(a) What is the rationale for such a change?

(b) How will the government address concern from industry that removing licencing requirements will have detrimental outcomes for safety and standards?

(c) Are there other industries where this is proposed?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

(a) to (c) The Department of Customer Service is reviewing licencing regulations in consultation with industry stakeholders as part of the development of a Building Bill to be presented to Parliament in 2024.

**Building Certifiers**

113. How many complaints in relation to building certifiers have been received?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 NSW Fair Trading received 59 complaints about building certifiers.

114. How many have been investigated and what compliance actions have resulted?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

NSW Fair Trading conducted the following compliance and enforcement activities in response to certifier related matters. Note, investigations may commence for proactive reasons and are not only the result of receiving a complaint:

| Type of Action   | FY2022/23 |
|--|-----------|
| Number of investigations commenced by Certifier Integrity Unit   | 94        |
| Certifier Audits   | 18        |
| Warning letters issued   | 28        |
| Education letters issued   | 23        |
| Cancellation of Licence  | 2         |
| Total Disciplinary Decisions under <i>Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018</i>                       | 2         |
| Licence Disqualifications (Permanent) under <i>Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018</i>              | 1         |
| Licence Disqualifications (Temporary) under <i>Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018</i>              | 1         |
| Licence Cancellations under <i>Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018</i>                              | 2         |
| Number of penalty infringement notices issued under <i>Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018</i>      | 32        |
| Amount (\$) of penalty infringement notices issued under <i>Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018</i> | \$48,000  |

**Building enforcement**

115. How many complaints in relation to builders have been received, investigated and what compliance actions have resulted?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information on complaints, investigations and action taken by NSW Fair Trading is published in the Department of Customer Service Annual Report.

116. Does Fair Trading have sufficient resources to investigate defective work and take appropriate enforcement action?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Government is acting to strengthen the quality of building and construction in NSW by establishing the NSW Building Commission. The NSW Building Commission will be staffed by approximately 400 personnel.

117. Is it able to do this in a timely manner before unscrupulous operators can impact other consumers?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to question 116.

118. Are all building work orders been added to the online register of orders in a timely manner?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised,

Building work rectification orders (BWROs) are published on an online register as soon as practicable after the issue date: [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-tools/rab-act-orders-register](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-tools/rab-act-orders-register).

**Project Remediate**

119. When is it envisaged that construction will be complete in the 103 buildings that are actively engaged in Project Remediate?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

By the end of July 2025.

120. How many additional owners corporations are envisaged to come on board?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

There is capacity to accept another 5 to 10 possibilities.

121. Does the government remain committed to continuing new participation in the program?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Project Remediate plans to complete remediation works by the end of 2025.

122. In terms of the wider issue of flammable cladding, how much flammable cladding remains on buildings around the state?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Updates on buildings assessed by the NSW Cladding Taskforce are published on the NSW Government website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/projects/nsw-cladding-taskforce>.

**Mascot Towers**

123. Labor promised owners low-interest loans or to act as a guarantor to fund repairs as an alternative to a buyout. Has this progressed?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

That in consultation with the Mascot Towers Owners Corporation, it has been acknowledged that it is beyond the technical and financial capacity of owners to remediate the building. The Building Commissioner is continuing to work with the owners help them reach a resolution.

**Project Intervene**

124. Are any further extensions of the program planned beyond November?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

That beyond November 2023 Project Intervene will progressively become a business as usual component of the Building Commission, and therefore ongoing.

125. How many owners corporations have been provided support?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

As at 20 November 2023, there are 153 projects registered (14,695 apartments).

126. How many defects have been repaired under the program?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

254 serious defects in total have been rectified.

**Home Building Compensation Fund Review**

127. The government has promised to review the fund.

(d) Who is conducting this review? When will this review report?

(e) How is the review different from IPART's 2020 review?

**ANSWER:**

(a) I am advised the NSW Government is considering the scope and timing of the review.

(b) Please refer to the answer provided in 127(a).

**CORRECTIONS**

**Mobile Phones in Prisons**

128. How many unauthorised mobile phones have been found in correctional centres in the last 12 months?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
202.

129. What steps is CSNSW taking to reduce the number of unauthorised mobile phones been found in correctional centres?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) undertakes a range of regular activities and searches to detect unauthorised mobile phones including:

- daily searches of staff, inmates and inmate cells in correctional centres
- monthly correctional centre-wide searches, and
- use of drug, mobile phone and arms/explosives detection dogs

CSNSW also conducts targeted intelligence-based searches of inmate cells as common and other areas in correctional centres and complexes.

CSNSW researches and actively investigates new and emerging methods and technologies to detect mobile phones. This work has led to the introduction of mobile phone detectors and surveillance equipment, mobile phone jamming technology approved by the Australian Communication and Media Authority as well as x ray body scanners in correctional centres.

Secure in-cell tablet technology is now available to most people in custody in NSW and this increases the opportunities for maintaining contact with approved families and friends. All calls are recorded and can be monitored in real time. The availability of tablets is expected to reduce the demand for unauthorised mobile phones.

130. How many x-ray body scanners are in place at correctional centres across NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
66.

131. What is the projected number of additional x-ray body scanners to be rolled out in the 2023-24 period?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
There are no plans to roll out additional body scanners in 2023-24.

**Prisons Escapes**

132. How many inmates have escaped from correctional centres this year?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
Three.

133. What steps are corrective services taking to reduce this number?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
The security of correctional centre infrastructure is checked and inspected regularly. Correctional Centre staff complete daily security reports on a range of matters including buildings, facilities and infrastructure, security monitoring and alarm systems.

Management plans provide for maximum staff numbers at critical times of the day. Structured inmate days ensure that all inmates are engaged in activities and accounted for.

Intelligence on inmates is gathered at all centres to enable centre management to implement strategies to minimise opportunities for escapes, and to intercept and prevent escape attempts.

CSNSW is reviewing the objective security rating instrument that is used to guide security placement to improve its predictive validity.

134. How many inmates/offenders remain at-large that having escaped from a NSW Correctional Centre in the last 12 months?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
Nil.

**Rehabilitation**

135. What is the recidivism target of this Government?



**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

CSNSW has set the following reducing adult reoffending targets:

1. reduce adult reoffending by 8% by 2030.
2. reduce adult reoffending for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 10% by 2030.

The measurement will be the rate of return to CSNSW within two years of release from custody or order commencement.

136. What is the funding allocation in the 2023/24 budget aimed at achieving this target?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Corrective Services Towards 2023 Strategic plan places reoffending at the centre of work across all operational areas, community corrections and other enabling business units. There is specific projects and expenditure embedded in these business units directed towards reducing reoffending, which cannot be disaggregated.

137. What rehabilitation programs are targeted at reducing the recidivism rate of female offenders?

**ANSWER**

I am advised;

Women have access to a range of education and vocational training programs. Corrective Services education and vocational training programs are delivered by external education service providers including BSI Learning and NSW TAFE. Women are also able to engage in custody-based employment through Corrective Services Industries as well as traineeships, linked to broader work targeting reduced reoffending. In addition to the Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practice, Succeed (EQUIPS) suite of programs that address criminogenic factors to reduce reoffending, Corrective Services delivers a number of female specific programs and interventions for women offenders. This includes:

- Women's Diversionary Pathway Program: eligible women with young children may serve part of their sentence in an appropriate community-based environment. After a comprehensive suitability and risk assessment, participants are granted external leave by the Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW under section 26(2)(l) of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999. Wrap around services are coordinated by a community-based organisation funded by Corrective Services, with a range of supervision and reporting mechanisms in place.
- Mothering at a Distance, a parenting program
- Mothers and Children's Program: mothers with very young children or babies can serve their sentence with their child at Parramatta Transitional Centre or Jacaranda Cottages at the Emu Plains Correctional Centre (this centre is temporarily closed as remedial work is undertaken). School aged children can stay with their mothers on weekends and school holidays
- Real Understanding of Self Help, a skills-based treatment program, which aims to address anti-

social attitudes/beliefs, poor self-control, impulsivity, difficulties with self-management such as poor decision making, and interpersonal skills

- Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program for female inmates provides a specialised therapeutic approach to treat drug and alcohol dependence and offending behaviour.
- Three-month programs for women with short sentences through the High Intensity Program Units
- Programs to address trauma, such as Out of the Dark and the approved counselling services
- Transitional Centres for female offenders: Bolwarra Transitional Centre is a community based residential pre-release alcohol and other drug program for women. Offenders receive intensive case management and participate in programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Residents also participate in counselling in the local community and access local services such as doctors, methadone clinic and other health services. Parramatta Transitional Centre is a community-based pre-release model/program centred on through care principles. Residents can access employment and service providers in the community.

