



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

**Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

Hearing: Day: Tuesday, 27 February 2024

**Answers due by:** Monday, 25 March 2024

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**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

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

**WOMEN**

- (1) Is your input sought on all government decisions relating to women?
  - (a) If not, how often are you asked to provide advice to your Cabinet colleagues about the impact of policies and budget measures on women?

**SENIORS**

**NSW Seniors Card**

- (2) How many Senior Card members are there currently in NSW?
  - (a) What date is that figure based on?
- (3) What is the breakdown of members by electorate and local government area?
- (4) How many new businesses have signed up to the Seniors Card since 28 March 2023?
  - (a) What is the breakdown by electorate and local government area?
- (5) How many businesses were registered for the following years:
  - (a) 2019?
  - (b) 2020?
  - (c) 2021?
  - (d) 2022?
  - (e) 2023?

**Ageing Well in NSW Action Plan 2023 – 2024**

- (6) What is breakdown and status (e.g. complete, on track, delayed or at-risk) of all actions in the Ageing Well in NSW Action Plan 2023 – 2024?

**Specialist Older Person's Housing Information and Support Service**

- (7) Have you formally met with the Minister for Housing about funding a specialist older person's housing information and support service?

## **PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

### **Support Programs for victim survivors of domestic and family violence**

- (8) Minister, in January 2023 you announced \$7 million for specialist support programs for migrants and refugees experiencing domestic violence. When will the specialist centre to be located in south-western Sydney be opened?
- (a) In Budget Estimates you advised that \$4.4 million in funding has been committed to the Centre. Is that correct?
  - (b) Where specifically is the remaining \$2.6 million being spent that was announced in January 2023?
- (9) Minister, prior to the election your government also made a commitment for 25 additional counsellors for the sexual violence helpline.
- (a) How many additional counsellors have been employed to work for the helpline since you came into Government?
  - (b) When will the entire 25 additional counsellors be in place for the sexual violence helpline?
- (10) AWAN was established in 2022 specifically to support Closing the gap Target 13. Funding for AWAN is due to expire in June 2024. Can you guarantee ongoing funding for AWAN to ensure the network continues?
- (11) Minister, can you guarantee that the 'Investing in Women' Program will continue for at least the next three years?
- (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) If yes, when will the next round of funding be open for applications?
  - (c) If yes, how much funding will be allocated to the program?

### **LGBTIQ Advisory Council**

- (12) When will the LGBTIQ cross-government committee be established?
- (a) Who will Chair the committee once established?

### **Women's Safety Commissioner**

- (13) Minister, do you meet regularly with the Women's Safety Commissioner?

- (14) How often do you schedule meetings with the Women’s Safety Commissioner?
- (15) Minister, have you delegated the formation and operation of the Lived Experience Reference group entirely to the Women’s Safety Commissioner?
- (16) Minister, once the Lived Experience Reference group has been formed will you continue to consult with key stakeholders such as DVNSW who provide policy insights from their own Lived Experience Reference Group?
- (17) Minister, in what way will the Lived Experience group you are forming differ from those already in existence?
- (18) Do you expect to receive different policy advice from the group you are forming, compared with the Lived Experience informed advice you already receive from the sector?
- (19) Minister in Budget Estimates on 27th February you said in reference to the Women’s Safety Commissioner ‘her role is to provide leadership and oversight of whole-of-government policy and programs on domestic, family and sexual violence. Her role is to provide advice and support on cross-sector and whole-of-government women’s safety policy development, law reform and service delivery.’
  - (a) Minister, what role do you have to play in each of these areas?

### **Primary Prevention Strategy**

- (20) When will the primary prevention strategy for domestic violence be released?
- (21) Which stakeholder groups have been involved in the development of the primary prevention strategy for domestic violence?

