



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 576

THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

(The Questions and Answers Paper published on Monday to Friday of each week will contain, by number and title, all questions to which answers have been received the previous day and any new questions asked that 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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 561 (Including Question Nos 7169 to 7178)	2 September 2021
Q & A No. 562 (Including Question Nos 7179 to 7188)	3 September 2021
Q & A No. 563 (Including Question Nos 7189 to 7191)	6 September 2021
Q & A No. 564 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 565 (Including Question Nos 7192 to 7196)	8 September 2021
Q & A No. 566 (Including Question Nos 7197 to 7206)	9 September 2021
Q & A No. 567 (Including Question Nos 7207 to 7212)	10 September 2021
Q & A No. 568 (Including Question Nos 7213 to 7218)	13 September 2021
Q & A No. 569 (Including Question Nos 7219 to 7272)	14 September 2021
Q & A No. 570 (Including Question Nos 7273 to 7275)	15 September 2021
Q & A No. 571 (Including Question Nos 7276 to 7278)	16 September 2021
Q & A No. 572 (Including Question Nos 7279 to 7289)	17 September 2021
Q & A No. 573 (Including Question Nos 7290 to 7342)	20 September 2021
Q & A No. 574 (Including Question Nos 7343 to 7345)	21 September 2021
Q & A No. 575 (Including Question Nos 7346 to 7349)	22 September 2021
Q & A No. 576 (Including Question Nos 7350 to 7359)	23 September 2021

**12 AUGUST 2021**

(Paper No. 561)

\* 7169 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—VACCINATION REDIRECTION—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) In regards to the redirection of vaccines from regional New South Wales to West and South West Sydney to vaccinate year 12 students:
- (a) Please provide the number of vaccine doses per state electorate from which they were redirected?
- (i) If state electorate is not available, please provide by Local Government Area (LGA). If LGA is not available please provide by a similar local geographical breakdown?

Answer—

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 7171.

\* 7170 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—REINFECTION RATE—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Please provide the COVID-19 re-infection rate that NSW Health is seeing, by Local Government Area (LGA)?
- (a) If LGA is not available, please provide by a similar local geographical breakdown?

Answer—

I am informed NSW Health data indicates that three people in NSW have been re-infected with COVID-19 since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

\* 7171 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—VACCINATION REDIRECTION—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) In regards to the redirection of vaccines from regional New South Wales to West and South West Sydney to vaccinate year 12 students:
- (a) Please provide the number of vaccine doses per state electorate from which they were redirected?
- (i) If state electorate is not available, please provide by Local Government Area (LGA). If LGA is not available please provide by a similar local geographical breakdown?

Answer—

Some 40,000 Pfizer doses were reallocated from NSW Health vaccination clinics to assist in the public health response to vaccinate HSC students in Local Government Areas of concern. On 5 August 2021, the Australian Government announced that NSW would receive 180,000 Pfizer doses that have been used to reinstate all bookings that were cancelled.

\* 7173 TREASURER—ICARE—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Disaggregated by local government area, how many individuals did iCare send correspondence entitled “Your workers compensation may have been inaccurate” to?
- (a) How many responses has iCare received to the correspondence?
- (b) How many have been returned to sender?

- (2) Does iCare track how many individuals contacted Acacia Psychology as available on the correspondence?
- (a) If so, how many individuals contacted the service following the receipt of the correspondence?
- (3) Has iCare contacted trade unions to assist with identifying injured workers that may have been underpaid as part of the pre-injury average weekly earnings (PIAWE) remediation program?
- (a) If so:
- (i) When were trade unions first contacted?
- (ii) Please provide a list of trade unions contacted?
- (4) Has iCare contracted any external entities to assist with contacting injured workers or other stakeholders (such as trade unions) as part of the PIAWE remediation program?
- (a) If so:
- (i) What are names of the entities contracted?
- (ii) What is the value of each contract?
- (iii) When the entities first contracted?

Answer—

- (1) Letters were sent out in a combination of regions, type of claim and service provider. The table lists the completed batches, and the areas they covered. All Nominal Insurer closed claim letters went out by regions as listed in the table. All Nominal Insurer open claims were sent out to all regions by service provider – not disaggregated. The Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) letters went out to all regions - not disaggregated.