### **Drug Use**

138. How many instances has there been of drug contraband being seized from visitors in correctional centres in the last 12 months?

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised,  
178.

139. How many instances has there been of drug contraband being seized from inmates in correctional centres in the last 12 months?

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised;  
1,115 incidents.

140. What steps is CSNSW taking to reduce the number of drug contraband instances in correctional centres?

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised;  
CSNSW has a number of measures in place to detect contraband and deter people from attempting to introducing it into correctional facilities. These include:

- X-Ray body scanners
- inmate urine testing
- aerial contraband and drone detection systems
- searches of inmates' cells
- monthly correctional centre-wide searches

- infrastructure security risk assessments
- visitor interdiction operations using the support of external law enforcement agencies as required
- intelligence based operations
- regulatory responses such as copying original inmate mail to address a spike in attempts to bring in contraband via inmate mail during the COVID-19 pandemic

CSNSW staff, both uniformed and non-uniformed, are also routinely searched for contraband and tested for illicit substances.

In addition to work to address the supply of contraband, CSNSW works to reduce demand through a number of strategies that include:

- criminogenic programs that target offending behaviours including addiction
- identifying alcohol and/or drug misuse and treatment needs on reception to a correctional centre
- the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre that provides intensive treatment and rehabilitation to inmates whose offending relates to alcohol and/or drug misuse
- through the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network providing access to clinical alcohol and/or drug services (including Opioid Agonist Treatment) and specialist alcohol and/or drug rehabilitation program.

141. What funding was allocated targeting drug contraband in the 2023/24 NSW Budget?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Work relating to targeting drug contraband cannot be disaggregated from other work and therefore funding allocations as the work is intertwined with a range of other functions/activities.

**Correction Facilities**

142. In relation to Amber Laurel Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this

- facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
  - h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
  - i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
  - j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?
143. In relation to Bathurst Correctional Complex:
- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
  - b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
  - c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
  - d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
  - e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?

- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

144. In relation to Broken Hill Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?

- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

145. In relation to Cessnock Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

146. In relation to Clarence Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?

- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

147. In relation to Cooma Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?

- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

148. In relation to Dawn de Loas Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

149. In relation to Dillwynia Correctional Centre (Windsor):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?



- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

150. In relation to Emu Plains Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?

- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

151. In relation to Francis Greenway Correctional Complex:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- e. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- f. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- g. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- h. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- i. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

152. In relation to Geoffrey Pearce Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?

- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

153. In relation to Glen Innes Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

154. In relation to Goulbourn Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
  - b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
  - c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
  - d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
  - e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
  - f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
  - g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
  - h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
  - i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
  - j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?
155. In relation to High Risk Management Correctional Centre:
- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
  - b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
  - c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
  - d. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
  - e. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
  - f. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?

- g. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- h. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- i. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

156. In relation to Hunter Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- f. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- g. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- h. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- i. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

157. In relation to John Morony Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a resulted of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

158. In relation to Junee Correctional Centre:

- (k) What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- (l) How many staff are attached to this facility?
- (m) How many staff are rostered for duty at this faculty on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- (n) How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- (o) How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- (p) How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- (q) How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- (r) How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?

- (s) How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
  - (t) How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?
159. In relation to Kariong Correctional Centre (Gosford):
- (u) What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
  - (v) How many staff are attached to this facility?
  - (w) How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
  - (x) How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
  - (y) How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
  - (z) How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
  - (aa) How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
  - (bb) How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
  - (cc) How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
  - (dd) How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?
160. In relation to Kirkconnell Correctional Centre:
- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
  - b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
  - c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a resulted of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

161. In relation to Lithgow Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this faculty on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?



- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

162. In relation to Long Bay Correctional Complex:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

163. In relation to Macquarie Correctional Centre (Wellington):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a resulted of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

164. In relation to Mannus Correctional Complex (Tumbarumba):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this faculty on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?

- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

165. In relation to Mary Wade Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

166. In relation to Metropolitan Remand & Reception Centre (Silverwater):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a resulted of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

167. In relation to Mid North Coast Correctional Centre (Kempsey):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this faculty on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?

- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

168. In relation to Oberon Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

169. In relation to Parklea Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a resulted of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

170. In relation to Shortland (Cessnock):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this faculty on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?

- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

171. In relation to Silverwater Correctional Complex:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

172. In relation to Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

173. In relation to South Coast Correctional Centre (Nowra):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?



- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

174. In relation to St Heliers Correctional Centre (Muswellbrook):

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this facility have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

175. In relation to Tamworth Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this facility on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?

- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?
- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a resulted of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

176. In relation to Wellington Correctional Centre:

- a. What is the maximum inmate capacity of this facility?
- b. How many staff are attached to this facility?
- c. How many staff are rostered for duty at this faculty on today's date and what are the ranks and position titles of those officers?
- d. How many officers at this facility submitted a hurt or injured on duty report during the last 12 months?
- e. How many officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) at this facility?
- f. How many allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months at this facility regarding staff alleging workplace bullying, intimidation or harassment?
- g. How many officers attached to this faculty have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months and what were categories of the incidents that initiated these actions?
- h. How many days in the last 12 months were drug detection dogs present at this facility as part of any operation to prevent contraband entering or being present within the facility?

- i. How many inmates at the centre were subject to discipline procedures including loss of privilege or re classification in the last 12 months and what were the categories of the offences or breaches?
- j. How many inmates received medical treatment for injuries received as a result of alleged assaults at the facility within the last 12 months?

**ANSWER:**

Questions 142 to 176:

I am advised;

- a. The maximum inmate capacity of the facilities range from 56 to 1,539.
- b. There are 7037 staff attached to those facilities.
- c. There were 4071 staff across all ranks rostered on the for 15 November 2023.
- d. 2,755 officers submitted a hurt or injured across those facilities during the last 12 months.
- e. 55 officers are on long term sick leave (absent more than 3 months) across those facilities.
- f. 69 allegations or complaints have been recorded in the last 12 months across these facilities regarding staff.
- g. 203 officers attached to these facilities have been disciplined or subject to management action including termination of employment in the last 12 months.
- h. Over the past 12 months, drug detection dogs were present 2,743 times, as part of operations to prevent contraband entering or being present, within those facilities.
- i. There were an average of 195 sanctioned offences per week since November 2022 across the Corrective Services NSW network.
- j. This question should be referred to the Minister for Health.

**OTHER**

**Local Small Commitments Allocation**

177. In relation to the Local Small Commitments Allocation and your electorate of Bankstown, how many local projects did you commit to fund? Please provide a list of projects including the amount allocated.

**ANSWER:**

I am the member for Macquarie Fields. Information about Members of NSW Parliament including contact details, electorates and portfolios under their charge, background and qualifications can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/pages/all-members.aspx>

178. What was the total amount of taxpayer money that you personally committed would be spent on local projects in your electorate of Bankstown?

**ANSWER:**

Please see response to question 177.

179. What was the process for recording these commitments to ensure that they would be honoured if Labour won government?

**ANSWER:**

The 'Labour' Party is a political party in the United Kingdom. I am advised that the 'Labour' Party did not contest the 2023 NSW State election. The Report on the Administration of the 2023 NSW State election is available at the NSW Electoral Commission Website: <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/5981d73f-ee42-402e-a504-3174d2cf5ce8/sge23-part-1-part-2.pdf>

180. Who did you seek approval from when it came to these announcements?

- a. Who kept records of these projects?
- b. Someone needed to track the commitments being made, who was responsible for that in your electorate?

**ANSWER:**

Like all candidates do in every election, local candidates across NSW identified needs in their areas. ALP election commitments were submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office.

I am advised the commitments will be assessed against the criteria in the LSCA guidelines, including the community need that the project is seeking to address and whether the benefits to be delivered are reasonable compared to the costs.

181. Did you declare a conflict of interest in relation to any of these projects?

- a. If so, who did you declare it to and how was the conflict of interest managed?
- b. Are you aware of any conflict-of-interest provisions or rules in relation to this scheme?
- c. Did you ask about the process or any obligations that you had?

**ANSWER:**

Like all candidates for the Legislative Assembly who are current Members of Parliament, I am subject to the Code of Conduct for Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Code outlines the ethical and legal obligations for Members of the Legislative Assembly and each member is expected to abide by these obligations.

Further, I am advised that candidates for parliament who are not currently Members of Parliament are still subject to the robust ethical requirements set out in NSW integrity legislation.

**OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS**

**Agency Invoices**

182. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Details are generally contained in the Departments / Agency's Annual Report under the heading account payment performance.

183. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 30 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to supplementary question 182.

184. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 60 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to supplementary question 183.

185. What was the penalty for paying suppliers or contactors late, broken down by agency?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to supplementary question 184.

**Car/Driver**

186. Has your Ministerial car been subject to any traffic or parking fines?

- a. If so, please provide details of each fine?
- b. Who was driving the car at the time of each incident?
- c. Who paid any of the fines?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

This matter is the subject of a Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) (Cross-14) release, reference number PD\_A5881802 that can be found on the Premier's Department disclosure log.

Where a fine is incurred the payment of the fine is the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle.

187. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?

- a. If so, who was driving the car?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The department does not record these types of events.

### **Complaints**

188. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff and is published on the Cabinet Office's Website. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

### **Consultants**

189. How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?

a. For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Consultancy expenditure, including details of consulting engagements over \$50,000, are included in the annual reports of agencies and departments in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 - Annual Reporting Requirements.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

190. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:

a. Social media?

i. What were the cost of these services?

b. Photography?

i. What were the cost of these services?

c. Videography?

i. What were the cost of these services?

- d. Acting training?
  - i. What were the cost of these services?
- e. Ergonomics?
  - i. What were the cost of these services?
  - ii.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Photography, videography and ergonomics costs were incurred and are contained within the fees for services rendered category disclosed in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Departmental Annual Reports 2022-23, including for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023. The period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Departmental Annual Reports 2023-24.

191. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- a. What was the individual amount of each contract?
  - b. What is the purpose of each contract?
  - c. Who was the contract with?
  - d. Did the contract go to a competitive tender?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to supplementary question 190.

**Departmental Credit Cards**

192. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
    - i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.
  - b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
  - c. What was each largest reported purchase for?
  - d. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
  - e. How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen? i. What was the cost to replace them?
  - f. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
    - i. What was the total value of those purchases?

- ii. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
- iii. Were all those amounts repaid?
- iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
  - g. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
    - i. What amount was repaid, in full?
    - ii. What amount was left unpaid?
- h. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
  - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
  - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government. Further, each Department / Agency within the portfolio have as specified policy.

**Department/Agency Staffing**

193. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- a. 28 March 2023?
  - b. 23 October 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Numbers of senior executives are publicly reported within Annual Reports as per standard practice.

194. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Numbers of senior executives are publicly reported within Annual Reports as per standard practice.

195. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- a. 28 March 2023?
  - b. 23 October 2023?



**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The legal branch within each Department or agency provides legal support.

196. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Salaries and wages are included in the Department's Annual Report.

197. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- a. Of these redundancies, how many were:
  - i. Voluntary
  - ii. Forced

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Redundancies are published in the annual report under employee related expenses.

198. What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to supplementary question 197.

199. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The employment of former Ministerial office staff is not tracked.

200. How many staff were dismissed from each Department/agency under your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- a. Without identifying individuals, what were the reason(s) for each dismissal

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The termination of an employee is treated confidentially and is managed in accordance with the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 and relevant accompanying policies.

201. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Stationery costs are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Reports 2023-24.

202. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Internal mobility is encouraged and acting arrangements are supported as part of the department's Performance Development Framework.

203. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Flexible working arrangements are tailored on an individual basis and are discussed as part of ongoing conversations which are embedded in the departments' Performance Development Framework.

204. What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

- a. Taxi hire?
- b. Ridesharing services?
- c. Limousine/private car hire?
- d. Hire car rental?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The items are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

205. Do any senior executive service employees in any of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities have a driver that is paid for by the Department/agency?
- a. If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver, and which senior executive service employees have a driver?
  - b. How much was spent on these drivers since 28 March 2023

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

No senior executive employed the Departments or Agencies within the portfolio have a driver.

206. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Charter air flights are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23. These reports are due to be released shortly.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

207. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- a. Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

- b. Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

208. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on overseas flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- a. Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
- b. Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

International travel is contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Official travel is taken in accordance with the NSW government travel policy.

**Efficiency Dividends**

209. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?
- a. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?
- b. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised,

The budget papers include detailed information on budgeted expenses, revenue and capital expenditure. This includes detailed financial statements for individual agencies as well as for government as a whole. The budget papers also outline the financial impact of measures in the budget on individual portfolios as well as for government as a whole.

**GIPA Applications**

210. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March

2023?

- a. How many of these Applications have been accepted?
- b. How many of these Applications have been rejected?
- c. If so, what were the reasons provided?
- d. How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
- e. How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
- f. Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
  - i. Date received.
  - ii. Date acknowledged.
  - iii. Date responded.
  - iv. The description provided for the information sought.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information concerning the obligations of a Minister's office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the Act) is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act.

The information is included in the annual report of the Department of Communities and Justice in accordance with sections 125(3) and (5) of the Act.

211. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- a. How many of these Applications have been accepted?
- b. How many of these Applications have been rejected?
  - i. If so, what were the reasons provided?
- c. How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
- d. How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
- e. Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
  - i. Date received.
  - ii. Date acknowledged.
  - iii. Date responded.
  - iv. The description provided for the information sought.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Information concerning an agency's obligations under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the Act) is included in the relevant agency annual report in accordance with section 125(1) of the Act.

### **Hospitality**

212. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised the following:

Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget.

As Members of Parliament, Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes.

213. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised the following:

Hospitality costs, including catering and beverages are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23. These reports are due to be released shortly.

Costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

214. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?

a. What was the total value of the hospitality received?

#### **ANSWER:**

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

I am advised;

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150. These disclosures are kept on the Office Holder's Register of Gifts and Benefits.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

215. Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- a. What was the total value of the hospitality received?
  - b. Are these gifts of hospitality declared publicly?
  - c. Do staff declare their gifts publicly?

**ANSWER:**

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

I am advised;

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150. These disclosures are kept on the Office Holder's Register of Gifts and Benefits.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

**Labour Hire Firms**

216. Have any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilised the services of Labour Hire Firms since 28 March 2023? If yes, please advise in table form:
- a. The names of the firms utilised.
  - b. The total amount paid to each firm engaged.
  - c. The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
  - d. The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
  - e. The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - f. The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company.
  - g. The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**ANSWER:**

Portfolio agencies make use of the vendor management system (VMS) Contractor Central in accordance with the mandatory whole-of-government Contingent Workforce Scheme.

Information on Contractor Central and the Scheme, including registered suppliers, can be found on the NSW Procurement [buy.nsw.gov.au](http://buy.nsw.gov.au) website.

Contractor costs are contained in either “agency contractors” within Employee Related Expenses for a standard labour hire contractor or “contractor – projects” category disclosed in the Other Operating Expenses for project related contractors. Both form part of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency’s Annual Report.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

### **Media and Public Relations**

217. How much has your ministerial office spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March

2023 on the following social media platforms:

- a. Facebook
- b. Instagram
- c. LinkedIn
- d. TikTok
- e. YouTube
- f. WhatsApp
- g. X (formerly known as Twitter)

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

No money has been spent from the Ministerial office on advertising or sponsored posts on the social media platforms.

218. How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

- a. Facebook
- b. Instagram
- c. LinkedIn
- d. TikTok
- e. YouTube
- f. WhatsApp
- g. X (formerly known as Twitter)



**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Department and agency expenditure is published in Annual Reports and on OpenGov NSW.

219. Have you had media training or public speaking training?

- a. If yes, who paid for it?
- b. If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

No.

220. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Staff numbers are included in the Annual Reports for those Departments or Agencies. Staff salaries are set by the Crown Employees (Public Sector- Salaries) Award.

221. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities and their total cost?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to supplementary question 220.

222. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

- Media monitoring services are procured under a whole-of-government contract.
- A whole-of-Government contract reduces administration costs on individual Departments and Agencies, takes advantage of economies of scale, and avoids duplication in services (and costs) across NSW Government.
- Isentia have recently secured the whole-of-government contract for the next three years, at a savings for more than \$2 million compared to the previous contract.
- Details of the three-year contract are available at [https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=E99BBB53-FC12-DC94-57E7E126B8321F73\\_](https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=E99BBB53-FC12-DC94-57E7E126B8321F73_)

**Merchant**

223. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Where merchant fees are in line with Treasury Circular TC18-18 Agency recouping of merchant interchange fee: <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-12/TC18-18%20-%20Agency%20recouping%20of%20merchant%20interchange%20fees.pdf>.

224. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.

**ANSWER:**

Merchant fees are embedded in individual credit card payments. The Percentages will vary by supplier and the nature of the transaction.

225. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments made by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

Merchant fees are embedded in credit card payments and are not separately identified in the data captured by the accounting system. Where a merchant fee is incurred the fee will be allocated to the expense category, for example a merchant fee on a domestic air fare will be treated as a Travel expense.

**Ministerial disclosures**

226. Did you make any updates to your Ministerial disclosure on or after 2 August 2023?

a. If yes, what prompted this update to your disclosure?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Disclosure obligations for Ministers under Part 2 (Standing disclosure of interests), Part 3 (Conflicts of Interest) and Part 4 (Gifts and Hospitality) of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code are continuous.

