



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Report 53

June 2025

3



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Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

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Report no. 53.**

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

"June 2025"

Chair: Ms Abigail Boyd MLC



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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 2025.¹

¹ *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.²

² *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.³

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 19 March 2025, Item 15.

Committee details

Committee members

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Rachel Merton MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC	Independent	
Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Emily Suvaal MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party
Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals
Hon Susan Carter MLC	Liberal Party
Dr Amanda Cohn MLC	The Greens
Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Mark Latham MLC	Independent
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Bob Nanva MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Damien Tudehope MLC	Liberal Party

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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.

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
- Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.

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 and their officers who assisted the committee during this important inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC
Committee Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

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

The inquiry is conducted annually by the Legislative Council's Portfolio Committees. Each committee examines the budget estimates of its responsible portfolios, with ministers and senior public servants as the primary witnesses. The evidence 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.⁴
- 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 2024.⁵
- 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 2025.⁶
- 1.4 Three additional hearings were rescheduled due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred and the unavailability of ministers and other witnesses.⁷
- 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:
 - 27 August 2024, 2 December 2024 and 25 February 2025: Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
 - 4 September 2024 and 10 March 2025: Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.

⁴ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

⁵ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2023, pp 670-671; Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

⁶ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2024, pp 1901-1904.

⁷ 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.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolios of Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney was held on Tuesday 27 August 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- school funding negotiations with the Australian Government
- codes of conduct for teachers and students regarding conflict in the Middle East
- the Department of Education review into executive teaching time
- restructures within the Department of Education
- processes within the Department of Education to respond to Standing Order 52 and *Government Information (Public Access) Act* requests
- expenditure on consultants by the Department of Education
- support for students with disability
- planning for future early childhood education and care services around housing growth areas
- implications of the proposed wage increase for early childhood educators employed by local councils
- rollout and delivery of consent, respectful relationships and domestic and family violence education
- changes to professional development requirements of teachers
- problematic and harmful behaviours in schools
- NAPLAN targets, numeracy checks and support for reading instruction.

2.2 A supplementary hearing was held on Monday 2 December 2024 and the following issues were raised:

- restructures within the Department of Education
- staffing matters within the Department of Education, such as resignation, retirement and vacancy numbers
- discrimination in education settings, including departmental support material and alleged breaches of the Department of Education Code of Conduct
- regulation of early childhood education and care (ECEC) services
- the role and processes of the Professional and Ethical Standards (PES) unit of the Department of Education

- the mobile phone ban in New South Wales high schools
- procedures for small schools closures
- suspensions and bullying in schools
- review of the Department of Education's *Legal Issues Bulletin 55: Transgender students in schools – legal rights and responsibilities*.

2.3 An additional hearing was held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- building new schools and infrastructure upgrades to existing schools
- workforce issues including teacher vacancies and measures to address them, and supporting staff to stay in the workforce
- regulation of early childhood education and care services and response to complaints
- setting of NAPLAN targets
- supporting schools given global conflicts and heightened anti-semitism
- embedding explicit teaching practices in schools
- NSW curriculum and changes to syllabuses
- projects in Western Sydney.

Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolio of Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education was held on Wednesday 4 September 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- TAFE capital projects such as the asset renewal program
- the outcome of the NSW vocational education and training (VET) review 2023-2024
- TAFE responsiveness in teaching skills required by industry including offerings for workers to upskill and develop micro skills
- the development of courses relevant to emerging markets, such as the renewable energy sector
- the retention of students with disability including adjustments provided for students
- the availability of short/micro courses
- the temporary relocation of Bankstown TAFE campus
- Gosford TAFE redevelopment project
- the status of various TAFE contracts with external organisations
- governance of TAFE and accountability regarding performance

- the welfare of University of Sydney students during on-campus protests related to conflict taking place in the Middle East
- overseas travel by TAFE staff
- the availability and funding of fee-free TAFE places
- support offered to students travelling to, and requiring accommodation to participate in, TAFE courses.

