



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21-22

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 836

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

(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.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 821 (Including Question Nos 9512 to 9514)	28 September 2022
Q & A No. 822 (Including Question Nos 9515 to 9520)	29 September 2022
Q & A No. 824 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 825 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 826 (Including Question Nos 9522 to 9525)	6 October 2022
Q & A No. 827 (Including Question Nos 9526 to 9535)	7 October 2022
Q & A No. 828 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 829 (Including Question Nos 9536 to 9538)	11 October 2022
Q & A No. 830 (Including Question Nos 9539 to 9542)	12 October 2022
Q & A No. 831 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 832 (Including Question Nos 9543 to 9548)	14 October 2022
Q & A No. 833 (Including Question Nos 9549 to 9565)	17 October 2022
Q & A No. 834 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 835 (Including Question Nos 9566 to 9569)	19 October 2022
Q & A No. 836 (Including Question Nos 9570 to 9571)	20 October 2022

6 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 821)

* 9512 HEALTH—LOST NURSES—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Can the Minister provide for every year since 2010:
 - (a) How many nurses were made redundant in New South Wales?
 - (b) How many nurses moved interstate?
 - (c) How many nurses left a role in New South Wales public health?
 - (d) How many nurses otherwise left the New South Wales public health system?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a,c,d) I am advised that data across the specified timeframe is not centrally available.
 - (b) I am advised that information on the number of nurses who moved interstate is not collected.

* 9513 HEALTH—LOST PARAMEDICS—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Can the Minister provide, for every year since 2010:
 - (a) How many paramedics were made redundant in New South Wales?
 - (b) How many paramedics moved interstate?
 - (c) How many paramedics left a role in New South Wales public health?
 - (d) How many paramedics otherwise left the New South Wales public health system?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a,c ,d) I am advised that data across the specified timeframe is not centrally available.
 - (b) I am advised that information on the number of NSW Ambulance staff who moved interstate is not collected.

* 9514 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—INGLEBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL CANTEEN CLOSURE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Did Ingleburn Public School close its canteen on 17 August 2022, forcing students to access their food solely through a NAIDOC fundraiser?
 - (a) If so, why?
- (2) Has the school received any parental complaints about this decision?
 - (a) If so, how has the school responded to these parental complaints?
- (3) What is the Education Department's policy on giving parents and students choices at school for those who do not wish to participate in political fundraising events?

Answer—

On 17 August 2022, the Ingleburn Public School P&C Canteen was opened for recess as usual. The regular menu was replaced at lunchtime with a sausage sizzle menu option. This was not a fundraiser. The lunch menu was changed due to limited canteen staff availability to offer both a sausage sizzle option and standard lunch menu option on this day.

The school has not been made aware of any parental complaints relating to the P&C Canteen's decision to offer a sausage sizzle option for lunch on 17 August 2022.

Parents and students who did not wish to purchase a sausage sizzle at the Ingleburn Public School P&C Canteen on 17 August 2022 did not have to do so. This was not a political fundraising event.

7 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 822)

* 9519 MULTICULTURALISM—DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT—The Hon. Mark Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Regional Youth, and Minister for Tourism representing the Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors—

- (1) How many employees who identify as having a disability are employed by:
 - (a) Multicultural NSW?
 - (b) Ageing and Disability Commission?
- (2) How many senior managers who identify as having a disability are employed by:
 - (a) Multicultural NSW?
 - (b) Ageing and Disability Commission?

Answer—

This information can be found in the 2021 Workforce Profile Report.

13 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 826)

* 9525 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—SHARK MESHING PROGRAMS—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Regional Youth, and Minister for Tourism representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) In relation to the “Joint Management Agreement between the Minister for Primary Industries and the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage for the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Programs NSW” (hereafter, the JMA):
 - (a) Why was the JMA made with the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage, rather than the Minister for Environment?
 - (b) What is the status of the JMA given that the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) no longer exists?
 - (c) The JMA states at clause 11.3 that “This Agreement may be terminated by OEH giving 14 days written notice to the Department of Primary Industries if the Agreement is not achieving the objectives in clause 6”:
 - (i) Given OEH no longer exists, who has the power to terminate the JMA under this clause?
 - (ii) Does the Minister for Environment and Heritage have the ability to terminate the JMA?
 - (d) Has a review of the JMA taken place, in accordance with clause 9 of the Agreement, given five years has now passed?
 - (i) If so, what were the findings of the review?
 - (ii) If so, will the review be made public?
 - (iii) If not, why not?
 - (e) Were shark nets put in place on 1 September 2022?