Regions	Date letters lodged – date sent out in batches.	Number of letters
Hunter Region - closed claims	9 June 2021	22,000
North Sydney, Outer South West & South West - closed claims	28 June 2021	50,000
Western Sydney & Outer West, Inner City & East, North West, Illawarra & South East - closed claims	Staggered 19 July; 21 July; 23 July 2021	85,653
Riverina Murray Region, Central West, North Coast & New England Region, Far West & Orana, Central Coast - closed claims	Staggered 28 July; 30 July 2021	60,369
Open Claims – all regions (ALZ)	13 July 2021	421
Open Claims – all regions (EML and GIO)	6 August 2021	11,918
QBE TMF closed claims – all regions	19 July 2021	16,381
EML TMF closed claims – all regions	2 August 2021	9,323
ALZ TMF closed claims – all regions	16 August 2021	17,595
Total letters sent		273,660

- (a) 11,099
- (b) 3,500

- (2) Yes.
- (a) 74
- (3) Yes.
- (a)
- (i) 20 December 2020.
- (ii) Monthly meetings began on 20 December 2020 with Unions NSW, the CFMEU, the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and Workers Health Centre. Since 25 February 2021, icare has also been holding quarterly meetings with delegates from the following:
- NSW Police Association
  - Australian Council of Trade Unions
  - Rail, Tram and Bus Union
  - Independent Education Union
  - United Workers Union
  - Public Service Association
  - Distribution Alliance
  - Distributive and Allied Employee's Association
  - NSW Teachers Federation
  - Community and Public Sector Union
  - Transport Workers' Union
  - Maritime Union Australia
  - Australian Services Union
  - Australian Workers Union
  - Financial Services Union
  - United Services Union
  - Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union
  - NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association
  - Finance Sector Union
  - Workers Health Centre
  - Unions NSW
  - Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
  - CFMEU
- (4) Yes.
- (a)
- (i) Porter Novelli
- (ii) The initial engagement period from 5 March to 5 June 2021 for strategy and planning was \$38,653.75 excl GST. The second engagement commenced 7 June and is still underway with a budget allocation of \$211,500 excl GST. Currently \$162,000 excl GST has been paid under this arrangement.
- (iii) 5 March 2021.

\* 7174 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE NSW POLICE FORCE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Did the NSW Department of Health provide the NSW Police Force with the details of the people that breached public health orders by attending a gathering at a residence after a funeral at Pendle Hill on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021?
- (a) If the details of the individuals who attended the unlawful gathering were not provided:
- (i) Why were these details not provided to the NSW Police Force by the NSW Department of Health?

Answer—

It would not be appropriate to comment on NSW Police Force investigations.

\* 7175 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—ACTION TAKEN BY NSW POLICE IN BREACH OF HEALTH ORDERS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) What specific actions have been taken against the people who, in defiance of public health orders, attended a gathering at a residence following a funeral at Pendle Hill on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021?
  - (a) If actions have not been taken against the individuals involved in this clear breach of public health orders:
    - (i) Why have no actions been taken?

Answer—

I am advised:

NSW Police have made enquiries with NSW Health in relation to this incident. Any further questions are best directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research, as the Minister responsible for NSW Health.

\* 7176 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—FOOD POISONING—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) How many instances of food poisoning occurred in New South Wales for each reportable period in the following years:
  - (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) 2018?
  - (e) 2019?
  - (f) 2020?
  - (g) 2021?
- (2) Has the Government met its target of reducing food poisoning incidents by 30 per cent, as set out in the NSW Government Food Safety Strategy 2015 – 2021?
  - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1)
  - (a) 2015 = 1771
  - (b) 2016=1617
  - (c) 2017=1302
  - (d) 2018 = 999
  - (e) 2019 = 997
  - (f) 2020 = 1127
  - (g) Still being collate
- (2) Yes.
  - (a) N/A

\* 7177 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—SCORES ON THE DOORS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) When was the program known as Scores on the Doors, a retail food safety program, introduced in New South Wales?
- (2) Does the Minister believe the program is effective in promoting food safety in New South Wales?
  - (a) When was the program last reviewed?
  - (b) Is the program mandatory?
    - (i) If not, why not?
  - (c) If the program is not mandatory, will the Minister make it mandatory?
    - (i) If not, why not?
  - (d) How many councils currently participate in the program by:
    - (i) Number?
    - (ii) Percentage?
  - (e) Can the Minister provide a list of councils who currently do not participate in the program?
  - (f) Have any councils refused to participate in the program?
    - (i) If so, please provide a list of those councils?

