

Monday, 24 June 2002

(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1)

Portfolio

Special Minister of State, and Industrial Relations

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING

'Drug Policy'

1. **Mr Samios asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: bottom, p 1)

- (1) How many methadone clinics, public and private, are currently operating in NSW?

(Relevant area in Hansard: top, p 2)

- (2) How many mobile methadone clinics are there?
- (3) Will the Minister provide the location of each methadone clinic?
- (4) Under the needle exchange program:
- (a) How many needles were handed out this financial year,
 - (b) How many were returned?
 - (c) How does that compare to last year's statistics?

Answers:

(1), (2) and (3) I am advised as follows:

Methadone and Buprenorphine are dispensed throughout the State through 39 public treatment services and private drug treatment clinics, as well as general practitioners and community pharmacies. Many of these treatment facilities are linked to other important services such as case management, counselling, detoxification, rehabilitation and general health services.

The Government's policy on these matters is outlined in the Drug Treatment Services Plan 2000-2005.

- (4) (a) *In the 2001/2002 financial year an estimated 7.7 million needles and syringes were distributed through the NSW Needle Syringe Program.*
- (b) *Measures to minimise and control the discarding of needles and syringes in public places are being actively undertaken by NSW Health.*

These include:

- *Mandatory provision of Fitpacks, a personal sharps container, and other approved containers for safe needle disposal on every occasion when needles are supplied to injecting drug users. Data routinely collected by Area Health Services indicates that the rate of safe disposal of used equipment is high, at around 90 – 95 percent.*

- *Continual education of Needle and Syringe Exchange clients about the importance of safe and responsible disposal of injecting equipment, and provision of a range of achievable options for safe disposal.*
 - *Installation of public sharps collection bins in strategic locations across NSW. This includes installations on Health Department facilities and measures to encourage and assist local councils to install bins in other locations. As of August 2001, there were 789 public disposal bins in NSW and 98 councils had developed safe disposal strategies for medical sharps.*
 - *Establishment of the statewide Needle Clean Up Hotline which members of the public can ring on a toll-free number for assistance in removing discarded needles. Information collected from each call enables the service to map the nature and extent of the discarded needles across the State and take remedial action.*
 - *Needle and Syringe Exchange program staff in Area Health Services conduct regular patrols to known hot spots.*
 - *Some Area Health Services provide regular needle removal services using a contractor. In Cabramatta, for example, clean up work is done by periodic detainees – an initiative with the Fairfield Council and the Drug Intervention Service Cabramatta.*
- (c) *More needles and syringes were distributed in the previous financial year (8.3 million). The estimated rate of safe disposal was similar.*

2. **Dr Wong asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: bottom, p 6)

- (1) At the Kings Cross Injecting Rooms, how many of the 250 patients/clients who experienced overdoses needed oxygen therapy?
- (2) What were the reasons behind the administering of oxygen therapy?

Answers:

I am advised as follows:

- (1) 250.
- (2) *Dr van Beek, the Medical Director of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre has advised as follows:*

“Heroin, other opioids and benzodiazepines are central nervous system (CNS) depressants, which in overdose situations potentially cause cerebral hypoxia (poor oxygen supply to the brain). Airway obstruction may also occur in overdose situations with these categories of drugs, also resulting in cerebral hypoxia.

“Cocaine overdose can cause:

- *Spasm of the coronary arteries, which supply oxygen to the heart muscle tissue, potentially causing myocardial ischaemia and/or infarct (“heart attack”) and/or cardiac arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythms). Both of these conditions may result in cardiac arrest, which may lead to respiratory arrest, resulting in cerebral hypoxia.*
- *Hypertension (high blood pressure), which may precipitate a cerebrovascular accident (“stroke”) or haemorrhage, is also a cause of cerebral hypoxia.*

- *Seizures (fitting), which may obstruct the airway also potentially lead on to a respiratory arrest and subsequent cardiac arrest and/or cerebral hypoxia.*

“Oxygen therapy is indicated to prevent and treat myocardial and cerebral hypoxia in all of the above situations.

“Even when respiratory and cardiac arrests associated with drug overdose are non-fatal, cardiac and cerebral hypoxia needs to have been treated with oxygen in a timely way to avoid irreversible damage to the brain and/or heart, which is associated with ongoing morbidity.”

3. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

(Relevant area in Hansard: middle and bottom, p 7)

At the Kings Cross Injecting Rooms, the Minister has identified 163 patients/clients and 250 overdoses, implying repeat overdoses by certain patients/clients:

- (1) How many of the 53 doses of narcan administered therefore were received by the same patients/clients?
- (2) Once the decision is taken by medical practitioners to intervene medically because of an overdose, what is the scale of treatment, ie from a first stage of holding someone’s head upright to ensure they are breathing properly to a final stage of hospitalisation?
- (3) How many within the 250 overdoses would fall into the first stage?
- (4) What is the least intrusive form of intervention should a patient/client show some signs of a reaction warranting medical intervention?
- (5) What are the protocols of intervention (from the starting through to the finishing points)?

Answers:

I am advised that:

- (1) *Ten out of the 53 doses of Narcan were administered to clients who had received Narcan on a previous occasion. A total of 43 individual clients received Narcan treatment.*
- (2) *The scale of treatment is set out in “Protocol for the Management of Decreased Level of Consciousness”. This document is in use at the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre.*
- (3) *All of the 250 drug overdose cases were administered oxygen therapy. This is the first stage of intervention.*
- (4) *As defined in the Protocol, the least intrusive form of medical intervention in a drug overdose situation is oxygen therapy.*
- (5) *These are contained in the Protocol.*

4. Dr Wong asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

(Relevant area in Hansard: top, p 8)

In relation to ‘Drug Policy’

Has the Kings Cross Injecting Room reduced the number of drug addicts injecting themselves in the streets or back alleys of Kings Cross?

Answer:

I am advised that this issue forms part of the independent evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Trial, being undertaken pursuant to an agreed and published protocol primarily developed by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

There are three components of the evaluation of the Trial:

- 1. The Process Evaluation of the Centre's operations and service delivery.*
- 2. The Impact Evaluation of the Centre which is assessing the five areas of: public health impact, impact on treatment uptake and client health, the public amenity impact, impacts on drug dealing and other crime, and community attitudes.*
- 3. An Economic Evaluation.*

The evaluation will cover the period from commencement of the Trial in May 2000 to October 2002.

The independent Evaluation Committee is providing regular reports on the first component of the evaluation, that is the process or operational aspects of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Trial.

The two other components of the evaluation – that is the Impact Evaluation and the Economic Evaluation are long-term studies.

These are to be reported on after the conclusion of the 18-month period. The issue raised by the question will, accordingly, be addressed in the committee's final report, due in April 2003.

- 5. Rev Nile asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: top, p 9)

In relation to 'Drug Policy'

At the Kings Cross Injecting Rooms what special counselling or assistance (not just in the area of drugs but also in the area of prostitution) is given to those females engaged in prostitution?

Answer:

Dr van Beek has advised that all sex workers attending the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre receive counselling about the risks to health and personal safety associated with sex work in general, and street-based sex work in particular. These include the risk of physical and sexual assault, HIV and other sexually transmissible infections.

'Public Sector Management Office'

- 6. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—**

(Relevant area in Hansard: bottom, p 9)

In relation to 'public Sector dismissals'

Given that there is legislation before the parliament, can the Minister indicate how many public servants have been dismissed in the past 12 months?

Answer:

The power to terminate the services of a public servant is delegated to the Department Heads. Information on the number of public servants is not collected centrally.

7. Rev Nile asked the Director-General, Premier's Department, Public Sector Management Office, Dr Col Gellatly—

(Relevant area in Hansard: top, p 10)

In relation to 'public sector retirements'

- (1) A Commonwealth report indicates that some public service executives are taking early superannuation, then being appointed on a contract or consultant basis: is this occurring at State level?
- (2) Is there provision for New South Wales public service employees to take early superannuation at 55 and then be re-employed as a consultant at a possible higher salary?

Answers:

I understand that the report to which the Honourable Member may be referring is the Commonwealth State of the Service Report which was referred to on 28 May 2002 at 10.33pm by the (Commonwealth) Finance and Public Administration Legislative Committee as part of Senate Estimates Committee hearings. The Committee's discussions to which the Honourable members refers, relate to the Superannuation Scheme which covers Commonwealth public sector employees. In that scheme there appears to be some financial advantage for members to resign immediately before age 55, rather than retiring after that age.

I am advised that the comparable NSW public sector superannuation scheme is the State Superannuation Scheme.

Amendments introduced in 1998 to the State Superannuation Scheme provide that the withdrawal benefit available upon resignation is not greater than that available upon retirement from the scheme at age 55.

None of the other NSW public sector employees' schemes are considered to have provisions similar to the Commonwealth scheme so as to provide an incentive for its members to resign immediately before 55.

'Motor Accidents'

8. Mr Samios asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

(Relevant area in Hansard: middle, p 11)

In relation to 'green slips'

How many compulsory third party insurance premiums were collected between 30 June 2001 and 30 May 2002?

Answer:

During the 9 months from 1 July 2001 to 31 March 2002, three million (3,004,047) policies were issued at a total premium of \$984.4 million (\$984,361,903). Green Slip insurers provide premium data on a quarterly basis. Figures for the June quarter 2002 will not be available until early August 2002.

9. Rev Nile asked the Motor Accidents Authority, General Manager, Mr D Bowen—

(Relevant area in Hansard: middle, p 13)

In relation to 'complaints about accident claims'

Do the 53 complaints against insurers received from 1 July 2001 to 30 April 2002 represent an increase or a decrease in complaints from previous years?

Answer:

The MAA has recorded a minor increase in the number of complaints compared with the previous two years. During the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, the MAA recorded 40 complaints concerning CTP insurers. During the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, the MAA recorded 49 complaints concerning CTP insurers.

'WorkCover'

10. Mr Gallacher asked the General Manager of WorkCover and the Director General of the Department of Industrial Relations, Ms K McKenzie—

(Relevant area in Hansard: bottom, p 15)

In relation to 'referrals to WorkCover'

How many of the 191 referrals to WorkCover would have had follow-up surveillance conducted by WorkCover?

Answer:

All 191 referrals were investigated by WorkCover. The investigative process could include one or all of the following actions;

- *Determination of the validity of the referral*
- *Evaluation of evidence*
- *Interviews with various parties*
- *Surveillance*
- *Obtaining statements*
- *Obtaining supporting documentation*
- *Referral to the insurer for further enquiries*

These matters have been actioned as follows;

<i>Referred for prosecution</i>	<i>- 7</i>
<i>Pending further investigation</i>	<i>- 28</i>
<i>Closed due to insufficient evidence</i>	<i>- <u>156</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>191</i>

Three of these matters required specific surveillance work to gather further evidence. In normal circumstances, if surveillance was the basis of the fraud allegation and the referral, further surveillance would not be necessary.

11. Mr Gallacher asked the General Manager of WorkCover and the Director General of the Department of Industrial Relations, Ms K McKenzie—

(Relevant area in Hansard: middle, p 16)

In relation to 'referrals to WorkCover'

By what number has the current 101 figure for referrals to WorkCover increased from the previous year?

Answer:

Referrals from all sources to the Authority totalled the following for the years (1 July – 30 June);

<i>1999 – 2000</i>	<i>152</i>
<i>2000 – 2001</i>	<i>191 (39 increase = 25.7%)</i>
<i>2001 – 2002</i>	<i>306 (115 increase = 62.5%)</i>

12. Mr Gallacher asked the General Manager of WorkCover and the Director General of the Department of Industrial Relations, Ms K McKenzie—

(Relevant area in Hansard: middle, p 19)

In relation to 'investigation protocols'

Could the Compliance Improvement Branch provide copies of your written procedures for investigators to follow (subject to 'in camera' or 'in confidence' provisions)?

Answer:

A hard copy of the Fraud Investigation Manual (156) pages is forwarded for information together with a copy of the Code of Conduct required of all private investigators engaged by the Authority on specified work. NOTE: It would be appreciated if the procedures could be held in camera.

13. Rev Nile asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

(Relevant area in Hansard: bottom, p 22)

In relation to 'grants and subsidies'

Budget Paper no 3 vol 2, page 18-23, shows that grants and subsidies totalled \$35 million in the previous budget and that in 2002-03 the figure was \$25 million, revealing a \$10 million reduction. How was that reduction achieved in grants and subsidies?

Answer:

The reduction of \$10 million in grants and subsidies in 2002-03 has occurred as a result of the cessation of the Workers Compensation Resolution Service on 31 December 2001.

The Workers Compensation Resolution Service was replaced by the Workers Compensation Commission. Funding of \$29 million has been provided for the Commission in 2002/03. This amount has been included by NSW Treasury under "Other" in the Cash Flow Statement on page 18-23.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

14. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

(1) (a) Does your Ministerial Office receive media monitoring services?

- (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02?
 - (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?
 - (d) How many different suppliers do you have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?
 - (e) Please list all suppliers.
- (2)
- (a) Does any agency in your portfolio receive media monitoring services?
 - (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02, by agency?
 - (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?
 - (d) How many different suppliers do agencies in your portfolio have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?
 - (e) Please list all suppliers.
- (3)
- (a) In 2001-02, how much was spent on your Ministerial Office? Please provide a breakdown by expense.
 - (b) What is the forecast amount to be spent in 2002-03 and what is the forecast number of staff?
- (4)
- (a) What is the total cost of your overseas trips in 2001-02?
 - (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
 - (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (5)
- (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your overseas trips in 2002-03?
 - (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
 - (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (6)
- (a) What is the total cost of your interstate trips in 2001-02?
 - (b) Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost and for each trip a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (7)
- (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your interstate trips in 2002-03?
 - (b) Can you provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
 - (c) For each trip, can you provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials?
- (8)
- (a) How many staff were employed as at 30 May 1999, 30 May 2000, 30 May 2001 in your Ministerial Office?
 - (b) What was the annual salary cost of those staff in each of those years?
- (9)
- (a) Does your office contract consultants?
 - (b) If so, what consultancies have been commissioned in 2001/2002, and at what cost?
 - (c) What consultancy services will be commissioned from July 1 2002 - March 2003 and at what estimated cost?

- (10) (a) Were any legal costs incurred by your office in 2001-02.
 (b) If so, what was the cost and nature of each instance of legal advice?

Answers:

- (1) (a) *Yes.*
 (b) *All costs incurred were appropriate to the needs identified.*
 (c) *All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.*
 (d) *Please refer to answer for (c)*
 (e) *Please refer to answer for (c)*
- (2) (a) *Any decision to access media monitoring is determined by the agencies concerned and the need for monitoring of issues.*
 (b) *All costs were in accordance with identified needs.*
 (c) *All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.*
 (d) and (e) *The appropriate cost centres are utilised.*
- (3) (a) *The Government has released the costs of Ministerial expenditure to the Opposition under an FOI application.*
 (b) *It is too early in the financial year to predict expenditure. Staff numbers will approximate those released under the FOI application.*
- (4) *Official travel is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.*
Costs incurred during official overseas travel were in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.
- (5) *This will depend on the nature and scope of any travel undertaken in 2002-03.*
Costs incurred during official overseas travel will be in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.
- (6) *Official travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and in a cost effective manner.*
- (7) *It is too early to provide an estimate at this stage of the financial year. However, expenditure will depend on the nature and scope of any travel in 2002-03.*
- (8) *Ministerial staff are employed by the Director General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1988.*
All costs were in accordance with the expenditure necessary to facilitate the effective functioning of the office and within allocations to Ministerial Offices.
- (9) *Expenditure on consultancies is reported in Annual Reports. All expenditure is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*
It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on consultants in 2002-03.
- (10) *All legal costs were incurred after an assessment of the need to obtain external legal assistance. Legal professional privilege will be maintained in relation to advice and costs.*

15. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (1) (a) What was the total cost of public relations activities?
- (b) What is the forecast cost for 2002-03?
- (2) How much was spent on public opinion surveys?
- (3) (a) How much money was spent on advertising? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on advertising in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*
- (4) (a) How much was spent on consultants? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on consultants in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*

Answers:

- (1) **Public authorities conduct a range of extension activities aimed at communicating to the public a range of regulatory, advisory, research and general information.**

The question posed is too broad to identify an actual cost.

- (2) **The Premier issued Memorandum 2000-28 which specifically directed government agencies not to use surveys of government clients or NSW citizens to elicit questions on political issues.**
- (3) **Details of total government advertising were published in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper on Monday 29 July 2002 in an article by Paola Totaro, State Political Editor.**

All requests relating to advertising must be approved by a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Government Advertising.

- (4) **The cost of consultants is reflected in the annual report.**

Expenditure depends on the need for consultancy services throughout the year.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (5) (a) How much was spent on overseas trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on overseas trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*
- (6) (a) How much was spent on inter-state trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on interstate trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*

Answers:

- (5) **Details regarding all official overseas travel is included in the annual report and is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.**

Expenditure depends on the particular issues requiring overseas travel.

- (6) *Interstate travel by portfolio agencies was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
Expenditure depends on the particular issues requiring travel.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (7) How much was spent on legal expenses?
- (8) (a) How much was spent on office fitouts and refurbishments?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?
- (9) (a) How much was spent on the cost of leases in the Sydney CBD?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?
- (10) (a) Was there any vacant or under-utilised office space?
(b) What is the cost of such unused office space?

Answers:

- (7) *Expenditure on legal expenses followed appropriate review of the circumstances, the need for such expenditure and within appropriate guidelines.*
In the case of core work for public sector agencies the Crown Solicitor meets these costs.
- (8) *All office accommodation fit-outs and refurbishments were undertaken in accordance with OH&S requirements and appropriate guidelines.*
It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on accommodation and fit-outs in 2002-03.
- (9) *The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) monitors the leasing of the majority of government office space. Costs are kept to a minimum by virtue of the whole of government approach taken to leasing.*
- (10) *The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) oversees the leasing of the majority of government office space. It monitors lease negotiations to maximise occupancy and avoid vacancies.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (11) (a) How much money was spent on performance pay for public servants in:
(i) 2000-01?
(ii) 2001-02?
(b) Did you personally approve these bonus payments?
- (12) (a) How much was spent on the salary packages for the Senior Executive Service?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

Answers:

- (11) *On 28 August 2001 Premier's Memorandum 2000-21 was issued indicating that performance pay was not to be made available to members of the Chief and Senior Executive Services.*
Approvals for performance payments prior to 28 August 2001 as well as all other remuneration to members of the Senior Executive Service were made by the respective Chief Executive Officers

- (12) *Upon election, the Government inherited a Chief and Senior Executive Service of 1,434 positions. The Government reduced the number of Senior Executive Service positions in accordance with a commitment to do so. As at April 2002 there were 1,003. This is a reduction of 431.*

Remuneration for the Senior Executive Service (SES) is determined by the Independent Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT). It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on SES remuneration. However, expenditure will be in accordance with any determinations by SOORT.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (13) (a) Have any Departments or agencies been fined by a court or statutory or regulatory authority between July 1 2001 and June 30, 2002?
- (b) If so, detail each fine and amount, and the reason for each fine?
- (14) How many times were matters referred for independent investigation to ICAC? *Please provide a breakdown of these referrals?*

Answers:

- (13) *Any penalties imposed by a court or statutory authority are on the record of that court or statutory authority.*
- (14) *Section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 requires the principal officer of an agency to report any matter the officer suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corruption.*

Disclosure of information may identify issues under investigation and therefore impede these investigations.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (15) (a) What fees were increased, and by how much?
- (b) What fees are expected to be increased in 2002-03?

Answer:

As was the case in the former Greiner/Fahey Government's any increases in fees are measured and take into account the specific fee, movements in the CPI and other related factors.

16. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

- (1) (a) In 2001-02, how many board appointments were made you, or by your portfolio agencies?
- (b) Of these appointments:
- (i) How many were women?
- (ii) How many were of people from a non-English speaking background?
- (iii) How many were of people with a disability?
- (iv) How many were Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders?
- (v) How many were young people?

Answers:

- (1) (a) *The Government made a total of 1754 appointments to boards and committees in 2001/02.*
- (b) (i) *Approximately 694 were female.*
- (ii) *Due to the self-identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people from a non –English speaking background.*
- (iii) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people with a disability.*
- (iv) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders.*
- (v) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for young people.*

17. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

- (1) How many submissions were made by NSW Government Departments & Agencies to the review being undertaken of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*?
- (2) Were any specific areas of concern raised by any NSW Government Departments or Agencies?
- (3) Will you table copies of any submissions received from NSW Government Departments and Agencies?

Answers:

- (1) *Ten.*
- (2) *Submissions from NSW Government Departments and Agencies are attached.*
- (3) *Yes, submissions are attached.*

18. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

Relevant area in the budget papers: Paper No.3 Vol.2; page 18-6

- (1) Estimated total expenses of \$53 million are given for the restructuring of workers compensation disputes, including funding the new Workers Compensation Commission.
- (2) What proportion of this funding is specifically being used to fund the Workers Compensation Commission? Please provide full details
- (3) What is the remainder being spent on? Please provide full details.
- (4) In previous years, funding for the resolution of workers compensation disputes, including funding of the Compensation Court, was substantially less than this year's funding for the new arrangements. For example \$33.3 million was allocated in 2001-02 and \$31.5 million in 2000-01.
- (a) Do you anticipate, at the present time, whether the new arrangements will continue to require annual funding equivalent to this year's estimation?
- (b) If not, can you advise whether the level of funding required is expected to increase or decrease?
- (5) (a) What is the total number of staff currently employed by the Commission?

- (b) How many staff from the Compensation Court have been retained by the Commission?

Answers:

- (1) *An answer is not required.*
- (2) *\$29 million of the \$53 million is being used to fund the Workers Compensation Commission. These funds will be applied to meet the costs of operation of the Commission including the remuneration (and allowances) of the members and of the staff of the Commission, and the remuneration of approved medical specialists.*
- (3) *The remainder of \$24 million is budgeted for the Compensation Court. These funds will be applied to meet the costs of operation of the Compensation Court, including:*
- (i) *the remuneration (including allowances) of Judges, commissioners, officers and staff of the Compensation Court, and*
- (ii) *court accommodation.*
- (4) *In future years, funding for the resolution of workers' compensation disputes will be less than the 2002/03 estimate. The level of funding is expected to decrease as the Compensation Court reduces its case load.*
- (5) *The total number of staff currently employed by the Commission is 56 (excluding the 3 tipstaves and 2 associates to the Presidential members).*

Eight staff from the Compensation Court have been appointed to roles within the Commission and are included in the total number of staff of 56 above.

19. Mr Gallacher asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast, the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC—

Relevant area in the budget papers: Paper No.3, Vol.2; p.18-7, Paper No.4; pp.81-82

- (1) (a) How will the relocation of WorkCover's head office be undertaken once the new Gosford premises are complete?
- (b) (i) Will WorkCover have to temporarily cease the provision of any of its regular services during this period?
- (ii) If so what services will be affected and for how long will they be unavailable?
- (2) (a) What arrangements have been made for WorkCover's current Kent Street premises once the relocation has occurred?
- (b) Have arrangements been made to lease the building after WorkCover have left? Please provide full details.
- (3) (a) Have any renovations, redecoration or new fit-outs to WorkCover's Kent Street premises been undertaken in the last 12 months?
- (b) If so, please provide full details, including costs incurred by WorkCover.
- (4) (a) What is the current rent of the Kent Street premises?
- (b) What will the rental difference be between Kent Street and Gosford?
- (5) What was the WorkCover "Fitout" in the 2001 budget for?
- (6) How many positions are yet to be filled in the relocation to Gosford?

- (7) Where are they?
- (8) How many members accepting a transfer to Gosford are from a NESB background?

Answers:

- (1) *WorkCover is currently developing a tender package for provision of removalist services for the move of head office from Kent Street to Gosford. The outcome of this process will determine how the relocation will occur.*

WorkCover is committed to minimising the inconvenience of the head office move on its stakeholders and to the general public. Strategies will be put in place to ensure business continuity during the move.

- (2) *The 400 Kent Street premises have been assigned to the Crown Property Portfolio (CPP). WorkCover will sublease a part of the 400 Kent Street premises from the CPP post the Gosford head office move, for its Sydney Regional Office.*

The 400 Kent Street premises have been assigned to the Crown Property Portfolio (CPP).

- (3) *The only fitout works carried out in 400 Kent Street, Sydney since 1 July 2001 were minor fitout work for the establishment of the Claims Assistance Service from 1 January 2002. The cost of these works was \$5,687.*

- (4) *\$460 per square metre.*

\$182 per square metre.

- (5) *The Budget Papers identify that an amount of \$3.5 million was to be expended on the fitout of premises at Gosford for the relocation of the Authority in 2002 (Budget Estimates 2001-02, page 17-6)*
- (6) *There is ongoing recruitment action for any vacancies that occur in the WorkCover's head office. As at 18 July 2002, there are 63 active recruitment actions underway within WorkCover.*
- (7) *Vacancies occur from time to time across the organisation, including in the business units of WorkCover's head office.*
- (8) *As at 12 July 2002, 6 staff have been recruited via the lateral transfer register. Under privacy legislation, it is not compulsory for individuals to identify their NESB status.*