

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-2018
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

QUESTION 1 - PAGE 2

ASSET SALES 2015/16- LYNDIA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: What were the asset sales for the 2015-16 financial year?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am happy to provide the details on notice because I do not have them off the top of my head. You said there were 384 asset sales during that period. There may be some confusion about assets that belong to bodies like universities or Aboriginal land councils. My understanding is that 42 Department of Education properties were sold over that period.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: Is that the figure for 2015-16?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will take the question on notice. The figure you referred to was 384.

ANSWER

I'm advised the Department of Education disposed of 33 properties in 2015-16 as follows:

Bargo East Public School – part site	Sold	\$300,000
Bellbrook Residence	Sold	\$165,000
Bredbo Residence	Sold	\$160,000
Former Bylong Upper Public School site	Sold	\$500,000
Cudal Residence	Sold	\$135,000
Former Ellangowan Public School site	Sold	\$182,000
Former Eraring Public School site	Sold	\$610,000
Forest High School – part site	Sold	\$292,000
Former Gosford Public School site – part site	Sold	\$3,045,000
Jackadery Residence	Sold	\$50,000
Former Mibrulong Public School site and Residence	Sold	\$110,000
Mulwaree High School – part site	Sold	\$110,000
Former Nanima Public School site	Sold	\$22,000
Niangala Residence	Sold	\$120,000
Rowland Hassall School – part site	Sold	\$20,000
Former Pearces Creek Public School site and Residence	Sold	\$485,000
Former Spencer Public School site	Sold	\$618,000
Former Sutton Forest Public School site	Sold	\$1,300,000
Riverbank Public School/The Ponds High School site– part site	Sold	\$2,200,000
Walbundrie Residence	Sold	\$85,000
Warialda High School agricultural plot – part site	Sold	\$9,570
Former Windeyer Public School and Residence site	Sold	\$215,000
Woonona High School – part site	Sold	\$693,000
National Art School & Annexe	Transferred	Nil

Lots 642 and 645 in DP29101 and Lot 1268 DP 803528 – vacant site in Doonside	Sold	\$5,000,000
Lots 201 and 202 DP 1054875 – vacant site in Ingleside	Sold	\$7,250,000
Alternative Lake Cathie Public School site	Sold	\$1,250,000
Penrith Henry Street Admin Office	Sold	\$4,500,000
Lot 1600 DP 862153 – vacant site in Singleton Heights	Sold	\$1,275,000
Lot 3031 DP 1065319 – vacant site in Stanhope Gardens	Sold	\$31,000,000
Wollongong Crown Street Admin Office	Sold	\$3,100,000
Former Wyong Grove Public School site	Sold	\$4,450,000
Lot 4 DP 240604 – vacant site in Bega	Sold	\$300,000

QUESTION 2 – PAGE 2

LAND AND BUILDING SALES - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Will you provide a full list of all the land and buildings you have sold this year?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am happy to do so.

ANSWER

I'm advised that the Department of Education has sold the following properties:

Former Grong Grong Public School site	Sold	\$95,454
Former Murwillumbah Tutorial Centre site	Sold	\$465,000

QUESTION 3 – PAGE 3

PURCHASE OF LAND - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: In the last financial year what land has specifically been purchased or earmarked for purchase for the purpose of building public schools?

Mr ROB STOKES: Again I will provide full details on notice. But off the top of my head, I think we have purchased land for a school at Bardia, for example. At Merrylands East we have purchased land. Another example would be Homebush West—actually, that is a really interesting example because that involved some negotiations with the local council at Strathfield. We purchased a former Anglican church and rectory which has some heritage elements at which we are looking. A portion of the roadway there—I think it is Exeter Road from memory—obviously not a vehicular part, will be used for the school. That is a school we are expanding; it has an expanding population. We are focused on trying to ensure that there is appropriate land for our growing school communities. I am not sure whether the secretary has anything further to add.

Mr SCOTT: I simply add that it is the biggest building program we have ever had in New South Wales schools so of course a significant acquisition program is underway in anticipation of the \$4.5 billion school building program that is underway for coming years. We will be able to provide a detailed list for you of the sites we have acquired.