Ministers are required to:

- notify the Premier of a change to their pecuniary and other interests as soon as practicable after the change has occurred,
- notify the Premier of a change to pecuniary and other interests held by their immediate family members, as soon as practicable after the change has occurred, and
- notify the Premier promptly of conflicts of interest.

## Office Administration

227. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August
- f. September
- g. October

### ANSWER:

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

228. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS5 grade for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August
- f. September
- g. October

### ANSWER:

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

229. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS4 grade for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July

- e. August
- f. September
- g. October

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

230. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS3 grade for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August
- f. September
- g. October

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

231. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS2 grade for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August
- f. September
- g. October

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

232. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS1 grade for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August
- f. September
- g. October

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

233. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

234. How many DLOs were seconded to your ministerial office for the following months:

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August

f. September

g. October

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

235. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

236. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

237. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?

**ANSWER:**

We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.

238. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?

**ANSWER:**

We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.

239. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for

media/social media/communications?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

240. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

241. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?

- a. What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
- b. Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?
- c. Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

242. How many staff members employed in your office under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?

- a. Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

243. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?

- a. How much of this budget is allocated to staff?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Minister's office budgets are drawn from the Premier's Department annual financial allocation to cover employee related expenses, accommodation, and other operating expenses. Further information relating to Ministers' Office Budgets is available in the Ministers Office Handbook.

244. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?

- a. For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
- b. How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office? i.What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes. Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below. Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly.

Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

245. How many iPads or tablets are assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

- a. What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
- b. How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?



i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

246. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

a. What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?

b. How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?

i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

247. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

a. What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Purchase or lease of artwork for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of purchasing or leasing artwork for official purposes are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the 2022-23 report.

248. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

a. If so, what was the cost of these items?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Hire or lease of floral displays or indoor plants is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements. The costs of hiring or leasing floral displays or indoor plants are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Annual Report.

249. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of stationery are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23

250. What brand of paper is used in your office?

- a. Is it recycled paper?
- b. Is it Australian made paper?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Office supplies are purchased in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

251. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals since 28 March 2023?

- a. What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The total cost of all subscriptions is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements. The costs of subscriptions are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

252. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office since 28 March 2023?

- a. What were the gifts purchased?

i. Who were they gifted to?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that the decision to present a gift is at the discretion of the Minister, having regard to both appropriateness and economy. Gifts may be appropriate, for example, where given as a memento of an official visit or as a small token of appreciation. However, gifts should not be given with the purpose, or in circumstances where they could be perceived as having the purpose, of inducing favourable treatment.

In accordance with the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office's Gifts and Hospitality Policy, a register of official gifts presented by the Premier will be reported by the Premier's Department at the end of each financial year as required under the provisions of Treasurer's Direction TD21-04 and TD22-27.

253. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

a. What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Non-standard accessories fitted to Ministerial vehicles are for business, security, and safety related reasons, in accordance with the NSW Government Motor Vehicle Operational guidelines.

254. What is the total spend for your office since 28 March 2023 for:

a. Taxi hire?

b. Ridesharing services?

c. Hire car rental?

d. Limousine/private car hire

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that taxis or ride share services are an option for business trips, including trips:

- Home after evening duty (e.g., when Parliament is sitting, when required to perform the duties of the job, etc.) where public transport is not reasonably available or where it may be unsafe to use public transport. Generally, use of taxis for these purposes would occur after 8:00pm.
- To or from the airport in connection with early morning or late-night flights on official trips.

- To meetings when it would be unsafe or uneconomical to use public transport. Costs are managed within Ministerial office budgets.

255. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money since 28 March 2023?
- a. If yes, please provide details of the trip including the date of the trip, purpose of the trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised the following;

All domestic and international travel bookings for official business must be made through the NSW Government's approved travel management supplier, this is currently FCM Travel Solutions.

Travel covered by the NSW Government contract includes:

- commercial and charter air travel,
- accommodation,
- ground transport (car hire, rail, coach, and ferry).

Financial commitments for travel expenditure from the Ministers' office budget need to be made within office arrangements approved by the Chief of Staff as an authorised financial delegate.

Where a Minister, or employee of the Minister's office undertakes travel, travel is taken in accordance with the NSW government travel policy and the Ministers' Office Handbook. The Premier's Department website also details PD\_A5842315, "Domestic and international travel of NSW Ministers and their offices" that has been released under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

**Overseas Trips**

256. Have you had any overseas trips paid for using public funds since 28 March 2023?
- a. If yes, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

In line with M2015-05-Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, Minister's overseas travel is published on the Premier's Department Website.

257. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded since 28 March 2023?
- a. If yes, what was the nature of these trips?
  - b. Who paid for these trips?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

In accordance with M2014-02 Ministerial Arrangements During Absences, Ministers who travel overseas are generally required to seek the Governor's authorisation for another Minister to act on their behalf. All acting arrangements approved by the Governor are published in the NSW Government Gazette.

Gifts and Hospitality, including contributions to travel are managed in accordance with the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct

### **Parliamentary Secretary**

258. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Security passes for 52 Martin Place are required to be issued in accordance with the 52 Martin Place security procedures and the associated Privacy and Surveillance Statement.

259. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

#### **ANSWER:**

No.

260. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes. Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below. Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly.

Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

261. What event/meetings has your Parliamentary Secretary attended on your behalf?

- a. Please provide in table form the date and the purpose of the event/meeting.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

A Parliamentary Secretary shall have and may perform such functions as the Premier may, from time to time, determine in respect of him or her, pursuant to section 38C of the Constitution Act 1902.

The general duties of a Parliamentary Secretary are outlined in the Ministers' Office Handbook available on the Premier's Department website.

262. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

**ANSWER:**

I meet with all of my government colleagues regularly.

263. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?

- a. If so, when, and where?
- b. If so, what was the cost of:
- i. Airfares?
  - ii. Accommodation?
  - iii. Food and beverage?
  - iv. Transportation?
  - v. Entertainment?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

That all Parliamentary Secretaries are subject to the same travel rules as Ministers when travelling on official business as a Parliamentary secretary. Further information is available in the NSW Minister's Office Handbook.

264. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?

- a. If so, when, and where?
- b. If so, what was the cost of:
- i. Airfares?
  - ii. Accommodation?
  - iii. Food and beverage?
  - iv. Transportation?
  - v. Entertainment?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

That all Parliamentary Secretaries are subject to the same travel rules as Ministers when travelling on official business as a Parliamentary secretary. Further information is available in the NSW Minister's Office Handbook.

265. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?

a. If so, was it speech, voice, or media training?

i. If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

No.

**Probity Auditor**

266. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?

a. If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act), agencies are required to register government contracts valued at \$150,000 (including GST) or more on the NSW Government eTendering website.

The Cabinet Office and the Premier's Department also maintain a register of information relating to contracts with a value of \$30,000 (excluding GST) and above.

Departments are also required to include in their annual report information in relation to consultants engaged by or on behalf of the agency, pursuant to Div. 7.3 of the Government Sector Financial Act 2018 and NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements TPG23-10

**Qantas**

267. Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairmans Club?

a. Have you ever previously been a member? When did you cease to be a member?

b. When did you initially become a member?

c. When was this declared on the Ministerial gifts register?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

A copy of my most recent Ordinary return dated 29 September 2023 for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June

2023 disclosing receipt of Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership is publicly available on the NSW Parliament's website.

A copy of my disclosure under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code dated 9 June 2023 disclosing receipt of Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership is publicly available on TCO's disclosure log on TCO's website.

### **Training**

268. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?

a. If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

All Cabinet Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.

Ministers will undertake Respectful Workplace Policy Training that will commence in December.

Members of Parliament have a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.

269. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training?

a. If so, what was the cost?

b. Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?

### **ANSWER:**

No.

### **Website Usage**

270. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

271. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?



**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections**

**Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC**

272. How many building managers are operating in residential and mixed-use strata schemes in NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

This data is not held by NSW Fair Trading.

273. Has the NSW Government considered introducing a training and licensing scheme for building managers in NSW?

- a. If yes, please provide details.
- b. If not, is the Government open to considering such a model?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Report on the Statutory Review of the Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 and Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 (the Report) considered introducing a licensing and training regime for building managers who maintain and repair common property. The Report found that a licensing scheme would not be a viable or supportable option at the time.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Refer to the response to question 273.

274. What consideration has the Government given to capping initial building management contracts at one year from the first Annual General Meeting?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Report recommended further consultation with the strata sector to determine the appropriate limitation on contract terms for building managers (rec 126). The Government is working to

implement this recommendation, with public consultation on a draft Bill proposed for 2024.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

275. Has any work been undertaken to expand the definition of ‘connected persons’ under the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Consultation on the remaining recommendations of the Report on the Statutory Review of the *Strata Schemes Development Act 2015* and *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015* is ongoing.

