

Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**Questions from the Hon. Chris Rath MLC (*on behalf of the Opposition*)****WOMEN****Women of the Year Awards**

1. The 2024 Woman of the Year Awards has no sponsors and Minister Harrison confirmed this during Budget Estimates.
 - (a) Were any sponsors approached to support the Woman of the Year Awards in 2024?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (c) What was the value of the sponsorships in 2023 and 2022?
 - (d) What is the cost of the Awards to the Government in 2024?

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) No
- (b) Following a Premier's Department's internal evaluation the pursuit of sponsorship for individual award categories was not recommended for 2024. However, the Department will conduct a strategic review to identify opportunities for pursuing a more holistic corporate partnership for the 2025 Awards and beyond.
- (c) 2023 sponsorship value: \$38,000 (3 sponsors)
2022 sponsorship value: \$80,000 (4 sponsors)
- (d) A budget of \$200,000 has been allocated to the 2024 program.

Regional Visits

2. Minister Harrison, you stated in Budget Estimates that you have been 'doing regional visits'.
 - (a) Which regional communities have you visited in your role as Minister since April?

Answer

I am advised:

Where a Minister, or employee of the Minister's office undertakes travel, travel is taken in accordance with the NSW government travel policy and the Ministers' Office Handbook.

The Premier's Department website also details PD_A5842315, "Domestic and international travel of NSW Ministers and their offices" that has been released under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

Regional trips include Dubbo, Orange, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Canowindra, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Lithgow, Moree, Walgett, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Muswellbrook.

3. According to your diary disclosures you have not yet met with the Country Women's Association of NSW.
- (a) Is that correct?
- (b) Have you requested a meeting with the CWA (NSW)?

Answer

I am advised:

Ministerial diary disclosures are published on the The Cabinet Office website in line with M2015-05-Publication of Ministerial Diaries. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/accessto-information/ministers-diary-disclosure>.

SENIORS

Seniors & Housing

4. Is the NSW Government committed to investing in the construction of 5,000 social housing properties every year for the next 10 years, with specific allocation for older people aged 55 years and over?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If not 5,000 social housing properties every year with specific allocation for older people aged 55 years and over, how many is the NSW Government committed to constructing?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

5. Will the NSW Government fund a specialist older person's housing information and support service that comprises both an early intervention and crisis response?
- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

6. Will the NSW Government lower the priority age for social housing eligibility from 80 to 55 years as a matter of urgency?
- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

Older Women & Housing

7. Will the NSW Government allocate a portion of Core and Cluster tranche 3 funding to pilot a crisis

accommodation support service for older women who have experienced violence?

- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

Core and Cluster is an innovative model that allows for independent living and privacy while providing access to supports. Support is tailored to the needs of all groups of women without focusing on a specific cohort. Funding has not been provided to a pilot program for any cohort including older women. Instead, the program is inclusive and targets a wide range of cohorts including Aboriginal women and children, women and children from CALD backgrounds, LGBTQI+ women, and young women. Locations of the refuges will be targeted to areas of high unmet demand, with a focus on regional and rural areas, to ensure women and children escaping Domestic and Family Violence can access the services required.

8. How will the NSW Government ensure suitability of crisis, transitional, and long-term housing built for older women, including trauma informed design, appropriate safety and privacy measures, noise control, proximity to public transport and health services, access to outdoor green areas, and additional space for exercise, work, study, and hobbies?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

9. Will the NSW Government provide specific allocation for older women on low incomes in the shared equity housing scheme?
- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the NSW Treasurer.

Ageing & Disability Commissioner

10. How much funding was allocated to the Office of the Ageing & Disability Commissioner in the 2023-24 Budget?
- (a) Can you confirm if this is one-off funding?
- (b) Will the funding continue in the forward years?
- (c) If not, why not?
- (d) How much was allocated to the Commissioner in the 2021-22 Budget?
- (e) How much was allocated to the Commissioner in the 2022-23 Budget?

Answer

I am advised:

\$4.838 million was allocated to the ADC in the 2023/24 Budget. In October 2023, an additional one-off funding payment of \$2.5 million was provided to the ADC.

- a) \$4.838 million is ongoing funding. The additional \$2.5 million is one-off funding.
- b) \$4.838 million will continue in the forward years.
- c) Not applicable
- d) The ADC was allocated \$5.620 million in the 2021-22 Budget (included \$1 million temporary grant from DCJ and \$400,000 temporary funds for the OCV scheme).
- e) The ADC was allocated \$5.447 million in the 2022-23 Budget (included \$1 million temporary grant from DCJ).

11. Has the Minister read the Statutory Review into the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019 Report?

Answer

Yes.

12. Does the Minister agree that several of the submissions called for the appropriate funding of the Ageing and Disability Commission as a matter of priority to ensure the Commissioner can appropriately carry out his duties?

Answer

See answer to question 10.

13. What is the Ageing Commissioner's current salary and operating budget?

Answer

I am advised:

The Commissioner's total remuneration is \$343,640 per annum. The ADC's operating budget in 2023/24 is \$7.035 million.

14. Will the Minister commit to looking at an increase in funding?

- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

Housing for Older People

15. Is the Minister aware of the report "Housing Issues for People with Disability, Older People and Carers in NSW?"

Answer

Yes. A copy of the paper, signed by the Chairs of the four advisory bodies was provided to me on 11 July 2023.

16. Did the Minister receive a briefing on this report?

Answer

I have discussed housing issues for older people in NSW directly with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing on several occasions who are a co-author of this report.

17. As Minister for Ageing, what steps have you taken since becoming Minister to advocate for improved access to housing for older people?

Answer

I regularly collaborate with cabinet colleagues including the Minister for Housing regarding improved access to housing for older people.

18. “Ageing in Place” is preferred by the majority of older people in NSW. It is mentioned in the NSW Ageing Strategy, but this report recommends making it a priority. What is the Minister’s view on “Ageing in Place?”

Answer

“Ageing in place” is an important to the Government's whole-of-Government approach to our Ageing Strategy.

19. Will the Minister commit to making “ageing in place” a priority of its government?

Answer

See answer to question 18.

Ageing and Disability Abuse Hotline

20. In 2022-23, the Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline received 14,024 calls – a 12% increase in calls on the previous year (12,561).

- (a) Has the hotline been able to handle the increase in calls?
- (b) How many employees does the helpline have?
- (c) Are all calls answered straight away?
- (d) How many calls are going unanswered each day due to staffing levels being unable to meet demand?
- (e) What are the qualifications of the staff answering the calls?
- (f) What are you doing to increase employees or improve employee retention?
- (g) Will the Labor Government increase funding to the hotline to ensure that everyone who calls the hotline can speak to someone immediately?

Answer

I am advised:

- a) The Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline has been able to handle the increase in calls. However, not all calls have been able to be answered at first contact. The ADC has ensured that all calls that go through to voicemail are followed up by the Helpline, but some callers opt not to leave a message.
- b) As at November 2023, the Helpline has eight staff including the Helpline Manager.

