

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-2018
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Legal settlements

- 1. How much money has the Department of Education paid out in confidential legal settlements in the past three years, due to unresolved complaints?**

I'm advised that from 1 January 2014 to 31 August 2017 the Department of Education agreed settlements to the sum of \$156,888 in relation to disability discrimination claims.

- 2. How much money is paid out on average per settlement?**

I'm advised the average settlement paid is \$9,805.

- 3. What policies does the DoE rely on when choosing to settle rather than defend in court?**

I'm advised the Department of Education relies on the Model Litigant Policy for Civil Litigation when choosing to settle rather than defend in court.

- 4. How many settlements related to children with a disability?**

Six.

- 5. Is it not more cost effective to deal with complaints rather take legal action?**

I'm advised that the Model Litigation policy requires the department to avoid litigation, wherever possible. Where it is not possible, the department is required to keep the costs of litigation to a minimum by not requiring the other party to prove a matter which the department knows to be true; and not contesting liability if the department knows that the dispute is really about quantum.

- 6. Of those cases where the department paid out settlements involving complaints about staff, how many staff were reprimanded or removed from posts?**

I'm advised that in the past three years there have been no instances of staff being reprimanded or removed where the Department of Education has paid out settlements involving complaints about staff and where the matter is related to children with disability.

Scripture

7. What steps are being taken by the Minister to ensure that all materials used in scripture in public schools is vetted or oversighted by the Department?

I'm advised the Department of Education has agreed to provide expert advice to approved providers of Special Religious Education on effective teaching and age appropriate learning experiences.

8. What guarantee do parents have to ensure their children won't be exposed to inappropriate materials?

I'm advised the Department of Education has agreed to provide expert advice to approved providers of Special Religious Education on effective teaching and age appropriate learning experiences.

9. What steps, if any, have been taken towards making scripture in public schools opt-out?

I'm advised Special Religious Education is an opt-out process. Parents/caregivers may, at any time, notify the school in writing that they wish to withdraw their child from Special Religious Education.

Inner city schools

10. What consideration has been given reinstating Fig and Wattle as the site of the new Ultimo Public School?

None.

11. What is the Minister doing to alleviate the shortage of public secondary school places in the eastern suburbs and what consideration has been given to building a new eastern suburbs high school?

I'm advised the following capital works projects, which are currently underway, will assist in accommodating secondary students in the eastern suburbs:

- The new inner Sydney high school in Surry Hills, which will provide capacity for up to 1,200 students
- The Alexandria Park Community School upgrade, which will provide capacity for up to 2,200 primary and secondary students.

In addition, Rose Bay Secondary College currently has capacity to accommodate additional student enrolments.

The Department of Education has determined that a new high school in the eastern suburbs is not required at this time.

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

New schools required in Maitland

- 12. Does the government have plans to build a new high school and/or primary school in the Maitland electorate?**
- (a) If so, has the government identified potential sites?**
 - (b) If yes, when will the local community be advised?**

I'm advised that the Department of Education is currently undertaking planning for all primary and secondary schools within Maitland. This plan, which will be informed by engagement with the local community, will determine the area's long term education infrastructure needs.

The announced upgrades to Rutherford Public School and Bolwarra Public School will increase the number of permanent classrooms in the area.

Gwynneville Public School (Wollongong Electorate)

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

I'm advised Gwynneville Public School will be expanded to provide new additional permanent classrooms and upgraded core facilities.

The project is currently in the planning phase and the project scope and delivery timeframes will be determined in consultation with the school community. The project cost will not be available until the project tender has been completed.

Wollongong Public School

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

I'm advised Wollongong Public School will be expanded to provide new additional permanent classrooms and upgraded core facilities. Funding was made available in 2017-18 to begin planning and design work for the project.

The project scope and delivery timeframes will be determined in consultation with the school. The project cost will not be available until the project tender has been completed.

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

- 15. Given the announcement by the Government that \$4.7 million has been allocated to maintain Wollongong electorate schools, can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of funding that will be available to each school?**
- (a) When will maintenance work commence for each school funded?**
 - (b) When will maintenance work conclude for each school funded?**
 - (c) What is the nature of the maintenance work that will be funded for each school in the Wollongong electorate?**
 - (d) If information requested above is not yet available, on what date will it be available?**

I'm advised that the \$390 million allocated to planned maintenance over two years will address maintenance issues in almost every government school in NSW. Information on maintenance expenditure at each school is published on the Department of Education's website at the end of each financial year.

School maintenance for this financial year has already commenced. To provide details of individual tasks and their timeframes would be a significant diversion of resources from the core business of School Infrastructure NSW.

Impact of Parramatta Stadium Construction on O'Connell Street School

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

I'm advised the Department of Education will work closely with Parramatta City Council to ensure that any stadium construction impacts on the school are appropriately managed.

Finigan School of Distance Education at Queanbeyan High School

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

I'm advised the current estimated total cost of the project is \$18 million.

- (a) The project has not received any additional budget allocations.**
- (b) Parking will be provided for the new Finigan School of Distance Education on the shared school site with Queanbeyan High School.**

Future Focussed Classrooms at Karabar and Queanbeyan High Schools

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

I'm advised that the detailed scope of the projects has yet to be finalised.

- (a) This question should be referred to the Treasurer.**

Specific Purpose School for Queanbeyan

- 19. On 20 June 2017a new School for Specific Purposes (SSP) to cater for students with disabilities in Queanbeyan was announced by the Member of Monaro. What information can be provided to the parents with children with special needs deserve to advise them of the key elements and milestones of this project? For example:**
- (a) Has the Department of Education identified potential land for this new school?**
 - (b) Does the Department of Education have an estimate of how many students this future could accommodate?**
 - (c) What is the expected date of construction and delivery time of this project?**

I'm advised the project is in the early planning phase and the location, scope and delivery timeframe are yet to be finalised.

Schools in the Campbelltown Electorate

20. How many schools in the Campbelltown electorate were identified in the 2017-2018 budget for an upgrade?

(a) if nil please explain why given current and future predicted capacity restraints.

I'm advised the Department of Education's current priority is to provide school accommodation to address enrolment demand in high growth areas. There are sufficient surplus teaching spaces across schools in the Campbelltown electorate to meet projected growth over the short and medium term. The department is undertaking Schools Community Planning to determine the area's long term education infrastructure needs.

