



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 Premier and Finance

THE LEGISLATURE

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Answers due by: 23 November 2021

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone 9230 2898

BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Legislature

Questions from The Hon. Mark Buttigieg MLC

Review of staff positions

1. The consultancy company Mercer Cull & Egan Dell will be engaged to undertake a review of the Secretary/Research Assistant positions.
 - (a) Has the terms of reference or methodology for Mercer Cull & Egan Dell been finalised?
 - i. If so, was the terms of reference or methodology determined after consultation was conducted with Secretary/Research Assistant staff?
 - ii. If not, will the terms of reference or methodology be determined after consultation is conducted with Secretary/Research Assistant staff?
 - (b) What is the current understanding of the terms of reference or methodology that will be provided to Mercer Cull & Egan Dell for their review?

Hansard

2. Many members and staff are increasingly experiencing untenable waiting times for the transcripts of proceedings of committees and the House. Can you make a commitment to increase Hansard staff to meet the demand?

Closed captioning

3. When will the contract for closed captioning be signed?
4. What date will the trial for the closed captioning commence?
5. Will there be a consultation and information provided to Members and their staff prior to commencing the trial for closed captioning?

PCBU Responsibilities

6. Who is the PCBU in the event that a Member is injured as a direct result of travelling home after a late sitting?
7. How can Employing Members adequately discharge their duty under the Work Health and Safety Act to protect their staff from a risk of fatigue without being able to access a facility providing Time off in Lieu that can be back-filled by relief staff?

Department of Parliamentary Services staff

8. What percentage of departmental staff have a disability?

Policies

9. Is there a consultation policy in force in NSW Parliament?
 - (a) Does it apply to:
 - i. A requirement to consult Members?
 - ii. A requirement to consult Members' staff?
10. There are at least 97 policies that are viewable on the intranet. How many of these policies are currently in force?
 - (a) Of the policies that are not in force but are viewable on the intranet, why are these policies viewable on the intranet?
 - (b) Where is there a publicly viewable document which details all policies that are currently in force in NSW Parliament?
11. At least 31 of the policies that are viewable on the intranet have not been reviewed within the timeframe imposed under the policy. What is the plan to review these in addition to the 22 policies that must be reviewed during this Parliament?
 - (a) Will this plan involve the consultation of staff?
 - i. Through what mechanism?
12. When will the NSW Parliament House Closed Circuit Television and Security Access Control Systems Policy be reviewed?

Technological improvements

13. Have there been any movements toward a project that would modernise divisions by recording electronically?

Livestreaming

14. During the first Remote Parliament Sitting Day on 14 September 2021, the Parliament website crashed, meaning that members of public were unable to view the sitting. Staff were informed that this occurred because more than 3,000 people were on the website. Have there been any movements toward a project to counter this?

Budget

15. Can you provide an update on the efficiency dividend?
 - (a) How is the Parliament able to deal with on-going cuts?
16. How much of this financial year's allocated budget has been spent?
 - (a) How is expenditure relative to allocation tracking until the end of this financial year?

17. What is the overall level of non-member FTE's employed by the Parliament for the 2021 financial year compared to the 2020 financial year?
18. What is the next tranche of capital works planned over the next financial year?

Parliamentary security

19. In the March 2020-2021 Budget Estimates supplementary questions submitted for this portfolio, a number of questions pertaining to Parliamentary security were asked. All of the answers to the questions were the equivalent, "As per long standing practice, the administration does not comment publicly on security matters relating to the Parliament. The Chief Executive DPS would be happy to brief committee members privately on security matters." Will the President agree to provide a briefing session to interested Members on matters relating to the security of Parliament?