

Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.

## MINISTER HARRIS BUDGET ESTIMATES – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS & TREATY

##### Question (Page 18)

**Ms. JACQUI MUNRO:** It was very good to see you at the WugulOra ceremony on Australia Day this year, but I was a little bit concerned to note that it seemed like a much smaller ceremony than in previous years. I was wondering what the funding comparison for the event was this year compared to last year.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not involved in organising that ceremony.

##### Answer:

I am advised:

Premier's Department Secretary, Mr Simon Draper provided a response to the Question on Notice in the afternoon session; please see page 26 of the transcript.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.****Question (page 42)**

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Okay. Minister, in budget estimates in October we discussed the LECC report in relation to Closing the Gap with the New South Wales police Aboriginal Strategic Direction. You said at the time that you believed it was important to meet with the police commissioner to talk about the issues and you thought that that meeting would be in the next couple of weeks at that time. We couldn't find any diary disclosures that indicated that you'd met with the police commissioner, so I just wondered if you had?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I had. So, you probably know – or you may not know – the way diaries work is that we don't put entries when we meet with colleagues; it's only with external groups. I met with the police commissioner, the Minister for Police and several other officers and had a discussion.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** So, you're not disclosing meetings with the police commissioner because it happened in the presence of a ministerial colleague?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I believe our calendar complies with the rules. Our diary, sorry.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Okay.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** I believe you're also right, having done that before. Just for the interest of transparency for the Committee – and happy for you to take on notice – can you let us know what date that meeting did occur? I know it's beyond what you need to do, but that would be great.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It was a parliamentary sitting day.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** Okay, you can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

It is not necessary for Ministers to disclose information about meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, Parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions). However, the meeting took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 at 5:00pm.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (page 42)**

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** The next thing I wanted to ask about – the LECC report recommended that the New South Wales Government amend its Closing the Gap implementation plan to list the NSW Police Force as a responsible agency. You said it was enough that the police reported in the Closing the Gap annual report and the most recent report was released at the end of the year. The recommendation that you referred to in your answer, which possibly was a supplementary or a response on notice –

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It must've been a supplementary.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** – that the 2022-24 New South Wales Closing the Gap implementation plan specifically provides a commitment for New South Wales police to "design and deliver community-led prevention and early intervention initiatives including a place-based community policing model." That single recommendation is listed in the planned section of one of the socio-economic outcomes – number 10. That's the one that is about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults being over-represented in the criminal justice system. That planned list means that it hasn't commenced at all, and I'm wondering if you still think that it is an adequate response from the police – that they don't need to provide a dedicated strategy – given that recommendation you referred to hasn't even begun.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take part of that on notice. What I will say is that it was a very constructive meeting with police. Since then, as part of the Closing the Gap process, the police and the police Minister have met CAPO as part of Closing the Gap and reported on what they're doing as part of that formal process.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Within CAPO?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Within CAPO. Within Closing the Gap, yes.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism as police policy is within their portfolio responsibilities.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (page 43)**

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Minister, there were dedicated positions for Aboriginal Australians funded under the previous Government to enhance culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal people in palliative care. Are you aware of how many of these dedicated positions were requested and funded before the last election compared to today, given the \$150 million cuts to palliative care?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We can take that on notice. It's outside my portfolio area, so it may be more appropriate to ask the Minister for Health across the hall.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** That would be very much appreciated, but —

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** She's in here with us.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** That's right. I think it's something that you should be aware of as Aboriginal affairs Minister. In terms of Anzac Day and the Pandemonium festival, I'm very curious about why the Premier was forced to step in and make announcements about this matter, given it's within your portfolio.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's not within my portfolio.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

Matters in relation to palliative care should be directed to the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health as the matter falls within their portfolio responsibilities.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (page 65)**

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Priority Reform 5 is around economic prosperity, business growth and employment. Obviously it's an important one for enfranchisement. Are the Minister for Small Business, the innovation Minister, the Minister for Women and the regional Minister engaging on the strategies in those CAPO meetings that were provided as part of supplementary answers last time? Are those pieces of work—the small business strategy, the First Nations women's strategy and the Regional Economic Development Strategies—still on track? Obviously this is fairly detailed.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes. To give you a complete answer—are they on track or not, or what they've actually done—I'd have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** That would be helpful to understand where those are. Obviously the road map has been published, which is good. But those other documents and where they're up to would be helpful, and just to confirm that they are forming some of the agenda items in the CAPO meetings.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Is that the type of thing that is discussed?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

The NSW Roadmap for Aboriginal Business Growth is a key tool for achieving Priority Reform Five and outlines a number of initiatives that are contributing to improving Aboriginal Business Growth, employment and prosperity. All Priority Reforms and relevant Socio Economic Targets are discussed in partnership with the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations and Ministers through the NSW Closing the Gap Progress Meetings. Specifically:

- the First Nations Women's Economic Participation Review Pathways to Prosperity was released in August 2023,
- the NSW Charter for Small Businesses Principles and Action Plan was released in February 2024,
- noting the Small Business Strategy was an initiative of the previous Government - the small business charter will supersede this, and;
- in 2023, the NSW Government developed updates for each of the 38 existing Regional Economic Development Strategies in regional NSW.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.****Question (page 65)**

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** In terms of how many Aboriginal businesses have started in the last year, are you tracking that information?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** We don't; Aboriginal Affairs doesn't. I think Finance track expenditure by Aboriginal businesses.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** So that information isn't reported to the Minister?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Not to our Minister, no, but we can provide it, obviously.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Yes, that would be helpful. It would be good to know how many businesses there are but also how many have started in the last year.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** When you say "started"—started as in the Government is engaged in a procurement sense?

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** No, just operating. Maybe it's more of a Federal Government registration process, but I think having that information as a State Government is going to be helpful to understand progress towards those goals or outcomes.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** They won't track who has registered as a business or started a business. They'll track what their spend has been with an Indigenous business. It's more at a Federal level where they would track the establishment of—

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** ABNs and everything, yes.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

For information on expenditure by Aboriginal businesses please direct enquiries to Federal Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services, and the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (page 77)**

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** This is actually a question that came up at last budget estimates with Mr Phillips regarding the Office of the Registrar. I understand there is now a registrar; it is not an interim registrar, which is great. I was wondering whether there were any instances the Office of the Registrar ceding responsibility to the Premier's Department on any matters in the time since the last budget estimates?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Not to my knowledge.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Would you be able to take that on notice?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Can I just clarify?

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Yes.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Referred matters from the registrar to the Premier's Department?

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Yes. There is a provision in the Act, I believe, where the Office of the Registrar can essentially cede responsibility for their activity to a member of staff in the Premier's Department.