ANSWER

Fort Street Public School - site extension	2016/17	Acquired	To be determined as part of the compulsory acquisition process
Bardia Public School - site extension	2016/17	Acquired	\$2,070,000
Manly Vale Public School - site extension	2016/17	Acquired	To be determined as part of the compulsory acquisition process
Wentworth Point – new school	2016/17	Acquired	\$12,475,000
Vacant site in Googong	2016/17	Acquired	Nil

QUESTION 4 – PAGE 4

NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN PARRAMATTA - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Let us go to some of the works that you are completing. Let us go to the new high school in Parramatta. What is the new capacity of the high school over the existing capacity?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am happy to take specific details on notice but I think it is an increase of about 29 classrooms. The best way to think of this—

ANSWER

I'm advised Arthur Phillip High School currently has 49 permanent teaching spaces. The redeveloped school will provide an additional 66 permanent teaching spaces, increasing the school's capacity to up to 2,000 students.

QUESTION 5 – PAGE 4

CAPACITY - NEW SCHOOLS IN PARRAMATTA - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: You say that the new project will provide capacity for 3,000 students. What is the current capacity?

Mr ROB STOKES: I would have to get you the figures relating to Parramatta Public School. In Arthur Phillip High School I think again it is 29 additional classrooms.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: You just mentioned student numbers. I am not asking for student numbers.

Mr ROB STOKES: Again I am happy to find those figures on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised that as at 13 September 2017:

- Parramatta Public School has 941 students.
- Arthur Phillip High School has 1,277 students.

QUESTION 6 – PAGE 4 & 5

SALE OF EDUCATION PROPERTIES - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: You said that the property asset sales report includes 42 education properties being sold.

Mr ROB STOKES: Over that period. Over this year—

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Over the five years, is that correct?

Mr ROB STOKES: No. I think there was an issue—

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Over a number of years.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: For 2015-16.

Mr ROB STOKES: This year, for example—I am happy to take it on notice—I think it is 26. It might be 23.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: In 2016-17, 26 schools were sold?

Mr ROB STOKES: No schools were sold. There were a few, for example—

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Department of Education properties were sold.

Mr ROB STOKES: There were some road reserves, there was some disused housing—

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: In 2016-17 there were 26.

Mr ROB STOKES: No, as I said, I think it was 23. Again, I am happy to take it on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised 23 sites were sold or transferred by the Department of Education which included vacant sites, school residences, closed school sites, parts of school sites, and small parcels of land to resolve issues such as boundary adjustments and road widening.

QUESTION 7 – PAGES 8 & 9

ANTI-RACISM CONTACT OFFICERS - NUMBERS AND TRAINING - JUSTIN FIELD

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: I move on to the anti-racism programs within schools. You put out advice to schools early this year that all schools are required to have a trained anti-racism contact officer [ARCO] and that principals are responsible for including anti-racism education strategies in their school plans and report on the implementation through their annual reports. Can you advise how many public schools in New South Wales currently have a designated anti-racism contact officer?

Mr ROB STOKES: As it is a specific operational matter I will refer you to the secretary, but obviously we need schools to be safe and inclusive communities for everyone. So unlawful discrimination of any kind in schools obviously needs to be addressed. Also within broader school communities we need to educate young people about their responsibilities outside of schools.

Mr DIZDAR: Anti-racism contact officer positions have been long established within all our public schools. I indicate to Committee members if they are not across this matter that it is not a new role within our public school system. In responding to the question about numbers, I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.

ANSWER

I'm advised that 1,634 public schools have reported that they currently have a designated anti-racism contact officer (ARCO).

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: How many ARCOs have undergone ARCO training in the past 12 months?

Mr DIZDAR: I am happy to take that on notice and provide that to the Committee.

ANSWER

I'm advised that 577 ARCOs have undergone ARCO training in the past 12 months.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Do you know how many have undertaken the anti-racism contact officer blended online training course that has been coordinated by the schools services team? I am happy for you to take that on notice.

Mr DIZDAR: Maybe I will take that on notice as well.

ANSWER

I'm advised that 577 ARCOs have completed the blended online training course in the last 12 months. Seventy-six courses were delivered by school service teams and three courses were delivered by the Multicultural Education Advisor at State Office.

QUESTION 8 – PAGE 10

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN HOMESCHOOLING - FRED NILE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Thank you. I am just following up an inquiry by the select committee of the New South Wales Legislative Council into homeschooling in New South Wales that was held in December 2014. There were some discussions during that inquiry and one related to the provision of a centre of excellence for homeschooling. Has there been any progress in that particular proposal?

