



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-2017 Supplementary Questions

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

HEALTH

Hearing: Tuesday 30 August 2016

Answers due by: Friday 23 September 2016

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| Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition) |
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Bulli Hospital

1. How much of the \$33.8 million allocation for Bulli Hospital Age Care Centre of Excellence has been spent to date?
 - (a) How the \$13,681,000 allocated to the Centre of Excellence in the 2015/2016 was spent?
 - (b) How much money has been spent on the planning stage of this project?
 - (c) When will the Business Case for Bulli Hospital Aged Care Centre of Excellence be publicly released?
2. Budget 2016/2017
 - (a) Explain how the funds allocated to Bulli Hospital Aged Care Centre of Excellence will be spent in the 2016/2017 budget?
 - (b) When will construction begin?

New Maitland Hospital

3. When will the business plan for the new Lower Hunter Hospital released?
4. What services will be available at the hospital?
5. How many beds will the hospital have on completion?
6. Why hasn't construction commenced when the project was announced before the 2011 election?
7. Will all services be available to both public and private patients if the hospital is a PPP?
8. Which potential private partners is the Government speaking to?
9. When will construction begin on the new Lower Hunter Hospital at Metford?
10. Will the existing Maitland Hospital stay open?
11. What services will be provided at the existing Maitland Hospital after the new hospital is built?
12. Has the Minister or the Health Service Planning Department consulted with the Member for Maitland?

13. How many consultations has the Health Service Planning Department had with the Maitland Community?
14. Has the Health Service Planning Department consulted with the existing Private hospital in Maitland?
15. Before the election, the government said the planning was complete and it was just waiting for commencement of the build process. At that time approximately \$8million had been spent. What is the additional \$9 million announced in the 2015 budget and the \$25 million announced in the 2015 election going to be spent on?
16. Is it true that the new Lower hunter Hospital will not have chemotherapy or radiotherapy services in the short to medium term, and that empty bunkers will be built into the hospital?
17. Why will chemotherapy and or radio therapy services not be installed in the first build?
18. When will chemotherapy and or radiotherapy services be installed into the hospital?
19. Is the Minister aware that the existing private hospital in Maitland is planning ICU and chemotherapy services to be delivered from its site in Maitland due to demand from the local Maitland community?
20. Why does the Minister not believe there will be a demand for these services in the public health system in the Lower hunter?
21. Is the new Lower Hunter Hospital going to be a second tier rural referral hospital?
22. Will the new Lower Hunter Hospital have patients transferred to it from Morisset?
23. When will the land on which the Lower Hunter Hospital has been planned to be built become available?

Partnering up and tendering out of community services

24. There have been moves over the last two years to move towards competitive tendering across the non-government sector that provides services for NSW health such as palliative care, counselling, allied health etc. What is the status of this program?
25. What briefing have agencies received about the move to competitive tendering and the government's expectations of them during the tender process?
26. What support have services been offered to undertake a tendering process?

27. What will the government do if smaller agencies which provide specific community needs are unsuccessful in the tendering process? Will we see the fiasco of the government's domestic violence reforms of 2014?
28. Is the Minister aware that under competitive tendering, smaller agencies are often encouraged to take large management fees for little return to the small agency? For example, a refuge which received \$100,000 directly from the government prior to the Government's 2014 reforms now may receive only \$80,000 if they have partnered up with a larger agency, depending on the management fee charged by the lead agency?
29. How does this impact on their ability to provide services?
30. Why is the government not providing additional resources to cover these additional costs?
31. How will these services be able to still provide those services when they are working with fewer resources?
32. Has the Minister or her Department made a submission to the Productivity Commissions current Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services?
 - (a) If so, is the submission available for viewing by the public?
 - (b) Has the Minister or her department consulted with any key stakeholders on such a submission?
 - (c) If so, which stakeholders.

Limited Domestic and Family Violence Counselling

33. The NSW Department of Health provides a limited domestic and family violence counselling service at four locations – Rockdale/Caringbah (Southern Sydney), Liverpool, Illawarra and Dubbo, for residents living in these areas which can be accessed through a local hospital. Why are these services restricted to only four locations across the state?
 - (a) Why do people have to access them via a hospital?
 - (b) Are they based in the hospitals?
 - (c) What do victims of domestic and family violence in the rest of the state do?

Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

34. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report:

- (a) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
- (c) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
- (d) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
- (e) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;
- (f) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
- (g) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?
- (h) What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?
 - i. Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
 - ii. Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required
- (i) Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?
- (j) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?
- (k) What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

35. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report:
- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs
 - (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
 - (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
 - (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
 - (e) Who delivers it?
 - (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
 - (g) How?
 - (h) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

Flexible Workplaces

36. Minister, the Premier announced on International Women's Day that the public service would all have access to flexible working arrangements by 2019.
- (a) Do you centrally register staff who have flexible work arrangements?
 - (b) What numbers of staff within your Department currently have flexible working arrangements?
 - (c) Are you aware of any measures that are currently underway to implement this?