But the next part of this question is, who is that person? If those responsibilities have been ceded at all, who are the people or who is the person who has taken on that responsibility, because in the past it was specifically designated as somebody within Aboriginal Affairs. But it was explained last time that the reason that provision was excluded from the legislation with the amendment was that it was no longer a kind of functioning body within the department, or there was no need for it to be mentioned. I am just wondering if the Office of the Registrar has ceded responsibility to the Premier's Department for anything and if that has been somebody who is an Aboriginal

Australian or is within the Aboriginal Affairs component of the Premier's Department?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** To my knowledge, the registrar's office haven't ceded that, but I am happy to take that on notice and double-check that.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

In the last 12 months the Registrar has not ceded or delegated their functions under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 any responsibility to Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 81)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Well, some of them have a pretty good nightlife, if you ever want to go – but that's not a discussion for estimates. I don't expect you all to have these documents in front of you. They relate to some of the questions that we put on notice and the responses that we received back in the Aboriginal Affairs space. I think my colleague Jacqui asked about the Closing the Gap budgets. In the forward estimates there was a table that was provided on notice and there is quite a difference between the financial year 2022-23, the total amount was \$82,696,000, and then for 2025-26 and the outer years it goes down to \$26,272,000, from what I have got here. Is there any explanation why the outer years of the budget don't have as much funding allocated to those initiatives? If you need to take it on notice, that's fine. I have copies, but you may not.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I have got a breakdown of the entire expenditure, but it's quite different. Can I just clarify what exactly – are you talking about the entire funding envelope for Closing the Gap?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** It was in answer to a question that you guys took on notice last time. The question was about "a table of the budget items, the forward estimates for Closing the Gap on notice", and it lists the New South Wales implementation plan and then in enhanced funding it goes through Community and Place Grants, Delivering Better Outcomes, PR5 initiatives and Closing the Gap delivery, and there are totals down the bottom. It's probably a broader question in that it looks like there is more of a budget allocation in the earlier years than there is in the outer years. That may just be a Treasury process, but I am just curious as to why it looks like it may be going down, based on this data. I am happy for you to come back to us on notice on that if you need to check what was provided?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes, I can double-check, but I would say that the expenditure is going to be in the – like, now.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

The 2022-23 budget was allocated a total investment of \$221.8 million over four years, aligning with the NSW Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2022-24. The breakdown of this investment year-on-year is as follows:

- \$57.4 million spent in 2022-23.
- \$86 million expected to be spent for 2023-24.
- \$45 million planned to be spent in 2024-25.
- \$32.4 million planned to be spent in 2025-26 (with some additional funds still to be allocated).

This funding was concentrated in the first two years in order to build an evidence base or engage through the Closing the Gap partnership as those initiatives develop. This includes time-limited initiatives like:



**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

- \$1.7 million in funding to explore options for an independent mechanism per clause 67 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, or
- Undertaking research into supports for community-controlled organisations to effectively partner with NSW Government through the ACCO Comprehensive Support Model (supported by \$2 million over 2 years) and the ACCO Local Partnerships Project (supported by \$6.5 million in funding over the initial 2 years).

Any ongoing or continued funding for initiatives arising from the first two years' investment, and appropriate planning and discussion through NSW Closing the Gap partnership approaches, is subject to NSW Government budget processes.

The NSW Budget 2022 identified a number of initiatives to be funded over the forward estimates. These were captured in the 2022-2024 NSW Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and recognise the nature of those initiatives requiring greater time to invest in, establish and deliver. This includes funding for initiatives such as:

- \$10.6 million for the establishment of the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Regional Operations Model.
- \$10.1 million for the development of a new model of care for Aboriginal mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- \$10 million for an Aboriginal child and family advocacy service related to the NSW child protection system.
- \$10 million for the NSW Roadmap for the Aboriginal Business Growth

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (page 49)**

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** On that, you stated last year that one of the big issues we have in terms of culture, cultural heritage and the dispossession of cultural heritage is that New South Wales has system where you can just get a permit to destroy or move cultural heritage or affect cultural sites. Minister, how many cultural sites have been destroyed in New South Wales since you became the Minister?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** That doesn't come under my portfolio, so I can take it on notice and get a number, if there have been.

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** There have been quite a lot, Minister.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The issue there is that, at the moment, cultural heritage sits within national parks legislation. We made an election commitment to have it as standalone legislation.

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** You did.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I can update you and say that we are progressing that.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage as it falls within their portfolio responsibilities.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**GAMING & RACING**

**Question (Page 4)**

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** Can I just clarify? You mentioned earlier in your evidence about the number of machines. How many venues are participating in the trial? Is it 28? That's what I thought, but I am happy to be corrected.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I can help. We've got 28 venues – 21 clubs, seven hotels – 24 LGAs, eight of

which are regional, and 4,852 machines.

**Ms. SARAH MITCHELL:** It sounds like you've practised that answer, Mr Barakat, so thank you

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I thought I might be asked for that.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I'm glad you did. Have the trials all started in each of those venues?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** That approval has recently been given by the panel, so the technology will be implemented in the venues from March and then the trial will be rolled out in a staged way from March.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Starting from?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Late March. That is my understanding.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** When would you anticipate they would have all begun by, if they're in a staged way?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'd have to take that one on notice, but I'll come back to you today.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

The technology commences installation in March 2024 and the trial will be rolled out progressively from April, with the last venue expected to join in July.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 5-6)**

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** I want to move now to the issue of responsible gambling officers to be in pubs and clubs with more than 20 poker machines. Minister, where did this policy come from?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The department has been working on this for a while. It was one of our election commitments. After the election there was a paper put out with — a discussion paper with the industry. I might add that some of the industry had already taken this up themselves voluntarily, so they were already implementing it in their venues. We actually made the announcement at Central Coast Leagues Club, where they had a responsible gambling officer regime in place for 12 months. We are not claiming it's new.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** That was going to be my next question.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We're claiming that it will be mandatory, and that's the difference.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** My understanding is, via ClubsNSW, that there are already about 340 clubs that do this. Do you have any data on how many more venues this regulation will capture, now that you're making it mandatory?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** We don't have the exact figures, but it will be any venue with over 20 gaming machine entitlements. We could quite easily get that number for you on notice.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** If you could take that on notice and come back, that would be great.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

As at 2 February 2024 there were 13 approved training providers for ARCG. As at 29 February 2024 there are 19 approved training providers as follows:

- 1-AAA Barmax , Barmax Australia
- Academy Hospitality Australia, Zealifi
- Allies Security Services
- Aspire Training & Development
- Austrain Academy
- Barringtons Training Services
- Betsafe Pty Ltd
- CBD College Pty Ltd
- Clear to Work Pty Ltd
- CMNL Academy
- Edway Training
- Express Online Training

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

- Institute of Training and Further Education Pty Ltd
- JOBLINK Plus Training
- Short Courses Australia
- TCP Training Pty Ltd
- Tomaree Community College Inc
- William Angliss Institute of TAFE
- Wozzel Pty Ltd as Trustee for the W. S Burrows Family Settlement No. 1 Trust

The number of providers will continue to fluctuate as additional applications are received. Providers approved to deliver ARCG are located at numerous locations across the State and are entitled to deliver in-person in classroom format or by virtual delivery using video-conferencing tools. Providers and their principal physical locations are updated regularly via this online [mapping tool](#).