21. Please provide the justification for Oran Park Public School, recently opened in January 2014 receiving \$637,000 for upgrades?

I'm advised the major upgrade of Oran Park Public School will provide additional permanent classrooms and an upgrade to core facilities to address increasing enrolment demand in the area.

Hunter Sports High School Redevelopment

22. In June 2014 the former Minister for Education The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP announced that the NSW Government would commit funding in the 2014-2015 year to completely overhaul this neglected school. The project was due to be complete in January 2017 but demolition work has only just commenced (in 2017). What has been the cause of the two year delay in the redevelopment of Hunter Sports High School and the \$20 million cost blowout?

(a) Why has the Government been unable to effectively manage this project and delivery in a timely manner?

(b) How can the Government justify the disruption this delay has caused to students, particularly those who are currently doing their HSC?

(c) Why is the Government not prioritising this Hunter Sports High School redevelopment, a school that educates students from Windale one of the most socio-economically disadvantaged suburbs in the State?

(a) I'm advised that there has been a significant increase in the scope of the redevelopment and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in 2019.

(b) Appropriate arrangements are in place for HSC students.

(c) Getting the school upgrade right is a priority for the Government.

West Dapto Education Infrastructure

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

I'm advised the Department of Education continually undertakes planning work to ensure school facilities properly cater for student demand. Schools Community Planning for the Dapto area will commence in 2018 and will take into account projected enrolments to 2031.

I can confirm that planning has commenced for an upgrade to Dapto Public School to address enrolment growth in the area.

- 24. West Dapto is currently serviced by only one primary school and one high school. What is the Government actively doing to obtain land on which to build new schools or educational infrastructure on?**
(a) If not, why not?

I'm advised existing schools near Dapto currently have spare capacity. The Department of Education continually undertakes planning and consults with the Department of Planning and Environment, Wollongong City Council and developers to ensure school facilities properly cater for student demand.

I can confirm that planning has commenced for an upgrade to Dapto Public School to address enrolment growth in the area.

Schools in the Shellharbour Electorate

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

I'm advised the Department of Education's current capital works program, which is directed towards providing additional classrooms and new schools in high growth areas, includes a major upgrade of Dapto Public School. The project will result in the replacement of demountable accommodation.

Construction of a new primary school at Cameron Park

- 26. With both local primary schools, Edgeworth Public School and Edgeworth Heights Public School being at or near capacity, when will a primary school be constructed on Department of Education owned vacant land purchased specifically for that purpose at Cameron Park?**
(a) What percentage capacity of the existing schools will trigger planning to commence?
(b) What number and percentage of students attending Edgeworth Public School and Edgeworth Heights Public School reside in Cameron Park?

I'm advised the vacant Cameron Park site is within the Newcastle Primary Schools Community Group. The Department of Education will be undertaking planning for this group of schools in 2018. This plan, which will be informed by engagement with local government and the community, will determine the area's long term education infrastructure needs.

Capacity of Schools in Electorate of Cessnock

- 27. Is school capacity still calculated on permanent building capacity, excluding demountable classrooms?**
- (a) do individual Principals make the decision to accept or reject 'out of zone' students?**
 - (b) What avenues of appeal are available to students rejected for 'out of zone' enrolments?**

Yes. I'm advised that:

- (a)** Where applications exceed the number of available positions, the school will establish a placement panel to consider and make recommendations on all non-local enrolment applications. The composition of the panel is to be determined locally but must include at least one staff member, other than the principal, and one school community member nominated by the school's parent organisation. The panel will be chaired by the principal who will have a casting vote.
- (b)** Depending on individual circumstances, appeals may be made to the school principal. Parents can seek a review of the principal's appeal decision through the local Director, Public Schools NSW.

Schools in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney

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

I'm advised the Department of Education has adopted a new planning method to identify the best way to meet enrolment growth in schools. This approach considers demographic trends, educational requirements, the condition of existing assets, site sizes and opportunities for upgrades or expansion at a community of schools rather than individual schools. Schools community planning is being prioritised in areas of highest need.

As part of the planning process, the department regularly consults with the Department of Planning and Environment, local councils, UrbanGrowth NSW and local developers.

The department uses numerous strategies to manage fluctuating enrolment demands in the short to medium term including enforcing its school enrolment policy to restrict out of area enrolments, reviewing school catchment boundaries to improve utilisation across schools in a local area, and providing additional demountable facilities, classrooms and specialist spaces as required.

The following capital works projects, which are currently underway, will assist in accommodating students in the Eastern suburbs:

- The new inner Sydney high school in Surry Hills to provide capacity for up to 1,200 students
- The Alexandria Park Community School upgrade to provide capacity for up to 2,200 primary and secondary students
- Upgrades to
 - Bellevue Hill Public School
 - Rainbow Street Public School
 - Randwick Public School
 - Bourke Street Public School.

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

I'm advised the new inner Sydney high school and the Alexandria Park Community School upgrade will increase the availability of high school places at co-educational facilities catering to students from the Eastern Suburbs.

Rose Bay Secondary College, a co-educational school in the Eastern Suburbs, also currently has capacity for additional students.

New schools required in Maitland

30. Given the Maitland electorate population has grown 15.5% from 2011-16 (according to census data) and Government information shows up to a 94.3% increase in enrolments in Maitland electorate schools since 2013, what plans does the government have to build a new high school and primary school in the Maitland electorate?

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

I'm advised that the Department of Education is currently undertaking planning for all primary and secondary schools within Maitland. This plan, which will be informed by engagement with the local community, will determine the area's long term education infrastructure needs.

The announced upgrades to Rutherford Public School and Bolwarra Public School will increase the number of permanent classrooms in the area.

New school at Meadowbank TAFE site

- 31. In June 2017, the NSW Government announced a new Kindergarten to Year 12 to be built in Meadowbank (likely on the Meadowbank TAFE site). Where on the Meadowbank TAFE site will the school be built?**
- (a) Will the development of this new school require the use of existing TAFE NSW assets (i.e. will school move into a semi vacated TAFE)?**
 - (b) When will the new school open?**
 - (c) How much will construction of the new school cost?**

I'm advised that the Department of Education is currently investigating several options for the supply of additional teaching spaces in the Meadowbank area, including the potential to provide a K-12 school.