### **Core and Cluster**

- (22) Which Tranche 1 Core & Cluster programs have commenced operations as at 27th February 2024?
- (23) Minister, can you guarantee that all Tranche 1 Core & Cluster accommodation will meet disability requirements?
- (24) Can you clarify how many additional places will be provided once the Tranche 3 of Core and Cluster is completed?

## **Whole-of-Government Approach**

- (25) Minister, you advised in Budget Estimates that you are having discussions on an ongoing basis with your ministerial colleagues about issues relating to your portfolio.
- (a) Do you have formal and regular meetings with your ministerial colleagues in relation to domestic violence?
  - (b) How often do you meet with your ministerial colleagues specifically to discuss issues relating to domestic violence?
  - (c) Do Ministers meet regularly as a group to discuss issues relating to your portfolio?
  - (d) Do these meetings with your ministerial colleagues occur separately to Cabinet meetings?

## **CARERS & VOLUNTEERS**

### **Carers NSW**

- (26) Will Carers NSW continue to be funded to deliver peak activities from 1 July 2024?
- (a) Will the Young Carers Program continue to receive funding from 1 July 2024?

### **Young Carer Awareness Training**

- (27) How many Young Carer Awareness Training and other information sessions were held in the last year?
- (a) Have you attended any since becoming Minister?
- (28) How many sessions have been held at schools, universities and organisations over the past year?
- (a) What is the breakdown of the sessions held in metropolitan and regional areas?
  - (b) What is the breakdown by local government area?
- (29) How many sessions have you attend since becoming Minister?
- (a) Of the sessions you attended, how many were held in metropolitan areas?
  - (b) Of the sessions you attended, how many were held in regional areas?

### **Discretionary Fund**

- (30) Of the applications received to access discretionary funds, what dates were the applications received?
- (a) What is the name of the person/s or organisation/s that have requested the funds?
  - (b) How much was requested?
  - (c) What will the funds be used for?
- (31) Will you seek discretionary funds for Volunteers, Seniors or Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault?

### **Aboriginal Carers**

- (32) How many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island carers are there in NSW?
- (a) is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (33) How many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island carers are caring for more than one person?
- (a) What is the breakdown by age and gender?

### **Student Carers**

- (34) How many student carers are there in NSW?
- (a) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
  - (b) How many are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island?
    - i. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
  - (c) How many student carers provide care for more than one person?

### **Service NSW Carers Landing Page**

- (35) How many times has the Service NSW carers landing page been accessed over the following years:
- (a) 2019 – 2020?
  - (b) 2020 – 2021?
  - (c) 2021 – 2022?
  - (d) 2022 – 2023?

- (e) 2023 – 2024?

### **NSW Companion Card**

- (36) How many people have a NSW Companion Card?
  - (a) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
  - (b) How many are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island?
- (37) What is the breakdown of the number of people holding a NSW Companion Card for the following years:
  - (a) 2019 – 2020?
  - (b) 2020 – 2021?
  - (c) 2021 – 2022?
  - (d) 2022 – 2023?
  - (e) 2023 – 2024?
- (38) What is the breakdown of the number of affiliates for the following years:
  - (a) 2019 – 2020?
  - (b) 2020 – 2021?
  - (c) 2021 – 2022?
  - (d) 2022 – 2023?
  - (e) 2023 – 2024?

### **NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal**

- (39) How many organisations are registered on the Volunteer Recruitment Portal currently?
  - (a) How many are online or remote?
- (40) What is the breakdown of how many organisations registered for the following years:
  - (a) 2019?
  - (b) 2020?
  - (c) 2021?
  - (d) 2022?

- (e) 2023?
- (41) How many organisations registered under the following categories for 2023?
- (a) Disability Services?
    - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
  - (b) Homeless?
    - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
  - (c) Young People?
    - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
  - (d) Seniors and Aged Care?
    - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
  - (e) Family Services?
    - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
  - (f) Community Services?
    - i. What was the location of the organisation/s?
- (42) How many people have volunteered through the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal for the following years:
- (a) 2019?
    - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
    - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
  - (b) 2020?
    - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
    - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
  - (c) 2021?
    - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
    - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
  - (d) 2022?
    - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?



- ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (e) 2023?
  - i. What is the breakdown of the commitment (e.g. one off or regular)?
  - ii. What is the breakdown by age and gender?

### **NSW Volunteering Strategy Budget**

- (43) What is the breakdown of the \$200,000 allocated in the 2023-24 NSW Budget to the NSW Volunteering Strategy Budget within the Department of Communities and Justice?
  - (a) Is this a recurrent figure?
    - i. If yes, is it your intention for the allocation to continue at the same level of funding?

### **2023 State of Volunteering Report**

- (44) Have you read the 2023 NSW State of Volunteering Report?
  - (a) What is the breakdown of the \$811,958 allocated to The Centre for Volunteering in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?

### **Carers Employment Program**

- (45) Is the Carers + Employers program being delivered by Carers NSW?
- (46) Is the DCJ Carers + Employers program accreditation being delivered by DCJ?
- (47) What program level of accreditation has DCJ achieved?
  - (a) When will the Department start the process for Level 3?
- (48) What program level of accreditation has each Department reached?

### **NSW Homelessness Strategy**

- (49) Have you formally met with the Minister for Homelessness in relation to the NSW Homelessness Strategy?
  - (a) If yes, what date/s?
- (50) Have you formally met with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing and Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing in relation to the NSW Homelessness Strategy?
  - (a) If yes, what date/s?

## **Regional Seniors Travel Card**

- (51) What discussions did you have with the Premier or Treasurer prior to the cut of the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
- (52) Do you agree with the NSW Carers Advisory Council about the impact to senior carers due to the card's cessation?

<b>Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>
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## **Domestic violence funding**

- (53) Given the NSW Government is increasingly leaning on peak organisations to provide expert advice, will you increase core funding for Domestic Violence NSW, the peak body supporting quality standards for the specialist domestic and family violence sector in NSW, by \$852,149 per annum in 2024-25?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (54) Will the NSW Government provide a 20% baseline funding increase for all specialist sexual, domestic and family violence services in NSW in 2024-25?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (55) Will the NSW Government provide a targeted funding increase for women's refuges (Specialist Homelessness Services) of \$52 million per annum in 2024-25, to adequately support women's refuges established prior to, and operating outside of, the new Core and Cluster funding stream?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (56) Will the NSW Government provide \$40 million in year one of implementation of the NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2027?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (57) 5. Will the NSW Government allocate funding to implement the NSW Domestic and Family Violence 10-year Workforce Development Plan, due for release in 2024?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If yes, how much funding will be allocated?
- (58) Is the NSW Government committed to increasing funding for the Specialist Homelessness Services Program by 20% in 2024-25?

- (a) If not, why not?
- (59) The Aboriginal Women’s Advisory Network (AWAN) was established in 2022 to improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. They are an integral initiative to support Closing the Gap Target 13, yet the NSW Government has only provided short term funding which will expire in June 2024. Will the NSW Government commit to ongoing funding for AWAN?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (60) What additional steps is the NSW Government taking to address domestic and family violence in multicultural communities, particularly in relation to;
- (a) Funding?
  - (b) Building a workforce of multicultural specialist workers?
  - (c) Codesigned and community led primary prevention and early intervention?
  - (d) Access to income support, health care and housing for people on temporary visas?
- (61) Will the NSW Government commit to establishing a Domestic and Family Violence Multicultural Committee as part of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council to inform whole-of-government strategies at the intersections of multiculturalism and domestic and family violence?
- (62) Following the closure of tenders for Tranche 3 of Core and Cluster, is it expected that the NSW Government will meet its original Core and Cluster target of a total of 75 refugees (currently 39 approved for progression), with funding prioritised for a total of 21 Aboriginal-led refugees and for areas of high unmet need and access demand?
- (a) If not, why not?