- c) Not all calls to the Helpline have been able to be answered straight away.
- d) On average, during business hours the Helpline receives 248 calls per week and 50 calls per day. On average, in 5.7% of calls the caller has waited in the queue and abandoned the call rather than waiting to speak to a Helpline Consultant or leaving a voicemail. The average number of abandoned calls is 14 calls per week, or three calls per day.
- e) Helpline staff have diverse backgrounds and qualifications in a range of relevant areas. Qualifications held by current Helpline staff include degrees in Social Work and Arts, diplomas in Community Services and Counselling, and certificates in Disability Support, Allied Health, and Assistant in Nursing.
- f) The ADC has made a number of changes to increase employees and improve employee retention in the Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline. Since 1 July 2023, the ADC has:
 - engaged two additional Helpline Consultants
 - changed the operating hours of the Helpline to 9am-4pm and adjusted the Helpline roster to maximise staff levels at peak periods
 - introduced a direct referral option for callers to key complaints bodies to make it easier for them to connect to the right agency at an early point.
- g) Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

21. Can you explain your understanding of the role of the MACA?

Answer

The Ministerial Advisory Council (MACA) provides advice on matters that affect the needs, interest's and wellbeing of Seniors in NSW.

22. Does the Minister respect the opinions, judgements and advice given to you by the MACA?

Answer

Yes.

23. Did the Minister consult with MACA when you scrapped the NSW Regional Travel Card, affecting over 1 million NSW Seniors?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed at the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

24. Has the Minister tasked the group with specific programs or responsibilities?

Answer

Since being in office I have accepted the invitation to address every MACA meeting.

The role of the MACA is to advise to the Minister for Seniors on matters affecting the needs, interests and wellbeing of older people in NSW, and on the impact of the ageing of the population.

25. How many of the members of MACA are living and working in regional NSW?

Answer

I am advised:

Three.

PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Plan

26. Is the NSW Government committed to a 50% increase in funding to the specialist domestic and family violence sector to ensure all victim-survivors, vulnerable children and their families receive immediate, effective, high quality specialist support, including those who do not choose to seek redress via the criminal justice system?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

27. Will the NSW Government allocate additional funding to implement the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Primary Prevention Plan due for release in late 2023, to change the culture of gendered violence in NSW?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) if yes, how much funding will be allocated?

Answer

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

28. Early childhood settings, primary and secondary schools, TAFE's, training colleges and universities all have a role to play in preventing violence in our community. What is the NSW Government doing to fund and support primary prevention initiatives in TAFE's, colleges and universities to address the underlying gendered drivers of sexual, domestic and family violence as identified in the Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia (Our Watch, 2015, updated 2021)?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.

29. Will the NSW Government allocate additional funding to implement the NSW Domestic and Family

Violence 10-year Workforce Development plan, due for release in 2024?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

Services for Aboriginal and Torres Islander Communities

30. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations are involved in addressing the devastating impact of domestic and family violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in NSW?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government is working to achieve Target 13 with its Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO), government and community partners through the development of a program of work prioritising co-designed, community-led responses and prioritising Self-determination, Early Intervention & Prevention, Healing & Recovery for Aboriginal families, including men who use violence.

DCJ is co-designing a local, on country SHLV service model for delivery in Western NSW with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO).

To ensure culturally safe and effective service delivery for Aboriginal clients, each of the 27 WDVCASs across the state employs at least one full-time equivalent Aboriginal Focus Worker. These identified positions support Aboriginal clients, foster relationships between the WDVCAS and Aboriginal communities through community engagement activities, and provide guidance to their WDVCAS colleagues about supporting Aboriginal clients. Legal Aid NSW is developing a strategic framework to enhance WDVCAS service delivery to Aboriginal clients in coming years, including ongoing cultural competency training for all WDVCAS staff and improving Aboriginal engagement in Safety Action Meetings.

An Aboriginal-led team within DCJ is leading work to achieve Target 13 and co-design and development with Aboriginal people and organisations includes:

- A dedicated NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence plan to align to the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032, the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan, and NSW Sexual Violence plan 2022-2027 and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Acton plan.
- An Aboriginal family and domestic violence court support program to provide specialised, cultural and integrated support to people charged with domestic violence related offences and for victims of violence, in a holistic manner.
- Creation of Aboriginal Identified positions in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and aligning with the existing NSW Health Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Strategy, to provide holistic, culturally responsive, trauma informed and timely support to individuals and families who experience Domestic Family and Sexual Violence.

- An Aboriginal Family Healing Model of care to provide holistic family violence program that promotes connection and reduces instances of violence for Aboriginal families who remain together or are connected by family and community ties.
- An Aboriginal Community and NSW Police DFV Response model to provide a localised and shared response to domestic and family violence matters for Aboriginal communities, promote place-based responses and embed ‘Aboriginal ways of working’, and
- Workforce capability uplift initiatives focused on equipping and enhancing the current skills and practices of all workforces providing Domestic Family and Sexual Violence services and developing strategies for Aboriginal families and communities to engage in localised service design.
- 58 new identified frontline positions are being created in NSW utilising Commonwealth Government funding, which will likely be situated in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

31. The Aboriginal Women’s Advisory Network were established in 2022 to improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. They are an integral initiative to support Closing the Gap Target 13, yet the NSW Government has only provided short- term funding which will expire in June 2024. Will the NSW Government commit to ongoing funding for AWAN to continue to advance the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children?

Answer

I am advised:

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

32. Considering the impact of domestic and family violence in the Aboriginal community, does the NSW Government intend to fund primary violence prevention initiatives in New South Wales which align with Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children (Our Watch, 2018)?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

33. What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are experiencing violence can access specialist and culturally safe support?

Answer

I am advised:

Work being undertaken by the NSW Government to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

who are experiencing violence can access specialist and culturally safe support includes:

- Establishment of the Aboriginal Women’s Advisory Network (AWAN) to provide knowledge and guidance on Aboriginal-led and place-based solutions driven by the experience and expertise of Aboriginal women.
- An identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander position funded at Domestic Violence NSW to support the Aboriginal domestic and family violence workforce and establish a Community of Practice among Aboriginal focused workers.
- In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, the establishment of 58 New frontline worker positions to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing violence.
- The delivery of the DFV Workforce Survey and Workforce Development Strategy includes consideration of worker capabilities to deliver culturally safe support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- The development of a standalone NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan.
- Current funded initiatives under the NSW Sexual Violence Project Fund and the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-2023 include tailored projects delivered by and in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations that meet the needs of Aboriginal communities, including:
 - \$489,540 in funding to ‘Wurringa Baiya Aboriginal Women’s Legal Centre’ for their project ‘Safety, Mind, Body and Spirit’, delivering community educational resources and sessions providing critical information, awareness, support and referrals for Aboriginal women and children, community workers and services in NSW
 - \$709,000 in funding to ‘Yes Unlimited’ in partnership with Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service, Linking Communities Network Ltd, Albury Wodonga Health and Women's Centre for Health and Wellbeing (Albury Wodonga) Inc. to deliver their project ‘A Community of Care: Coordinated Care and Access for Women Experiencing Power-based Personal Violence’.
- A funding envelope of \$20 million towards supporting Target 13 of Closing the Gap through community-led and culturally tailored approaches. Initiatives being progressed include:
 - Co-design of an Aboriginal family and domestic violence court support program to provide specialised, intensive, and cultural support to people charged with domestic and family violence related offences and for victims of violence, in a holistic manner.
 - Creation of identified positions aligning with the existing NSW Health Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Strategy, to provide holistic culturally responsive, trauma informed and timely support to individuals and families who experience domestic and family violence, by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
 - Co-design of an Aboriginal Community & Police response model to provide a localised and shared response to domestic and family violence matters for Aboriginal communities, promote

