



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

SPORT, MULTICULTURALISM, SENIORS AND VETERANS

Hearing: Friday 6 March 2020

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SPORT, MULTICULTURALISM, SENIORS AND VETERANS

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

4 degrees of warming

1. **Are you aware that the Bureau of Meteorology says Australia is on track for 4 degrees of warming under the current emissions trajectory?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment.

2. **What would be the impact of this on seniors in NSW?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment.

3. **Is there a plan in place for adaptation of facilities and teaching to respond to this scenario?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment.

Homelessness

4. **Older women are the fastest growing demographic in homelessness, what's the plan to address this?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.

5. **Older women have difficulty accessing housing because they are homeless due to low income, not complex need. When will there be specific programs available to assist older women with homelessness and low income support?**

Please see the response to Supplementary Question 4.

NSW Aging Strategy

6. **Even though the progress report for the 2 year implementation of the NSW Ageing strategy (2016 – 2020) is on track, there are concerns that the strategy is not ambitious enough to address the needs of our ageing population, when will a more ambitious strategy be implemented?**

I am advised work has commenced on the development of the next NSW Ageing Strategy.

Commissioner

7. **How is the ageing and disability commissioner providing support to vulnerable adults and their families or carers following an investigation?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

8. **What support options will be available?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

9. **What is the budget for this support?**

I am advised that the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

Older workers

10. **What is happening to support older people in the workforce? Eg. Physically demanding jobs like construction and nursing transitioning people into coaching or administrative roles?**

I am advised that Working and Retiring is a priority area in the NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020 and numerous initiatives are implemented annually for this priority. The Year Four Action Plan and Year Three Progress Report are available on the DCJ website.

Veterans employment program

11. **Has consideration been given to expanding the veterans employment program to the private sector?**

I am advised the Office for Veterans Affairs engages regularly with stakeholders to increase opportunities for veteran employment in NSW.

12. **Will the government support RSLs to divest poker machines, due to the vulnerability to gambling addiction of veterans and the fact that clubs can remain profitable without poker machines?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Customer Service.

Multiculturalism

13. **What strategies has the NSW government in place to support and increase diversity within the NSW public service?**

I am advised it is the remit of the NSW Public Service Commission (PSC) to implement policies to attract the right people for the right jobs no matter what their gender, race, age, religious beliefs, or personal commitments.

Multicultural NSW sits on the PSC Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to advise on issues and initiatives which promote and enhance diversity within the NSW Public Sector.

14. **What is the number and percentage of people employed in the NSW public service who are culturally and linguistically diverse in 2019-2020.**

I am advised the Public Service Commission's 2019 Workforce Profile Report is publicly available.

15. **Does this represent an increase in such employment, and if so by what percent in relation to 2018-2019?**

I am advised that the Public Service Commission's 2019 Workforce Profile Report is publicly available.

16. **What NSW government agencies provide information in languages other than English?**

I am advised this question should be directed to the Ministers of each Department. All NSW Government agencies are expected to provide high quality services and programs for all people of NSW. The Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP) is the mechanism for agencies to show how they are planning effectively for people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The MPSP framework helps agencies to embed multicultural planning within core business operations.

17. **What languages are made available in these departments?**

Please see the response to Supplementary Question 16.

18. **What services are available for people needing translators to assist them with engaging with government services?**

I am advised the NSW Government Multicultural Principles require that all individuals in NSW should have the opportunity to make use of and participate in relevant activities and services administered by the NSW Government.

The provision of interpreting and translation services make NSW Government services more accessible to people with limited English or people who prefer to communicate in a language other than English.

Extensive guidelines for NSW Government agencies and funded services have been developed by the NSW government. These guidelines clearly outline the need to make interpreters and translators available to individuals in NSW who require this support to access government programs.

19. **Have all NSW Government agencies prepared multicultural plans as required by the MPSP Framework and reported publicly on the progress of these plans?**

I am advised Multicultural NSW administers the Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP) where agencies show how they plan effectively for people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and to report on progress. All agencies must report progress against their multicultural plans under the Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2015.

20. **Which agencies have not prepared such plans and or reported on these plans in the period 2019-2020?**

I am advised reports on the 2019-20 plans are expected after 30 June 2020.

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Penrith Panthers Western Sydney Community and Sport Facility

21. **Did the Office of Sport do the original assessment before the grant was announced in 2015 for the Penrith Panthers Western Sydney Community and Sport Facility?**

I understand from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald dated the 11th of March 2020 that the NSW Opposition have referred these matters to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Given these matters may be under investigation it would be inappropriate to comment.

22. **When was notification of Federal Government approval for a funding agreement for the revised and reassessed Penrith Panthers project, received by the Office for Sport and was this notification received in writing, on which date and from whom?**

I understand from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald dated the 11th of March 2020 that the NSW Opposition have referred these matters to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Given these matters may be under investigation it would be inappropriate to comment.

Maximum Financial Delegation

23. **Please provide the instrument which set the maximum financial delegation of the then Chief Executive, Office of Sport, Mr Matt Miller as at 21 February 2019?**

I understand from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald dated the 11th of March 2020 that the NSW Opposition have referred these matters to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Given these matters may be under investigation it would be inappropriate to comment.

