



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2

# Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Report 66

June 2025

2



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Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

# **Budget Estimates 2024-2025**

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Budget Estimates 2024-2025

"June 2025"

Chair: Dr Amanda Cohn MLC



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# Table of contents

	Terms of reference	iv
	Committee details	xiv
	Chair's foreword	xv
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
	Budget Estimates 2024-2025	1
	Hearings	1
	Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions	2
Chapter 2	Issues raised during hearings	3
	Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast	3
	Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast	4
Appendix 1	Witnesses at hearings	7
Appendix 2	Minutes	12

## Terms of reference

### Initial hearings

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2024-2025 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That, as per the resolution of the House on 21 November 2023 adopting the 2024 sitting calendar, the 2024-2025 supplementary budget estimates hearings are to be held from 2 December to 6 December 2024.
3. That, further to the resolution of the House of 21 November 2023 adopting the 2024 sitting calendar, the 2024-2025 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

**Day One: Tuesday 27 August 2024**

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney

PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

**Day Two: Wednesday 28 August 2024**

PC 1 Premier

PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

**Day Three: Thursday 29 August 2024**

PC 1 Treasurer

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

**Day Four: Friday 30 August 2024**

PC 5 Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

PC 1 The Legislature

**Day Five: Tuesday 3 September 2024**

PC 6 Transport

PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion

**Day Six: Wednesday 4 September 2024**

PC 5 Attorney-General

PC 3 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**Day Seven: Thursday 5 September 2024**

PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement,  
Natural Resources

PC 8 Local Government

**Day Eight: Friday 6 September 2024**

- PC 6 Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
- PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs & Treaty, Gaming & Racing, Veterans, Central Coast, Medical Research

**Day Nine: Monday 9 September 2024**

- PC 8 Emergency Services, Youth Justice, Customer Service & Digital Government
- PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
- PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

**Day Ten: Tuesday 10 September 2024**

- PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
- PC 8 Corrections, Better Regulation & Fair Trading, Industry & Trade, Innovation, Science & Technology, Building

**Day Eleven: Wednesday 11 September 2024**

- PC 5 Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- PC 1 Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

4. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 initial budget estimates hearings:
  - (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by opposition and crossbench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, and
  - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by opposition, crossbench and Government members from 9.15 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 1.00 pm.
5. That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
  - (a) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
    - (i) Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
    - (ii) Premier
    - (iii) Treasurer
    - (iv) Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter
    - (v) Transport
    - (vi) Attorney-General
    - (vii) Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

- (viii) Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
  - (ix) Emergency Services, Youth Justice, Customer Service and Digital
  - (x) Regional Transport and Roads
  - (xi) Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
  - (xii) Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- (b) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
- (i) Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
  - (ii) Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport
  - (iii) Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
  - (iv) Planning and Public Spaces
  - (v) Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
  - (vi) Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
  - (vii) Local Government
  - (viii) Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Central Coast, Medical Research
  - (ix) Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
  - (x) Corrections, Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building
  - (xi) Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety.
6. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 initial budget estimates hearings:
- (a) the committees must hear evidence in public
  - (b) 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
  - (c) ministers be invited to appear for the morning sessions only unless requested by committees to appear also for the afternoon session
  - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions
  - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, 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.
- (g) That the committees report by 27 June 2025.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, Item 4.



**Additional hearings**

1. That, further to the resolution of the House of 20 June 2024 referring Budget Estimates 2024-2025 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report, and the resolution of the House of 12 November 2024 adopting the 2025 sitting calendar, the 2024-2025 additional budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

**Day One: Tuesday 25 February 2025**

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney  
PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

**Day Two: Wednesday 26 February 2025**

PC 1 Premier  
PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

**Day Three: Thursday 27 February 2025**

PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast  
PC 5 Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

**Day Four: Friday 28 February 2025**

PC 5 Attorney-General  
PC 8 Local Government

**Day Five: Monday 3 March 2025**

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage  
PC 1 Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

**Day Six: Tuesday 4 March 2025**

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces  
PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

**Day Seven: Wednesday 5 March 2025**

PC 1 Treasurer  
PC 8 Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

**Day Eight: Thursday 6 March 2025**

PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources  
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

**Day Nine: Friday 7 March 2025**

PC 2	Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
PC 8	Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections

**Day Ten: Monday 10 March 2025**

PC 5	Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
PC 3	Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**Day Eleven: Tuesday 11 March 2025**

PC 6	Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
PC 1	The Legislature

**Day Twelve: Wednesday 12 March 2025**

PC 6	Transport
PC 5	Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter

2. That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
  - (a) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
    - (i) Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney,
    - (ii) Premier,
    - (iii) Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast,
    - (iv) Attorney-General,
    - (v) Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage,
    - (vi) Planning and Public Spaces,
    - (vii) Treasurer,
    - (viii) Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources,
    - (ix) Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast,
    - (x) Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion,
    - (xi) Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism,
    - (xii) Transport, and

- (b) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
- (i) Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales,
  - (ii) Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport,
  - (iii) Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault,
  - (iv) Local Government,
  - (v) Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety,
  - (vi) Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research,
  - (vii) Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice,
  - (viii) Regional Transport and Roads,
  - (ix) Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections,
  - (x) Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education,
  - (xi) The Legislature,
  - (xii) Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter.
3. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 additional budget estimates hearings:
- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required, and
  - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.15 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 1.00 pm.
4. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 additional budget estimates hearings:
- (a) the committees must hear evidence in public,
  - (b) 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,
  - (c) ministers be invited to appear for the morning sessions only unless requested by committees to appear also for the afternoon session,
  - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions,
  - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, 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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2024, Item 3.

**Further additional hearings**

1. That this House notes that:

- (a) on 21 November 2024, the House adopted a schedule of additional budget estimates hearings for 2024-2025 over 12 working days from 25 February 2025 to 12 March 2025,
- (b) the following three hearings were unable to be conducted as scheduled by the relevant committees due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred and the unavailability of ministers and other witnesses:

**Day Seven:                    Wednesday 5 March 2025**

PC 8                              Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

**Day Eight:                    Thursday 6 March 2025**

PC 6                              Regional Transport and Roads

**Day Nine:                     Friday 7 March 2025**

PC 2                              Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

- (c) following this, that Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health rescheduled the original additional hearing to the following date:

**Day Thirteen:              Friday 14 March 2025**

PC 2                              Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

- 2. That in view of the inability of Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health, to conduct the original additional hearing, the House endorse the further additional hearing held on 14 March 2025.
- 3. That in view of the inability of Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts and Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service to conduct the hearings, the committees be authorised to undertake the hearings as follows under the same arrangements as originally agreed to by the House on 21 November 2024:

**Day Fourteen:              Tuesday 1 April 2025**

PC 6                              Roads, Regional Transport

**Day Fifteen:                 Friday 11 April 2025**

PC 8                              Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

- 4. That the NSW Reconstruction Authority be invited to appear from 9.15 am to 5.30 pm at the rescheduled Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service additional budget estimates hearing to be held on Friday 11 April 2025.
- 5. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 further additional budget estimates hearings, each portfolio, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am

to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required.

6. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 further additional budget estimates hearings:
- (a) the committees must hear evidence in public,
  - (b) 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,
  - (c) ministers be invited to appear for the morning sessions only unless requested by committees to appear also for the afternoon session,
  - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions,
  - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, 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.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 19 March 2025, Item 15.