- place-based responses, and embed ‘Aboriginal ways of working’.
- Co-development of an Aboriginal Family Healing model of care to provide a holistic family violence program that promotes connection and reduces instances of violence for Aboriginal families who remain together or are connected by family and community ties.
 - Implementation of workforce capability uplift initiatives focused on equipping and enhancing the current skills and practices of all workforces providing domestic and family violence services and developing strategies for Aboriginal families and communities to engage in localised service design.

Coercive Control Training

34. Is the NSW Government committed to substantially increasing investment in the ongoing education and training of police and the judiciary in how to effectively and appropriately police and prosecute domestic and family violence crimes, including non-physical abuse and coercive control?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and the Attorney General.

35. During Budget Estimates Anne Campbell from DCJ stated in relation to NSW Police training for the coercive control legislation “That training was developed in collaboration with DV specialists.” Could you clarify what the Department meant by ‘developed in collaboration with the sector.’”

Answer

I am advised:

The question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

36. What is the Government’s response to calls from the domestic and family sector for police to share a copy of the training content with sector and lived experts?

(a) Will this be provided?

Answer

I am advised:

The question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

37. What is the Government’s response to calls from the domestic and family violence sector for co- design and co-facilitation of police training on coercive control?

Answer

I am advised:

The question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

38. During Budget Estimates Minister Harrison stated that all police have received online training regarding the coercive control offence under phase 1.

(a) Will all NSW police officers have completed this by July 1, 2024?

(b) On average how long does it take NSW Police Officers to complete this online training?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

39. Anne Campbell elaborated that specialist police would receive further face-to-face training in phase 2.

(a) How many police will receive phase 2 training?

(b) Does phase 2 training include General Duties Officers?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

40. Given the complexity of coercive control, ongoing face-to-face training for all General Duties and Specialist Police Officers is vital. How often will this face-to-face training be provided for existing officers (ie in addition to the Constable development program)?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

Domestic Violence and Misidentification

41. In May 2023, Domestic Violence NSW hosted a forum on the misidentification of the predominant aggressor, from which stemmed the following six calls to action:

- The Attorney-General commission the NSW Law Reform Commission or a special taskforce to undertake a broad review of the Crimes (Personal & Domestic Violence) Act looking at legislation and practice in order to address wide scale, systemic misidentification.
- Ongoing investment in co-designed and co-delivered initiatives to deliver cultural and systems change to address and prevent misidentification.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of recommendations from the evaluation of the current Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service co-location pilot within Police Stations.
- Investment of substantial, ongoing funding for coordination and delivery of state-wide prevention initiatives across sectors, to address public discourse and attitudes in workplaces and educational institutions, linked to the NSW primary prevention strategy (in development).

- Fund the establishment of a working group from within existing structures, such as the Domestic Violence Reforms Consultation Group, to examine and make recommendations to address and prevent misidentification across all systems.
- Create oversight by an independent body to ensure the recommendations are implemented and examine appropriate opportunities for expansion.

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Police and Counter-Terrorism and the Attorney General.

42. What steps is the NSW Government taking to address these calls to action, as well as misidentification of the predominant aggressor in domestic violence matters in general?

Answer

I am advised:

The government is committed to carefully considering the issue of misidentification and assessing whether any policy, procedural or legislative reform or further education and training are needed to address and prevent misidentification.

Multicultural Communities

43. In November 2022, Domestic Violence NSW co-hosted a multicultural forum alongside Settlement Services International, Muslim Women Australia and Immigrant Women's Speak Out, from which stemmed the following six calls to action.

- Ensure the NSW DFV and Sexual Assault Plans have targeted procurement and strategies to respond to DFV in multicultural communities, in line with the National Plan.
- Double funding for specialist DFV services and fund multicultural organisations to provide coordinated and tailored support for multicultural communities experiencing violence.
- Fund the DFV specialist sector to build the capacity of multicultural specialist workers to enhance responses for people experiencing DFV in multicultural communities.
- Increase support for primary prevention and early intervention strategies, ensuring they are co-designed, community-led and are inclusive of boys and men from multicultural and multifaith backgrounds.
- Universal access to support for temporary visa holders experiencing DFV including income, health care and housing, as per the recommendations of the National Advocacy Group for Women on Temporary Visa.
- Establish a DFV Multicultural Committee as part of the NSW DFV and Sexual Assault Council to inform whole-of-government strategies at the intersections of multiculturalism and DFV.

Answer

There is no question.

44. What steps is the NSW Government taking to address these calls to action?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to responding to domestic, family and sexual violence in multicultural communities and to working closely with culturally diverse communities to understand and address need.

Domestic Violence Regional Services

45. Considering the limited access to services in regional New South Wales, what commitment has the NSW Government made to urgently increase funding to rural and regional specialist domestic and family violence services to meet demand and ensure accessible services for all victim-survivors?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government acknowledges that people living in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW who experience violence face specific issues related to their geographic location and social and cultural characteristics of living in small communities.

The NSW Government delivers a range of programs to assist people affected by domestic and family violence (DFV) across the state, including in regional NSW.

The NSW Government will continue to work with regional and rural communities in addressing domestic and family violence need.

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

Disability and Violence

46. Following the Disability Royal Commission, will the NSW Government actively support the federal, state and territory governments develop a five-year Action Plan for Women and Children With Disability to accompany the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

Recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission are being considered by the Federal Government, the NSW Government will work with the Federal Government and will consider a whole-of-government response.

47. Following the Disability Royal Commission, will the NSW Government amend its legislative definitions of family and domestic violence to include:

- All relationships in which people with disability experience family and domestic violence, including but not limited to carer and support worker relationships
- Disability-based violence and abuse
- All domestic settings, including but not limited to supported accommodation such as group homes,

respite centres and boarding houses?

- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

See answer to question 46.

48. During Budget Estimates Minister Harrison said that “all of the recommendations that the Law Enforcement and Conduct Commission (LECC) have made are valid recommendations.” Will the Government commit to implementing all of the recommendations?

- (a) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

Women’s Safety Commissioner

49. During Budget Estimates Michael Tidball from DCJ indicated that 15 full time positions will report to Ms. Tonkin. Are these additional positions or existing positions within the Department?

- (a) What will be the roles of these 15 positions?

Answer

I am advised:

There are 15 full time positions in the new Women's Safety Commissioner's directorate, the Commissioner and 14 fulltime positions that will report to her.

