



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 101

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

(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

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 86 (Including Question Nos 0393 to 0397)	25 September 2019
Q & A No. 87 (Including Question Nos 0398 to 0399)	26 September 2019
Q & A No. 88 (Including Question Nos 0400 to 0400)	27 September 2019
Q & A No. 89 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 90 (Including Question Nos 0401 to 0403)	01 October 2019
Q & A No. 91 (Including Question Nos 0404 to 0405)	02 October 2019
Q & A No. 92 (Including Question Nos 0406 to 0407)	03 October 2019
Q & A No. 93 (Including Question Nos 0408 to 0422)	04 October 2019
Q & A No. 94 (Including Question Nos 0423 to 0443)	07 October 2019
Q & A No. 95 (Including Question Nos 0444 to 0445)	08 October 2019
Q & A No. 96 (Including Question Nos 0446 to 0455)	09 October 2019
Q & A No. 97 (Including Question Nos 0456 to 0456)	10 October 2019
Q & A No. 98 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 99 (Including Question Nos 0457 to 0457)	14 October 2019
Q & A No. 100 (Including Question Nos 0458 to 0465)	15 October 2019
Q & A No. 101 (Including Question Nos 0466 to 0473)	16 October 2019

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(Paper No. 86)

*393 PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—DVNSW VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) How will rates of domestic violence in New South Wales be reduced by:
- (a) The Domestic Violence New South Wales (DVNSW) vision statement of "operating from a feminist, social justice perspective"?
 - (b) Strategies treating domestic violence as a law-and-order problem requiring the arrest and conviction of perpetrators?
 - (c) The mission statement of the head of DVNSW, Moo Baulch, such that "children in schools are taught about the intersections between discrimination, transphobia and homophobia, violence, racism and respectful relationships", as publicised on the website?

Answer—

I cannot comment on behalf of independent non-government organisations.

The NSW Government is serious about taking action to reduce rates of domestic violence, which is why we are investing \$431 million over four years to tackle domestic violence through a range of initiatives.

The NSW Government will continue to be tough on perpetrators and we will continue to invest a record amount of money to support victims and help keep them safe.

More information is publicly available at www.women.nsw.gov.au.

*394 PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—DEFINITIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RELATED OFFENCES—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) In its development of anti-domestic violence strategies, has the Government defined the following activities in civil society as forms of domestic violence?
- "putting someone down"
 - "driving dangerously"
 - "threatening to out the person's sexuality, interest or gender"
 - "constantly comparing the victim with others to undermine self-esteem and self-worth"
 - "sporadic sulking"
 - "withdrawing all interest and engagement (for example weeks of silence)"
 - "emotional blackmail and suicidal threats"
 - "ongoing rudeness to alienate them"
 - not letting someone "use the car or telephone or internet"
 - providing an "inadequate (financial) allowance"
 - "using all wages earned by the victim for household expenses"
 - "tracking (someone) with GPS or through social media or online interactions"
- (a) If so, why?
- (2) For each of the past five years, how many people in New South Wales have been i) charged and ii) convicted of offences relating to the behaviours set out above?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 ('CDPV Act') does not define 'domestic violence'. It defines the following offences as being 'domestic violence offences' when committed in the context of a 'domestic relationship':

- A personal violence offence (including the offences of intimidation or stalking),
- An offence (other than personal violence offences) that arises from substantially the same circumstances as those from which a personal violence offence has arisen, or

- An offence (other than a personal violence offence) the commission of which is intended to coerce or control the person against whom it is committed or to cause that person to be intimidated or fearful (or both) (section 11 (1), CDPV Act).

The behaviours that constitute a domestic violence offence will depend on the specific circumstances of a matter. Based on statistical data available from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics it is not possible to determine whether the behaviours identified by the Hon. Mark Latham MLC have resulted in any criminal charges or convictions.

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*395 PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—NSW BUREAU OF CRIME STATISTICS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Given NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) finding that across their criminal careers, two-thirds of domestic violence perpetrators in NSW have other non-domestic violence convictions;
 - (a) Does the Government regard domestic violence as primarily a law-and-order problem?
 - (b) What weight does the Government give to strategies for reducing rates of domestic violence that involve longer jail terms for all criminals, so that, in a majority of cases, they are separated from the community and their domestic violence victims?

Answer—

Domestic and family violence is a crime. It includes any behaviour, in an intimate or family relationship, which is violent, threatening, coercive or controlling, causing a person to live in fear.

Response to domestic violence needs commitment and action across all parts of government working in close partnership with non-government organisations, the private sector and the broader community. In 2016, the NSW Government announced the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021. The Blueprint sets out the direction for a framework for the next five years that will focus on prevention, intervene early with vulnerable communities, support victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and deliver evidence-based quality services to work towards safer outcomes for those impacted by domestic violence and support them through the recovery process. The Blueprint is available at www.women.nsw.gov.au.

In September 2018, reforms to strengthen community-based sentencing commenced. The changes aim to make the community safer by holding offenders to account and reduce reoffending. A key change is a presumption that domestic violence offenders either receive a supervised community-based sentence or are imprisoned, unless the court has clear reasons why another sentence is more appropriate. Information on the sentencing reforms is available at www.justice.nsw.gov.au.

*396 PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUNDED AGENCIES RESPONSE TO BOSCAR REPORT FINDINGS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) What is the Government and its domestic violence funded agencies (Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW), White Ribbon and Our Watch) response to the findings of the December 2018 BOCSAR report 'Assessing the risk of repeat intimate partner assault' that the main drivers of "the risk of being re-victimised with an assault within 12 months" were socio-economic factors such as living in a poor suburb, low education attainment and having a disability?
- (2) In light of the BOCSAR findings, do DVNSW, Our Watch and White Ribbon maintain that domestic violence is caused by "gender inequality" and "the patriarchy"?
- (3) Is gender inequality a major cause of domestic violence?
 - (a) If so, are major professions in NSW that employ more women than men (the legal profession, GP doctors, vets, teachers and office managers) free of domestic violence?

Answer—

I am advised:

The December 2018 BOCSAR report referred to by the Member states that further empirical research is required to validate the predictive accuracy of its findings (see <https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Documents/CJB2019-Report-Assessing-the-risk-of-repeat-intimate-partner-assault-CJB220.pdf>).

I cannot speak on behalf of independent non-government organisations. However, the overwhelming majority of incidents of intimate partner violence are acts perpetrated by men against women.

*397 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TRAFFIC VOLUMES DUE TO THE MOOREBANK INTERMODAL DEVELOPMENT—Mr Latham asked 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) What studies are available to the Government that assess the change in traffic volumes in South-West Sydney, due to the Moorebank Intermodal development?
- (2) What do these studies show in relation to both traffic volumes and the types of vehicles on the road?

Answer—

I am advised:

All information, including traffic reports and conditions of development consent, is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website.

25 SEPTEMBER 2019

(Paper No. 101)

466 TREASURER—AGENT-GENERAL FOR NSW—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Who was the last Agent-General for NSW based in London?
- (2) When was the position officially abolished?
- (3) What were the official reasons for abolishing the position?
- (4) Is the NSW Government considering reinstating the position in London?
 - (a) If so, why?
- (5) Is the NSW Government considering establishing positions of Agent-General in other locations, such as Brussels, Beijing, Washington, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul?
 - (a) If not, why not?

467 PREMIER—AGENT-GENERAL FOR NSW—Mr Primrose 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 Premier—

- (1) Who was the last Agent-General for NSW based in London?
- (2) When was the position officially abolished?
- (3) What were the official reasons for abolishing the position?
- (4) Is the NSW Government considering reinstating the position in London?
 - (a) If so, why?
- (5) Is the NSW Government considering establishing positions of Agent-General in other locations, such as Brussels, Beijing, Washington, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul?
 - (a) If not, why not?

468 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—ONLINE MONITORING SYSTEMS IN SEWERS—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) What recommendations were made by Sydney Water's 'Wastewater System Trade Waste Hazard Committee' for the installation of continuous online monitoring systems in sewers to monitor a range of key wastewater parameters and identify potentially hazardous events and significant changes in wastewater characteristics in:
 - (a) 2006?
 - (b) subsequent years?
 - (c) How have the recommendations been implemented?
- (2) How many sewer monitoring systems does Sydney Water have in place as of September 2019?
- (3) What hazardous events have these monitoring systems identified in 2019?

469 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NUCLEAR MEDICINE UNITS AND DECAY TANKS—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many NSW hospitals have nuclear medicine units?
- (2) Which hospitals have decay tanks available to them?
- (3) What guidelines have the Australian Department of Health issued for decay tanks at these hospitals?

470 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—SAFEWORK NSW—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) What recommendations have been made by SafeWork NSW following its investigation into the death of a Veolia employee, sub-contracted by Sydney Water, who had been working at the Brickpit site at Homebush in early May?
- (2) What other workers were affected by sewerage fumes at the site?
- (3) What does the SafeWork NSW report say about the health and work safety of these workers?
- (4) What action is the Government taking in response to the SafeWork NSW Reports into these matters?

471 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CHARLEYONG BRIDGE OVER THE MONGARLOWE RIVER—Ms Boyd 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) What is the full cost of demolishing the existing Charleyong Bridge over the Mongarlowe River?
- (2) What costings were used as the basis for the decision to remove the existing Charleyong Bridge?
- (3) What has been the full cost of reinforcing/maintaining the existing Charleyong Bridge over the past ten years (e.g. the cost of the steel reinforcements installed recently)?

472 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TUG BOATS BY CRUISE VESSELS IN SYDNEY HARBOUR—Ms Boyd 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—

In relation to the usage of tug boats by cruise vessels in Sydney Harbour:

- (1) Why are tug boats mandatory for cruise vessels in section 2.106.2 of the Harbour Masters Directions for Sydney Harbour but then exempt in 2.106.3?
 - (a) What would the cost be to the Port Authority of NSW to mandate compulsory towages to vessels arriving at Sydney Harbour?
- (2) What is the current level of risk posed by cruise vessels without tug boats to the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Harbour Tunnel from mechanical and/or human error?
 - (a) What would be the cost to the Port Authority of NSW in the event that a cruise vessel came into

contact with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and/or the Sydney Harbour Tunnel?

- (b) What is the lead time for booking tug boats to assist a vessel that may have contacted or be in danger of contacting the Sydney Harbour Bridge and/or Sydney Harbour Tunnel?

473 ATTORNEY GENERAL—FEDERAL EXPOSURE DRAFT BILL ON RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Has the NSW Government made a submission to the Federal exposure draft bill on religious discrimination?

- (a) If so, what are the details?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments