



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-2017**  
**Supplementary**  
**Questions and Answers**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6**

**CORRECTIONS, EMERGENCY SERVICES, VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Hearing: Friday 2 September 2016

**Answers due by: Wednesday 28 September 2016**

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## CORRECTIONS

### Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

#### Teaching in prisons

2. What was the total number of full time equivalent teaching staff in NSW correctional facilities in:
- (a) 2013/14?
  - (b) 2014/15?
  - (c) 2 015/16?
  - (d) 2016 to date?

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

- (a) 167.9
- (b) 178.1
- (c) 186.5
- (d) 177.8

3. How many correctional facilities currently have teaching vacancies?
- (a) How many are front line teaching staff?
  - (b) How many of these vacancies are Aboriginal teaching staff?

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

17 correctional facilities currently have teaching vacancies.

- (a) 23 are front line teachers or correctional education officer roles.
- (b) 1 is an identified Aboriginal teacher role.

4. What steps are being taken to ensure that all Aboriginal prisoners in correctional facilities have access to education courses specialising in Aboriginal history and culture, as recommended by Royal Commission's report into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody?

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The service specifications for the new education provider stipulate the need to have courses focusing on the cultural needs of Aboriginal people in custody, as well as ensure general teaching courses are delivered in a manner that is responsive to Aboriginal people.

5. What steps are being taken to reclassify prisoners as a 'disadvantaged group' for TAFE fee and pricing purposes?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
This question should be directed to the Minister for Skills.

6. Has any progress been made on consideration of having computers in cells for inmates to further their education and facilitate contact with families?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There are two trials being conducted involving the use of laptop computers by inmates for educational purposes.

7. What consideration has been given to teaming the teaching of literacy through art and music classes?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
Various forms of art can assist with the engagement of people in formal literacy, and there is no barrier to this occurring in the new model.

8. Does lowering the quality of teaching in prisons go against the Gonski's needs based model of education provision?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
Gonski's needs based model of education is centred on the provision of primary and secondary education. Adult education programs are delivered in prisons.  
The new model will match inmates to education programs according to their needs and will improve the quality of education in prisons.

9. What evidence is there to support the proposed prison education model that individuals would not require a bachelors degree to teach literature in NSW prisons?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
Literature is not taught in prisons.

10. What steps are being taken to ensure that University Graduates are incentivised to choose the Adult Teaching sector?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
This question should be directed to the Commonwealth Minister for Education.

11. What consultation has been had with the Minister and/or Department of Education regarding the proposed changes to prison educators?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Consultation has occurred with the Department of Education about the changes, as well as the potential options for affected staff.

12. If the current education provision is currently not assessing literacy, how is it that AEVTI (Adult Education Vocational and Training Institute) remains an RTO (Registered Training Organisation) of such stature that prison educators don't require annual auditing by the Australian Skills Quality Authority?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The current model is assessing literacy in a paper-based format, but not all inmates have their education needs assessed. The education sector and other correctional jurisdictions use an electronic system which will also be used by Corrective Services NSW in the future and there will be dedicated resources focusing on front-end assessment to ensure that inmates' needs are identified and appropriate education provided to meet those needs.

13. Given that AEVTI is an RTO of such standard that ASQA deems it to be appropriate to minimise auditing and supervision procedures, by what measure is replacing such a respected RTO with one that is likely to require a much higher degree of oversight and auditing, beneficial?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

As the education providers have not as yet been selected it is not possible to comment on ASQA's assessment of prospective providers.

**\$237 million investment in reducing reoffending**

14. How will this investment be allocated?
- (a) How many teaching staff does this include?
  - (b) How many psychologist staff does this include?
  - (c) What type of rehabilitations are included?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- (a) The reducing re-offending funds are targeting areas that include:
- o improved case management within correctional centres
  - o 10 dedicated program units, prioritising inmates with short sentences
  - o engaging external facilitators to assist with program delivery in the community (particularly targeting domestic violence)
  - o enhanced community corrections supervision (utilising new guides that include motivational interactions)

(b) The staffing models for improved case management, and staff associated with the 10 dedicated program units are yet to be finalised.

(c) The focus will be on providing the EQUIPS suite of programs, particularly targeting those with shorter sentences. This suite of programs targets domestic violence, addiction, and general aggression.

15. Can the Minister elucidate on how it will reduce the rate of reoffending by 5 per cent?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Initiatives that have been funded under the Government's reducing re-offending strategy are based on sound evidence of effectiveness. It includes funding for programs to ensure offenders are brought before the courts and participate in rehabilitation programs, improving the performance of the prison system and giving police additional resources to keep the community safe.

**Prison population**

16. How many inmates are there currently in corrective services facilities in NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

As at 4 September 2016 the full time custody population was 12,718.

17. Of those currently in corrective service facilities, how many are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

As at 4 September 2016 the number of Indigenous offenders was 3,081.

18. Of those currently in corrective service facilities, how many of these are on remand?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

As at 4 September 2016 there were 4,215 inmates on remand.

19. What are the current predictions for changes to the remand population size over the next 12 months?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The latest available advice from the Bureau of Crime Statistics is that the prison population will reach just under 13,500 in early 2017.

20. How many facilities are currently over capacity?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
All correctional centres operate within their current operating capacity.

21. Within the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre how many areas are currently housing more inmates than were intended when they were constructed?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
The capacity at the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre is sufficient for the number of inmates.

22. Within the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre how many areas are currently housing more inmates than were intended when they were constructed?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
The capacity at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre is sufficient for the number of inmates.

23. Within the High Risk Management Correctional Centre how many areas are currently housing more inmates than were intended when they were constructed?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
The High Risk Management Correctional Centre has always operated under capacity.

24. How many facilities are anticipated to be over capacity within the next:
- (a) 1 year ?
  - (b) 5 years?
  - (c) 10 years?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
None.

25. What is the cost per day per juvenile inmate?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
Corrective Services NSW does not hold juvenile inmates. Juvenile detainees are held under the Department of Juvenile Justice.  
The cost per day per juvenile detainee in 2015-16 was \$952.  
This cost is calculated based on average daily number of young people in custody. The average daily cost per juvenile detainee in custody includes net operating expenses and capital costs.

26. What is the cost per inmate per adult male inmate?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
The question is unclear and cannot be answered.

27. What is the cost per day per adult female inmate?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
The gender of inmates is not taken into account in calculating the cost per prisoner per day.

28. What is the explanation for the drop in the cost per day per day per inmate in the last financial year?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
Corrective Services NSW continues to implement workplace reforms designed to improve efficiency without compromising the safety and security of correctional environments.

### **Juvenile detention**

29. How many young people are currently detained in juvenile corrective facilities?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
On 2 September 2016 there were 243 young people in custody.

30. Of those young people currently detained in juvenile corrective facilities, how many are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
On 2 September 2016 there were 129 Indigenous young people in custody.

31. What was the total number of young people held on remand at any time during the following financial years:

- (a) 2011/12?
- (b) 2012/13?
- (c) 2013/14?
- (d) 2014/15?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- (a) 4,586 remand admissions
- (b) 3,885 remand admissions
- (c) 3,498 remand admissions
- (d) 2,678 remand admissions

32. How many young people held on remand at any time in the 2015/16 financial year were found not guilty for the matter on which they were being held?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSAR) data.

33. How many young people held on remand at any time in the 2015/16 financial year were found guilty and did not receive a custodial sentence for the matter on which they were being held?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSAR) data.

34. How many young people held on remand at any time in the 2015/16 financial year received a custodial sentence for the matter on which they were being held?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSAR) data.

35. What was the average length of the custodial sentence given to young people held on remand at any time during the 2015/16 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSAR) data.

36. How many juveniles were remanded in custody because they could not meet one or more bail conditions during the 2015/16 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSAR) data.

37. What was as the average number of days juveniles spent in custody because they could not meet one or more bail conditions during the 2015/16 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSAR) data.

**Use of solitary confinement in juvenile detention facilities**

38. How many incidences of solitary confinement in juvenile detention facilities occurred in:

*Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs*



- (a) 2012/13?
- (b) 2013/14?
- (c) 2015/16?
- (d) 2016 to date?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

39. Of these incidences, how many confinements were for:
- (a) A period of less than 2 hours?
  - (b) A period of less than 6 hours?
  - (c) A period of greater than 24 hours?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

40. Of all of these incidences, please provide a list of the 'misbehaviour's that confinement was being used as a punishment for.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

41. Of all of these incidences, please provide a breakdown as to which juvenile detention facility they occurred in.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

42. Of all of these incidences, what proportion of juveniles being placed in solitary were Aboriginal?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

43. What was the average age of juveniles being placed in solitary confinement?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:  
There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

44. What was the youngest age of a juvenile being placed in solitary confinement?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

There were no incidences of 'solitary confinement'.

45. What oversight mechanisms are currently in place for tracking each incident of solitary confinement being used as punishment within juvenile detention facilities?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

There is no provision for or practice of 'solitary confinement' in New South Wales Juvenile Justice Centres.

**Inspector of Custodial Services 'Full House' report**

46. Have any steps been taken to implement the recommendations from the Inspector of Custodial Services April 2015 report 'Full House'?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Yes. Many of the recommendations which were supported by Corrective Services have been implemented. A progress report was provided to the Inspector in May 2016.

**Needle and syringe program**

47. What are the future plans, if any, to introduce needle & syringe programs within correctional facilities, given these are the most effective means of preventing hepatitis C transmission?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

There is no intention to introduce a needle exchange program into correctional facilities.

**Correctional facilities**

48. Is the John Morony and Dillwynia Complexes safe from privatisation?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

John Morony Correctional Centre will be market tested, with the anticipated commencement date for the selected operator being June 2017.

Dillwynia Correctional Centre will be subject to benchmarking under the Better Prisons program.

49. Have any private contractors showed interest in running the complexes, and if so, what are supposed cost savings?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Yes. Three short-listed bidders have been invited to tender for the operation of John Morony Correctional Centre. The successful tenderer will be announced later this year.

50. How many new so called 'pop-up' cells have been built at the complex, how many built with and without inmate labour and the total cost, including administration costs?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

There have been 60 modular cells installed on the John Morony Correctional Complex. The modular cells were manufactured at St Heliers and Cessnock Correctional Centres using inmate labour.

51. Have these new cells been fitted with air-conditioning?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Reverse cycle air-conditioning units have been installed in the communal areas of the modular cells.

52. Is there a structured learning program so that inmates can gain skills they can use for a career if they are building these cells?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The modular cells manufacturing project has enabled inmates to undertake trade-specific training. Vocations include welding, construction, carpentry, forklift licence, plumbing and engineering.

53. How many teaching and education staff have been lost from the facilities?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

None.

54. What is the effect of the Better Prison reforms on the number of teachers in prisons?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Education programs are not being cut, but will be expanded and delivered by an external organisation monitored by Corrective Services NSW.

In the future, it will be able to source many more programs through a large education provider, to better meet inmate's education and vocational training needs. CSNSW will continue to deliver education and training in the specialised Intensive Learning Centres at Lithgow, Wellington, South Coast and Mid North Coast Correctional Centres.

55. How has the rate of inmate participation in education programs changed over the last 3 years?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Year	Percentage of eligible prisoners
------	----------------------------------

2012/13	36.1%
2013/14	33.6%
2014/15	31.7%

56. What is the effect of educational programs on the rates of reoffending in NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

International research shows that participation in education while in custody reduces the risk of re-offending following an inmate's release from custody.

**Parole**

57. A NSW BOCSAR study published on 29 August 2016 showed that “offenders released to parole by the State Parole Authority ... are less likely to re-offend than offender release to parole as a result of a court decision” after the parole orders expired. Has the Minister seen this report yet?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

To the best of my knowledge, I have not viewed the report itself however am aware of the findings.

58. Are there plans to review and possibly alter this split system?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Attorney General.

59. What recommendation from the NSW Law Reform Commission’s Parole report that was handed down September 2015 have been or will be adopted?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The report is being considered by the NSW Government.

**Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)**

**Prisoner pay rates**

60. What are the pay rates per day for the various jobs within NSW prisons?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Information about the system for inmates in NSW prisons is published on the Corrective Services NSW, Corrective Services Industries website.

61. How many inmates are presently employed in NSW prisons?
- (a) Are there any vacant positions?
  - (b) Is there a waiting list for employment opportunities within NSW prisons?
    - i. How many inmates are on this waiting list?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In August 2016 an average of 5,951 inmates were employed in NSW prisons

- (a) Yes. Vacancies occur from time to time.
- (b) Yes
- (i) In August 2016 on average 910 inmates were awaiting placement.

62. What is the ratio of Correctional Officers to Inmates with regards to the supervision of inmates while they are performing work-related tasks within NSW prisons?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Generally, 1 Industrial Officer (Overseer) is assigned to supervise 15 inmates. The number varies depending on a range of factors including the security classification of inmates, complexity of the work, safety and physical aspects of the layout and work location.

**\$237 million Reoffending Strategy**

With regards to the Reoffending Strategy targeting “persistent domestic violence defendants and other high-risk offenders to ensure that inmates serving sentence of six months or less for any crime participate in rehabilitation programs”

63. Where is the funding for this project in the 2016 Budget placed?
- (a) Will all offenders have had to have perpetrated domestic violence in order to access the program?
  - (b) How much funding will be allocated to perpetrator behaviour change programs, how much to addiction and how much to sex offender programs?
  - (c) Has any other jurisdiction trialled such a program? If so, what jurisdiction/s?
  - (d) What evaluation of this program has been undertaken?
    - i. What were the results of such evaluation?
  - (e) Will prisoners who have sentences of more than six months be able to access the program? If not, why not?
  - (f) Will the program be mandatory?
  - (g) How will the Government ensure that participants participate fully in the program?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The budget for Corrective Services NSW includes funding for 10 dedicated program units, prioritising inmates with short sentences

- (a) No.
- (b) Offenders, including those sentenced to less than six months, generally have multiple who criminogenic needs. The EQUIPS suite of programs which will be offered in these units, is modularised (with modules targeting foundational skills, domestic abuse, aggression and substance abuse/misuse) and delivery can be adapted to provide of the most appropriate module according to needs. Until an assessment of participants' individual needs is made it is not possible to know how many of each type of program will be offered.
- (c) No
- (d) An evaluation of the Corrective Services NSW EQUIPS Domestic Abuse Program was published in the Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research, Vol. 8 Iss: 1, pp.4 - 20
- (i) The research found 24.9% of EQUIPS Domestic Abuse Program participants re-offended compared with 36.2% of a matched control group who did not participate.
- (e) No. They have access to the same suite of programs appropriate for their cohort.
- (f) & (g) While participation is not generally compulsory, suitable offenders with short sentences will be placed in these program units where staff will engage with them to motivate them to participate. If the offenders refuse to participate they will be removed from the unit.

**General**

64. How many shots were fired in the prisons in 2015?

- (a) Of these, how many were for the deployment of chemical munitions?
- (b) Of these, how many were using live ammunition?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

2 shots were fired

- (a) Chemical munitions are not deployed through a firearm.
- (b) 2.

65. How many shots have been fired in the prisons so far in 2016?

- (a) Of these, how many were for the deployment of chemical munitions?
- (b) Of these, how many were using live ammunition?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In the year to 12 September 2016, 6 shots have been fired.

- (a) Chemical munitions are not deployed through a firearm.
- (b) 6.

66. What communication has the Minister or his office had with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) with regards to rolling out further telephone jamming equipment / mobile telephone jamming equipment in NSW Correctional Centres?

- (a) Which correctional centres have been identified as locations for the implementation of further telephone jamming equipment / mobile telephone jamming equipment?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

ACMA has approved the extension of a trial of mobile phone jamming at Lithgow Correctional Centre to 2018.

Corrective Services NSW is preparing for a possible trial of mobile telephone jamming equipment at Goulburn Correctional Complex however no approval has been granted for this trial at this time.

67. What is the current ratio of Correctional Officers to inmates?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

1:3

68. How many FTE Correctional Officers are presently employed?

- (a) How many of these are part-time positions?
- (b) How many of these are casual positions?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

As at 30 June 2016 4,047.9 FTE Correctional Officers were employed

- (a) None
- (b) None

**Flexible Workplaces**

69. 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?

**ANSWER:**

NSW Government agencies are developing initiatives to implement the NSW Government's policy that 100 per cent of public service jobs will be flexible by 2019 on the basis of 'if not, why not'.

**Office Administration**

70. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

71. 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?

**ANSWER:**

There were 280 smart phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$452,830, a 21.7% per cent reduction on the 2008-09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.

72. 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?



**ANSWER:**

There were 148 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.

73. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

Any artwork purchased by the Ministry is managed within the office's budget.

74. 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?
75. 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?

**ANSWER:**

74. and 75. Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budget.

76. 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?

**ANSWER:**

The Minister for Emergency Services, Corrections and Veterans Affairs' office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

77. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

78. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

No.

79. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2015-16 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

80. 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

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services across the Ministry in 2015-16 was \$99,463. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.

81. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$28,706 in 2015-16. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$282,000.

**Hospitality**

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

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

**ANSWER:**

82. Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry - which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries - totalled \$25,059 in 2015-16.

83. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

**Labour Hire Firms**

84. 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

**ANSWER:**

This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

**Media and Public Relations**

85. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

86. 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?

87. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

88. 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?

**ANSWER:**

85. Staff numbers of each agency are included in the Annual Report.

86. There are currently no plans to increase the number of media staff undertaking media or public relations activities.

87. The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2015-16 was \$1,900,000 Compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009-10.

88. No

### **Facebook**

89. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?

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

### **ANSWER:**

89. No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.

90. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

### **Overseas Trips**

91. 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?

92. 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?

### **ANSWER:**

91 – 92. Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

### **Department/Agency Travel**

93. 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

**ANSWER:**

93. Emergency Services and Corrective Services NSW: This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

Veterans Affairs falls under Department of Premier and Cabinet.

**Consulting**

94. 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?

95. 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

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**Department/Agency Staffing**

96. 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?

97. 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?

98. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

99. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16?

(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

96 –99. Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2015/16 are anticipated to be in the order of 2,099 – totalling 11,777 Since July 2011. The Labour Expenses Cap introduced in the 2012-13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**Smart Phone Accounts**

100. 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?

101. 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?

**ANSWER:**

100 – 101. IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

**Websites Visited**

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

103. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

**ANSWER:**

102 – 103. Due to the way the Ministers' IT network infrastructure is configured with third party service providers, DPC does not have a single data source showing domain access and utilisation figures.

### **Merchant fees**

104. 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.
105. 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.
106. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

**ANSWER:**

104 –106. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13.

### **Probity Auditor**

107. 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?

**ANSWER:**

This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

#### Fire and Rescue NSW

108. When will Justice Boland's report into allegations of sexual harassment, intimidation, discrimination and bullying at Fire and Rescue NSW be publically released?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

As Justice Boland's report contains sensitive and personal information of individuals, it cannot be released in full. Each complainant has been informed of the outcome of their individual matter.

#### Workplace bullying in emergency services

109. What is the current estimated extent of workplace bullying within the Emergency Services agencies?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

FRNSW: Significant reform has been undertaken within Fire & Rescue NSW over the last six years to address and improve workplace behaviour following the identification of serious historical allegations of bullying and harassment. There is no current evidence of systemic bullying or harassment within the organisation. Complaint figures for the past financial year are provided in answer to question 111.

NSW RFS: The NSW RFS is strongly committed to providing and maintaining a respectful and inclusive workplace, where all members are treated with dignity, courtesy and respect at all times and in all work locations. The NSW RFS does not tolerate bullying, discrimination, vilification and/or sexual harassment. These behaviours are contrary to Service Standard 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics and the NSW RFS Organisational Values. Complaint figures for the past financial year are provided in answer to question 111.

NSW SES: As detailed below, the NSW SES is committed to maintaining a respectful and inclusive workplace. As at 8 September 2016, there are eight open cases recorded within NSW SES Professional Standards Unit relating to alleged workplace and/or harassment. Complaint figures for the past financial year are provided in answer to question 111.

110. What measures has the Commissioner and the Senior Executive Group taken to address bullying and harassment in all Emergency Services agencies?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

FRNSW: Fire & Rescue NSW has implemented extensive measures to address bullying and harassment. Measures include:

- Revision of policies and procedures for the management of bullying and harassment and complaints about bullying and harassment.



- Respectful Workplace Training.
- Straight Talk conflict resolution.
- Establishment of the Workplace Standards Branch with specialist investigative staff.
- A 24 hour complaints hotline.
- Building a Better Brigade document.
- Implementation of a Case Management System.
- Reinforcing values at all levels of the organisation, for example through strategic and business plans, leadership and capability initiatives, and communication channels such as the intranet and other marketing material.
- Facilitated Conferencing to manage more complex fire station-wide conflicts.
- Performance Partnering development.
- Commissioner's Participative Council.
- Engagement and Leadership initiatives.
- People Matter Employee Surveys (latest in 2016).
- Be Heard - Embedding Respectful Workplaces Strategy 2014-2017.

NSW RFS: In 2014 the NSW RFS appointed a Principal Project Officer to review workplace culture and behavior and propose a course of action. The outcome was the development of a new organisation wide Service Standard addressing respectful workplace behavior, focusing on bullying, discrimination, vilification and sexual harassment.

In 2015/2016 the NSW RFS reviewed and published the following relevant Service Standards and Policies:

- SS 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics v4.0 which was updated to incorporate the Public Service Commission requirements
- SS 1.1.42 Respectful and Inclusive Workplace v1.0 - this new service standard that repealed P3.1.2 Harassment v1.1 and policy 4.1.13 Bullying in the Workplace v1.2

The NSW RFS consulted widely, both within the NSW RFS and with relevant external stakeholders. All staff were advised of the new requirement to access, annually acknowledge and electronically sign the SS 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics via the corporate HR system.

The NSW RFS is developing an online training program to reinforce the principles of the Respectful and Inclusive Workplace Service Standards, which specifically addresses behaviours associated with bullying, discrimination, vilification and sexual harassment. The program will be available to NSW RFS staff and volunteers by the end of 2016.

All staff are required to attend Code of Conduct and Ethics training. The Code of Conduct and Ethics is linked to advertisements for positions in the NSW RFS. All new employees are provided the Code of Conduct and Ethics as part of their offer of employment.

The Commissioner and Senior Executive receive regular reports on workplace complaints, including those relating to bullying and harassment.

The development of a computerised case management system, to record, monitor and report on staff and volunteer conduct matters managed by the Professional Standards Unit and Regional Services has been approved. The Resolve Case Management System has been adapted to meet the specific needs of NSW RFS and is expected to be operational by the end of 2016.

NSW SES: In a weekly internal communication publication, 'Member Connect', the Acting Commissioner regularly reaffirms the corporate values of the NSW SES as set out in the:

- (i) NSW SES Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy
- (ii) NSW SES Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2016-19; and

(iii) NSW SES Values ('TARPS Uncovered' – Trust, Accountability, Respect, Professionalism & Integrity, Safety & Service). These documents address the requirement for all members to treat each other with dignity and respect and zero tolerance approach of NSW SES to incidents of bullying and harassment.

The NSW SES has also developed the following:

- Training and development packages in relation to techniques and procedures for members to follow when having difficult conversations with others to mediate interpersonal conflict issues in the workplace;
- Provisions and requirements of the NSW SES Bullying and Harassment Policy and member obligations as detailed under that policy;
- New Complaint Handling and Internal Grievance Management policies and procedures have recently been developed for consultation and implementation across the Service.

These policies set out mandatory requirements for the reporting of bullying and harassment allegations and strategies to be applied in relation to the management of bullying and harassment related issues. Early resolution of interpersonal workplace conflict is recommended in the first instance, to minimise the likelihood of escalation to more serious allegations of bullying and harassment.

A number of external consultants who provide mediation/conciliation services have been identified and engaged on occasions to assist in the early resolution of workplace conflict and bullying and harassment related issues between NSW SES members.

From January to June 2016, internal training was undertaken by the Manager Professional Standards Unit on conducting investigations, with a number of employees across the NSW SES, including senior officers. The purpose of training covered ways to undertake timely investigations in relation to bullying and harassment allegations and minimise the timeframe for executive review of investigation findings, identification and implementation of final outcome actions.

111. In the last financial year, how many complaints regarding workplace harassment and bullying were received by:

- (a) Rural Fire Service NSW?
- (b) State Emergency Services?
- (c) Fire & Rescue NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- a) NSW RFS: 35.
- b) NSW SES: 30.
- c) FRNSW: 43.

112. What is the average timeframe the following agencies take to respond to workplace harassment and bullying complaints:

- (a) Rural Fire Service NSW?

- (b) State Emergency Services?
- (c) Fire & Rescue NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- a) NSW RFS: 5.9 days.
- b) NSW SES: 7 days.
- c) FRNSW: 2-3 days.

**Rural Fire Services Commissioner**

113. What is the Commissioner's annual salary, including superannuation and other employee related benefits?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Commissioner's remuneration is set by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal. This information is publicly available in the agency's Annual Report.

114. What employee related benefits does the Commissioner receive over and above salary and superannuation?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Nil.

115. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2013-14 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

116. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2014-15 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

**State Emergency Services Commissioner**

117. What is the Commissioner's annual salary, including superannuation and other employee related benefits?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Commissioner's remuneration is set by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal. This information is publicly available in the agency's Annual Report.

118. What employee related benefits does the Commissioner receive over and above salary and superannuation?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Nil.

119. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2013-14 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

120. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2014-15 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

**Fire and Rescue Commissioner**

121. What is the Commissioner's annual salary, including superannuation and other employee related benefits?

**ANSWER:**

The Commissioner's remuneration is set by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal.

122. What employee related benefits does the Commissioner receive over and above salary and superannuation?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Nil.

123. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2013-14 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

124. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2014-15 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

**Corrective Services Commissioner**

125. What is the Commissioner's annual salary, including superannuation and other employee related benefits?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Commissioner's salary is set by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal. This information is publicly available in the agency's Annual Report.

126. What employee related benefits does the Commissioner receive over and above salary and superannuation?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Nil.

127. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2013-14 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

128. How many days did the Commissioner spend outside the jurisdiction of NSW in the 2014-15 financial year and for what purposes?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to response from 2015-16 Budget Estimates.

## Spring Gully, Bundeena

129. With reference to the special fire protection purposes integrated development proposal for a recreation camp on the former Scout land, 60-70 Bournemouth Street, Bundeena (RFS Reference D14/3551):

(a) Can the Minister confirm that:

- i. Sutherland Shire District and Bundeena Station both advised that the development application should be refused on bush fire safety grounds?
- ii. The bush fire safety authority issued for the proposed development requires work to be carried out on the adjoining land, being the Royal National Park, which the proponent has no legal access to?
- iii. The RFS assessment reports of the development proposal record that the slope within the proposed asset protection zone exceeds 18 degrees, requiring exceptional circumstances justification under Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006?
- iv. The Manager of Customer Service Centre (East) directed that a bush fire safety authority be issued, as documented in the Summary of the s100B Special Fire Protection Purpose Assessment Report, desk top assessment date 10/06/2015, which states “It has been directed, by the Manager of Customer Service Centre (East), that a conditional bush fire safety authority (BFSA) is issued...”?
- v. This direction was given following correspondence received from the applicant’s solicitor?
- vi. Is the Minister satisfied that, in this instance, section 2.12(a) of RFS Policy p6.1.1 Development Assessment and Planning, dated 6 November 2012 has been complied with?

Section 2.12(a) states:

NSW RFS staff members must not:  
Direct or pressure NSW RFS assessing officers in their work, or  
recommendations they should make relating to development assessment that is  
contrary to the requirements of PBP.

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised:

129. (a) i. The NSW RFS Commissioner has a statutory obligation to assess development applications on bush fire prone land. In considering the development, the NSW RFS consulted the Sutherland local NSW RFS District Manager who in turn consulted with Bundeena Rural Fire Brigade to assist in determining whether the proposal complies with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006. Concerns raised by the local NSW RFS District Manager included access, mobile coverage, sufficient water

availability and increased tourists to the area.

The NSW RFS considered these comments and was satisfied that the development proposal was conditioned to comply with the provisions of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

(a) ii. The bush fire safety authority issued by the NSW RFS included conditions to ensure that the development, as submitted, may only proceed if the required Asset Protection Zones are able to be implemented by the applicant. The issue of legal access is subject to resolution between the relevant parties.

(a) iii. Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 states that Asset Protection Zones may be accepted on slopes over 18 degrees as exceptional circumstances where effective management of these areas can be demonstrated. The bush fire consultant's reports submitted with the application indicated that the Asset Protection Zones can be implemented and maintained in perpetuity. If the proposed Asset Protection Zones cannot be provided, the development cannot proceed.

(a) iv. The purpose of assessing an application for a bush fire safety authority under Section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997, is to determine the extent to which a proposal complies with the provisions of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006. Where a proposal is consistent with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006, or consistency can be obtained via conditions of consent, the development assessment officer must recommend the issue of a bush fire safety authority. The Manager of Planning and Environment Services holds delegation to determine the issue of a Bush Fire Safety Authority.

In accordance with development assessment practices within the Planning and Environment Services Centre (East), a report was prepared by a Development Assessment Officer and a recommendation was provided to the Manager Planning and Environment Services (East) who holds the NSW RFS delegation to determine the matter under section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997. In this case, a Bush Fire Safety Authority was issued subject to conditions on the basis of the recommendation identifying compliance of the proposed development with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

(a) v. While the decision was made after correspondence was received from the applicant's solicitor, the letter did not influence the decision making process.

(a) vi. Yes.

130. Can the Minister advise:

- (a) If there have been any site visits by RFS development assessment staff during assessment of the development proposals and if there have been, the dates of the site visits?
- (b) Why the assessment reports prepared by the RFS state that no site inspection was required when standard operating procedure, as specified in the S100B Special Fire Protection Purpose Assessment form versions 13.2 and 13.3, states "Special Fire Protection Purpose (SFPP) developments require a site inspection unless specific justification provided (e.g. minor alts/adds to existing approved development)"?
- (c) Can the Minister advise as to how the RFS can be satisfied that the proposed asset protection zone can be maintained given that Sutherland Shire Council contends that it is

not satisfied that the asset protection zone will be maintained given the slope and soil type?

**ANSWER:**

130. (a) Yes, a site inspection was undertaken on 25 November 2013.

130. (b) The assessment was undertaken on the basis of existing knowledge of the site and the locality based on previous site inspections carried out by NSW RFS development assessment and District Officers. A previous site visit had already occurred as part of the pre-DA consultation.

130. (c) The applicant's bush fire reports submitted indicate that the Asset Protection Zones can be implemented and maintained in perpetuity. The approval is only valid if these conditions can be met.

131. Can the Minister advise:

- (a) How many objections were provided by Sutherland Shire Council to the RFS concerning the original development application?
- (b) How many objections were provided by Sutherland Shire Council to the RFS concerning the amended development application?
- (c) How many members of the public have sent correspondence to the RFS raising concerns over bushfire safety in relation to the development proposal?
- (d) Were the objections by the Australian National University and University of NSW relating to potential impacts on the adjoining multi-decade long-term ecological research network site provided to the RFS?
- (e) Where the submissions of the Office of Environment and Heritage to the original and amended proposals provided to the RFS?

**ANSWER:**

131. (a-c) Over 3,000 standard objections were received by way of a pro-forma template, provided either by Sutherland Shire Council or directly to the NSW RFS.

(d) No record of these objections or concerns were referred to the NSW RFS.

(e) No record of these objections or concerns were referred to the NSW RFS.

132. Is the Minister satisfied that:

- (a) All sections of the S100B Special Fire Protection Purpose assessment report forms, as completed by the RFS, were adequately completed as required by the Standard Operation Procedures set out in the Policy on Development Assessment and Planning 2012?
- (b) The RFS assessment has not unduly relied on the advice of the proponent's bushfire consultant without taking into account all the information available from Sutherland Shire



Council, third party objectors and the advice of the District and Station?

- (c) The RFS assessment of the development applications has satisfied the requirements of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 and the Policy on Development Assessment and Planning 2012?

**ANSWER:**

132. (a) Yes.

(b) The NSW RFS assessment did not unduly rely on advice from the bush fire consultant or other parties as an independent assessment was undertaken to determine compliance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

(c) The NSW RFS has determined that the proposal satisfies the provisions contained in Section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997, the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 and Policy 6.1.1 Development Assessment and Planning. A Bush Fire Safety Authority was consequently issued subject to conditions to ensure compliance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

133. With reference to the development proposal for the property adjoining to the south of 60-70 Bournemouth Street, Bundeena (RFS Reference D14/3507), can the Minister advise:

- (a) Whether the RFS have received confirmation of owners consent for the development?  
(b) Whether the RFS have been provided with details of the existing cadastre and the proposed cadastre for the development site?

**ANSWER:**

133. (a) The Bush Fire Safety Authority issued by the NSW RFS includes conditions to ensure that the development, as submitted, may only proceed if the required Asset Protection Zones are able to be implemented by the applicant. The issue of legal access is subject to resolution between the relevant parties.

(b) The NSW RFS relied on cadastral information provided as part of the application, along with cadastral information provided to the NSW RFS by the NSW Land and Property Information. Slope details were provided as part of the applicant's bush fire reports and these were verified using desk top analysis in conjunction with visual observations from an earlier site inspection.

**Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)**

**RFS Headquarters**

134. What is the current progress of the relocation of RFS Headquarters?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

A Call for Lease Proposal was released in May 2016. This has now closed, with proponents currently

undergoing a tender evaluation process undertaken by Properties NSW in conjunction with NSW RFS.

**Fire trails**

135. 1. How did you come up with the \$2 Million in recurring funding to support the delivery of fire access, fire trail plans and to construct and maintain fire trails?

(a) How many years will this recurring funding be provided for?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

135. The \$2 million was provided as recurrent ongoing funding through the Rural Fire Fighting Fund to facilitate the establishment of the strategic fire trail network. The funds are utilised to appoint fire trail specialist staff within the NSW RFS and to provide financial assistance in the construction and maintenance of fire trails on private lands.

(a) Ongoing, commencing in the 2015/16 budget.

136. What is the current total network length of fire trails operating throughout NSW?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Current total length of classified fire trails in NSW is more than 70,000km.

137. What fire trail maps are presently available for the community to access?

(a) On average, how often were these maps updated?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

137. The fire trail register is currently not available for public access.

(a) Not applicable.

138. What percentage of existing fire trails are situated on:

(a) Private lands?

(b) Crown lands?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

138. (a) 17.4%

(b) 82.55%

## April 2015 Super Storms & January 2016 Storm Impacts in the Hunter

139. Does the SES or 000 Services have the capacity to provide hearing and speech impaired people the ability to text Emergency Services?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Yes.

140. How much funding was allocated for SES Communications upgrades for the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years?

(a) What upgrades occurred during each year?

i. How much was spent each year on these upgrades?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Through the NSW SES Operational Communications and Services Program, the following has been allocated:

Financial Year	Amount
2014-15	\$3.135 million
2015-16	\$1.815 million
2016-17	\$12.02 million

141. Given the failure of the 132 number in the April 2015 super storms, why did you only commit \$7million to be spent in the 2015-16 budget?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The allocation of \$7.5m in the 2015-16 Budget was for an upgrade of radio infrastructure and terminals as part of the Operational Communications Equipment and Services program, not the 132 500 system.

142. Since the April Super Storms what community resilience plans have been put in place for communities in the Hunter which are subject to isolation during floods?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Flood planning is undertaken by the NSW SES and considered by Local Emergency Management Committees, chaired by Local Councils, in their emergency management planning.

Resupply is the transport of supplies to isolated properties and/or communities during prolonged flood events. Resupply is a function of the NSW SES. When isolation of a whole community occurs NSW SES assists in the transport of supplies from the designated loading points to local storekeepers, where households and businesses can purchase essential items. Isolated households may place resupply orders

through their supplier directly; through a friend or family member or through the NSW SES. The majority of resupply requests will be for households and businesses that have the ability to purchase the essential grocery items and only require assistance from NSW SES to deliver the items.

Where households do not have the ability to purchase essential grocery items due to financial hardship, NSW SES may refer these households to the Office of Emergency Management's Disaster Welfare team. Where financial eligibility criteria are met, the team will assist with the purchase of essential grocery items, which are then delivered to the NSW SES nominated point for transport.

143. What community facilities were put in place after the April storms to ensure people were not stranded by road closures again?

(a) What community facilities were installed at Gillieston Heights (eg: hall etc)?

i. Were these activated in the 2016 January storms?

a. Why / Why not?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Any actions regarding community facilities, including at Gillieston Heights, would be undertaken by Local Council and in consultation with NSW SES as part of preparedness. Low lying roads in flood-prone areas will always potentially flood, which is why the NSW SES provides comprehensive public messaging about road closures.

(a) Gillieston Heights (800 homes) was isolated by less than one kilometre due to flooded roads for approximately four days in April 2015. Food donated by Woolworths was transported by NSW SES flood boat and punt on 23 April 2015. The Office of Emergency Management through Woolworths, Salvation Army and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) arranged for delivery of additional food which was transported by helicopter to the community. Food was then made available at the Lifehouse Church in Gillieston Heights (an existing facility) for residents to collect items they required at no cost. This community was not isolated in January 2016.

144. Is the Minister aware that a community was stranded at Oakhampton Heights after the January 2016 storms for a number of days due to the closure of Walka Waterworks closing off access over private lands and the ARTC rail bridge?

(a) What measures has the Minister taken to try and avoid this situation happening again?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Access to the road in question is a private access road and includes a private bridge owned by Australian Rail Track Corporation. The end of the road, which accesses Walka Water Works is owned by Maitland City Council who control access.

The private road was opened by the NSW SES Maitland Controller using lawful authority provided under the State Emergency Service 1989 to allow residents of Oakhampton Heights access.

Communication regarding the opening of the access road was disseminated across three radio stations, including ABC emergency broadcasting.

Ongoing access to use private land is a matter for local council and this matter should be raised directly with Maitland City Council.

145. What emergency transport plans are able to be activated for people who are unable to leave their homes due to flood waters?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In emergency situations, residents stranded by flooding can contact the NSW State Emergency Service on 132 500 to request assistance.

Through its community engagement programs, the NSW State Emergency Service works with local communities subject to isolation to ensure pre-preparedness.

146. What plans are in place for people requiring non-emergency but important medical treatment?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In emergency situations, residents requiring non-emergency but important medical treatment can contact the NSW State Emergency Service on 132 500 to request assistance, or triple zero (000) if the situation is life threatening.

147. What plans are in place for people who need to get to work?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

People who are isolated or whose workplace is inaccessible due to flood waters should contact their workplace for advice in the first instance. A Disaster Recovery Allowance (Commonwealth Department of Human Services) may be payable to individuals who can demonstrate that their income has been affected as a direct result of a disaster. Eligibility criteria apply.

148. Is there a Federal/State cooperative MOU to assist agencies working together to access isolated areas for mental health services, social workers, medical, FACS, community agencies, Centrelink and Federal Human Services to get transport to isolated communities during emergency situations?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan outlines cooperative arrangements between key NSW and Commonwealth agencies, as well as non-government agencies, to provide support to impacted communities. Agencies included are NSW Health, NSW Mental Health, FACS, Department of Human Services – Centrelink, Uniting Church, Anglicare and Australian Red Cross. As required, and through an emergency operations centre, access to isolated areas requiring any medical or welfare-related services would be arranged by the NSW SES. Transport by boat or helicopter is arranged for either the individual

to attend the required service outside the community or for medical, allied health and welfare staff to get to the community. This is common practice.

### **Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness**

149. 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 Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
- (i) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required
- (j) Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?
- (k) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?
- (l) 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?

### **ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Each agency is responsible for implementing NSW Government policy. The information sought is not collected centrally.

### **Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs**

150. 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?
  - i. Who delivers it?
- (e) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
  - i. How does this program operate?
- (f) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

**ANSWER:**

This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

### **Flexible Workplaces**

151. 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?

**ANSWER:**

NSW Government agencies are developing initiatives to implement the NSW Government's policy that 100 per cent of public service jobs will be flexible by 2019 on the basis of 'if not, why not'.

### **Office Administration**

152. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

153. 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?

**ANSWER:**

There were 280 smart phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$452,830, a 21.7% per cent reduction on the 2008-09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.

154. 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?

**ANSWER:**

There were 148 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.

155. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

Any artwork purchased by the Ministry is managed within the office's budget.

156. 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?

157. 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?

**ANSWER:**

156. and 157. Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budget.

158. 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?

**ANSWER:**

The Minister for Emergency Services, Corrections and Veterans Affairs' office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

159. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

160. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

No.

161. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2015-16 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

162. 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

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services across the Ministry in 2015-16 was \$99,463. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.

163. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$28,706 in 2015-16. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$282,000.

**Hospitality**

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

**ANSWER:**

164. Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry - which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries - totalled \$25,059 in 2015-16.

165. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

**Labour Hire Firms**

166. 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

**ANSWER:**

The Premier and Cabinet Cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall labour expense cap.

**Media and Public Relations**

- 167. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- 168. 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?
- 169. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
- 170. 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?

**ANSWER:**

167. Staff numbers of each agency are included in the Annual Report.

168. There are currently no plans to increase the number of media staff undertaking media or public relations activities.

169. The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2015-16 was \$1,900,000 Compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009-10.

170. No

**Facebook**

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

**ANSWER:**

171. No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.

172. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

### Overseas Trips

173. 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?
174. 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?

#### ANSWER:

173 – 174. Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

### Department/Agency Travel

175. 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

#### ANSWER:

175. Emergency Services and Corrective Services NSW: This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

Veterans Affairs falls under Department of Premier and Cabinet.

### Consulting

176. 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?
177. 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

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**Department/Agency Staffing**

178. 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?
179. 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?
180. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
181. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

178 –181. Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2015/16 are anticipated to be in the order of 2,099 – totalling 11,777 Since July 2011. The Labour Expenses Cap introduced in the 2012-13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

### Smart Phone Accounts

182. 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?
183. 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?

#### **ANSWER:**

182 – 183. IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

### Websites Visited

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

#### **ANSWER:**

184 – 185. Due to the way the Ministers' IT network infrastructure is configured with third party service providers, DPC does not have a single data source showing domain access and utilisation figures.

### Merchant fees

186. 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.
187. 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.
188. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

#### **ANSWER:**

186 – 188. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13.

### Probity Auditor

189. 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?

**ANSWER:**

This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

#### Flexible Workplaces

190. 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?

#### ANSWER:

NSW Government agencies are developing initiatives to implement the NSW Government's policy that 100 per cent of public service jobs will be flexible by 2019 on the basis of 'if not, why not'.

#### Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

191. 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**

192. 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?

### **Office Administration**

193. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

194. 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?

**ANSWER:**

There were 280 smart phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$452,830, a 21.7% per cent reduction on the 2008-09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.

195. 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?

**ANSWER:**

There were 148 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.

196. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

Any artwork purchased by the Ministry is managed within the office's budget.

197. 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?
198. 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?

**ANSWER:**

197. and 198. Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budget.

199. 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?

**ANSWER:**

The Minister for Emergency Services, Corrections and Veterans Affairs' office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

200. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

201. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

No.

202. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2015-16 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

203. 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

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services across the Ministry in 2015-16 was \$99,463. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.

204. 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?

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$28,706 in 2015-16. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$282,000.

**Hospitality**

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

**ANSWER:**

205. Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry - which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries - totalled \$25,059 in 2015-16.

206. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

**Labour Hire Firms**

207. 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

**ANSWER:**

The Premier and Cabinet Cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall labour expense cap.

**Media and Public Relations**

- 208. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- 209. 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?
- 210. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
- 211. 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?

**ANSWER:**

208. Staff numbers of each agency are included in the Annual Report.

209. There are currently no plans to increase the number of media staff undertaking media or public relations activities.

210. The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2015-16 was \$1,900,000 compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009-10.

211. No

**Facebook**

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

**ANSWER:**

212. No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.

213. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

**Overseas Trips**

214. 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?

215. 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?

**ANSWER:**

214 – 215. Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

**Department/Agency Travel**

216. 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

**ANSWER:**

216. Emergency Services and Corrective Services NSW: This is administered by the Department of Justice which is led by the Deputy Premier.

Veterans Affairs falls under Department of Premier and Cabinet.

**Consulting**

217. 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?

218. 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

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**Department/Agency Staffing**

219. 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?
220. 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?
221. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
222. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

219 – 222. Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2015/16 are anticipated to be in the order of 2,099 – totalling 11,777 Since July 2011. The Labour Expenses Cap introduced in the 2012-13 Budget also continues to

give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

### Smart Phone Accounts

223. 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?

224. 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?

### ANSWER:

223 – 224. IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

### Websites Visited

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

226. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

### ANSWER:

225 – 226. Due to the way the Ministers' IT network infrastructure is configured with third party service providers, DPC does not have a single data source showing domain access and utilisation figures.

### Merchant fees

227. 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.

228. 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.

229. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

### ANSWER:

227 –229. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13.

### Probity Auditor



230. 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?

**ANSWER:**

This is administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (as Veterans Affairs falls under the Department of Premier and Cabinet).