



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-2018 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

EDUCATION

Hearing: Tuesday 5 September 2017

Answers due by: Friday 29 September 2017

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EDUCATION

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Legal settlements

1. How much money has the Department of Education paid out in confidential legal settlements in the past three years, due to unresolved complaints?
2. How much money is paid out on average per settlement?
3. What policies does the DoE rely on when choosing to settle rather than defend in court?
4. How many settlements related to children with a disability?
5. Is it not more cost effective to deal with complaints rather take legal action?
6. Of those cases where the department paid out settlements involving complaints about staff, how many staff were reprimanded or removed from posts?

Scripture

7. What steps are being taken by the Minister to ensure that all materials used in scripture in public schools is vetted or oversighted by the Department?
8. What guarantee do parents have to ensure their children won't be exposed to inappropriate materials?
9. What steps, if any, have been taken towards making scripture in public schools opt-out?

Inner city schools

10. What consideration has been given reinstating Fig and Wattle as the site of the new Ultimo Public School?
11. What is the Minister doing to alleviate the shortage of public secondary school places in the eastern suburbs and what consideration has been given to building a new eastern suburbs high school?

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

New schools required in Maitland

12. Does the government have plans to build a new high school and/or primary school in the Maitland electorate?

- (a) If so, has the government identified potential sites?
- (b) If yes, when will the local community be advised?

Gwynneville Public School (Wollongong Electorate)

13. Has the Government costed the upgrades to Gwynneville Public School announced by the Premier during a visit to the school on 18 July 2017?
- (a) If so, what is the total cost of the upgrades?
 - (b) What is the nature of the upgrades proposed for the school?
 - (c) When will the upgrades start?
 - (d) When will the upgrades conclude?
 - (e) If none of these details are yet available, on what date will these be available?

Wollongong Public School

14. An upgrade to Wollongong Public School was listed as a project in the Daily Telegraph on 19 June 2017 (as announced by the Department of Education). Why was there no allocation of funding for an upgrade to Wollongong Public School in the 2017-18 Budget?
- (a) Has the Government costed the upgrades to Wollongong Public School?
 - i. If so, what is the total cost of the upgrades?
 - (b) What is the nature of the upgrades proposed for the school?
 - (c) When will the upgrades start?
 - (d) When will the upgrades conclude?
 - (e) If none of these details is yet available, on what date will these be available?

Wollongong electorate school maintenance funding (do we keep this or leave for GIPA?)

15. Given the announcement by the Government that \$4.7 million has been allocated to maintain Wollongong electorate schools, can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of funding that will be available to each school?
- (a) When will maintenance work commence for each school funded?
 - (b) When will maintenance work conclude for each school funded?
 - (c) What is the nature of the maintenance work that will be funded for each school in the Wollongong electorate?

- (d) If information requested above is not yet available, on what date will it be available?

Impact of Parramatta Stadium Construction on O'Connell Street School

16. The Parramatta Stadium construction site is directly opposite O'Connell Street School due to open in 2018. Given the scale of construction at the stadium, due to continue until 2019, what steps has the Department of Education taken to ensure the safety and well-being of students and teachers taking account of the:
- (a) excessive noise during teaching and learning time?
 - (b) dust and other possible airborne matter?
 - (c) increased traffic including large vehicles

Finigan School of Distance Education at Queanbeyan High School

17. A new distance education school, named The Finigan School of Distance Education, will be operating in Queanbeyan in 2019 built at a cost of \$18 million. Is \$18 million the final total cost of the project?
- (a) When announced in February 2015, what was the expected cost of the new facility?
 - i. if the February 2015 forecasted cost is less than \$10 million please explain how the cost of the project grew so substantially.
 - ii. please explain what any additional funds beyond the February 2015 forecast have been put towards.
 - (b) What additional parking will be provided for teachers at Queanbeyan High School from 2019?

Future Focussed Classrooms at Karabar and Queanbeyan High Schools

18. On 15 December 2016, the NSW Government announced that up to \$10 million would be provided for new classrooms at Karabar High School and Queanbeyan High School. What is the plan for how the \$10million will be spent, what can the community expect from this investment?
- (a) Why does the June 2017 Monaro 2016-2017 Budge profile list 'na' as the responses to key question such as *completion*, *estimated total cost* and *expenditure to date*

Specific Purpose School for Queanbeyan

19. On 20 June 2017a new School for Specific Purposes (SSP) to cater for students with disabilities in Queanbeyan was announced by the Member of Monaro. What information can be provided

to the parents with children with special needs deserve to advise them of the key elements and milestones of this project? For example:

- (a) Has the Department of Education identified potential land for this new school?
- (b) Does the Department of Education have an estimate of how many students this future could accommodate?
- (c) What is the expected date of construction and delivery time of this project?

