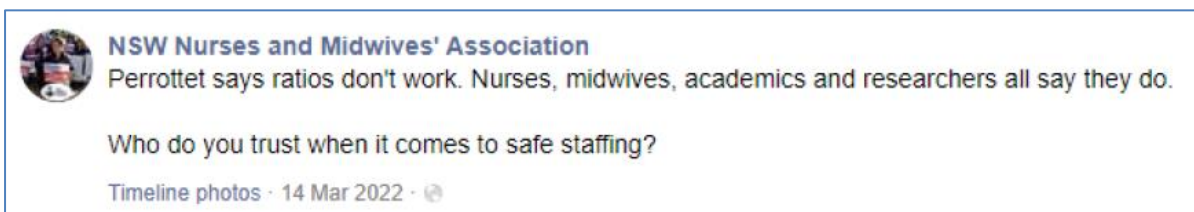


4 September 2023

**INQUIRY INTO THE ELECTORAL FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2023**  
**HEARING – Wednesday 30 August 2023**  
**RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**  
**NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association**

**Q1: Do you agree that your union's own Facebook Post which stated "Perrottet says ratios don't work... Who do you trust when it comes to safe staffing?" is indistinguishable from negative campaign material produced by NSW Labor?**  
**(a) If no, please explain why?**



Our call for shift-by-shift ratios is supported by peer reviewed national and international research. The Facebook post referred to is asking the public to trust nurses, midwives and academics over politicians when it comes to safe staffing. It doesn't mention NSW Labor or who to vote for. It was posted a year prior to the last State election. Perrottet is on the record as not supporting ratios and for that reason our members called him out on it, given it is a staffing system that has proven to work in other States (see image below).



Address all correspondence to: 50 O'Dea Avenue Waterloo NSW 2017

P (02) 8595 1234 • 1300 367 962 F (02) 9662 1414 W [www.nswnma.asn.au](http://www.nswnma.asn.au) E [gensec@nswnma.asn.au](mailto:gensec@nswnma.asn.au)

NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association ABN 63 398 164 405 | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NSW Branch ABN 85 726 054 782

**Q1a (this was a question at the inquiry taken on notice): Has NSWNMA ever supported any party other than the ALP?**

Yes. The NSWNMA is not affiliated to any political party and our campaigns around election time are issues-based, therefore we support those parties that support our campaigns. Our campaign for ratios began over a decade ago. During the 2023 State election, we encouraged voters to "Vote for the candidates who support ratios". A broad range of politicians supported our campaign including Labor, The Greens, a Nationals party representative, some Independents and minor parties, such as Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, Animal Justice.

This is a screenshot of our video on our Facebook showing Nationals MP, Adam Marshall, supporting ratios in the 2023 State election campaign:



This is a flyer from the 2023 State election campaign showing NSWNMA promotes the parties that support our campaign (not just ALP):



## 2023 ELECTION GUIDE

Ask your local candidate what commitment they have made to ratios or check our website [ratios4nsw.com.au](https://ratios4nsw.com.au)



 <b>COALITION</b> LEADER: Dominic Perrottet 	 <b>LABOR</b> LEADER: Chris Minns  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ COMMITTED to ratios, starting in 5 key areas</li> <li>✓ COMMITTED to scrap the public sector wages cap</li> </ul>	 <b>THE GREENS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ COMMITTED to legislate ratios in full</li> <li>✓ COMMITTED to scrap the public sector wages cap</li> </ul>
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**Q2: Do you pay membership or affiliation fees to Unions NSW? What is the annual cost of such fees for the last four years?**

The NSWNMA is affiliated with Unions NSW and pays affiliation fees. The fees paid for the last four years were:

<b>Jul-19</b>	<b>Jun-20</b>	\$242,972.40
<b>Jul-20</b>	<b>Jun-21</b>	\$250,911.53
<b>Jul-21</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	\$268,113.89
<b>Jul-22</b>	<b>Jun-23</b>	\$289,186.62

**Q3: Are decisions to participate in campaigns, or to incur electoral expenditure, directed to you by third parties or approved independently through your internal decision making processes?**

Our decisions to participate in campaigns, or to incur electoral expenditure, are approved independently through our internal decision-making processes; they are not directed to us by third parties.

**Q4: Could you explain what rules, objects or objectives, and decision making processes influence your strategic and tactical considerations with respect to which campaigns your organisation participates in and how?**

What we campaign on is voted on at either our bi-monthly Committee of Delegates or Annual Conference. Those resolutions are then considered by the Association's Executive and Council. Once they have endorsed the resolutions, Executive of the Association approves expenditure on major campaigns. All such decisions and expenditure are reported to the members. My comment on page 19 of the transcript reflects this:

"First of all, our campaigns are based on our members' ambitions as put to us at our annual conference [and Committee of Delegates], which I have left today in order to attend this inquiry. Once those ambitions are set by our members, our council, which consists of members elected by the members, endorses the expenditure that we make."

The Rules of the Association that govern these processes are registered under the State Industrial Relations Act 1996.

**Rule 3. OBJECTS**

(b) to provide a strong and effective voice for nurses and midwives to join together and to improve their workplaces, and their communities, through collective and political action, locally, nationally and internationally;

(k) to engage in political lobbying and debate to promote and advance the interests of members;



Our strategic and tactical decisions are based on basic campaign theory – who is the decision maker and how can we influence their decision on this matter? Regarding the pay and conditions of our public sector members, the decision makers are members of government and members of parliament. During an election the political parties / independents, as they set their platforms, and then voters, are the decision makers.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Whaites".

Michael Whaites  
Assistant General Secretary