## Committee details

### Committee members

<b>Dr Amanda Cohn MLC</b>	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
<b>Hon Susan Carter MLC</b>	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Hon Greg Donnelly MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>	The Greens	
<b>Hon Wes Fang MLC</b>	The Nationals	
<b>Hon Emily Suvaal MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	

### Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

<b>Hon Mark Banasiak MLC</b>	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party
<b>Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>Hon Scott Farlow MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>Ms Sue Higginson MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>Hon Emma Hurst MLC</b>	Animal Justice Party
<b>Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones</b>	Liberal Party
<b>Hon Tania Mihailuk</b>	Independent
<b>Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC</b>	The Nationals
<b>Hon Cameron Murphy MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Peter Primrose MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon John Ruddick MLC</b>	Libertarian Party
<b>Hon Damien Tudehope MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>Hon Natalie Ward MLC</b>	Liberal Party

### Contact details

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/">https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:porfoliocommittee2@parliament.nsw.gov.au">porfoliocommittee2@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	(02) 9230 3081

## Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025. The 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.

At the time of the establishment of the inquiry, Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health was responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
- Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast<sup>4</sup>.

The primary 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, their officers and the secretariat staff who assisted the committee during this important inquiry, as well as advocates and community members for their engagement with committee members as your representatives.

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC  
**Committee Chair**

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<sup>4</sup> As a result of changes to the Cabinet and the Ministry of the NSW Government, the portfolio for the North Coast moved to Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service on 19 March 2025.





## Chapter 1 Introduction

The inquiry into Budget Estimates is one of the key mechanisms for Parliament 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 gathering process of the inquiry consists of answers provided during public hearings, including answers to questions on notice, and answers to post-hearing written questions (known as supplementary questions). There is no provision for written submissions.

### Budget Estimates 2024-2025

- 1.1 On 20 June 2024, the Legislative Council referred the Budget Estimates for the 2024-2025 financial year to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.<sup>5</sup>
- 1.2 The Legislative Council resolved that initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025 be held over 11 days from 27 August to 30 August 2024, 3 September to 6 September 2024 and 9 September to 11 September 2024 and that supplementary hearings be scheduled from 2 December to 6 December 2024.<sup>6</sup>
- 1.3 On 21 November 2024, the Legislative Council resolved that additional hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025 be held over 12 days from 25 February 2025 to 28 February 2025, 3 March 2025 to 7 March 2025, and 10 March 2025 to 12 March 2025.<sup>7</sup>
- 1.4 Three additional hearings were rescheduled due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred and the unavailability of ministers and other witnesses.<sup>8</sup>
- 1.5 The Budget Estimates resolution establishing the inquiry, which sets out the rules for the inquiry, is reproduced on page iv-xiii.

### Hearings

- 1.6 The Committee held public hearings as follows:
  - 9 September 2024 and 14 March 2025: Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
  - 10 September 2024, and 27 February 2025: Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
  - 2 December 2024: Health, Regional Health.

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<sup>5</sup> Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2023, pp 670-671; Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2024, pp 1901-1904.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 19 March 2025, pp 2154-2155.

## **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 webpage at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates).

## Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

### Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

**2.1** A hearing examining the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast was held on Monday 9 September 2024. The following issues were raised during the Committee's examination of these portfolios:

- issues in the mental health system in New South Wales including attracting and retaining psychiatrist staff specialists, resourcing for eating disorder treatment, the risk of sexual violence within inpatient mental health services, the government's response to the Committee's mental health inquiry, and activity under the Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program
- the Minister's recent visit to the North Coast and activities undertaken including providing an update about the provision of mental health care at the Coffs Harbour Health Campus, meeting with the Women's Shed and Men's Shed, and taking part in a local council campaign event
- engagement with regional youth and progress on establishing governmental structures to adequately support the representation of young people
- issues surrounding water management in New South Wales including negotiations with the Commonwealth, responsibility for the management of river catchments, delivery of projects under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, and the provision of water infrastructure including under the Safe and Secure Water Program
- next steps following the release of the Connectivity Expert Panel final report regarding the adequacy of, and potential improvements to, rules in the New South Wales Northern Basin water sharing plans, and compensation rights should water entitlements change as a result of this work
- the capacity of Sydney Water to deliver water infrastructure to new housing developments
- action being taken by Sydney Water in response to sewage overflows into Scotts Creek at Willoughby
- responses to the housing crisis in New South Wales, including plans for new social and affordable housing, the use of Commonwealth and state funding, the government's review of the regulatory framework for short term rental accommodation, and opportunities to partner with the private sector in the delivery of social housing
- issues surrounding homelessness in New South Wales including data collection and development strategies, rates of youth homelessness, available data on 'hidden homelessness' (e.g. couch surfing), the housing status of people including youth who are leaving detention and mental health services, release and implementation of the NSW Homelessness Strategy, and funding for the Link2Home homelessness information and referral service

- concerns about the quality and safety of drinking water in New South Wales including within the Blue Mountains catchment, Walgett and Yass, and concerns about contamination from PFAS in drinking water throughout the state and the response by water utilities.

**2.2** An additional hearing was held on Friday 14 March 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- mental health staffing, including contingency plan for mass resignation of psychiatrists, costing of VMO positions, virtual care and/or psychiatry hubs, and the use of private facilities for the care of public patients
- Aboriginal Water Strategy, water sharing plans, economic benefits of strategy, limitations of Aboriginal cultural water licenses being used for commercial or economic benefits
- the Minister's disaster response to Cyclone Alfred and provision of support to impacted communities in the North Coast
- Nyngan to Cobar pipeline
- PFAS and renewed treatment plant at Gwydir Shire Council
- alternative responses to mental health emergencies
- social housing, including general wait list and wait times to access the Link2Home service
- government's strategy for engagement with young people, and upcoming restructuring of youth portfolio

## **Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast**

**2.3** A hearing examining the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast was held on Tuesday 10 September 2024. The following issues were raised during the Committee's examination of these portfolios:

- nurses' strike and industrial action
- Parkinson's disease, including funding for specialist nurses, Parkinson's NSW grant funding for 2024-2025, research on a potential link between paraquat (weed killer) and Parkinson's Disease
- Lung Foundation funding request for specialist lung cancer nurses, funding for the Stroke Foundation's stroke prevention education program, F.A.S.T, and continued funding for the NSW Service Plan for People with Eating Disorders
- IV fluid, medication and vaccine shortage including shortage of IV fluid and medications including antibiotics, psychiatric medication and diabetic medication, respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (RSV) supply issues, shortage of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- rationing of dialysis in Western Sydney, South Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains
- emergency department overcrowding

- midwifery services including workforce shortages, challenges in midwifery-led continuity of care, insurance issues for midwives who are practicing privately, increase of freebirths, ministerial support for recommendations of the Legislative Council Select Committee on Birth Trauma, MidStart program and nurses transitioning to midwifery, antenatal education and informed consent
- COVID-19 transmissions in hospitals, vaccination fatigue, the need for preventative measures like rapid antigen testing and N95 masks
- concerns about elevated lead levels in First Nations children, PFAS contamination in Sydney's drinking water, NSW Health initiatives focusing on reducing waste and carbon emissions, the health impacts of mining
- public hospital projects
- preparation for the NSW Drug Summit 2024, and the operation of the Early Drug Diversion Initiative
- collecting data and reporting on medical staff vacancies especially for doctors in training, the rate of agency nurses filling staff gaps particularly in regional areas, and the qualifications and supervision and language proficiency requirements for specialist international medical graduates
- LGBTIQ+ health including workforce education and training, ACON funding, transwomen and access to the NSW Milk Bank, gender-affirming medical treatment without parental consent, access to puberty blockers, Sax Institute report 'Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria – update', February 2024
- voluntary assisted dying uptake
- mpox outbreak and response.

**2.4** A supplementary hearing was held for the portfolios of Health and Regional Health on Monday 2 December 2024. The Committee resolved to hold a supplementary hearing as there were a number of outstanding issues following the receipt of the answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions for the initial hearing, including but not limited to workforce issues, the transmission of infectious diseases and health infrastructure. The following issues were raised at the supplementary hearing:

- abortion services in New South Wales, including training for staff providing abortion care
- the status of the rollout of safe staffing levels at New South Wales hospitals
- the elective surgery waitlist and cancellations
- the status of wage negotiations with the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association
- birthing services in various locations, including Rouse Hill Hospital, Milton Ulladulla Hospital and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District more generally, and across regional New South Wales
- hospital-acquired COVID-19 infections

- IVF rebates
- rates of babies born before they have arrived at hospital
- budget positions of local health districts
- LGBTQIA+ data held by NSW Health
- the status of the NSW Rural Generalist Training Program for 2025
- the work of NSW Health surrounding pill testing, and funding for drug intervention.

**2.5** An additional hearing was held on Thursday 27 February 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- the death of Joe Massa at Northern Beaches Hospital, which is operated and maintained by Healthscope
- access to medical services, in particular:
  - wait times at emergency departments
  - abortion services, maternity services, emergency services, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying in regional areas
  - vaccinations, such as those for the flu and meningococcal B
  - other concerns, such as funding for the Movement Disorder Clinic at St George Hospital, and hospital parking fees and eligibility for the IVF rebate
- the impact of industrial action, such as strikes, and mass resignations, on hospital staffing levels, and the remuneration of locum staff and visiting medical officers
- concerns around PFAS, including exposure, monitoring, management and guidance
- 12-month pill testing trial and police presence at festivals
- Rouse Hill Hospital land acquisition and valuation, and the Albury Hospital redevelopment
- preparedness for avian flu, including availability of vaccine, and actions to prevent Japanese encephalitis
- further details regarding:
  - the Clinical Advisory Group to develop Clinical Guidelines for the Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service
  - the NSW LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy 2022 – 2027
  - National Dementia Action Plan
  - disability health strategy
- the implementation of recommendations from the report into birth trauma
- gambling, highly processed food, and alcohol advertising on public transport
- NSW Health sustainability initiatives
- workplace culture at NSW Health.

## Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Monday 9 September 2024 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
	Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Amanda Jones	Deputy Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) – Water Group
	Mr Andrew George	CEO, WaterNSW
	Mr Roch Cheroux	Managing Director, Sydney Water
	Mr Darren Cleary	Managing Director, Hunter Water
	Mr Grant Barnes	Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
	Ms Deborah Willcox AM	Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health
	Dr Murray Wright	Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health
	Dr Brendan Flynn	Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
	Ms Rebecca Pinkstone	CEO, Homes NSW
	Mr Michael Wheatley	Head of Housing Portfolio, Homes NSW
	Ms Famey Williams	Chief Executive, Aboriginal Housing Office



Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Zoe Robinson	Advocate for Children and Young People
<b>Tuesday 10 September 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney</b>	Hon Ryan Park MLC	Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast
	Ms Susan Pearce AM	Secretary, NSW Health
	Ms Joanne Edwards	Acting Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
	Mr Alfa D'Amato	Deputy Secretary Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
	Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM	Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
	Mr Luke Sloane	Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
	Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
	Mr Vince McTaggart	Executive Director, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, NSW Health
	Ms Emma Skulander	Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
	Dr Dominic Morgan ASM	Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement, Premier's Department
	Ms Deborah Willcox AM	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
<b>Monday 2 December 2024</b> <b>Preston Stanley Room</b> <b>Parliament House, Sydney</b>	Ms Susan Pearce AM	Secretary, NSW Health
	Mr Scott McLachlan	Acting Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
	Mr Matthew Daly	Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
	Mr Alfa D'Amato	Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
	Dr Michelle Cretikos PSM	Acting Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
	Mr Luke Sloane	Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Health, NSW Health
	Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
	Ms Emma Skulander	Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
	Dr Dominic Morgan ASM	Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.
<b>Thursday 27 February 2025</b> <b>Macquarie Room</b> <b>Parliament House, Sydney</b>	Ms Kathy Dempsey	NSW Chief ICP & HAI Advisor, Clinical Excellence Commission.
	Hon Ryan Park MP	Minister for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
	Ms Emma Skulander	Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure and Asset Management Division and Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department
	Adjunct Professor Anthony Schembri AM	Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD)
	Ms Susan Pearce	AM, Secretary, NSW Health
	Mr Scott McLachlan	Acting Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
	Mr Matthew Daly	Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
	Mr Alfa D'Amato	Deputy Secretary, Financial and Corporate Service and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
	Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM	Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
	Mr Luke Sloane	Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Health, NSW Health
	Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
	Mr Vince McTaggart	Executive Director, Strategic Capital Planning and Asset Management, NSW Health
	Dr Dominic Morgan ASM	Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance
	Ms Kathy Dempsey	NSW Chief ICP & HAI Advisor, Clinical Excellence Commission
	Mr Greg Horan	Group Chief Executive Officer, Healthscope

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Tino La Spina	Group Chief Executive Officer-elect, Healthscope
	Associate Professor Peter Thomas	Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Northern Beaches Hospital
<b>Friday 14 March 2025 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney</b>	Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
	Ms Susan Pearce	Secretary, NSW Health
	Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Amanda Jones	Deputy Secretary, DCCEEW – Water Group
	Mr Andrew George	Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW
	Mr Roch Cheroux	Managing Director, Sydney Water
	Mr Darren Cleary	Managing Director, Hunter Water
	Mr Grant Barnes	Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
	Dr Murray Wright	Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health
	Dr Brendan Flynn	Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
	Ms Rebecca Pinkstone	Chief Executive Officer, Homes NSW
	Ms Zoe Robinson	Advocate for Children and Young People
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department

## Appendix 2 Minutes

### Minutes no. 25

Tuesday 16 July 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney at 2.33 pm

#### 1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair* (via videoconference)

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann (via videoconference)

Mr Lawrence (via videoconference, substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Ms Suvaal

Mrs Taylor (via videoconference)

#### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

#### 3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That draft minutes nos. 23 and 24 be confirmed.

#### 4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted that the Budget Estimates timetable for 2024-2025 was agreed to by the House with hearings generally commencing at 9.15 am and concluding by 5.30 pm. The committee noted the following timetable of Portfolio Committee No. 2 hearings:

Date	Portfolio
Monday 9 September 2024	Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
Tuesday 10 September 2024	Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast

##### 4.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution:

- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature is to be examined concurrently by opposition and crossbench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, and
- (b) the portfolio of The Legislature is to be examined by opposition, crossbench and Government members from 9.15 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 1.00 pm.

##### 4.2 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

The committee also noted that unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast is to alternate between *crossbench and opposition members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

#### 4.3 Witness requests

The committee noted a list of witnesses who appeared at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 for the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast.

#### Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

Witness	
Ms Amanda Jones	Deputy Secretary, DPE Water
Mr Andrew George	CEO, WaterNSW
Mr Roch Cheroux	Managing Director, Sydney Water
Mr Jonathon Wheaton	A/ Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW
Dr Brendan Flynn	Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
Dr Murray Wright	Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health
Ms Deb Willcox AM	Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health
Mr Michael Wheatley	A/CEO, Land and Housing Corporation
Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
Ms Anne Campbell	Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
Mr James Toomey	Deputy Secretary Housing, Disability, District Services and Disaster Welfare, Department of Communities and Justice
Ms Famey Williams	CEO, Aboriginal Housing Office
Mr Grant Barnes	CRO, Natural Resources Access Regulator
Mr Brendan Thomas	Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice
Mr Bryce Wilde	Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission
Mr Darren Cleary	Managing Director, Hunter Water
Ms Zoe Robinson	Advocate for Children and Young People

Ms Suvaal moved: That:

- Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, CEO Homes NSW be added and
- Mr James Toomey, Deputy Secretary Housing, Disability, District Services and Disaster Welfare, Department of Communities and Justice, and Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice be removed

from the list of witnesses to appear before Portfolio Committee No. 2 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025.

Mrs Carter left the meeting.

Question put, that the motion be agreed to.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Mrs Carter re-joined the meeting.

The committee also discussed removing the following witnesses from the witness list:

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Anne Campbell, Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Grant Barnes, CRO, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission

No agreement was reached and the matter was deferred.

The committee noted a list of witnesses who appeared at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 for the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast, and an additional witness included at the direction of the Chair.

### **Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast**

Witness	
Ms Susan Pearce AM	Secretary, NSW Health
Ms Deb Willcox AM	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
Mr Matthew Daly	Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
Mr Steven Carr	A/Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, NSW Health
Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM	Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
Mr Luke Sloane	Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
Mr Phil Minns	Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
Mr Vince McTaggart	Executive Director, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, NSW Health (inclusion at Chair's direction)
Ms Rebecca Fox	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
Ms Rebecca Wark	Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure NSW
Dr Dominic Morgan ASM	Commissioner and Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That Professor Jenni Millbank, Chair, NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Board be added to the list of witnesses to appear before Portfolio Committee No. 2 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the following witnesses be removed from the list of witnesses to appear before Portfolio Committee No. 2 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025:

- Mr Steven Carr, A/Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, NSW Health
- Ms Rebecca Fox, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure NSW, NSW Health.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the following witnesses be added to the list of witnesses to appear before Portfolio Committee No. 2 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025:

- Mr Alfa D'Amato, Deputy Secretary Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Controller, NSW Health
- Ms Emma Skulander, Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Mr Steve Orr, Secretary, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That:

- members be given 48 hours to consider the amended list of witnesses to appear before Portfolio Committee No. 2 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025 and propose further amendments or nominate additional witnesses by email (noting that where a witness no longer occupies a position their proposed inclusion in the witness list is taken to be a reference to their position)
- the committee agree to the witness list by email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement
- once the witness list is agreed, the secretariat write to the ministers of portfolios being examined by the committee to communicate the witness list and invite the nomination of any additional witnesses, for the committee's consideration, prior to it settling on a final witness list.

#### 4.4 Witness appearance time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution Ministers are invited to appear for the morning sessions only, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm, unless requested by the committee to also appear for the afternoon session.

### 5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2.46 pm *sine die*.

Elspeth Dyer  
Committee Clerk

### Minutes no. 26

Monday 9 September 2024  
Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health  
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.06 am

#### 1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair* (until 10.45 am, from 11.59 am until 3.32 pm)  
Mr Banasiak (participating) (from 11.15 am until 11.21 am)  
Ms Boyd (participating) (from 11.20 am until 11.40 am)  
Mr Buttigieg (until 12.47 pm, from 3.02 pm until 3.59 pm, from 5.01 pm)  
Mr Donnelly (until 12.47 pm, from 3.52 pm)  
Ms Faehrmann (from 11.18 am until 11.38 am, from 11.54 am until 12.21 pm, from 2.52 pm until 5.13 pm)  
Mr Farlow (participating)  
Ms Higginson (participating) (from 4.30 pm until 4.50 pm)  
Mrs Maclaren-Jones (substituting for Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*) (until 5.02 pm)  
Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mrs Taylor) (from 9.08 am)  
Ms Suvaal (until 3.03 pm, from 5.09 pm)

#### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

#### 3. Election of Deputy Chair for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast public hearing



The Chair called for nominations for the Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting.

Mrs Maclaren-Jones moved: That Mrs Mitchell be elected Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mrs Mitchell elected Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting.

#### **4. Draft minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That draft minutes no. 25 be confirmed.

#### **5. Correspondence**

##### ***Received:***

- 10 July 2024 – Email from Mr Brett Collins, Justice Action, regarding telecommunications rights in mental health
- 12 August 2024 – Email from Melanie Haskew, office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast providing the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list for the PC2 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 10 September 2024
- 12 August 2024 – Further email from Melanie Haskew, office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast providing a further proposed amendment by the Minister to the witness list for the PC2 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 10 September 2024
- 12 and 14 August 2024 – Emails from India Jones, office of Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast providing proposed amendments by the Minister to the witness list for the PC2 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 9 September 2024
- 9 September 2024 – Emails from Jess Barton, Acting Executive Director, Office of the Secretary, Premier's Department, advising Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement, Premier's Department, is unwell and confirming she will not be able to appear at the PC2 Budget Estimates hearing on 9 September 2024
- 9 September 2024 – Email from Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement, Premier's Department, requesting Alison Morgan, Executive Director Premier's Department, be approved as a witness at the PC2 Budget Estimates hearing on 9 September 2024.

##### ***Sent:***

- 9 August 2024 – Email to Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast inviting him to appear at PC2 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios and attaching witness list agreed to by the committee
- 9 August 2024 – Email to Hon Rose Jackson MP, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast inviting her to appear at PC2 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios and attaching witness list agreed to by the committee.

The committee considered a draft letter to Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, concerning the scheduling of Budget Estimates hearings.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the draft letter to Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, concerning the scheduling of Budget Estimates hearings be sent.

#### **6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**

##### **6.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution:

- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature is to be examined concurrently by opposition and crossbench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to

5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

## **6.2 Sequence of questions**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast is to alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

## **6.3 Public hearing - Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast (Jackson)**

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 and examined:

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Amanda Jones, Deputy Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – Water Group
- Mr Andrew George, CEO, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Ms Deborah Willcox AM, Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health
- Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health
- Dr Brendan Flynn, Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
- Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, CEO, Homes NSW
- Mr Michael Wheatley, Head of Housing Portfolio, Homes NSW
- Ms Famey Williams, Chief Executive, Aboriginal Housing Office
- Ms Zoe Robinson, Advocate for Children and Young People.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast open for examination.

The Chair left the meeting.

The Deputy Chair took the Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

The Chair re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

The Minister withdrew at 12.47 pm.

Ms Zoe Robinson withdrew at 3.32 pm.

The Chair left the meeting.