Four positions are existing positions reporting to the Commissioner, five new positions will be created, and five existing positions will be transferred from the Women, Family and Community Safety Branch within Department of Communities and Justice.

As the OWSC is a new directorate, more detailed functions will be developed as part of the establishment of the new office and based on business needs.

Funding

50. During Budget Estimates Minister Harrison stated that “The NSW Budget for 2023-24 in relation to spending on domestic and family violence is on track for \$417.2 million. Can a breakdown be provided on how this \$417.2 million is allocated, specifying the dollar amount for each specific domestic and family violence service stream?

- (a) How much is allocated for Staying Home Leaving Violence?
 (b) How much is allocated for the Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services?

- (c) How much is allocated for men's behaviour change programs?
- (d) How much is allocated for the Core and Cluster program?
- (e) How much is allocated for Safer Pathways?
- (f) Can you clarify how much the Government is spending in 2023-24 on domestic violence programs and services?

Answer

I am advised:

- (a) \$19.3 million is allocated for Staying Home Leaving Violence.
- (b) Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services have been allocated \$39.5m in 2023/24.
- (c) \$10.6 million is allocated for men's behaviour change programs.
- (d) \$204.9 million is allocated for the Core and Cluster program.
- (e) Safer Pathway has been allocated \$47.3m.
- (f) The NSW Government is spending in \$417.2 million 2023-24 on domestic violence programs and services.

51. During Budget Estimates Minister Harrison stated that "In the previous year when the Liberal- Nationals were in Government there was \$226.5 million." What are the additional programs and services that are funded in 2023-24 that were not funded in the previous year or have been expanded compared to the previous year?

- (a) Can you clarify how much the previous Government spent in the 2022-23 financial year on domestic and family violence programs and services and where that was spent?

Answer

I am advised:

See [Gender Equality Budget Statement | NSW Government](#)

The 2023/24 budget also includes additional Commonwealth funding from the National Partnership Agreement and an increase in Core and Cluster funding.

- (a) Actual spend in 2022/23 on the DFV Program budget was \$226.5 million. This was spent on specialist DFV programs including Rent Choice Start Safely, Core and Cluster, National Partnership Agreement projects, the NSW Domestic Violence Line, Staying Home Leaving Violence, Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service, Core and Cluster, Men's Behaviour Change Programs, Safer Pathway (including Women's Court Advocacy Program).

52. During Budget Estimates Minister Harrison referred to funding for 20 specialist children's workers in refuges

being extended for another 12 months in the 2023-24 budget. Will the Government commit to ongoing funding for these children's workers, and expanding the specialist workers to all specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW?

Answer

Decisions on future funding will be made through the annual budget process.

Core and Cluster

53. The Liberals & Nationals in Government committed \$484.3 million over 4 years (\$77 million to be spent in the 2022-23 financial year) to deliver 75 new core and cluster refuges. How much of the \$77 million was spent in the last financial year?

Answer

I am advised:

The Core and Cluster program spent \$63.55 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

54. Is there any additional funding in the 2023-24 Budget for the implementation of the Core and Cluster model?

Answer

I am advised:

\$204.9 million is allocated for the Core and Cluster program in 2023/24.

55. Have concerns been raised with you from the domestic violence sector in relation to the confidentiality of the sites of the new refuges being delivered under the core and cluster model?

- (a) If yes, what have you done to address those concerns to ensure the safety and security of women and children using the new refuges?

Answer

I am advised:

Yes.

The Department of Communities and Justice and the Department of Planning and the Environment are working together and have provided clear information to Core and Cluster providers that location information can be withheld through the DA process. I have communicated this directly to all Community Housing Providers on Friday 24 November 2023.

Coercive Control Taskforce

56. It was stated during Budget Estimates that *'there is a health representative on the taskforce, Ms Deborah Willcox, who is a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Health, who does play a very active role in the work of the Taskforce. Where Ms Willcox is unable to attend, there has always been a health representative. Within the Department of Health, from the*

Department of Health, there's been very active engagement.'

- (a) What knowledge and experience of coercive control and its health impacts does the representative have?
- (b) What knowledge and experience does the representative have of the community health sector?
- (c) We know that a large proportion of women disclose domestic and family violence in health settings and in particular with GP's. How are GP's being engaged for implementation?
- (d) How are GP's being supported to understand coercive control and how it might present?
- (e) Who are GP's directed to refer their patients who disclose domestic and family violence and/or coercive control to for support?
- (f) Given the health impacts of coercive control do you think one representative on the taskforce is adequate?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Sexual Assault in Aged Care

57. What actions has the Minister taken to reduce the assault of women in aged care facilities, noting that the evidence shows there are 52 reports of women being assaulted in aged care facilities each week across Australia?
- (a) Is there mandatory reporting of sexual assault in aged care facilities in NSW?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer

I am advised:

Information relating to actions to reduce the assault of women in aged care facilities is contained in the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022–2027: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/service-providers/domestic-and-family-violence-services/NSW-Sexual-Violence-Plan-2022%E2%80%932027.pdf>

CARERS & VOLUNTEERS

Department Liaison Officers

58. Have any Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) in the Minister's office engaged or are engaging in party political work and/or activities?

Answer

I am advised:

No.

59. Did the Minister or any Ministerial staff have any involvement in the recruitment or employment of DLO

staff?

Answer

I am advised:

No.

60. Have any DLOs in the Minister's office been included in meetings where party political matters were discussed?

Answer

I am advised:

No.

61. Have any DLO positions been advertised publicly?

Answer

I am advised:

No.

62. Have any recruitment services been engaged for the employment of DLOs?

(a) If yes:

- i. What companies were engaged?
- ii. Were the positions advertised?
- iii. What was the cost of the recruitment services?
- iv. What was the cost of the advertising?
- v. Were any individuals interviewed by the Minister or staff within the Minister's office?
- vi. Were any DLOs subsequently employed?
- vii. Were any DLOs employed on a contract or fixed term basis or were they employed on-going departmental employees?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice has not engaged any recruitment services for the employment of DLOs. Assignment of employees from the department to the role of DLO in a ministerial office is conducted by the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services branch and HR Talent Acquisition branch within the department.

Staffing

63. How many staff in the Minister's office advise on the following portfolios:

- (a) Women?
- (b) Seniors?
- (c) Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault?
- (d) Carers?
- (e) Volunteers?

Answer

I am advised:

All staff are employed to assist the Minister in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013.

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-toinformation/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

Discretionary Fund

64. Does the Minister have any discretionary funds?

- (a) If yes, what is the total amount that has been made available to the Minister?
 - i. How much has already been expended?
 - ii. What is the dollar value breakdown on what the discretionary funds have been expended on?

Answer

I am advised:

- a) The Carers' discretionary fund is \$200,000 per annum. The Women's discretionary fund is \$200,000 per annum. There are no discretionary funds for Seniors or Domestic Violence Sexual Assault.
 - i. No expenditure has been made from the Carers' or Women's discretionary fund in 2023/24.