### **Debt Recovery Charges and Fees**

276. Please detail any investigative action undertaken by Fair Trading in relation to fees or charges levied by strata management companies for debt recovery actions over the past two years.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised NSW Fair Trading reviews complaints about the conduct of a strata managing agent, however, the owners corporation is ultimately responsible for any decision related to debt recovery action.

277. Has Fair Trading commissioned any independent research in relation to fees or charges levied by strata management companies for debt recovery actions?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised independent research has not been commissioned.

### **Compulsory Strata Managers**

278. What is Fair Trading’s role in the appointment of a compulsory strata manager?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Under the *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015*, NSW Fair Trading does not have a role in the appointment of a compulsory strata manager.

The Report from the statutory review of strata laws recommended NSW Fair Trading be provided standing under section 237(8) of the *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015* to apply to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal to seek the appointment of a compulsory managing agent (rec 71). The Strata Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 implements this recommendation to strata and community land schemes. The change will commence by proclamation.

### **Complaint Handling**

279. What categories of complaints does Fair Trading receive in relation to strata?

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Matters related to strata complaints are recorded under the product code of 'Strata and Community Schemes'.

280. Does Fair Trading publish its complaint handling data?

a. If so, please provide details.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

I am advised that the information is available on the NSW Fair Trading website  
[www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

281. How many audits of the accounts of Owners Corporations has Fair Trading undertaken in:

a. FY2021-22?

b. FY2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

NSW Fair Trading does not conduct audits of the accounts of Owners Corporations.

(a) and (b) Refer to the response to question 281.

282. How many complaints were received in relation to real estate agents in:

a. FY2021-22?

b. FY2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

When recording complaints NSW Fair Trading records information by product, industry or regulatory framework. Any complaints related to the conduct of real estate agents are recorded under code of 'Real Estate and Property – RE & P'. There is no further breakdown of complaints received that identify complaints only related to real estate agents.

283. How many complaints were received in relation to properties being operated at unregistered

Short Term Rental Properties in:

a. FY2021-22?

b. FY2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning.

(a) and (b) Refer to the response to question 283.

284. How many FTE investigator positions are there in Fair Trading to investigate breaches of:
- a. Residential Tenancies?
  - b. Home Building?
  - c. Motor Vehicles?
  - d. General Consumers?
  - e. How many of the FTE positions are currently filled?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- (a) 11 Real Estate Investigators (including manager and 4 vacancies). This figure does not include property inspectors.
- (b) 41 Building and Construction Investigators (including managers and 6 vacancies). This figure does not include building inspectors, auditors, or technical and compliance officers.
- (c) 28 Consumer Protection Investigators (including manager and 3 vacancies) and 13 Fair Trading Investigators (including manager and 1 vacancy). Consumer Protection Investigators and Fair Trading Investigators investigate breaches of various legislation administered by NSW Fair Trading, including motor vehicles and Australian Consumer Law related matters.
- (d) Refer to answer to 284 (c).
- (e) 100 total investigators (including 15 vacancies).

**Rental Commissioner**

285. What is the operational budget for the Office of the Rental Commissioner for FY2023-24?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Rental Commissioner is funded within the existing NSW Fair Trading budget.

286. How many FTE-equivalent staff work in the Office of the Rental Commissioner?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

In FY2023-24 there are 3 FTE, in addition to the Rental Commissioner, allocated to the Office of the Rental Commissioner. The Rental Commissioner works within NSW Fair Trading and draws on resources from the broader team as required.

287. How much was spent from the Property Services Interest Account under sections 189 and 190 of the *Property and Stock Agents Act 2002* in:
- a. FY2018-19?

- b. FY2019-20?
- c. FY2020-21?
- d. FY2021-22?
- e. FY2022-23?

**ANSWER:.**

(a) to (e): I am advised;

Property Services Statutory Interest Account - amounts paid:

| Financial Year | Grants  | Administration fee* | Total        |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--------------|
| (a) 2018-19    | NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)** \$10.8m<br>Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) \$3.6m | \$18.0m             | \$32,392,996 |
| (b) 2019-20    | NCAT Grant \$12.1m  | \$37.2m             | \$49,300,056 |
| (c) 2020-21    | NCAT Grant \$11.1m  | \$38.1m             | \$49,196,167 |
| (d) 2021-22    | NCAT Grant \$12.7m  | \$39.1m             | \$51,801,998 |
| (e) 2022-23    | NCAT Grant \$13.0m  | \$40.1m             | \$53,084,040 |

\* Section 189 (2)(d) of the *Property Stock and Agents Act 2002* allows the application of monies for ‘meeting the costs of administering this Act, the *Conveyancers Licensing Act 2003* and any other Act prescribed by the Regulations for the purposes of this paragraph (or the prescribed provisions of any other Act)’.

288. How many penalties have been issued for:

- a. Each of the penalty notices listed in Schedule 4 of the Residential Tenancies Regulation 2019 in:
  - i. FY2018-19?
  - ii. FY2019-20?
  - iii. FY2020-21?
  - iv. FY2021-22?

- v. FY2022-23?
- b. Each of the penalty notices listed in Schedule 4 of the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Regulation 2015?
- vi. FY2018-19?
- vii. FY2019-20?
- viii. FY2020-21?
- ix. FY2021-22?
- x. FY2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

(a)- (b) I am advised;

(a)(i)-(v)

| <b>Residential Tenancies Act</b> | <b>Traders</b> | <b>Penalty Notices</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>FY 2018/19</b>                | 18             | 26                     | \$12,540.00  |
| <b>FY 2019/20</b>                | 15             | 24                     | \$12,210.00  |
| <b>FY 2020/21</b>                | 3              | 3                      | \$1,980.00   |
| <b>FY 2021/22</b>                | 3              | 3                      | \$3,300.00   |
| <b>FY 2022/23</b>                | 10             | 10                     | \$11,660.00  |

(b)

(i) Nil.

(ii)

| <b>Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act</b> | <b>Traders</b> | <b>Penalty Notices</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>FY2019/20</b>                                | 2              | 4                      | \$880.00     |

(iii) Nil.

(iv) Nil.

(v) Nil.

**Mandatory Training**

289. Does the NSW Government require mandatory training for office holders of strata committees? Please provide details of any training provided.

- c. If not, has the Government considered or reviewed models in other jurisdictions, for example in Ontario, Canada?
- d. If not, will the Government consider introducing such a mechanism?

**ANSWER:**

(a)-(b) I am advised;

Mandatory training for strata committee office holders is not required. The Report on the statutory review of strata laws recommended general education for strata residents on strata scheme operation and governance, codifying additional duties and obligations for strata committee members, and education for strata committees and managing agents on contractual arrangements for strata products and services. The Government is working to implement the review recommendations.

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and  
Technology, Building, Corrections**

**Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC**

**Inmate mail**

290. We have received reports that inmate mail has been mixed up and some mail digitally distributed to the wrong inmates, potentially placing some families and individuals at risk of harm. Can you confirm whether this occurred, when and how many times?
- a. What are you doing to rectify this and ensure it does not occur again?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

For Correctional Centres with the facilities to deliver mail electronically (provided via a tablet), mail may be scanned for electronic delivery instead of photocopied. CSNSW is not aware of any instances where scanned mail has been incorrectly distributed to inmates. Any instances where this has occurred should be brought to the attention of the relevant Governor.

291. Inmates report receiving photocopies of letters that are only partially legible or at times the entire letter is unreadable. The Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment (Inmate Mail) Regulation 2020 that allows letters to be photocopied was gazetted in 2020 as part of the COVID 19 response. Will you commit to repealing this regulation to ensure inmates have access to their original mail?
- a. If no, what will you do to guarantee inmate mail is always readable?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The regulations were developed in response to a significant increase in contraband detected in inmate mail during the pandemic and continues to address the risk of contraband being brought into correctional centres. CSNSW understands the importance of inmates maintaining connections with family and friends through mail, visits and other means of communication. CSNSW will continue to work to ensure mail received by inmates is readable and copied in colour.

- b. What will you do to ensure that inmate mail is not destroyed, as per the practice of some correctional centres in line with Section 471.6 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) which makes it an offence to damage or destroy mail?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The Custodial Operations Policies and Procedures section 8.1 Inmate mail requires the original copies



of photographed inmate mail to be placed in a secure bin or shredded. The Regulation provides that original written or pictorial matter be dealt with in accordance with the Commissioner. The COPP provides those directions.