The Deputy Chair took the Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

Ms Deb Willcox AM, Dr Murray Wright, and Dr Brendan Flynn withdrew at 4.13 pm.

Mr Michael Tidball withdrew at 4.26 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

## 7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.15 pm, until Tuesday 10 September 2024, 9.00am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025, Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (public hearing).

Peta Leemen

**Committee Clerk**

## Minutes no. 27

Tuesday 10 September 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.03 am

### 1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Donnelly (until 10.47 am, from 11.17 am until 12.46 pm, from 3.21 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (until 9.14 am, from 9.45 am until 10.47 am, from 11.18 am until 11.53 am, from 12.22 pm until 12.46 pm, from 3.51 pm until 4.43 pm)

Ms Hurst (participating) (from 10.16 am until 10.27 am)

Mr Murphy (substituting for Mr Buttigieg) (until 3.31 pm)

Ms Suvaal (until 12.46 pm, via videoconference from 2.02 pm)

Ms Mihailuk (participating) (from 11.15 am until 12.30 pm, from 12.43 pm until 3.31 pm)

Mrs Mitchell (participating) (from 10.08 am until 12.46 pm)

Mr Tudehope (participating) (from 11.49 am until 12.31 pm)

Mrs Ward (substituting for Mrs Taylor) (until 10.47 am, from 11.20 am until 12.30 pm, from 2.02 pm until 5.12 pm)

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

### 3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

#### 3.1 Order of examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution:

- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature is to be examined concurrently by opposition and crossbench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

#### 3.2 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast is to alternate between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

#### 3.3 Witness availability

The committee noted that owing to industrial action Ms Joanne Edwards, Acting Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health would be unavailable to give evidence at the hearing from 11.00 am until 11.30 am. The committee noted further that other witnesses may be absent at various times.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That given Ms Joanne Edwards, Acting Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health, would be unavailable to give evidence at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing (Park) on 10 September 2024 from 11.00 am to 11.30 am, and given other witnesses may also be absent at various times, the timing of the questioning at the hearing be at the discretion of the Chair.

### **3.4 Public hearing - Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park)**

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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.

Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health
- Ms Joanne Edwards, Acting Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
- Mr Alfa D'Amato, Deputy Secretary Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Mr Vince McTaggart, Executive Director, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, NSW Health
- Ms Emma Skulander, Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.
- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement, Premier's Department.

The following witness was examined under her former oath:

- Ms Deborah Willcox AM, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast open for examination.

Ms Edwards withdrew at 11.29 am.

Ms Edwards was examined under her former oath (11.49 am).

The Minister withdrew at 12.46 pm.

Dr Cohn tabled the following document:

- Journal article, 'Admission screening testing of patients and staff N95 respirators are cost-effective in reducing COVID-19 hospital-acquired infections', by F McAndrew, R.G Abeyjuriya, R. Sacks-Davis, M Sammann, D.M Lister, D West, S.S Majumdar, and N Scott, dated 15 July 2024.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.21 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

### **3.5 Tabled documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled during the public hearing:

- Journal article, 'Admission screening testing of patients and staff N95 respirators are cost-effective in reducing COVID-19 hospital-acquired infections', by F McAndrew, R.G Abeyajuriya, R. Sacks-Davis, M Sammann, D.M Lister, D West, S.S Majumdar, and N Scott, dated 15 July 2024, tabled by Dr Cohn.

#### 4. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 5.23 pm, *sine die*.

Jessie Halligan

**Committee Clerk**

#### **Minutes no. 28**

Tuesday 22 October 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Room 1136, Parliament House, 3.05 pm

#### 1. **Members present**

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buttigieg

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Faraway (substituting for Mr Fang)

Ms Suvaal

#### 2. **Acknowledgement of Country**

#### 3. **Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That draft minutes no. 26 and 27 be confirmed.

#### 4. **Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

##### ***Received:***

- 10 September 2024 – Email from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development advising that Mr Steve Orr, Secretary is not attending PC2 Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing (Park) on 10 September 2024
- 10 October 2024 – Letter from Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and Minister the South Coast advising of an error to responses to supplementary questions 186-189 lodged following the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for his portfolios on 10 September 2024.

##### ***Sent:***

- 9 September 2024 – Letter to Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council regarding scheduling of Budget Estimates hearings.

The committee noted that the committee clerk published Minister Park's letter concerning the error in the response to supplementary questions and inserted an explanatory footnote in the responses as per the committee's agreement by email, and that the committee needed to pass a formal resolution concerning these matters.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That:

- The committee publish the letter from Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast dated 10 October 2024 advising of an error to responses to supplementary questions 186-189 lodged following the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for his portfolios on 10 September 2024; and
- the responses be clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote.

## **5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**

### **5.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions**

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

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast received 8 October 2024
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast received 8 October 2024.

### **5.2 Clarification of evidence**

The committee noted that the following correspondence clarifying evidence was published by the committee clerk, and explanatory footnotes inserted in transcripts of evidence, as per the committee's agreement via email, and that the committee now needed to pass formal resolutions concerning these matters.

- 20 September 2024 – Letter from Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator seeking to clarify his evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 9 September 2024 (Jackson)
- 27 September 2024 – Letter from Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice seeking to clarify his evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 9 September 2024 (Jackson)
- Undated letter from Dr Brendan Flynn, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, Ministry of Health seeking to clarify his evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 9 September 2024 (Jackson).

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That:

- The letter from Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator dated 20 September 2024 seeking to clarify his evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 9 September 2024 (Jackson) be published and his evidence clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote in the transcript of evidence.
- The letter from Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice dated 27 September 2024 seeking to clarify his evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 9 September 2024 (Jackson) be published and his evidence clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote in the transcript of evidence.
- The undated letter from Dr Brendan Flynn, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, Ministry of Health seeking to clarify his evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 9 September 2024 (Jackson) be published and his evidence clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote in the transcript of evidence.

### **5.3 Supplementary hearing**

The committee considered the Chair's proposal to hold a supplementary hearing for the portfolios of Health and Regional Health (Park).

Ms Faehrmann moved: That:

- a Budget Estimates 2024-2025 supplementary hearing for the portfolios of Health and Regional Health be held on Monday 2 December 2024
- if the Minister is not available on Monday 2 December 2024, the Chair propose an alternative date for the supplementary hearing, to be agreed by the committee over email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement
- the secretariat write to Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and Minister for the South Coast inviting him to the supplementary hearing
- the following witnesses be invited to accompany the Minister at the supplementary hearing:
  - Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health
  - Ms Deborah Willcox AM, Secretary, NSW Health
  - Ms Joanne Edwards, Acting Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
  - Mr Alfa D'Amato, Deputy Secretary Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
  - Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
  - Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
  - Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
  - Ms Emma Skulander, Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
  - Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mrs Carter, Dr Cohn, Ms Faehrmann, Mr Farraway.

Noes: Mr Buttigieg, Mr Donnelly, Ms Suvaal.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## 6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.10 pm, *sine die*.

David Rodwell

**Committee Clerk**

## Minutes no. 29

Monday 11 November 2024  
Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health  
Room 813, Parliament House, 12.06 pm

### 1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Boyd (substituting for Ms Faehrmann via videoconference)

Mr Buttigieg

Mr Donnelly

Mr Fang (via videoconference from 12.09 pm)

Ms Suvaal (via videoconference)

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

**3. Apologies**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That it be recorded in the minutes that the three government members of the committee indicated that they were not available to meet at 12 noon on Monday 11 November 2024 and the Chair confirmed the meeting.