Sydney Football Stadium

24. **Have any other discussions have taken place either by the Minister, the Office of Sport, Infrastructure NSW or the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust for a commercial partner to fund the inclusion of an LED curtain in the Sydney Football Stadium design?**

I am advised the LED curtain was not included in the design of the stadium.

25. **Are there any provisions in the contract between Infrastructure NSW and John Holland for the inclusion of an LED curtain within the design?**

I am advised the LED curtain was not included in the design of the stadium.

26. **Which elements of the construction would be fast-tracked to meet the July 30th 2022 deadline for handover?**

I am advised the stadium is on schedule to be completed by 30 July 2022 and be operational for the 2022 NRL Grand Final.

27. **On releasing the contract between Infrastructure NSW and John Holland, a number of sections have been redacted. Why has the Contractual Completion Date been redacted from the public release?**

I am advised the NSW Government advised at the time of announcing the contract with John Holland that the stadium would be operational for the 2022 NRL Grand Final.

28. **The Premier stated that by going back to market on the Sydney Football Stadium the Government had “ensured the new stadium will be the highest quality”. What high quality aspects have been added to the construction?**

I am advised the Sydney Football Stadium will be delivered as a Tier 1 stadium consistent with the NSW Government’s Stadia Strategy and the project planning approval.

The redeveloped Sydney Football Stadium will be a modern, world-class venue and will ensure Sydney has a sporting and entertainment precinct of an international standard ensuring that NSW remains the number one choice for sporting and entertainment events.

29. **Have any additional features been added to the Sydney Football Stadium design?**

I am advised the Sydney Football Stadium will be delivered as a Tier 1 stadium consistent with the NSW Government’s Stadia Strategy and the project planning approval.

The redeveloped Sydney Football Stadium will be a modern, world-class venue and will ensure Sydney has a sporting and entertainment precinct of an international standard ensuring that NSW remains the number one choice for sporting and entertainment events.

30. **Were any parts of the \$99 million cost blowout previously identified by Lendlease in their rejected works offer in May 2019?**

I am advised the Sydney Football Stadium will be delivered as a Tier 1 stadium consistent with the NSW Government’s Stadia Strategy and the project planning approval.

31. **What was the amount paid to the Australian Rugby League Commission on top of the blowout to the Sydney Football Stadium, was it \$12 million or \$20 million?**

I am advised discussions were held between the ARLC and the NSW Government to secure the NRL Grand Finals in NSW. Details of these discussions are commercial in confidence.

32. **Were discussions held with the ARLC regarding the potential for the government to provide land to them for a new Headquarters as part of the negotiations to secure the 2021 NRL Grand Final?**

I am advised discussions were held between the ARLC and the NSW Government to secure the NRL Grand Final in NSW. Details of these discussions are commercial in confidence.

33. **Have the NSW Government begun discussions with the Australian Rugby League Commission about a venue for State of Origin in 2022?**

I am advised the NSW Government will continue to work the ARLC and the NRL to secure an appropriate venue within the NSW Stadia Network to host the State of Origin in 2022.

34. **National Rugby League CEO Todd Greenberg described rugby league at the Sydney Cricket Ground as “not the greatest experience”. Is the Sydney Cricket Ground the likely option to be put forward by the NSW Government for a State of Origin game in 2022?**

I am advised the NSW Government will continue to work the ARLC and the NRL to secure an appropriate venue within the NSW Stadia Network to host the State of Origin in 2022.

Sydney Cricket Ground Members Facilities

35. **What is the cost of the new members’ facilities at the SCGT?**

I am advised the project is being priced.

36. **Will the new members’ facilities be included on land currently subject to the development application for the Sydney Football Stadium?**

I am advised yes.

37. **The SCG Trust informed members in November that the new members’ facilities “will form part of the stadium footprint”. Where are these facilities planned to go?**

I am advised the Stadium Club facilities will be in a similar location to those they replace.

38. **The SCG Trust informed members in September that the new ‘Stadium Club’ members’ facilities would “like the old one, (would) be attached to the stadium itself”. Why were the Stadium Club facilities not included in the state two development application for the Sydney Football Stadium?**

I am advised the Stadium Club facilities form part of a planning modification to the Stage Two SSDA for the SFS project.

39. **In this same email communication to members, the Trust informed them the plans were to be “on display for the rest of the membership before the end of the year”. Has this happened? If not, why not?**

I am advised the process is underway.

40. **When will the SCG Trust be submitting the plans for the new members’ facilities as a development application?**

I am advised in line with planning requirements.

41. **When is construction expected to begin on the planned members’ facilities?**

I am advised the construction program is not yet finalised.

42. **When are tenders to be called for to build the planned members’ facilities?**

I am advised a competitive tender process has been followed for the SFS redevelopment.

43. **When are the new members’ facilities expected to be opened?**

I am advised in line with the opening of the new Sydney Football Stadium

NSW Office of Sport

44. **Was there any delay in funding from the NSW Office of Sport to State and Disability Sporting Organisations?**

I am advised funding for 95 State Sporting Organisations and State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability under the 2019/20 Sport Development Program was approved by the A/Minister for Sport. Funding recipients received advice on how to claim their funding before 19 June 2020.

45. **When was the funding for the 2019/20 financial year confirmed?**

Please refer to response to supplementary question 44.

46. **What was the cause of the delay in this crucial funding?**

Please refer to response to supplementary question 44.

47. **Funding to State and Disability Sporting Organisations, which includes our biggest participation sports has not changed from \$60,000 in the nine years you have been in**

government. Why are sports such as gymnastics, netball and hockey being left behind in funding?

I am advised Sporting Organisations and State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability are not being left behind in funding.

48. **In the past twelve months, there has been two permanent and one acting Minister, the CEO of the Office of Sport, Sport NSW and Venues NSW have all resigned from their positions and we've had the heads of the majority of major sports in the state express their concern about the "lack of leadership" for sport in NSW. How can the public have any confidence in the Government to turn this around?**

As Acting Minister for Sport I am committed to the portfolio of Sport in NSW.

49. **What processes were undertaken by the Office of Sport to identify potential conflicts of interest for tenders?**

I am advised the Office of Sport has a Code of Conduct for Procurement and Competitive Processes which is published on the intranet.

50. **What due diligence was undertaken by the Office of Sport when assessing the tender from Barrie Smith Motor Sport Pty Ltd to refurbish the Sydney International Equestrian Centre track?**

(a) **If not, why not?**

(b) **If yes, did this identify any connection between Barrie Smith Motor Sport Pty Ltd and the board of Equestrian NSW?**

I am advised the Office of Sport is undertaking an independent review of the procurement process.

51. **When did the Office of Sport become aware that a subsidiary Barrie Smith Motor Sport Pty Ltd employs the son of the Equestrian NSW President?**

I am advised representation raising concern over the procurement process has been raised with the Office of Sport.

52. **Upon learning this information, what action was undertaken by the Office of Sport?**

I am advised the Office of Sport is undertaking an independent review of the procurement process.

53. **Were any concerns raised to the Office of Sport or any of its employees about potential conflicts of interest in the tender process for the Sydney International Equestrian Centre? If so, what action was taken to identify and limit these conflicts?**

I am advised the Office of Sport is undertaking an independent review of the procurement process.

Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund & Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund

54. **Not one PCYC received funding under the first round – why did the four PCYC grants miss out on funding?**

I am advised the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund and the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund were competitive, application based grant programs. All eligible projects were assessed against publicly available assessment criteria.

Departmental staff administering the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund provided the opportunity for applicants to receive feedback on their applications following the conclusion of the assessment process.

55. **Did the former Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres provide any submissions for any grant in his capacity as Minister or as the Member for Penrith?**

I am advised eligible applicants to the Greater Sydney Sport Facility Fund include 33 local government authorities in Greater Sydney; NSW state sporting organisations or the national sporting organisation where the state body is part of a unitary governance model; Incorporated, community-based, not-for-profit sporting organisations and organisations providing sport and recreation programs that benefit the community, Organisations which own and administer public parklands; and Private enterprises.

56. **Was geographic location or geographic spread taken into account at any point in the assessment process for the Greater Sports Facility Fund?**

I am advised yes.

57. **How many projects recommended for funding by the Office of Sport or the assessment panel were not approved?**

I am advised by the agency the process followed was in accordance with the Assessment Methodology and had oversight from an independent probity officer.

58. **When grant applications were deemed successful, who was notified and by whom?**

I am advised for the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, notification to successful applicants was made by the Minister for Sport, to either the applicant's contact person or the senior manager of the organisation.

59. **Were any of the recipients notified by the Minister or a local member of parliament rather than the department?**

I am advised yes.

60. **Did any of the announcements involve candidates in the upcoming NSW election who weren't members of parliament?**

I am advised the Office of Sport does not record this information.

61. **The former Minister said he approved grants "based on recommendations from the Office of Sport". Does this mean the top 15 ranked grant applications were approved?**

I am advised by the agency the process followed was in accordance with the Assessment Methodology and had oversight from an independent probity officer.

Sydney Speedway

62. **The government announced that they *will host a forum on November 15 with motorsport organisations to "discuss the potential masterplan of the new Sydney Motorsport Precinct at Eastern Creek."* Was that date was originally a meeting organised by Mr Gary Holt of Eastern Creek Karting?**

I am advised no.

63. **Was Mr Holt refused to attend the meeting on November the 15th despite the fact it had originally been organised at his instigation?**

I am advised no.

64. **Has Mr Holt been included in any of the meetings regarding the Masterplan for motorsport, particularly given the \$5 million indoor motor cross facility being built on that site?**

I am advised Mr Holt was invited to the Western Sydney Motor Sport Precinct Forum held on 15 November 2019. Mr Holt will be consulted on the broader precinct masterplan.

65. **When was the Minister made aware that Sydney Metro West would resume the Granville Valvoline Speedway site as part of the project?**

On the date of the public announcement of the Sydney Metro West Project by the Minister for Transport and Roads.

66. **When did the Minister contact the Sydney Speedway regarding this decision?**

This is a matter for the Minister for Transport and Roads.

67. **Did the Minister meet with the Valvoline Speedway leaseholders either before the announcement or contact them on the day of the announcement?**

Please see response to supplementary question 65. Ministerial diary disclosures are made publically available.

68. **Was the Minister aware of investments being made by the leaseholders while both Crown Lands and the Sydney Metro West had an interest in the site?**

Please see response to supplementary question 65.