Mr ROB STOKES: I had the opportunity to meet representatives of homeschooling and recognise the important role that they provide as an alternative offering for education in New South Wales. I put on record that I recognise in our education system, and obviously the Education Act makes provision for homeschooling, that education is a primary responsibility of parents. Obviously, the Government is here to assist in that. The method of delivery obviously is a matter of choice for parents. As to the specific issue, I was able to address a number of issues that the homeschooling representatives raised with me. That particular matter I will take on notice but before I do so I ask whether David de Carvalho, as the head of the New South Wales Education Standards Authority [NESA], the registration authority, has any further information that we can provide at this stage.

Mr de CARVALHO: Reverend Nile, if you would not mind, would you repeat the particular or specific question that you are asking?

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: My question relates to the recommendation that there be a centre of excellence for homeschooling. Has there been any progress in developing that?

Mr de CARVALHO: The establishment of a centre of excellence would not fall directly under our responsibilities, but I might ask Mr Murphy, who is responsible for homeschooling registration, if he has further information.

Mr MURPHY: In relation to that particular recommendation, the Government's response at the time did not support it, but I am happy to take that on notice just to confirm it.

ANSWER

I'm advised the Inquiry report did not recommend a centre of excellence. The report did recommend further support to home schooling families in Recommendations 9 and 23. While the Government did not support the specific measures recommended by the Inquiry, the NSW Education Standards Authority is committed to continuing to provide curriculum and other support materials to assist home schoolers and, in consultation with the home schooling community, to develop additional support to ensure registered home schoolers meet the requirements of the *Education Act 1990*.

QUESTION 9 – PAGE 10 & 11

INQUIRY INTO HOMESCHOOLING - FRED NILE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Thank you. There are a number of recommendations of that inquiry that discussed whether some of these things be done within three years from the inquiry. Three years is now up in 2017. For example, what strategies have been executed to promote membership of home schooling organisations and give support to those homeschooling parents? That was recommendation No. 16.

Mr SCOTT: We will provide advice shortly on that matter for you.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: In relation to recommendations Nos 21 and 22, can the Minister advise what steps have been taken to assist home schooling students to take advantage of student concessions and financial assistance?

Mr ROB STOKES: That is one of the issues that was raised with me by the homeschooling representatives. I undertook to provide them information. We only met reasonably recently and I would be happy to provide that by way of an answer on notice.

ANSWER

Recommendation 16

I'm advised the 2014 Inquiry of the NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on Home Schooling ('the Inquiry') recommended that membership of home schooling organisations be promoted to applicants for home schooling registration.

The Government supported this recommendation noting that promotion of such membership would need to be impartial and consistent with the regulatory functions of the then Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES).

Information about home schooling organisations is published on the website of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/regulation/home-schooling/information-package-registration>.

The NESA's new Guidelines for Home Schooling Registration in NSW contain a section relating to support groups and networks. The NESA is planning to publish the new Guidelines by October 2017, subject to approval.

Recommendation 21

I'm advised the Inquiry recommended that the BOSTES provide information about options that exist for financial assistance for applicants for home schooling registration.

The Government supported the recommendation noting that the BOSTES would use its best endeavours to provide the source of such information without being responsible for dealing with any enquiries.

The NESA website publishes information about possible funding sources at <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/regulation/home-schooling/questions-answers>. This information will be contained in the new Guidelines.

Recommendation 22

I'm advised the Inquiry recommended that the BOSTES and the Minister for Education take whatever action is necessary to ensure that children registered for home schooling receive a student card for the purpose of obtaining student concessions.

The Government supported the recommendation in principle noting that parents of registered children already receive a certificate of registration providing evidence of registration. Also noted in the Government's response is that registered children are already eligible for transport concession cards.

The NESA continues to issue certificates of registration that can be used to verify registration, if required.

QUESTION 10 – PAGE 11

SCHOOL OPENINGS - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Minister, thank you for your information about the Fernhill School for special purposes, which I understand you opened in May.

Mr ROB STOKES: I would have to take that on notice in terms of precise dates.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Sure. I am happy to concede that you opened one school. Have you opened any other new school since becoming Minister?