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 6)**

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** Minister, could you please tell me how much money has been provided to the Responsible Gambling Fund – obviously that funds things like Aboriginal safe gambling – and explain from this year's budget and the forward estimates, if possible, if you've got that year by year?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** To get the exact figures we'd probably have to take that on notice.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I haven't got the forwards, but I've got the last financial year. The key revenue for the fund is the casino supervisory levy, which was \$17.21 million last financial year. Then there's \$5 million from the point of consumption tax. Then there are similar amounts this year. The casino supervisory levy forecast for this year is \$22.2 million. The point of consumption tax forecast is \$5.212 million. Plus there's the additional \$10 million that the Government committed to the RGF for this financial year from the \$100 million fine to The Star. Going forward, I am happy to take that on notice.

**Ms JACQUI MUNRO:** That would be useful. I guess you are aware that the volume of revenue that has come from the racing industry has increased pretty significantly in the last couple of years. Are you aware of that, Minister?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

Revenue to the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) comes from:

- A responsible gambling levy paid by casino operators, as required by the *Casino Control Act 1992*, which is currently set at 2 per cent of Non-rebate Gaming Revenue
- \$5 million a year from the point of consumption tax on online wagering as required in the *Betting Tax Act 2019*, with indexation applied from 2023-24
- a levy on gaming machine leasing applications and community benefit payments for gaming machine increase applications, as required under the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*.

The NSW Government has provided an additional \$10 million in funding to the RGF for 2023-24.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.****Question (Page 8)**

**Mr MARK LATHAM:** Did you know in advance about the announcement on 7 December at Rosehill?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I was told on 22 November at 3.15, and that was appropriate because of the way the proposal had been put forward, through that process. It wasn't appropriate for me to know before then.

**Mr MARK LATHAM:** But if you're not to be involved, why did they tell you weeks in advance and undoubtedly seek your opinion about it?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Because, obviously, it involves one of the racetracks. But it was made clear how the process worked, what my role would be. I have since asked the department to prepare how I should interact – so my probity responsibilities. I've now received that, and I won't be commenting any more on it because it's an issue for the membership. If they put forward a proposal, as the Premier said yesterday, it will be assessed on its merits.

**Mr MARK LATHAM:** Did you know in advance of the announcement on 7 December, or did you hear about it in the media?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, I was told on 22 November.

**Mr MARK LATHAM:** That there'd be an announcement on the seventh?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, I didn't know when the announcement – well, I think we did know when the announcement would be. I'd have to check; I can't remember.

**Mr MARK LATHAM:** Can you take that on notice?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

As Minister for Gaming and Racing, I was informed of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW Government and the ATC on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 10)**

**Ms EMMA HURST:** Just in regards to the identified greyhound deaths that weren't reported, do you have the figure that you discovered of dogs that were dead that hadn't been reported?

**STEVE GRIFFIN:** I'll have to take that on notice.

**Ms. EMMA HURST:** From your recollection, was it hundreds, thousands more that hadn't been reported?

**STEVE GRIFFIN:** I'd have to take that on notice but it's certainly not in the thousands; it's in the hundreds in my understanding. As I said, a lot of the reason for implementing eTrac was the fact that – was relying upon a paper-based reporting system historically. But since eTrac has been in place, that process is streamlined.

**Ms EMMA HURST:** Is that what would be classified as a legacy euthanasia?

**STEVE GRIFFIN:** Certainly, it would. We obtain statutory declarations from participants about those deaths or rehoming incidents that they advise us of that occurred pre the creation of GWIC to make sure that we've got something of a record as to the whereabouts of those greyhounds.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

The first tranche of eTracking has largely involved the Commission cleansing the NSW greyhound register database of aged data in addition to identifying under-reporting by participants of the deaths and rehoming of greyhounds.

The first tranche of eTracking, completed at the end of 2023, identified that there were 569 greyhounds deceased which had not been previously reported to the Commission (or GRNSW the former controlling body). This represents an under-reporting rate of 3% or conversely a reporting compliance rate of 97%.

Follow-up inquiries have been made with the owners of these greyhounds which confirm that 169 of these deaths were greyhounds that had been euthanised due to injury or illness and 400 greyhounds had died from natural causes.

Many participants advised the Commission that they had lodged notification reports with the Commission or former controlling body. Notwithstanding, participants who failed to report were issued with a warning and advised that any future under reporting or non-reporting will result in disciplinary action.

Of the 17,646 greyhounds on the New South Wales Greyhound Register, 1574 had not been checked in during tranche 1. The Commission is currently conducting follow-up inquiries in relation to these greyhounds. The majority of this cohort of greyhounds are well past their racing careers and/or associated with individuals no longer in the industry. On this basis, it is felt that there has also been substantial under reporting of the deaths or rehoming of these greyhounds.

The Commission expects to complete its follow-up inquiries in relation to this cohort of greyhounds by the end of May 2024.



**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

The eTrac system and the conducting of tranche 1 of eTracking has provided NSW with the most accurate greyhound register in Australia, if not the World. Once the register is fully cleansed of aged data and unreported events, the Commission is well placed to identify any potential unlawful activity by participants.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 17)**

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** How do you work through that issue with council? What would be the time frame to actually see delivery of the upgrade?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I don't work through it with council; it's a matter between Racing NSW who work —

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** How does the club? You've said you met with them.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** They've got a DA in with Central Coast Council, so they work with council to resolve the issues that they have.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** But when you met with the club — you said you met with them recently. No idea of that time frame because it's stuck with council, and you've just got to wait through that process?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Like a lot of things stuck with Central Coast Council.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** What about in Scone? The advice, again, was that that work has started and is on track to be completed — two parts of it — one in April this year and one in December this year. is that still the case?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** If they were the times given to you, I understand that would still be the same.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** Again, for both Moruya and Muswellbrook, the advice back in November, when we received the questions on notice, was that they were going through the processes — that they were going to have imminent lodgement of DAs. Has that occurred?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We will take that one on notice.

**Ms SARAH MITCHELL:** You might need to take on notice as well — I think, for Cessnock, the DA had been lodged as well. Could you provide an update on that particular track as well?

**Answer:**

I am advised:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
Gosford: stables and associated infrastructure	Racing NSW working through council density and minimum height issues prior to Development Application (DA) lodgment.
Scone: Polytrack training track	Racing NSW anticipates construction commencement by April 2024.
Scone: stables and associated infrastructure	Racing NSW anticipates construction commencement in March 2024 and completion by early 2025.
Moruya: stables and associated infrastructure	Subject to approval of DA, which has been lodged.
Muswellbrook: Grandstand upgrade	Subject to approval of DA, which has been lodged.
Cessnock: Polytrack training track	Racing NSW expects to lodge DA in March 2024.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

Cessnock: Stables and associated infrastructure	Racing NSW expects to lodge DA in March 2024	
---	--	--

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 20)**

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Minister, what recommendations did you receive from the Office of Racing for those who go on the selection panel for the replacement of Mr Balding?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** None.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: So how was the selection made of the three individuals who have been chosen?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** That's done through the process, by the department, outlined in the legislation. So that was all done —

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** What recommendations did you get from the department?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** They have lists of people who are eligible to sit on selection panels. They put names forward. I ticked off the names and then they went through what is an independent process that has no interference from me.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** How many names did they put forward?