2.5 An additional hearing was held on Monday 10 March 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- budgeting decisions of universities
- delay in the temporary accommodation delivery for Bankstown TAFE
- work with the Commonwealth to prevent gendered violence on university campuses
- meetings with University of Wollongong discussing budgeting constraints in relation to international students
- Northern Rivers TAFE campuses affected by Cyclone Alfred and support provided to students
- departure of Mr Stephen Brady, Managing Director from TAFE NSW
- redundancies from TAFE NSW and process for electing permanent staffing
- TAFE Charter consultation process
- Bankstown TAFE – student and community consultation for relocation, course availability and floor space at new site, enrolments, and traffic flow during construction
- NSW achievements working with the Commonwealth on the Australian Universities Accord
- TAFE student completion rates
- NSW Skills Plan data
- competition between TAFE and independent RTOs in the contestable market
- mandatory student learning modules at Macquarie University
- housing affordability around, and access for rural and regional students to, university.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Tuesday 27 August 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Prue Car MP	Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney
	Mr Murat Dizdar	Secretary, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Deborah Summerhayes	Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Mark Barraket	Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Chloe Read	Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Sally Blackadder	Deputy Secretary, Strategic Priorities, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Martin Graham	Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Shaun Ruming	Chief People Officer, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Kaz Scott	A/Chief Operating Officer, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Lisa Harrington	Acting Deputy Secretary, School Infrastructure NSW, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Paul Martin	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority
	Ms Sarah Hargans	General Counsel, Legal Services, NSW Department of Education

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr David Withers	Officer for Problematic and Sexualised Behaviour, NSW Department of Education
Wednesday 4 September 2024 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Steve Whan MP	Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
	Mr Murat Dizdar	Secretary, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Chloe Read	Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Mathew Pearson	A/Executive Director, Training Services NSW, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Stephen Brady	Managing Director, TAFE NSW
	Dr Margot McNeill	Chief Product and Quality Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Julie Tickle	Chief People and Culture Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Janet Schorer	Chief Delivery Officer, TAFE NSW
	Mr Patrick Woods	Chief Operating Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Fiona Rankin	Chief Information Officer, TAFE NSW
	Mr Maroun El Khoury	Executive Director, Industry and Investment, Premier's Department
	Professor Mark Scott AO	Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney
	Professor Annamarie Jagose	Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Monday 2 December 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Mr Murat Dizdar	NSW Department of Education
	Ms Deborah Summerhayes	Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Martin Graham	Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Paul Martin	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority
Tuesday 25 February 2025 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Prue Car MP	Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney
	Mr Murat Dizdar	Secretary, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Deborah Summerhayes	Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Mark Barraket	Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Jeremy Kurucz	Relieving Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Daniel French	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategic Priorities, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Martin Graham	Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Lisa Harrington	Acting Deputy Secretary, School Infrastructure NSW, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Paul Martin	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Shaun Ruming	Chief People Officer, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Mark Grant	Chief Operating Officer, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Sharon Gudu	Executive Director, NSW Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Regulatory Authority, NSW Department of Education
Monday 10 March 2025 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Steve Whan MP	Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
	Mr Murat Dizdar	Secretary, NSW Department of Education
	Mr Jeremy Kurucz	Relieving Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Amanda Lawrence	Executive Director, Training Services NSW, NSW Department of Education
	Ms Chloe Read	Acting Managing Director, TAFE NSW
	Ms Kerry Meredith-Sotiris	Acting Chief Product and Quality Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Julie Tickle	Chief People Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Janet Schorer	Chief Learning and Teaching Officer, TAFE NSW
	Mr Peter Arambatzis	Chief Operating Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Fiona Rankin	Chief Information Officer, TAFE NSW
	Ms Rebecca McPhee	Deputy Secretary, Investment NSW, Premier's Department
	Professor Mark Scott AO	Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Professor Annamarie Jagose	Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney
	Professor Eileen McLaughlin	Interim Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Wollongong
	Professor S. Bruce Dowton	Vice-Chancellor and President, Macquarie University
	Professor Attila Brungs	Vice-Chancellor and President, University of New South Wales
	Mr David Cross	Chief of Staff, University of New South Wales
	Professor Andrew Parfitt	Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Technology (UTS)
	Professor George Williams AO	Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 18

Tuesday 16 July 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Via videoconference at 4.03 pm

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, *Chair*

Ms Merton, *Deputy Chair*

Mr D'Adam

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Mrs Mitchell

Ms Suvaal

2. Previous minutes

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

3. 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. 3 hearings.

Date	Portfolio
Tuesday 27 August 2024	Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
Wednesday 4 September 2024	Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

3.1 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.