69. **Was the Minister aware of plans by the leaseholders to develop the site when decisions were made to resume it for the Sydney Metro West project? Has the Minister ever attended the Valvoline Speedway?**

Please see response to supplementary question 65.

70. **Will the Minister give an iron clad guarantee that a new Sydney Speedway will be constructed and operational for the 2021/22 season?**

Please see response to supplementary question 66.

71. **Operators of the Sydney Speedway have raised concerns that the proposed site at Sydney Motorsport Park is only half the size of the current site. Have these concerns been addressed?**

I am advised yes.

72. **Will the new speedway in western Sydney be 'like for like', including parking capacity and road crew vehicles bays?**

I am advised the design of the new speedway is being finalised with oversight from the Precinct Control Group with Speedway Australia as a member. The new speedway will be a contemporary design to reflect current design standards and requirements as well as current and future demand.

Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct

73. **The draft concept plan for the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct was released in July 2017 with community consultation taking place until November 2017, with nothing happening since the release, when will the final plan be released to the community?**

I am advised Venues NSW is currently finalising its community consultation process with over 40 stakeholders, including an established Multiple Agency Steering Committee.

74. **The Venues NSW website says “Feedback from the consultation is now being used to refine the concept plan and to identify any alternate options for the Precinct for further Government consideration”. It has been over 2 years, how much longer will it take for the community consultation to be worked through and a final plan delivered?**

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

75. **When will the final plan be considered by cabinet?**

I am advised deliberations of Cabinet are Cabinet-in-Confidence.

76. **The draft ‘Vision for the Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct’ states that the concept plan currently has no funding attached to it. How will the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct be funded?**

(a) **How much will it cost?**

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

77. **Are there any plans to sell off parts of the precinct or the Newcastle Showground to fund the redevelopment?**

I am advised no.

78. **In the 2017 draft plan the former Minister for Sport, Stuart Ayres said ‘I look forward to progressing the future of the precinct, a key priority for the NSW Government.’ How much longer will the people of the Hunter have to wait until your government delivers world class sports and entertainment facilities in the region?**

I am advised the NSW Government is committed to delivering world-class sporting and entertainment facilities in the Hunter region.

79. **On 12 January 2019 a Venues NSW spokesperson told the Newcastle Herald “Venues NSW, working with Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation, are preparing a Strategic Business Case for the Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct... This Strategic Business Case is still in the process of being reviewed and once that is completed it will**

be submitted for consideration by the NSW Government.” Has the Strategic Business Case been completed?

(a) If not, why not?

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

If not, how much will it cost?

i. Has funding been allocated to this?

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

(b) Was funding ever allocated to completing the business case?

i. If yes, why has it not progressed?

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

(c) If so, has it been considered by Government?

If so, when will a decision be announced about the future of the precinct?

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

80. You are spending over \$2 billion on stadia in Sydney - how much have you spent on the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct?

I am advised the NSW Government’s total expenditure on the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct is publicly available in the NSW Government’s Budget Papers; and included in respective NSW Government agency Annual Reports, such as Venues NSW, and Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation.

81. Considering the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct is considered the next key site for major sporting and economic development in Greater Newcastle, why has the masterplan process stalled?

Please see response to supplementary question 73.

82. Will the Newcastle Show remain at the Newcastle Showground as part of the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct masterplan?

I am advised Venues NSW continues to support and work collaboratively with the Newcastle Show.

Hunter Homeless Connect day

83. **Each year the Hunter Homeless Connect day brings together a wide range of government and non-government services at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre to support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Minister, are you aware that Hunter Homeless Connect are charged thousands of dollars by your department to use the Newcastle Entertainment Centre for two days?**

I am advised the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground is proud to partner with Hunter Homeless Connect and currently provides more than a 50 percent discount on its standard rates, including rental fees for the Hunter Homeless Connect Day held at the Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre.

Venues NSW continues to review these arrangements on a regular basis and are committed to providing additional support of this charity event, where possible.

84. **Considering the important work this not-for-profit organisation does, will you commit to waiving these fees so they can continue to focus on supporting the homeless?**
- (a) **If no, so you will not support a not-for-profit group helping countless vulnerable people?**
- (b) **If yes, will you consider refunding the fees they have been charged in previous years to use the Newcastle Entertainment Centre?**

I am advised the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground is proud to partner with Hunter Homeless Connect and currently provides more than a 50 percent discount on its standard rates, including rental fees for the Hunter Homeless Connect Day held at the Newcastle Showground Exhibition Centre.

Venues NSW continues to review these arrangements on a regular basis and are committed to providing additional support of this charity event, where possible.

Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program

85. **How many defibrillators have been provided to sport clubs in the Newcastle electorate through the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program?**

I am advised to date, there have been 25 applications from within the Newcastle electorate who were all successful in receiving funding under the Local Sport Defibrillator Program to purchase defibrillators.

Newcastle Sports Infrastructure Funding

86. **Are sports clubs in the Newcastle LGA eligible for the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund?**

I am advised no.

(a) **If not, why not?**

I am advised the urban areas of Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle Local Government Areas are not eligible to apply for Regional Growth Fund programs with the exception of the Resources for Regions program.

87. **What sports infrastructure funding programs is the Newcastle LGA eligible for?**

(a) **Of these programs, what funding have sports organisations received in the following years:**

- i. 2015;
- ii. 2016;
- iii. 2017;
- iv. 2018;
- v. 2019;
- vi. 2020?

