



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

Report 58

June 2022

2



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Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

Ordered to be printed 29 June 2022 according to Standing
Order 231

New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health. Report no. 58.

Budget Estimates 2021-2022.

"June 2022"

Chair: Hon. Greg Donnelly, MLC.



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

ISBN 978-1-922543-67-7

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Terms of reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 16 August 2021

PC 5 Counter Terrorism and Corrections
PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

Day Two: Tuesday 17 August 2021

PC 2 Health and Medical Research
PC 1 Special Minister of State, Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts

Day Three: Wednesday 18 August 2021

PC 3 Education and Early Childhood Learning
PC 4 Agriculture and Western New South Wales
PC 1 The Legislature

Day Four: Thursday 19 August 2021

PC 7 Local Government
PC 2 Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Day Five: Friday 20 August 2021

PC 1 Treasury
PC 6 Customer Service and Digital

Day Six: Monday 23 August 2021

PC 7 Energy and Environment
PC 5 Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Day Seven: Tuesday 24 August 2021

PC 1 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Eight: Wednesday 25 August 2021

PC 3 Skills and Tertiary Education
PC 5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Day Nine: Thursday 26 August 2021

PC 6 Transport and Roads
PC 1 Premier

Day Ten: Friday 27 August 2021

PC 4 Water, Property and Housing
 PC 5 Families, Communities and Disability Services

Day Eleven: Monday 30 August 2021

PC 6 Better Regulation and Innovation
 PC 4 Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

Day Twelve: Tuesday 31 August 2021

PC 5 Police and Emergency Services
 PC 1 Finance and Small Business

3. That for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022:
- (a) for each scheduled day of the initial and further rounds of hearings:
 - (i) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions,
 - (ii) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined concurrently by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.30 am until 12.30 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 2022.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 23 June 2021.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 June 2021, pp 2348-2349. The Terms of reference were further amended - *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, pp 2401-2404; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 14 October 2021, p 2488; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 October 2021, p 2579; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 February 2022, pp 2969-2970; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 29 March 2022, pp 3121-3122; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 30 March 2022, p 3146.

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 Chris Rath MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Walt Secord MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens
The Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party
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 Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Shayne Mallard MLC	The Liberals
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens

Contact details

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Chair's foreword

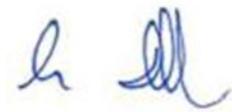
I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022. This annual inquiry into the Budget Estimates ensures parliamentary oversight of the Budget, and provides an important mechanism for the accountability of the executive government to the Legislative Council.

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

- Health
- Women, Regional Health, Mental Health

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 2021-2022

- 1.1 On 11 November 2020 the House resolved that for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022, initial hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 16 August to 20 August 2021, 23 August to 27 August 2021, and 30 to 31 August 2021, and that supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 25 October to 29 October 2021.²
- 1.2 The Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was subsequently agreed to by the House on 23 June 2021, referring the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2021-2022 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.² The budget estimates resolution establishing the Inquiry, which sets out the rules for the Inquiry, is reproduced on pages iv and v.
- 1.3 However, upon nearing the commencement of the initial hearings, the impact of the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus was being felt through the community, and members of the Legislative Council agreed to defer the initial round of hearings and replace it with fully virtual hearings for eight key portfolio areas. These were: Premier, Treasury, Health, Customer Service and Digital, Education and Early Childhood Learning, Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, Police, and Transport and Roads. The House subsequently retrospectively resolved these arrangements on Tuesday 12 October 2021.³ On the same day, the House also resolved to hold supplementary hearings over 9 days commencing 26 October 2021.⁴
- 1.4 In November 2021, the House resolved that for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022 additional hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 28 February to 4 March 2022, 7 March to 11 March 2022, and 14 March to 15 March 2022.⁵ The House subsequently resolved to hold the hearings over 13 days, commencing 28 February.⁶ Due to significant flooding events affecting northern New South Wales occurring during this time, three hearings – Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police, Premier, and Emergency Services and Resilience were postponed. On 29 March 2022 the House resolved new hearing dates for these portfolios, and

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 November 2020, p 1547; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 June 2021, p 2349.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, p 2401.

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, p 2402.

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713.

⁶ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 February 2022, p 2970.

also authorised each of the Portfolio Committees to hold further additional Budget Estimate hearings up to 30 May 2022.⁷

Hearings

1.5 The committee held 5 public hearings as follows:

- Monday 23 August 2021 – Health and Medical Research
- Thursday 4 November 2021 – Health and Medical Research
- Friday 5 November 2021 – Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
- Thursday 3 March 2022 – Women, Regional Health, Mental Health
- Thursday 10 March 2022 - Health

Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions

1.6 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/budgetestimates.

⁷ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 29 March 2022, pp 3121.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

Health

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of Health was held on Monday 23 August 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:
 - virus transmission among children, including provision for attendance in schools and childcare centres
 - vaccination of children
 - benchmarks for loosening restrictions
 - virus transmission in outdoor settings and closure of some outdoor recreation sites (such as tennis courts) and continuation of greyhound and horse racing events in regional New South Wales
 - public communications around transmission mechanisms and protective measures
 - management of COVID-19 testing and cases in Dubbo, Bathurst, Wilcannia and small communities in western New South Wales
 - vaccination and personal protective equipment for healthcare workers
 - process for the determination of differing levels of restrictions in different local government areas
 - operation of mass vaccination centres
 - contact tracing operations
 - intensive care unit capacity and occupation levels
- Proposed facilities for the new Rouse Hill Hospital.

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolio of Health was held on Thursday 10 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- NSW Health response to floods in Northern NSW
- Disease outbreaks, including gastroenteritis in flood regions
- Funding of support services for sexual assault victim-survivors
- Current COVID-19 numbers in NSW
- Impact and occurrence of new COVID-19 variants
- NSW Health response to climate change, and the existence of any policy responses to these impacts
- NSW Health services in rural, regional and remote NSW
- Incidents of Japanese Encephalitis in NSW
- Ambulance blockages in hospitals in NSW

- Testing and medical research on animals
- Nurse patient ratios in Intensive Care Units, and other wards.

Health and Medical Research

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolio of Health and Medical Research was held on Thursday 4 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Health response to COVID-19, including current vaccination rates, plans for booster shots and utility of rapid antigen testing
- Impact of COVID-19 response on other services, such as breast cancer screening, elective surgery and health promotion
- Regulation of the cosmetic surgery industry
- Health services in rural and regional areas, particularly staffing issues at rural, regional and remote hospitals
- NSW Health response to possibility of cruise industry re-starting
- Ambulance response times, and distribution of ambulances and paramedics across the state
- Decision making process for health infrastructure spending
- Women's access to health care

Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was held on Friday 5 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Impact of COVID-19 on women
- Suicide prevention programs
- Mental health intensive care units
- Mental health programs for veterinarians
- Suicide prevention programs targeting specific communities including LGBTIQI people, older people, people who have previously attempted suicide in regional communities, men, young people and people with disabilities
- The number of suicides in rural, regional and remote NSW compared with Sydney
- Mental health impacts of lockdown on children.

Women, Regional Health, Mental Health

2.5 A hearing examining the portfolio of Women, Regional Health, Mental Health was held on Thursday 3 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- The impact of the recent northern NSW floods on the regional health system and NSW Health's response to the water emergency, including:
 - evacuation of the local hospitals at Ballina and Lismore,
 - mental health support for the communities impacted,
 - mosquito-borne diseases, water contamination and sewerage overflow
- Questions regarding the responsibilities of the new Regional Health portfolio, and its differentiation from the Health portfolio.
- Third review of the 'Rural Health Plan: Towards 2021' and whether Portfolio Committee No 2 inquiry into rural, regional and remote health services will be taken into consideration as part of the review
- Update on suicide prevention strategies, particularly for young people
- Lack of access to healthcare services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales
- Rates of seclusion and restraint in mental health facilities across New South Wales
- Women's health, mental health, workforce participation and equal opportunity, including:
 - lack of maternity and neonatal services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales and NSW Health's response
 - strategies to support women in the workplace suffering with endometriosis
 - work opportunities for women in rural and regional communities
 - women in leadership roles in the public service as well as the number of FTE staff at Women NSW
 - government initiatives to address high rates of women experiencing homelessness.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Monday 23 August 2021 Virtual hearing via videoconference	Hon Brad Hazzard MP	Minister for Health and Medical Research
	Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
	Ms Susan Pearce	Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
	Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
	Dr Kerry Chant	Chief Health Officer, NSW Health
	Dr Jeremy McAnulty	Executive Director, Health Protection, NSW Health
	Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
	Ms Rebecca Wark	Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
Mr Michael DiRienzo	Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District	
Thursday 4 November 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Brad Hazzard MP	Minister for Health and Medical Research
	Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
	Ms Susan Pearce	Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
	Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
Ms Sue Dawson	NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)	

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Rebecca Wark	Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Scott McLachlan	Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Michael DiRienzo	Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Graeme Loy	Chief Executive Officer, Western Sydney Local Health District (<i>via Webex</i>)
Friday 5 November 2021 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC	Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
	Dr Murray Wright	Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health
	Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
	Ms Catherine Lourey	NSW Mental Health Commissioner (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Tanya Smyth	Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr David Pearce	Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Julia Ryan	Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Chris Hanger	Deputy Secretary of the Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Eleri Morgan-Thomas	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice (<i>via Webex</i>)

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Thursday 3 March 2022 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC	Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health
	Ms Elizabeth Koff	Secretary, NSW Health
	Dr Murray Wright	Chief Psychiatrist, 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
	Ms Tanya Smyth	Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Catherine Lourey	NSW Mental Health Commissioner
	Ms Pia Van De Zandt	Acting Executive Director, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Maureen Lewis	Acting Executive Director, NSW Health (<i>via Webex</i>)
Thursday 10 March 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Brad Hazzard MP	Minister for Health
	Mr Wayne Jones	Acting Deputy Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance, and Acting State Health Services Functional Area Controller (Disaster Response) (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Susan Pearce	Secretary, NSW Health
	Dr Marianne Gale	Acting Chief Health Officer, 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
	Ms Rebecca Wark	Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Sue Dawson	NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner, NSW Health
	Dr Jeremy McAnulty	Executive Director, Health Protection
	Dr Antonio Penna	Executive Director, Health and Medical Research, NSW Health
	Ms Jacqui Cross	Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, NSW Health

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 40

Thursday 8 July 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Via videoconference at 12.06 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair (via teleconference)*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (from 12.21 pm)*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 was agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 6.00 pm. Below is a table of Portfolio Committee No. 2 hearings:

Date	Portfolio
Tuesday 17 August 2021	Health and Medical Research (Hazzard)
Thursday 19 August 2021	Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Taylor)

2.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, will be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

2.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee invite the following witnesses:

Health and Medical Research

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, 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
- Ms Sue Dawson, NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner
- Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District
- Mr Michael DiRienzo, Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District.

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, Ministry of Health

- Mr Catherine Lourey, New South Wales Mental Health Commissioner
- Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Women NSW, Aging and Carers, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr David Pearce, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Health
- Ms Julia Ryan, Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW.

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

2.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That:

- the Minister appear from 9.30 am until 12.45 pm
- departmental staff appear from 9.30 am until 6.00 pm.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.40 pm, until Monday 12 July 2021, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, (Regional, rural and remote health – hearing).

Emma Rogerson

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 41

Friday 13 August 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Via Webex, 2.00 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 27 July 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 19 August 2021
- 29 July 2021 - Email from Ms Alysha Hardy, Office of Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, The Greens, advising that Ms Boyd will be a participating member for PCs 2, 3 4, 5 and 7 hearings
- 2 August 2021 - Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 17 August 2021.

Sent

- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, attaching witness invitation to Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings

- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Health, Regional Youth and Woman, attaching witness invitation to Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

3.1 Postponement of scheduled hearings 16-31 August 2021

The committee noted:

- the public health concerns around the COVID-19 Delta variant and current Public Health Orders in Greater Sydney
- that agreement has been reached amongst Members of the Legislative Council that, as a matter of necessity, on the next sitting a motion will be moved by leave and agreed to postponing until a date to be determined the in-person budget estimates hearings scheduled for 16-31 August 2021
- the importance of ongoing parliamentary accountability and scrutiny of the executive government
- that agreement has therefore also been reached on a series of fully virtual preliminary budget estimates hearings to be held with public servant witnesses from eight portfolios.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Amato: That the committee postpone the following Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearings:

- Tuesday 17 August 2021 –Health and Medical Research (Hazzard)
- Thursday 19 August 2021 –Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Taylor).