Schools in the Campbelltown Electorate

- 20. How many schools in the Campbelltown electorate were identified in the 2017-2018 budget for an upgrade?
 - (a) if nil please explain why given current and future predicted capacity restraints
- 21. Please provide the justification for Oran Park Public School, recently opened in January 2014 receiving \$637,000 for upgrades?

Hunter Sports High School Redevelopment

- 22. In June 2014 the former Minister for Education The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP announced that the NSW Government would commit funding in the 2014-2015 year to completely overhaul this neglected school. The project was due to be complete in January 2017 but demolition work has only just commenced (in 2017). What has been the cause of the two year delay in the redevelopment of Hunter Sports High School and the \$20 million cost blowout?
 - (a) Why has the Government been unable to effectively manage this project and delivery in a timely manner?
 - (b) How can the Government justify the disruption this delay has caused to students, particularly those who are currently doing their HSC?
 - (c) Why is the Government not prioritising this Hunter Sports High School redevelopment, a school that educates students from Windale one of the most socio-economically disadvantaged suburbs in the State?

West Dapto Education Infrastructure

- 23. Over the next ten years, the West Dapto area is expected to accommodate 20,000 new dwellings with an expected 56,000 new residents. Can the Government advise as to why, to date, no land has been purchased on which to build new schools or educational infrastructure in the West Dapto area?

24. West Dapto is currently serviced by only one primary school and one high school. What is the Government actively doing to obtain land on which to build new schools or educational infrastructure on?

(a) If not, why not?

Schools in the Shellharbour Electorate

25. What specific plans exist to replace demountable classrooms with permanent structures in the Shellharbour electorate?

Construction of a new primary school at Cameron Park

26. With both local primary schools, Edgeworth Public School and Edgeworth Heights Public School being at or near capacity, when will a primary school be constructed on Department of Education owned vacant land purchased specifically for that purpose at Cameron Park?

(a) What percentage capacity of the existing schools will trigger planning to commence?

(b) What number and percentage of students attending Edgeworth Public School and Edgeworth Heights Public School reside in Cameron Park?

Capacity of Schools in Electorate of Cessnock

27. Is school capacity still calculated on permanent building capacity, excluding demountable classrooms?

(a) do individual Principals make the decision to accept or reject 'out of zone' students?

(b) What avenues of appeal are available to students rejected for 'out of zone' enrolments?

Schools in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney

28. What specific steps has the Department of Education taken to assess the capacity of existing schools to accommodate students for the next five and ten years taking account of projected population growth and the rights of parents to be able to send their child to a public school within a reasonable travelling distance?

29. What steps has the Department of Education taken to increase the availability of high school places at co-educational facilities?

New schools required in Maitland

30. Given the Maitland electorate population has grown 15.5% from 2011-16 (according to census data) and Government information shows up to a 94.3% increase in enrolments in Maitland

electorate schools since 2013, what plans does the government have to build a new high school and primary school in the Maitland electorate?

- (a) If no plans exist to build new schools then can the government explain how it will accommodate expected increased enrolments?
- (b) If plans to build new schools do exist has the government identified potential sites?
 - i. If not why not?
 - ii. If so where are those sites?

New school at Meadowbank TAFE site

- 31. In June 2017, the NSW Government announced a new Kindergarten to Year 12 to be built in Meadowbank (likely on the Meadowbank TAFE site). Where on the Meadowbank TAFE site will the school be built?
 - (a) Will the development of this new school require the use of existing TAFE NSW assets (i.e. will school move into a semi vacated TAFE)?
 - (b) When will the new school open?
 - (c) How much will construction of the new school cost?
- 32. When the school opens, will Meadowbank Public School still operate as a school, or will students be relocated into the new school?
 - (a) If relocated, what are plans for the existing Meadowbank Public School site?

New school at Jordan Springs

- 33. After many years there is an apparent commitment to build a new primary school at Jordan Springs. In what year and term will parents be able to send their children there?

Overcrowded Girraween Public School

- 34. Girraween Public School is overcrowded (116% of capacity) with in excess of 30 demountable classrooms on site. Enrolments have grown from 514 to 1150 students in a decade. What is the specific plan for Girraween Public School to relieve the pressure on this school community such that it is no longer overcapacity and has far fewer demountable classrooms?

Schools required to meet population growth in the Sydenham-Bankstown Corridor

- 35. The *2015 Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy – Social Infrastructure Study* noted that there would need to be 35 new primary schools and 11 new secondary schools to meet the needs of the expanded

population in the Sydenham-Bankstown Corridor. The 2017 version of that same report states that there will be an additional 1,828 additional primary school enrolments by 2036 and 1,061 additional secondary school enrolments.

- (a) What is the Minister's understanding of how many new schools or upgraded schools will be required in the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor, a corridor that will accommodate an additional 100,000 new residents by 2036?
 - i. please specify by upgraded existing school versus new schools
- (b) What is the plan to deliver these required upgrades or new schools?

Schools for Green Square population

- 36. In June 2017 the Department of Education announced that Alexandria Park Community School K-12 will also accommodate current and future students from Green Square as well as the original catchment area. What is the expected student numbers at that school once the upgrade is completed in 2022 and in 2027?
 - (a) Please explain how this upgraded school will be able to cope with its original intended enrolment zone students as well as students from Green Square?
- 37. Have there been any changes to the scope of the upgrade to Alexandria Park Community School in order to accommodate the inclusion of Green Square in the catchment area?
 - (a) If so, please indicate any time and cost impacts
 - (b) What is the current projected final cost for the completion of this project?

Air Cooling in NSW Public Schools

- 38. Given the record high temperatures experienced across NSW during the summer of 2016-17 and predicted for the upcoming 2017-2018 summer what specific steps has the Department of Education taken in 2016-2017 and in 2017-2018 to ensure that students and teachers across NSW will be able to teach and learn in comfortable physical conditions? Specifically:
 - (a) how many audits were conducted in schools?
 - (b) how many schools drew funding from the Minor Capital Works Program?:
 - i. what was the total funding provided to schools for the purpose of upgrading the air cooling capability of those schools in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
 - ii. identify specifically how the funds have been applied, by school receiving these funds e.g air conditioning, fans, blinds in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

- iii. what schools have been fitted with air cooling systems in 2017 and specify type of system(s)
39. The Department of Education's *Air cooling in schools* policy provides a differential level of potential support for NSW schools depending on the 'mean maximum January temperature' of the school. Please identify for 2016-2017, 2015-2016, 2014-2015 how many NSW schools:
- (a) had a mean maximum January temperature of 33 degrees Celsius or above:
- i. list schools by name and confirm whether each school currently has 'air cooling to all habitable spaces' (as per the definition of the policy)
- (b) had a mean maximum January temperature between 30 and 33 degrees Celsius:
- i. list schools by name and confirm whether each school currently has 'air cooling which targets the hottest spaces' (as per the definition of the policy)
40. What steps has the Department of Education taken to advise individual school principals of the scope of the *Air cooling in schools* policy and the school's potential eligibility for assistance under that policy?

School building sales

41. How many education properties (specifying schools) have been sold since the 30th of June 2017?
42. Property NSW has recently revealed a \$1billion pipeline of property sales to come across NSW. How many of them are schools?
43. Please confirm the correctness of the following regarding Department of Education properties. Where incorrect please provide correct information:

Financial Year	Properties Sold/Transferred	Amount
2016/2017	23	\$14, 928,200
2015/2016	29	\$68,549,000
2014/2015	10	\$2,729,000
2013/2014	9	\$2,309,273
2012/2013	21	\$5, 623,000
2011/2012	24	\$36,988,000
TOTALS	116	\$131,126,473

44. Please list any new schools the government open in 2017-2018?
45. Please list any new schools scheduled to be opened in the following years?
- (a) 2018-19?
 - (b) 2019-20?
 - (c) 2020-21?
46. How much new capital funding has been allocated for schools over the next five years?
- (a) What is the breakdown between new schools and upgrades (number of schools by year)?

New HSC English Curriculum

47. In February 2017 the NSW Government and NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) announced the implementation of a new HSC English Curriculum. Can the Minister explain the following:
- (a) Why a new senior English curriculum would be released without the essential accompanying curriculum documents necessary for planning, programming and implementing the syllabuses: that is, the *Prescribed Text List* was not released until several months after the release of the syllabuses in February.
 - (b) Why have the *Exam Specifications*, vital for all teachers and students not been released.
 - i. When will they be released?
48. Can the Minister confirm that important information about the HSC English curriculum was released to the Daily Telegraph on March 30, before it was released to the teaching profession?
49. Minister, we understand that there was a letter written to NESA, signed by hundreds of English educators and academics from Australia and across the world, national and international poets and authors, community members and others, protested the ‘dumbing down of the senior English curriculum’ and calling on NESA to withdraw the English syllabuses (as had been done with the inadequate senior Maths syllabuses) and take the time to ensure the new curriculum was one of quality and rigour. Has the Minister, read a copy of this letter?
- (a) If so, what action if any, did the Minister take to direct NESA to review and respond to the feedback?
 - (b) If so, what action if any, did the Minister take to direct NESA to make changes to its implementation plan?

School Suspension Data – GIPA-17-210

50. On August 11, 2017 the Department of Education Information Access department advised the Shadow Minister for Education Jihad Dib that the requested suspension data (for Semester 1, 2017) 'is not yet available' and therefore the GIPA request could not reasonably be met. Minister, why is the data not available?
- (a) When is suspension data (the returns) collected from schools during the year?
 - (b) What procedures does the Department of Education have in place to deal with schools that don't lodge their suspension data on time?
 - (c) Are there any schools that have not lodged their Semester 1 data yet?

Cleaners in Schools

51. The current Whole of Government Facilities Management (Maintenance and Cleaning) contracts (RFT ID 1000954) that are let by the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation are due to expire on 30 June 2018. The major client to the contract is the Department of Education with more than 50% of the sites covered and a vast majority of the contract value. What is the total cost to the Department of Education in FY 2017-18 for cleaning of government schools under the Whole of Government Facilities Management (Cleaning) contract?
- (a) cost of same in FY 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12?
 - (b) what are the forward estimates for the cost to the Department of Education for cleaning of government schools?
52. What is the Department's per student calculation method for cleaning in government schools?
- (a) Given the increase in student numbers, have the hours of cleaners been updated to reflect changes since the last contract?
53. What action will be taken by the Department of Education taken to ensure cleaners have continuity under the new whole of Government Facilities Management (Cleaning) Contract starting 1 July 2018?

Cost of Maintenance

54. What is the total cost to the Department of Education in FY 2017-18 for maintenance of government schools under the Whole of Government Facilities Management (Maintenance) contract?
- (a) cost of same in FY 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12?

- (b) what are the forward estimates for the cost to the Department of Education for the maintenance of government schools?

Staffing and Resources in Education Asset Management

55. What is the current financial year allocation to the Department of Education for staffing and resources in education asset management, given that the Department of Education is lead client to the Whole of Government Facilities Management Cleaning and Maintenance contract?

Compensation payments

56. In the financial year 2016-2017 what was the total cost to the Department of Education for the payment of compensation to bullied or abused NSW students and teachers suffering psychological distress? In addition, for the same year:
- (a) how many individual cases
 - i. categorised by students versus teachers
 - ii. categorised by reason, for example physical abuse or assault, psychological abuse
 - iii. highest individual compensation payout

NAPLAN Minimum Standards for the HSC

57. Minister, a NESA website document notes that in relation to the minimum literacy and numeracy standards '*an exemption policy will be developed and released by the end of 2017*'. Given the significant numbers of students with diagnosed learning difficulties in NSW public school why has this important exemption still not been released?
- (a) when will the policy be released?
58. According to Department of Education and NESA forecasts how many (total number and by percentage) current Year 9 students are expected :
- (a) to achieve the minimum standard by the end of year 10?
 - (b) to achieve the minimum standard by the end of year 12?
 - (c) to have not achieved the minimum standard by the end of Year 12? In regard to these students:
 - i. please confirm their eligibility to receive their HSC certificate at the completion
59. Please confirm at which level in the *Australian Core Skills framework* the online test pass benchmark. Is it set at level 3? If not please confirm at what level it is set

60. When the Minister publicly refers to ‘functional and/or basic literacy and numeracy’ how is this different to the agreed National Minimum Standards?
61. The online NAPLAN tests are described as ‘*short online tests*’. How much time are students allocated to complete the test?
 - (a) How many schools participating in the ‘online trial’ have indicated they have experienced problems with the allocation of time to complete the test
62. Please confirm that students who have not yet achieved the required minimum standard at the end of year 12 will have the chance to re-sit the test within a five year period. Regarding this opportunity:
 - (a) How many times a year can the test be taken?
 - (b) How will the testing be supervised?
 - (c) Where will testing take place?
 - (d) What support will be offered to former students?
63. Who will manage the ongoing completion by the approximate 70% of current Year 9 students (still attending school) who have failed to meet all of the standards, of the online tests? This includes scheduling and supervision?
64. A recent NSW Auditor-General’s report noted, amongst other things that in NSW schools ICT equipment is old and the “wireless networks are not keeping pace with modern demands”. It went further to note that older devices are less reliable and cannot run demanding applications. According to the report this ‘limits the number of teachers and students who can access online content on wireless networks at the same time’. Minister how will you ensure that the students completing the important online ‘catch up’ test, in order to qualify for the HSC won’t be thwarted by the online system they are forced to use?

Illawarra Schools maintenance backlog

65. What is the current total outstanding cost of the schools maintenance backlog for Illawarra schools?
66. What was the total outstanding cost of the school maintenance backlog in the Illawarra;
 - (a) In 2016-17?
 - (b) In 2015-16?
 - (c) In 2014-15?

67. What specific funding will the Minister allocate to schools in relation to maintenance in 2017-18 for:
- (a) Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts?
 - (b) Bulli High School?
 - (c) Smiths Hill High School?
 - (d) Oak Flats High School?
 - (e) Shoalhaven High School?
 - (f) Corrimal High School?
 - (g) Keira High School?
 - (h) Warrawong Public School?
 - (i) Figtree High School?
 - (j) Nowra East Public School?
68. How much funding will the Minister allocate to schools in relation to the maintenance backlog in 2017-18 for schools in the Illawarra?

Office Administration

69. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2016-17?
 - (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2017-18 based on current appointments?
70. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2016-17?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
71. 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 2016-17?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2016-17?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

72. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) What is the cost of this?
73. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
74. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
75. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2016-17?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
- i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?
76. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?
77. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2016-17?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
- i. Who were they gifted to?
78. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?
79. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
80. What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:
- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

81. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?

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

Hospitality

82. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

83. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

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 2016-17:

(a) The names of the firms utilised

(b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged

(c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company

(d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company

(e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company

(f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company

(g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

Media and Public Relations

85. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?

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. By how much has the number of media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?

89. By how much has the expenditure on media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?

90. 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 2016-17?

Facebook

91. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

92. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

Overseas Trips

93. 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?

94. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?

(b) Who paid for these trips?

Department/Agency Travel

95. What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

(a) Taxi hire

(b) Limousine/private car hire

(c) Hire car rental

(d) Ridesharing services

96. Do any senior executive service employees in your Departments/agencies have a driver that is paid for by the Departments/agencies? If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver and which senior executive service employees have a driver?

(a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?

Consulting

97. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?

- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
98. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:
- (a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (c) Acting training
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Department/Agency Staffing

99. What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?
- (a) How much was this number in 2011-12?
100. What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?
- (a) How much was this number in 2011-12?
101. What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?
- (a) How much was this number in 2011-12?
102. What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?
- (a) How much was this number in 2011-12?
103. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2016-17?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary

ii. Forced

(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

104. 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?

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

106. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?

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

107. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?

Smart Phone Accounts

108. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?

i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

109. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on Android?

i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

Websites Visited

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

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

Merchant fees

112. 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.

113. 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.
114. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?

Probity Auditor

115. 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.”

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Use of artificial intelligence

116. What current uses of artificial intelligence does the department undertake?

Note: Please include all uses of AI including uses for resource allocation and administrative support, big data analysis, replacement and assistance of experts and researchers, procedural matters, or summarising diverse data – for reference this might include:

- Chatbots for customer service or advice
- Customer management systems
- Scanning legal documents to find relevant case law
- Categorising and searching documents
- Directing petitions efficiently
- Translation
- Document drafting

117. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?
118. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?
119. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

120. Will the Department of Education support Ballina Coast High School's request to have ducted air conditioning as part of its design, considering average maximum temperatures are 25C and over for many months of the school year?
121. Why is NSW the only state in the Commonwealth not to have its own departmentally hired therapists?
122. How many schools have purchased the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (4th edition)?
 - (a) How many of these schools have the qualified staff to administer, analyse and report on the results of this assessment?
 - (b) Why would schools have to buy the assessment if they outsource the services to third parties?
 - (c) Shouldn't the third parties be responsible in sourcing their own resources?