



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**

No. 229

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2020

(The Questions and Answers Paper published every Tuesday of each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown

| <b>Publication of Questions</b>                     | <b>Answer to be lodged by</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Q & A No. 216 (Including Question Nos 1161 to 1164) | 10 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 217 (Including Question Nos 1165 to 1169) | 13 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 218 (Including Question Nos 1170 to 1171) | 14 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 219 (Including Question Nos 1172 to 1172) | 15 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 220 (Including Question Nos 1173 to 1176) | 16 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 221 (Including Question Nos 1177 to 1179) | 17 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 222 (Including Question Nos 1180 to 1182) | 20 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 223 (Questions—Nil)                       | -                             |
| Q & A No. 224 (Questions—Nil)                       | -                             |
| Q & A No. 225 (Questions—Nil)                       | -                             |
| Q & A No. 226 (Questions—Nil)                       | -                             |
| Q & A No. 227 (Including Question Nos 1183 to 1188) | 27 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 228 (Including Question Nos 1189 to 1195) | 28 April 2020                 |
| Q & A No. 229 (Including Question Nos 1196 to 1208) | 29 April 2020                 |

**8 APRIL 2020**

(Paper No. 229)

1196 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH IN 2019—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) On the Office of Medical Research website there are no key achievements listed for 2019. Why is that?
- (2) Were there any achievements for 2019?
  - (a) If so, what were they?

1197 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) When you click on the Medical Research Support Program Application Guidelines and Program Details download on the Office of Medical research website it advises that applications close on Wednesday 17 February 2016. Why is this out of date?
  - (a) How long has it been like this for?
  - (b) When will it be fixed?
- (2) The website advises that 'Applications for the next round of the Medical Research Support Program will take place in 2020.' Are applications currently open?
  - (a) If not why not?
  - (b) When will they open?
  - (c) When will applications close?
- (3) Are the successful applicants publicly listed?
  - (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) If so, where?
- (4) By year since inception, can the Minister provide the number of applicants that have applied for previous grants under the Medical Research Support Program including their project names, amount applied for and how many were successful?
  - (a) Who assesses the grants?
  - (b) What are the budgets for grants?
  - (c) What are the criteria?
  - (d) Are these projects evaluated?
  - (e) Is it published?
    - (i) If so, where?
- (5) How much funding has been granted to date for the Medical Research Support Program?
- (6) Will there be funding in the 2020/21 Budget to continue this program?
  - (a) If not, why not?

1198 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NSW HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) The Office for Health and Medical Research website shows that applications for the last round of the Health and Medical Research Sponsorship closed in July 2019. Have the successful applicants been notified?
  - (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) If so, how much was allocated in the last round of funding?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated since the programs inception?

- (3) Will there be funding in the 2020/21 Budget to continue this program?
    - (a) If not, is there a similar fellowship program available for applicants?
  - (4) Why is the program still listed on the website?
- 1199 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—EARLY-MID CAREER FELLOWSHIPS—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) The Office for Health and Medical Research website shows that applications for the last round of Early-Mid Career Fellowships closed in January 2018. Have the successful applicants been notified?
    - (a) If not, why not?
    - (b) If so, how much was allocated in the last round of funding?
  - (2) How much funding has been allocated since the program's inception?
  - (3) Will there be funding in the 2020/21 Budget to continue this program?
    - (a) If not, is there a similar fellowship program available for applicants?
  - (4) Why is the program still listed on the website?
  - (5) How is the Government encouraging fellowships for early and mid career scientists to develop skills in priority areas?
- 1200 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL DEVICE COMMERCIALISATION TRAINING PROGRAM—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) How long have applicants been unable to download the required application form?
    - (a) When will this be fixed?
  - (2) Are applications still open for the Medical Device Commercialisation Training Program?
    - (a) How many applications have been received in the current round?
    - (b) When do applications close?
    - (c) Have all applicants been notified of the outcome of their application?
    - (d) How many were successful?
    - (e) Have successful applicants been publicly announced?
  - (3) What was the total amount of funding allocated for this funding round?
  - (4) Who assesses the applications?
  - (5) What are the budgets for grants?
  - (6) What are the criteria?
  - (7) Are these projects evaluated?
    - (a) Is it published and if so, where?
  - (8) By financial year since inception, how much funding has been granted to date for the Medical Device Commercialisation Program?
  - (9) Will there be future rounds?
    - (a) If so, how many?
    - (b) When will the next round open and close?
    - (c) How much funding is allocated to future rounds?
- 1201 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NSW HEALTH PHD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) The Office for Health and Medical Research website shows that applications for the last round of the Health and Medical Research Sponsorship closed in November 2019. Have the successful applicants been notified?

- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) When will they be notified?
- (c) If so, how much was allocated in the last round of funding?
- (2) In the Application guidelines it says that application will be assessed an independent selection panel.
  - (a) Can the Minister provide the names and current employment of all members on the independent selection panel?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated since the program's inception?
- (4) Will there be funding in the 2020/21 Budget to continue this program?
  - (a) If not, is there a similar program available for applicants?
- (5) By year since inception, can the Minister provide the number of applicants that have applied for previous grants under the NSW Health PhD Partnership Program including their project names and amount applied for and how many were successful.
  - (a) Who assesses the grants?
  - (b) What are the budgets for grants?
  - (c) What are the criteria?
  - (d) Are these projects evaluated?
  - (e) Is it published?
    - (i) If so, where?
- (6) How much funding has been granted to date for the NSW Health PhD Partnership Program?

1202 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH CAPACITY PROGRAM—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) On the Office for Health Medical Research website applications for the last round of funding for the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program closed in late 2019. What date did this program close?
  - (a) Have the successful applicants been accounted?
    - (i) If not, why not?
    - (ii) When will they be announced?
- (2) By year since inception, can the Minister provide the number of applicants that have applied for these grants their project names, amount applied for and how many were successful?
- (3) Who assesses the grants?
- (4) What are the budgets for grants?
- (5) What are the criteria?
- (6) Are these projects evaluated?
- (7) Is it published?
  - (a) If so, where?
- (8) By financial year since inception, how much funding has been granted to date for the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program?
- (9) Why are there no links or information provided on the Office for Health and Medical Research website providing an application form or details on the process?
- (10) Is the program currently open and accepting applications?
  - (a) If so, when will it close?
- (11) Will there be future rounds?
  - (a) If so, how many?
  - (b) When will the next round open and close?
  - (c) How much funding is allocated to future rounds?

1203 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL DEVICES FUND—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many applications have been received in the current round?
  - (a) Who assess the applications?
  - (b) When will applicants be notified of the outcome of their application?
- (2) By financial year since inception, how much funding has been granted to date for the Medical Devices Fund?
- (3) Will there be future rounds?
  - (a) If so, how many?
  - (b) When will the next round open and close?
  - (c) How much funding is allocated to future rounds?

1204 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—BIOSPECIMEN COLLECTION GRANTS—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) On the Office for Health and Medical Research website applications for the last round of funding for the Biospecimen Collection Grants closed in December 2018. Have these grants been announced?
- (2) Are the successful applicants listed on the website?
  - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) By year since inception, can the Minister provide the number of applicants that have applied for these grants including project names, amount applied for and how many were successful?
- (4) Who assesses the grants?
- (5) What are the budgets for grants?
- (6) What are the criteria?
- (7) Are these projects evaluated? Is it published and if so, where?
- (8) By what percentage has the funding to medical research increased each year over the last five years?
- (9) How much funding has been granted to date on Biospecimen Collection Grants?
- (10) Why are there no links or information provided on the Office for Health and Medical Research website providing an application form or the process?
- (11) Is the program currently open and accepting applications?
- (12) Will there be future rounds?
  - (a) If so, how many?
  - (b) When will the next round open and close?
  - (c) How much funding is allocated to future rounds?

1205 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—CLINICAL TRIALS NSW—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) When was the ClinicalTrialsNSW Strategy developed?
  - (a) How much consultation was there on it?
  - (b) Who was consulted?
- (2) Who is working in the team?
- (3) How many staff are working in ClinicalTrialsNSW?
- (4) What is the Budget for ClinicalTrialsNSW?
- (5) What internal plans have driven the development of ClinicalTrialsNSW?

- (6) When did the Office for Health and Medical Research join the CT:IQ Steering Committee?
- (7) How often does the CT:IQ Steering Committee meet?
- (8) How many people represent the Office of Health and Medical Research on the Committee?
  - (a) Who are they?
  - (b) What is the Office of Health and Medical Research's role on the Committee?
- (9) How many other organisations are represented on the Committee?
- (10) People on the health websites are often directed to contact the Clinical Trial Support Unit team on [MOH-OHMR@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-OHMR@health.nsw.gov.au) for more information. Who answers this email?