- 32. When the school opens, will Meadowbank Public School still operate as a school, or will students be relocated into the new school?**
- (a) If relocated, what are plans for the existing Meadowbank Public School site?**

I'm advised that the Department of Education is in the preliminary planning stages for providing additional school accommodation in the area, and is currently considering several options to ensure that adequate teaching spaces are provided to meet student demand in and around Meadowbank.

New school at Jordan Springs

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

I'm advised the Department of Education currently expects the new primary school at Jordan Springs will be open for Term 1, 2021.

Overcrowded Girraween Public School

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

I'm advised the Department of Education will be engaging with the school community in the coming months to develop a plan for the group of schools that includes Girraween Public School. In recognition of current student enrolments, Girraween Public School and its surrounding schools are a priority planning area for the department.

Given the strong local demand and the high level of out of area enrolments at Girraween Public School, there has been sustained enrolment growth for some time. A reduction in the Girraween Public School's catchment has recently been implemented through boundary changes with Metella Road and The Meadows Public Schools. This boundary change is being implemented for Kindergarten 2018. Two capital works projects at Pendle Hill and Wentworthville Public Schools to increase local enrolment capacity have also recently been announced.

I have asked the department to develop an innovative approach to the delivery of demountable classrooms that will see them feature an improve design with a smaller footprint so that their impact on playground space is substantially reduced. I have asked the department to pilot this new approach at Girraween Public School and expect that the newly designed demountables will be able to be delivered at the school during 2018.

As a result, no further demountables will be provided that will reduce the available playground space for students at the school.

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

35. The 2015 Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy – Social Infrastructure Study noted that there would need to be 35 new primary schools and 11 new secondary schools to meet the needs of the expanded population in the Sydenham-Bankstown Corridor. The 2017 version of that same report states that there will be an additional 1,828 additional primary school enrolments by 2036 and 1,061 additional secondary school enrolments.

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

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.

Schools for Green Square population

- 36. In June 2017 the Department of Education announced that Alexandria Park Community School K-12 will also accommodate current and future students from Green Square as well as the original catchment area. What is the expected student numbers at that school once the upgrade is completed in 2022 and in 2027?**
- (a) Please explain how this upgraded school will be able to cope with its original intended enrolment zone students as well as students from Green Square?**

There are three schools currently servicing the Green Square area:

- Gardeners Road Public School
- Alexandria Park Community School (Kindergarten to Year 12)
- JJ Cahill Memorial High School.

I'm advised that the Department of Education has adopted a new planning method to identify the best way to meet enrolment growth in schools. This approach considers demographic trends, educational requirements, the condition of existing assets, site sizes and opportunities for upgrades or expansion at a community of schools rather than individual schools.

Schools community planning for the Green Square area is currently underway. The Alexandria Park Community School upgrade, which will provide capacity for up to 2,200 primary and secondary students, forms part of this planning.

- 37. Have there been any changes to the scope of the upgrade to Alexandria Park Community School in order to accommodate the inclusion of Green Square in the catchment area?**
- (a) If so, please indicate any time and cost impacts**
- (b) What is the current projected final cost for the completion of this project?**

No. I'm advised that the upgrade of Alexandria Park Community School has been planned to assist in addressing projected enrolment growth in the surrounding areas, including Green Square.

Air Cooling in NSW Public Schools

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

I'm advised the Department of Education has a set of design standards for new and refurbished school facilities that recommend sustainable and cost effective approaches to improving thermal comfort in all schools via passive measures such as insulation, sunscreens, improved ventilation and appropriately designed landscaping. These measures are appropriately utilised in the design of new and upgraded school facilities and to improve thermal comfort in existing school facilities.

Under the department's Air Cooling Policy all habitable spaces in schools located in areas that have a mean maximum January temperature of 33 degrees Celsius or higher are air cooled. In addition to this, regardless of mean maximum January temperature, air cooling is provided in all demountable teaching spaces and in schools with students that have special needs.

Schools with a mean maximum January temperature between 30 and 33 degrees Celsius are eligible to apply for air cooling for permanent spaces. Funding applications for these types of projects are assessed and prioritised against competing projects across all NSW public schools.

In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, approximately \$1.1 billion was spent on capital works and maintenance in government schools including for thermal comfort measures. It is not possible to identify all expenditure on cooling measures undertaken as part of these programs.

39. The Department of Education's *Air cooling in schools* policy provides a differential level of potential support for NSW schools depending on the 'mean maximum January temperature' of the school. Please identify for 2016-2017, 2015-2016, 2014-2015 how many NSW schools:
- (a) had a mean maximum January temperature of 33 degrees Celsius or above:
 - i. list schools by name and confirm whether each school currently has 'air cooling to all habitable spaces' (as per the definition of the policy)
 - (b) had a mean maximum January temperature between 30 and 33 degrees Celsius:
 - i. list schools by name and confirm whether each school currently has 'air cooling which targets the hottest spaces' (as per the definition of the policy)

I'm advised that for 2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015:

- (a) There were 148 schools with a mean maximum January temperature of 33 degrees and above recorded by the Department of Education. All habitable spaces are air cooled (classrooms, library, halls and staff rooms).
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ardlethan Central School | Buninyong Public School |
| Ballimore Public School | Burren Junction Public School |
| Balranald Central School | Canowindra High School |
| Baradine Central School | Canowindra Public School |
| Barellan Central School | Caragabal Public School |
| Barmedman Public School | Carinda Public School |
| Barwon Learning Centre | Carrathool Public School |
| Beckom Public School | Carroll Public School |
| Bedgerebong Public School | Clare Public School |
| Beelbangera Public School | Cobar High School |
| Bellata Public School | Cobar Public School |
| Bingara Central School | Collarenebri Central School |
| Binya Public School | Condobolin High School |
| Bogan Gate Public School | Condobolin Public School |
| Boggabilla Central School | Coonamble High School |
| Boggabri Public School | Coonamble Public School |
| Bonshaw Public School | Cowra Public School |
| Booligal Public School | Croppa Creek Public School |
| Boomi Public School | Dubbo College Delroy Campus |
| Bourke High School | Dubbo College Senior Campus |
| Bourke Public School | Dubbo College South Campus |
| Bourke-Walgett School of Distance Education | Dubbo North Public School |
| Brewarrina Central School | Dubbo Public School |
| Bribbaree Public School | Dubbo School of Distance Education |
| Broken Hill High School | Dubbo South Public School |
| Broken Hill North Public School | Dubbo West Public School |
| Broken Hill Public School | Enngonia Public School |
| Bullarah Public School | Euabalong West Public School |

Eumungerie Public School	Narrandera High School
Fairfax Public School	Narrandera Public School
Forbes High School	Narromine High School
Forbes North Public School	Narromine Public School
Forbes Public School	North Star Public School
Garah Public School	Nyngan High School
Gilgandra High School	Nyngan Public School
Gilgandra Public School	Orana Heights Public School
Girilambone Public School	Palinyewah Public School
Goodooga Central School	Pallamallawa Public School
Goolgowi Public School	Parkes East Public School
Gooloogong Public School	Parkview Public School
Gralee School	Pilliga Public School
Gravesend Public School	Quambone Public School
Gulargambone Central School	Rowena Public School
Gwabegar Public School	School of the Air
Hay Public School	Tibooburra Outback Public School
Hay War Memorial High School	Toomelah Public School
Hermidale Public School	Tottenham Central School
Hillston Central School	Trangie Central School
Ivanhoe Central School	Trundle Central School
Lake Cargelligo Central School	Tullamore Central School
Leeton High School	Tullibigeal Central School
Leeton Public School	Tulloona Public School
Lightning Ridge Central School	Ungarie Central School
Louth Public School	Urana Public School
Mallawa Public School	Walgett Community College - High School
Marra Creek Public School	Walgett Community College - Public School
Mendooran Central School	Wambangalang Environmental Education Centre
Menindee Central School	Wamoon Public School
Mian School	Wanaaring Public School
Middleton Public School	Warialda Public School
Moree East Public School	Warren Central School
Moree Public School	Wee Waa High School
Moree Secondary College Albert Street Campus	Wee Waa Public School
Moree Secondary College Carol Avenue Campus	Weethalle Public School
Morgan Street Public School	Weilmoringle Public School
Mullaley Public School	Wellington High School
Mungindi Central School	Wellington Public School
Naradhan Public School	West Wyalong High School
Narrabri High School	West Wyalong Public School
Narrabri Public School	White Cliffs Public School
Narrabri West Public School	Wilcannia Central School
Narrandera East Infants School	

Willyama High School
 Wyalong Public School
 Yanco Agricultural High School

Yenda Public School
 Yetman Public School

- (b) There were 313 schools with a mean maximum January temperature between 30 degrees and 33 degrees recorded by the Department of Education. Based on data from a survey of all schools in November 2011 and including schools that have received funding for air cooling since then, most but not necessarily all habitable spaces in these schools are air cooled.

Aberdeen Public School	Casino High School
Adelong Public School	Casino Public School
Albert Park Public School	Casino West Public School
Albury High School	Cassilis Public School
Albury North Public School	Castlereagh Public School
Albury Public School	Coffee Camp Public School
Albury West Public School	Coleambally Central School
Alma Public School	Collingullie Public School
Ariah Park Central School	Conargo Public School
Ashford Central School	Coolah Central School
Ashmont Public School	Coolamon Central School
Attunga Public School	Coomealla High School
Barham High School	Coonabarabran High School
Barham Public School	Coonabarabran Public School
Barooga Public School	Cootamundra High School
Barraba Central School	Cootamundra Public School
Baryulgil Public School	Copmanhurst Public School
Bellingen High School	Corowa High School
Bellingen Public School	Corowa Public School
Berrigan Public School	Corowa South Public School
Billabong High School	Cowra High School
Binalong Public School	Cranebrook High School
Binnaway Central School	Cudal Public School
Blackville Public School	Cudgegong Valley Public School
Blandford Public School	Culcairn Public School
Blighty Public School	Cumnock Public School
Boree Creek Public School	Curlewis Public School
Braddock Public School	Currabubula Public School
Branxton Public School	Dareton Public School
Brocklesby Public School	Darlington Point Public School
Broke Public School	Delungra Public School
Brungle Public School	Deniliquin High School
Bullimbal School	Deniliquin North Public School
Bunnaloo Public School	Deniliquin South Public School
Burke Ward Public School	Denman Public School
Buronga Public School	Doubtful Creek Public School
Burrumbuttock Public School	Dunedoo Central School
Cargo Public School	Dungowan Public School

Duri Public School
E A Southee Public School
Edward Public School
Emu Heights Public School
Emu Plains Public School
Eugowra Public School
Eurongilly Public School
Euston Public School
Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
Fernhill School
Finley High School
Finley Public School
Forest Hill Public School
Franklin Public School
G S Kidd Memorial School
Gadara School
Ganmain Public School
Gerogery Public School
Geurie Public School
Gillwinga Public School
Glenmore Park High School
Glenroy Public School
Gol Gol Public School
Goolma Public School
Grafton High School
Grafton Public School
Greenethorpe Public School
Grenfell Public School
Greta Public School
Griffith East Public School
Griffith High School
Griffith North Public School
Griffith Public School
Grose View Public School
Gulgong High School
Gulgong Public School
Gundagai High School
Gundagai Public School
Gundagai South Public School
Gunnedah High School
Gunnedah Public School
Gunnedah South Public School
Hanwood Public School
Henry Fulton Public School
Henty Public School

Hillvue Public School
Hobartville Public School
Holbrook Public School
Holman Place School
Holmwood Public School
Howlong Public School
Hume Public School
Humula Public School
Illabo Public School
Inverell High School
Inverell Public School
James Fallon High School
Jerilderie Public School
Jerrys Plains Public School
Jiggi Public School
Jindera Public School
Jugiong Public School
June High School
June North Public School
June Public School
Kalinda School
Kandeer School
Kapooka Public School
King Street Public School
Kirkton Public School
Koorawatha Public School
Koorlingal High School
Koorlingal Public School
Kootingal Public School
Kyogle High School
Kyogle Public School
Ladysmith Public School
Lake Albert Public School
Lake Wyangan Public School
Lapstone Public School
Lavington East Public School
Lavington Public School
Leeville Public School
Leonay Public School
Lincoln School
Lismore South Public School
Lochinvar Public School
Lockhart Central School
Lowesdale Public School
Macintyre High School
Maimuru Public School