Answer—

- (1) The Scores on Doors (SoD) scheme was piloted in NSW in 2010 and rolled out in 2011.
- (2) Yes.
  - (a) 2012.
  - (b) No.
    - (i) At the time of introduction the voluntary approach was supported by local government and industry.
  - (c) No.
    - (i) See 2(b) (i). Above.
  - (d)
    - (i) Council participation can be found in the 2019-20 annual report.
    - (ii) 47%.
  - (e)
    - Albury City Council
    - Armidale Regional Council
    - Balranald Shire Council
    - Bayside Council
    - Blayney Shire Council
    - Blue Mountains City Council
    - Bogan Shire Council
    - Bourke Shire Council
    - Brewarrina Shire Council

- Camden Council
- Campbelltown City Council
- Central Darling Shire Council
- Cessnock City Council
- Clarence Valley Council
- Cobar Shire Council
- Coolamon Shire Council
- Coonamble Shire Council
- Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council
- Dubbo Regional Council
- Dungog Shire Council
- Fairfield City Council
- Federation Council
- Forbes Shire Council
- Georges River Council
- Gilgandra Shire Council
- Greater Hume Shire Council
- Gunned ah Shire Council
- Gwydir Shire Council
- Hay Shire Council
- Hunters Hill Council
- Inner West Council
- Inverell Shire Council
- Kiama Municipal Council
- Ku-ring-gai Council
- Kyogle Council
- Lachlan Shire Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Lane Cove Council
- Lismore Council
- Lithgow City Council
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Maitland City Council
- Mosman Municipal Council
- Murray River Council
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Narrandera Shire Council

- NSW Food Authority (Sydney Harbour Federation Trust area)
  - Oberon Council
  - Office of Environment and Heritage (Kosciuszko National Park) Port Stephens Council
  - Richmond Valley Council
  - Shellharbour City Council
  - Snowy Valleys Council
  - Tenterfield Shire Council
  - The Hills Shire Council
  - Upper Hunter Shire Council
  - Upper Lachlan Shire Council
  - Uralla Council
  - Walcha Council
  - Walgett Shire Council
  - Warren Shire Council
  - Warrumbungle Shire Council
  - Waverley Council
  - Weddin Shire Council
  - Wentworth Shire Council
  - Willoughby City Council
  - Wollongong City Council
  - Woollahra Municipal Council
- (f) The Department does not have data indicating whether any particular Council(s) refused to participate in SoD.

\* 7178 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—BUILDING OCCUPATION—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) Who owns the building currently occupied, amongst other agencies, the NSW Food Authority located at 6 Ave of the Americas, Newington, NSW, 2127?
- (a) What is the current value of the property?
  - (b) Is the Minister aware of any plan to dispose the property?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Food Authority
- (a) The value as at 30 June 2021 was \$8.6m.
  - (b) No.

**2 SEPTEMBER 2021**

(Paper No. 576)

- 7350 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—COVID-19 DEATHS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) According to NSW Health classifications in 2020:
    - (a) How many people in New South Wales died:
      - (i) From COVID-19?
      - (ii) With COVID-19?
  - (2) According to NSW Health classifications in 2021:
    - (a) How many people in New South Wales died:
      - (i) From COVID-19?
      - (ii) With COVID-19?
- 7351 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—CELESTINO SYDNEY SCIENCE PARK (SSP)—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—
- (1) How has the Minister and the Department responded to the November 2018 requests of the Celestino Sydney Science Park (SSP), in their submission to the Aerotropolis LUIP process for:
    - (a) Removing the SSP 3,400 residential cap to be replaced by 30,000-plus dwellings?
    - (b) Increasing the size of the SSP 30,000 square metre retail centre to become a 130,000 square metre regional centre?
    - (c) Lifting the height limits on residential housing at the Luddenham Metro station from 24 metres to 70?
    - (d) Removing the GFA cap on SSP non-residential to allow 1.5 million square metres?
    - (e) Including the Celestino North Luddenham land holding in the Northern Gateway precinct, to consolidate the full parcel of Celestino lands?
- 7352 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—SPECIAL (STATE) INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION PLAN—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—
- (1) In the Minister's 12 November 2020 announcement of a Special (State) Infrastructure Contribution Plan for the Aerotropolis:
    - (a) Why did the Minister exempt all education space?
    - (b) What representations did the Minister receive from Celestino Sydney Science Park for the exempting of education space?
- 7353 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—WEAR IT PURPLE DAY—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—
- (1) What has been the outcome of the investigation into the LGBTIQ party held at Mt Druitt police station on Wear It Purple day during the hard lockdown in that Local Government Area and possible breach of Public Health Orders?
  - (2) Will the Minister now cancel Wear It Purple day as an event for the NSW Police given its inappropriate and at times dangerous distraction from genuine police duties?