3.2 Revised Budget Estimates 2021-2022 timetable – virtual hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee hold the following preliminary Budget Estimates hearings in a fully virtual format:

- Monday 23 August 2021 – Health.

3.3 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the portfolio of Health be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only from 9.30 am until 11.00 am, and then from 11.15 am until 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of each session, if required.

3.4 Witnesses to appear at hearings

The committee noted the limit of 4 witnesses per hearing to assist Hansard and the transcription of evidence.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the committee invite the following witnesses to give evidence at the hearing for the portfolio of Health:

For duration of hearing

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health

From 9.30 am until 11.00 am

- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health

From 11.15 am until 1.00 pm

- Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Executive Director, Health Protection, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District
- Mr Michael DiRienzo, Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District.

3.5 Livestream and recording of hearing

The committee to note that the hearing will be livestreamed via the Parliament's YouTube channel.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee agree to record the hearing, and that this recording be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

3.6 Virtual committee guidelines and procedural fairness

The committee noted that, to help ensure that Hansard can transcribe the hearing, witnesses and/or members should avoid speaking over each other.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.20 pm, until 9.15 am, on Monday 23 August 2021 via Webex, Budget Estimates hearing — Health.

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 42

Monday 23 August 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Via Webex at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (from 9.21 am)*

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

Mr Khan (*substituting for Mr Amato*)

Mrs Houssos (*participating*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating from 9.19 am*)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That draft minutes nos. 40 and 41 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 12 August 2021 – Letter from the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, to the secretariat, advising that the Hon Trevor Khan MLC will be substituting for the Hon Lou Amato MLC for the PC 2 Budget Estimates hearing on 23 August 2021
- 16 August 2021 – Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for preliminary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 18 August 2021 – Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, to the secretariat, confirming attendance of requested witnesses to the PC2 Health hearing on 23 August 2021
- 19 August 2021 – Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, to the secretariat, requesting that Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District be excused from the hearing on 23 August 2021 due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in Western NSW

- 20 August 2021 – Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, to the secretariat, advising that Dr Shannon Nott is unavailable to attend the hearing on 23 August 2021 due to personal matters
- 22 August 2021 – Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Brendan Cutmore, Executive Director, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, Western NSW Local Health District, is unable to attend the hearing on 23 August 2021 due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in Western NSW and that Minister Hazzard intends to appear
- 23 August 2021 – Email from Mr David Shoebridge MLC to the secretariat, advising that he will be a participating member for the PC2 Health hearing on 23 August 2021.

Sent

- 13 August 2021 – Email from the secretariat to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, forwarding witness invitation for preliminary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 19 August 2021 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, advising that the Committee agrees to the request that Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District, be excused from the hearing on 23 August 2021 given the evolving public health situation in Western NSW
- 20 August 2021 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, requesting Dr Shannon Nott, Rural Health Director of Medical Services, Western NSW Local Health District attend the hearing on 23 August 2021 in lieu of Mr McLachlan
- 20 August 2021 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of Minister Hazzard MP, requesting Mr Brendan Cutmore, Executive Director, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, Western NSW Local Health District, attend the hearing on 23 August 2021.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – preliminary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that it had previously resolved that the portfolio of Health be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the hearing if required.

4.2 Allocation of questioning

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the sequence of questioning at the hearing be divided between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, for 20 minute rounds each, with any remaining time to be split equally.

4.3 Photo of committee for social media

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the secretariat take a screenshot of the committee during its meeting and / or the hearing for the purposes of publishing on social media.

4.4 Lodgement of supplementary questions

The committee noted that the transcript of evidence is expected to be available 2 business days after the hearing.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That supplementary questions be lodged with the secretariat by 5.00 pm within two business days following receipt of the transcript.

4.5 Public hearing: Health

The committee proceeded to take evidence in public.

The Hon Brad Hazzard, MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, and departmental witnesses were admitted via video link.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings, virtual hearing etiquette 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.

Minister Hazzard was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health
- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health.