Mr ROB STOKES: Again, I will have to take it on notice. I certainly am aware of a large number of upgrades that I have referred to.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I understand that.

Mr ROB STOKES: In relation to a new public school, I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

Since becoming the Minister for Education on 30 January 2017, I have opened Fernhill School, along with major upgrades at Point Clare Public School, Harbord Public School, Bourke Street Public School, Bellevue Hill Public School and the relocated Rowland Hassall School in new premises.

These six projects have provided a net total of 73 new permanent classrooms resulting in more than 1400 additional student places.

Over the next four years, the NSW Government will invest \$4.2 billion in the development of new and relocated schools and school upgrades.

Information about the projects has been published on the new School Infrastructure NSW website <https://schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/> .

QUESTION 11 – PAGE 15

PARRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL'S OVAL - MINISTER'S MEETINGS - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: The Minister for Sport had Parramatta High School's oval down as a site for the new Parramatta pool. Did he meet with you about that?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will have to take that on notice, I am sorry.

ANSWER

No.

QUESTION 12 – PAGE 15

PARRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL'S OVAL - RETENTION - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Will you guarantee that Parramatta High School will stay open and retain use of its oval?

Mr ROB STOKES: Of course it will remain open. That is a very important school for the growing community, and of course we will ensure that there is access to a whole range of sporting opportunities associated with the school.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: But will it retain the use of its oval?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am very happy to take the specifics on notice but we will ensure that we will provide a high-quality education and a range of high-quality sporting opportunities. Obviously as the population around Parramatta continues to grow, access to sporting facilities and active play areas is very important.

ANSWER

I'm advised Parramatta High School will stay open. There are currently no plans to change existing arrangements with Parramatta Park Trust for school access to the oval.

QUESTION 13 – PAGE 15

NEW SCHOOLS - SYDNEY-BANKSTOWN CORRIDOR - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Let us go to the redevelopment of the Bankstown line and the Sydney-Bankstown corridor. As you know, the Greater Sydney Commission is well advanced in its planning for this corridor, with public consultation underway and lots of glossy plans. Many of the documents acknowledged the need for new and expanded schools yet to be announced by your department. In particular, the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Strategy notes that there would need to be 35 new primary schools and 11 new secondary schools to meet the need for the expanded population. The 2017 version of that same report states that there will be an additional 1,828 primary school enrolments by 2036 and 1,061 additional secondary enrolments. How many schools have you been advised will be required for the Sydney-Bankstown corridor?

Mr ROB STOKES: Again, I will take the details on notice but I am prepared to speak to it in general terms right now.

ANSWER

I'm advised the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Strategy affects seven school community groups. There are currently 44 spare classrooms in the primary schools in these groups and 196 spare classrooms in the secondary schools.

The NSW Government has announced major upgrades at Ashbury Public School and Yagoona Public School and the redevelopment of Canterbury South Public School. The capacity provided by these projects, in addition to the existing spare classrooms, provide enough classrooms for projected enrolments until at least 2022 for the schools in the corridor.

The Department of Education is currently undertaking planning for school facilities in the area and determine appropriate ways to respond to the demand. Additionally, the department is working with the Department of Planning and Environment to ensure future public education needs will be met in this urban renewal corridor.

QUESTION 14 – PAGE 18

PARENTAL PERMISSION NOTES - FRED NILE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: I am aware there are a lot of activities. Do they all require permission notes from parents for the children to attend, or can the children make up their own minds to attend the activity?

Mr DIZDAR: What they require is parental knowledge, parental permission to take part in those activities. That often happens through a variety of mechanisms, whether that be the school newsletter or, given the nature of the activity—because some of those activities happen both at school and outside the school—it may require a permission slip to go home and be brought back as well.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: A directive has been issued requiring permission notes. I understand that they were not always required.

Mr ROB STOKES: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised, no blanket directive concerning permission notes has been distributed to schools.

Not all school activities require a parent permission note for students to attend and or participate.

Parents are required to give permission for students to attend learning opportunities / excursions outside of the school grounds.

For activities taking place within the school, principals make decisions regarding the nature of the content and put procedures in place for the management of these matters in accordance with the Department of Education's Controversial Issues in Schools Policy.

QUESTION 15 – PAGE 19

SMART AND SKILLED APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM - FRED NILE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Has the Government reduced funding to the Smart and Skilled apprenticeship training program?

Mr ROB STOKES: That question relates to my colleague the Minister for Skills' portfolio, so I will refer it to him. If anything has a direct impact on our budget, I will take the question on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised that Smart and Skilled funding is allocated to the NSW Department of Industry.

QUESTION 16 – PAGE 20

NAPLAN AND THE HSC - ENDORSEMENT - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Minister, this change which you have credited to the former Minister is opposed by parents and citizens associations, by the NSW Parents' Council, by Catholic educators and parents of students with disabilities. Concerns have been raised by the Association of Heads of Independent Schools and the Teachers Federation. Other than you and the people sitting with you at the table, who is in favour of this four-year HSC?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am happy to get a list of endorsements relating to the policy.

ANSWER

The Hon Adrian Piccoli, Honorary Professor of Practice, University of NSW.

QUESTION 17 – PAGE 20

NAPLAN AND THE HSC - RESEARCH - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: What research has been done and what evidence was put in front of the Government for this change?

Mr ROB STOKES: In fact, education is a continuum. We want to make sure that each and every year is an opportunity for young people as well as teachers to demonstrate growth. That is entirely consistent with ensuring that over time children are ready for the next year and the challenges that will throw up.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: That is not my question, Minister. My question is very specific.

The CHAIR: Order!

Mr ROB STOKES: I come back to my fundamental point—

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I might just repeat it for you so that you are clear. What research has been done and what evidence of educational benefit—

The CHAIR: Order!

Mr ROB STOKES: I am certainly not going to comment on Cabinet matters, as you would appreciate.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: This is hardly a State secret though. What research has been done and what evidence was in front of the Government?

Mr ROB STOKES: You asked me what evidence was put before the Cabinet. I am saying I am not going to comment. I am not going to comment on Cabinet matters.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I am happy to rephrase. What research was done and what evidence of educational benefit was in front of the Government when this change was made?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am happy to take on notice those specific matters. I can refer to the secretary. He might have something at this stage but otherwise I am happy to—

ANSWER

I am unable to comment on Cabinet.

The evidence supporting the importance of literacy and numeracy skills is overwhelming and well established.

I'm advised that to support the Stronger HSC Standards reforms, including the minimum standard, the then BOSTES produced an Overview of Evidence that helped inform the policy. I refer the Honourable Member to this publication on the NSW Education Standards Authority website at

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/stronger-hsc-standards/>

QUESTION 18 – PAGE 21

NAPLAN AND THE HSC - CONSULTATION - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I have a question for the Minister. Who was consulted before this policy was adopted by the Government?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will have to take that on notice. As you would appreciate, I was not the Minister at the time the policy was adopted but I am happy to find that information and provide it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised the following groups were consulted in 2015/16:

Category	Stakeholder group
School sector/ employers	Association of Independent Schools of NSW Catholic Education Commission NSW Christian Education National Christian Schools Australia NSW Department of Education
Principals	Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (NSW) NSW Secondary Principals' Council Association of Catholic School Principals Catholic Secondary Schools Association
Teachers	English Teachers' Association NSW History Teachers' Association of NSW Independent Education Union Mathematical Association of NSW NSW Teachers Federation Professional Teachers' Council Science Teachers' Association of NSW
Parents	Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT Federation of Parents & Citizens' Association NSW NSW Parents' Council
Expert advisory groups	Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
Business groups	Business Council of Australia NSW Business Chamber
Universities/tertiary education providers	NSW Vice Chancellors' Committee Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT)

QUESTION 19 – PAGE 25 & 26

EALD EQUITY FUNDING - JUSTIN FIELD

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: I come back to the English as an additional language or dialect questions I started on earlier. Schools receive equity funding for English language proficiency, staffing or as a flexible funding component and those that receive additional resources have to develop a strategy to meet the learning needs of their students. Can you explain how the monitoring of the compliance and accountability with those components to the policy actually works?

Mr ROB STOKES: In relation to monitoring compliance, I will refer it to Mr Dizdar.