**4. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That draft minutes no. 28 be confirmed.

**5. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following item of correspondence:

***Received***

- 30 October 2024 – Email from Mr Matthew McLean, Chief of Staff, Office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast to the secretariat declining the invitation for the Minister to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025.

**6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Supplementary hearing**

The committee considered the Chair's proposal to send a letter, a draft of which was circulated in the meeting papers, to Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast re-inviting him to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry.

Ms Boyd moved:

- that the draft letter to Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast re-inviting him to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025 be sent
- that should the Minister once again decline the invitation to appear at the supplementary hearing, the supplementary hearing proceed during the week of 2 December 2024 without the Minister and the following witnesses be re-invited to appear at a half-day supplementary hearing:
  - Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health
  - Ms Deborah Willcox AM, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
  - Ms Joanne Edwards, Acting Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
  - Mr Alfa D'Amato, Deputy Secretary Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
  - Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
  - Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
  - Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
  - Ms Emma Skulander, Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
  - Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Dr Cohn, Mrs Carter, Ms Boyd and Mr Fang.

Noes: Mr Buttigieg, Mr Donnelly and Ms Suvaal.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**7. Next meeting**

The committee adjourned at 12.25 pm *sine die*.



Elspeth Dyer  
**Committee Clerk**

**Minutes no. 30**

Monday 2 December 2024  
Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health  
Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney, 9.03 am

**1. Members present**

Dr Cohn, *Chair*  
Mr Tudehope (substituting for Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*)  
Ms Faehrmann (via videoconference from 11.13 am until 12.17 pm)  
Mr Fang  
Dr Kaine (substituting for Mr Donnelly)  
Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Buttigieg, via videoconference from 9.03 am until 9.07 am)  
Ms Suvaal

**2. Acknowledgement of Country****3. Election of Deputy Chair for Budget Estimates 2024-2025 supplementary hearing, Health and Regional Health**

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting.

Ms Suvaal nominated Mr Tudehope to be Deputy Chair of the committee for the duration of the meeting.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mr Tudehope elected Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting.

**4. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That draft minutes no. 29 be confirmed.

**5. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- 13 November 2024 – Email from Mr Matthew McLean, Chief of Staff, office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast again declining the invitation for the Minister to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025
- 18 November 20224 – Emails from Mr Rohan Ely, office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast accepting the committee's invitation for departmental witnesses to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025 and proposing an additional witness, Ms Kathy Dempsey, NSW Chief ICP & HAI Advisor, Clinical Excellence Commission, appear
- 9 November 2024 – Email from Ms Kellie Wooldridge regarding Orange Health Service abortion services.

***Sent***

- 11 November 2024 – Letter to Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast re-inviting the Minister to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

- 15 November 2024 – Email to Mr Matthew McLean, Chief of Staff, office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast inviting departmental witnesses to appear at a supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025
- 19 November 2024 – Email to Mr Rohan Ely, office of Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast confirming that the committee has no objection to additional witness, Ms Kathy Dempsey, NSW Chief ICP & HAI Advisor, Clinical Excellence Commission, appearing at the supplementary hearing for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025 on 2 December 2024.

## 6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

### 6.1 Clarification of evidence

The committee noted that the following correspondence clarifying evidence was published by the committee clerk, and an explanatory footnote inserted in the transcript of evidence as per the committee's agreement via email, and that the committee now needed to pass a formal resolution:

- 14 November 2024 – Letter from Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health seeking to clarify evidence regarding COVID-19 transmission in NSW hospitals following Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing 10 September 2024 (Park).

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the letter from Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary NSW Health, dated 14 November 2024 seeking to clarify evidence regarding COVID-19 transmission in NSW hospitals following Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing 10 September 2024 (Park) be published and the evidence clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote in the transcript of evidence.

### 6.2 Conduct of Public hearing – Health and Regional Health

#### *Allocation of question time and total hearing time*

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tudehope: That at the supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for Health and Regional Health on 2 December 2024 each portfolio is to be examined concurrently by opposition and cross bench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am and 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, and, if required by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am and 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm.

#### *Sequence of questions*

Resolved on the motion of Mr Tudehope: That the sequence of questions to be asked at the supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for Health and Regional Health on 2 December 2024 is to alternate between cross bench and opposition members in that order with equal time allocated to each.

#### *Conduct of hearing, supplementary questions and questions on notice*

The committee noted that, consistent with the resolution of the House regarding the practice for initial hearings:

- the committees must hear evidence in public
- 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
- witnesses may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions
- members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, and
- 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.

### 6.3 Public hearing – Health and Regional Health

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Scott McLachlan, Acting Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Mr Matthew Daly, Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
- Dr Michelle Cretikos PSM, Acting Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Ms Kathy Dempsey, NSW Chief ICP & HAI Advisor, Clinical Excellence Commission.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health
- Mr Alfa D'Amato, Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
- Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Health, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Ms Emma Skulander, Acting Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.

The Chair tabled the following document:

- Research Article, *Rural and Remote Health*, "'Imagine if we had an actual service...' a qualitative exploration of abortion access challenges in Australian rural primary care".

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.46 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

#### **6.4 Tabled documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled during the public hearing:

- Research Article, *Rural and Remote Health*, "'Imagine if we had an actual service...' a qualitative exploration of abortion access challenges in Australian rural primary care" tabled by the Chair.

### **7. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 12.47 pm, *sine die*.

David Rodwell

**Committee Clerk**

### **Minutes no. 31**

Thursday 27 February 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.02 am

#### **1. Members present**

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Ward, *Acting Deputy Chair* (substituting for Mrs Carter until 3.53 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating from 11.40 am until 11.58 am)

Mrs Carter (participating until 10.45 am, and from 11.58 am until 12.22 pm, and from 2.00 pm until 2.55 pm, and from 4.00 pm)

Mr Donnelly (until 11.44 am, and from 2.00 pm)

Ms Fachrmann

Mr Fang

Ms Hurst (participating from 11.15 am until 11.51 am)

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Mr Primrose (substituting for Ms Suvaal until 12.46 pm, and from 2.54 pm until 3.32 pm)

Mr Ruddick (participating until 12.12 pm)

## 2. Acknowledgement of Country

## 3. Election of Acting Deputy Chair for the Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing

The Chair called for nominations for Acting Deputy Chair, noting the substantive position holder, Mrs Carter, is attending the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park) public hearing on Thursday 27 February 2025 as a participating member.

Mr Lawrence moved: That Mrs Ward be elected Acting Deputy Chair of the committee for the purpose of the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park) public hearing on 27 February 2025.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mrs Ward elected Acting Deputy Chair.