**ELIZABETH MILDWATER:** Just to clarify, is the question how many names we put forward for the panel?

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Yes, for the Minister to possibly tick off.

**ELIZABETH MILDWATER:** To choose the selection panel? I would have to take that on notice, but it was multiple.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Did it include Mr John Dumesny from Harness Racing NSW, a very close personal friend of Peter V'landys?

**ELIZABETH MILDWATER:** The process is currently with government for decision, so I'm not going to talk about the details of that. But we can get you —

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

19.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.****Question (Page 22-23)**

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** I understand, Mr Griffin, that GWIC lowered the greyhound racing participation age to 12. When did that happen?

**STEVE GRIFFIN:** In 2022, probably.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Those children will be exposed, obviously, to an environment of gambling. But also I understand they'll be working, or are working, in the catching pens where many of the deaths and injuries happen. Often there are a lot of quite confronting scenes where greyhounds are, with bones protruding and screaming and broken spines, broken limbs and stuff. Was any research or any consideration given to the psychological impact on children exposed to those injuries and deaths?

**STEVE GRIFFIN:** No, there was no research done. The age for the associate attendant – the ages 12 to 14 – is designed basically for those young people that have parents already in the sport. They're not children that are not already familiar or participating in some way, shape or form in terms of their participation in greyhound racing generally off the track –

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** So they've already been traumatised.

**STEVE GRIFFIN:** It's more about their participation on the track and being available for their relatives to help assist them handle the greyhounds at the track.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Minister, did the New South Wales Government get any advice about liability for future gambling or other psychological problems that these children might face in the future?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I can take that on notice but not that I'm aware of.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

No.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 28)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** You and I might disagree on definition, Mr Draper. The fact is that you've had no meetings with the ATC, have you?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Not on this, no.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** In your time as a Minister?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I've met with the chair, Peter McGauran, on a couple of occasions.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** When was that?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

That I have formally met with Peter McGauran and the ATC since becoming Minister in April 2023. I have attended social events at Randwick Racecourse where Mr McGauran and other members of the ATC have attended, including: the NSW Racehorse Owners Association Dinner; The Everest; Winx Stakes Day.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 30-31)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Minister, what process was gone through in relation to the appointment of Dr Saranne Cooke?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** In what capacity?

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Was there a selection panel appointed for her appointment?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Originally, yes, under your Government.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** No – for the two-year extension which you have just given her?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, because under the recommendations that were given to me, she was recommended as not having any issues or anything and could be extended.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** No. Have you read the Act, Minister?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** When there is a set number of directors, you don't have to go to the outside process, and she was already in the role.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** She's the deputy chair and –

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We just extended it.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** When you made the decision to appoint Dr Cooke – are you asserting here today that there is no process to go through?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, we went through –

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** She had had two four-year terms, had she not?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The department put forward to me their recommendations which I accepted and took to Cabinet through the Cabinet process.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** It wasn't a casual vacancy. She had completed two four-year terms.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** You should be aware of the requirements under the Act that the recommendation to extend Dr Cooke's term must come through an independent panel. That did not happen, did it?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to check. That's not the advice that I had.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** In the circumstances, is it the case that Dr Cooke may not have been properly appointed, because the Act makes it clear that you must, in fact, establish a selection panel?

**ELIZABETH MILDWATER:** We don't believe that to be true, but we can take it on notice and get back to you.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** In reading the Act, I don't see that –

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Have you read it?

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes, I have, and that section particularly, given what has happened. I don't have the same interpretation.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Did you get advice that you had complied with the Act?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Are you prepared to table that advice?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** We'd have to take that on notice, but to the extent we can, we can come back to you on that.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

Under section 7(1) of the *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996*, the Minister is to establish a Selection Panel to prepare and provide to the Minister a list of persons recommended for appointment as members of Racing NSW when any vacancies arise. A vacancy in the office of an appointed member arises in the circumstances listed in section 15(1) of the Act. Relevantly, section 15(1)(b) of the Act provides that the office of an appointed member of Racing NSW becomes vacant if the member completes a term of office and is not reappointed.

In this instance, there was no vacancy because Dr Cooke was reappointed before the completion of her term of office, as evidenced in the following;

- By letter dated 9 December 2021, Dr Cooke was reappointed as member and Deputy Chair for a term commencing 19 December 2021 and ending on 18 December 2023.
- By letter dated 11 December 2023, Dr Cooke was reappointed for a further two-year term commencing 19 December 2023 ending 18 December 2025.

Accordingly, there was no “vacancy” so as to trigger the establishment of a Selection Panel to prepare and provide to the Minister a list of persons recommended for appointment as members or Chair and Deputy Chair of Racing NSW, as per section 7(1) of the Act.



**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p34)**

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Yes, sure. So at the moment all we've got is the 7 December press conference at Rosehill and some media speculation. There's no proposal been lodged with the government. Can I ask you, Minister, who prepared the probity advice saying you can't talk about this proposal?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The department.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Your department?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I've received that subsequent to the announcement.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Your department?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: They obtained advice.

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: We obtained it from an external probity advisor.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: On what date did you give that advice to the Minister?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: Just recently. I'd have to take it on notice the exact date, but just recently.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

A probity advisor was engaged prior to meeting with the ATC on 8 November (when ATC's concept was first presented). Formal advice from the probity advisor was provided to the Minister on 21 February 2024.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p35-36)**

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: On discussions, you mentioned earlier, Minister, that since 7 December you've had no formal meetings with the ATC. Have you had informal meetings?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't believe so, but I'll have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

See answer to question on p.28.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p37)**

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Minister, to questions asked earlier by the Hon. Mark Latham, you said that you hadn't spoken to Peter V'landys in any aspect in regard to the selection panel. Can you confirm that no-one within your office spoke to Peter V'landys in regard to the selection panel?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I will take that on notice, but I don't think anyone has spoken directly to Mr V'landys.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The CEO of Racing NSW was not consulted or involved with the process for selecting a new Chair of Racing NSW.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p37-38)**

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Also, on notice, if he was appraised in the process at all by anyone within your office –

Mr DAVID HARRIS: My understanding is no, but we'll check.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Did you receive any advice or suggestions from Racing NSW about who should be on the panel?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: It was an independent process that we set up. They did the interviewing et cetera. It's subject to Cabinet, and no decision has been made.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: As mentioned earlier, Mr Dumesny is a close friend of Peter V'landys. I'm happy to provide this media article to your office that explains that. I understand that you said you didn't know that at the time. Now that you do know, do you have concerns about his involvement on the selection panel?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I would have to take advice on whether that constitutes a conflict, because Mr V'landys isn't a candidate.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

A selection process was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996*, including appointment of a probity adviser and conflict declarations by members of the selection panel.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p39)**

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Sorry, I'll just take you back to the question.

STEVE GRIFFIN: Just to your point – and then I'll be able to come back and report to the Minister if there are missing greyhounds.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I only have a few seconds left, so I want to bring you back to the question that I asked. Can you confirm if none of these missing dogs died in the past year?

STEVE GRIFFIN: I can't. I'd have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Of the unreported deaths followed-up by the Commission, there were 31 identified as having occurred over the past year (13 euthanised by a veterinarian and 18 deceased by natural causes greyhounds).