Mr DIZDAR: The English language proficiency loading is one of our four equity loadings and with our four equity loadings through the resource allocation model, each school needs to account for what programs, initiatives and professional learning activities they put in place. With the total resourcing in our annual school report, that is a compulsory aspect. Alongside that is an annual school plan. It is a three-year plan that is revised on an annual basis. It is endorsed by a director of public schools in New South Wales, who oversees the principals of the schools. Those two things are the monitoring mechanisms—through the school plan for where it sits and how that school will best meet the needs of students with a background in a language other than English, and through the annual report.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: So the directors who oversee those principals review the plans, look at the strategies that have been developed and determine whether or not those strategies are appropriate ways to deploy those additional resources to meet their needs. Is that what happens? Is it a relationship between the directors at that level and the principals?

Mr DIZDAR: That is a good summation, Mr Field. I would add that the director would also, in certain situations, position State office expertise—on-ground educational services expertise—where the principal and school may require it to best meet the needs of those learners.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: So it is not just additional resources that can be deployed at the school level; the department has additional resources—it may be personnel or a particular support team—that could be deployed to a particular school to help meet its strategy or plan.

Mr DIZDAR: Correct, in particular through our learning and teaching directorate in the State office sense. Then in an educational services sense, on the ground, there is significant expertise that can help supplement, support and grow that expertise in the school.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Can you explain a bit more about what that is? How many people are we talking about? Where are they located? What sorts of numbers of personnel or resources do they have to support principals to deliver on their plans?

Mr DIZDAR: I am happy to come back to the Committee on notice and give you that specific detail. Our educational services, in their entirety, have a total of 1,500 personnel. You are asking about this specific area so it is best if I take that on notice and bring the information back to you.

ANSWER

I'm advised that 11 officers in the Department of Education's State Office Equity team provide expert advice and develop professional learning and resources to support school leaders and teachers of EAL/D students. Fifty seven curriculum and quality teaching advisors in the department's School Services area support principals with advice on professional learning.

QUESTION 20 – PAGE 28

ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM - CONSULTATION - FRED NILE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Which non-government entities have been involved in the replacement anti-bullying program's preparation and execution? That is, if they are non-government entities. I am assuming there have been some.

Mr ROB STOKES: Yes. A range of different bodies and people were consulted in the preparation of these resources. I am happy to provide a list on notice.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Have any funds been allocated to those non-government entities and can you identify them?

Mr ROB STOKES: Off the top of my head, I am not aware of any funding of external bodies in relation to being consulted on these resources, except of course the peer review that was done in relation to checking the consistency of the approach with the relevant literature. But I am happy to provide those details on notice.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Has there been any consultation by the Government with community outreach in respect of formulating the replacement anti-bullying program? If so, who or what organisations have been asked for their opinion and advice?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will provide that information on notice, but a wide range of stakeholders were consulted.

ANSWER

Which non-government entities have been involved in the replacement anti-bullying program's preparation and execution?

I'm advised the NSW anti-bullying website was developed in consultation with the Catholic Education Commission NSW, the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, the Parents and Citizens Association of NSW, the Primary Principal's Association, the Secondary Principal's Council, the NSW Teachers Federation, the AIDS Council of NSW, Family Planning NSW and the Advocate for Children and Young People.

Professor Donna Cross (University of Western Australia and Telethon Kids Institute), Professor Rosemary Johnston (University of Technology, Sydney), and Professor Ian Hickey (University of Sydney) reviewed and endorsed all of the resources prior to the launch of the NSW anti-bullying website.

Have any funds been allocated to those non-government entities and can you identify them?

I'm advised a total of \$2662.00 (including GST) was paid to the Telethon Kids Institute for Professor Donna Cross to peer review the NSW Anti-Bullying Strategy resources and align the approach with the relevant literature.

No funds were allocated to any other non-government entities.

Has there been any consultation by the Government with community outreach in respect of formulating the replacement anti-bullying program? If so, who or what organisations have been asked for their opinion and advice?

I'm advised the NSW anti-bullying website was developed by the department in consultation with the Catholic Education Commission NSW and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW.

Consultation occurred with the Parents and Citizens Association of NSW, the NSW Primary Principal's Association, the NSW Secondary Principal's Council, the NSW Teachers Federation, the AIDS Council of NSW, Family Planning NSW and the Advocate for Children and Young People.

The Advocate for Children and Young People assisted by conducting polling and focus groups with children and young people from across NSW.

Professor Donna Cross (Telethon Kids Institute), Professor Rosemary Johnston (University of Technology, Sydney), and Professor Ian Hickey (University of Sydney) reviewed and endorsed all of the resources prior to the launch of the NSW anti-bullying website.