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 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

In addition, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education is to alternate between *crossbench and opposition members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

3.3 Witness requests

The committee noted a list of witnesses who appeared at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 for the portfolios relevant to Portfolio Committee No. 3.

Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney

Witness	
Mr Murat Dizdar	Secretary, NSW Department of Education
Ms Cathy Brennan	A/Deputy Secretary, School Performance (North), NSW Department of Education
Ms Deborah Summerhayes	A/Deputy Secretary, School Performance (South), NSW Department of Education
Ms Leanne Nixon	A/Deputy Secretary, Learning Improvement, NSW Department of Education
Mr Mark Barraket	A/Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education
Ms Chloe Read	Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
Mr Shaun Ruming	Chief People Officer, NSW Department of Education
Ms Sally Blackadder	A/Chief Operating Officer, NSW Department of Education
Mr Anthony Manning	Chief Executive, School Infrastructure NSW, NSW Department of Education
Mr Paul Martin	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority
Mr Joshua Roberts	Chief Information Officer, NSW Department of Education
Ms Sarah Hurcombe	Executive Director, Service Excellence, NSW to 3.00 pm Department of Education

Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Witness	
Mr Murat Dizdar	Secretary, NSW Department of Education
Ms Chloe Read	Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
Ms Sally Blackadder	A/Chief Operating Officer, NSW Department of Education
Mr David Collins	Executive Director, Training Services NSW, NSW Department of Education
Mr Stephen Brady	Managing Director, TAFE NSW
Dr Margot McNeill	Chief Product and Quality Officer, TAFE NSW
Ms Julie Tickle	Chief People and Culture Officer, TAFE NSW
Ms Janet Schorer	Chief Delivery Officer, TAFE NSW
Mr Patrick Woods	Chief Operating Officer, TAFE NSW
Ms Fiona Rankin	Chief Information Officer, TAFE NSW

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Mitchell: That:

- members be given 48 hours to consider the list of witnesses who appeared before portfolio committee no. 3 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 and propose 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.

3.4 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.

4. Other business

Inquiry into children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings

The committee considered the inquiry into children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That the tabling date for the inquiry into children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings be extended to 21 August 2024.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That the Chair of Portfolio Committee No. 3 write to the University of Newcastle on behalf of the committee asking for details regarding the university's post graduate courses dealing with trauma-informed practice, including the cost of any such courses and any Commonwealth assistance available to members of the teaching workforce wishing to take these courses.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That the inquiry secretariat advise the committee as to whether a response has been received to the Chair's correspondence to NSW Police regarding the inquiry into children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings and, if not, follow up on a response.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.10 pm, until Friday 19 July 2024, Room 1136, Parliament House, inquiry into children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings.

Elspeth Dyer
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 21

Tuesday 27 August 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, Chair (until 3.30 pm, from 4.10 pm)

Ms Merton, Deputy Chair

Mr Banasiak (participating) (from 10.02 am until 10.38 am)

Mr D'Adam (until 3.00 pm, from 4.04 pm)

Ms Mihailuk (until 12.46 pm)

Mrs Mitchell

Mr Nanva (substituting for Mr Buttigieg) (until 12.46 pm, from 2.58 pm until 4.06 pm)

Ms Suvaal (from 9.01 am - until 3.01 pm, from 4.02 pm)

Dr Cohn (participating) (from 11.32 am to 12.46 pm, from 3.45 pm until 4.43 pm)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 5 August 2024 – Email from Penny Anderson, Office of Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, providing the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness lists for the PC3 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 4 September 2024
- 6 August 2024 – Email from Madeleine Abbott, office of Hon. Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney, providing a proposed amendment of the Deputy Premier to the witness list for the PC3 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 27 August 2024
- 7 August 2024 – Email from Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney, accepting the invitation to appear at the PC3 Budget Estimates hearing – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, 4 September 2024
- 14 August 2024 – Email from Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney, requesting that he appear alongside another University of Sydney witness at PC3 Budget estimates hearing – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, 4 September 2024.

