

Options for essential worker housing in New South Wales

Hearing – 10/02/2025

Questions on Notice – NSW Health Responses

QUESTION 1 – Page 3

Ms LIZA BUTLER: You may have to take this question on notice. When you cannot attract permanent staff, we're putting agency staff out there. What is the cost of providing accommodation to agency staff? What is the cost to government and to Health of putting temporary people out there and paying for their accommodation?

LUKE SLOANE: I'll have to take a total figure on notice. It should be worth noting for the inquiry, though, that it's not a new thing that we've been able to have housing or accommodation available for agency or locum staff.

ANSWER

NSW Health is unable to provide an accurate figure for accommodation costs for agency staff as it cannot be separated from costs associated with accommodation for all classifications of staff (i.e. permanent, temporary and agency).

QUESTION 2 – Page 14

The CHAIR: I will go back to the representatives from NSW Health in the final time we have and then I have a few more questions for others. Hospitals are a great example of an important government development that has a range of different income levels and employees working in it. That's why I'm going to use a hospital as a case study here. If NSW Health is delivering a hospital, at what point do they engage with Homes NSW or planning to make sure that there will be sufficient affordable housing for the workforce for that hospital?

LUKE SLOANE: We could go into detail around the actual planning process. I'd have to come back through Health Infrastructure to give you that on notice.

ANSWER

Workforce housing needs have been considered and assessed locally on a case-by-case basis. On occasion, this has resulted in prioritisation of this scope within a hospital redevelopment.

Workforce planning is undertaken as part of business as usual as well as with new build planning, and the overall workforce demand in a district would inform the key worker housing demand. NSW Health is reviewing its processes for integration of key worker accommodation demand in health service planning processes, to ensure these needs can be captured in new build scope decision making where appropriate