QUESTION 21 – PAGE 28 & 29

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS - FRED NILE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: Mr Scott, I know it was in the media that there has been some announcement by the department to improve the ability of the classroom teachers.

Mr SCOTT: We will just check that, Reverend Nile. As Ms Harrison said, we understand that an ordered environment is key to young people learning effectively. It is a key part of our professional development program and our support in schools. We are currently reviewing how we best provide those educational services to support schools. I am happy to give you more detail on recent initiatives in that area.

ANSWER

I'm advised the Department of Education has a range of professional learning initiatives to build the capability of teachers to respond to behaviour, these include Positive Behaviour for Learning and a suite of online learning courses:

Understanding personalised learning and support, Understanding and supporting behaviour and Understanding autism spectrum disorder.

The department's Behaviour Learning and Teaching professional learning resource for teachers is being reviewed for release in 2018.

In addition, through the NSW Anti-bullying Strategy the department will provide professional learning to build the capacity of teachers and other school staff to prevent and respond to bullying behaviours.

The strategy will deliver a range of professional development opportunities including workshops and conferences in metropolitan and rural areas.

QUESTION 22 – PAGE 31

ONLINE TEST LOCATIONS - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Where do you go? Do you go back to your school or to a central point? Has this been worked out, or is it part of the thought bubble?

Mr ROB STOKES: No, it is not, as you describe, a "thought bubble". This is part of a proper comprehensive set of reforms that were well publicised when they were initiated last year. They are currently being rolled out. You asked about test locations for online tests, and I am happy to take on notice the specifics.

ANSWER

The minimum standard requirement will come into effect in 2020, so no student will be required to sit the minimum standard literacy and numeracy tests outside of school until 2021.

I'm advised that the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is working with the Department of Education, the Catholic diocesan school system authorities, the Association of Independent Schools NSW/ACT and TAFE NSW to determine the most appropriate test locations, where supervision can be provided and confidentiality can be maintained. The NESA will also examine the experience of the Western Australian School Curriculum and Standards Authority in establishing post-school testing sites before finalising its approach. This information will be communicated to stakeholders in 2018.

QUESTION 23 – PAGE 32

OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENTS - DISABILITY - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I would like to keep asking questions. How much money has the department paid out in the past five years in out-of-court settlements in relation to complaints from children with a disability?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised that from 1 January 2012 to 31 August 2017 the Department of Education paid out the sum of \$313,288 in out-of-court settlements in relation to complaints from children with a disability.

QUESTION 24 – PAGE 32

CLEANING CONTRACTS - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Will you retain the existing model of cleaning contracts?

Mr ROB STOKES: I am happy to take that question on cleaning contracts on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised the current maintenance and cleaning contracts, administered by Property NSW on behalf of the NSW Government, expired on 30 June 2016. The contracts have been extended by utilising the two one-year options taking the existing contract to 30 June 2018. This allows sufficient time to develop and let the new contracts and takes into account the need to guarantee continuity for the maintenance contracts to deliver the recently announced \$390 million backlog reduction program.

QUESTION 25 – PAGE 33

CLEANING CONTRACTS - MINISTER'S MEETINGS - LYNDA VOLTZ

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: What discussions have you had with the Minister for Finance regarding the new contracts?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

I have not had any formal meetings or discussions with the Minister for Finance to discuss the new contracts.

QUESTION 26 – PAGE 33

CLEANING OF CLASSROOMS - JOHN GRAHAM

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: There was public discussion about it being six minutes a classroom. Is it your understanding that this translates into about six minutes a classroom?

Mr ROB STOKES: I will have to take this line of questioning on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised the contract does not specify a cleaning time for any spaces in schools. It is a performance based contract that specifies the standard of cleaning that needs to be achieved, to the principal's satisfaction, each morning.

QUESTION 27 – PAGE 35

MANLY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA - JUSTIN FIELD

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: With the expansion of the school in size will the catchment area that it draws from be expanded?

Mr SCOTT: We will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

I'm advised the construction and associated expansion of Manly Vale Public School is designed to manage current and future enrolment pressures across the Manly Electorate. A future adjustment to the catchment area of Manly Vale Public School may be required to support enrolment pressures at neighbouring schools in the longer term. Enrolments across schools in the Manly Electorate will be monitored annually.