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

The departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The following witnesses withdrew:

- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Executive Director, Health Protection, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Mr Michael DiRienzo, Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.48 pm.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.51 pm, until Friday 10 September 2021, via Webex – Rural, Regional and Remote Health hearing.

Rhia Victorino

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 46

Thursday 14 October 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, 2.16 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Ms Maclaren-Jones
Mr Secord

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That draft minutes no. 42 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- 31 August 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – preliminary hearings

4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

The committee noted 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 the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, received 21 September 2021.

4.2 Supplementary hearings – procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates supplementary hearings timetable for 2021-2022 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 2:

Date	Portfolio	No. of possible witnesses in person
Thursday 4 November 2021	Health and Medical Research (Hazzard)	3
Friday 5 November 2021	Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women (Taylor)	3

4.3 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the below portfolios will be examined as follows:

- Health and Medical Research – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of each session, if required.
- Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.

4.4 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That, in addition to the Minister, the committee invite the following witnesses:

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

Invited to appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm in person with Minister

Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health

Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health

Invited to appear from 1.00 pm until 5.30 pm in person (if Minister does not attend afternoon session)
Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
Invited to appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm via Webex
Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Ms Sue Dawson, NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner
Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health
Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District
Mr Michael DiRienzo, Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District
Dr Antonio Penna, Executive Director, Office of Health and Medical Research

MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN

Invited to appear from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm in person with Minister
Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Health
Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner
Invited to appear from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm via Webex
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
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 David Pearce, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Health
Ms Julia Ryan, Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW
Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary of the Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee nominate additional witnesses to be invited by 12 pm, Friday 15 October 2021.

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

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.25 pm, until Thursday 4 November 2021, 9.15 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates public hearing – Health and Medical Research.

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 47

Thursday 4 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, Chair

Ms Hurst, Deputy Chair

Mr Amato (*via Webex*)

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Ms Maclaren-Jones

Mr Secord

Mrs Houssos (participating)

2. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 46 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 11 October 2021 - Email from Mr Justin Field MLC, to the Chair, advising that he will be a participating member for the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 November 2021
- 18 October 2021 - Email from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, to the secretariat, advising that she will be a participating member for the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 November and for the Mental Health, Regional Youth, and Women hearing on 5 November 2021
- 19 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, confirming witnesses for the hearing on 4 November 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, to the secretariat, confirming witnesses for the hearing on 5 November 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing updated Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings
- 25 October 2021 - Email from Ms Shani Murphy, Office of the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Cusack will be substituting for Mr Amato for the Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women hearing
- 26 October 2021 - Email from Ms Shani Murphy, Office of the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Amato will be participating virtually on all Budget Estimates hearings that he is a member of
- 28 October 2021 - Email from Ms Amy Firmstone, Office of the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, to the secretariat, providing an updated witness list for the hearing on 5 November 2021
- 2 November 2021 – Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, advising that Dr Chant is only available to attend the afternoon session of the hearing on 4 November 2021 due to other pressing commitments in the morning.

Sent

- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Bronnie Taylor MP, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 19 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research inviting Mr Graeme Loy, Chief Executive Officer, Western Sydney Local Health District to give evidence on the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 November 2021 via WebEx.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings**4.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolio of Health and Medical Research, be examined by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of each session, if required.

4.2 Live streaming and recording of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That the committee publish all recordings of Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings on the Parliament's YouTube channel.

4.3 Public hearing: Health and Medical Research

Departmental witnesses 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 following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary, NSW Health (in person)
- Ms Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary, System Performance and Patient Experience, NSW Health (via WebEx until 1.00 pm, in person from 2.00 pm)
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health (via WebEx)
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health (via WebEx)
- Ms Sue Dawson, NSW Health Care Complaints Commissioner (via WebEx)
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health (via WebEx)
- Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Western NSW Local Health District (via WebEx)
- Mr Michael DiRienzo, Chief Executive, Hunter New England Local Health District (via WebEx)
- Mr Graeme Loy, Chief Executive Officer, Western Sydney Local Health District (via WebEx)

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 following witness was sworn and examined:

- Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW Health.

The Minister withdrew at 3.03 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.03 pm.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.03 pm, until 9.15 am, Friday 5 November 2021, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.