Manifold Public School	Parry School
Manildra Public School	Peak Hill Central School
Manilla Central School	Peel High School
Marrar Public School	Pleasant Hills Public School
Martindale Public School	Pomona Public School
Mathoura Public School	Premier Public School
Matong Public School	Quandialla Public School
Mayrung Public School	Quirindi High School
Merriwa Central School	Quirindi Public School
Milbrodale Public School	Railway Town Public School
Mingoola Public School	Rand Public School
Moama Public School	Rankins Springs Public School
Monteagle Public School	Rappville Public School
Moonbi Public School	Red Hill Environmental Education Centre
Moulamein Public School	Red Hill Public School
Mount Austin High School	Regentville Public School
Mount Austin Public School	Richmond High School
Mount Pleasant Public School	Richmond Public School
Mount Riverview Public School	Riverina Environmental Education Centre
Mudgee Public School	Ross Hill Public School
Mullengandra Public School	Rukenvale Public School
Mulwala Public School	Samuel Terry Public School
Mulyan Public School	Sandy Hollow Public School
Mumbil Public School	Savernake Public School
Mummulgum Public School	Scone High School
Murray High School	Scone Public School
Murringo Public School	Shepherds Park School
Murrumburrah High School	Singleton Heights Public School
Murrumburrah Public School	Singleton High School
Muswellbrook High School	Singleton Public School
Muswellbrook Public School	Somerton Public School
Muswellbrook South Public School	South Grafton High School
Nangus Public School	South Grafton Public School
Nemingha Public School	South Wagga Public School
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School	Spring Ridge Public School
North East Public School of Distance Education	Springdale Heights Public School
North Wagga Public School	Stockinbingal Public School
Nulkaba Public School	Stratheden Public School
Oaklands Central School	Stuart Town Public School
Old Bonalbo Public School	Sturt Public School
Oxley High School	Table Top Public School
Oxley Vale Public School	Tabulam Public School
Parkes High School	Talbingo Public School
Parkes Public School	Tallimba Public School

Tambar Springs Public School	Walhallow Public School
Tamworth High School	Walla Walla Public School
Tamworth Public School	Wallabadah Public School
Tamworth South Public School	Wallendbeen Public School
Tamworth West Public School	Warialda High School
Tarcutta Public School	Warrumbungle National Park
Temora High School	Environmental Ed Centre
Temora Public School	Wentworth Public School
Temora West Public School	Werris Creek Public School
Tharbogang Public School	Westdale Public School
The Bidgee School	Westlawn Public School
The Henry Lawson High School	Wewak Street School
The Risk Public School	Whitton-Murrami Public School
The Rock Central School	Wiangaree Public School
Thurgoona Public School	Willans Hill School
Timbumburi Public School	Willow Tree Public School
Tintinhull Public School	Wollar Public School
Tocumwal Public School	Wombat Public School
Tooleybuc Central School	Wongarbon Public School
Tooraweenah Public School	Woodstock Public School
Tumut High School	Woolomin Public School
Tumut Public School	Wyangala Dam Public School
Turvey Park Public School	Yanco Public School
Ulan Public School	Yeoval Central School
Uranquinty Public School	Yerong Creek Public School
Wade High School	Yoogali Public School
Wagga Wagga High School	Young High School
Wagga Wagga Public School	Young North Public School
Wakool Burraboi Public School	Young Public School
Walbundrie Public School	

40. What steps has the Department of Education taken to advise individual school principals of the scope of the *Air cooling in schools* policy and the school's potential eligibility for assistance under that policy?

I'm advised that local Asset Management Units work closely with principals to advise them on asset-related matters.

School building sales

41. How many education properties (specifying schools) have been sold since the 30th of June 2017?

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

- the former Grong Grong Public School site
- the former Murwillumbah Tutorial Centre site.

42. Property NSW has recently revealed a \$1billion pipeline of property sales to come across NSW. How many of them are schools?

This question should be referred to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

43. Please confirm the correctness of the following regarding Department of Education properties. Where incorrect please provide correct information:

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

I'm advised that information about the Department of Education's sale and acquisition of land is updated and published annually on the department's website at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/plans-reports-and-statistics/key-statistics-and-reports>.

44. Please list any new schools the government open in 2017-2018?

I'm advised as at 21 September 2017, the following three schools have opened in 2017:

- Fernhill School
- The relocation of Cairnsfoot School into new premises
- The relocation of Rowland Hassall School into new premises.

The following new schools are currently anticipated to be opened in 2018:

- O'Connell Street Public School
- Wentworth Point Public School
- The relocation of NSW School of Languages (Open High School)
- The relocation of Cleveland Street Intensive English High.

45. Please list any new schools scheduled to be opened in the following years?

(a) 2018-19?

(b) 2019-20?

(c) 2020-21?

I'm advised that the Department of Education publishes information about new and upgraded schools on its website at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-the-department/our-reforms/innovative-education-successful-students/newschools>.

- 46. How much new capital funding has been allocated for schools over the next five years?**
(a) What is the breakdown between new schools and upgrades (number of schools by year)?

The 2017-18 State Budget allocated \$4.2 billion over four years for schools capital works projects.

New HSC English Curriculum

- 47. In February 2017 the NSW Government and NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) announced the implementation of a new HSC English Curriculum. Can the Minister explain the following:**
- (a) Why a new senior English curriculum would be released without the essential accompanying curriculum documents necessary for planning, programming and implementing the syllabuses: that is, the Prescribed Text List was not released until several months after the release of the syllabuses in February.**
 - (b) Why have the Exam Specifications, vital for all teachers and students not been released.**
 - i. When will they be released?**

I'm advised that:

- a) the new English Stage 6 syllabuses were released on 21 February 2017.

A final syllabus is required before the HSC Stage 6 text prescriptions can be developed. This is to ensure that the texts selected appropriately reflect the demands of the syllabus.