## 4. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That draft minutes no. 30 be confirmed.

## 5. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

### *Received*

- 22 January 2025 – Email from Mr Rohan Ely, Ministry Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 30 January 2025 – Email from Mr Rohan Ely, Ministry Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 30 January 2025 – Email from Ms Melanie Haskew, Senior Advisor Policy, Parliament and Caucus, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 30 January 2025 – Email from Ms Pamela Murphy, Advisor - Caucus and Parliament, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 7 March 2025
- 31 January 2025 – Letter from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, advising that due to a delay in finalising the arrangements for some witnesses, the Government will be unable to provide confirmation of witnesses to the secretariat until 5.00 pm Monday 3 February 2025
- 3 February 2025 – Email from Ms Pamela Murphy, Advisor - Caucus and Parliament, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, clarifying the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 7 March 2025
- 7 February 2025 – Email from Ms Melanie Haskew, Senior Advisor Policy, Parliament and Caucus, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, clarifying a proposed amendment to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 17 February 2025 – Email from Ms Pamela Murphy, Advisor - Caucus and Parliament, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, requesting an additional witness, Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary Department of

Communities and Justice, be included in the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 7 March 2025 in the afternoon session, noting that Mr Tidball is also invited to attend the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Portfolio Committee No. 8 Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections hearing on the same day

- 24 February 2024— Email from Ms Pamela Murphy, Advisor - Caucus and Parliament, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, requesting an additional witness, Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department, be included in the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 7 March 2025 in the afternoon session.

#### *Sent*

- 20 December 2024 – Email to the Hon Ryan Park MLC, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and Minister the South Coast, inviting him to appear at PC2 Budget Estimates additional round hearing for the Minister's portfolios, 27 February 2025, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 20 December 2024 – Email to the Hon Rose Jackson MP, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast inviting her to appear at the PC1 Budget Estimates additional round hearing for the Minister's portfolios, 7 March 2025, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 25 February 2025 – Email to the Hon Ryan Park MLC, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and Minister the South Coast, requesting an additional witness, the Chief Executive Officer, Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD), appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 25 February 2025 – Email to the Chief Executive Officer, Healthscope, appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025.

## **6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**

### **6.1 Request for additional witness**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee accept the request from Healthscope to bring additional witness Mr Tino La Spina, Group Chief Executive Officer-elect, alongside Mr Greg Horan, Group Chief Executive Officer, Healthscope, and Associate Professor Peter Thomas, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Northern Beaches Hospital.

### **6.2 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions**

The following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions relating to the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health and Regional Health supplementary hearing on 2 December 2024 were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast received 6 January 2025.

### **6.3 Resolution for additional hearings**

The committee noted the resolution of the House on 21 November 2024 to conduct additional hearings for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024.

### **6.4 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, is to be examined concurrently by opposition and crossbench members only from 9.15 am to

10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

### 6.5 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearing for the Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast portfolio is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

### 6.6 Witness lists

The committee noted that it agreed via email on 17 December 2024 to the following approach to arranging the additional round of Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearings in February/March 2025:

- arrangements for the additional hearings be made over email in the first instance, rather than holding a meeting, unless a meeting is required to resolve any disagreement
- the confirmed witness lists from the initial round in August/September 2024 and, if applicable, supplementary round of hearings in December 2024, be the proposed witness lists for the additional round of hearings in February/March 2025
- committee members be given 48 hours following receipt of the proposed witness lists to provide any feedback or additional witnesses, as per the practice adopted for initial round of hearings
- responses from Ministers' offices to witness invitations be due by Friday 31 January 2025.

### 6.7 Public hearing – Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park)

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast open for examination.

The Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast, was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Emma Skulander, Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure and Asset Management Division and Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department
- Adjunct Professor Anthony Schembri AM, Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD).

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Susan Pearce, AM, Secretary, NSW Health
- Mr Scott McLachlan, Acting Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Mr Matthew Daly, Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
- Mr Alfa D'Amato, Deputy Secretary, Financial and Corporate Service and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Health, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Mr Vince McTaggart, Executive Director, Strategic Capital Planning and Asset Management, NSW Health

- Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance
- Ms Kathy Dempsey, NSW Chief ICP & HAI Advisor, Clinical Excellence Commission.

Ms Faehrmann tabled the following document:

- 'Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing and Clinical Follow-Up', National Academies of Sciences, 2022.

The Chair called Mr Fang to order for the first time.

The Chair called Mr Fang to order for the second time.

The Minister withdrew at 12.47 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Greg Horan, Group Chief Executive Officer, Healthscope
- Mr Tino La Spina, Group Chief Executive Officer-elect, Healthscope
- Associate Professor Peter Thomas, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Northern Beaches Hospital.

Ms Faehrmann tabled the following document:

- 'Establishing the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group', Briefing for the Premier, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2023
- 'Expert Advisory Panel meetings – Lead in Broken Hill', Meeting notes, 2 February 2024.

Dr Cohn tabled the following document:

- 'The Northern Beaches Hospital Audit', Submission by the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, November 2024.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.23 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

## **6.8 Tabled documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tabled during the hearing:

- 'Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing and Clinical Follow-Up', tabled by Ms Faehrmann
- 'Establishing the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group', Briefing for the Premier, tabled by Ms Faehrmann
- 'Expert Advisory Panel meetings – Lead in Broken Hill', Meeting notes, tabled by Ms Faehrmann
- 'The Northern Beaches Hospital Audit', Submission by the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, tabled by Dr Cohn.

## **7. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 5.25 pm, until 9.00 am, Friday 7 March 2025, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast.

Kate Mihaljek  
**Committee Clerk**

**Minutes no. 32**

Friday 14 March 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.03 am

**1. Members present**

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Maclaren-Jones, *Acting Deputy Chair* (substituting for Mrs Carter)

Mr Buttigieg (until 12.47 pm, and from 4.04 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (until 9.07 am, and from 9.24 am until 10.44 am, and from 12.18 pm until 12.39 pm)

Mr Farlow (participating until 12.45 pm, and from 2.10 pm)

Ms Higginson (participating from 12.09 pm until 12.25 pm)

Ms Mihailuk (participating from 11.15 am until 11.52 am)

Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mr Fang from 9.04 am)

Mr Murphy (substituting for Mr Donnelly until 10.26 am, and from 10.30 am until 12.47 pm)

Ms Suvaal (until 12.12 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 4.08 pm)

**2. Acknowledgement of Country****3. Election of Acting Deputy Chair for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast public hearing**

The Chair called for nominations for Acting Deputy Chair, noting the substantive position holder, Mrs Carter, is being substituted by Mrs Maclaren-Jones for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast public hearing on Friday 14 March 2025.

Mrs Mitchell moved: That Mrs Maclaren-Jones be elected Acting Deputy Chair of the committee for the purpose of the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast public hearing on Friday 14 March 2025.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mrs Maclaren-Jones elected Acting Deputy Chair.