Peta Leemen

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 48

Friday 5 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.15 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Cusack (*substituting for Mr Amato via WebEx, from 9.26 am*)

Mr D'Adam (*substituting for Mr Secord*)

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Ms Sharpe (*participating, from 9.15 am until 11.00 am*)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 3 November 2021 – Email from Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, to the secretariat, clarifying the number of witnesses in attendance at the afternoon session of the Health and Medical Research hearing on 4 November 2021.

Sent

- 3 November 2021 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, confirming attendance of Ms Susan Pearce in person all day at the hearing on 4 November 2021 and clarifying capacity limit for hearing room.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolio of Mental Health, Regional Youth, and Women be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MP, 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 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 (in person)
- Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner (via WebEx)
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Department of Women NSW (via WebEx)
- Mr David Pearce, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Health (via WebEx)
- Ms Julia Ryan, Director, Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW (via WebEx)
- Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary of the Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW (via WebEx)
- Ms Eleri Morgan-Thomas, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx)

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 12.50 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.50 pm.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.51 pm, *Sine die*.

Shaza Barbar

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 53

Tuesday 22 February 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Room 1043, Parliament House, 12.34 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Fang

Mr Mallard

Mr Secord

2. Apologies

Mr Amato and Ms Faehrmann.

3. Previous minutes

Resolved on the Mr Fang : That draft minutes nos. 47 and 48 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent:

- 11 November 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 15 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 as per the Notice of Motion for additional budget estimates hearings dated 11 February 2022 from the office of the leader of the Government, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 2:

- Women, Regional Health, Mental Health, Thursday 3 March 2022, Jubilee Room
- Health, Thursday 10 March 2022, Macquarie Room

5.1 Witnesses, allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted as per the Notice of Motion for additional budget estimates hearings that each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon session.

5.2 Witnesses to appear at hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That

- the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as a witness at the hearings
- for the additional budget estimates hearing for Health, the witnesses appearing on the previous hearing schedules be invited to appear at the hearing to be held on Thursday 10 March 2022, including Dr Antonio Penna, Office of Health and Medical Research and Alison McMillan, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and that members advise the secretariat of any further additional witnesses by 1.00 pm Wednesday 23 February 2022
- for the additional budget estimates hearing for Women, Regional Health, Mental Health, that the witnesses appearing on the previous hearing schedule, with the exception of Mr Scott McLachlan, Mr Michael DiRienzo and Mr Graeme Loy, be invited to appear at the hearing to be held on Thursday 3 March 2022 and that members advise the secretariat of any further additional witnesses by 1.00 pm Wednesday 2022.

5.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst : That the Minister appear for the morning session from 9.30 am until 12.45 pm and that departmental staff appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm.

5.4 Recording of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord : That the additional Budget Estimates hearings be recorded and that these recordings be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

6. Next meeting

9.15 am on Thursday 3 March 2022 – Budget Estimates Hearing – Portfolio Committee 2.

Donna Glover
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 54

Thursday 3 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members presentMr Donnelly, *Chair*Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (until 11:45 am; 2.45 pm to 4.32 pm)*Mr Amato (*from 2.00 pm*)Ms Faehrmann (*until 3.45 pm*)Mr Fang (*until 2.00 pm*)

Mr Mallard

Mr Secord

Ms Boyd (*participating from 11.25 am to 11.45 am; 3.45 pm to 4.15 pm*)Ms Jackson (*participating from 11.15 am to 11.35 am*)**2. Apologies****3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That draft minutes no. 53 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 25 February 2022 - Email from Isabelle Gillespie, Office of The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, providing final list of departmental witnesses.

Sent

- 24 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings
- 24 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings
- 1 March 2022 - Letter from The Honourable Damien Tudehope MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, to Mr David Blunt, Clerk of the Parliaments, advising of changes in committee membership.

5. Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales**5.1 Partially confidential submission**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the committee authorise the publication of submission no 482b with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information which is to remain confidential, as per the recommendation of the secretariat.

5.2 Confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee keep submission nos 665b and 720 confidential, as per the request of the author as they contain identifying and/or sensitive information.