65. Have any funds allocated to programs in the 2022-23 NSW Budget have been repurposed or redirected in the 2023-24 Budget?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil.

Government Webpages

66. Are all government webpages relating to the Minister's portfolio responsibilities up to date and current?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) can confirm that the ministers page at

<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/communities-and-justice-ministers.html> lists the current DCJ Ministers with the images, names and DCJ-related ministerial titles the same as those reflected on <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers> which is managed by the Premier's Department.

2023-24 NSW Budget – Carers

67. In this year's Budget, how much has been allocated to carers?

(a) What is the dollar value breakdown for each allocation?

Answer

I am advised:

\$5.1million

Unpaid Carers

68. How many unpaid carers are there in NSW?

(a) How many unpaid carers are under the age of 25 years?

Answer

I am advised:

There are 79,300 young carers under the age of 25 in NSW.

69. What work is being undertaken to identify young carers in the community?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Government funds the Carers NSW Young Carer Program which provides information and referral support to young carers in NSW and the professionals, educators and community members who support them. Details of the NSW Young Carer Program are published on <https://www.carersnsw.org.au/services-and-support/programs-services/young-carers/young-carer-program-at-carers-nsw> website.

70. What work is being undertaken to engage with young carers particularly those who are still at school to provide support and assistance?

Answer

I am advised:

That the Carers NSW Young Carers Program delivers Young Carer Awareness Training and other information sessions to help raise awareness of young carers in schools, universities and organisations. Details of the NSW Young Carer Program are published on the <https://www.carersnsw.org.au/services-and-support/programs-services/young-carers/young-carer-program-at-carers-nsw> website. In the NSW Carers Strategy: Caring in NSW

2020-2030, 2nd Action Plan 2023-24 (Action 6) the NSW Department of Education has committed to publish and promote a resource for schools “Being a carer, being a student, being a kid.” Details of the Strategy and Action plan are published on the <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au> website.

71. How many schools participate in the “Being a Carer, Being a Student and Being a Kid”?

(a) Can you provide a list of these schools?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

72. How many young carers participate in the “Being a Carer, Being a Student and Being a Kid”?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning.

2023-24 NSW Budget – Volunteers

73. In this year’s Budget, how much has been allocated to volunteers?

(a) What is the dollar value breakdown for each allocation?

Answer

I am advised:

\$200,000 in 2023/24 supports the portfolio work implemented under the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020-2030. The Centre for Volunteering, the NSW peak body for the volunteering sector, has also been allocated \$811, 958 through the State Peaks Program for the 2023/24 financial year.

NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal

74. How many organisations are registered on the portal currently?

(a) DCJ has partnered with SEEK Volunteer to deliver the Volunteer Recruitment Portal, why not LinkedIn or Indeed as well?

Answer

Please refer to the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal (www.nsw.gov.au/volunteering)

I am advised:

DCJ partnered with SEEK Volunteer because SEEK Volunteer: is a highly recognised and utilised market leader in volunteer recruitment; provides a cost effective and affordable solution to the NSW Government, as a service, that is focused on the NSW volunteering sector while being supported by SEEK Volunteer’s wider technology and database; is free for volunteer involving organisations and volunteers to use regardless of the number of opportunities posted, roles filled or expressions of interest submitted. LinkedIn and Indeed are not tailored volunteer recruitment platforms for the volunteering sector and the recruitment of volunteers, and the primary focus of LinkedIn and Indeed is paid employment. LinkedIn or Indeed are not as cost effective or free for

organisations conducting recruitment activities.

75. What is the total number of visits to the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal from January 2022 to December 2022?

(a) How many visits from January 2023 to date?

Answer

I am advised:

- Number of visits to the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal from January 2022 to December 2022 is 206,370 (Data Source: internal data reports on the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal user traffic).
- Number of visits to the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal from January 2023 to end September 2023 is 158,941 (year to date, not a full 12 months) (Data Source: internal data reports on the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal user traffic).

76. How many expressions of interest submitted for available volunteering opportunities from January 2022 to December 2022?

(a) How many expressions of interest from January 2023 to date?

Answer

I am advised:

- Please refer to the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal (www.nsw.gov.au/volunteering)
- Please refer to the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal (www.nsw.gov.au/volunteering)

NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

77. How much is DCJ currently contributing to the Centre for Volunteering as sponsorship?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice in 2023/24 is contributing sponsorship to the value of \$57,000 (ex GST).

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

Merchant fees

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

Answer

I am advised:

Merchant fees are not incurred directly in this ministerial portfolio.

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

Answer

I am advised:

Merchant fees are not incurred directly in this ministerial portfolio.

80. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments made by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

Merchant fees are not incurred directly in this ministerial portfolio.

Website Usage

81. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

82. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

Ministerial disclosures

83. Did you make any updates to your Ministerial disclosure on or after 2 August 2023?

(a) If yes, what prompted this update to your disclosure?

Answer

I am advised:

Disclosure obligations for Ministers under Part 2 (Standing disclosure of interests), Part 3 (Conflict of Interest) and Part 4 (Gifts and Hospitality) of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code are continuous, Ministers are required to:

- Notify the Premier of a change to their pecuniary and other interests as soon
- as practicable after the change has occurred

- Notify the Premier of a change to pecuniary and other interests held by their
- immediate family members, as soon as practicable after the change has
- occurred
- Notify the Premier promptly of conflicts of interest
- Disclose gifts and hospitality promptly to the TCO Secretary.

I make continuous disclosures of the matters that are covered by the Ministerial Code.

Labour Hire Firms

84. Have any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilised the services of Labour Hire Firms since 28 March 2023? If yes, please advise in table form:

- (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.

Answer

I am advised:

This information is not held in a readily accessible format. The Department of Communities and Justice has utilised the services of labour hire firms since 28 March 2023, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies, to cover temporary vacancies, as required.

Hospitality

85. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget.

As Members of Parliament, Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes.

86. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including

catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

All departmental expenditure, including on hospitality, must be made in compliance with the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (GSF Act). The GSF Act sets out provisions for managing public finances and applies to a range of government decision makers, including Ministers, agency heads and government officers.

87. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?

(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

Answer

I am advised:

Ministers are required to declare to the Secretary of TCO certain gifts and hospitality with a market value of more than \$500 under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code. This is a continuous obligation for which Ministers are personally responsible.

I comply with my obligations under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code.

88. Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared publicly?

(c) Do staff declare their gifts publicly?

Answer

I expect all staff in my office to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff.

I am advised:

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150. These disclosures are kept on the Office Holder's Register of Gifts and Benefits.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

Departmental Credit Cards

89. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:

(a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?

i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.

- (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
- (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
- (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
- (e) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - i. What was the cost to replace them?
- (f) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. What was the total value of those purchases?
 - ii. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - iii. Were all those amounts repaid?
 - iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
- (g) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
 - i. What amount was repaid, in full?
 - ii. What amount was left unpaid?
- (h) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (i) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided.

Answer

I am advised:

Cards are issued to staff according to business need and are managed in accordance with Treasury Policy TPP 21-02 Use and Management of NSW Government Purchasing Cards.

Agency Invoices

90. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice's performance in payment of accounts is detailed in agency annual reports.

91. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 30 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice's performance in payment of accounts is detailed in the annual reports. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

92. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 60 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

- (a) What was the penalty for paying suppliers or contactors late, broken down by agency?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice's performance in payment of accounts is detailed in the annual reports. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

Car/Driver

93. Has your Ministerial car been subject to any traffic or parking fines?

- (a) If so, please provide details of each fine?
 (b) Who was driving the car at the time of each incident?
 (c) Who paid any of the fines?

Answer

I am advised:

This matter is the subject of a Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) (Cross-14) release, reference number PD_A5881802 that can be found on the Premier's Department disclosure log. Where a fine is incurred the payment of the fine is the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle.

94. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?

- (a) If so, who was driving the car?

Answer

I am advised:

The Premier's Department does not record these types of events.

Complaints

95. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?

Answer

I am advised:

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff and is published on the Cabinet Office's Website. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

96. How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?

- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

Answer

I am advised:

Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers, are available in agency annual reports. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

Consultants

97. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:

- (a) Social media?
i. What were the cost of these services?
- (b) Photography?
i. What were the cost of these services?
- (c) Videography?
i. What were the cost of these services?
- (d) Acting training?
i. What were the cost of these services?
- (e) Ergonomics?
i. What were the cost of these services?

Answer

I am advised:

(a) to (d): This information is not held centrally within the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

(e): DCJ has a workplace adjustment policy and procedure to manage any change to the physical environment, work hours and tasks or specific equipment that a person with disability or a carer, requires to do their job

on an equal basis or, is provided in the recruitment process or for training and development. Most workplace adjustments are managed internally utilising medical information that the employee may already have, but in some instances external assessment is of assistance.

Staff are able to request an ergonomic assessment if they are experiencing any symptoms or require a specific adjustment where further information is required beyond the standard adjustment suggestions made to staff. The cost of the assessment depends on virtual vs face to face and if travel is required.

There may be additional cost if any equipment is required to assist the individual staff member. DCJ maximises the use of financial assistance for people with a disability form the Commonwealth Employment Assistance Fund.

98. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
 - (b) What is the purpose of each contract?
 - (c) Who was the contract with?
 - (d) Did the contract go to a competitive tender?

Answer

I am advised:

Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers are available in agency annual reports. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

Department/Agency Staffing

99. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

This information is reported via workforce profile data as detailed in agency annual reports. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

100. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency

within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

This information is reported via workforce profile data as detailed in agency annual reports.

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

101. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) 28 March 2023?

(b) 23 October 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

Staff numbers are included in agency annual reports. Staff numbers employed as internal legal counsel are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

102. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

All employees under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 within the Department of Communities and Justice and agencies are paid in accordance with the relevant Acts and Awards.

103. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary

ii. Forced

(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Answer

I am advised:

Since 28 March 2023 to 16 November 2023, the Department of Communities and Justice has processed 10 redundancies.

All redundancies are managed in accordance with M2011-11 Changes to the Management of Excess Employees. Redundancy information is included in agency annual reports.

104. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Answer

I am advised:

The employment of former Ministerial office staff is not tracked.

Ministerial office staff must comply with their ethical obligations under the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including after the cessation of employment.

105. How many staff were dismissed from each Department/agency under your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

(a) Without identifying individuals, what were the reason(s) for each dismissal?

Answer

I am advised:

Since 28 March 2023 to 16 November 2023, there have been 12 dismissals across the Department of Communities and Justice.

(a) The reason for dismissal is not reportable from the system.

106. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

Stationery purchases by the department and other portfolio agencies are made in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures on procurement.

107. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?

Answer

I am advised:

The number of temporary assignments will vary each fortnight. Temporary assignments are managed under the Government Sector Employment (General) Rules 2014 and the Public Service Commission Assignment to Role Guidelines. Temporary assignments provide development opportunities whilst staff are on periods of leave, or to cover vacancies while recruitment action is undertaken, and for specific limited term projects.

108. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice's (DCJ) approach to flexible working has been team based, encouraging flexible work arrangement that meet team, client and individual's needs. This is supported by the DCJ Better Ways of Working Flexible Work Framework which launched in 2021. Consistent with the team based approach, DCJ has not mandated a minimum office attendance requirement. As such there is no count of the days worked from home.

109. What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

- (a) Taxi hire?
- (b) Ridesharing services?
- (c) Limousine/private car hire?
- (d) Hire car rental?

Answer

I am advised:

Due to system changes, travel costs are not broken down in this way.

Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations.

110. Do any senior executive service employees in any of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities have a driver that is paid for by the Department/agency?

- (a) If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver, and which senior executive service employees have a driver?
- (b) How much was spent on these drivers since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

Nil for this portfolio.

111. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

Answer

I am advised:

Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations. Agency travel spent is outlined in the annual report.

112. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
 - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

Answer

I am advised:

Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations. Agency travel spend is outlined in the annual report. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

113. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on overseas flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
 - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

Answer

I am advised:

Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations. Agency travel spent is outlined in the annual report. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

Efficiency Dividends

114. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?
- (a) If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?
 - (b) What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

Answer

I am advised:

All agencies are expected to operate efficiently, and within available resources. Budget efficiencies have been applied to the agency budgets as published in the NSW Budget Papers.

GIPA Applications

115. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
- (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
- (c) If so, what were the reasons provided?
- (d) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
- (e) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
- (f) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
 - i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.
 - iii. Date responded.
 - iv. The description provided for the information sought.

Answer

I am advised:

Information concerning the obligations of a Minister's office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the Act) is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act.

The information is included in the annual report of the Department of Communities and Justice in accordance with sections 125(3) and (5) of the Act.

116. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
- (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
 - i. If so, what were the reasons provided?
- (c) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
- (d) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
- (e) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:

- i. Date received.
- ii. Date acknowledged.
- iii. Date responded.
- iv. The description provided for the information sought.

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice is responsible for processing GIPA applications in relation to several functionalities, including housing services, child protection matters, issues affecting seniors and women. Statistical information about access applications is published in the Department's annual report at <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/resources/annual-reports.html>.

Media and Public Relations

117. How much has your ministerial office spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
- (a) Facebook
 - (b) Instagram
 - (c) LinkedIn
 - (d) TikTok
 - (e) YouTube
 - (f) WhatsApp
 - (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Answer

I am advised:

No money has been spent by the Ministerial office on advertising or sponsored posts on the social media platforms.

118. How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
- (a) Facebook
 - (b) Instagram
 - (c) LinkedIn
 - (d) TikTok

- (e) YouTube
- (f) WhatsApp
- (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Answer

I am advised:

Expenditure is included in department and agency annual reports each year. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) 2022-2023 Annual Report is due to be published by 30 November.

119. Have you had media training or public speaking training?
- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
 - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?

Answer

No.

120. 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?

Answer

I am advised:

Staff numbers are included in department and agency annual reports each year. Staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go up or down as required. All employees under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 within the Department of Communities and Justice and agencies are paid in accordance with the relevant Acts and Awards.

121. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities and their total cost?

Answer

I am advised:

The Communications Branch employs seven media staff that service the Attorney General, Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion, Housing and Homelessness, Youth, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Carers, Disaster Welfare, and Volunteering portfolio areas across DCJ. The Branch also employs three staff to manage media for the Local Court, Coroners Court, Children's Court, Drug Court, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Dust Diseases Tribunal and District Court. The total cost is ~\$1.72m.

122. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio

responsibilities?

Answer

I am advised:

From July 2023 (through to end of December 2023) the cost of the subscription is \$51,660.

Office Administration

123. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

I am advised:

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website at

[https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-toinformation/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers](https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers).

124. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS5 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

See answer to question 123.

125. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS4 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

See answer to question 123.

126. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS3 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

See answer to question 123.

127. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS2 grade for the following months:

- (a) April

- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

See answer to question 123.

128. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS1 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

See answer to question 123.

129. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer

See answer to question 123.

130. How many DLOs were seconded to your ministerial office for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July

- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

Answer

I am advised:

DLOs are not seconded to ministerial offices and remain an employee of their home agency where they abide by their home agency code of conduct and all matters related to terms of employment, leave and arrangements. The work of a DLO relates primarily to the affairs of the home agency. The Department of Communities and Justice has had three DLOs assigned to Minister Harrison's Office since May 2023, becoming two DLOs from August 2023.

131. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

Answer

See answer to question 123.

132. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

Answer

We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.

133. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?

Answer

We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.

134. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?

Answer

We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.

135. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?

Answer

I am advised:

All staff are employed to assist the Minister in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff

Act 2013. Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-toinformation/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

136. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?

Answer

See answer to question 135.

137. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?

- (a) What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
- (b) Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?
- (c) Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?

Answer:

I am advised:

All staff are employed to assist the Minister in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 and staff are expected to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

138. How many staff members employed in your office under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?

- (a) Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.

Answer:

I am advised:

NSW Government sector employees may be seconded from agencies to Ministers' offices in accordance with clause 35 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014 (GSE Regulation).

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-toinformation/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

139. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?

- (a) How much of this budget is allocated to staff?

Answer

I am advised:

Minister's office budgets are drawn from the Premier's Department annual financial allocation to cover employee related expenses, accommodation, and other operating expenses. Further information relating to Ministers' Office Budgets is available in the Ministers Office Handbook.

140. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

Answer

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below.

Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls

Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly.

Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

141. How many iPads or tablets are 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 2022-23?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - ii. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

Answer

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

142. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office

and to whom have they been issued?

- (a) What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
- (b) How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - iii. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

Answer

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

143. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

Answer:

I am advised:

Hire or lease of floral displays or indoor plants is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of hiring or leasing floral displays or indoor plants are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

144. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

Answer:

I am advised:

Hire or lease of floral displays or indoor plants is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of hiring or leasing floral displays or indoor plants are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

145. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

Answer

I am advised:

Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of stationery are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

146. What brand of paper is used in your office?

- (a) Is it recycled paper?
- (b) Is it Australian made paper?

Answer

I am advised:

Office supplies are purchased in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

147. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals since 28 March 2023?

- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

Answer

I am advised:

The total cost of all subscriptions is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of subscriptions are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

148. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office since 28 March 2023?

- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - iv. Who were they gifted to?

Answer

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that the decision to present a gift is at the discretion of the Minister, having regard to both appropriateness and economy. Gifts may be appropriate, for example, where given as a memento of an official visit or as a small token of appreciation. However, gifts should not be given with the purpose, or in circumstances where they could be perceived as having the purpose, of inducing favourable treatment.

In accordance with the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office's Gifts and Hospitality Policy, a register of official gifts presented by the Minister will be reported by the Premier's Department at the end of each financial year as required under the provisions of Treasurer's Direction TD21-04 and TD22-27.

149. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

Answer

I am advised:

Non-standard accessories fitted to Ministerial vehicles are for business, security, and safety related reasons, in accordance with the NSW Government Motor Vehicle Operational guidelines.

150. What is the total spend for your office since 28 March 2023 for:

- (a) Taxi hire?
 (b) Ridesharing services?
 (c) Hire car rental?
 (d) Limousine/private car hire?

Answer

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that taxis or ride share services are an option for business trips, including trips:

- Home after evening duty (e.g., when Parliament is sitting, when required to perform the duties of the job, etc.) where public transport is not reasonably available or where it may be unsafe to use public transport. Generally, use of taxis for these purposes would occur after 8:00pm.
- To or from the airport in connection with early morning or late-night flights on official trips.
- To meetings when it would be unsafe or uneconomical to use public transport.

Costs are managed within Ministerial office budgets.

151. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If yes, please provide details of the trip including the date of the trip, purpose of the trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Answer

I am advised:

All domestic and international travel bookings for official business must be made through the NSW Government's approved travel management supplier, this is currently FCM Travel Solutions.

Travel covered by the NSW Government contract includes:

- commercial and charter air travel,
- accommodation,
- ground transport (car hire, rail, coach, and ferry).

Financial commitments for travel expenditure from the Ministers' office budget need to be made within office

arrangements approved by the Chief of Staff as an authorised financial delegate.

Where a Minister, or employee of the Minister's office undertakes travel, travel is taken in accordance with the NSW government travel policy and the Ministers' Office Handbook.

The Premier's Department website also details PD_A5842315, "Domestic and international travel of NSW Ministers and their offices" that has been released under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

Overseas Trips

152. Have you had any overseas trips paid for using public funds since 28 March 2023?

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

Answer

I am advised:

In line with M2015-05-Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, Minister's overseas travel is published on the Premier's Department Website.

153. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If yes, what was the nature of these trips?
 (b) Who paid for these trips?

Answer

I am advised:

In accordance with M2014-02 Ministerial Arrangements During Absences, Ministers who travel overseas are generally required to seek the Governor's authorisation for another Minister to act on their behalf. All acting arrangements approved by the Governor are published in the NSW Government Gazette.

Gifts and Hospitality, including contributions to travel are managed in accordance with the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Parliamentary Secretary

154. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

Answer

Not applicable. There is no Parliamentary Secretary for the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Women, Seniors and Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

155. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Answer

See answer to question 154.

156. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?

Answer

See answer to question 154.

157. What event/meetings has your Parliamentary Secretary attended on your behalf?

- (a) Please provide in table form the date and the purpose of the event/meeting.

Answer

See answer to question 154.

158. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer

See answer to question 154.

159. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If so, when, and where?
- (b) If so, what was the cost of:
- i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?

Answer

See answer to question 154.

160. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If so, when, and where?
- (b) If so, what was the cost of:
- i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?

Answer

See answer to question 154.

161. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?

- (a) If so, was it speech, voice, or media training?
- (b) If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost

Answer

See answer to question 154.

Probity Auditor

162. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice has internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely considered in procurement decisions in like with the NSW Government Procurement Policy Framework. Under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act), agencies are required to register government contracts valued at \$150,000 (including GST) or more on the NSW Government eTendering website. Departments are required to include in their annual reports information in relation to consultants engaged by or on behalf of the agency.