The vast majority of participants advised the Commission that they had lodged a notification with the Commission. Notwithstanding, these participants have been warned that any future non-compliance with reporting obligations will result in disciplinary action.

With the roll out of the eTrac participant portal from May last year, the Commission expects reporting rates to improve substantially.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p39)**

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Can you confirm that none of these dogs were used for breeding in the past year?

STEVE GRIFFIN: I'd have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The Commission can confirm that none of the greyhounds that were not checked-in as part of the first tranche of eTracking were used for breeding in the past year.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p40-41)**

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Mr Barakat, can I ask you a question? When Mr Balding was reappointed in 2019, was a selection panel established to recommend his reappointment?

TAREK BARAKAT: I wasn't around in 2019, but I'm happy to take that on notice and come back to you.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: I can tell you the answer is yes. When Mr Balding was reappointed in 2021, was a selection panel established that recommended his reappointment?

TAREK BARAKAT: I'm happy for you to provide the answer to that one too, Mr Tudehope

**ANSWER**

See response to earlier question from pages 30-31.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p41)**

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: The answer is yes. Given that Dr Cooke was reappointed with no selection panel, does it concern you that, in those circumstances, her appointment may be invalid?

TAREK BARAKAT: I think I'll just refer you to my previous answer on that one, which is that we'll take it on notice and come back to you with some detailed advice.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Do you think that there is the potential that she may have been?

TAREK BARAKAT: With respect, Mr Tudehope, I'm not here to offer my opinion.

The CHAIR: I remind Mr Tudehope that officials are not to be asked for their opinion.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Minister, are you concerned?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: Am I concerned?

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: That she may have been invalidly appointed?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: We'll wait and see what the answer is. So we're taking that on notice and we'll get back to you with an answer.

**ANSWER**

See response to earlier question from pages 30-31.



**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p46-47)**

The CHAIR: In correspondence received and published by The Daily Telegraph, Liquor and Gaming has written to stakeholders and they've said that they are "considering further formal regulatory action by declaring a class of liquor products, being those that leverage well-known soft drink branding, as undesirable". That is extending the ban on the Hard Solo. My questions are, would Billson's Vodka with Tangle and similar drinks be considered undesirable products under Liquor and Gaming's plans, and will Billson's be able to sell Billson's-branded alcoholic drinks as well?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I will let Tarek talk a little bit more about this, but we've taken a view that some of those products are crossing the line. We have written to them and indicated that, and given them the opportunity to address it. I believe, in some cases, they have started to do that. Tarek will be able to give you a more fulsome answer.

TAREK BARAKAT: The Minister is right. In relation to those iconic soft drink brands – Hard Solo was the one that sort of triggered this – we have commenced a consultation process, so no decisions have yet been made. Billson's is slightly separate to that, but we've had ongoing engagement with Billson's and they've agreed not to supply retailers in New South Wales with several products considered by us to have a high risk of appealing to minors due to the use of confectionary- and dessert-themed flavour profiles and packaging. They've committed to not supply some of those in New South Wales. That is separate to the consultation we're undertaking with industry on the iconic soft drink branding.

The CHAIR: What happens to the product, the Hard Solo, that is on the shelves now? What's happening to that stock?

TAREK BARAKAT: I can provide you with more detail on notice, but my understanding was that an agreement was reached with the manufacturers of Hard Solo to stop supplying stores in New South Wales with the Hard Solo product by a date. And then the Hard Solo would sell out by natural attrition as more supply was not coming in. They have agreed to rebrand that product. You might be aware of the name; it escapes me at the moment.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The manufacturer of Hard Solo (Carlton United Brewery) publicly announced in November 2023 that consistent with transition provisions under the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC) Scheme, the last Hard Solo would leave its warehouses on or before 9 February 2024.

Subsequent to this, CUB undertook to Liquor & Gaming NSW that it would cease supplying Hard Solo to NSW retailers by COB 22 December 2023. This followed Liquor & Gaming NSW raising concerns with CUB that Hard Solo product would remain available in NSW across the Christmas and school holiday period.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p52)**

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Is it possible to provide on notice – and I appreciate you may need to seek advice – a list of which key personnel received those bonuses or increased pay in 2023?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: That's a matter for the board.

TAREK BARAKAT: We can take it on notice, and we will seek some advice and come back to you with that advice or with the answer.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

This is a matter for Racing NSW.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p52)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Could you also provide the salaries of the board and chairperson, on notice?

TAREK BARAKAT: Again, we'll seek some advice on that and, if it's appropriate to do so, we will

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

This is a matter for Racing NSW.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p53-54)**

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Mr Tudehope asked whether you might be able to receive some advice over the break in terms of the reappointment of Dr Saranne Cooke. Have you been able to find anything? Can you provide an update to the Committee?

TAREK BARAKAT: Only to confirm that we're confident in the advice that we've received and, therefore, confident in the process that was undertaken and the subsequent appointment. But we're very happy to provide detail as to why we think that, on notice, if that would be helpful.

**ANSWER**

See response to earlier question from pages 30-31.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p54-55)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Ms Mildwater, have you seen the probity advice that the Minister –

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: Yes, I have.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Would you say that probity advice prevents the Minister from also speaking about other matters where there has been some indication by the industry that they would be interested in making a proposal, despite a proposal not formally being presented?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: The advice we got him in relation to Rosehill was very specific, given how much publicity it's had, his role, that sort of thing. So I can see why he might be distinguishing the situations, but the advice was confined to the Rosehill situation.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: What caused you to provide him with this advice, given he didn't ask for it?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: Just because it had been so public and because he regularly meets with stakeholders, it seemed like an appropriate thing to do, to give him some guidance if somebody approached him. It's not only about when he does and doesn't take a formal meeting, but if he's out and about engaging with people. It just seemed to help –

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Why wasn't that advice given last year when there was a lot of media about the issue?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: It's a matter of timing, when it actually arrived. It did take a while to get the probity advisor engaged and get it crafted. It wasn't –

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: When did you ask for that probity adviser to be engaged?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: I would have to take that on notice.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: That would be appreciated, but are we talking at the end of 2023 or the beginning of this year?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: I would have to take that on notice. I actually don't know

**ANSWER**

See response to earlier question from pages 34.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p55)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Would you say that there is a general time frame in which you would expect to receive probity advice for Ministers when it's essentially unsolicited from the Minister? Do you do this for any other Ministers? Do you provide them with unsolicited probity advice?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: It would depend on the situation. We haven't had this situation since I've have been in the role – something like this being announced.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: So you haven't done it for any other Minister?