I am advised information on successful grants is provided in departmental annual reports.

Canterbury Sporting Facilities

88. **Is the NSW Government aware of any plans to change the current use of Canterbury Golf Course?**

I am advised the use of Canterbury Golf Course is a matter for Canterbury-Bankstown Council.

89. **Will the NSW Government commit to maintaining the Canterbury Golf Course site as public open space?**

I am advised the use of Canterbury Golf Course is a matter for Canterbury-Bankstown Council.

90. **Will the NSW Government commit to maintaining the Canterbury Racecourse site as public open space?**

I am advised the use of Canterbury Racecourse is a matter for the land-owner and the relevant planning authority.

Anti-racism work

91. **What did the Minister for Multiculturalism or Multiculturalism NSW (MNSW) do in response to racist attacks resulting from misinformation on the coronavirus?**

I am advised in February 2020, the CEO of Multicultural NSW issued a statement condemning racism related to COVID-19 and encouraging community to follow factual advice from NSW Health.

The NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN) Committee has been convened to address the potential impacts of COVID-19 on community harmony and to coordinate NSW Government agency responses. The NSW Police Force and Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW are members of the COMPLAN Committee and shared advice about incidents of racial discrimination, vilification and hate crime related to COVID-19.

Multicultural NSW has been working at the highest levels with relevant NSW Government agencies including NSW Health, Study NSW, the Department of Education, and the Department of Communities and Justice to address the potential impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion and multicultural communities.

Multicultural NSW continues to engage a wide range of community stakeholders to support to strengthen social cohesion during this challenging time.

92. **How many media releases, press interviews, statements tweets or Facebook posts did the Minister and MNSW issue condemning this racism?**

Please see response to supplementary question 91.

93. **What is MNSW doing more broadly to combat racism?**

I am advised the NSW Government through Multicultural NSW supports a wide range of programs that aim to promote social cohesion and community harmony in a culturally diverse society.

The Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) Program is a world-class social cohesion program that aims to inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united as champions for community harmony against the divisive forces of hate, fear and violence. A full list of COMPACT program funded initiatives can be found at https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/communities/compact/compact_program/

The Remove Hate from the Debate social media project aims to empower young people with the tools and resources to speak out against online hate and use their voices to promote positive messages.

The NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN) aims to maintain and promote community harmony, build community resilience, and better equip the State to prevent, limit, withstand, respond to, and recover from situations that threaten community harmony in New South Wales. Throughout 2019, the COMPLAN Committee continued to monitor and share information about hate-based behaviour in the community.

94. **How has MNSW responded to the November 2019 Islamophobia Report that found islamophobia attacks are becoming more public and intense?**

I am advised the Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) Program is a world-class social cohesion program that aims to inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united as champions for community harmony against the divisive forces of hate, fear and violence, including Islamophobia. The COMPACT Alliance of community partners mobilised to support communities impacted by the Islamophobic terror attack in Christchurch in March 2019.

The Remove Hate from the Debate social media project which aims to empower young people with the tools and resources to speak out against online hate, including Islamophobia, and use their voices to promote positive messages.

Throughout 2019, the NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN) Committee continued to monitor and share information about hate-based behaviour in the community.

95. **How has MNSW responded to a November 2019 Anti-Semitism report showing a large number of anti-Semitic acts in NSW?**

I am advised the Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) Program is a world-class social cohesion program that aims to inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united as champions for community harmony against the divisive forces of hate, fear and violence, including anti-Semitism.

The Remove Hate from the Debate social media project which aims to empower young people with the tools and resources to speak out against online hate, including anti-Semitism, and use their voices to promote positive messages.

Throughout 2019, the NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN) Committee continued to monitor and share information about hate-based behaviour in the community.

Multicultural grants

96. How much of the MNSW budget is allocated towards the grants program?

I am advised grants administered by Multicultural NSW are reported in the Agency's Annual Report, including details of recipients and amounts funded. This report is tabled in the Parliament of New South Wales annually and is available on the Multicultural NSW website once tabled.

97. How many grants have been allocated this year and to whom?

Please see response to supplementary question 96.

98. How many grant applications were made? Were rejected?

Please see response to supplementary question 96.

99. What systems or processes are in place to monitor projects or events once the grant funding has been awarded?

I am advised successful organisations sign a funding agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the grant and provide an acquittal report after the completion of the event or project.

100. How do you determine the long term success of grant funding?

I am advised acquittal reports require grant recipients to detail the outputs and outcomes of their Multicultural NSW funding.

Strategy

101. MNSW had a strategic plan that expired in 2017, strategic priorities for 2018-19, what is the strategy for 2019-20 and beyond?

I am advised Multicultural NSW has extensively consulted community, government and non-government stakeholders in the development of the agency's next strategic plan.

102. Who is being consulted?

I am advised Multicultural NSW conducted an extensive engagement process to inform the development of the next Strategic Plan.

103. How much funding has the Government made available?

I am advised agency budgetary information is made available in the Multicultural NSW Annual Report.

104. What will the priorities be?

I am advised the Multicultural NSW strategic plan is being finalised.

105. **What is the duration?**

I am advised the Multicultural NSW strategic plan is being finalised.