**4. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received:***

- 25 February 2025 – Email from Mr Richard Holbeach, General Counsel, Company Secretary and Chief Privacy Officer, Healthscope, confirming Mr Greg Horan, Group Chief Executive Officer, Healthscope, can attend the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025, requesting a later appearance time due to late notice and interstate travel, and requesting Associate Professor Peter Thomas, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Northern Beaches Hospital, also attend as a witness
- 27 February 2025 – Email from Mr Richard Holbeach, General Counsel, Company Secretary and Chief Privacy Officer, Healthscope, requesting that Mr Tino La Spina, Group Chief Executive Officer-elect, Healthscope, appear alongside Mr Greg Horan, Group Chief Executive Officer, Healthscope, and Associate Professor Peter Thomas, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Northern Beaches Hospital, at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025 from 2.00 pm
- 5 March 2025 – Letter from the Hon Rose Jackson MP, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast, requesting the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 7 March 2025 be rescheduled due to Cyclone Alfred
- 6 March 2025 – Letter from the Hon Rose Jackson MP, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast, requesting the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health,



Youth, the North Coast additional hearing scheduled on 7 March 2025 be rescheduled to 14 March 2025 due to Cyclone Alfred

- 7 March 2025 – Email from Ms Andrea Rocha, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Mental Health Commission of NSW, advising that Ms Jennifer Black, Commissioner, Mental Health Commission of NSW, is unable to attend the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 14 March 2025 due to pre-existing leave
- 7 March 2025 – Email from Mr Richard Holbeach, General Counsel, Company Secretary and Chief Privacy Officer, Healthscope, requesting the names of all individuals referenced in the supplementary questions directed to Healthscope be urgently redacted on the webpage, and raising concerns regarding the nature of many of the questions proposed
- 7 March 2025 – Email from Ms Pamela Murphy, Advisor - Caucus and Parliament, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 14 March 2025
- 13 March 2025 – Letter from Mr Richard Holbeach, General Counsel, Company Secretary and Chief Privacy Officer, Healthscope, requesting the supplementary questions directed to Healthscope be redrafted to remove the questions that name individuals, or failing this that the committee agree to permanently redact the names of all individuals referenced in the supplementary questions.

***Sent:***

- 24 February 2025 – Email to Ms Jennifer Black, Mental Health Commissioner, Mental Health Commission of New South Wales, inviting her to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 7 March 2025.

## **5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**

### **5.1 Healthscope supplementary questions - Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 27 February 2025**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee:

- keep the following supplementary questions directed to Healthscope confidential as they contain sensitive information: 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 13 (a), 14-15, 17-22, 24 (b) - (e), 25-26, 28-31, 34, 38, 49-53
- advise the witness that answers to these questions are not required.

### **5.2 Postponement of the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing**

The committee noted that it agreed via email on 6 March 2025 to reschedule the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing to 14 March 2025, in response to the Minister's request to reschedule the hearing due to Cyclone Alfred.

### **5.3 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, is to be examined concurrently by opposition and crossbench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

### **5.4 Sequence of questions**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearing for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast portfolio is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

### **5.5 Public hearing – Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast** Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast open for examination.

The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Susan Pearce, Secretary, NSW Health
- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Amanda Jones, Deputy Secretary, DCCEEW – Water Group
- Mr Andrew George, Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health
- Dr Brendan Flynn, Executive Director, Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
- Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, Chief Executive Officer, Homes NSW
- Ms Zoe Robinson, Advocate for Children and Young People.

Ms Higginson tabled the following documents:

- Sydney Water, Audit and Risk Committee paper for Discussion
- Sydney Water, Individual and Societal Risk Ratings Assessment

The Minister withdrew at 12.47 pm.

The following witness was admitted and examined on her former oath (2.00 pm):

- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.13 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

## **5.6 Tabled documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the hearing:

- Sydney Water, Audit and Risk Committee paper for Discussion, tabled by Ms Higginson
- Sydney Water, Individual and Societal Risk Ratings Assessment, tabled by Ms Higginson.

## **6. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 4.16 pm, *Sine die*.

Verity Smith  
**Committee Clerk**

**Draft minutes no. 33**

Tuesday 24 June 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney at 3.07 pm

**1. Members present**Dr Cohn, *Chair*Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buttigieg

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang

Ms Suvaal

**2. Acknowledgement of Country****3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That draft minutes nos. 31 and 32 be confirmed.

**4. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received:***

- 26 March 2025 – Letter from Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance, requesting transcript clarifications to his evidence from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park) additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 26 March 2025 – Letter from Ms Emma Skulander, Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure and Asset Management and Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health, requesting transcript clarifications to her evidence from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park) additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 26 March 2025 – Letter from Mr Matthew Daly, Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health, received 26 March 2025 requesting transcript clarifications to his evidence from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park) additional hearing on 27 February 2025
- 27 March 2025 – Letter from Healthscope, requesting transcript clarifications to the evidence of Associate Professor Peter Thomas, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Northern Beaches Hospital from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park) additional hearing on 27 February 2025.

**5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025****5.1 Resolution for rescheduled additional hearing**

The committee noted the resolution of the House on 19 March 2025 that it endorsed the further additional hearing for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast portfolios (Jackson) rescheduled to 14 March 2025 due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred.

**5.2 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions**

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

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Healthscope, received 26 March 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for the Illawarra and Minister the South Coast, received 26 March 2025

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Rose Jackson MLC from the hearing for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast portfolios on 14 March 2025, received 10 April 2025.

### 5.3 Transcript clarifications

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the committee authorise:

- the publication of correspondence from Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance, to the committee providing transcript clarifications, received 26 March 2025, and the insertion of a footnote on the transcript from the 27 February 2025 (Park) hearing, clarifying the evidence of Dr Morgan as per the correspondence received 26 March 2025
- the publication of correspondence from Ms Emma Skulander, Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure and Asset Management and Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health, to the committee providing transcript clarifications, received 26 March 2025, and the insertion of a footnote on the transcript from the 27 February 2025 (Park) hearing, clarifying the evidence of Ms Skulander as per the correspondence received 26 March 2025
- the publication of correspondence from Mr Matthew Daly, Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health, to the committee providing transcript clarifications, received 26 March 2025, and the insertion of a footnote on the transcript from the 27 February 2025 (Park) hearing, clarifying the evidence of Mr Daly as per the correspondence received 26 March 2025
- the publication of correspondence from Healthscope to the committee providing transcript clarifications to the evidence of Associate Professor Peter Thomas, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Northern Beaches Hospital, Healthscope, received 27 March 2025, and the insertion of a footnote on the transcript from the 27 February 2025 (Park) hearing, clarifying the evidence of Associate Professor Thomas as per the correspondence received 27 March 2025.

### 5.4 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted her draft report entitled 'Budget Estimates 2024-2025', which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Ms Suvaal moved: That paragraph 2.2 be amended by omitting:

'mental health staffing, including contingency plan for mass resignation of psychiatrists, costing of VMO positions, virtual care and/or psychiatry hubs,

privatisation of involuntary care',

and inserting instead:

'mental health staffing, including contingency plan for mass resignation of psychiatrists, costing of VMO positions, virtual care and/or psychiatry hubs, and the use of private facilities, as needed, in order to ensure the continuation of care to those requiring it'.

Ms Faehrmann moved: That the motion of Ms Suvaal be amended by omitting 'as needed, in order to ensure the continuation of care to those requiring it' and inserting instead 'for the care of public patients'.

Amendment of Ms Faehrmann put and passed.

Original question of Ms Suvaal, as amended, put and passed.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the first paragraph of Chapter 1 be amended by omitting 'parliamentary committees' and inserting instead 'Parliament'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That all proper nouns be capitalised in the report, for example Minister and Committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That:

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

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

Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, correspondence and answers to questions taken on notice and supplementary questions 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;

The committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;

Dissenting statements be provided to the secretariat within 24 hours after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting;

The report be tabled at 11.00 am on Friday 27 June 2025;

The Chair to advise the secretariat and members if they intend to hold a press conference, and if so, the date and time.

## **6. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 3.12 pm, *Sine die*.

Amanda Assoum

**Committee Clerk**

