



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-2018

Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health and Community Services

HEALTH, MEDICAL RESEARCH

Hearing: Wednesday 6 September 2017

Answers due by: Monday 2 October 2017

Budget Estimates Secretariat

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HEALTH

Questions from Ms Dawn Walker MLC

Midwifery

Under the Australian Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards, Local health Districts are required to carry out consumer engagement.

1. Is consumer engagement being undertaken Local Health Districts?
 - (a) Is it to the level that is required by the Australian Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards, in particular ‘Standard 2 - Partnering with Consumers’?
 - (b) How often is this engagement occurring?
 - (c) Is the feedback being taken on board and translated into services?
2. What consumer engagement has been undertaken for the New Northern Beaches Hospital in Sydney?
 - (a) Has there been any consumer engagement related to maternity services?
 - (b) There seems to be little clarity over what midwifery services will be offered at this new hospitals, in fact the information page of the website appears to have been removed. Can you explain why so little information is being given to the community about the maternity services at this hospital?
 - (c) In a Manly Daily article in February this year Minister, you said that you thought it was important that women have a choice when it comes to childbirth. Pursuant to this, will you ensure that the Mona Vale Hospital retains its midwife-led maternity services once the Northern Beaches Hospital opens?
 - i. When will the community know the future of this service?
 - ii. If it is not retained, what other choices will be available to expectant mothers in the Northern Beaches?

Earlier this year Tamworth Community Midwifery Service stopped accepting new mothers. This is another example of the continuity of care model that is recommended for the health and safety of mothers and babies.

3. Will this service be re-opening?
 - (a) When will it be re-opening?

4. What choice of care do expectant mothers in the area have while this service is closed?
5. Can you confirm that the community service going forward for mothers will operate in the same framework that the Community Midwife Practice did?
6. Do you expect to abruptly close other services like this in rural areas?

Community health and wellbeing

The community of Bulli have recently has a win for health, with the DA for a KFC in the town turned down by council last week. However, the community found when pushing against this development, they were not able to make submissions on the grounds of the impacts it would have on health.

7. We know that obesity is a significant health challenge we are facing, so why are communities not able to object to fast food developments like this KFC on these basis?
8. Would the Minister support changes that would allow communities to challenge developments on the basis of the adverse health effects they may cause?
9. What options are there to object to developments on health grounds?

Privatisation

In the past year, the Government has dropped the Public Private Partnerships plans for Goulburn, Wyong and Bowral Hospitals.

10. Why were the plans dropped?
 - (a) Have there been any financial ramifications as a result of these changes?
11. Will the PPP for Shellharbour and Maitland also be dropped?
12. Given the recent changes, does the Government plan to continue to pursue these public-private partnerships as policy going forward?
 - (a) If so, what will be the cost to the public of getting care at these PPP hospitals?
 - (b) Are the number of jobs for doctors, nurses and other medical professionals going to be affected by PPPs in the future?
13. In the past, the Government has had to buy back hospitals when the private partnership has failed. Has the Government factored the potential cost of having to buy back these hospitals into their budget plans?
 - (a) If not, where will the money come from when they have to be bought back?

Regarding the Public Private Partnership plans for Maitland Hospital:

14. Why has the Government chosen to restrict the tenders for the PPP for Maitland Hospital to not-for-profit providers?
15. Will the value of service for the Maitland PPP provided by the not-for-profit provider match the expected value of service that was outlined in the business case approved by cabinet?
16. What is the impact of restricting the number of hospital operators that can apply for these tenders?
17. Why has this restriction been applied to the tender for Maitland Hospital, but not for the Shellharbour Hospital Public Private Partnership?
 - (a) Can we expect either of these hospitals to be disadvantaged by this inconsistent approach?
 - (b) If so, why is the Government choosing to use the people of Maitland and the people of Shellharbour as guinea pigs in this healthcare experiment?

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Use of artificial intelligence

18. 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

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

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

Influenza

22. As of September 8, how many influenza outbreaks have occurred in NSW institutions?
- (a) How many of those were in aged care facilities;
 - (b) How many of those were in hospital wards;
 - (c) How many of those were in public schools;
 - (d) How many of those were in private schools;
 - (e) How many of those were in child care centres;
 - (f) How many of those were in institutions for people with disabilities; and
 - (g) How many of those were in other facilities?
23. As of September 8, how many deaths in NSW have been attributed to influenza in 2017?
24. Between January 1 and September 8, 2017, how many flu vaccinations occurred in NSW?
25. Has NSW Health conducted any modelling of the cost of influenza on the state's health system?
- (a) For 2017
 - (b) The State's emergency departments
26. Between January 1 and September 8, how many NSW Health staff have been vaccinated against the flu?
27. How many people work for NSW Health?
28. Has the NSW Government and/or NSW Health set up a working party/group to improve the flu season response in 2018?
- (a) If yes, what is its name?
 - (b) If yes, what departments/divisions are represented?
 - (c) What is its budget?
 - (d) When will its report or recommendations be provided to the NSW Government?

Heatwave

29. Has the NSW Government made any preparations for an expected hot 2017-18 summer and its impact on the elderly particularly in western Sydney?

- (a) Is there a working group or working party to respond to blackouts or brownouts and its impact on the community?
- 30. Has NSW Health undertaken any modelling or scoping on how this will impact on the elderly, children or people with a chronic disease especially in western Sydney and western NSW?
- 31. Has the Government given consideration to opening public spaces –like so-called cool rooms in the United States and Mildura in Victoria – in anticipation of heatwaves?

Randwick Hospital

- 32. What is the total cost of Prince of Wales re-development?
- 33. When will it be completed?
- 34. How much of the total budget will go to land acquisitions?
- 35. What is the timetable? Some have been told they have to be out by July 2018 and then others have been told by September 2018?
- 36. Do you know how many homes will be affected?

Converge International

- 37. What is the total budget allocated to the activities of Converge International in relation to the compulsory acquisitions for the Prince of Wales site?
- 38. Do Converge International get paid a flat rate or per resident?
- 39. Does Converge International get a success payment at the end when the residents are removed?
- 40. Will Yoga and meditation services through Converge International be provided to the residents?

M J Davis Realty Appraisals

- 41. How much is being paid to M J Davis Realty Appraisals to provide advice to the residents?
- 42. Is it per resident or per hour or per home?

Cosmetic surgery patients

- 43. How many people have died within the NSW health and hospital system due to complications from cosmetic surgery procedures in NSW
 - (a) 2017 (January 1, 2017 – September 8, 2017)
 - (b) 2016
 - (c) 2015

- (d) 2014
- (e) 2013
- (f) 2012

Fake medical practitioners

44. Since 1 January 2017, how many doctors have been investigated in regard to their qualifications in NSW?
- (a) What was the result of those investigations?
45. Since 1 January 2017, how many nurses and midwives have been investigated in regard to their qualifications in NSW?
- (a) What was the result of those investigations?

Section 122 investigations

46. How many Section 122 inquiries were conducted in :
- (a) 2017 (January 1, 2017 – September 8, 2017)
 - (b) 2016
 - (c) 2015
 - (d) 2014
 - (e) 2013
 - (f) 2012
 - (g) 2011

Chemotherapy scandal

47. How many of the recommendations of the Section 122 “Off-protocol prescribing of chemotherapy for head and neck cancers” inquiry have been implemented or accepted?
48. How many of the recommendations of the Section 122 “Off-protocol prescribing of chemotherapy for head and neck cancers” inquiry have not been fully implemented?

Knee replacements

49. How many knee replacements were conducted within the NSW health and hospital system in – and what was the length of wait for the procedure:
- (a) January 1 – September 8, 2017:

- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2015;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2013;
- (f) 2012; and
- (g) 2011.

Total hip replacements

50. How many hip replacements were conducted within the NSW health and hospital system in – and what was the length of wait for the procedure:

- (a) January 1 – September 8, 2017:
- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2015;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2013;
- (f) 2012; and
- (g) 2011.

Cataract removal

51. How many cataract removals were conducted within the NSW health and hospital system in – and what was the length of wait for the procedure:

- (a) January 1 – September 8, 2017:
- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2015;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2013;
- (f) 2012; and
- (g) 2011.

Gall bladder removal

52. How many gall bladder removals were conducted within the NSW health and hospital system in – and what was the length of wait for the procedure:
- (a) January 1 – September 8, 2017:
 - (b) 2016;
 - (c) 2015;
 - (d) 2014;
 - (e) 2013;
 - (f) 2012; and
 - (g) 2011.

Hospital Privatisation

53. How many expressions of interest were received for each of the proposed Private-Public Privatisation for;
- (a) Bowral Hospital,
 - (b) Goulburn Base Hospital,
 - (c) Shellharbour Hospital,
 - (d) Maitland hospital, and
 - (e) Wyong Hospital?
54. Can you rule out privatising elements of, or the entire hospital at:
- (a) Bega,
 - (b) Nepean,
 - (c) Lismore,
 - (d) Manning,
 - (e) Queanbeyan,
 - (f) Muswellbrook,
 - (g) Randwick,
 - (h) Goulburn,

- (i) St George,
- (j) Liverpool,
- (k) Shellharbour,
- (l) Sutherland, or
- (m) Westmead.

Sentinel events

- 55. What is a Sentinel event?
- 56. How many Sentinel events occurred in NSW between 1 January 2017 and September 8, 2017?
- 57. How many Sentinel events were investigated in 2016?
- 58. How much compensation has the government paid for sentinel events in;
 - (a) 2017 (January 1, 2017 – September 8, 2017)
 - (b) 2016
 - (c) 2015
 - (d) 2014
 - (e) 2013
 - (f) 2012

Sugar Tax

- 59. How many local health districts have banned the sale of sugar sweetened drinks in health and hospital facilities?

Ambulance Privatisation

- 60. As of September 8, how many private companies provide patient transfer services in NSW – under the Health Services Amendment (Ambulance Services) Act?
- 61. How many patients have been transferred by private operator between 1 January – September 8, 2017?
 - (a) 2016
 - (b) 2015

Codeine changes

62. Given that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) ruled on 20 December 2016 that after February 1, 2018, all painkillers containing codeine such as Nurofen Plus, Codral Original Cold and Flu, and Mersyndol will require a prescription from a GP or an emergency department, what advice has NSW Health given you on the plan?
63. Have you made any representations to your Federal counterpart?
64. Has NSW Health done any modelling on how this will impact on NSW emergency departments – especially in areas where there is difficulty in accessing after hours GPs or bulk-billing GPs?

Asset Sales

65. Can you confirm that in the Financial Year 2011/12 Health cluster sold 25 properties at a value of \$15.16M?
66. Can you confirm that in the Financial Year 2012/13 Health cluster sold 16 properties at a value of \$19.63M?
67. Can you confirm that in the Financial Year 2013/14 Health cluster sold 12 properties at a value of \$94.44M?
68. Can you confirm that in the Financial Year 2014/15 Health cluster sold 17 properties at a value of \$5.05M?
69. Can you confirm that in the Financial Year 2015/16 Health cluster sold 10 properties at a value of \$16.03M?
70. How many properties were sold by the Health cluster in the Financial Year 2016/17 and what the total value of those sales?
71. For each of the Financial Years, 11/12 through to 16/17 inclusive, can you provide the breakdown, within the Health cluster, as to which specific departments/agencies sold what volume of properties and at what value, for each of the financial years?
72. For each of the Financial Years, 11/12 through to 16/17 inclusive, what portion, as a percentage or dollar value, of the properties sold went back into the Budgets within the Health cluster, and what portion went into the Restart NSW fund?
73. Are you able to provide a breakdown by specific department/agency?
74. Since July 1, 2011, with regard to the total sales of assets and properties across the combined Health Cluster, are you able to provide a breakdown of the total number and total value of assets sold by Electorate?

Linear Accelerators at Wollongong Hospital

75. Could the Minister please provide information relating to Wollongong Hospital's Linear Accelerators;
- (a) How many Linear Accelerators does Wollongong Hospital currently have?
 - (b) Of these Linear Accelerators how many are in operating order?
 - (c) How many Linear Accelerators are currently being used by Wollongong Hospital?
 - (d) If the hospital is not using all the Linear Accelerators, can the Minister please outline the reasons why Wollongong Hospital is not using all of them?
 - (e) What is the cost of one Linear Accelerator?
76. In relation to radiation treatment at Wollongong Hospital;
- (a) What is the average waiting period for a new patient to receive radiation treatment, with a Linear Accelerator at Wollongong Hospital?
 - (b) Can the Minister explain the how many Linear Accelerators can be in operation at any given time treat patients at Wollongong Hospital?
 - (c) Please explain the number of trained staff at Wollongong Hospital who is fully skilled to operate the Linear Accelerators?
 - (d) Can the Minister explain if there is a shortage of trained Linear Accelerator staff at Wollongong Hospital?

Office Administration

77. 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?
78. 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?
79. 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?
80. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) What is the cost of this?
81. 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?
82. 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?
83. 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?
84. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?
85. 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?
86. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?
87. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
88. 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

89. 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

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

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

Labour Hire Firms

92. 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

93. 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?

94. 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?

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

96. 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?
97. 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?
98. 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

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

Overseas Trips

101. 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?
102. 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

103. 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
104. 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

105. 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?

106. 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

107. 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?

108. 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?

109. 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?

110. 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?

111. 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?
112. 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?
113. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
114. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?
115. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?

Smart Phone Accounts

116. 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?
117. 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

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

Merchant fees

120. 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.
121. 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.
122. 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

123. 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.”

MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Cardiovascular research

129. Does NSW Health have plans to increase the number of PhD Scholarship Programs in cardiovascular research?

Westmead Precinct

130. Has the Minister for Health discussed the promotion of the Westmead Medical Precinct with the Planning Minister?

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(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

160. 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

161. 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?

162. 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?

163. 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?
164. 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?
165. 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?
166. 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?
167. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
168. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?
- i. What were the reason/s for each dismissal?
169. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?

Smart Phone Accounts

170. 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?
171. 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

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

Merchant fees

174. 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.
175. 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.
176. 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

177. 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.”