

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO NSW GOVERNMENT'S  
MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**HEARING 2 – 11 AUGUST 2021**

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING**

**ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

- 1. Could you please provide a breakdown of how many laptops have been issued to students by LGA since the lockdown began?**

As at 25 August 2021, over 22,600 computer devices have been provided to schools to support remote teaching and learning. The breakdown by Local Government Area is included in the following table.

<b>LGA Name</b>	<b>Number of Devices</b>
Albury	270
Armidale	60
Ballina	175
Balranald	8
Bathurst	138
Bayside	173
Bega Valley	60
Bellingen	10
Berrigan	12
Blacktown	1881
Bland	10
Blayney	0
Blue Mountains	151
Bogan	0
Bourke	0
Brewarrina	19
Broken Hill	135
Burwood	23
Byron	60
Cabonne	60
Camden	327
Campbelltown	1495
Canada Bay	30
Canterbury-Bankstown	1718
Carrathool	0
Central Coast	1040
Central Darling	80
Cessnock	201

Clarence Valley	90
Cobar	14
Coffs Harbour	55
Coolamon	10
Coonamble	0
Cootamundra-Gundagai	30
Cowra	8
Cumberland	903
Dubbo	311
Dungog	22
Edward River	78
Eurobodalla	487
Fairfield	1542
Federation	13
Forbes	60
Georges River	315
Gilgandra	0
Glen Innes Severn	71
Goulburn Mulwaree	73
Greater Hume	0
Griffith	62
Gunnedah	25
Gwydir	55
Hawkesbury	199
Hay	8
Hilltops	55
Hornsby	62
Hunters Hill	0
Inner West	232
Inverell	4
Junee	0
Kempsey	107
Kiama	30
Ku-Ring-Gai	10
Kyogle	1
Lachlan	15
Lake Macquarie	451
Lane Cove	0
Leeton	43
Lismore	175
Lithgow	18
Liverpool	1324
Liverpool Plains	35
Lockhart	15
Maitland	75

Mid-Coast	166
Mid-Western	40
Moree Plains	112
Mosman	45
Murray River	0
Murrumbidgee	20
Muswellbrook	4
Nambucca Valley	134
Narrabri	105
Narrandera	50
Narromine	100
Newcastle	75
North Sydney	0
Northern Beaches	538
Oberon	15
Orange	40
Parkes	20
Parramatta	495
Penrith	724
Port Macquarie-Hastings	281
Port Stephens	110
Queanbeyan-Palerang	40
Randwick	215
Richmond Valley	263
Ryde	5
Shellharbour	497
Shoalhaven	204
Singleton	0
Snowy Monaro	142
Snowy Valleys	79
Strathfield	114
Sutherland	201
Sydney	330
Tamworth	281
Temora	0
Tenterfield	50
The Hills	67
Tweed	103
Upper Hunter	40
Upper Lachlan	0
Uralla	85
Wagga Wagga	105
Walcha	5
Walgett	150
Warren	10

Warrumbungle	56
Waverley	150
Weddin	39
Wentworth	72
Willoughby	0
Wingecarribee	55
Wollondilly	94
Wollongong	856
Woollahra	0
Yass Valley	40

**2. Could you please provide a breakdown of how many internet dongles have been issued to students by LGA since the lockdown began?**

As at 25 August 2021, over 18,100 dongles have been provided to schools to support remote teaching and learning. The breakdown by Local Government Area is included in the following table.

<b>LGA Name</b>	<b>Number of Dongles</b>
Albury	29
Armidale	30
Ballina	42
Balranald	0
Bathurst	20
Bayside	62
Bega Valley	33
Bellingen	10
Berrigan	15
Blacktown	1550
Bland	10
Blayney	0
Blue Mountains	101
Bogan	20
Bourke	0
Brewarrina	8
Broken Hill	43
Burwood	43
Byron	70
Cabonne	25
Camden	280
Campbelltown	1700
Canada Bay	107
Canterbury-Bankstown	1398
Carrathool	16
Central Coast	744

Central Darling	121
Cessnock	156
Clarence Valley	56
Cobar	10
Coffs Harbour	93
Coolamon	33
Coonamble	42
Cootamundra-Gundagai	60
Cowra	0
Cumberland	779
Dubbo	240
Dungog	22
Edward River	30
Eurobodalla	172
Fairfield	1708
Federation	16
Forbes	60
Georges River	225
Gilgandra	0
Glen Innes Severn	18
Goulburn Mulwaree	110
Greater Hume	0
Griffith	44
Gunnedah	15
Gwydir	55
Hawkesbury	267
Hay	10
Hilltops	37
Hornsby	108
Hunters Hill	15
Inner West	224
Inverell	50
Junee	5
Kempsey	81
Kiama	11
Ku-Ring-Gai	15
Kyogle	4
Lachlan	55
Lake Macquarie	193
Lane Cove	6
Leeton	60
Lismore	50
Lithgow	24
Liverpool	1073
Liverpool Plains	50

Lockhart	16
Maitland	55
Mid-Coast	132
Mid-Western	77
Moree Plains	60
Mosman	11
Murray River	12
Murrumbidgee	20
Muswellbrook	0
Nambucca Valley	97
Narrabri	40
Narrandera	25
Narromine	55
Newcastle	93
North Sydney	10
Northern Beaches	166
Oberon	15
Orange	70
Parkes	33
Parramatta	289
Penrith	800
Port Macquarie-Hastings	140
Port Stephens	60
Queanbeyan-Palerang	12
Randwick	88
Richmond Valley	150
Ryde	38
Shellharbour	469
Shoalhaven	124
Singleton	0
Snowy Monaro	155
Snowy Valleys	76
Strathfield	108
Sutherland	304
Sydney	142
Tamworth	205
Temora	21
Tenterfield	35
The Hills	84
Tweed	90
Upper Hunter	40
Upper Lachlan	15
Uralla	24
Wagga Wagga	73
Walcha	10

Walgett	30
Warren	0
Warrumbungle	31
Waverley	20
Weddin	25
Wentworth	34
Willoughby	21
Wingecarribee	30
Wollondilly	53
Wollongong	627
Woollahra	0
Yass Valley	15

**3. How many teachers in NSW government schools are currently vaccinated?**

The NSW Government has mandated vaccination for all school staff across all three sectors by 8 November, except those with medical exemption.

The Department of Education asked all school-based staff in government preschools and schools to answer a voluntary and anonymous survey about their vaccination status and intentions. The survey was open 20-25 August 2021, and approximately 53,000 (42 per cent of captured staff), responded to the survey. The findings from the survey indicate 67 per cent of respondents have had at least one COVID-19 vaccination.

In July 2021, the Department worked with NSW Health to invite around 17,000 primary and secondary school staff and 2,150 Early Childhood Educators from Fairfield, Liverpool and Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Areas (LGA) for priority vaccination.

**4. How many support staff in NSW government schools are currently vaccinated?**

Please refer to answer to supplementary question 3.

**5. Will all on-site school staff and teachers be required to be vaccinated before a school returns to face-to-face learning?**

Vaccinations for school staff across all sectors will be mandatory from 8 November 2021.

**6. What percentage of NSW HSC students have been working from home since the lockdown initially began in NSW on 25th June?**

Approximately 60 per cent of all HSC students enrolled in NSW public schools have been learning from home since 25 June 2021 under restrictions that apply to the Greater Sydney area.

From 16 August 2021, Year 12 and HSC students have been able to attend school on site individually or in small groups for essential curriculum and wellbeing reasons.

**7. How many students have dropped out of school since 25 June 2021, broken down by LGA and school year?**

A total of 2,222 students from Years 10 to 12 are recorded as having signed out of NSW public schools to leave secondary education since 25 June 2021. This figure includes students who left school to pursue full time work, start a full-time apprenticeship, or commence a TAFE/RTO course.