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: I would have to take that on notice. I haven't done it for this Minister in this role, as far as I'm aware.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Probity advice is provided to Ministers on a case-by-case basis, as any perceived need arises. ATC are a stakeholder of the Minister in his capacity as Minister for Racing. As such, it is possible that the Minister would be required to engage with ATC in relation to 'business-as-usual matters' (i.e., matters not connected with a potential unsolicited proposal from ATC). The Department proactively sought advice to define the probity protocols to guide the Minister and his Office's future interactions with the ATC, and ensure the integrity of the USP process.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p55)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: That would be helpful, thank you. I'm happy to open this question up. My understanding is that the Wentworth site had a number of essentially in-principle but very firm agreements with Greyhound Racing and GBOTA; that there was even a strategy in place for the use of that Wentworth Park site essentially as a green space, with other Western Sydney areas being explored as sites for greyhound racing; that the industry was not just involved with that but relatively comfortable with all of that occurring; and that that's something that was occurring in 2022. So I'm wondering what work was done since 2022 on that in-principle

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: GBOTA changed their mind and said they want to stay.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Can I have an answer, please?

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: That's the basic fact. That's what changed.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: You'll get answers and questions too.

TAREK BARAKAT: I'm not aware of that, but I think it would probably be a question for Greyhound Racing NSW and GBOTA, to understand, if they did change their mind, why they did change their mind. If there's anything we can provide on notice, I'm happy to do that. But it's not something I'm aware of.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: What I actually asked was whether there was any work done since March 2022 when there was an agreement between the Government and the industry that there would be a future for greyhound racing in Western Sydney and that that site in Wentworth Park would be used as a green space. So I'm curious about what work happened in the last two years.

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: The question you're asking is about a time that predates both of us, but we are happy to take it on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

It is a matter for the NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA) and Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) to consider the future location of metropolitan greyhound racing in Sydney. GBOTA and GRNSW have made representations to the NSW Government regarding the future of Wentworth Park.

The Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy is a matter for the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p56)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: I was wondering if, possibly, Ms Mildwater is working with the Federal Government in relation to the BetStop program, and whether the State Government has been doing any work to enhance the BetStop program that the Federal Government is running or monitoring the impact of the BetStop program on gambling in New South Wales.

TAREK BARAKAT: We're not doing any additional work, to my knowledge. Obviously it is operational. We did participate actively as a member of the national consumer protection framework that brought about the implementation of BetStop and a range of other things, like the responsible wagering messaging – the messaging that replaced "Gamble responsibly", for example. We were an active participant in that group. I think there were 10 recommendations from that group, and BetStop was the last of those. That has now been implemented. Should there be further engagement at the Commonwealth level like that, or on something else, we would absolutely be a part of it.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Is that technology being rolled out amongst New South Wales agency programs?

TAREK BARAKAT: I think it's being rolled out by the Commonwealth. I'm not sure that we have a role to play, but I'm happy to take that on notice and, if we do, provide some advice to you on that

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

BetStop, the final measure of the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering (NCPF), was launched by the Australian Government on 21 August 2023.

The NSW Government is now taking various steps to ensure BetStop is effective in preventing gambling harm, including:

- consulting with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on applications received from NSW-licensed providers about electronic betting systems to make certain the requirements of both NSW legislation and BetStop are satisfied by these systems.
- notifying ACMA of any betting authorities approved by L&GNSW, to provide the details of the licensed bookmakers and to allow ACMA to engage with the licensed bookmaker on its requirements. Having information about BetStop through the Office of Responsible Gambling's social media, website, and eNews
- having GambleAware service providers, which offer free counselling for people affected by gambling, assist customers with the self-exclusion process upon request.
- accepting direct referrals from Betstop to the NSW GambleAware Helpline when a person needs more information or support.

Liquor & Gaming NSW audits online betting service providers to ensure compliance with the NCPF and other legislated harm minimisation controls.



**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p63-64)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Mr Barakat, I'm curious about the way that the regulatory oversight of the different organisations works, and why ILGA and the commission are different to Racing NSW, which also has a regulatory function. Obviously ILGA and the commission are represented here today, but Racing NSW is not. Can you explain to me why there's a difference?

TAREK BARAKAT: I can't really talk to the Racing NSW side of things. I'm happy to provide some advice on notice, if you'd like. But ILGA and the NICC are statutory decision makers. They are two boards that have separate staff agencies attached to them. They make decisions – in the case of ILGA in relation to pubs and clubs, and in relation to the NICC for casinos. Their relationship to us is that we do hospitality and racing and Liquor and Gaming NSW and that we would provide the advice. We obviously make decisions under delegation for each of them. We can make decisions under our own delegations as well, but we also refer matters to them for consideration – disciplinary complaints against venues and licensees and things like that.

I think it is slightly different to harness racing and greyhound racing in that they are commercial bodies that do have a regulatory function but are also responsible for the commercial side of those particular areas, whereas the NICC and ILGA don't have that. It is a different set-up. I understand that it is complicated. It's even complicated for someone like me, who is working in the space. But, to that end, if there's any more detail that you'd like, I'm happy to take that away and see if we can more clearly distinguish for you how all of these things are separate.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: That would be helpful. Obviously, Racing NSW now has a commercial function, but it obviously came from being a regulatory body and still is that. The board and the chair, as we know, are selected by a panel which is selected by the Minister, so there's certainly an oversight mechanism that the Minister and the Government and, I guess, the Cabinet have in administering Racing NSW as a body. There is still government oversight into its functions. Perhaps, if you're not able to answer, I think Ms Mildwater is looking interested in answering.

ELIZABETH MILDWATER: I was going to say the levels of oversight are different, and it is set out in legislation. Maybe the best thing would be for us to take it on notice and give you a summary. The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: That would be helpful. And not just a summary but also, if it can be provided, the actual legislative differences between those bodies, just to assist my understanding. Obviously, you've just said you can't really speak for Racing NSW, but it obviously does perform an important function here, and we've been talking a lot about them as an organisation today because of the way that they are governed.

TAREK BARAKAT: Absolutely. We can provide that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

**Racing NSW** is established under the *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996* (TR Act) as a body corporate with the principal functions of controlling, supervising and regulating horse racing in the State. The TR Act expressly states that Racing NSW is independent of Government and provides that Racing NSW does not represent the Crown and is not subject to direction or control by or on behalf of the Government (see section 5). Further, section 13A of the *Interpretation Act 1987* (Interpretation Act) states that if a body is not an NSW Government agency or statutory body

## Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.

representing the Crown then it does not have the rights, immunities and privileges of the Crown.

As well as regulating the NSW thoroughbred racing industry, some of Racing NSW's other functions include the initiation, development and implementation of policies considered conducive to the promotion, strategic development and welfare of the industry, as well as the protection of the public interest as it relates to horse racing (see section 13 of the TR Act for a full list of functions).

**Harness Racing NSW** (HRNSW) is established under the *Harness Racing Act 2009 (HR Act)* as a body corporate with the principal functions of controlling, supervising and regulating harness racing in the State. The HR Act expressly states that HRNSW is independent of Government and provides that HRNSW or any of its subsidiaries does not represent the Crown and is not subject to direction or control by or on behalf of the Government (see section 5(a)).

As well as regulating the NSW harness racing industry, HRNSW's functions also include the initiation, development and implementation of policies considered conducive to the promotion, strategic development and welfare of the industry, including harness racing horses (see section 9 of the HR Act for a full list of functions).

**Greyhound Racing NSW** (GRNSW) is established under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017 (GR Act)* as a body corporate. The GR Act expressly states that GRNSW is not and does not represent the Crown. GRNSW has a range of functions that include the initiation, development and implementation of policies considered conducive to the promotion, strategic development and commercial viability of the greyhound racing industry (see section 24 of the GR Act for a full list of functions).

