

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES**

### **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

#### **MINISTER FOR FINANCE, SERVICES AND PROPERTY**

##### **QUESTION:**

Did you take steps in July 2016 to establish an interdepartmental committee to consider the Russell review?

##### **ANSWER:**

In August 2014, Cabinet asked that an inter-departmental committee to consider the Russell Review recommendations.

##### **QUESTION:**

How many workers are in the pilot project now?

##### **ANSWER:**

There are 54 workers currently in the icare Workers Care program. This includes workers who have been severely injured since 31 October 2015.

##### **QUESTION:**

Can we get on notice some more details about the number, the projected number, and also what the actual threshold is, what the analysis is for that?

##### **ANSWER:**

Workers are currently transferring to the program in a staged approach from now until June 2017. This is to ensure the transition is a seamless and positive experience for workers. It is expected there will be 150 severely injured workers in the program by the end of 2016 and a further 150 workers by June 2017.

It is also expected that up to 700 additional workers with higher level care needs that do not meet specific severe injury criteria may transfer in to the program over time. The experience from the early stages of the program will assist icare to refine the approach for these workers.

The threshold is not based on whole person impairment threshold. The initial cohort is workers who meet functional and severe injury criteria, which are aligned with the criteria for participation in the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme.

Severe injury includes moderate to severe brain injury, spinal cord injury, specific amputations, full thickness burns, and permanent blindness.

**QUESTION:**

Correct me if this is incorrect. They claim that, due to the method of preparation for sale, it has so far cost more than \$25 million to separate the information technology (IT) systems that Land and Property information (LPI) has spent the last 10 years developing. Is that a fact?

**ANSWER:**

This claim is incorrect.

**QUESTION:**

Was the cost \$3 million?

**ANSWER:**

Information relating to the advisor fees is available on the Government's e-Tendering website.

**QUESTION:**

Will you provide a list of the addresses of all properties in the Sydney central business district that were previously owned by the government that have been sold or otherwise disposed of since March 2011 to date along with the details of the proceeds or value received for each?

**ANSWER:**

The below table lists the addresses of commercial properties in the Sydney CBD that were previously owned by the Government and sold by Property NSW between March 2011 to 26 July 2016.

Settlement Date	Address	Vendor	Sale Price (\$)
12/09/2013	93-97 Macquarie Street, Sydney	Government Property NSW	15,381,500
5/07/2013	9-25 Commonwealth Street, Sydney	Government Property NSW	21,310,000
11/06/2013	2-24 Ravson Place, Haymarket	Government Property NSW	130,000,000
11/06/2013	Bligh House 4-6 Bligh Street, Sydney	Government Property NSW	53,000,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>458,042,067</b>

**QUESTION:**

How many government properties has the coalition sold since coming to office in 2011? If possible will you provide a year-by-year breakdown, including the values?

**ANSWER:**

In accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPAA), all sales contracts with a value of \$150,000 or more are published on the Property NSW Contracts Register for a minimum period of six months. The Contracts Register is accessible on the Property NSW website.

**QUESTION:**

How many other actuaries are engaged or employed by Icare?

**ANSWER:**

The number of qualified actuaries employed by icare that hold Fellowship status with the Actuaries Institute is five.

**QUESTION:**

Icare salary bands and salary packages (annual report) and a motor vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

Currently, general salaries for icare Award employees are from the *Crown Employees (Public Sector – Salaries 2016) Award*.

Salaries of staff members remunerated under individual agreements are benchmarked to relevant Aon Hewitt surveys including the Insurance Industry Survey, the General Industry Survey and, where required, specialist surveys (e.g. the Aon Hewitt IT survey). These surveys are updated twice a year and form a guide for the People and Remuneration Committee of the Board during the annual remuneration review. As per the Wages Policy Taskforce, the overall remuneration increase for the employees does not exceed 2.5 per cent.

Employees may lease a motor vehicle for personal at own cost as part of their remuneration package similar to other public sector employees.

**QUESTION:**

Asset Sale Pipeline: Is it possible to get information in relation to the agencies themselves?

**ANSWER:**

In accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPAA), all sales contracts with a value of \$150,000 or more are published on the Property NSW Contracts Register for a minimum period of six months. The Contracts Register is accessible on the Property NSW website.

Specific sales are the responsibility of the relevant agency.

**QUESTION:**

Minister, are saying that the \$1.5 billion is all the assets sold between public trading enterprises and State owned corporations? Because this document you handed to the committee says that July 2013 it is \$4.9 billion

**ANSWER:**

Over the last three years to 30 June 2016, approximately \$4.9 billion worth of property assets have been recycled by Government Sector Agencies, Public Trading Enterprises and State Owned Corporations.

Since April 2013, Property NSW has divested approximately \$1.5 billion worth of surplus and generic property assets from its own balance sheet and on behalf of government agencies.

**QUESTION:**

Could you also provide us with the figures for the missing financial years since you came into office basically? You have given us from July 2013-14 in this document. Financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13. By agency if possible, but if you cannot do that then by cluster. State owned corporations, public trading enterprises and the like, to the extent that you can.

**ANSWER:**

In accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPAA), all sales contracts with a value of \$150,000 or more are published on the Property NSW Contracts Register for a minimum period of six months. The Contracts Register is accessible on the Property NSW website.

Specific sales are the responsibility of the relevant agency.

**QUESTION:**

What is the largest claim that has been made under the Torres Assurance Fund?

**ANSWER:**

Land and Property Information have provided the following advice:

- The largest claim on the Torrens Assurance Fund in the last ten years was for an amount of \$20 million. However, this claim was rejected in 2012 and no compensation was paid.
- The largest payment from the Torrens Assurance Fund in the last ten years was the award of \$3.8 million in damages in the case of *Teresa Nadia Pedulla v Fernando Rene Panetta & Ors* [2011] NSWSC 1386 in 2011.
  - A total of \$4.45 million was expended from the Torrens Assurance Fund in the conduct of this case and related proceedings, including legal costs and disbursements.

**QUESTION:**

Surveillance Guidelines: Could you give details of those guidelines on notice?

**ANSWER:**

In limited cases where surveillance of an injured worker is deemed appropriate ... such as where a claim is under litigation ... investigators must be engaged and act in accordance with the *Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004* and the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007*.

Agents managing claims under the Workers Compensation Scheme are contractually obligated to ensure any surveillance is conducted in accordance with operational guidelines on covert optical surveillance outlined in the Nominal Insurer Deed.

Agents found to be acting in substantial breach of legislation set by the Workers Compensation Act may trigger a termination of their contract if it is not capable of remedy.

**QUESTION:**

Are you aware of any plans for the Canterbury Racecourse to be sold or redeveloped?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Hon Troy Grant, MP Deputy Premier, as Minister for Racing.