### **Legal assistance access**

292. What are you doing to provide a guarantee for all inmates to access legal assistance?
- a. Have you reviewed correctional centres practices and taken steps to fix any problems at particular centres?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

CSNSW understands its obligations and works to ensure inmates have access to their legal representatives, the courts as well as legal materials. All legal phone calls for unsentenced inmates are free. These phone calls can be made via the Offender Telephone System which can be accessed via telephones available in correctional centre common areas or using inmate tablets while in cell. Inmates can store and call up to six legal contact numbers. In addition, all inmates can make free phone calls to Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW as well as several legal services available in local areas.

Inmates and legal practitioners can arrange scheduled conferences by telephone, in person, or using Audio Visual Link. For visits, legal practitioners are given priority processing, and correctional centres provide flexibility for legal practitioners to arrange times to visit.

The Legal Practitioners Consultative Group is a forum facilitated by CSNSW to canvas legal issues and matters relating to access to inmates by legal representatives. Members such as Legal Aid, the NSW Law Society and the Aboriginal Legal Service are able to raise issues through this forum at any time including particular problems or issues relating to a correctional centre. CSNSW follows these issues up directly with the correctional centre.

### **Inmate wellbeing**

293. What are you doing to improve the issues around inmate cell placements, particularly inmates on remand who frequently report inappropriate cell placements such as survivors of sexual abuse being housed in a cell with convicted sex offenders?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Cell placement decisions consider all available information including health advice. CSNSW also considers the compatibility and suitability of an inmate to be placed with other inmates or in a specific cell type. This includes review and consideration of non-associations with identified inmates and other alerts. CSNSW is currently undertaking a review of policies and procedures relating to cell placement.

294. What concrete strategy do you have in place to improve inmate access to medical care?

- a. In particular inmates with disabilities
- b. In particular inmates with complex health conditions

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The delivery of health care services in publicly operated correctional centres is the responsibility of the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (Justice Health). Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) and Justice Health staff work together to ensure that the physical, cognitive, security and medical needs of people under orders with disabilities are met through the development of comprehensive case plans.

CSNSW and Justice Health work collaboratively on case management, placement, and access to additional living resources.

CSNSW's State-wide Disability Services implements systems to assist staff to identify and address the additional support needs of people under orders with disabilities when they are in the care of Corrective Services. This includes:

- identification and assessment of people under orders
- specialist advice to staff and external stakeholders
- state-wide training of staff in the management of people under orders with disabilities
- pre-release planning and referrals to the National Disability Insurance Agency.

295. Families of inmates report issues with booking digital visits, that they are normally booked out and it is difficult to get an appointment.

- a. What are you doing to scale up access to digital visits now that the affordable phone call option has been removed and inmates are increasingly dependent on digital visits?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised all correctional centres offer both in person visits and video visits for family and friends. There is a high demand for video visits from inmates and their families and friends and a limited number of bookings available at correctional centres. At the end of October 2023, over 600,000 video visits have been scheduled, allowing inmates continued social contact with their family and friends.

In June this year, the option to use 'engine numbers' via third-party call management services for calls to inmates ceased. These services make it difficult to comply with the requirements of protection orders made by the courts and pose a risk to the safety and security of correctional centres and members of the community. However, alternatives such as VOIP calls still exist and are used by inmates and families.

The scaling up of video visits capacity is subject to a range of considerations including cost, bandwidth consumption, the impact of use of tablets used for video visits and other purposes on the telecommunications network, and the operational requirements of each centre.

296. Does Corrective Services collect data on whether on release from custody an inmate will be subject to homelessness?
- a. If no, is this something you will consider in order to better understand the service gaps for inmates leaving correctional centres?
  - b. If yes, how many inmates were subject to homelessness following their release from a NSW correctional centre in the years:
    - i. 2022/23
    - ii. 2021/22
    - iii. 2020/21
    - iv. 2019/20
    - v. 2018/19
  - c. What, if anything, are you doing to ensure better transitions for inmates into the community upon release from custody?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised CSNSW works with offenders as their sentence progresses and they prepare for release from custody. Planning for release considers a range of issues including family and other support relationships, health and wellbeing, employment and accommodation on release. For offenders released to parole, CSNSW works with the offender to confirm suitable accommodation. However there are significant numbers of offenders who are released on bail or given a sentence of time served, who CSNSW has not worked with in terms of accommodation on release. CSNSW does not hold data on homelessness of former inmates.

CSNSW works with Housing within the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to support access to DCJ Housing services, including:

- o Set To Go: a service that provides pre-booked crisis accommodation to people exiting custody.
- o Inmate Early Assessment Scheme: allows parolees to apply for housing assistance up to three months prior to their release.
- o Reintegration Housing Support Program: connects people leaving custody, or who have been released in the last month, and are at risk of homelessness, with specialist support workers to assist with securing access to suitable accommodation, as well as wrap around psychosocial support

CSNSW also funds some transitional accommodation through its Funded Partnership Initiative:

- o Transitional Supported Accommodation: provides up to 12 weeks transitional post-release accommodation and casework support to medium/high and high-risk offenders upon release to the community, to reduce the risk of reoffending.
- o Extended Reintegration Service: provides post-release accommodation and cross-agency casework support to medium/high and high-risk offenders in South-Western Sydney.

CSNSW also manages a small number of residential and transitional centres as part of work to support reintegration back into the community for offenders.

297. What is the average time an inmate in a Corrective Services managed prison waits to see a doctor?  
What is the longest wait time recorded in 2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

298. How many times was the wrong inmate put in segregation due to staff misidentification of the inmate in 2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
CSNSW is not aware of any instance in 2022-23 where the wrong inmate was placed in segregation due to staff misidentification of the inmate.

299. How many times was a protection inmate put in with non-protection inmates in the year 2022-23?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
CSNSW is not aware of any instance in 2022-23 where an inmate in protection was placed with a non-protection inmate.

**Employee wellbeing**

300. Are you aware of particular issues with bullying among Corrective Services employees at Shortland Correctional Centre?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

a. How many complaints of bullying have been made at Shortland Correctional Centre?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

From 1 July 2022, Corrective Services NSW Professional Standards and Investigations (PSI), has received three complaints of bullying that are considered misconduct matters at Shortland Correctional Centre.

b. How many of these have been upheld?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Of the matters considered under a misconduct process, all three remain ongoing.

c. What are you doing to improve this culture and guarantee a safe workplace?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

In 2023 Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) established a new directorate – Staff Support, Culture and Wellbeing, which is currently developing a new strategy to enhance wellbeing and culture within CSNSW workplaces.

CSNSW's focus is on a preventative and early intervention approach and establishing a safe workplaces consistent with workplace health and safety legislative requirements including those related to psychosocial risk and the direction given by the Public Service Commission relating to sexual harassment in the workplace.

301. How many open investigations into bullying are there currently across corrective services?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

84 as of 20 November 2023.

- a. How many complaints of bullying have been made against Executive Services employees, including the commissioner since 29 November 2021?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

There is presently no single dataset that captures this information. Complaints can be made in a variety of ways.

- i. How many were made in the period 3 September 2012 – 31 July 2021?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

There is presently no single dataset that captures this information. Complaints can be made in a variety of ways.

- ii. Can you outline the step by step process from when a bullying complaint is received, how it is handled and by who?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised any bullying complaint received against a non executive employee by the PSI is firstly assessed by PSI and then considered by the Professional Standards Committee (PSC). The PSC is comprised of CSNSW senior executives who consider and recommend how misconduct complaints should be handled. The PSC meets on a weekly basis.

PSI provides the PSC with the details of the complaint (names of officers and locations de-identified) and a recommendation regarding how the complaint should be progressed based on the available information.

The PSC makes recommendations on how the complaint should initially progress.

The PSC may recommend that no further action be taken, or refer a complaint to:

- local management (for less serious complaints)
- the investigations team within PSI (where PSC determines that further investigation including fact finding enquiries, is warranted)
- the NSW Police Corrective Services Investigation Unit (where a bullying complaint involves a criminal aspect)
- the PSI to commence misconduct action (for instance, where there is serious misconduct or a history of misconduct).

The outcome of an investigation can result in misconduct proceedings against the employee, if misconduct is established, or result in no further action being taken, where the evidence does not support this action. If no action is taken, the complainant is notified. PSI's role is to provide advice to decision makers throughout the misconduct process.

Formal complaints against senior executive staff are referred to the DCJ People Branch and individually assessed and addressed.

302. What specific program do you have in place to reduce rates of bullying and establish safer workplaces?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

CSNSW has established a new directorate – Staff Support, Culture and Wellbeing, which is developing a new strategy to enhance wellbeing and culture within CSNSW workplaces. The directorate meets with local managers to understand key challenges in the workplace and develops interventions. This can include one on one, small group or centre-wide sessions over a period of time depending on the challenges reported. Topics covered include resilience, values, misconduct reporting and standards, wellbeing, respect in the workplace, communication, psychological safety and managing psychosocial risks.