MNSW Staffing

106. **MNSW staffing fell from 62 in 2017-18 to 56 in 2018-19, why the 10% decrease?**

I am advised there have been no changes in the number of front-line staff at Multicultural NSW providing services directly to the multicultural community of NSW.

107. **Our multicultural community is growing, why is the multicultural agency shrinking?**

I am advised there have been no changes in the number of front-line staff at Multicultural NSW providing services directly to the multicultural community of NSW.

PMES Results

108. **According to the annual People Matters Survey in MNSW only 51% of your staff feel that senior managers listen to their contribution and less than half (49%) of your staff feel change is well managed**

This is not a question.

109. **What are you doing to address this?**

I am advised the PMES feedback is important information for the organisation. To address the feedback from the survey, staff focus groups were held to identify areas and specific actions that have been implemented by the Executive.

Coordinator General for Refugee Resettlement

110. **What is the status of the Coordinator General for Refugee Resettlement Peter Shergold?**

I am advised Multicultural NSW supports the Coordinator General to implement his work program in line with the agency's broader policy responsibility for settlement. The Department of Premier and Cabinet acts as a liaison point between the Coordinator General and the NSW Premier.

111. **How much is he remunerated?**

I am advised this is a question for the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

112. **What does the role involve?**

I am advised the Coordinator General for Refugee Resettlement's work involves:

- identifying secondary regional settlement opportunities to assist in alleviating settlement pressures in western Sydney;
- working with the government and non-government sector to engage youth migrants in their communities;
- coordinating the strategic direction of immediate and long-term settlement services for refugees in NSW by working with the Australian Government, NSW Government, Local Government and non-government organisations (NGOs), as well as the private sector where appropriate;
- leading public communications regarding the settlement process and, where relevant, working closely with the Premier and Minister for Multiculturalism.

113. When does Professor Shergold's term expire and will the position be continued?

I am advised Multicultural NSW supports the Coordinator General to implement his work program in line with the agency's broader policy responsibility for settlement. The Department of Premier and Cabinet acts as a liaison point between the Coordinator General and the NSW Premier.

Tenure as Minister

114. According to your diary disclosure from October to December 2019, you did not hold a single Seniors meeting (but over a dozen Sports meetings), why not?

I meet with stakeholders across all the portfolios I hold responsibility for.

115. How long do you expect to Act as Minister?

As Acting Minister, I will continue to be committed to the portfolios of Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans in NSW.

116. Does our seniors community deserve a full-time Minister?

As Acting Minister for Seniors I am committed to supporting seniors in NSW.

NSW Seniors Saver Card

117. How many people have taken up the new Seniors Savers card since it was launched on July 1 2019?

I am advised these numbers are monitored and updated regularly.

118. **Is the Government on track to meet its goal of 60,000 eligible seniors signed up in a year (¾ of all eligible people?)**

I am advised the agency is on track to achieve this target.

119. **Minister, does Seniors Card sell the private information of cardholders to third parties and corporations?**

I am advised no.

120. **How many?**

Not applicable.

121. **In each of the past three financial years, what is the total amount of revenue raised for the NSW Government through selling data to partners in the Seniors Card?**

Not applicable.

122. **What is the total amount of revenue raised for the NSW Government through selling data to partners in the Seniors Saver Card?**

Not applicable.

123. **To date, what has been the total cost of promoting the new Senior Saver card?**

I am advised there have been no promotional costs for the Senior Savers Card.

124. **How does the Government track the total savings a cardholder makes in each year?
How?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Customer Service.

125. **Is the data regarding the spending habits of cardholders shared with third parties?**

I am advised no.

126. **What is the value of that data?**

Not applicable.

Bushfire Recovery and scams

127. **Has the Minister or his Department provided any input or support to Fair Trading when it comes to protecting seniors against scams following the bushfires?**

I am advised that this is a matter for the Deputy Premier as the Minister responsible for Bushfire Recovery.

128. **Has the Minister or Department broadcast any messages through its various channels to warn seniors about scams during the bushfires and recovery period?**

I am advised yes.

129. **Has the NSW Government committed any funds to support seniors around bushfire scams?**

Please see response to supplementary question 127.

130. **Has the Minister or your Department provided any specific support to seniors who have been affected by the bushfires or February storms?**

Please see response to supplementary question 127.

131. **Has the Minister or Department issued any memorandum or advice to seniors during the bushfire period or recovery?**

Please see response to supplementary question 127.

132. **Did the Minister or Department issue any advice regarding seniors to evacuation centres during the bushfire period?**

Please see response to supplementary question 127.

133. **Has the Minister or Department issued any advice to other departments managing the recovery on how to best assist seniors?**

I am advised yes.

134. **Particularly those who might face barriers due to digital illiteracy?**

Please see response to supplementary question 133.

135. **So the NSW Government has done nothing to specifically support seniors during the bushfire period?**

I am advised the NSW Government is taking a whole-of-government approach in supporting bushfire affected communities and this includes the specific needs of seniors.

Royal Commission into Aged Care

136. **What is the role of the NSW Government in contributing to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Health and Medical Research who is leading the NSW response to the Royal Commission.

137. **Have you considered the interim report that found aged care is woefully inadequate, basic human rights denied and neglected?**

Please see response to supplementary question 136.

138. **What is your response?**

Please see response to supplementary question 136.

