



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2

Budget Estimates 2019-2020



Report 53

May 2020

2

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Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Budget Estimates 2019-2020

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Terms of reference

1. That on tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2019 – 2020 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2019 – 2020:
 - (a) initial hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 29 to 30 August, 2 to 6 September and 9 to 13 September 2019, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be specified by further resolution of the House,
 - (b) supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 28 October to 1 November 2019, or on such other dates as required, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be determined by resolution of each committee,¹
 - (c) further hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 2 to 17 March 2020, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be specified by further resolution of the House and the time for giving of evidence by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and officers to be determined by resolution of each committee,²
 - (d) each scheduled day for the initial and further rounds³ of hearings will begin at 9.30 am and conclude by 8.30 pm,⁴
 - (e) the committees must hear evidence in public,
 - (f) the committees may ask for explanations from ministers, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure,
 - (g) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions,
 - (h) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following a hearing,
 - (i) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members, and
 - (j) committees are to present a final report to the House by 30 June 2020.

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 October 2019, p 520.

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 20 November 2019, p 729.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 October 2019, p 520.

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 20 November 2019, p 729.

3. That this House resolve to adopt a revised schedule for future budget estimates inquiries similar to the Senate estimates process comprised of:
- (a) an initial round of estimates hearings over 12 days on the tabling of the Budget Estimates and related papers,
 - (b) supplementary hearings scheduled over five days in October or November of that year, and
 - (c) further hearings scheduled over 12 days in February or March of the following year.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the House on 8 May 2019, and amended on 16 October 2019 and 20 November 2019.⁵

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 8 May 2019, pp 117-119; 16 October 2019, p 520; 20 November 2019, p 729.

Committee details

Committee members

The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Lou Amato MLC	Liberal Party	
Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals	
The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Walt Secord MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

The Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party
Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens
The Hon Ben Franklin MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Trevor Khan MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party

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Chair's foreword

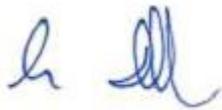
I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020. This annual inquiry into the Budget Estimates ensures parliamentary oversight of the Budget, and provides an important mechanism for the accountability of the executive government to the Legislative Council.

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
- Health and Medical Research.

The key evidence gathering mechanism of this Inquiry is through the conduct of public hearings. This report lists the key issues raised during the hearings. Transcripts, tabled documents and additional answers provided after the hearings are published on the [Inquiry's webpage](#).

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the ministers and their officers who assisted the committee during this important inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.



Hon Greg Donnelly MLC
Committee Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

The Inquiry into Budget Estimates is one of the key mechanisms for parliamentary committees to scrutinise government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. It holds ministers and government officials to account and provides a greater level of transparency to the public.

The Inquiry is conducted annually by the Legislative Council's Portfolio Committees. Each committee examines the budget estimates of its responsible portfolios, with ministers and senior public servants as the primary witnesses. The evidence taking process of the Inquiry consists of answers provided during public hearings and answers to post-hearing written questions (known as supplementary questions). There is no provision for written submissions.

Referral of the Budget Estimates 2019-2020

- 1.1 The Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 ('the Inquiry') was referred to the portfolio committees on 8 May 2019 by the Legislative Council.⁶ The budget estimates resolution establishing the Inquiry and that sets out the rules for the Inquiry is reproduced on page iv and v.
- 1.2 The budget estimates resolution this year had significant procedural changes compared to previous years. The amount of time for questioning for each portfolio area was significantly increased, and the duration of the whole inquiry across all the portfolio committees was 12 days, compared to previous years of five. The variations to the conduct of the Inquiry are outlined below.

Total hearing time for questioning

- 1.3 The resolution authorised the committees to conduct three rounds of hearings: initial, supplementary and further hearings, from 9.30 am to 8.30 pm, to examine all portfolios for each minister.
- 1.4 The total amount of time available for scrutiny was nearly tripled compared to previous estimates inquiries. In the past, only two rounds of hearings (initial and supplementary) were conducted and portfolios under the same minister were examined for under four hours duration. That meant that Ministers and senior public servants could generally face a maximum of eight hours of questioning over two budget estimates hearings. In contrast, under the new resolution Ministers and senior public servants could face potentially up to 33 hours of questioning over three different hearings.
- 1.5 On 16 October 2019, the House amended the resolution to require only initial and further rounds of the hearings to begin at 9.30 am and conclude by 8.30 pm. The committees were therefore able to determine when and how much time was required for supplementary hearings, if any.⁷

⁶ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 8 May 2019, pp 117-119.

⁷ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 October 2019, p 520.

Witnesses

- 1.6** The resolution required ministers, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure, to appear in the morning session, and only officers giving further evidence during the afternoon session.⁸ It is noted that parliamentary secretaries were not required to give evidence to earlier estimates inquiries.
- 1.7** On 20 November 2019, the resolution was further amended so that, for the further hearings, each committee could determine who (ministers, parliamentary secretaries, public servants, or representatives from statutory bodies) they wanted to call and for how long they were to appear within the parameters of 9.30am to 8.30pm.⁹

Number of hearings

- 1.8** The Budget Estimates resolution, as amended, stipulated that the initial hearings be held between 29 August and 13 September 2019, supplementary hearings from 28 October to 1 November 2019, and further hearings from 2 to 17 March 2019.¹⁰

Hearings

- 1.9** The committee held 6 public hearings as follows:
- Tuesday 3 September 2019 – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
 - Thursday 5 September 2019 – Health and Medical Research
 - Wednesday 30 October 2019 - Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (supplementary hearing)
 - Wednesday 30 October 2019 - Health and Medical Research (supplementary hearing)
 - Thursday 5 March 2020 – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (further hearing)
 - Thursday 12 March 2020 – Health and Medical Research (further hearing).

Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions

- 1.10** Transcripts of the hearings, questions taken on notice, supplementary questions and answers to these questions are available on the Budget Estimates web page at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budget-estimates.

⁸ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 8 May 2019, pp 117-119.

⁹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 20 November 2019, pp 117-119.

¹⁰ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 20 November 2019, pp 117-119.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

This chapter provides a brief summary of key issues raised during the hearings.

Health and Medical Research

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of Health and Medical Research was held on Thursday 5 September 2019. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Background checks on prospective employees of the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission
- Advertisement of medical positions at Parkes and Forbes Hospitals
- Promotion of plant-based diets and of access to fresh fruit and vegetables
- Presence of individual forensic patients in NSW Health aged care facilities
- Operations of the new Northern Beaches Hospital, including cardiac care
- Mental health presentations in emergency departments
- Planning for and management of the influenza season
- Funding for health promotion and preventative health strategies
- Workforce issues including numbers of nurses and midwives, locums (stand-ins) and ambulance officers
- Infrastructure issues including building new hospitals and funding to redevelop existing hospitals
- Hospital buildings with combustible cladding
- Delivery of cardiac services at the Randwick and Westmead children's hospitals
- Improving safety at music festivals and pill testing
- Health impacts of meat and dairy consumption
- Security measures for hospitals and paramedics
- Health impacts of air pollution and wood-fired heating
- Health concerns around poor water quality following regional water shortages
- Smoking rates and take up of e-cigarettes
- Medical research budget including for mental health.

2.2 A supplementary hearing examining the portfolio of Health and Medical Research was held on Wednesday 30 October 2019. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Efficiency targets arising from the 2019-20 Budget, as discussed with staff of Blacktown and Mt Druitt Hospital

- Recent death at Tenterfield Hospital and measures to address uneven distribution of doctors in regional and remote hospitals
- Investigations and subsequent actions in respect of three employees of the Health Care Complaints Commission
- Public health alerts notifying drug users of dangerous substances
- Child discharged from hospital with undiagnosed broken neck
- Consideration of paediatric cardiac surgery in the review of the governance of paediatric services
- Activities to prevent overdosing of MDMA.

2.3 A further hearing examining the portfolio of Health and Medical Research was held on Thursday 12 March 2020. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Evolving decisions in preparations for and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The escape from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital of baboons held for experimental purposes and use of animals in other medical experimentation.

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was held on Tuesday 3 September 2019. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Funding for mental health services in New South Wales
- Presence of individual forensic patients in NSW Health aged care facilities
- Measures to address mental health and prevent suicide among veterinarians and slaughterhouse workers
- Measures to address the gender pay gap
- Outcomes of the review of the design and use of safe assessment rooms in emergency departments
- Adequacy of responses to presentations for mental health assessment at emergency departments
- Reduction of domestic violence targets and abuse of pets
- Critical incidents in the community following individuals' contact with the mental health system
- Operation of mental health services within the Health cluster
- Mental health services available in isolated communities and for the homeless
- Mental health and unemployment concerns for regional youth.

2.5 A supplementary hearing examining the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was held on Wednesday 30 October 2019. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Overview of the Mental Health Commission NSW
- Living Well strategy and its review
- Suicide prevention strategy including the Zero suicides initiatives
- Mental health support for transgender
- Suicide prevention reduction target by 2023
- LifeSpan programs
- Indigenous suicide rates
- National mental health strategies
- Suicide and mental health prevention for youth
- Program and funding for counselling services in schools.

2.6 A further hearing examining the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was held on Thursday 5 March 2020. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Mental health responses in bushfire affected communities
- Programs responding to domestic violence and other issues faced by women
- The resources and restructure of Women NSW
- Mental health resources at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital
- Regional Youth Taskforce
- Minister Taylor's conduct regarding Country Universities Centre
- Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention in NSW relating to funding, people with disability, and children in care
- Child Death Review
- Regional Youth Office relating to the locations and staffing, and the Minister's role
- Regional Youth Taskforce
- Treatment of gender dysphoric children and young people
- Mental health support for victims of the bushfires
- Sentinel events in mental health facilities
- Mental health training for pharmacists.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women – Tuesday 3 September 2019

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC	Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
Mr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Mr Steve Orr	Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Ms Simone Walker	Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
Ms Melinda Norton	Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice
Mr Anthony Body	A/Executive Director, Regional NSW, Regions, Industry, Agriculture and Resources
Dr Murray Wright	NSW Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health

Health and Medical Research – Thursday 5 September 2019

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Brad Hazzard MP	Minister for Health and Medical Research
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
Mr Daniel Hunter	Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
Dr Kerry Chant	Chief Health Officer, NSW Ministry of Health
Ms Carmen Rechbauer	Chief Executive Officer, Health Share NSW
Ms Susan Pearce	Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance, NSW Health

Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, Ministry of Health
Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning Division, NSW Ministry of Health

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women – Wednesday 30 October 2019 (supplementary hearing)

Name	Position and Organisation
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
Dr Kerry Chant PSM	Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary of Population and Public Health, NSW Health
Dr Murray Wright	NSW Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health
Ms Catherine Lourey	NSW Mental Health Commissioner

Health and Medical Research – Wednesday 30 October 2019 (supplementary hearing)

Name	Position and Organisation
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
Dr Kerry Chant PSM	Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary of Population and Public Health, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Ms Sue Dawson	Health Care Complaints Commissioner
Ms Deborah Willcox	Chief Executive Officer, North Sydney Local Health District

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women – Thursday 5 March 2020 (further hearing)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC	Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health

Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Dr Murray Wright	Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health
Ms Catherine Lourey	NSW Mental Health Commissioner
Mr Anthony Body	Director, Office of Regional Youth
Ms Simone Walker	Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
Mr Chris Hanger	Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Ms Tanya Smyth	Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice

Health and Medical Research – Thursday 12 March 2020 (further hearing)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Brad Hazzard MP	Minister for Health and Medical Research
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns,	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Dr Kerry Chant PSM	Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
Ms Susan Pearce	Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance Division, NSW Health
Mr Daniel Hunter	Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
Ms Sue Dawson	NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner
Ms Rebecca Wark	Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 3

Thursday 20 June 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.30 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Faehrmann, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Fang

Ms Hurst

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

2. Apologies

Mr Secord

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 2 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – procedural resolutions

The Budget Estimates timetable for 2019-2020 was agreed to by the House. Below is a table of Portfolio Committee No. 2 hearings:

Date	Time	Portfolio
Tuesday 3 September 2019	9.30 am – 12.30 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm	Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Taylor)
Thursday 5 September 2019	9.30 am – 12.30 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm	Health and Medical Research (Hazzard)

4.1 Allocation of question time

The committee noted that under the resolution establishing the Portfolio Committees, the sequence of questions at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, with equal time allocated to each, unless the committee decides otherwise.

4.2 Order for examination of portfolios

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That portfolios be examined concurrently.

4.3 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the secretariat write to the ministers named in the budget estimates resolution to request that they nominate witnesses to appear at each estimates hearing, for the committee's consideration, and that responses be provided by 26 July 2019.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee consider whether to invite parliamentary secretaries to appear at the budget estimates hearings at a future meeting.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9.45 am, *sine die*.

Jenelle Moore
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes no. 4

Thursday 8 August 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney at 1.33 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Faehrmann, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Fang

Ms Hurst

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 3 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- ***
- 25 July 2019 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, providing a witness list for the Budget Estimates initial hearings
- 26 July 2019 – Email from Mr Daniel Newlan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, to the secretariat, providing a witness list for the Budget Estimates initial hearings.

Sent

- 28 June 2019 – Letter from the secretariat to the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, inviting the Minister to Budget Estimates initial hearings
- 28 June 2019 – Letter from the secretariat to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, inviting the Minister to Budget Estimates initial hearings.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – procedural resolutions

4.1 Allocation of question time

The committee noted that, under the resolution establishing the Portfolio Committees, the sequence of questions at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, with equal time allocated to each, unless the committee decides otherwise.

4.2 Government questions

The committee deferred consideration of government questions until a future meeting.

4.3 Order for examination of portfolios and witnesses

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the witnesses proposed to answer questions relating to the portfolios allocated to the following ministers be invited to appear for the duration of each session:

- Minister Taylor on Tuesday 3 September 2019
- Minister Hazzard on Thursday 5 September 2019.

4.4 Additional witness requests

The committee noted each minister's list of proposed witnesses, as per the table below, and that members have until 1.30 pm Friday 9 August 2019 to provide any additional witness requests.

Minister	Portfolio	Witness	Position and Department
Taylor	Mental Health	Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
		Mr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
		Mr Phill Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
	Regional Youth	Mr Steve Orr	Executive Director - Regional NSW, Department of Planning and Industry
	Women	Ms Simone Walker	Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
		Ms Melinda Norton	Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice
Hazzard	Health and Medical Research	Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That Mr Daniel Hunter, Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health be invited to appear at the Health and Medical Research hearing.

4.5 Parliamentary secretaries

The committee considered whether parliamentary secretaries be invited to appear at the initial hearings.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.42 pm, *sine die*.

Jenelle Moore
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 6

Tuesday 3 September 2019
Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.18 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*
Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato
Ms Fachrmann (*left at 4.07 pm and returned at 6.00 pm*)
Ms Jackson (*participating*)
Mr Khan (*Substituting for Mr Fang*)
Mrs Maclaren-Jones
Ms Moriarty (*participating*)
Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 5 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 15 August 2019 – Email from Ms Tammy Tsimbrikas, Office of the Hon Greg Donnelly MLC to secretariat – advising that the Chair consents to the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC's request to participate in the Health and Medical Research hearing on Thursday 5 September 2019 and forwarding a copy of the request from the office of the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC to the Chair sent on 12 August 2019.
- 15 August 2019 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, advising that all additional witnesses for the Health and Medical Research Budget Estimates hearing on 5 September 2019 will attend and nominating an additional witness for this hearing.
- 15 August 2019 – Email from Ms Michelle Kelly, Executive director, Executive and Ministerial Services, NSW Health, advising that certain additional witnesses will attend the Health and Medical Research Budget Estimates hearing on 5 September 2019 and nominating an additional witness for this hearing.
- 28 August 2019 – Email from Mr Dan Newlan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, advising that Chief Psychiatrist, Dr Murray Wright attend the Budget Estimates hearing in place of Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health.
- 28 August 2019 – Email from Mr Dan Newlan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, advising that Chief Psychiatrist, Dr Murray Wright will attend the Budget Estimates hearing in addition to Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health.
- 29 August 2019 – Email from Mr Dan Newlan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, requesting that Mr Anthony Body, A/Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Regions, Industry, Agriculture and Resources be added as a witness to appear at the Budget Estimates hearing.

Sent

- 12 August 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Mr Daniel Newlan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, confirming that the committee has not requested additional witnesses for Budget Estimates.
- 12 August 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, providing a list of additional witness request for Budget Estimates.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020

4.1 Government questions

Resolved on the motion of Ms Maclaren-Jones: That with no government questions asked by government members, the portfolios of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women be examined from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, 6.00 pm to 6.40 pm, with optional government questions from 6.40 pm to 7.00 pm.

4.2 Allocation of questioning

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the opposition and crossbench be allocated 20 minutes of questioning each and any time remaining be divided between the two groups equally, subject to optional government questions from 6.40 pm to 7.00 pm, as per the previous resolution.

4.3 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Mr Steve Orr, Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Melinda Norton, Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice
- Dr Murray Wright, NSW Chief Psychiatrist
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Mr Anthony Body, A/Executive Director, Regional NSW, Regions, Industry, Agriculture and Resources.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 11.35 am.

The public hearing continued.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.03 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That as members have no further questions for witnesses, witnesses be advised that they will not be required to attend the hearing scheduled to commence at 6.00 pm today.

4.4 Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That the committee defer its decision on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women until after the return of answers to supplementary questions.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 6.03 pm, until 9.15 am, Thursday 5 September 2019, Macquarie Room (*Health and Medical Research*).

Merrin Thompson and Samuel Griffith
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 7

Thursday 5 September 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.16 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (until 5.00 pm)*

Mr Banasiak (*participating until 11.30 am*)

Ms Faehrmann (*from 9.16 am until 10.57 am, and from 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm*)

Mr Fang (*from 9.16 am until 11.30 am, and from 3.17 pm until 4.00 pm*)

Mrs Houssos (*participating until 5.00 pm*)

Mr Khan (*substituting for Mr Amato until 4.00 pm*)

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Mason-Cox (*substituting for Mr Fang from 2.00 pm until 3.17 pm*)

Mr Secord

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- ***
- 29 August 2019 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, requesting that Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, Ministry of Health attend the Budget Estimates hearing
- 2 September 2019 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, requesting that Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning Division, NSW Ministry of Health, attend the Budget Estimates hearing.

3. ***

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020

4.1 Government questions and allocation of questioning

Resolved on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the portfolio of Health and Medical Research be examined as follows:

- (a) from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, with no government questions, and the opposition and cross bench allocated 20 minutes of questioning each and any time remaining divided evenly
- (b) from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, with no government questions, and the opposition and cross bench allocated 20 minutes of questioning each and any time remaining divided evenly
- (c) 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, with the opposition, crossbench and government allocated 20 minutes of questioning each, such that government questions take place between 6.40 pm and 7.00 pm.

4.2 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – Health and Medical Research

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Minister Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, Ministry of Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning Division, NSW Ministry of Health.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Daniel Hunter, Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Ministry of Health
- Ms Carmen Rechbauer, Chief Executive Officer, Health Share NSW
- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance, NSW Health.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 11.36 am.

The public hearing continued.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.00 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4.3 Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That the committee defer its decision on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research, until after the return of answers to supplementary questions.

4.4 Witnesses after 6.00 pm

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That as members have no further questions for witnesses, witnesses be advised that they will not be required to attend the hearing scheduled to commence at 6.00 pm today.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 6.01 pm, *sine die*.

Merrin Thompson/Madeleine Foley
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 10

Wednesday 16 October 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.31 am

1. Members presentMr Donnelly, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

2. Apologies

Ms Hurst

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Amato: That draft minutes nos. 6 and 7 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 27 September 2019 – Letter from the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching Budget Estimates answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and transcript corrections and clarifications, as well as a request to insert comments in the transcript
- 1 October 2019 – Email from Ms Louise Callaway, Office of the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, advising that Ms Hurst is an apology for the meeting due to a clash with another committee meeting, and that Ms Hurst has no questions for a supplementary hearing.

Sent

- 6 September 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Lucinda Bourke, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions
- 10 September 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020**5.1 Answers to questions on notice**

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Women and Regional Youth, received 27 September 2019
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, received 1 October 2019.

5.2 Clarification to evidence

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee authorise the publication of the correspondence from Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Women and Regional Youth, who has

corrected errors by Dr Murray Wright, Chief Scientist during the Mental Health, Women and Regional Youth hearing on Tuesday 3 September 2019

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee authorise the addition of footnotes to the evidence of Dr Murray Wright, 3 September 2019.

5.3 Request to insert comments in transcript

The committee considered the request.

The Chair requested that the committee clerk brief the committee on the practice to date regarding the inclusion of comments made after the close of a hearing in the Hansard transcript.

The committee deliberated.

Mr Fang moved: That the committee incorporate comments into the transcript of evidence made after the Chair's closing comments during the hearing for Mental Health, Women and Regional Youth, as per the Minister's request.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Amato, Ms Faehrmann, Mr Fang, Mrs Maclaren-Jones.

Noes: Mr Donnelly, Mr Secord.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Mrs Maclaren-Jones requested that committee chairs advise members that comments made following the conclusion of a hearing may be recorded in Hansard.

5.4 Supplementary hearings

Mr Secord moved: That the committee hold a supplementary hearing to consider matters relating to the portfolios of Health and Medical Research, and Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, on a date to be determined by the Chair in consultation with members.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Donnelly, Ms Faehrmann, Mr Secord.

Noes: Mr Amato, Mr Fang, Mrs Maclaren-Jones.

There being an equality of votes, question resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of the Chair.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9.50 am, *sine die*.

Jenelle Moore

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 11

Wednesday 30 October 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (from 9.19 until 9.50 am)*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Franklin (*substituting for Mr Fang*)

Mrs Houssos (*participating*)
Mrs Maclaren-Jones
Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 10 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 23 October 2019 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, advising the availability of witnesses to attend the supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research on 30 October 2019
- 23 October 2019 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, revising the availability of witnesses to attend the supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research on 30 October 2019
- 23 October 2019 – Email from Ms Lucinda Bourke, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, to the secretariat, advising the availability of witnesses to attend the supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women on 30 October 2019.
- 24 October 2019 – Email from Ms Lucinda Bourke, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, to the secretariat, confirming the availability of Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner to attend the supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women on 30 October 2019
- 28 October 2019 - Email from Mr Andrew Spillane, Director of Finance, Northern Beaches Hospital, to the secretariat, declining his invitation to attend the supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research to be held on 30 October 2019.

Sent

- 22 October 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Abbie Chugg, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, requesting that a list of witnesses be invited to give evidence at a supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research.
- 22 October 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Lucinda Bourke, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, requesting that a list of witnesses be invited to give evidence at a supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.
- 25 October 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Mr Andrew Spillane, Director of Finance, Northern Beaches Hospital, inviting him to attend the supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research to be held on 30 October 2019.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020

4.1 Allocation of questioning

The committee noted the allocation of questioning for this hearing, as previously agreed to over email.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Franklin: That, with no government questions, the time for questions be allocated as follows: three rounds of questions with 30 minutes for the opposition and 20 minutes for the crossbench, then the remaining time allocated to the opposition.

4.2 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – Health and Medical Research

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary of Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Sue Dawson, Health Care Complaints Commissioner
- Ms Deborah Willcox, Chief Executive Officer, North Sydney Local Health District.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Medical Health and Research open for examination.

The witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Secord tabled the following document: Powerpoint slides addressing the NSW State Budget 2019-20 titled 'What does this mean for Health?'

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.49 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4.3 Further hearings

The committee noted that further hearings have been scheduled for February 2020.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.50 pm, until 1.45 pm, Wednesday 30 October 2019 in the Macquarie Room, Parliament House (Budget Estimates supplementary hearing – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women).

Merrin Thompson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 12

Wednesday 30 October 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.49 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann (*from 1.52 pm*)

Mr Franklin (*substituting for Mr Fang*)

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Ms Moriarty (*participating*)

Mr Secord (*until 3.48 pm*)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020

2.1 Allocation of questioning

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Franklin: That, with no government questions, the opposition be allocated 30 minutes of questioning and crossbench (Ms Faehrmann) be allocated 20 minutes of questioning each round, and any time remaining be divided between the two groups equally.

Ms Faehrmann joined the meeting.

2.2 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary of Population and Public Health NSW Ministry of Health
- Dr Murray Wright, NSW Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health.

The following witnesses was sworn:

- Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women open for examination.

The witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Secord tendered the following document:

- PowerPoint slides addressing the NSW State Budget 2019-20 titled 'What does this mean for Health?'

Mr Secord left the meeting.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.22 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

2.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Moriarty: That the committee accept and publish a document containing PowerPoint slides addressing the NSW State Budget 2019-20 titled 'What does this mean for Health?', tendered by Mr Secord, during the Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women hearing this day.

2.4 Further hearings

The committee noted that further hearings have been scheduled for February 2020.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.23 pm, *sine die*.

Shu-fang Wei/John Young
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 14

Wednesday 5 February 2020
 Portfolio Committee No.2 - Health
 Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney at 3.05 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*
 Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*
 Mr Amato (*via teleconference*)
 Ms Faehrmann
 Mr Fang
 Mr Farlow (*substituting for Mrs Maclaren-Jones*)
 Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the Committee defer its discussion concerning the publication of exchanges made after the Chair's closing comments in the transcript for the hearing held on 30 October 2019.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That draft minutes nos 11 and 12 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 21 November 2019 – Letter from the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research to the Chair, clarifying evidence given by Mr Phil Minns and Dr Kerry Chant at the Budget Estimates supplementary hearing for Health and Medical Research.
- 25 November 2019 – Letter from the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, clarifying evidence given by Ms Elizabeth Koff and Dr Kerry Chant at the Budget Estimates supplementary hearing for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.
- ***
- ***

Sent

- 4 November 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Abbie Chugg, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- 4 November 2019 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Lucinda Bourke, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – supplementary hearings**4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions**

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, received 21 November 2019
- answers to questions on notice from Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, received 25 November 2019.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – procedural resolutions – further hearings

The 2019-2020 Budget Estimates timetable for further hearings was agreed to by the House. Below is a table of Portfolio Committee No. 2 hearings:

Date	Portfolio
Thursday 5 March 2020	Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Taylor)
Thursday 12 March 2020	Health and Medical Research (Hazzard)

5.1 Total hearing time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That depending on whether questions will be asked by government members, the total hearing time for the portfolios of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Mrs Taylor) and Health and Medical Research (Mr Hazzard) be as follows:

With Government questions (Equal question time allocated to opposition, crossbench and government members)		Without Government questions (Equal question time allocated to opposition and crossbench)	
9.30am–12.30 pm	Minister appearing	9.30am–11.30 am	Minister appearing
		11.30am–11.40am	Break
		11.40am–12.40pm	Departmental staff
12.30pm–2.00pm	Lunch	12.40 pm–1.40 pm	Lunch
2.00pm–5.00pm	Departmental staff	1.40pm–2.40pm	Departmental staff
		2.40pm–2.50pm	Break
		2.50pm–4.20pm	Departmental staff
5.00pm–6.00pm	Dinner		
6.00pm–8.00pm	Departmental staff		

5.2 Allocation of question time

The committee noted that under the resolution establishing the Portfolio Committees, the sequence of questions at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, with equal time allocated to each, unless the committee decides otherwise.

5.3 Order for examination of portfolios: If portfolios are not to be considered concurrently

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That

- the portfolios of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women be examined concurrently, with the departmental staff for the Regional Youth and Women portfolios be discharged after the first hour of the second session of the hearing on Thursday 5 March 2020, unless otherwise determined by the Committee, and
- the portfolios of Health and Medical Research be examined concurrently, with the departmental staff for the Medical Research portfolio be discharged after the first hour of the second session of the hearing on Thursday 12 March 2020, unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

5.4 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That committee members email the Secretariat the list of witnesses requested by midday Thursday 6 February 2020.

6. ***

7. ***

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.52pm, until Thursday 5 March 2020 (Budget Estimates hearing).

Anthony Hanna/Stewart Smith
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 16

Thursday 5 March 2020
 Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health
 Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*
 Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (from 9.25 am until 12.40 pm)*
 Mr Fang
 Mr Khan (*substituting for Mr Amato*)
 Mrs Maclaren-Jones
 Mr Secord
 Ms Sharpe (*participating from 1.40 pm to 2.23 pm*)
 Ms Boyd (*participating from 11.00 am to 11.45 am*)
 Ms Moriarty (*participating from 9.20 am*)

2. Apologies

Ms Faehrmann

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That draft minutes no. 14 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 14 February 2020 – Email from Ms Lucinda Bourke, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, to the secretariat, confirming the list of witnesses attending the Budget Estimates further hearing for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
- 18 February 2020 – Email from Mr Edward Claplin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, confirming the list of witnesses attending the Budget Estimates further hearing for Health and Medical Research
- 24 February 2020 – Email from Mr Edward Claplin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, requesting that the committee reconsider their witness invitation to Dr Antonio Penna, Executive Director, Office for Health and Medical Research
- 4 March 2020 – Letter from the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the Chair, requesting that the committee excuse the attendance of Dr Kerry Chant, Deputy Secretary and Chief Health Officer, NSW Health, from the Health and Medical Research Budget Estimates hearing on 12 March 2020.

Sent

- 11 February 2020 – Email from the secretariat, to Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Women and Youth, attaching witness invitation for the Budget Estimates further hearing into Mental Health, Regional Women and Youth on 5 March 2020
- 11 February 2020 – Email from the secretariat, to Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching witness invitation for the Budget Estimates further hearing into Health and Medical Research on 12 March 2020
- 18 February 2020 – Email from the secretariat, to Mr Edward Claplin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, clarifying witness list for the Budget Estimates further hearing on 12 March 2020
- 25 February 2020 – Email from the secretariat, to Mr Edward Claplin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, advising that the committee had no objection to Dr Antonio Penna not attending the hearing on 12 March 2020.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee excuse Dr Kerry Chant, Deputy Secretary and Chief Health Officer, NSW Health, from attending the Health and Medical Research Budget Estimates hearing of Tuesday, 12 March 2020, and request the attendance of a suitable alternative witness, subject to availability.

Ms Moriarty joined the meeting.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – further hearings**5.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that it had been previously resolved that, as no questions were to be asked by government members, the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women were to be examined from 9.30 am to 11.30 am with the Minister, then with departmental witnesses only from 11.40 am to 12.40 pm, 1.40 pm to 4.20 pm with a ten minute break from 2.40 pm to 2.50 pm.

5.2 Allocation of question time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That, as no questions were to be asked by government members, the sequence of questions is to alternate between the opposition and crossbench with equal time allocated to each.

5.3 Early discharge of the departmental staff for the Regional Youth and Women portfolios

The committee noted that it has previously resolved to discharge the departmental staff for the Regional Youth and Women portfolios after the first hour of the second session of the hearing on Thursday, 5 March 2020.

5.4 Supplementary questions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That further to the resolution of the House, members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two days, except Saturday and Sunday, of the day of the receipt of the transcript of a hearing.

Ms Hurst joined the meeting.

5.5 Public hearing: Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health

- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health
- Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner
- Mr Anthony Body, Director, Office of Regional Youth
- Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Chris Hanger, Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Ms Boyd joined the meeting.

The Minister withdrew at 11.40 am.

Ms Boyd left the meeting.

Ms Hurst left the meeting.

Ms Sharpe joined the meeting.

Ms Sharpe left the meeting.

The Chair noted that the committee had previously resolved to discharge the following departmental staff for the Regional Youth and Women portfolios after the first hour of the second session of the hearing on Thursday, 5 March 2020:

- Mr Anthony Body, Director, Office of Regional Youth
- Mr Chris Hanger, Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice.

Mr Body, Mr Hanger, Ms Walker and Ms Smyth were discharged and withdrew at 2.50 pm.

The committee continued to examine the departmental staff for the Mental Health portfolio.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.45 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.46 pm, until 9.15 am, Thursday 12 March 2020, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing - Health and Medical Research.

Allison Stowe/Rhia Victorino
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 17

Thursday 12 March 2020

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.16 am

1. Members presentMr Donnelly, *Chair*Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

Mr Houssos (*participating from 9.30 am*)**2. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 4 March 2020 – Letter from the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the Chair, requesting the excusal of Dr Kerry Chant, Deputy Secretary and Chief Health Officer, NSW Health from the hearing for Health and Medical Research portfolios
- 11 March 2020 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, advising that Dr Chant is now available to attend the hearing for Health and Medical Research portfolios between 9.30 am and 11.00 am, subject to circumstances requiring her to leave the hearing early.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – further hearings**3.1 No Government questions**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That with no questions to be asked by Government members, the portfolios of Health and Medical Research be examined from 9.30 am to 12.00 pm with both the Minister and departmental witnesses.

3.2 Public hearing: Health and Medical Research

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance Division, NSW Health
- Mr Daniel Hunter, Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Sue Dawson, NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Health and Medical Research open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Dr Chant was discharged and withdrew at 11.03 am.

The Minister withdrew at 12.04 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.04 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

3.3 Extension of the due date for the return of the posting hearing responses required from the witnesses who appeared at the Health and Medical Research hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions be returned within 35 days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness, with any additional extension sought by the witnesses able to be authorised by the Chair.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.05 pm, *sine die*.

Merrin Thompson
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 18

Monday 11 May 2020
 Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health
 via Webex, at 2.02 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*
 Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*
 Mr Amato
 Ms Faehrmann
 Mr Fang
 Mrs Maclaren-Jones
 Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Amato: That draft minutes nos 15, 16 and 17 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 4 March 2020 – Email from Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Minister for Health and Medical Research to the secretariat, advising that the Department could not guarantee the availability of Minister Hazzard and other witnesses for the entire duration of the hearing on 12 March 2020 due to COVID-19
- 4 March 2020 – Letter from the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the Chair, requesting that Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, be exempt from attending the hearing on 12 March 2020 due to COVID-19.

Sent:

- 10 March 2020 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Lucinda Bourke, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 11 March 2020 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Lucinda Bourke, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching updated list of supplementary questions
- 19 March 2020 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Abbie Chugg, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2019-2020 – further hearings

4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution establishing the inquiry:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, received 1 April 2020
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, received 23 April 2020.

4.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report, entitled *Budget Estimates 2019-2020*, which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That:

The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;

The transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;

Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;

The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;

That the report be tabled on Wednesday 20 May 2020.

4.3 Photograph of the committee

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Fachrmann: That the committee authorise the secretariat to take a photo of the committee's virtual meeting this day and distribute the photo to committee members for the purposes of social media.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.13 pm, *sine die*.

Shu-fang Wei
Committee Clerk