- (i) If so, was this done in the absence of the review required under clause 9 of the Agreement?
- (f) Could the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program continue to operate without a JMA in place?

Answer—

(1) I am advised:

- (a) At the time it was made, the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage had delegated authority under an instrument of delegation to enter into the Joint Management Agreement.
- (b) The Joint Management Agreement continues regardless of machinery of government changes to the former Office of Environment and Heritage.
- (c) The Joint Management Agreement remains in force between the parties until terminated. The machinery of government changes resulting in administrative changes to the names of entities does not affect the agreement.
 - (i) The agreement may be terminated in accordance with the termination clauses by either the Environment and Heritage Group or the Minister for Agriculture.
 - (ii) The Minister for Environment and Heritage can liaise with the Environment and Heritage Group regarding any steps towards termination.
- (d) A review of the Joint Management Agreement has commenced and is continuing. If the review finds changes should be made to the agreement, there will be a public consultation phase.
- (e) Shark nets were installed on 1 September 2022. The review of the Joint Management Agreement does not affect the timing of the shark netting season.
- (f) No. The Joint Management Agreement provides a defence to a prosecution for offences under both the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

14 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 827)

* 9530 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—WILDLIFE PROTECTION FENCING—The Hon. Penny Sharpe to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Regional Youth, and Minister for Tourism representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Minister, sections of the wildlife protection fencing on Picton Road installed to protect koalas have become damaged or are missing:
 - (a) How often is wildlife protection fencing inspected for damage?
 - (b) How often is wildlife protection fencing repaired?
 - (c) Which department is responsible for inspecting and repairing wildlife protection fencing?
 - (d) How much funding is allocated to inspect and repair wildlife protection fencing?
 - (e) Are there plans to repair the wildlife protection fencing on Picton road?
 - (i) If so, what is the timeline for these repairs?
 - (ii) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to the Minister for Transport, the Hon David Elliot MP.

16 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 829)

- * 9536 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—WILDLIFE PROTECTION FENCING—The Hon. Penny Sharpe to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Regional Youth, and Minister for Tourism representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—
- (1) Minister, sections of the wildlife protection fencing on Picton Road installed to protect koalas have become damaged or are missing:
 - (a) How often is wildlife protection fencing inspected for damage?
 - (b) How often is wildlife protection fencing repaired?
 - (c) Which department is responsible for inspecting and repairing wildlife protection fencing?
 - (d) How much funding is allocated to inspect and repair wildlife protection fencing?
 - (e) What is the timeline to repair the wildlife protection fencing on Picton Road?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to the Minister for Transport, the Hon David Elliott MP.

23 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 833)

- * 9565 PREMIER—ADVERTISING SPEND—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Premier—
- (1) For every financial year since 2011, please provide how much has been spent by Service NSW or other agencies promoting cost of living measures?
 - (2) How much is being spent on the current cost of living advertising campaign?

Answer—

On behalf of the Premier, I am advised that this question is best directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

28 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 836)

- 9570 EMERGENCY SERVICES AND RESILIENCE—VACANT POSITIONS IN RFS—The Hon. Mark Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery—
- (1) How many full-time equivalent positions currently exist in the Rural Fire Service?
 - (2) How many full-time equivalent positions are currently vacant in the Rural Fire Service?
 - (a) At what location does each current vacancy exist?
 - (b) What is the position title of each currently vacant full-time equivalent position in the Rural Fire Service?
 - (c) Can the data regarding the number of currently vacant full-time equivalent positions in the Rural Fire Service also be presented in an organisational chart?
- 9571 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—STANDARDS OF NSW TEACHERS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) What progress has the Government made with the implementation of the 2018 announcement by Minister Stokes, the Minister for Education at the time, that only university graduates with a 70-plus Grade Point Average could teach in New South Wales schools?
 - (a) Have exceptions been made to this policy?
 - (i) If so, how many exceptions have been made?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament