

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-2018
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Use of artificial intelligence

1. 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**

As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience.

2. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?

As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience.

3. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?

As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience

4. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience

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

NSW Preschools

5. How many preschools were operating in NSW as of:

(a) 1 July 2016

(b) 1 July 2017

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

(a) 770

(b) 769

6. How many Government run preschools were operating in NSW as of:

(a) 1 July 2016

(b) 1 July 2017

According to the Centre for Education Statistics & Evaluation, NSW Department of Education:

(a) 100

(b) 100

7. How many not-for-profit community preschools were operating in NSW as of:

(a) 1 July 2016

(b) 1 July 2017

According to the Early Childhood Contract Management System funding allocation snapshot there were:

(a) 687

(b) 677

8. How many preschools closed in NSW during:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

(a) 13

(b) 2 (1 January 2017 to 31 August 2017)

9. How many preschools converted to become Long Day Care Centres in:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

The Department of Education does not hold this information.

Ministerial visits

10. How many preschools has the Minister personally visited in:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

My diary is publically available

- 11. How many Long Day Care Centres has the Minister personally visited in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

My diary is publically available

- 12. How many family day care has the Minister personally visited in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

My diary is publically available

- 13. How many Outside of School Hours has the Minister personally visited in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

My diary is publically available

Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate

- 14. How many full time equivalent staff were employed in the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

(a) 176.3 FTE

(b) 204.8 FTE as at 8 September 2017

- 15. How many staff in total were employed in the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

(a) 203

(b) 225 as at 8 September 2017

- 16. How many staff employed by the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate are employed in a compliance or inspection role:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

Employees of the Early Childhood Education Directorate are not categorised in this way, therefore the information is not available.

- 17. How many staff employed by the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate are employed in a accountancy and funding role:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

Employees of the Early Childhood Education Directorate are not categorised in this way, therefore the information is not available.

- 18. How many staff employed by the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate are employed in a policy development role:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

Employees of the Early Childhood Education Directorate are not categorised in this way, therefore the information is not available.

- 19. How many staff employed by the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate are employed in an administration role:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

Employees of the Early Childhood Education Directorate are not categorised in this way, therefore the information is not available.

- 20. How many staff positions within the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate were vacant as of:**
(a) 1 July 2016
(b) 1 July 2017

- (a) 45
(b) 42

- 21. How many staff resigned from their positions with the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate during:**
(a) 2016-17
(b) 2017-18 (to date)

- (a) 20
(b) 1 as at 8 September 2017

- 22. How many staff employed by the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate were on workers compensation leave during:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

- (a) 2 in 2016
(b) 0 in 2017 to date

- 23. How many hours of leave of staff employed by the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate was not back filled in:**

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017 (to date)

The department's systems do not allow for this information to be collected.

- 24. What was the total budget of the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate in:**
- (a) 2016-17
 - (b) 2017-18 (to date)

The operational expenses budget allocation at the commencement of each financial year is as follows:

- (a) \$34.1 million
- (b) \$36.0 million

- 25. How much has the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate spent on consultants in:**
- (a) 2016
 - (b) 2017 (to date)

I refer the Member to the Annual Report for the Department of Education available on the department's website.

- 26. Which early childhood consultant were engaged by the Department or by the Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate in:**
- (a) 2016
 - (b) 2017 (to date)

I refer the Member to the Annual Report for the Department of Education available on the department's website.

- 27. How much has the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate spent on catering in:**
- (a) 2016
 - (b) 2017 (to date)

Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

- 28. How much has the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate spent on travel in:**
- (a) 2016
 - (b) 2017 (to date)

Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

- 29. How much has the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate spent on mobile phones and mobile phone credit in:**
- (a) 2016
 - (b) 2017 (to date)

Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

- 30. How much has the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate spent on media monitoring in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

Media Monitoring is purchased centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Start Strong

- 31. How many preschool services received less funding under Start Strong in 2017 than under the former preschool funding model?**
(a) Which services received less funding under Start Strong?
(b) What action is the Department taking to ensure these services remain viable?
(c) How many services are receiving business support?
i. For how long have these services been receiving business support?
ii. Who is delivering the business support?

- (a) Funding allocations for community preschools for the 2017-2018 financial year will be calculated based on the data submitted by the service provider in the Annual Community Preschool Census in August 2017. This data is not yet available.
- (b) Under Start Strong, per-child base funding rates have increased across all socio-economic bands. These rates start at \$4,250 and increase to \$6,600 for services in the most disadvantaged areas. Children aged three or over from Aboriginal and low income families receive the maximum base funding rate of \$6,600 regardless of socio-economic band.

The Start Strong Service Safety Net, guaranteeing a minimum funding amount of \$132,000, equivalent to 20 enrolments, has been introduced for eligible regional services.

The Start Strong Sector Support Program provides the business support for services to make the transition to deliver 600 hours of preschool in the year before school.

- (c) All community preschools in NSW have access to business support.
- i. Business support has been available to all preschools since the announcement of the Start Strong funding model.
- ii. The NSW Department of Education, Community Connections Solutions Australia and Community Early Learning Australia.

- 32. Since the introduction of the Start Strong funding model, how many preschools have opted to not increase their hours of operation?**

Service providers submitted data regarding community preschool operating hours in the Annual Community Preschool Census in August 2017. This data is not yet available.

Family Day Care

33. How many family day care centres were inspected by the Department in:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

(a) 256

(b) 288 (to 31 August 2017)

34. How many staff were authorised to conduct inspections of family day care centres by the Department in:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

(a) 96

(b) 108

35. How many applications to operate family day care centres were submitted in:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

(a) 151

(b) 35 (to 31 August 2017)

36. How many applications to operate family day care centres were approved by the Department in:

(a) 2016

(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

(a) 29

(b) 3 (to 31 August 2017)

37. Of the 124 family day care centres which reportedly had their registration cancelled by the Department:

(a) What is the total number of educators who were employed by those providers at the time of their registration being cancelled

(b) What is the total number of students who were enrolled by those providers at the time of their registration being cancelled

The Australian Government holds all data on family day care educators and students.

Telegraph Point Childcare service

38. How many individuals contacted the Minister's office regarding the impending closure of the Telegraph Point Childcare Service?

My office regularly receives correspondence on a range of issues, including Telegraph Point.

39. When was the Minister first informed of the potential closure of the Telegraph Point Childcare Service?

As Minister I meet frequently with each of my portfolio agencies to discuss issues affecting services within my remit.

40. What action did the Minister take when informed of the potential closure of the Telegraph Point Childcare Service?

As Minister I meet frequently with each of my portfolio agencies to discuss issues affecting services within my remit.

41. What action has the Minister taken since the closure of the Telegraph Point Childcare Service?

As Minister I meet frequently with each of my portfolio agencies to discuss issues affecting services within my remit.

42. Has the Minister met with parents who used the Telegraph Point Childcare Service?

My diary is publically available.

43. Has the Department issued a tender for the operation of a new childcare service at Telegraph Point?

No. Documentation is currently being prepared to facilitate the tender of this service.

As the building in question is owned by a third—party the documentation process including legal review has taken longer than is standard practice.

44. When does the Department expect a new childcare service at Telegraph Point to commence operating?

The department anticipates a new service will be operational in 2018 subject to a successful tender process and after the successful tenderer obtains the necessary certification/licensing.

Outside of School Hours Care

45. How many Outside of School Hours Care centres are operating in NSW in:
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

- (a) 1,312
- (b) 1,326 (as at 31 August 2017)

- 46. How many Outside of School Hours Care providers are there in NSW**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

- (a) 645
- (b) 636 (as at 31 August 2017)

- 47. How many NSW Outside of School Hours Care providers are not for profit organisations?**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

- (a) 434
- (b) 426 (as at 31 August 2017)

- 48. How many NSW Outside of School Hours Care providers are for profit organisations?**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

- (a) 211
- (b) 210 (as at 31 August 2017)

- 49. How many NSW Outside of School Hours Care centres are run by parent management committees?**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

The National Quality Agenda IT System does not hold this information.

- 50. How many NSW Outside of School Hours Care centres on NSW public school grounds have changed from not for profit providers to for profit providers in:**
(a) 2016
(b) 2017 (to date)

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

- 51. How many applications have been received under round 3 of the Before and After School Care Grants program to date?**

As at 6 September 2017, 47 applications have been received under phase 3 of the Before and After School Care Fund.

52. How many applications received under round 3 of the Before and After School Care Grants program have been successful?

As at 6 September 2017, three applications have been approved for a grant under phase 3 of the Before and After School Care Fund. The remaining applications are being supported to meet eligibility criteria for a grant under the Fund.

53. What is the total funding provided to date through round 3 of the Before and After School Care Grants program?

As at 6 September 2017, \$90,000 has been provided for grants under phase 3 of the Before and After School Care Fund.

54. How many places have been created to date through round 3 of the Before and After School Care Grants program?

As at 6 September 2017, 1,400 before and after school care sessions have been made available through the creation of 280 before and after school care places under phase 3 of the Before and After School Care Fund.

55. What is the total funding provided to successful applicants through the Before and After School Care Grants program since 2015?

As at 6 September 2017, a total of \$5,350,088 has been provided to successful applicants under the Before and After School Care Fund.

56. How many places have been created by successful applicants through the Before and After School Care Grants program since 2015?

As at 6 September 2017, 69,045 before and after school care sessions have been made available through the creation of 13,809 before and after school care places.

Office Administration

57. 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?

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website. Refer to: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

58. 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?

There were 240 smart phones allocated across the Ministerial Offices in 2016-17. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$269,644, a 53.4% 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.

59. 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?

There were 139 iPads in use across the Ministers' IT network in 2016-17. 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.

60. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

(a) What is the cost of this?

No.

61. 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?

Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.

62. 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?

Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.

63. 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?

The Minister's office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

64. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?

Expenditure on stationery in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$146,596. This includes the cost of printed stationery (business cards and letterheads).

65. 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?

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

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

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

No.

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

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

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2016-17 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

68. 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

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$82,771, down from \$99,463 last year. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.

69. 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?

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$6,921 in 2016-17, down from \$28,706 last year. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$281,567.

Hospitality

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

Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$32,021 in 2016-17- which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.

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

Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

Labour Hire Firms

72. 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

The Education 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

73. 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?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

74. 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?

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

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

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.

76. 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?

I am advised that this information is available on the DPC website at:
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

- 77. 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?**

I am advised that this information is available on the DPC website at:
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

- 78. 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?

No.

Facebook

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

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

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

Where appropriate, social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication.

Overseas Trips

- 81. 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?

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

- 82. 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?

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

Department/Agency Travel

- 83. 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

All travel in 2015-16 was accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07.

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 84. 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?

No

Consulting

- 85. 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?

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

- 86. 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

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

Department/Agency Staffing

- 87. 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?

Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of the Education Cluster.

- 88. 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?

Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of the Education Cluster.

89. 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?

Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.

90. 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?

Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.

91. 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?

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2016/17 are anticipated to be in the order of 1,222, totalling 12,999 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.

92. 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?

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2016/17 are anticipated to be in the order of 1,222, totalling 12,999 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.

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

No

- 94. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?**
(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2016/17 are anticipated to be in the order of 1,222, totalling 12,999 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.

- 95. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?**

Stationary expenses are accounted for in agencies recurrent budgets.

Smart Phone Accounts

- 96. 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?

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

- 97. 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?

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

Websites Visited

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

The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

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

The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

Merchant fees

100. 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.

The Department of Education is exempt from the requirement to recoup merchant interchange fees. Detail on merchant interchange fees is not held centrally for the Education cluster.

101. 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.

The Department of Education is exempt from the requirement to recoup merchant interchange fees. Detail on merchant interchange fees is not held centrally for the Education cluster.

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

The Department of Education is exempt from the requirement to recoup merchant interchange fees. Detail on merchant interchange fees is not held centrally for the Education cluster.

Probity Auditor

103. 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.

In accordance with the NSW Procurement Board's Direction (PBD-2013-05), DPC has internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in its procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule. The Department's Annual Report includes all consultancies including those involving probity advisors valued more than \$50,000.

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

Family Day Care

104. Of the 124 family day care providers in NSW that shut between June 2016 and June 2017 (see: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-23/nsw-family-daycare-victoria-subsidies-childcare-at-home/8833222>):

- (a) How many voluntarily closed, how many had licences suspended and how many had licences cancelled?**
- (b) How many of these services recommenced operations?**
- (c) What were the reasons for the licence cancellations and licence suspensions (please include any categories under which a cancellation or suspension was actioned and the number of services impacted)**
- (d) For the licences cancelled, how many educators were operating under these providers?**

According to the National Quality Agenda IT System:

- a) Voluntarily closed Family Day Care: 18
Family Day Care with their licences suspended: 12
Family Day Care with their licences cancelled: 108
- b) One service recommenced operations.
- c) Family Day Care services in NSW have been closed for a number of reasons. It would be an unreasonable use of resources to review each individual cancellation.
- d) This information is held by the Australian Government.

105. For the 296 family day care providers currently in operation in NSW (number based on answer in hearing), how many educators does this represent?

This information is held by the Australian Government.

106. How many children are currently registered in family day care services in NSW?

This information is held by the Australian Government.

107. How much money was directed by the NSW Government to family day care in the last financial year?

Nil.

108. How much money was directed by the Federal Government to family day care services in NSW in the last financial year?

This information is held by the Australian Government.

National Partnership Agreement

109. Under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA), what is the breakdown of spending that has been spent to date or is allocated for each of the sub-elements listed under project elements 1 and 2 of the NSW Implementation Plan for the period 1 Jan 2016 to 21 Dec 2017?

(a) Project element 1:

- i. The Preschool Funding Model
- ii. Community Preschools Outreach Grants programme
- iii. Community Preschool 600 Hours Incentive Scheme
- iv. Grants to Long Day Care
- v. Local Partnerships (indigenous and low income families)
- vi. Preschool Disability Support Program
- vii. Preschools for Sustainable Communities

(b) Project element 2:

- i. Affordability for parents
- ii. Infrastructure
- iii. Data collection
- iv. Qualified early childhood workforce
- v. Operational Support Program
- vi. Transition to school

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

110. What is the total amount of grants paid under the NPA since the beginning of the current agreement?

Given the number of services receiving funding, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

111. For any grants paid as part of funding under the NPA since the beginning of the current agreement, please list the:

- (a) Receiver of the grant**
- (b) The date the grant was made**
- (c) The sub element of the NPA under which the grant was made**
- (d) The amount of the grant**
- (e) The local government area**

Given the number of services receiving funding, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

112. Under the Grants to Long Day Care (LDC) centres project sub-element, since the beginning of the current agreement, what has been the break-down of grants made to:

- (a) Government (state or local) run LDC centres**
- (b) Non-profit LDC centres**
- (c) For profit LDC centres**

Given the number of services receiving funding, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

Breakdown of early childhood facilities in NSW

113. How many of the following centres/services are currently operating in NSW:

- (a) Government run preschools**
- (b) Community preschools**
- (c) Non-profit long day care centre**
- (d) For profit long day care centre**
- (e) Mobile preschool serve**
- (f) Any other services delivering preschool in NSW**

- (a) 100**
- (b) 699**
- (c) 697**
- (d) 1,895**
- (e) 38**
- (f) 68**

Data source: The National Quality Agenda IT System snapshot and the Early Childhood Contract Management System snapshot as at 30 June 2017

114. What is the cap on the number of educators that can be employed in a centre for each service type as listed in the above question?

There is no cap on the number of educators that can be employed in a centre for the service types listed.

115. What reporting requirements exist in regards to whether a preschool program is led by a teacher with tertiary qualifications?

- (a) Does this occur on a daily basis?**
- (b) What guarantees exist for parents that their child is being taught by a tertiary qualified teacher?**

The National Regulations require the approved provider of a centre-based service to keep a record of the children's access to an early childhood teacher.

a) Yes

b) In NSW, early childhood teachers working in an approved early childhood service are accredited with the NSW Education Standards Authority.

All centre-based services providing services to preschool age children operating under the National Quality Framework are required to have an early childhood teacher. The number of hours that a service is required to have an early childhood teacher depends on the number of approved places for the service.

116. Noting that the Commonwealth holds enrolment records, does the NSW Government have access to these records? If so, please provide enrolment records for the last financial year for:

- (a) Government run preschools**
- (b) Community preschools**
- (c) Non-profit long day care centre**
- (d) For profit long day care centre**
- (e) Mobile preschool serve**
- (f) Any other services delivering preschool in NSW**

An enrolment record belongs to each individual child. Under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW), the NSW Government cannot release personal information.

117. Does NSW hold attendance records? If so, please provide attendance records for the last financial year for:

- (a) Government run preschools**
- (b) Community preschools**
- (c) Non-profit long day care centre**
- (d) For profit long day care centre**
- (e) Mobile preschool serve**
- (f) Any other services delivering preschool in NSW**

An attendance record belongs to each individual child. Under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW), the NSW Government cannot release personal information.

- 118. Considering the disparity between enrolment and attendance figures seen in Australian Bureau of Statistics data (2016), particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, what accountability programs are in place to ensure providers are not subsidised for children not attending preschool?**

All Approved Funded Providers receiving NSW Government funding for community preschools are required to complete the Early Childhood Education Annual Community Preschool Census each year as part of their Early Childhood Education Funding Agreement.

The Department of Education may conduct audits in relation to the Approved Funded Provider to determine if the Approved Funded Provider is satisfying its obligations under the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Pay rates for early childhood educators in NSW

- 119. What is the current rate of pay for a tertiary qualified early childhood educator working in NSW Government run preschools?**

Pay rates for tertiary qualified teachers in NSW Government Schools are in accordance with Schedule 1A of the *Crown Employees (Teachers in Schools and Related Employees) Salaries and Conditions Award 2017*. This includes tertiary qualified teachers in NSW Government preschools.

- 120. What is the award rate for a tertiary qualified early childhood educator delivering a preschool program in a non-profit or for-profit long day care centre in NSW?**

This information is published by the Australian Government on the Fair Work Ombudsman website.

- 121. What is the award rate for a tertiary qualified early childhood educator working in a community preschool in NSW?**

This information is published by the Australian Government on the Fair Work Ombudsman website.

Preschool Fees and Start Strong

- 122. In regards to the Government's public statement that funding as part of the Start Strong program would deliver fee reductions of up to 30%, how is the Government monitoring fee changes?**

The Department of Education monitors fees using the data collected through the Annual Community Preschool Census.

- 123. In regards to the \$85m allocated under the Start Strong program for community preschools:**

- (a) How are allocation decisions being made?**
- (b) In regards to any grants made to date under this funding, please list:**
 - i. The Receiver of the grant**

- ii. The date the grant was made
- iii. The amount of the grant
- iv. The local government area

- (a) This information is available on the Department of Education's website.
- (b) Given the number of preschools receiving Start Strong funding, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

124. In regards to the \$30m allocated under the Start Strong program for support for children in long day care centres:

- (a) What types of services, programs or infrastructure is being funded?
- (b) How are allocation decisions being made?
- (c) In regards to any grants made to date under this funding, please list:
 - i. The Receiver of the grant
 - ii. The date the grant was made
 - iii. The amount of the grant
 - iv. The local government area

- (a) This information is available on the Department of Education's website.
- (b) This information is available on the Department of Education's website.
- (c) Given the number of long day care centres, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

125. In regards to the statement in the hearing that average fees for community preschools in NSW are about \$35 a day, what is the average fee for a long day care centre?

The NSW Government does not regulate or collect information on long day care service fees.

126. For long day care centres, what is the percentage of funding that is passed to parents for fee reduction?

The Australian Government has responsibility for supporting families to access long day care services and for the administration of payments to services and parents through the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate.

Early childhood education research

127. In regards to the research initiative with the University of Wollongong as mentioned by Ms Loble in the hearing, will a report be produced from this initiative and be made publicly available? When is this expected to be finalised?

The project concludes in the near future and a report will be made public.

128. In regards to the August census results mentioned by Ms Mitchell, will the results of this be made publicly available? If so, when?

The data collected via the Annual Community Preschool Census is submitted to the Australian Bureau of Statistics each year, and informs the Preschool Education

Australia collection. Aggregated results from the NSW census data are made publicly available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

129. Has the Government engaged in any research into the long-term social and economic benefits of early childhood education?

Yes.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Use of artificial intelligence

130. 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

See answer to question 1.

131. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?

See answer to question 2.

132. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?

See answer to question 3.

133. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

See answer to question 4.

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

Aboriginal Languages

134. What is the current status of promised legislation for Aboriginal Languages in NSW?

The Bill is on track to be introduced into Parliament shortly.

Aboriginal Land Claims

135. What is the current outstanding figure for Aboriginal land claims in NSW?

- (a) How many claims were approved in 2016/17?**
- (b) How many, if any, Aboriginal Land Claims were refused by the Registrar in 2015/16?**
- (c) What strategies are the Department of Aboriginal Affairs using to reduce the number of outstanding Land Claims?**
- (d) How many Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) are trialling Aboriginal Land Agreements?**
 - i. How were these trial areas chosen?**
 - ii. Is there a process for other LALCs to participate?**
 - iii. How many agreements have been signed off?**
 - iv. Has there been a target set for ALAs approved in the next 12 months?**
- (e) Has there been a formal Land Claim lodged on the area known as the Butterfly Cave in the Hunter?**

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Lands and Forestry and Minister for Racing.

Economic Development

136. What involvement does your Department have in supporting Aboriginal community negotiations with Government Department economic development decisions?

- (a) How many Government projects involving Aboriginal Land have been negotiated since OCHRE was implemented?**
- (b) How many Government tenders involving Aboriginal companies or entities have been successful since OCHRE was implemented?**

Aboriginal Affairs has a role in supporting Aboriginal communities to come to the table to negotiate with government departments about their economic development.

Through Local Decision Making, Aboriginal Affairs is currently working with seven regional alliances to strengthen their capacity to negotiate Accords (Agreements) with the NSW Government on their service delivery priorities.

An Accord between the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and the NSW Government was signed in 2015. Accord negotiations are also currently underway with the Three Rivers Regional Assembly (TRRA) and the Illawarra Wingecarribee Alliance Aboriginal Corporation (IWAAC) and are expected to be signed in 2017/18.

Each of these regional alliances have identified economic development as a priority for negotiation with the NSW Government.

Aboriginal Affairs is also currently trialling the negotiation of Regional Industry Based Agreements with the TRRA and the IWAAC as a part of Local Decision Making Accord negotiations.

It should be acknowledged that Aboriginal Affairs is not responsible for leading negotiations on economic development on behalf of the NSW Government as a part of Local Decision Making. This role sits with relevant line agencies including the NSW Department for Finance and Services and the NSW Department of Industry.

Aboriginal Affairs has also supported negotiations between Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council and the NSW Government land management agencies under a Solution Brokerage arrangement.

- (a) There are no initiatives under OCHRE that would ordinarily require negotiations concerning Aboriginal land.
- (b) This question should be directed to the Minister for Finance and Services.

Justice Reinvestment

137. Is your Department currently funding any research into Justice Reinvestment programs?

No. This is a matter for the Department of Justice.

138. Does your Department collect data on Aboriginal Suicide rates in the prison system?

No. This is a matter for the Department of Justice and Department of Correctional Services.

Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE)

139. How much from the Aboriginal Affairs budget in 2016/17 is allocated to the OCHRE program?

- (a) Is any of this funding allocated for the Deputy Ombudsman for Aboriginal Programs?
 - i. How much?
 - ii. How many FTE staff are allocated to specifically support the Deputy Ombudsman for Aboriginal Programs?
- (b) How much of this funding is allocated for Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests?
- (c) How much of this funding is allocated for the negotiation and monitoring of Local Decision Making accords?
- (d) How much of this funding is allocated for the Opportunity Hubs Program?
- (e) How much of this funding is allocated to the following principles outlined in the OCHRE plan:
 - i. Connected communities?
 - ii. Strong accountability reforms?
 - iii. Language and cultural development?
 - iv. Local Decision making?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

140. What is the total allocation for Aboriginal Language and Cultural Nests including contributions made by departments other than Education in 2015/16?

- (a) What is the total allocation for each of the following language nests;
 - i. North West Wiradjuri?
 - ii. Gumbaynggirr?
 - iii. Bundjalung?
 - iv. Paakantji/Baakanji?
 - v. Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuawaalayaay?
- (b) As at 31/7/17 how many FTE Aboriginal language tutors have been engaged?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

(a) Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

(b) As at 31/7/17 there were 55 Aboriginal language tutors. The department does not collect data on the FTE of Aboriginal language tutors.

141. Has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Vocational Training and Employment Centre been signed as promised?

- (a) If not, when will it be finalised?
- (b) If yes, where is it published?

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business.

142. What is the total FTE staffing allocation for the Opportunity Hubs program?

- (a) How many FTE staff are employed at each of the following Opportunity Hubs;
 - i. Upper Hunter?
 - ii. Dubbo?
 - iii. Campbelltown?
 - iv. Tamworth?

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business.

143. Has the NSW Aboriginal Economic Development Framework (AEDF) been completed?

- (a) If not, when is it expected to be completed?
- (b) If yes, how many formal Industry Based Agreements (IBAs) were signed in 2015/16?
 - i. With whom were each of these agreements signed?
- (c) How many IBAs are expected to be signed in 2016/17?
- (d) Have plans to prioritise procurement from Aboriginal suppliers resulted in any formal directives or memorandums?
 - i. Is information about procurement from Aboriginal suppliers published publically?
 - A. If yes, where?

The Aboriginal Economic Prosperity Framework was released in December 2016 as *Growing NSW's First Economy*.

- (a) The Aboriginal Economic Prosperity Framework was released in December 2016 as *Growing NSW's First Economy*
- (b) No IBAs were signed in the 2015/16 financial year.
- (c) One IBA was signed in 2016/17 with the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.
- (d) This question should be directed to the Minister for Finance and Services.
 - i. This question should be directed to the Minister for Finance and Services.

144. How much funding is allocated for training and informing NSW public servants about the Local Decision Making accord process in 2016/17?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

145. The OCHRE Plan indicates that the NSW Government will establish an independent Aboriginal Council, has this been completed?

- (a) When did the council last meet?
- (b) Who are the council members?
- (c) What are the functions of this council?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

146. During 2015/16 did other state agencies allocate or transfer funding to the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to help achieve the OCHRE principles?

- (a) If yes, how much did the following agencies provide to OCHRE;
 - i. The NSW Ministry of Health?
 - ii. The Department of Education?
 - iii. The Department of Justice?
 - iv. Multicultural NSW?
 - v. The NSW Office of Sport?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

Deaths in Institutions

147. How many Aboriginal deaths have there been in NSW institutions since April 2011?

Aboriginal Affairs does not hold this information

148. How many Aboriginal deaths have there been in NSW institutions since January 2017?

Aboriginal Affairs does not hold this information

Culture and Heritage Law Reform

149. Does the Government plan to introduce legislation dealing specifically with Aboriginal Heritage in 2016/17?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

150. What involvement does the Minister and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs have in the Aboriginal culture and heritage law reform process?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

151. Are any fund allocated for the process of Aboriginal culture and heritage reform in 2016/17

(a) How much is this allocation?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs Staffing

152. How many Aboriginal staff are currently employed in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs?

(a) What proportion of these staff are senior executive staff?

(b) What is the average remuneration for non-Aboriginal staff?

(c) What is the average remuneration for Aboriginal staff?

As at 30 June 2017, Aboriginal Affairs employed 98 staff. Sixty staff (61%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

(a) As at 30 June 2017, three of the five Executive Committee members (SES positions) identified as Aboriginal.

(b and c) All staff at Aboriginal Affairs are paid according to the pay grade appropriate to the role that they occupy as per the current award.

Provision of workforce diversity information is voluntary for public service staff. Data that is reported is subject to privacy considerations and is held by the Public Service Commission on behalf of all NSW government departments.

Aboriginal Centre of Excellence

153. What is the current status of the Aboriginal Centre of Excellence?

I refer you to my public statements on this matter.

154. What is the total 2015/16 budget for the Centre of Excellence?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

155. How many staff are employed at the Centre of Excellence?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

Federal Budget Impacts

156. What are the impacts of the 2016/17 federal budget on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs?

- (a) How much funding will be lost over the forward estimates and how will the shortfall be filled?**

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

- 157. Have you met with the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs to discuss the impact of federal cuts on the NSW Aboriginal community?**
(a) How many times?
(b) When?

In my role as Minister I frequently liaise with state and federal colleagues to discuss portfolio matters.

- 158. Have you made representations to the Federal Ministers for Indigenous Affairs, Health or Federal Attorney General raising concerns about budget cuts in their portfolios?**
(a) If yes, who?
i. When?
ii. Will their responses be made public?

In my role as Minister I frequently liaise with state and federal colleagues to discuss portfolio matters.

Miscellaneous

- 159. Are Aboriginal people who relocate able to access culturally specific services?**

Aboriginal Affairs' role and priorities are described in its Strategic Plan. The agency does not deliver programs to ensure Aboriginal people who relocate are able to access culturally specific services.

- 160. Does the Office of Aboriginal Affairs run any programs specifically targeted at enabling Aboriginal people to make connections with Aboriginal social support networks?**

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

- 161. What is the government doing to ensure that Aboriginal people who move to new areas avoid social isolation?**

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

Restructure

- 162. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?**

- (a) If yes,**
i. how many FTE staffing positions are expected to be cut?
ii. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of the restructure?
iii. How many voluntary redundancies were offered by the department to individuals employed in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in 2016/17?

iv. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2016/17?

Yes, there are currently two approved restructures occurring within the Department of Education.

- i. One
- ii. One
- iii. Two
- iv. Voluntary redundancy acceptances are published in the department's annual report. As at 6 September 2017, one voluntary redundancy offer has been accepted in 2017/18.

Correspondence

163. How long is the Office of Aboriginal Affairs' average turnaround time for responding to correspondence?

The timeframe for completing a response to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of correspondence. This is consistent with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Briefing and Correspondence Guide.

164. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days as at 31/7/17?

Zero.

Payment of Bills on time

165. In 2016/17 how many invoices did Aboriginal Affairs fail to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

(a) How many suppliers or contractors to NSW Aboriginal Affairs are considered Aboriginal organisations for reporting purposes?

Aboriginal Affairs invoices are processed by the Department of Education. Payment performance for the Department of Education is reported in the department's Annual Report.

166. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors and suppliers since January 2011?

Aboriginal Affairs invoices are processed by the Department of Education. Payment performance for the Department of Education is reported in the department's Annual Report.

167. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days in the year to 1/08/17?

Aboriginal Affairs invoices are processed by the Department of Education. Payment performance for the Department of Education is reported in the department's Annual Report.

Grants to Non-Government Organisations

168. Does the Office of Aboriginal Affairs allocate funding to provide recurrent grant funding to nongovernment organisations in 2017/18?

(a) If yes,

- i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?**
- ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation?**
- iii. On what date was the funding advanced for each organisation?**
- iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?**
- v. Was any funding withheld or returned?**
- vi. What is the indexation rate applied to grant to recurrent grant funds in 2016/17?**

Detail on grants provided by the Department of Education, including Aboriginal Affairs, is produced in the Department's Annual Report.

Reports, Studies, Audits, Taskforces and Reviews

169. How many reports, audits, reviews or studies were commissioned by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in 2015/16

(a) What was the total cost of these reports, audits and studies?

As with all previous governments, the NSW Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making.

A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews were undertaken across NSW.

170. Are any reports, audits, reviews or studies planned for 2016/17?

(a) How much has been allocated for the payment of private contractors to complete these initiatives in 2015/16?

As with all previous governments, the NSW Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making.

A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews were undertaken across NSW.

Land Claims

171. What is the number of outstanding land claims in NSW?

(a) How many of these outstanding land claims are in Newcastle electorate?

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Lands and Forestry and Minister for Racing.

Office Administration

172. 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?

See answer to question 57.

- 173. 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?

See answer to question 58.

- 174. 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?

See answer to question 59.

- 175. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?**
(a) What is the cost of this?

See answer to question 60.

- 176. 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?

See answer to question 61.

- 177. 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?

See answer to question 62.

- 178. 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?

See answer to question 63.

- 179. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?**

See answer to question 64.

180. 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?**

See answer to question 65.

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

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

See answer to question 66.

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

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

See answer to question 67.

183. 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**

See answer to question 68.

184. 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?**

See answer to question 69.

Hospitality

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

See answer to question 70.

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

See answer to question 71.

Labour Hire Firms

187. 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

See answer to question 72.

Media and Public Relations

188. 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?

See answer to question 73.

189. 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?

See answer to question 74.

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

See answer to question 75.

191. 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?

See answer to question 76.

192. 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?

See answer to question 77.

193. 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?

See answer to question 78.

Facebook

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

See answer to question 79.

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

See answer to question 80.

Overseas Trips

196. 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?

See answer to question 81.

197. 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?

See answer to question 82.

Department/Agency Travel

198. 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

See answer to question 83.

199. 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?

See answer to question 84.

Consulting

200. 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?

See answer to question 85.

201. 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

See answer to question 86.

Department/Agency Staffing

- 202. 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?

See answer to question 87.

- 203. What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?**
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See answer to question 88.

- 204. What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?**
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See answer to question 89.

- 205. 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?

See answer to question 90.

- 206. 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?

See answer to question 91.

- 207. 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?

See answer to question 92.

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

See answer to question 93.

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

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

See answer to question 94.

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

See answer to question 95.

Smart Phone Accounts

211. 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?

See answer to question 96.

212. 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?

See answer to question 97.

Websites Visited

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

See answer to question 98.

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

See answer to question 99.

Merchant fees

215. 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.

See answer to question 100.

216. 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.

See answer to question 101.

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

See answer to question 102.

Probity Auditor

218. 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.

See answer to question 103.

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Juvenile detention

219. What liaison does the Minister have with the Juvenile Justice Department, and Corrective Services NSW more broadly, regarding the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in juvenile detention?

Matters relating to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in juvenile detention should be directed to the Attorney General and the Minister for Corrections.

Consorting laws

220. What liaison does the Minister have with the NSW Police Force about the misuse of the consorting laws against Aboriginal community members?

This is a matter for the Minister for Police.

Aboriginal child removals

221. What consultation has been had with FACs regarding the five-fold increase in the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care since 2003?

Please refer to the answer provided to you last year.

Custody Notification Service

222. What steps is the Minister taking to close the loophole to ensure that the Custody Notification Service is notified every time an Aboriginal person is arrested, rather than just arrested and charged?

Under the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Regulation 2005*, Police are required to contact the Aboriginal Legal Service as soon as they have detained an Aboriginal person.

T J Hickey memorial

223. Has the Minister had contact with the family of TJ Hickey regarding their request for a permanent memorial for TJ Hickey in Waterloo?

Matters relating to a TJ Hickey memorial should be directed to the Minister for Family and Community Services.

224. Has the Minister liaised with the Department of Family and Community Services regarding a request for this memorial to be included as part of the Waterloo Renewal project?

This is a matter for the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Aboriginal artefacts at the light rail site

225. What liaison has the Minister had with the Department of Transport regarding the 20,000 Aboriginal artefacts that were discovered at the South East Light Rail project site, near Alison Road and Doncaster Avenue, Randwick?

This is matter for the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Aboriginal Land Councils

226. How many Aboriginal Land Councils have been in administration in the following years:

- (a) 2017/17?**
- (b) 2015/16?**
- (c) 2014/15?**
- (d) 2013/14?**

- (a) 2016-17 - 5
- (b) 2015-16 - 5
- (c) 2014-15 - 4
- (d) 2013-14 - 2

227. How many Aboriginal Land Councils have been subject to an investigation in the following years:

- (a) 2017/17?**
- (b) 2015/16?**
- (c) 2014/15?**
- (d) 2013/14?**

- (a) 2016-17 - 2
- (b) 2015-16 - 1
- (c) 2014-15 - 0
- (d) 2013-14 - 0

228. How many Aboriginal Land Councils have been subject to an adverse finding in the following years, including details on the adverse finding:

- (a) 2017/17?**
- (b) 2015/16?**
- (c) 2014/15?**
- (d) 2013/14?**

Apart from the power to appoint administrators or investigators to Aboriginal Land Councils, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs does not have any powers to make 'findings' regarding Aboriginal Land Councils.

229. How many Aboriginal Land Councils are currently in Administration?

3.

230. How many Aboriginal Land Councils are currently under investigation?

One.

Questions from Ms Dawn Walker MLC
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Aboriginal Land Councils

231. Minister, under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, you have the power to appoint administrators and investigators to Local Aboriginal Land Councils – with the approval of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council. Pursuant to this:

(a) How many Land Councils are currently being run by administrators?

- i. How many in the past 5 years?**
- ii. How long have each of them been run by administrators?**
- iii. How much has been spent on administrators in each instance?**
- iv. What percentage of this expenditure was the salary of the administrator in each instance?**
- v. How many times was the administrators tenure renewed in each instance?**

(b) When Aboriginal Land Councils are run by administrators, how is the performance of the administrator assessed?

- i. How is the expenditure of the administrator assessed?**

(c) How is the administrator's report to the Minister every 3 months assessed?

(d) What is the procedure for a Local Aboriginal Land Council to review the performance of an administrator?

(a) Three.

i. Nine.

ii.

- Wellington LALC: 3 years and 6 months (only the last 6 months of the administration took place within the 5 last years).
- Cobowra LALC: 12 months
- Gandangara LALC: 2 years and 3 months
- Brewarrina LALC: 2 years and 9 months
- Balranald LALC: 2 years and 6 months
- Mungindi LALC: 2 years and 6 months
- Awabakal LALC: 12 months
- Collarenebri LALC: 3 months
- Ivanhoe LALC: 6 months

- iii. The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* provides that administrators are to be paid from the funds of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council which may recover the costs of administrators from the LALC concerned. This question should be directed to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- iv. This question should be directed to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- v.
 - Wellington LALC: Six extensions (however only one extension took place within the 5 last years).
 - Cobowra LALC: One extension
 - Gandangara LALC: Seven extensions
 - Brewarrina LALC: Six extensions
 - Balranald LALC: Four extensions
 - Mungindi LALC: Five extensions
 - Awabakal LALC: One extension
 - Collarenebri LALC: No extension.
 - Ivanhoe LALC: One extension.
- (b) The performance of an administrator is assessed against the plan of management they develop at the commencement of their appointment.
 - i. The NSWALC proposes the remuneration of an administrator to the Minister based on the complexity of the issues involved and the scale of operations of the LALC.
- (c) The terms of administrator's appointments require them to report to the Minister every month, not every three months. The reports are assessed at an officer level at Aboriginal Affairs with regular liaison with the NSWALC and with the administrator. The Minister receives the reports and assesses progress against the administrator's Plan of Management.
- (d) This is a matter between the NSWALC and the LALC involved.

232. There is no question attached to this number.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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

Office Administration

233. 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?

See answer to question 57.

- 234. 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?

See answer to question 58.

- 235. 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?

See answer to question 59.

- 236. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?**
(a) What is the cost of this?

See answer to question 60.

- 237. 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?

See answer to question 61.

- 238. 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?

See answer to question 62.

- 239. 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?

See answer to question 63.

- 240. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?**

See answer to question 64.

241. 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?

See answer to question 65.

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

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

See answer to question 66.

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

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

See answer to question 67.

244. 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

See answer to question 68.

245. 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?**

See answer to question 69.

Hospitality

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

See answer to question 70.

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

See answer to question 71.

Labour Hire Firms

248. 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

See answer to question 72.

Media and Public Relations

249. 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?

See answer to question 73.

250. 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?

See answer to question 74.

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

See answer to question 75.

252. 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?

See answer to question 76.

253. 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?

See answer to question 77.

254. 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?

See answer to question 78.

Facebook

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

See answer to question 79.

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

See answer to question 80.

Overseas Trips

257. 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?

See answer to question 81.

258. 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?

See answer to question 82.

Department/Agency Travel

259. 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

See answer to question 83.

260. 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?

See answer to question 84.

Consulting

261. 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?

See answer to question 85.

262. 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

See answer to question 86.

Department/Agency Staffing

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(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

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