Sent

- 16 August 2024 – Email to Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney and Professor Annamarie Jagose, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney, confirming the committee's approval of Professor Jagose's appearance at the PC3 Budget Estimates hearing – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, 4 September 2024
- 31 July 2024 – Email to the Hon. Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney, inviting her to appear at the PC3 Budget Estimates – Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney hearing, 27 August 2024, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 31 July 2024 – Email to the Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, inviting him to appear at the PC3 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 4 September 2024, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 31 July 2024 – Email to Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney, attaching a letter inviting him to appear at PC3 Budget Estimates hearing – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, 4 September 2024.

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:

- 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 hearing for Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney is to alternate between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

3.3 Public hearing – Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney (Car)

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 Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Deborah Summerhayes, Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Mark Barraket, Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Chloe Read, Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Sally Blackadder, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Priorities, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Martin Graham, Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Shaun Ruming, Chief People Officer, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Kaz Scott, Acting Chief Operating Officer, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Lisa Harrington, Acting Deputy Secretary, School Infrastructure NSW, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Paul Martin, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.46 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Sarah Hargans, General Counsel, Legal Services, NSW Department of Education
- Mr David Withers, Officer for Problematic and Sexualised Behaviour, NSW Department of Education.

Ms Hargans and Mr Withers withdrew at 2.51 pm.

The Chair left the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair took the Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

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

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

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.15 pm, until Wednesday 4 September 2024, 9.00am, Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (public hearing).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 22

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.01 am

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, Chair (until 12.05 pm; from 12.36 pm until 3.17 pm; from 3.27 pm)

Ms Merton, Deputy Chair

Mr Buttigieg (until 12.45 pm; from 2.57 pm until 4.10 pm; from 5.15 pm)

Mr D'Adam (until 12.45 pm)

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Ms Suvaal) (until 3.05 pm)

Mrs Mitchell (until 12.45 pm, and from 2.55 pm)
 Mrs Carter (participating)(from 2.00 pm to 3.05 pm)
 Ms Suvaal (from 4.00 pm to 5.17 pm)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

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.

2.1 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.

2.2 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 the portfolios of Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education is to alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Mitchell: That the sequence of questions to be asked between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm, and 3.00 pm and 3.30 pm be divided as follows:

- 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm: 20 minutes each between the crossbench and opposition, followed by 10 minutes each between the crossbench and opposition
- 3.00 pm to 3.30 pm: 15 minutes each between the crossbench and opposition.

2.3 Public hearing – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (Whan)

The committee noted that university students may observe the hearing in the afternoon as part of the Parliament and Democracy course.

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 Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Mathew Pearson, A/Executive Director, Training Services NSW, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Stephen Brady, Managing Director, TAFE NSW
- Dr Margot McNeill, Chief Product and Quality Officer, TAFE NSW
- Ms Julie Tickle, Chief People and Culture Officer, TAFE NSW
- Ms Janet Schorer, Chief Delivery Officer, TAFE NSW
- Mr Patrick Woods, Chief Operating Officer, TAFE NSW
- Ms Fiona Rankin, Chief Information Officer, TAFE NSW
- Mr Maroun El Khoury, Executive Director, Industry and Investment, Premier's Department.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Chloe Read, Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education open for examination.

At 10.45am, the committee adjourned and moved into a private deliberative meeting. The media and public withdrew.

Mr D'Adam took a point of order that the Chair's line of questioning relating to reports of the termination of teachers' employment as part of the HSC strategy program was not relevant to the Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education portfolio and was therefore out of order.

The Chair ruled on the point of order that the line of questioning was relevant to the Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education portfolio and not out of order.

Mr D'Adam moved: That the committee dissent from the ruling of the Chair on the grounds that the Chair's line of questioning relating to reports of the termination of teachers' employment as part of the HSC strategy program is not relevant to the Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education portfolio and is therefore out of order.

Debate ensued.

Question put: That the committee dissent from the ruling of the Chair.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr D'Adam, Mr Lawrence, Mr Buttigieg.

Noes: Ms Boyd, Ms Merton, Mrs Mitchell.

Question resolved in the negative on the casting vote of the Chair.

The witnesses, the public and the media were readmitted at 11.15 am.

The Chair left the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, 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 12.45 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined (2.00 pm):

- Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney
- Professor Annamarie Jagose, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney

Professor Scott and Professor Jagose withdrew at 3.05 pm.

The Chair left the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair took the Chair for the purposes of the hearing.