The Act provides that the principal objectives of GRNSW are to:

- be a commercially viable entity
- exhibit a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the welfare of greyhounds
- promote greyhound racing in the State as a competitive and sustainable industry with a high level of public trust.

The **Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission** (the Commission) is established under the GR Act as a body corporate and NSW Government agency. The GR Act states that the Commission is not subject to the control and direction of the Minister except to the extent expressly provided for under the GR Act or any other Act.

The principal functions of the Commission are to control, supervise and regulate greyhound racing in the State, and initiate, develop and implement policies relating to the welfare of greyhounds (see section 12 of the GR Act for a full list of functions).

The GR Act provides that the principal objectives of the Commission are to:

- promote and protect the welfare of greyhounds
- to safeguard the integrity of greyhound racing and betting
- to maintain public confidence in the greyhound racing industry

The **NSW Independent Casino Commission (NICC)** is established under the *Casino Control Act 1992 (CCA)* as an NSW Government agency. Therefore, under section 13A of the Interpretation Act, it has the rights, immunities and privileges of the Crown.

Under section 141 of the CCA the NICC is responsible for regulatory functions necessary to give effect to the objects of the CCA including regulatory approvals, disciplinary matters and licensing decisions. In doing so, under section 140, the objects of the NICC are to maintain and administer

## Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.

systems for the licensing, supervision and control of a casino for the purpose of:

- ensuring that the management and operation of the casino remains free from criminal influence or exploitation
- ensuring that the casino operator prevents money laundering and terrorism financing activities within the operations of the casino
- ensuring that gaming in the casino is conducted honestly
- containing and controlling the potential of a casino to cause harm to the public interest and to individuals and families.

The NICC has delegated certain functions to officials of Hospitality and Racing under s137 of the CCA. This includes, among other things, certain functions relating to licensing, compliance and intelligence.

The **Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority** (ILGA) is constituted under the *Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007* (GALA Act). The GALA Act establishes ILGA as an NSW Government agency and specifies its functions.

ILGA is, in the exercise of its functions, subject to the control and direction of the Minister except in relation to:

- the contents of any advice, report or recommendation to the Minister
- decisions in relation to:
  - the granting, suspension or cancellation of a gaming or liquor licence
  - the imposition, variation or revocation of conditions of a gaming or liquor licence, or
  - the taking of disciplinary action under gaming and liquor legislation.

ILGA's functions are those conferred or imposed on it by or under gaming and liquor legislation or any other legislation.

ILGA may delegate to an authorised person or body (for example, a member of ILGA, a designated or other Public Service employee, a committee of the Authority or a person prescribed by the regulations) the exercise of any of its functions other than its power of delegation except its functions relating to a review of a delegated decision and certain functions under the CCA.

ILGA has delegated certain functions to officials of Hospitality and Racing under this delegation power relating to licensing and compliance functions.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p63-64)**

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Mr Barakat, I just wanted to ask about pokies, of course, specifically into the exemptions that some pubs and clubs are provided in terms of the six-hour shutdown. How many clubs and how many pubs have been granted that exemption from the mandatory six-hour pokie shutdown?

TAREK BARAKAT: I'll have to take the exact figure on notice but it is something we are looking at. If you just bear with me, I can give you some more information about what we're doing in that space. The Minister has asked us to look at that exact question: Which venues currently have access to these exemptions? You have to remember these exemptions have been in place since late '90s, early 2000s, in many cases. There are three specific types of exemption. There's a hardship exemption, a tourist exemption and I think it's called an early openers exemption. These have been around for a long time. The Minister has asked us to look at that and provide him with some advice about what venues currently have access.

As well as that, we'll be releasing a discussion paper about exemptions generally, in March, to seek some feedback from the community about whether or not these things should continue on, whether there should be any exemptions at all and, if these exemptions should exist, what should they look like. The findings from that consultation, the Government has directed the panel to consider. As part of its road map, the panel will provide advice on the broader policy question as to whether there should be exemptions at all.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: I put questions on notice, you might be aware, in relation to this matter and got back a similar answer, despite asking for the specifics around the numbers of the three different shutdowns that you mentioned. It does seem as though ILGA hasn't been collecting this data. Would that be correct?

TAREK BARAKAT: No, I don't think so; I just don't know the figures off the top of my head. I'm very happy to –

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Well, I submitted very detailed questions on notice requesting the amount, and I got a similar answer back. Again, I am asking you but I don't expect you to know the stats – of course not – but I do expect when I submit a question on notice to the department asking for that data that if it's available and exists it would have been given to me. So it does seem, does it not, Mr Barakat – I'll ask you now. Does ILGA collect the data? Do you have the numbers in terms of how many exemptions – those particular exemptions in each category for clubs and pubs? If you don't have it here – firstly, do you collect it?

TAREK BARAKAT: I don't know if ILGA collects it. That's probably a question for Ms Lamb. I don't know that we do. I have to come back to you on that. I don't know if Ms Lamb does either.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: We will go there in a second. So will you take it on notice?

TAREK BARAKAT: Of course.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Who am I asking? Thanks, Ms Lamb.

CAROLINE LAMB: I can say that we don't collect the data, but I do have some data to tell you how many exemptions were granted in 2022 and 2023, if that's of assistance.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: So you started collecting since 2022 but not since – when was it, did you say, Mr Barakat – 1990?

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

TAREK BARAKAT: I would have to give you the exact date on notice, but some of them came into place from the late '90s and early 2000s.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: While Ms Lamb is collecting that, is there any idea of percentages here? Are we talking about 5 per cent of pubs and clubs that have an exemption from the mandatory shutdown, or is it 85 per cent of pubs and clubs? Or maybe it's 55 per cent?

TAREK BARAKAT: I would be guessing. I would be making an assumption, so I would prefer to take that on notice and come back to you.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

There are a range of exemptions provided for under the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*. Liquor & Gaming NSW is conducting a review of current application of exemptions to shutdown hours. This will be provided to stakeholders on the Independent Panel on Gaming Reform for their consideration and advice as part of the Panel's gaming reform roadmap.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p68)**

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: – how many existing venues, of course. So you don't have it. You are seeking that for this taskforce – for the paper; is that correct?

TAREK BARAKAT: Yes. The Minister has asked us to look at those two things. Who has the exemptions now? And then the broader policy question for the panel: Should there be any exemptions? If so, what should they look like?

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Do you see a problem in relation to that? Of course if there's public consultation other than – yes, industry are going to say that for hardship provisions, for goodness sake, they have to have their pokies open at 5.00 a.m., but the public will be saying they shouldn't be open at 5.00 a.m. Would it be as simple as making a change to the law and those gaming rooms would have to shut?

TAREK BARAKAT: My understanding is, for the venues that have the existing exemptions, the ILGA is a decision-making authority in relation to that. If, through this process, a decision was made to provide that information to ILGA for ILGA to make a decision, I think you could overturn the exemptions.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Are you able to guarantee here that we will get an indication publicly of just how many pubs and clubs have got that exemption, for this discussion paper, to work out how far this goes?