The range of training and workplace culture sessions include Respectful Workplace Relationships, which can be run in specific locations on request where trends are identified of inappropriate behaviour by staff. The content is underpinned by 'our values' and aligned to the Department of Communities and Justice's workplace behaviour policies. It has been informed by current research, including the Human Rights Commission's Respect@Work Report, and contextualised to the corrections environment.

The training will be delivered state-wide across all correctional centres. Other CSNSW locations will also receive the training.

303. How many employees are on long term sick leave for the following:

- a. 2022-23
- b. 2021-22
- c. 2020-21
- d. 2019-20

- e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- a. 2022-23 - 231
- b. 2021-22 - 210
- c. 2020-21 - 244
- d. 2019-20 - 207
- e. 2018-19 - 199

Note: Long term sick leave is defined as longer than three months.

304. How many Justice Health employees are on long term sick leave for the following:

- a. 2022-23
- b. 2021-22
- c. 2020-21
- d. 2019-20
- e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

**Inmate access to criminal history**

305. Please list the correctional centres that have faced the issue with inmates accessing each other's criminal history through the Daily Telegraph app on tablets?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The following centres raised concern about this risk:

- Long Bay Hospital
- Wellington Correctional Centre
- Junee Correctional Centre
- South Coast Correctional Centre

- a. Which correctional centres have faced subsequent inmate violence?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Data on this does not exist, as it cannot be established that an incident of violence is a direct result of other

inmates being able to search inmate's histories from news articles.

- b. What is being done to restore safety to inmates?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised CSNSW has removed a number of news based sources on inmate tablets. CSNSW is committed to ensuring the safety and security of inmates. Inmates who are fearful of their safety can contact and access support from any staff member. CSNSW has procedures in place to ensure that any fearful inmate is managed and supported.

- c. What specific information were inmates able to access on the AEC website?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
Inmates were able to access the 'report corruption / criminal behaviour' area, and submit commentary, including about inmates or other criminals associates in the free text box. This information was received directly by the AEC.

- d. What are you doing to ensure inmates have access to news and current affairs while also ensuring their safety?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
CSNSW provides access to news and current affairs via free to air channels on television and via buy ups orders for newspapers and magazines.

**Private prison operators**

306. What was the total operating cost for Junee Correctional Centre in the years:

- a. 2022-23
- b. 2021-22
- c. 2020-21
- d. 2019-20
- e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
This information is commercial in confidence.

307. What was the total operating cost for Clarence Correctional Centre in the years:

- a. 2022-23
- b. 2021-22



- c. 2020-21
- d. 2019-20
- e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
This information is commercial in confidence.

308. What was the total operating cost for Parklea Correctional Centre in the years:

- a. 2022-23
- b. 2021-22
- c. 2020-21
- d. 2019-20
- e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;  
This information is commercial in confidence.

309. What was the average inmate population at Junee Correctional Centre in the year:

- a. 2022-23
- b. 2021-22
- c. 2020-21
- d. 2019-20
- e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

**Average Daily Population per Financial Year**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Junee</b> |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2018-19     | 833          |
| 2019-20     | 835          |
| 2020-21     | 836          |
| 2021-22     | 930          |
| 2022-23     | 917          |

310. What was the average inmate population at Clarence Correctional Centre in the year:
- a. 2022-23
  - b. 2021-22
  - c. 2020-21
  - d. 2019-20
  - e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

**Average Daily Population per Financial Year**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Clarence*</b> |
|-------------|------------------|
| 2018-19     | -                |
| 2019-20     | -                |
| 2020-21     | 906              |
| 2021-22     | 1,146            |
| 2022-23     | 1,110            |

\* The Clarence Correctional Centre officially opened on 25 July 2020.

311. What was the average inmate population at Parklea Correctional Centre in the year:
- a. 2022-23
  - b. 2021-22
  - c. 2020-21
  - d. 2019-20
  - e. 2018-19

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

**Average Daily Population per Financial Year**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Parklea</b> |
|-------------|----------------|
| 2018-19     | 1,010          |
| 2019-20     | 1,068          |
| 2020-21     | 1,248          |
| 2021-22     | 1,104          |
| 2022-23     | 1,169          |

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology,  
Building, Corrections**

**Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC**

**Questions for Minister - Minimum Accessibility Standards**

312. Why has the Labor Government refused to sign onto the National Construction Code's Minimum Accessibility Standards, despite the Ageing and Disability Commissioner, the Disability Royal Commission, most other States and Territories and virtually every peak disability and ageing organisation being in favour of NSW signing on?
- a. Recommendation 7.35 of the Disability Royal Commission calls for state and territory governments to increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing for people with disability through the (NCC) by immediately adopting the minimum accessibility standards for new dwellings.
    - i. Why are you refusing to implement this reform, despite even the DRC urging for it?
    - ii. Are you aware that the added cost is only \$2-5K per property and is 22 times more cost-effective than post-construction retrofits?
  - b. Are you aware that housing accessibility, affordability and availability is consistently one of the top problems that people with disability are facing in our communities?
  - c. What actions are you taking to ensure that NSW can sign onto the NCC Minimum Accessibility Standards within the next 6 months?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

The NSW Government is considering developments in other jurisdictions and the views of disability sector and development sector stakeholders from a recent forum to ensure that any policy on this issue minimises the impact to delivery of affordable homes while bolstering accessible housing stock.

(a)

(i) Refer to the response to question 312.

(ii) The Government is aware of the costings in the Australian Building Code Board's Regulatory Impact Statement including estimated retrofit costs and upfront inclusion of accessible housing measures.

(b) The NSW Government is committed to helping to ensure that all people, at all stages of their lives, can access the right type of housing at the right time.

(c) Refer to the response to question 312.

**Questions for Adam Dent, SIRA**

313. In relation to the Ernst & Young actuarial contract valued at over \$12 million which was originally mistakenly recorded on eTender as valued only at \$132,398.20:

- a. When were you first made aware of this mistake?
- b. What do you think the reason is for the error being made? What investigations did SIRA undertake in relation to understanding how this error was made and being able to better prevent a similar error happening again in relation to a SIRA contract?
- c. To the best of your understanding, where did the number \$132,398.20 come from that then got transcribed into the eTender record? How was the mistake made?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- (a) The Chief Executive first became aware of the human error when preparing for SIRA's appearance at the NSW Parliament's Public Accountability and Works Committee's Inquiry into NSW Government's use and management of consulting services. At no time was the contract value deliberately understated to obscure the contract.
- d. The Chief Executive understands the error was made as a result of human error within the Department of Customer Service (DCS) Procurement team, who manage the eTendering platform for SIRA contract award notices.

From 10th May 2020 until 5 December 2022, the estimated contract value was published correctly on the eTendering portal as \$12m (SIRA/2460) as a fixed price contract. On 5 December 2022, the DCS Procurement team attempted to correct the actuarial arrangement to be a standing offer. DCS took information from its procurement system and in doing so, the estimated value was inadvertently replaced with the first work order under this arrangement in the contract register, being \$132,298.20 (SIRA/2460-1).

On 31 January 2023 (8 weeks after the error occurred), State Insurance Regulatory Authority's (SIRA) acting Chief Financial Officer was notified of the error. SIRA requested the error be corrected by DCS on 1 February 2023. SIRA's Chief Executive was not involved or made aware of the administrative correction by DCS or SIRA staff.

To investigate how the error was made, SIRA requested an explanation from DCS Procurement team, who confirmed it was a human error.

To prevent a similar error happening again, the DCS Procurement team has confirmed it understands the difference between disclosing standing offers and contracts, and have offered further training and support for their staff. SIRA will be actively monitoring the DCS contract award notices for SIRA procurements.

- e. As outlined above in response to (b), the Chief Executive understands an estimated (\$12m) value was inadvertently replaced with the first work order under this arrangement in the contract register, being \$132,298.20 when the record was updated to be a standing offer (SIRA / 2460-1).

314. At the Public Works & Accountability Committee hearing on 16 August 2023, the following exchange took place:

“The CHAIR: In terms of managing your potential conflict of interest, given your experience with Ernst and Young and now a significant amount of money being paid

from SIRA to Ernst and Young, what are the procedures that have been put in place to manage your conflict?

ADAM DENT: First of all, EY was the incumbent when I started at SIRA. They'd had a contract since 2017 and the procurement process for their current engagement had commenced before my arrival. However, while ever it was a distant memory to me and not necessarily an entirely pleasant one, I didn't get involved in any of the procurement process. In fact, as a general rule, I am not involved in any of the procurement processes at SIRA. My role as the accountable authority really is, simply, to delegate the available funds and then contract management responsibility.