Office Administration

37. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2015-16?
 - (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2016-17 based on current appointments?
38. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2015-16?

- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
- 39. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 - (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2015-16?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2015-16?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
- 40. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
 - (a) What is the cost of this?
- 41. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
 - (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
- 42. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
 - (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
- 43. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2015-16?
 - (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
 - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?
- 44. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2015-16?
 - (a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - i. Who were they gifted to?
- 45. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
 - (a) What is the monthly cost of this?
- 46. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
 - (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
- 47. What was the total bill for your office in 2015-16 for:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

48. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2015-16?

- (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Hospitality

49. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?

50. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?

Labour Hire Firms

51. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2015-16:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

Media and Public Relations

52. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
53. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
54. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
55. Have you had media training or speech training?
 - (a) If yes, who paid for it?
 - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2015-16?

Facebook

56. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?
57. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?

Overseas Trips

58. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?
 - (a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
59. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
 - (a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?
 - (b) Who paid for these trips?

Department/Agency Travel

60. What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:
 - (a) Taxi hire
 - (b) Limousine/private car hire
 - (c) Hire car rental
 - (d) Ridesharing services

Consulting

61. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2015-16?
 - (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
62. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2015-16:
 - (a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (c) Acting training
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Department/Agency Staffing

63. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2015-16?
 - (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?
64. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
 - (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
 - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

65. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
66. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Smart Phone Accounts

67. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 on iTunes?
- i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?
68. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 on Android?
- i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

Websites Visited

69. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?
70. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

Merchant fees

71. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.
72. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.
73. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

Probity Auditor

74. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.”

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| Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC |
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Organ transplants

75. In 2014-15 how many overseas-transplanted organ recipients were treated at:

- (a) Liverpool;
- (b) Royal Prince Alfred;
- (c) Prince of Wales;
- (d) St George;
- (e) e) Royal North Shore
- (f) Westmead
- (g) St Vincent's

76. In 2013-14 how many overseas-transplanted organ recipients were treated at

- (a) Liverpool;
- (b) Royal Prince Alfred;
- (c) Prince of Wales;
- (d) St George;
- (e) e) Royal North Shore
- (f) Westmead
- (g) St Vincent's

77. In 2012-13 how many overseas-transplanted organ recipients were treated at:

- (a) Liverpool;
- (b) Royal Prince Alfred;

- (c) Prince of Wales;
- (d) St George;
- (e) e) Royal North Shore
- (f) Westmead
- (g) St Vincent's

78. In 2011-12 how many overseas-transplanted organ recipients were treated at:

- (a) Liverpool;
- (b) Royal Prince Alfred;
- (c) Prince of Wales;
- (d) St George;
- (e) e) Royal North Shore
- (f) Westmead
- (g) St Vincent's

79. In 2010-11 how many overseas-transplanted organ recipients were treated at:

- (a) Liverpool;
- (b) Royal Prince Alfred;
- (c) Prince of Wales;
- (d) St George;
- (e) e) Royal North Shore
- (f) Westmead
- (g) St Vincent's

80. Are there any exchange arrangements between overseas/international transplant centres, hospitals and research facilities, universities and NSW transplant centres- research-based and/or direct medical training ?

- (a) If so, which centres are involved?

81. Is there any funding received from overseas transplantation centres in the form of equipment, staff training, logistics, research conducted (including journal submissions)

- (a) Please outline the breakdown of funding per hospital/unit
- (b) If so how much and which centres are involved?
- 82. What measures are in place to address concerns about a conflict of interest between key transplant researchers in Australia and their engagement with a Chinese hospital?
- 83. What was the purpose of the trade delegation to China?
 - (a) What steps were taken to ensure the ethical standards of hospitals visited?
- 84. What formal agreements and/or MOU's has the Minister undertaken with the Chinese healthcare authorities/Chinese Government/Universities/Hospitals?
 - (a) Please outline the details and nature of any of these arrangements and all parties involved?

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| Questions from Mr Jeremy Buckingham MLC |
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Under dosing of chemotherapy patients

- 85. When I met with representatives from your office it was put to me that because Dr Grygiel was paid by Medicare and private individuals that his practices in the Central West were not the responsibility of you and NSW Health – do you agree with this?
- 86. What was your offices' involvement in drafting the terms of reference for the select committee of inquiry into Off-Protocol Prescribing of Chemotherapy in NSW?
- 87. Do you think that politicians are better suited to lead an investigation into the failures of the NSW Health System, rather than a retired Supreme Court judge or equivalent?
- 88. Why did you choose not to release information about an issue with another doctor flat dosing at Hurstville and Sutherland when you were first aware of this issue?
- 89. Why did you release that information when Professor Carow's report was released, given I understand the investigation into the second doctor is still ongoing?

Accountability of Publicly funded hospitals run by private institutions

- 90. Given that you have said that St Vincent's hospital lied to you – is there a fundamental problem with public hospitals being run by private organisations – particularly in terms of accountability and transparency?

91. Are you satisfied about the level of oversight and accountability that the public health system has over St Vincent's?
92. Are there any differences in terms of accountability, transparency and oversight in the agreement between NSW Health and Healthscope for the Northern Beaches Hospital and the existing agreement with St Vincent's?
93. How many publically funded hospitals in NSW are not run by NSW Health?
94. How many other health services are publically funded but not run by NSW Health?
95. How many of these are run by religious organisations?
96. Are they allowed to restrict access to services such as abortion services?

Climate change and heat waves

97. Has NSW Health modelled the increase cost to the health service of increased frequency of heatwaves due to climate change?
 - (a) How much is this?
98. Does NSW Health have a specific plan to deal with increased frequency of heat waves due to global warming?
 - (a) If so, is climate change mentioned in this?
 - (b) If not, Why doesn't NSW Health have its own plan, like the Victorian health department does?
99. Do you believe that the current plan is sufficient to prepare NSW for increased heatwaves?
100. Do you think it would be appropriate for Australia to have national heatwave guidelines, rather than a state based approach?
101. Does NSW have any heat wave guidelines to inform local planning decision makers, especially with regards to the urban heat island effect?
102. Does NSW have any heat wave guidelines developed for aged care and other health service providers?
103. What is NSW Health doing to prepare vulnerable communities such as the elderly, children, and people with chronic health conditions?

Drugs and Harm Minimisation – overdoses

The Pennington Institute released a report which shows a 61% increase in deaths due to accidental overdose in the decade 2004 to 2014. The report shows NSW has the second worst rate in the country at 5.1 deaths per 100,000 and the largest increase in the country has occurred in regional NSW, which has increased from 2.5 to 6.2 deaths per 100,000 since 2004.

Of these deaths 71% are from overdoses of legally proscribed drugs and the increase has overwhelmingly occurred in people aged over 40.

104. Why has the rate of overdoses due to prescription drugs increased so significantly in NSW in the past decade?
105. Are you concerned that there is a systematic failure to inform patients about the risk of prescription drugs?
106. Do you have any concerns about proscribing practices that may be contributing to this increase?
107. How much is NSW Health investing in education and awareness campaigns to reduce the incidence of accidental overdose from prescription drugs?
108. What are you doing to reverse this trend in NSW?

NSW Health position on hemp

109. Does NSW Health agree with the assessment of Food Standards Australia New Zealand that “low THC hemp foods are safe for consumption”?
110. Does NSW Health acknowledge the finding of Food Standards Australia New Zealand that “No other country has reported any problem with mixed messaging regarding drug law enforcement”?
111. Does NSW Health support the legalisation of low THC Hemp as a food product?

Lismore Hospital Night Reliever

112. Given your department's recent decision to base the night reliever at Lismore base hospital in the emergency unit only, how will you ensure adequate and safe staffing in remainder of hospital?
113. How will rostered staff in other areas of the hospital be able to take a meal break now, especially given the long shifts they work?

Lismore Maternity Unit collapse

114. Can you provide an update on the outcome of the investigation into collapse of the maternity unit at Lismore base hospital?

- 115. Who was responsible?
- 116. What is the long term plan for that facility?

Increase in patient fees

- 117. Why have in patient fees, other patient fees and ambulance transport charges charged by NSW Health increased by over 10% or \$84 million in the past year?

Cars and fuel standards

- 118. Are you concerned about the health impacts of Australia having significantly lower standards for vehicle particulate pollution than the EU and USA?
- 119. Given the clear public health implications of particulate pollution from vehicles, do you think we should move to the same standards as the EU and the USA before July 2018?
- 120. Has NSW Health undertaken any research into the health impacts of widespread uptake of electric vehicles?
- 121. What is the projected annual health costs from air pollution caused by motor vehicle emissions on residents living adjacent to major roads?

White Bay cruise ship facility

- 122. What is the projected annual health costs arising from air pollution caused by cruise ships using the White Bay cruise ship facility?
 - (a) What is the basis that was used to calculate those health costs?
- 123. What is the health costs of additional hospitalisations caused be air pollution from cruise ships?
- 124. What is the annual health costs imposed upon school children attending the primary schools and child care facilities near the White Bay facility?

Funding

- 125. What increase or decrease in funding has been budgeted for the following service in NSW Health in real terms?
 - (a) Physiotherapy,
 - (b) Speech Pathology,

- (c) community nursing
- (d) local occupational therapists