On 30 March 2017, NESA released the list of texts (title, author and type of text only) to be studied in Stage 6 English courses.

On 31 March 2017, an advance copy of the Stage 6 English Prescriptions: Modules Electives and Texts 2019-2023 was released to provide teachers with essential information about where texts will be taught in each course. A planning guide to help teachers select texts appropriate for each course was also included.

A final document was published on 28 April 2017 following NESA's established process for developing the English text prescriptions. Following publication, teachers and schools were able to use the information provided to make decisions about any texts, including the correct prescribed editions, for purchase. Support materials developed by the NESA provided a range of approaches to investigating new texts and texts retained on the prescriptions list.

Teachers will begin teaching texts on the new HSC prescribed text list in Term 4, 2018 for the HSC in 2019.

- b) The exam specifications were subject to extensive consultation before being considered by the relevant NESAC Committee.
- i The Examination Specifications will be published before the start of Term 4, 2017.

48. Can the Minister confirm that important information about the HSC English curriculum was released to the Daily Telegraph on March 30, before it was released to the teaching profession?

I'm advised that the document provided to the Daily Telegraph was an alphabetical list of the prescribed texts for the HSC 2019–23 which included the name of each text, the composer and the type of text. The release of this list to the Daily Telegraph on 30 March 2017 was to clarify that quality literature would continue to be an essential part of the learning in English. The information in this document represented a small proportion of what is included in the English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Modules, Electives and Texts 2019 – 2023 document.

49. Minister, we understand that there was a letter written to NESAC, signed by hundreds of English educators and academics from Australia and across the world, national and international poets and authors, community members and others, protested the 'dumbing down of the senior English curriculum' and calling on NESAC to withdraw the English syllabuses (as had been done with the inadequate senior Maths syllabuses) and take the time to ensure the new curriculum was one of quality and rigour. Has the Minister, read a copy of this letter?

- (a) If so, what action if any, did the Minister take to direct NESAC to review and respond to the feedback?
- (b) If so, what action if any, did the Minister take to direct NESAC to make changes to its implementation plan?

I'm advised that the issues raised in this correspondence were considered.

- (a) NESAC has responded to the matters raised in the letter.

Prior to this correspondence being received, many of the matters identified had already been raised and addressed by NESAC. These matters included clarifying the requirement to study fiction in English Standard and Advanced and the strengthening of expectations around the study of poetry in Stage 6 English.

An opportunity for further discussion of the matters in the correspondence with NESAC was also offered to the authors of the correspondence.

- (b) The implementation of the new Stage 6 English syllabuses follows the implementation timeline for all new Stage 6 courses. The timeline provides one year for planning and familiarisation. The timeline was determined in consultation with the education sectors and stakeholders.

NESAC is aware of the workload associated with the introduction of new curriculum. Support materials including sample programs, syllabus and assessment guides, a parent guide, planning documents and sample assessment tasks with marking guidelines have been, and continue to be,

published during 2017. Syllabus handover sessions have been conducted with all education sectors, with teacher professional associations and with initial teacher education providers, to assist in their role of supporting schools and teachers in planning for implementation with Year 11 in 2018 and beyond.

School Suspension Data – GIPA-17-210

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

I'm advised since 2005, suspension and expulsion data has been made publicly available through a report published annually on the NSW Department of Education's website.

- a) The department's Statistics and Analysis Unit collects suspension data for all NSW public schools in June and December each year. Due to the need to follow up potential data anomalies with schools, the full year suspension and expulsion data is not available until March of the following year.
- b) The department's Statistics and Analysis Unit provides two reminders to all schools prior to the due date. In cases where schools do not submit data on time a further follow-up reminder is sent to the principal on the day after the due date. The department's Statistics and Analysis Unit liaises with Learning and Wellbeing and School Services staff to directly follow up with principals who have not submitted data.
- c) All schools have submitted their Semester 1 data collected in June 2017. Schools will review the Semester 1 data again in December, 2017, then Semester 1 and Semester 2 data for 2017 will be checked thoroughly by the department and made available for analysis.

Cleaners in Schools

- 51. The current Whole of Government Facilities Management (Maintenance and Cleaning) contracts (RFT ID 1000954) that are let by the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation are due to expire on 30 June 2018. The major client to the contract is the Department of Education with more than 50% of the sites covered and a vast majority of the contract value. What is the total cost to the Department of Education in FY 2017-18 for cleaning of government schools under the Whole of Government Facilities Management (Cleaning) contract?**
- (a) cost of same in FY 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12?**
 - (b) what are the forward estimates for the cost to the Department of Education for cleaning of government schools?**

I'm advised the total cost to the Department of Education for 2017-18 cannot be confirmed until the end of the financial year.

- (a) 2016-17 \$262.724 million
2015-16 \$255.640 million
2014-15 \$249.720 million
2013-14 \$245.514 million
2012-13 \$240.608 million
2011-12 \$231.014 million
- (b) Future estimated costs are subject to a competitive tender process and are confidential until the completion of this process.

52. What is the Department's per student calculation method for cleaning in government schools?

- (a) Given the increase in student numbers, have the hours of cleaners been updated to reflect changes since the last contract?**

I'm advised the contracts do not incorporate a 'per student' calculation.

53. What action will be taken by the Department of Education taken to ensure cleaners have continuity under the new whole of Government Facilities Management (Cleaning) Contract starting 1 July 2018?

I'm advised that cleaners pay and conditions will continue to be protected by the *Fair Work Act 2009* and relevant industrial awards.

Cleaners will continue to have long service leave paid into the Contract Cleaning Industry Portable Long Service Leave Scheme, as has been the case since 2011, accruing entitlements even when they change employers.

Cost of Maintenance

54. What is the total cost to the Department of Education in FY 2017-18 for maintenance of government schools under the Whole of Government Facilities Management (Maintenance) contract?

- (a) cost of same in FY 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12?**
- (b) what are the forward estimates for the cost to the Department of Education for the maintenance of government schools?**

I'm advised the total cost of maintenance of government schools in 2017-18 will not be known until the completion of that year.