7354 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—EVERYONE CAN PLAY GRANT PROGRAM—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) How many applications were received for the 2021-22 Everyone Can Play grant program?
- (2) How many New South Wales councils applied for funding under the 2021-22 program?
  - (a) Was this an increase in applications from local councils from each other previous rounds of this funding?
    - (i) If so, what was the increase in number?
    - (ii) If not, what was the decrease in number?
- (3) How many State Government agencies applied for funding under the 2021-22 program?
  - (a) Was this an increase in applications from agencies from each other previous rounds of this funding?
    - (i) If so, what was the increase in number?
    - (ii) If so, which agencies applied in the 2021-22 program, which did not apply in previous rounds?
      - (i) If not, what was the decrease in number?
- (4) Have all of the projects funded in each previous round of the program been completed?
  - (a) If not, which remain to be completed?
- (5) What were the factors for not yet completed projects from previous rounds of funding?
- (6) Is the reason the 2021-22 fourth round of funding will be the final round in the grant program because there is no more money available under the program?
  - (a) If not, what are the other factors for this being the final round of the program?

7355 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Are all councils in New South Wales required to prepare a Local Housing Strategy?
  - (a) If so, have all councils in New South Wales done so?
    - (i) Please list the councils?
    - (ii) Please provide the date the Local Housing Strategy were published?
    - (iii) Please list the councils that have not yet published a Local Housing Strategy?
- (2) Where are the Local Housing Strategies that have been published found?
- (3) Have all the Local Housing Strategies that have been published been approved?
  - (a) If not, which were refused?
- (4) What is the process if the Department refused to approve a Local Housing Strategy?
- (5) How is a council's Local Housing Strategy monitored for compliance with approval by the Department?
- (6) How is non-compliance with a council's Local Housing Strategy addressed by the Department?
- (7) How are the Implementation and Delivery Plan of each council monitored?
- (8) How often are the Implementation and Delivery Plan of each council monitored?
- (9) Have all councils Implementation and Delivery Plans been assessed?
- (10) Are each council's Implementation and Delivery Plans published?

- (a) If so, where can the Plans be found?
- (11) What is the 6-10 year housing target for each council's Local Housing Strategy?
- 7356 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—GOVERNMENTS BUY REGIONAL WEBSITE—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—
- (1) Are businesses located in the Wollongong local government area eligible to list on the Government's Buy Regional website?
- 7357 TREASURER—ICARE—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—
- (1) Has icare resumed paying bonuses?
- (a) If so, please list how much has been paid to each person by their job title?
- (2) Has icare's board agreed to any key performance indicators ("KPIs") with the icare Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?
- (a) If so:
- (i) Please list the KPIs?
- (ii) Has the CEO met them?
- (iii) When were the KPIs most recently assessed?
- (iv) When will they be next assessed?
- (3) Has icare's board agreed KPIs with the icare General Executive (Workers Compensation)?
- (a) If so:
- (i) Please list the KPIs?
- (ii) Has the General Executive (Workers Compensation) met them?
- (iii) When were the KPIs most recently assessed?
- (iv) When will they be next assessed?
- (4) Has icare hired a new Head of Engagement?
- (a) If so:
- (i) Who was the successful candidate?
- (ii) What was the process used to identify this candidate?
- (iii) Who does the head of engagement report to?
- (iv) Who in iCare authorised the hiring decision?
- (5) How many times has icare used the exemption under the Workers Compensation Nominal Insurer exemption, to part 11 of the *Public Works and Procurement Act 1912*, per section 154a(4) of the *Workers Compensation Act 1987*?
- (a) Please list each use of this exemption?
- (b) Why were these exemptions used?
- (c) Was each exemption approved by the board?
- 7358 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE PLAN—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—
- (1) On 2 September 2021 the NSW Farmers Federation released their 10 Point Agricultural Workforce Plan to tackle the seasonal labour shortage in the agricultural sector. The first reported case of COVID-19 was recorded in Australia on 25 January 2020:

- (a) Over eighteen months after the first reported case of COVID-19 in this country does the Government have a clear plan for addressing the labour shortage of seasonal agricultural workers for New South Wales?
- (i) If so, what is that plan?
- (ii) If not, why not?
- (2) Will the Government accept the NSW Farmers 10 Point Agricultural Workforce Plan to tackle the seasonal labour shortages in the agricultural sector?
- (a) If so, when will they acknowledge their intention?
- (b) If not, why not?
- 7359 PREMIER—MEETING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAYORS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Premier—
- (1) It is reported that the twelve Mayors of the Sydney COVID-19 hot spot areas requested a meeting to discuss their concerns about the impact of the lockdown on their local communities with the Premier, and that the Premier refused the meeting and referred the Mayors to the Local Government Minister Shelley Hancock:
- (a) Given the very high impact of COVID-19 infections in these local government areas why didn't the Premier take this meeting personally?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliament