



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2

Budget Estimates 2020-2021

Report 56

May 2021

2



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Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Budget Estimates 2020-2021

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Chair: Hon. Greg Donnelly, MLC.

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Terms of reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2020-2021 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That, further to the resolution of the House of 11 November 2020 adopting the 2021 sitting calendar, the 2020-2021 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Thursday 25 February 2021

PC 6 Transport and Roads

PC 1 Special Minister of State, Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts

Day Two: Friday 26 February 2021

PC 4 Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

PC 5 Families, Communities and Disability Services

Day Three: Monday 1 March 2021

PC 3 Tertiary Education and Skills

PC 4 Water, Property and Housing

PC 1 The Legislature

Day Four: Tuesday 2 March 2021

PC 5 Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic Violence

PC 7 Energy and Environment

Day Five: Wednesday 3 March 2021

PC 3 Education and Early Childhood Learning

PC 4 Agriculture and Western New South Wales

Day Six: Thursday 4 March 2021

PC 2 Health and Medical Research

PC 1 Premier

Day Seven: Friday 5 March 2021

PC 5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

PC 6 Better Regulation and Innovation

Day Eight: Monday 8 March 2021

PC 1 Treasury

PC 6 Customer Service

Day Nine: Tuesday 9 March 2021

PC 5 Counter Terrorism and Corrections

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

Day Ten: Wednesday 10 March 2021
 PC 1 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
 PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Eleven: Thursday 11 March 2021
 PC 7 Local Government
 PC 2 Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Day Twelve: Friday 12 March 2021
 PC 5 Police and Emergency Services
 PC 1 Finance and Small Business

3. That for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2020-2021:
- (a) each scheduled day for the initial round of hearings will begin at 9.30 am and conclude by 8.30 pm,
 - (b) the committees must hear evidence in public,
 - (c) 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,
 - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions,
 - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days, following a hearing, and
 - (f) 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.
4. That the committees present a final report to the House by 30 June 2021.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on Wednesday 18 November 2020.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 18 November 2020, pp 1693-1695.

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
Mr Justin Field MLC	Independent
The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2020-2021. 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
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.

Budget Estimates 2020-2021

- 1.1 The Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2020-2021 ('the Inquiry') was referred to the portfolio committees for inquiry and report on 11 November 2020 by the Legislative Council.² The budget estimates resolution establishing the Inquiry, which sets out the rules for the Inquiry, is reproduced on page iv and v.
- 1.2 The resolution authorised the committees to conduct one round of initial hearings, from 9.30 am to 8.30 pm, to examine all portfolios for each minister.³
- 1.3 In previous estimates inquiries, three rounds of hearings (initial, supplementary and further) were conducted and portfolios under the same minister were examined for six hours duration per hearing. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, hearings were delayed this year with no provision for supplementary or further hearings.
- 1.4 The budget estimates resolution stated that the committee could seek explanations from ministers, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.⁴ Each committee was free to determine the time and allocation of questions for each hearing within the parameters set by the resolution.
- 1.5 Initial hearings were held over 12 days from 25 February to 26 February 2021, 1 March to 5 March 2021, and 8 March to 12 March 2021.⁵

Hearings

- 1.6 The committee held two public hearings as follows:
 - Thursday 4 March 2021 – Health and Medical Research
 - Thursday 11 March 2021 – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 November 2020, pp 1563.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 November 2020, pp 1563.

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 18 November 2020, pp 1681-1683.

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 November 2020, p 1563.

Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions

- 1.7 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.

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 4 March 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Various issues associated with the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including:
 - the number of vaccinations rolled out to date
 - vaccine waste associated with multi-dose vials
 - challenges to distributing the Pzeifer vaccine to pharmacies and general practitioners
 - timing for the AstraZenica vaccine rollout and whether the Moderna vaccine will also be used
 - the decision to no longer provide free parking for NSW Health staff at hospitals
 - the development of a COVID-safe dancing plan
 - reasons for maintaining the current cap on public protests
 - balancing the risks of COVID-19 deaths and illness against trying to maintain the normal functioning of society.
- Progress made in constructing a hospital at Rouse Hill in order to provide more accessible health services in north-western Sydney
- The response of NSW Health to reports of potential health risks for residents within the Hunter arising from exposure to toxins present in coal ash dams
- Funding of the Australian National Baboon Colony at Wallacia, and the transparency of animal experimentation at the facility
- Whether the current health services provided to residents within the South-West Sydney Health are sufficient and if more resources are needed
- The limitations, advantages and regulation of telehealth services to individuals in regional and rural areas
- Access to palliative care beds in Western Sydney
- The effectiveness of the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre and whether additional centres should be opened
- Recruitment of nurses and midwives, including in rural and regional NSW
- Cardiac services for children and young people.

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was held on Thursday 11 March 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Staffing shortages in the mental health sector
- Youth mental health and youth suicide, including:
 - Funding for the Kids Helpline
 - Numbers of young people presenting to emergency departments with mental health issues
 - The impact of social media on mental health
- The use of seclusion and restraint in mental health facilities
- Living Well in Focus 2020-2024 strategic plan
- Suicide rates in New South Wales, including in Greater Sydney and in rural and regional areas and within the transgender and adolescent populations
- NSW Women's Strategy 2018-2022 Year Three Action Plan
- Violence against young women
- Regional youth unemployment
- Redundancies and restructures within the Department of Communities and Justice and the Southern Health District
- Disability access to mental health units
- NSW Mental Health Line
- Mental health services demand modelling tool
- Official Visitors Program
- Medicating young children
- Forced chemical restraint and the definition of serious harm in relation to the Mental Health Act 2007.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Health and Medical Research – Thursday 4 March 2021

Name	Position and Organisation
Hon Brad Hazzard MP	Minister for Health and Medical Research
Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
Ms Susan Pearce	Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
Ms Sue Dawson	NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner
Ms Rebecca Wark	Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
Mr Daniel Hunter	Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
Dr Antonio Penna	Executive Director, Office of Health and Medical Research
Ms Amanda Larkin	Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women – Thursday 11 March 2021

Name	Position and Organisation
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 Chris Hanger	Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development, Department of Regional NSW

Name	Position and Organisation
Ms Julia Ryan	Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW
Ms Simone Walker	Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
Ms Tanya Smyth	Director, Department of Women NSW
Mr David Pearce	Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Health

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 26

Tuesday 2 February 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Room 1254, Parliament House, Sydney at 2.01 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato (via Webex)

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mr Martin (substituting for Mrs Maclaren-Jones via Webex)

Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That draft minutes no. 25 be confirmed.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2020-2021 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2020-2021 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 8.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 2:

Date	Portfolio
Thursday 4 March 2021	Health and Medical Research (Hazzard)
Thursday 11 March 2021	Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Taylor)

3.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Martin: That with no Government questions being asked:

- the Health and Medical Research portfolios be examined from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for Government questions.
- the Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women portfolios be examined from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for Government questions.

3.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee invite the following witnesses as per last year:

Health and Medical Research

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

- Dr Kerry Chant PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health.

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

- 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 Chris Hanger, Executive Director, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Anthony Body, Director, Office of Regional Youth
- 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.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as a witness at the hearings.

3.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That in correspondence to the Minister, the committee advise that:

- the Minister for Health and Medical Research be invited to appear from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm,
- departmental staff be invited to appear from 9.30 am until 5.15 pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That in correspondence to the Minister, the committee advise that:

- the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women be invited to appear from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm,
- departmental staff for the portfolios of Regional Youth and Women be invited to appear from 9.30 am until 3.00 pm,
- departmental staff for the portfolio of Mental Health be invited to appear from 9.30 am until 5.15 pm.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.19 pm, until Thursday 4 March 2021, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (Health and Medical Research hearing).

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 28

Thursday 4 March 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

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

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

Mr Banasiak (participating until 10.00 am)

Ms Boyd (participating from 10.55 am until 11.35 am)

Mr Field (participating from 10.36 am until 11.15 am)

Mrs Houssos (participating)

Mr Shoebridge (participating from 11.53 am)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That draft minutes no. 27 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 29 January 2021 - Email from Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Government Whip to secretariat, advising of Government substitutions for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial meetings
- 9 February 2021 - Email from Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip to secretariat, advising of Opposition substitutions and participating members for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial
- 12 February 2021 - Email from Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Government Whip to secretariat, advising of Government substitutions and participating members for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial hearings
- 12 February 2021 - Email from Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health to secretariat, confirming witness attendance for the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021
- 15 February 2021 - Email from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC to secretariat, advising of Greens Crossbench substitutions and participating members for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial hearings
- 15 February 2021 - Letter from Ms Sue Dawson, Health Care Complaints Commissioner to secretariat, seeking response as to whether she is required to appear at the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021 given her appearance before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Health Complaints on 19 March 2021
- 17 February 2021 - Email from Ms Ingrid Pazderski, Office of Minister Hazzard to secretariat, confirming witness attendance for the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021
- 17 February 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of Minister Taylor to secretariat, confirming witness attendance for the Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women hearing on 11 March 2021
- 17 February 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of Minister Taylor to secretariat, advising Mr Anthony Body is no longer with the Office of Regional Youth
- 19 February 2021 - Email from Ms Louise Robinson, Health Care Complaints Commission to the secretariat, confirming attendance of Ms Sue Dawson, Health Care Complaints Commissioner's for the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021
- 23 February 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of Hon Minister Taylor to secretariat, confirming the attendance of Ms Julia Ryan, Director, Office of Regional Youth, NSW Department of Regional NSW to the Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women hearing on 11 March 2021

- 24 February 2021 - Email from Ms Senada Bjelic, Office of Hon Mark Banasiak MLC to secretariat, advising Mr Banasiak will be a participating member at the Health and Medical Research hearing on Thursday 4 March 2021
- 24 February 2021 - Email from Ms Kaelee Aboud, Office of Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Government Whip to secretariat, providing an updated list of substitutions and participating members for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial hearings
- 1 March 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of Minister Taylor MLC to secretariat, correcting position description for witnesses Mr Chris Hanger and Ms Julia Ryan
- 1 March 2021 - Email from Ms Ingrid Pazderski, Office of Minister Hazzard to secretariat, confirming attendance of certain witnesses requested for the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021
- 3 March 2021 – Email from Ms Ingrid Pazderski, Office of Minister Hazzard to secretariat, advising that Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health is unable to attend the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021 due to a family emergency.

Sent

- 4 February 2021 - Email from secretariat to Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial hearings
- 4 February 2021 - Email from secretariat to Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 initial hearings
- 19 February 2021 - Email from secretariat to Ms Ingrid Pazderski, Office of Minister Hazzard requesting attendance of certain witnesses or an explanation for their absence
- 19 February 2021 - Email from secretariat to Ms Sue Dawson, Health Care Complaints Commissioner, confirming her attendance at the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 March 2021 is required
- 19 February 2021 - Email from secretariat to Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of Minister Taylor requesting attendance of certain witnesses or an explanation for their absence.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2020-2021 – initial hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that it had previously resolved that the portfolios of Health and Medical Research be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for Government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That for the Portfolio Committee No. 2 Health and Medical Research hearing, the sequence of questions alternate between the Opposition and Crossbench and for 20 minutes each, unless the committee decides otherwise.

4.2 Public hearing: Health and Medical Research

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

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Ms Sue Dawson, NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner

- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Mr Daniel Hunter, Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
- Dr Antonio Penna, Executive Director, Office of Health and Medical Research
- Ms Amanda Larkin, Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District.

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

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Shoebridge tendered the following document:

- Letter from Mr Shoebridge to the Minister for Health and Medical Research entitled, "The need to increase protest limits under COVID-19 rules," dated 23 February 2021.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.02 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Health and Medical Research hearing held on Thursday 4 March 2021:

- Letter from Mr Shoebridge to the Minister for Health and Medical Research entitled, "The need to increase protest limits under COVID-19 rules," dated 23 February 2021, tendered by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.03 pm, until 9.15 am, Thursday 11 March 2021, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.

Alex Stedman and Stephen Frappell
Committee Clerks

Minutes no. 29

Thursday 11 March 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato (until 12.30 pm, and from 2.55 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (from 10.49 am until 12.30 pm, and from 2.04 pm)

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones (until 12.30 pm, and from 2.05 pm)

Ms Moriarty (substituting for Mr Secord)

Ms Boyd (participating until 10.53 am)

Ms Sharpe (participating until 12.30 pm)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 10 March 2021 - Email from Office of Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip to secretariat, advising that the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC will be substituting for the Hon Walt Secord MLC and the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC will be a participating member for the Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women hearing on 11 March 2021.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2020-2021 – initial hearings**3.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that it had previously resolved that the portfolios of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for Government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

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

The committee noted that it had 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 11 March 2021.

3.3 Public hearing: Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Minister, departmental 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 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.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health
- Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner,
- Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Julia Ryan, Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Department of Women NSW
- Mr David Pearce, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, Ministry of Health.

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

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.30 pm.

The public hearing continued.

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, 11 March 2021:

- Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Julia Ryan, Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Department of Women NSW.

Mr Hanger, Ms Ryan, Ms Walker and Ms Smyth were discharged and withdrew at 3.00 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 4.55 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 4.55 pm, until 8.45 am Friday 19 March 2021 (public hearing for health outcomes and services in regional, rural and remote NSW inquiry).

Sharon Ohnesorge and Vanessa OLoan

Committee Clerks

Minutes no. 31

Thursday 25 March 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Members Lounge, Parliament House Sydney, 2.02 pm

1. **Members present**

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones (from 2.05 pm)

Mr Secord

2. **Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That draft minutes nos. 28, 29 and 30 be confirmed.

3. *******

4. *******

5. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 2.35 pm until Thursday 29 April 2021, Deniliquin (public hearing for health outcomes and services in regional, rural and remote NSW inquiry).

Vanessa OLoan

Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 34

Wednesday 12 May 2021

Portfolio Committee No.2 – Health

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, 2.17 pm

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

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann (from 2.30 pm)

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 25 March 2021 – Letter from Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health to secretariat, requesting a redaction to his transcript of evidence dated 4 March 2021
- 7 April 2021 – Letter from Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance, NSW Health to secretariat, clarifying the evidence given during the hearing on 4 March 2021
- ***
- ***
- ***
- ***
- ***

Sent:

- 9 March 2021 – Email from secretariat to Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 16 March 2021 – Email from secretariat to Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2020-2021**3.1 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 Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, received 30 March 2021
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, received 6 April 2021.

3.2 Transcript clarifications

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the committee authorise the redaction of information inadvertently disclosed by Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health from the transcript of evidence dated 4 March 2021 as per the request of the witness.

3.3 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled *Budget Estimates 2020-2021*, which, having been circulated previously, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That:

- a) The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- e) That the report be tabled on 18 May 2021.

4. ***

5. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 2.53 pm, until Tuesday 18 May 2021, 6.10 am, Terminal 2, Sydney Airport (public hearing).

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