1206 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ORGANISATION CONFERENCE—Mr Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Is the Minister for Health and Medical Research attending the Biotechnology Innovation Organisation Convention in San Diego, California in June 2020?
  - (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) It's the world's largest biotech trade association. How are we engaging with leading biotech and medical researchers?
  - (c) Is the Minister aware that Premiers from other states go to this convention to help promote their state for clinical research?
  - (d) Has the Minister discussed attendance at this convention with the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretaries?
    - (i) If so, who?
- (2) On 20 February 2020, the Office for Health and Medical Research sent out an email inviting applications from individuals to join the NSW Delegation and apply for funding to attend the convention. How much funding has been allocated for this convention?
  - (a) Where is this funded from?
  - (b) Is there a limit as to how many people can attend?
  - (c) When did applications open?
  - (d) Who attended the previous BIO Convention in Philadelphia?
  - (e) What was the cost of supporting the delegate?
- (3) Has the closing date been extended for applications?
- (4) Last year funding was done through [www.business.nsw.gov.au](http://www.business.nsw.gov.au) however this year the process will be conducted through Eventbrite. Why is that?
- (5) Why is the deadline two months earlier this year for registrations than last year?
  - (a) Why does the website show the closing date as 20 March 2020 and the email that was sent out by the OHMR Communications on 20 February 2020 advises the closing date is Friday 13th March 2020?
    - (i) Which one is correct?
    - (ii) Will application still be accepted after Friday 13th March 2020?
- (6) How many received financial support to attend the Convention in 2019?

1207 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CANBERRA TO EDEN TRAIN LINE—Mr Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Can the Minister explain why the the Canberra to Eden Rail Line Feasibility study not been released to the public or parliament?
  - (a) When will the report be released?
  - (b) Will the government release the entirety of the report?
- (2) Will the government release the executive statement of the Canberra to Eden Rail Line Feasibility study?

- (a) If so when?
  - (3) Is there a business case for the Canberra to Eden Rail Line?
    - (a) If so, when will it be released?
  - (4) How does this fit into the wider integrated transport plan of the NSW Government?
- 1208 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—WORKSAFE NSW AND COVID-19—Mr Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—
- (1) Social distancing and other measures to protect people from COVID-19 were introduced on 16 March 2020 by the Federal Government:
    - (a) How many Safework inspections have been conducted from 16 March 2020 to date?
    - (b) How many inspections were carried out in the same period in 2019 being 16 March 2019 to 8 April 2019?
    - (c) What additional protections, including personal protective equipment PPE, are provided to Safework NSW inspectors who have visited worksites since 16 March , 2020?
    - (d) How many of these inspections resulted in notices being issued to workplaces or a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCUB)?
    - (e) How many of these inspections resulted in notices being issued to workplaces or PCUB due to social distancing restrictions not being followed?
    - (f) How many of these inspections resulted in notices being issues to workplaces or PCUB due to inadequate cleaning or hygiene procedures?
  - (2) How many workplaces reported a case of COVID-19 at the workplace to Safework NSW?
    - (a) Can the Minister provide the business names and addresses of workplaces or PCUB that reported cases of COVID-19?
    - (b) Did Safework inspect each of these workplaces after the workplace made a report of COVID-19?
      - (i) If so, how soon after the report were these workplaces inspected?
      - (ii) If not, why did Safework NSW decide not to investigate the site?
  - (3) How many inspectors are currently employed at Safework NSW?
    - (a) Does Safework NSW have inspectors and employees dedicated to COVID-19?
    - (b) If so, how many?
    - (c) What are their roles?
  - (4) How many complaints has Safework NSW received related to the provision of additional PPE or social distancing in light of COVID-19?
    - (a) How many of these were investigated by Safework NSW?
    - (b) How many resulted in a Safework NSW inspector attending a site?
  - (5) What is the current total number of staff at Safework NSW?
    - (a) How many are conducting inspector duties orvisiting work sites?
    - (b) How do these numbers compare to staff numbers:
      - (i) On 1 January 2020?
      - (ii) On 1 October 2019?
      - (iii) On 1 July 2019?
    - (c)



What proportion of staff is now working from home?

- (i) Can the Minister provide a description of these arrangements?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments

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