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

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.17 pm.

The public and the media withdrew.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.17 pm, *sine die*.

David Rodwell
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 23

Monday 2 December 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, 9.01 am

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, Chair

Mrs Merton, Deputy Chair

Mr Barrett (participating from 9.15 am)

Mr Buttigieg (until 9.13 am)

Mr D'Adam

Ms Mihailuk (from 9.19 am until 10.46 am, and from 11.30 am until 12.25 pm)

Mrs Mitchell

Mr Murphy (substituting for Ms Suvaal until 9.16 am)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Mitchell: That draft minutes no. 20, 21 and 22 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 29 August 2024 – Email from the office of Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education proposing a further amendment to witness list for PC3 Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for the Minister's portfolios, 4 September 2024, to replace Ms Rebecca McPhee, Deputy Secretary Investment NSW, Premier's Department with Mr Maroun El Khoury, Executive Director, Industry and Investment, Premier's Department
- 1 November 2024 – Email from the office of Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney declining invitation for the Deputy Premier to appear at a supplementary hearing for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 inquiry, 2 December 2024
- 13 November 2024 – Email from Madeleine Abbott, office of Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney accepting invitation for departmental officials to appear at a supplementary hearing for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 inquiry, 2 December 2024
- 2 December 2024 – Email from Ms Claire Todd, Acting Director Capability, Performance and Advice, Government Business, Office of the Secretary, NSW Department of Education, advising that Mr Shaun Ruming, Chief People Officer, NSW Department of Education, is unwell and unable to attend the supplementary hearing for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 inquiry, 2 December 2024.

Sent

- 30 October 2024 – Email to Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney inviting her to appear at a supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 2 December 2024
- 7 November 2024 – Email to the office of Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney, inviting departmental officials to appear at a supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 2 December 2024.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That the committee keep the correspondence from Ms Celia Walker and Mr Kieran Matharu regarding their son's lack of access to Integration Funding Support dated 25 August 2024, confidential as per the recommendation of the secretariat as it contains identifying and/or sensitive information.

4. Report on children and young people with disability in NSW educational settings

4.1 Publication of errata to the report

The committee noted that it agreed via email on 30 August 2024 to the publication of errata to the report.

4.2 Publication of report summary in Auslan and Easy Read

The committee noted that, as resolved on 19 August 2024, summaries of the report in Auslan and Easy Read have been created and published on the inquiry website.

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 relating to the Budget Estimates (Car) hearing on 27 August 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 Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney, received 24 September 2024.

The committee further noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions relating to the Budget Estimates (Whan) hearing on 4 September 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 Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, received 2 October 2024
- answers to supplementary questions from Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney, received 2 October 2024.

5.2 Clarification of evidence

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Buttigieg: That the letter from Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education seeking to clarify evidence given by Mr Stephen Brady, Managing Director, TAFE NSW, at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 4 September 2024, be published and the evidence be clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote into the transcript of evidence.

5.3 Consideration of supplementary hearing – Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That it be recorded in the minutes that the three government members of the committee did not support calling Hon Prue Carr MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney to a supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, and consider a supplementary hearing to be unnecessary.

5.4 Conduct of public hearing – Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney***Allocation of question time and total hearing time***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That at the supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for Education, Early Learning and Western Sydney 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 D'Adam: That the sequence of questions to be asked at the supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing for Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney on 2 December 2024 is to alternate between opposition and cross bench 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.

Mr Buttigieg and Mr Murphy left the meeting.

Mr Barrett joined the meeting.

5.5 Public hearing – Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege and other matters.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Deborah Summerhayes, Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Martin Graham, Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Paul Martin, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.47 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

6. Adjournment

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

Amanda Assoum

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 24

Tuesday 25 February 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.02 am

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, Chair

Mrs Merton, Deputy Chair

Dr Cohn (participating from 11.17 am until 12.28 pm)

Mr D'Adam (until 12.45 pm, and from 4.00 pm until 5.18 pm)

Dr Kaine (substituting for Ms Suvaal until 3.00 pm)

Mr Latham (substituting for Ms Mihailuk)

Mrs Mitchell

Mr Nanva (substituting for Mr Buttigieg until 2.00 pm, and from 3.00 pm until 4.00 pm)