- (a) The total cost of maintenance of government schools in the respective years is detailed below:
 - 2016-17 – \$267,287,820
 - 2015-16 – \$238,897,242
 - 2014-15 – \$252,897,174
 - 2013-14 – \$215,893,403
 - 2012-13 – \$324,981,249
 - 2011-12 – \$297,141,211

- (b) 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 making use of the contract's two one-year options, which extends the existing contract to 30 June 2018. This allows sufficient time to develop and let the new contracts; and it guarantees continuity so that the maintenance contracts can deliver the recently announced \$390 million maintenance program.

Contracts are currently under development and tenders will be called later this year. The future anticipated cost of maintenance services will be available once tenders are finalised.

Staffing and Resources in Education Asset Management

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

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI) is the principal under the Whole of Government Facilities Management Cleaning and Maintenance contract.

I'm advised that the Department of Education has five staff members with facilities management experience within School Infrastructure NSW, who support the DFSI, when required, in managing the delivery of facilities management services in NSW government schools.

Compensation payments

56. In the financial year 2016-2017 what was the total cost to the Department of Education for the payment of compensation to bullied or abused NSW students and teachers suffering psychological distress? In addition, for the same year:

- (a) how many individual cases?
- i. categorised by students versus teachers.
 - ii. categorised by reason, for example physical abuse or assault, psychological abuse.
 - iii. highest individual compensation payout.

I'm advised that:

- i during the 2016/17 financial year the following damages were paid:
 - 29 student claims totalling \$4,858,589.71
 - 1 teacher claim totalling \$8,000 in damages payment.
- ii during the 2016/17 financial year damages were paid for the following categories of claims:
 - 7 claims involving physical abuse/assault totalling \$519,291.30;
 - 3 claims involving psychological abuse totalling \$409,005.00; and
 - 3 claims involving physical abuse/assault and psychological abuse totalling \$473,334.00.

- iii the highest payout for damages during the 2016/17 financial year was \$425,000.

NAPLAN Minimum Standards for the HSC

- 57. Minister, a NESA website document notes that in relation to the minimum literacy and numeracy standards ‘an exemption policy will be developed and released by the end of 2017’. Given the significant numbers of students with diagnosed learning difficulties in NSW public school why has this important exemption still not been released?**
(a) when will the policy be released?

I’m advised that students taking the Life Skills courses outlined below are exempt from meeting the minimum standard:

- students taking an English Life Skills course in Years 10, 11 and/or 12 will be exempt from meeting the minimum literacy standard (in reading and writing)
- students taking a Mathematics Life Skills course in Years 10, 11 and/or 12 will be exempt from meeting the minimum numeracy standard.

In exceptional circumstances school principals will be able to apply to NESA for an exemption from the minimum standard requirement for a student.

NESA is seeking advice from learning disability experts and approval from its relevant committees prior to the release of the final exemptions policy and disability provisions in Term 4.

- 58. According to Department of Education and NESA forecasts how many (total number and by percentage) current Year 9 students are expected :**
(a) to achieve the minimum standard by the end of year 10?
(b) to achieve the minimum standard by the end of year 12?
(c) to have not achieved the minimum standard by the end of Year 12? In regard to these students:
i. please confirm their eligibility to receive their HSC certificate at the completion.

I’m advised that students progress in their learning at different rates and NESA expects the majority of students will demonstrate the standard by sitting the online assessments in Years 10, 11 or 12.

It is not possible to predict test results before a test is undertaken.

- 59. Please confirm at which level in the *Australian Core Skills framework* the online test pass benchmark. Is it set at level 3? If not please confirm at what level it is set.**

I’m advised the HSC minimum literacy and numeracy standard is set at Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) Level 3. ACSF was nationally agreed in 2012 by state and territory skills ministers, with Level 3 described as a functional level of skills required for life and employment.

60. When the Minister publicly refers to ‘functional and/or basic literacy and numeracy’ how is this different to the agreed National Minimum Standards?

I’m advised the HSC minimum literacy and numeracy standard is set at Australian Core Skills Framework Level 3, which is a functional level of literacy and numeracy.

NAPLAN has a separate set of agreed National Minimum Standards, which are ascribed to each year level.

61. The online NAPLAN tests are described as ‘short online tests’. How much time are students allocated to complete the test?

(a) How many schools participating in the ‘online trial’ have indicated they have experienced problems with the allocation of time to complete the test?

I’m advised the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is developing purpose-designed short online tests for demonstration of the HSC minimum standard. These are not NAPLAN tests.

The HSC minimum standard tests developed by NESA will be three separate online tests in reading, writing and numeracy, with students allowed 45 minutes to complete each test.

(a) A trial of the online HSC minimum standard tests will be conducted by NESA in November.

62. Please confirm that students who have not yet achieved the required minimum standard at the end of year 12 will have the chance to re-sit the test within a five year period. Regarding this opportunity:

(a) How many times a year can the test be taken?

(b) How will the testing be supervised?

(c) Where will testing take place?

(d) What support will be offered to former students?

I’m advised students will have five years after starting their first HSC course to meet the minimum standard and be awarded an HSC.

The minimum standard requirement does not come into effect for the award of the HSC until 2020. Minimum standard literacy and numeracy tests for students outside of school are not required until the 2021 calendar year, which is more than three years away.

NESA is finalising arrangements for the sitting of the minimum standard test from 2021 and will release details well in advance.

63. Who will manage the ongoing completion by the approximate 70% of current Year 9 students (still attending school) who have failed to meet all of the standards, of the online tests? This includes scheduling and supervision?

I'm advised schools will manage the test scheduling and supervision of their own students, using the online administrative tools developed by NESA. In this way, teachers can ensure that a student only sits a test when they are ready to do so.

The online tests are "on-demand" for schools so that students sit them when they are ready to do so. This provides schools with considerable flexibility for the scheduling of the tests.

- 64. A recent NSW Auditor-General's report noted, amongst other things that in NSW schools ICT equipment is old and the "wireless networks are not keeping pace with modern demands". It went further to note that older devices are less reliable and cannot run demanding applications. According to the report this 'limits the number of teachers and students who can access online content on wireless networks at the same time'. Minister how will you ensure that the students completing the important online 'catch up' test, in order to qualify for the HSC won't be thwarted by the online system they are forced to use?**

I'm advised the HSC minimum standard tests are "on-demand", meaning that not all students sit the test at the same time. This reduces the strain on ICT infrastructure or networks.