TAREK BARAKAT: I think that's probably a question for Government, what it wants to release publicly. I will take on notice what I've said I will take on notice and come back to you with the information that we can.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

This matter is addressed in the answer to the previous question.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p69)**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: If I could ask some questions around drink-spiking training, let's start there. What is the progress of rolling out mandatory drink spiking and sexual violence awareness training for bar staff and security guards in all New South Wales pubs?

TAREK BARAKAT: We've committed to including that in updates to our RSA modules and to consulting with What Were You Wearing on the content of that training. I don't think those materials have been provided to us yet; I believe it's imminent. As soon as those updated training modules – and I think, also, we committed to consulting on updates to our intoxication guidelines with those stakeholders. As soon as we have those they will be provided, and I believe that's imminent. As soon as they're agreed, that will commence.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: When do you anticipate that we will have everybody trained across pubs and clubs in New South Wales?

TAREK BARAKAT: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't want to give you the wrong information.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Five years from the updates being applied.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p71)**

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Are you aware of how many New South Wales-bred greyhounds have been exported overseas in the last year? Is that something that GWIC oversees?

STEVE GRIFFIN: Yes. Exported to which country?

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: You tell me.

STEVE GRIFFIN: From Greyhound Racing to Australasia, there are a few hundred. I'll have to come back to you with the number. The vast majority go to New Zealand and, obviously, the US program has taken up quite a substantial number. They are in the hundreds, under the Greyhound Passport program. As for those that sit outside of that program; however, which we've learnt about in the media, there have been two that were former racing greyhounds that were exported by people from outside the industry to China.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

All greyhounds which are on the Greyhound Register (which excludes those retired as a pet to a non-industry participant) should have a 'greyhound passport' issued by Greyhounds Australasia before being sent overseas. New Zealand is a member of Greyhounds Australasia and is not considered an overseas jurisdiction, and no 'greyhound passport' is required.

Greyhounds which are retired as pets to non-participants do not require a 'greyhound passport', and GWIC has no oversight or data on these greyhounds.

In 2022/23, 160 NSW-registered greyhounds were issued with a greyhound passport by Greyhounds Australasia. All these greyhounds were retired via Greyhounds As Pets, with 136 sent to the United States of America and 24 sent to Canada.



**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p73)**

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Mr Barakat, I'm sorry I wasn't here when you were able to advise the Committee that you are confident in relation to your advice to the Minister. Do you accept from me that a member of the board is appointed for two four-year terms?

TAREK BARAKAT: Mr Tudehope, I'm probably just going to have to refer you to my previous answer, which is, we're confident in the process that was undertaken and –

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: No, this is a separate question.

TAREK BARAKAT: Any further detail, I am happy to take on notice and provide that.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Mr Barakat, I am asking you a separate question in relation to your knowledge of the Act. Does a member of the board have a period of appointment for four years?

TAREK BARAKAT: I'm going to take that on notice, Mr Tudehope.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: You mean you don't know what is contained in the Act? Is that what you're telling me today? I will give you a copy of the Act if you need it.

TAREK BARAKAT: Mr Tudehope, I'm going to take that on notice and seek some advice on that and come back to you, as I've said in my previous answers to this line of questioning.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Mr Barakat, you provide advice to the Minister in relation to this issue. The Act is reasonably clear in relation to appointments. Appointments to the board are for four-year terms, are they not? Do you agree with that as a proposition?

TAREK BARAKAT: I think they are for a period of up to four years. I think the Minister has discretion to make a decision within that time frame. Again, I'd prefer to take these on notice and give you accurate answers, but that's my understanding.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

An appointed member of Racing NSW is to be appointed to hold office for a period of up to 4 years, in accordance with section 8(1) of the *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996*. A person is not eligible to hold office as an appointed member of Racing NSW for more than 12 years in total whether or not involving consecutive terms of office, in accordance with section 6(4) of the Act.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**QUESTION (p80)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: I'm not sure if this goes to you as well, but are you aware of the declaration of any new restricted alcohol areas across the State since the last budget estimates?

TAREK BARAKAT: I'm not. I would have thought that that was a local government decision — alcohol-free zones and things like that. Is that what you're referring to?

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: The Minister, under the Liquor Act, has to consult himself as the Minister for Gaming and Racing and as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on a number of the declarations of alcohol-free areas. So I'm curious to know if that has occurred since the last budget estimates?

TAREK BARAKAT: Not that I'm aware of but, if it has, we can come back to you and let you know.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

There have been no new declarations of new restricted alcohol areas.

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**Question (Page 80)**

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: That sounds good. Thank you very much. It's an interesting quirk when you've got lots of different ministries that are related in very interesting ways.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: We all talk to ourselves sometimes. Back to the vibrancy reforms — and, I apologise, you may have said it — the consultation process, particularly with the wine industry and wine groups, are you able to outline what that was?

TAREK BARAKAT: I can't with the wine. I know we went to the peaks, like Retail Drinks Australia. I'd have to take on notice whether that also included going to specific wine industry associations. I don't know that.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Retail Drinks Australia and Endeavour Group, which represent several wine retailers, were consulted.

Liquor & Gaming NSW will be communicating to all licensees, including peak bodies representing the wine industry before the new licence fees are in place.

**VETERANS**

**QUESTION (page 42)**

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Thank you. I wanted to clarify something about veterans. It was on the matter of veterans and identification but more related to their children and whether schools will be advised of the veteran status of the parents of any of the children going to their schools and be able to provide support accordingly? Is that something that is being looked at?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** Yes. There has been a lot of correspondence about it, and it's been raised at a national ministerial meeting. The Minister has, I believe, approached the Minister for Education and Early Learning, and I understand the department is looking into how that might be accommodated. There are a lot of programs and supports. We have worked actively with the Department of Education on a resource kit, and that has been rolled out.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Statewide?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** The Department of Education resource, yes. Statewide, yes.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** So that's to all schools? It's not an internal kit; it's actually for teachers?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** No, it's been made available to support — yes.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Can I ask a follow-up? Is there any work happening with the non-government school sector as well?

**Budget Estimates Answers to Questions Taken on Notice, Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research, the Central Coast.**

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** We do do a lot of work with the non-government sector. We supply resources for commemorations and activities across all the sectors. All sectors are involved in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commemoration service, and we put resources out for that, so we do work very closely with them. I'll have to check, on notice, whether that resource has been shared with the other sectors.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The You Are Welcome resource was published on the NSW Department of Education staff portal in June 2023. The resource provides support staff and teachers within NSW Government schools with a professional development tool kit of information and templates, to assist them to understand and appropriately welcome and support the children of veterans and current serving members of the Australian Defence Force. NSW Department of Education and Office of Veterans Affairs closely consulted with Defence Member and Family Support during the development of the resource to incorporate references to the Australian Defence Force. The Aware program was launched by Department of Defence in 2022 as a national resource to assist school staff to better understand the unique needs of children from Australian Defence Force current serving families.

The Minister for Education and Early Learning would need to comment on making the You Are Welcome resource available across the NSW school sectors.