Mr Tudehope (participating from 11.15 am until 11.36 am)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That draft minutes no. 23 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 6 January 2025 – Email from Mr Jordan Matthews, University of Wollongong, advising that Professor John Dewar will have concluded his appointment as Interim Vice-Chancellor and President by 10 March 2025 (Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education hearing) and Senior Professor Eileen McLaughlin will be Interim Vice-Chancellor from March-May 2025
- 20 January 2025 – Email from Ms Rosaline Reakes, Principal Executive Assistant, Office of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University, advising that due to leave Professor Williams is unable to attend the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 24 January 2025 – Email from Ms Simone Lehmann, Executive Assistant to Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor, University of New South Wales, requesting that Professor Brungs appear alongside Mr David Cross, Chief of Staff, University of New South Wales, at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 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
- 31 January 2025 – Email from Mr Tom Nance, Director, Partnerships and Advocacy, Division of Public Affairs and Partnerships, Western Sydney University, advising that the university is unable to confirm who will be acting Vice-Chancellor while Professor Williams is overseas, so will not be in a position to accept the invitation to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 3 February 2025 – Email from the Office of the Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 3 February 2025 – Email from Mr Max Kennedy, Parliamentary Liaison Officer and Policy Advisor, Office of the Hon Prue Car MP, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney additional hearing on 25 February 2025
- 4 February 2025 – Email from Mr Max Kennedy, Parliamentary Liaison Officer and Policy Advisor, Office of the Hon Prue Car MP, providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney additional hearing on 25 February 2025
- 4 February 2025 – Email from Mr Anthony Puntoriero, Policy and Parliamentary Adviser, Office of the Hon Steve Whan MP, providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025.

Sent

- 20 December 2024 – Email to the Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney, inviting her to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 additional hearing on 25 February 2025 and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 20 December 2024 – Email to the Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 additional hearing on 10 March 2025 and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 6 January 2025 – Email to Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney, and Professor Annamarie Jagose, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney, inviting them to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 6 January 2025 – Email to Professor John Dewar AO, Interim Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Wollongong, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025

- 6 January 2025 – Email to Professor S. Bruce Dowton, Vice-Chancellor and President, Macquarie University, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 6 January 2025 – Email to Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of New South Wales, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 6 January 2025 – Email to Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 6 January 2025 – Email to Professor Andrew Parfitt, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Technology (UTS), inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 15 January 2025 – Email to Senior Professor Eileen McLaughlin, Interim Vice-Chancellor from March-May 2025, University of Wollongong, inviting her to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 16 January 2025 – Letter to the Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney, seeking clarification concerning answer to supplementary question no. 79 arising from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Education, Early Learning and Western Sydney supplementary hearing on 2 December 2024
- 10 February 2025 – Email from the secretariat to Mr Tom Nance, Director, Partnerships and Advocacy, Division of Public Affairs and Partnerships, Western Sydney University, requesting that the university nominate another person to attend the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025 in place of Vice Chancellor Professor Williams, noting that if an Acting Vice Chancellor cannot be confirmed before the hearing the university can nominate another representative to attend on behalf of the university.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

The following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions for the Budget Estimates Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney 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 Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney, received 20 December 2024.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney portfolio is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

4.5 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.

4.6 Public hearing – Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney (Car)

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 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney open for examination.

The Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney, was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Jeremy Kurucz, Relieving Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Daniel French, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategic Priorities, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Mark Grant, Chief Operating Officer, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Sharon Gudu, Executive Director, NSW Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Regulatory Authority, NSW Department of Education.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Deborah Summerhayes, Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Mark Barraket, Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Martin Graham, Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Lisa Harrington, Acting Deputy Secretary, School Infrastructure NSW, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Paul Martin, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority
- Mr Shaun Ruming, Chief People Officer, NSW Department of Education.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.17 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.18 pm, until 9.00 am, Monday 10 March 2025, Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.

Madeleine Foley
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 25

Monday 10 March 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, Chair (until 11.26 am, and from 11.56 am until 2.14 pm, and from 2.26 pm)

Mrs Merton, Deputy Chair

Mrs Carter (participating from 3.30 pm)

Mr D'Adam (from 11.17 am until 12.45 pm, and from 3.00 pm until 4.20 pm)

Dr Kaine (substituting for Mr Buttigieg until 3.03 pm)

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Ms Suvaal until 12.33 pm, and from 3.55 pm)

Ms Mihailuk (from 9.18 am until 10.45 pm, and from 11.18 am until 12.45 pm, and from 2.10 pm until 2.33 pm and from 3.45 pm until 4.35 pm)

Mrs Mitchell

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 24 February 2025 – Email from Mr Tom Nance, Director, Partnerships and Advocacy, Division of Public Affairs and Partnerships, Western Sydney University, advising that Professor Andy Marks, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Partnerships, will be available to represent the university at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025
- 3 March 2025 – Email from Ms Rosaline Reakes, Principal Executive Assistant, Office of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University, advising that Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University will no longer be travelling overseas and is now in a position to attend Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education additional hearing on 10 March 2025 from 3.45 pm, instead of Professor Andy Marks, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Partnerships.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

3.1 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.

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 hearing for the Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education portfolio is to alternate between *crossbench and opposition members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

3.3 Public hearing – Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

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 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education open for examination.

The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Amanda Lawrence, Executive Director, Training Services NSW, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Chloe Read, Acting Managing Director, TAFE NSW
- Ms Kerry Meredith-Sotiris, Acting Chief Product and Quality Officer, TAFE NSW
- Ms Julie Tickle, Chief People Officer, TAFE NSW
- Ms Janet Schorer, Chief Learning and Teaching Officer, TAFE NSW
- Mr Peter Arambatzis, Chief Operating Officer, TAFE NSW
- Ms Rebecca McPhee, Deputy Secretary, Investment NSW, Premier's Department.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary, NSW Department of Education
- Mr Jeremy Kurucz, Relieving Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education
- Ms Fiona Rankin, Chief Information Officer, TAFE NSW.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined (3.45 pm):

- Professor Eileen McLaughlin, Interim Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Wollongong
- Professor S. Bruce Dowton, Vice-Chancellor and President, Macquarie University
- Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of New South Wales
- Professor Andrew Parfitt, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Technology (UTS)
- Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University
- Mr David Cross, Chief of Staff, University of New South Wales.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath (3.45 pm):

- Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Sydney
- Professor Annamarie Jagose, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.30 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.31 pm, *Sine die*.

Justin Mangos
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 27

Tuesday 24 June 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney at 3.30 pm

1. Members present

Ms Boyd, *Chair*
Mrs Merton, *Deputy Chair*
Mr Buttigieg
Mr D'Adam
Mrs Mitchell
Ms Suvaal

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That draft minutes nos. 24 and 25 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 17 February 2025 – Email from Mr Justin Barrett, Director, Kazbar Holdings Pty Ltd, to the committee attaching a letter addressed to the Hon Prue Car MP regarding concerns about complaints lodged with the NSW Department of Education and the related investigation by the Professional and Ethical Standards Unit
- 10 April 2025 – Correspondence from the University of New South Wales requesting transcript clarifications to the evidence of Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of New South Wales, from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (Whan) additional hearing on 10 March 2025.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

4.1 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 the Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney, received 24 March 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Western Sydney University, received 3 April 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, received 4 April 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Macquarie University, received 4 April 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the University of Sydney, received 4 April 2025
- answers to supplementary questions from the University of Technology Sydney, received 4 April 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the University of New South Wales, received 10 April 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the University of Wollongong, received 11 April 2025.

The committee noted it agreed via email on 8 April 2025 and 10 April 2025 to approve extension requests from the University of Wollongong and the University of New South Wales until 5.00 pm Friday 11 April 2025 for the post hearing responses for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (Whan) additional hearing on 10 March 2025.

The committee noted it agreed via email on 28 April 2025 that the attachments for supplementary question no 9 from the University of Wollongong not be kept confidential, but that they not be published on the Parliament's webpage.

4.2 Transcript clarifications

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from the University of New South Wales to the committee, providing transcript clarifications, received 10 April 2025, and the insertion of a footnote on the transcript from the 10 March 2025 (Whan) hearing, clarifying the evidence of Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President, as per the correspondence received 10 April 2025.

4.3 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.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Mitchell: That:

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

The transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, 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.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.31 pm, *Sine die*.

Amanda Assoum
Committee Clerk