NESA has been delivering online tests for many years and has experienced very few technical issues. Over a two-week window in July/August 2017, about 12,000 Year 11 students successfully sat a trial of the Critical Thinking Test using the same online platform that the HSC minimum standard tests will use. NESA is also undertaking a two-week trial of the minimum standard tests in November of this year.

Illawarra Schools maintenance backlog

- 65. What is the current total outstanding cost of the schools maintenance backlog for Illawarra schools?**

I'm advised the maintenance requirements for each school are currently being assessed. Results will not be available until the end of the current calendar year.

Information on maintenance expenditure at each school is published on the Department of Education's website at the end of each financial year.

I'm advised the most recent information the Department of Education prepared for backlog maintenance was at 30 June 2016. The outstanding school maintenance backlog across the Illawarra, defined as Keira, Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong electorates at that time was \$39 million.

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

This Government has allocated record-breaking \$747 million over the next four years to undertake planned maintenance.

I'm advised the most recent information the Department of Education prepared for backlog maintenance was at 30 June 2016. The outstanding school maintenance backlog across the Illawarra, defined as Keira, Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong electorates at that time was \$39 million.

67. What specific funding will the Minister allocate to schools in relation to maintenance in 2017-18 for:

- (a) Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts?**
- (b) Bulli High School?**
- (c) Smiths Hill High School?**
- (d) Oak Flats High School?**
- (e) Shoalhaven High School?**
- (f) Corrimal High School?**
- (g) Keira High School?**
- (h) Warrawong Public School?**
- (i) Figtree High School?**
- (j) Nowra East Public School?**

I'm advised that information on maintenance expenditure at each school is published on the Department of Education's website at the end of each financial year.

68. How much funding will the Minister allocate to schools in relation to the maintenance backlog in 2017-18 for schools in the Illawarra?

This Government has allocated record-breaking \$747 million over the next four years to undertake planned maintenance.

Information on maintenance expenditure at each school is published on the Department of Education's website at the end of each financial year.

I'm advised school maintenance for this financial year has already commenced. To provide details of individual tasks and their timeframes would be a significant diversion of resources from the core business of School Infrastructure NSW.

Office Administration

69. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2016-17?**
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2017-18 based on current appointments?**

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

- 70. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?**
(a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2016-17?
(b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

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.

- 71. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?**
(a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2016-17?
(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2016-17?
i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

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.

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

No.

- 73. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?**
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

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

- 74. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?**
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

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

- 75. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2016-17?**
(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

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

76. 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).

77. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2016-17?

(a) What were the gifts purchased?

i. Who were they gifted to?

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

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

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

No.

79. 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.

80. What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:

- (a) Taxi hire**
- (b) Limousine hire**
- (c) Private hire care**
- (d) Hire car rental**
- (e) Ridesharing services**

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.

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

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

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

82. 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.

83. 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

84. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2016-17:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

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

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

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

86. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

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

87. 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.

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

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.

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

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.

90. Have you had media training or speech training?

(a) If yes, who paid for it?

(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?

No.

Facebook

91. 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.

92. 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

93. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?

(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

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

- 94. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?**
(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?
(b) Who paid for these trips?

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

Department/Agency Travel

- 95. What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:**
(a) Taxi hire
(b) Limousine/private car hire
(c) Hire car rental
(d) Ridesharing services

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.

- 96. Do any senior executive service employees in your Departments/agencies have a driver that is paid for by the Departments/agencies? If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver and which senior executive service employees have a driver?**
(a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?

No.

Consulting

- 97. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?**
(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

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

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

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

Department/Agency Staffing

- 99. What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?**
(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

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

- 100. What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?**
(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

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

- 101. What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?**
(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

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

- 102. What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?**
(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

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

- 103. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2016-17?**
(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
i. Voluntary
ii. Forced
(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

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.

104. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

(a) What was the nature of these works/services?

(b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

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.

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

No.

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

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

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.

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

Stationary expenses are accounted for in agencies recurrent budgets.

Smart Phone Accounts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Websites Visited

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

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

111. 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

112. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.

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.

113. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.

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.

114. 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

115. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format."

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 Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Use of artificial intelligence

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

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

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

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.

117. 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.

118. 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.

119. 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 Mr Justin Field MLC

120. Will the Department of Education support Ballina Coast High School's request to have ducted air conditioning as part of its design, considering average maximum temperatures are 25C and over for many months of the school year?

I'm advised that air conditioning will be provided to the support unit and student hub. An additional 30 spaces at Ballina Coast High School will also be air conditioned to support students with special needs following consultation with the school community.

The school has indicated that it intends to air cool additional spaces. Accordingly, the air cooling system has been designed so it can be expanded efficiently to air cool additional spaces.

The new school has also been designed to include a number of passive cooling measures in line with the Department of Education's Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines.

121. Why is NSW the only state in the Commonwealth not to have its own departmentally hired therapists?

Arrangements for access to allied health and therapy services vary across Australian school education jurisdictions. Some states and territories engage some practitioners although the type of therapists and their deployment differ.

In NSW, allied health and therapy services including speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy are generally provided by other government departments, non-government agencies and private providers. These departments and agencies have the infrastructure required to provide clinical supervision of specialist allied health staff like speech pathologists.

Local Schools, Local Decisions gives school principals in NSW government schools authority to engage a range of services to meet the education needs of students enrolled in the school in consultation with parents and carers. This includes seeking allied health and therapy services available from other agencies as well as the flexibility to purchase services through the school budget.

Schools in other Australian education jurisdictions also engage and purchase allied health and therapy services according to local student need.

122. How many schools have purchased the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (4th edition)?

- (a) How many of these schools have the qualified staff to administer, analyse and report on the results of this assessment?**
- (b) Why would schools have to buy the assessment if they outsource the services to third parties?**
- (c) Shouldn't the third parties be responsible in sourcing their own resources?**

I'm advised this information is not held centrally by the Department of Education.

- (a) This information is not held centrally by the department.
- (b) It would depend on the agreement between the school and the third party, when arranging the service.
- (c) It would depend on the agreement between the school and the third party, when arranging the service.