6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings**6.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

6.2 Public hearing: Women, Regional Health, Mental Health

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Honourable Bronnie Minister Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health 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 Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, 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
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Women NSW, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Catherine Lourey, NSW Mental Health Commissioner, NSW Mental Health Commission.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Pia Van De Zandt, Acting Executive Director, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Maureen Lewis, Acting Executive Director, NSW Health.

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

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister and Ms Elizabeth Koff withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.30 pm.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.32 pm, until 9.15 am, Thursday 10 March 2022, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Health.

Lauren Evans

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 55

Thursday 10 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.30 am

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Faehrmann (*via Webex until 12.50 pm*)

Mr Fang

Mr Farraway (*substituting for Mr Mallard until 11.43 am*)

Mr Mallard (*from 11.39 am*)

Mr Secord

Ms Boyd (*participating from 9.42 am until 10.52 am, and 2.34 pm until 3.10 pm*)

Mrs Houssos (*participating*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating from 11.45 am until 12.30 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Amato

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 1 March 2022 - Email from Isabelle Gillespie, Office of The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, asking that Ms Maureen Lewis be allowed to give evidence via videolink
- 1 March 2022 - Email from Dominika Rajewski, Parliament and Cabinet, asking for clarification of witness details
- 2 March 2022 - Email from Isabelle Gillespie, Office of The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, confirming witnesses would be notified of the request that they appear all day on 3 March 2022
- 2 March 2022 - Email from Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, nominating departmental witnesses for 10 March hearing
- 3 March 2022 - Email from Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, clarifying request from the committee that witnesses appear all day
- 7 March 2022 - Email from Tammy Tsimbrikas, Office of the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, requesting additional witnesses for 10 March hearing
- 8 March 2022 - Email from Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, declining request for Mr Douglas and Ms Musto to appear at 10 March hearing.

Sent

- 1 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Dominika Rajewski, Parliament and Cabinet, inviting NSW Chief Nurse Ms Jacqui Cross to the 3 March hearing
- 2 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Isabelle Gillespie, Office of The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, requesting that witnesses at 3 March hearing participate all day
- 2 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, requesting that witnesses at 10 March hearing participate all day
- 7 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, finalising witness requests for 10 March hearing
- 7 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ellie Stamatelatos, Office of The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, confirming witness details for 10 March hearing.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

4.2 Public hearing: Health

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health 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 Susan Pearce, 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
- Ms Sue Dawson, Commissioner, Health Care Complaints Commission
- Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Executive Director, Health Protection
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive Officer, Health Infrastructure (*appearing from 2.00 pm*).

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Dr Marianne Gale, A/Chief Health Officer, NSW Health
- Dr Antonia Penna, Executive Director, Health & Medical Research
- Ms Jacqui Cross, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer.

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

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Secord tendered the following document:

- Hansard transcript Portfolio Committee No. 2 dated 3.3.22 UNCORRECTED Minister Taylor Minister for Women, Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health
- Open letter to Premier and Health Minister by Health Care employees at Yass District Hospital.

Mrs Houssos tendered the following document:

- NSW Health Hunter New England Local Health District, Strategies for Future Development / Change.

The Minister withdrew at 4.06 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.06 pm.

4.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the **Health** hearing held on **Thursday 10 March 2022**:

- Hansard transcript Portfolio Committee No. 2 dated 3.3.22 UNCORRECTED Minister Taylor Minister for Women, Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health, tendered by Mr Secord
- Open letter to Premier and Health Minister by Health Care employees at Yass District Hospital, tendered by Mr Secord.
- NSW Health Hunter New England Local Health District Strategies for Future Development / Change, tendered by Mrs Houssos.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.08 pm, *Sine die*.

Madeleine Dowd
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 60

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 2

Room 1254, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.45 pm

1. Members present

Mr Donnelly, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Rath

Mr Secord

2. Apologies

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That draft minutes no. 54 and 55 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – 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 - Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC - Minister for Women, Regional Health, Mental Health - received 30 March 2022
- Answers to questions on notice - Hon Brad Hazzard MP - Minister for Health - received 6 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice revised - Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC - Minister for Women, Regional Health and Mental Health - received 11 May 2022

4.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled Budget Estimates 2021-2022, 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 by 30 June 2022.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.46 pm, *sine die*.

Stewart Smith

Committee Clerk