The CHAIR: So who is responsible for procurement at SIRA?

ADAM DENT: It will depend on the contract—principally, our chief financial officer. My previous chief financial officer led the entire engagement with DCS. But, given that DCS manage our procurement more broadly, any significant procurement would involve the chief procurement officer from DCS with SIRA's CFO as the sort of supporting player, if you will.

The CHAIR: Would you be signing off on requests for tender and contracts? Would you be involved in—

ADAM DENT: My involvement is to sign off on the approach—the financial delegation, effectively, to approach the market and then, potentially, and in the case of the actuarial arrangement, the authorisation to enter a negotiation period and then the final sign-off to delegate contract management.”

Further, your answer to Supplementary Questions from that hearing (Q6a) was “No”, in response to the question “Did you instruct the Chief Finance Officer to cease further negotiations with Taylor Fry?”

However, during the Budget Estimates hearing, this exchange took place:

“Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: One of the questions I asked you in the supplementary questions, though, was whether you had any direct instruction or any influence over the CFO's decision to exclude Taylor Fry from the negotiations when they came in at too high a price. You said no, but I just wanted to ask that question again to make sure that we are talking about having no influence at all over that decision.

ADAM DENT: I obviously went back to that matter and found there was an email from the CFO to me that had indicated that the contract negotiations had not been going well and requested my permission to terminate the negotiations. I authorised her decision to terminate; I didn't ask her to terminate. I maintain that I hadn't made a decision or had directed the CFO to do that or tried to influence her decision.”

- a. When you said in the Budget Estimates hearing that you had ‘obviously’ gone back to the matter and found the email, was that in order to respond to Supplementary Question 6a, or between submitting answers to Supplementary Questions and attending Budget Estimates?
- b. When did you check your emails on this matter?
- c. If you didn’t check prior to providing the answer, why not?
- d. If you had not authorised the decision to terminate the negotiations with Taylor Fry, could the CFO still have proceeded with that termination? Was your authorisation a necessary component of that decision?
- e. If yes, how exactly does an authorisation differ from an instruction in terms of its ultimate effect, being the termination of negotiations with Taylor Fry?
- f. Given that the questions in the PAWC hearing on 16 August in relation to the EY actuarial contract were framed as being in relation to managing a potential conflict of interest, did you think that denying any ‘instruction’ was given to the CFO in relation to the negotiations with Taylor Fry was an accurate and not misleading response to Q6a?
- g. Given that you referred to PAWC questioning as “scuttlebutt” in front of around 400 staff and have been less than fulsome in your answer to Q6a, do you take your responsibility in relation to Parliamentary Inquiries sufficiently seriously?
- h. Please provide a copy of the relevant section of the transcript for the event in which you used the term “scuttlebutt”.
- i. Are there any other answers to Supplementary Questions from the PAWC hearing that you would now like to take the opportunity to correct or provide a more fulsome and helpful answer in relation to?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

- (a) The Chief Executive reviewed the correspondence in responding to the supplementary questions.
- (b) Between the hearing date and submitting responses to the supplementary questions.

(c) N/A

(d) On 9 March 2022, the Chief Executive approved second stage negotiations to be entered into with two vendors on the recommendation of the SIRA Chief Financial Officer and DCS Procurement. As part of those negotiations, the SIRA Chief Financial Officer, DCS Procurement and DCS Legal concluded that they would not be able to reach agreement on Taylor Fry's submitted contract departures, and Taylor Fry should therefore not be included in the master services agreement.

On the advice of the DCS Chief Procurement Officer, on 28 April 2022 the Chief Financial Officer requested approval to cease contract negotiations with Taylor Fry. The Chief Executive approved that request.

The DCS Chief Procurement Officer confirmed it was necessary to seek the Chief Executive's authorisation to proceed with the termination. SIRA at all times sought expert advice and support from DCS Procurement.

- (e) The Chief Executive had previously provided his approval for the SIRA Chief Financial Officer to conduct negotiations. The authorisation represented his accepting the recommendation from the SIRA Chief Financial Officer and DCS Procurement that the negotiations be ceased. A direction to the SIRA Chief Financial Officer would have represented an instruction to act, notwithstanding their recommendation to cease negotiations.
- (f) Yes, this was accurate. Characterising the email as being an 'instruction', would have been inaccurate as it would imply the Chief Executive made a decision independent of advice and on his own motion as opposed to approving the recommendation provided.
- (g) Yes. Since commencing as the Chief Executive at SIRA two and a half years ago, he has appeared before Budget Estimates committees, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, the Public Accountability and Works Committee, and Bill inquiries on no less than 12 occasions. Ahead of each of those appearances the Chief Executive's team and himself and prepares substantial briefing material over many weeks so that he can respond to what may be asked by the relevant committee.

The Chief Executive takes his responsibility seriously, and respects the accountability function of the Parliament.

(h) See the transcript below from SIRA's Town Hall meeting of 23 August 2023.

*"I've got a few things in my update I wanted to talk about and the first of course being last week's inquiry into the use and management of consulting services in NSW government. I appeared at Parliament House to answer questions provided on our use of consultants.*

*Now obviously, for those of you who watched along, that was probably not one of the most fun parts of my week last week, but I'm really, really pleased, first of all, to shout out, I've just looked across the room. My colleague Mandy Young, the Chief Operating Officer of DCS, is in the building today, who came along as part of her role as leading procurement across DCS, including for SIRA, to give me a bit of support there, which I'm very grateful for. Mandy, thank you.*

*Really importantly, I did get to once we got past the sort of the scuttlebutt of the session, I got to really give some insight into how we are working to improve our capability at SIRA. And I am genuinely proud of the work we're doing to develop our own talent and to enhance both our procurement capabilities, which you know two years ago weren't one of our strong suits. And we've worked collectively with DCS to build and mature our skill in that place hasn't always been easy because it's been contracts that needed to be unravelled, re-ravelled and re-awarded and all those things that you might need to do. But we've worked really, really hard to sharpen our focus on our procurement, the work we did on our actuarial contract was exceptional at delivering better public value. We now have a contract that is tighter in terms of the opportunities we have to buy actuarial services. They're cheaper than they used to be and we're really on top of the vendor to make sure we're getting good value for money from them. So that's been a huge impact. I was fortunate enough to get to talk about some of the other things we've done and you might have heard me mention our digital premium regulation project and a couple of the other platforms have been working on which have been good examples of collaboration between our digital team and other parts of SIRA, So MAIR for example,*

*where we're now bringing in-house capability that we used to outsource, which is I think again it was part of our strategy 2025 to not outsource if it made sense and to invest in our own people where we could. We've hired some fantastic talent, we're supporting the great talent we have and we're absolutely, unashamedly investing in our talent where we can to build more of that. So I was really pleased that I got to mention that. So RLA obviously got to mention some of our MAIR teams got a mention.*

*And one of the other bits and pieces that we've had pop up at different executive meetings that I'd love to highlight again is within our Premiums and Markets team, the work that team are doing to look at premium filings. And we had some examples. I learned things about Excel spreadsheets I didn't know from that team and about how many cells you can fit into an Excel spreadsheet and how much work that team have done internally to build our own capability to analyse insurer filings, which we're getting more and more frequently in the CTP space. And so we're focusing on doing the things we can do ourselves and using external support where it makes sense.*

*I got the opportunity to talk about that. That wasn't quite obviously where the inquiry wanted entirely to go, but I got that opportunity. So I really want to reinforce that I'm really, really proud of the work we're doing around bringing things in house, building our own capability. And so I thank you for continuing to look at that and to find those opportunities and call them out when we get them. And as we can, we'll invest in building those things so that we are a stronger regulator all around. Now it would be remiss of me not to thank in addition to Mandy for joining me on the day, our finance team. The RLA team, the Strategy and Performance team, Digital, Premiums and Markets, our procurement area and DCS procurement area. There was an extraordinary amount of work that went into preparing. We had seven business days which is not the usual lead up time for a parliamentary inquiry. So for those of you who are a bit frustrated, you didn't get something out of particularly the finance or public accountability teams over the last week or so, thanks for going easy on them. They had to drop everything to do that work. I'm really grateful. We were well prepared and had really great examples to answer the questions that came up.”*

- (i) There is no additional information that the Chief Executive wishes to provide on the remainder of the supplementary questions from the PAWC hearing.

315. Will you meet with Kathie Melocco and the other women referred to in the Budget Estimates hearing who have been traumatised by their treatment by SIRA, in order to hear from them directly?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised;

Yes, the Chief Executive is open to meeting with Ms Melocco and other impacted claims customers.