139. **What preparations are taking place in anticipation of the final report in 2020**

Please see response to supplementary question 136.

NSW Ageing Strategy

140. **The NSW Ageing Strategy expires this year, what is the status of a new strategy?**

I am advised that work has commenced on the development of the next NSW Ageing Strategy.

141. **What new funding will be allocated to the strategy?**

Please see response to supplementary question 140.

142. **How many Full Time staff are allocated to delivering the strategy?**

I am advised that the Strategy is delivered through Action Plans. A large number of government agencies and other organisations contribute to the implementation.

143. **Which community groups have been invited to provide feedback on the strategy?**

I am advised all members of the public, including community organisations, are invited to provide feedback.

144. **When will the Year 3 progress Report for the existing strategy be available**

I am advised the Year Three Progress Report is available on the DCJ website.

Regional Seniors Travel Card

145. **What is the Minister's view on the fact that seniors on a Disability Support Pension or Carers Payments are ineligible for the Regional Seniors Travel Card?**

I am advised that this is a matter for the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

146. **It's true that people with disability and carers face some of the biggest barriers to accessing transport in the bush. Why shouldn't they be eligible?**

Please see response to supplementary question 145.

147. **Have you had any input into the development of the scheme?**

Please see response to supplementary question 145.

148. Have you met with any seniors groups concerned about aspects of the scheme?

I refer you to my diary disclosures which are publically available online.

149. It looks as though the eligibility criteria of the scheme discriminates against people with disability or carers, wouldn't you agree?

Please see response to supplementary question 145.

150. How could the scheme better serve seniors in regional communities

Please see response to supplementary question 145.

Elder abuse

151. What is the rate of elder abuse identified in each metropolitan, regional and remote area of NSW?

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

152. What is the rate of elder abuse per socio-economic division within NSW?

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

153. What funding has been provided to promote awareness of and reduction in instances of elder abuse in NSW since the National Elder Abuse Conference in February 2018?

I am advised promotion of awareness of elder abuse was funded by the NSW Government.

154. What has the NSW Government done to progress the issue of elder abuse at COAG since the last Estimates hearing

I am advised the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians was endorsed by the Council of Attorneys-General (CAG), a committee of COAG, and implementation of the Plan is monitored by CAG.

Disability and Ageing Commission

155. How many staff are employed by the Ageing and Disabilities Commissioner?

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

156. How many complaints have been made to the Commissioner since the office commenced?

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

157. **How many of these cases pertain to:**

- (a) **Aged care?**
- (b) **Elder abuse?**
- (c) **Health facilities for the aged?**
- (d) **Housing for the aged?**
- (e) **Discrimination against the aged?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

158. **What is the total amount of funding allocated to funding awareness of elders abuse in NSW?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

159. **Since it commenced, how many calls has the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline & Resource Unit received in relation to concerns about Enduring Power of Attorney arrangements?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

160. **How many of these cases have been investigated?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

161. **How many of these investigations has led to criminal actions?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

162. **How many calls has the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline received in each month since it opened?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

163. **What is the rate of elder abuse identified in each metropolitan, regional and remote area of NSW?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

164. **What is the rate of elder abuse per socio-economic division within NSW**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

165. **How many FTE staff are currently employed in the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline & Resource Unit?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

166. **What assistance has been provided, and by which government departments, to victims of elder abuse in aged care facilities and in the general community?**

I am advised the Ageing and Disability Commissioner will respond directly to the Committee.

Seniors staffing

167. **How many staff are employed in the Department responsible for seniors, the department responsible for seniors?**

I am advised that staffing varies cyclically.

168. **How has the staffing allocation for the Department responsible for seniors changed since the last Estimates hearings?**

Please see response to supplementary question 167.

169. **What are the total administrative operating costs for the Department specifically attributable for seniors programming, policy and planning?**

Please see response to supplementary question 167.

Ageing Workers

170. **Will working and retiring remain a priority area in the NSW Ageing Strategy?**

I am advised work has commenced on the development of the next NSW Ageing Strategy. Priorities will be included in public consultations.

171. **Given it was a priority in the past Ageing Strategy, what is the Government doing to assist and protect older workers in the workforce now?**

I am advised the NSW Ageing Strategy Year Four Action Plan and Year Three Progress Report which are publically available on the DCJ website.

172. **What funding has been committed under the existing Ageing Strategy to promote, advance or assist workforce participation by seniors?**

I am advised that budgetary information is available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au and the Treasury website at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au

Budget

173. **What funding will be attached to the new Strategy set to begin from 2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

174. **What is the total cost of running the Art of Ageing exhibition in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

175. **What is the total cost of running Grandparents Day events and programs?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

176. **How has that amount changed over each of the past four financial years? By how much has it increased or decreased?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

177. **What was the total cost of running the NSW Seniors Festival Expo in 2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

178. **How much revenue did the NSW Seniors Festival Expo make in 2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

179. **What is the total cost of running the NSW Seniors Concert in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 172.

180. **How many FTE staff are allocated to running the Seniors Festival in 2019-2020?**

I am advised Department of Communities and Justice staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.

181. **Are these contract positions?**

Please see response to supplementary question 180.

182. **How many people attended the concert?**

I am advised 32,000 over four concerts.

183. **What is the total cost of running the Modified Sports program in 2019-2020?**

I am advised budgetary information for the New South Wales Ageing Strategy is available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au and the Treasury website at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au

184. **How many people participated in the Modified Sports program in 2020?**

I am advised the 2019-20 year is still in progress.

185. **What is the total cost of running the Cooking for One or Two program in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 183.

186. **What is the total cost of running the Grandparent Connection program in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 183.

187. **How many people were involved in the Grandparent Connection program in 2020?**

I am advised information on the New South Wales Ageing Strategy is available on the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) website at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au.

188. **What is the total cost of running the Grandparent Connection program in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 183.

189. **How many people participated in the Sing Your Age program in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 187.

190. **What is the total cost of running the Sing Your Age program in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 183.

191. **How many people have participated in the Tech Savvy Seniors program in 2019-2020?**

I am advised the 2019-20 year is still in progress.

192. **What is the total cost of running the Tech Savvy Seniors program in 2019-2020?**

Please see response to supplementary question 183.

Other

193. **When will the government make details about a grant funding program to reduce social isolation public?**

I am advised the program was launched on 1 March 2020.

194. **What is the current regulation regarding alert devices used regularly by older people and those with chronic illness?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Health and Medical Research.

Regional Seniors Travel Card

195. **What date did you become aware that DVA gold card holders were unable to receive the regional seniors travel card?**

(a) **How did you find out?**

(b) **Who did you find out from?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Regional Roads and Transport.

196. **What representations or consultation did you have with the Minister for Customer Service about resolving the issue?**

- (a) **When did those discussions occur?**
- (b) **Where did those discussions occur?**
- (c) **What was discussed?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

197. **Did the Minister for Customer Service provide a date for when the issue would be resolved by?**

- (a) **If so, what was that date?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

198. **Did the Minister explain why DVA gold card holders were excluded from the regional seniors travel card scheme?**

- (a) **If so, explain.**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

199. **Who did you speak with when reversing your decision to allow veterans and war widows to apply for the Regional Seniors Travel Card?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

200. **What will be the cost of expanding the eligibility of the scheme to include veterans and war widows?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

201. **How many veterans or war widows have attempted to apply for the scheme since you announced your backflip on February 15?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

202. **What is stopping you from processing their applications for another three months?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

203. **Why can't a manual system be set up to enable these vulnerable seniors to apply?**

Please see response to supplementary question 195.

My Community Project

204. **Did the Minister of Customer Service explain to you why DVA gold card holders were excluded from voting in the My Community Project initiative last year?**

- (a) **If so, explain why they were excluded?**
- (b) **What representations have you made to the Minister for Customer service regarding DVA gold card holders being excluded from voting in the My Community project initiative?**

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Customer Service.

205. **Has the Minister for Customer Service given you a guarantee that DVA gold card holders will be able to vote in the next round of the My Community Project?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

206. **Given the issues with the My Community Project initiative and the regional seniors travel card, have you sought any guarantees from the Minister for Customer Service that there will be no more issues with Service NSW and DVA card holders?**

- (a) **Have any more issues regarding DVA gold card holders and Service NSW been raised with you or your office?**
 - i. **If so explain what those issues were.**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

Service NSW

207. **What are all the state government rebates that DVA gold card holders are eligible for?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

208. **How many veterans applied for the low household income rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

- (a) **How many war widows applied for the low household income rebate in 2018/19 and so far in 2019/20?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

209. **How many veterans applied for the pensioner water rebate rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

- (a) **How many war widows applied for the pensioner water rebate rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

210. **How many veterans applied for the gas rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

- (a) **How many war widows applied for the gas rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

211. **How many veterans applied for the appliance replacement rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

- (a) **How many war widows applied for the appliance replacement rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

212. **How many veterans applied for the pensioner free drivers licence renewal rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

213. **How many war widows applied for the pensioner free drivers licence renewal rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

214. **How many veterans applied for the free drivers licence test rebate in 2018/19 and so far in the 2019/20 fiscal year?**

Please see response to supplementary question 204.

Independent Commissioner into veterans' suicide

215. **What discussions have you had with your federal counterpart, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Veterans Affairs regarding the appointment of the independent commissioner?**

I am advised this was discussed at the Council Of Australian Governments and leaders agreed to support the establishment of a new National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention to inquire into all suspected veteran and ADF suicides.

216. **Have you of the DVA offered support or resources to assist the independent commissioner?**
- Please see response to supplementary question 215.
217. **Have you asked your federal counterpart for the terms of reference for the Independent Commissioner?**
- Please see response to supplementary question 215.
218. **Can you provide any specific statistics for the number of NSW veterans that have committed suicide?**
- Please see response to supplementary question 215.
219. **Can you provide any specific statistics for the number of NSW veterans that have attempted suicide?**
- Please see response to supplementary question 215.
220. **Can you provide statistics for the number of NSW ADF personnel that have committed suicide?**
- Please see response to supplementary question 215.
221. **Can you provide statistics for the number of NSW ADF personnel that have attempted suicide?**
- Please see response to supplementary question 215.
222. **Does the NSW government have a formal position on a possible Royal Commission into veterans' suicide?**
- (a) **If so, what is the position and how/why was it formed?**
 - (b) **If not, does the state government plan to adopt a formal position?**
 - i. **If so, when do you expect that position to be adopted and made public?**

Please see response to supplementary question 215.