The Department of Education does not have student data at this level by LGA.

**8. Have any schools reported to the Department of Education that some students are not showing up for online learning?**

Student attendance and engagement during learning from home is monitored regularly by schools. Where students are absent from sessions or not demonstrating engagement with remote learning activities, this is managed through existing school attendance processes.

**9. When will Year 12 students in Dubbo and the surrounding region have access to Pfizer vaccines? Will this be before their HSC exams, and if not, why not?**

NSW Health are responsible for the vaccine rollout in NSW. The Minister and the Department of Education continue to advocate for priority vaccination for all students and school staff across NSW.

**10. How many HSC students have been vaccinated at Qudos Arena? Please provide a list broken down by LGA**

NSW Health are responsible for the vaccine rollout in NSW.

**11. Do you have any records of how many HSC students have been vaccinated at other locations?**

NSW Health are responsible for the vaccine rollout in NSW.



**12. How many HSC students have accessed the free taxi service to get vaccinated? Please provide a list broken down by LGA.**

Students took 180 Department of Education funded trips to or from the Qudos Bank Arena vaccination centre between 11 and 29 August 2021.

<b>School LGA</b>	<b>Number of trips (one-way)</b>
Bayside	2
Blacktown	16
Campbelltown	39
Canterbury-Bankstown	10
Cumberland	9
Fairfield	8
Georges River	2
Hawkesbury	2
Liverpool	43
Parramatta	4
Penrith	10
Strathfield	2
N/A	33

**13. How many HSC students with disability have accessed a personalised arrangements to be vaccinated?**

The Department of Education is working with Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) to offer vaccinations for eligible students with complex needs, for whom mass vaccination at Qudos Bank Arena was unsuitable. These students will be vaccinated at Blacktown Hospital in early September 2021.

As of 30 August 2021, WSLHD was processing bookings for 117 students from 47 schools. An additional 56 schools indicated their students have been vaccinated through other avenues.

**14. How many applications have been made to the COVID-19 special consideration program since the 21 June 2021?**

The completion date for students for Society and Culture Personal Interest Projects (PIP) was 9 August 2021.

As at 23 August 2021, 51 schools have submitted COVID-19 Special Consideration applications for 491 students relating to their PIPs.

Other courses for which the COVID-19 Special Consideration applies are not due yet, so numbers are not finalised.

**15. How many illness/misadventure applications have been made to NESAs since 21 June 2021?**

As at 23 August 2021, 39 students have submitted individual illness/misadventure applications for a variety of reasons.

**16. How many additional counselling or wellbeing staff has the Department of Education hired during the current lockdown?**

Since 26 June 2021, over 157 full-time equivalent (FTE) counselling and wellbeing staff have been hired.

**17. What additional online counselling or wellbeing support has been provided during remote learning?**

To better support students during learning from home, the Department of Education has provisioned members of the school counselling service with a dedicated online telepsychology platform. This allows remote interaction with students, and where appropriate, parents and carers. This enables psychology services to continue securely and confidentially.

Student Support Officers, School Chaplains, and Wellbeing Nurses contact our students, providing an additional layer of support to that already being provided by the class teachers and school leadership teams.

The Department is also working collaboratively with partners such as NSW Health, headspace, Kids Helpline, the Black Dog Institute, and ReachOut to provide counselling staff with additional resources to further support students during the pandemic, including after-hours requests for support.

The Learning from Home Hub includes age-appropriate daily videoed wellbeing activities for primary students and 20 minute self-directed sessions for and secondary students. These materials have been developed to increase students' sense of wellbeing and resilience.

The Department have also created the Stay Healthy HSC webpage specifically for Year 12 students and their families. These resources include contacts for 24 hour free and confidential support services, tips for studying, specific advice for families and carers and many more support materials to maintain good wellbeing.