Qantas

163. Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairmans Club?

- (a) Have you ever previously been a member? When did you cease to be a member?
- (b) When did you initially become a member?
- (c) When was this declared on the Ministerial gifts register?

Answer

I am advised:

A copy of my Discretionary Return dated 7 September 2023 disclosing receipt of Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership is publicly available on the NSW Parliament's website.

A copy of my disclosure under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code dated 14 July 2023 disclosing receipt of Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership is publicly available on TCO's disclosure log on TCO's website.

Training

164. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?

- (a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.

Answer

I am advised:

All Cabinet Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.

Ministers will undertake Respectful Workplace Policy Training that will commence in December.

Members of Parliament have a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.

165. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training?

- (a) If so, what was the cost?
 (b) Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?

Answer

No.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

ADVOs

166. How many recorded breaches have there been of ADVOs and AVOs in FY 2022-23?

- (a) How many of those breaches received a penalty or action?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

Subsidies for social workers

167. NSW recently committed to providing tertiary subsidies for some healthcare workers. Social workers have to undertake 500+ hours of unpaid placement. Will you be advocating for the tertiary subsidisation of social workers?

Answer

Attracting skilled staff to the domestic and family violence workforce was one of the key issues examined in the consultations to develop the ten-year workforce development strategy for the domestic and family violence sector. Attraction and retention strategies will be considered as part of this work.

Hospitalisations

168. How many admissions at NSW hospitals were recorded for domestic and family violence related incidents in:

- (a) FY 2018/19?
 (b) FY 2019/20?

- (c) FY 2020/21?
- (d) FY 2021/22?
- (e) FY 2022/23?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

169. How many admissions at NSW hospitals were recorded for sexual violence in:

- (a) FY 2018/19?
- (b) FY 2019/20?
- (c) FY 2020/21?
- (d) FY 2021/22?
- (e) FY 2022/23?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Sex Workers DVDRT

170. Have you or will you host a sex worker roundtable as recommended by the Domestic Violence Death Review Team?

Answer

I am advised:

'Barriers to Reporting Sexual and Domestic Violence Roundtable' was held on Thursday 23 February 2023 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Offender stats

171. What are the reoffending percentages for perpetrators of domestic violence in:

- (a) FY 2018/19?
- (b) FY 2019/20?
- (c) FY 2020/21?
- (d) FY 2021/22?
- (e) FY 2022/23?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be redirected to the Attorney General.

172. What are the reoffending percentages for perpetrators of sexual violence in:

- (a) FY 2018/19?
- (b) FY 2019/20?
- (c) FY 2020/21?
- (d) FY 2021/22?
- (e) FY 2022/23?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.

Workforce

173. Will you undertake to request the re-examination of the award for social workers?

Answer

This question should be redirected to the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety.

174. Of the 148 new frontline workers, how many will be in the Hunter?

- (a) Will domestic and family violence (DFV) service providers in the Hunter be consulted to determine the number of workers, classifications, and locations?
- (b) Will these positions be permanent or fixed term contracts?

Answer

I am advised:

17 positions of the 148.4 have been allocated to the Hunter.

- a) Local domestic and family violence service providers from the Hunter will be invited to apply for the funding for the new workers.
- b) While the Commonwealth has indicated these positions are intended to be ongoing. NSW contracts will align with the funding period provided by the Commonwealth.

175. To maintain a highly skilled DFV workforce, can the existing free DCJ SHS Training - run by Chandler Macleod Managed Training Systems (MTS) - be made available to all DFV workers?

Answer

I am advised:

This will be considered as part of the DFV Workforce Development Strategy.

176. On the back of the success of the Primary Health Network pilot project on the Central Coast where women and children victims-survivors of DFV in refuge accommodation had access to health workers, will there be funding to implement similar Primary Health access in all Core and Cluster refuges?

Answer

I am advised:

Core and Cluster refuges determine the level of staffing and the qualifications of staff in their refuges. The service model encourages integration with health and social care services.

Housing

177. Is the NSW Government committed to investing in the construction of new social and affordable housing, at the equivalent of 6,000 social housing properties every year for the next five years?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer

This question should be directed to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

178. Is it expected that the NSW Government will meet its original Core and Cluster refuge funding targets of a total of 75 refuges, and a total of 21 Aboriginal-led refuges?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer

Through Tranches 1 and 2, there were 39 funded refuges approved for progression. Tranche 3 is underway with the request for tender closing on 31 January 2024. The final number of refuges is therefore not known and dependent on the outcomes for Tranche 3. Tranche three funding is prioritised to Aboriginal led submissions and areas of high unmet need and access demand, and therefore is seeking to increase the number of Aboriginal led refuges.

179. What is the current and projected number of dedicated domestic and family violence emergency accommodation general places available for women and children in NSW across the next 5 years? Please break down by postcode.

Answer

I am advised:

39 Core and Cluster sites will be delivered under Tranches 1 and 2 of the Core and Cluster program. When the roll out of Core and Cluster Tranche 3 is completed, more than 2,900 women and children per year will be supported by this program.

There are 87 Women's refuges funded through Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) funding.

Refuges (Core and Cluster and SHS funded) are identified by local government area on the Department of Communities and Justice website <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic->

[sexual-violence-services/dfv-programs-funding/new-investment-housing-related-supports-for-women-children-escaping-dfv/indicative-locations.html](https://www.dfv.org.au/sexual-violence-services/dfv-programs-funding/new-investment-housing-related-supports-for-women-children-escaping-dfv/indicative-locations.html)

Postcode level data could compromise the safety of Women and Children escaping domestic and family violence.

Children and Domestic Violence

180. What programs and services currently exist to specifically support children who have experienced domestic and family violence?

- b. Are there any programs tailored to meet the needs of the child outside of what may be offered to the impacted parent?
- c. Can you give details to the locations and capacities of these services?

Answer

I am advised:

The Integrated Domestic Family Violence Service program can involve working with the victim-survivor, children as clients in their own right and person using violence.

The IDFVS program is available in 11 sites across NSW, and covers Bankstown, Waverly, Taree, Port Macquarie Hastings, Blacktown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Gosford, Byron, Shoalhaven and Botany Bay local government areas. Specialist Workers for Children and Young People impacted by Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) operate out of 21 priority refuges across NSW.

The Accompanied Children's Support Service (ACSS) is being trialed across two sites (Blacktown and Dubbo) where a multidisciplinary team of specialist workers provide holistic support based on the needs of the child. ACSS is designed to support up to 400 young people, per site, per year.

181. How many Children's Specialist DFV workers are currently available across NSW?

Answer

I am advised:

As at 30 June 2023, the Specialist Workers for Children and Young People is being delivered by 37 FTE workers. The Accompanied Children's Support Service is delivered by a multidisciplinary team of five workers in each site, with a total of 10 workers across the program.

182. What processes currently exist to ensure that the children of victims escaping domestic violence situations are assessed and/or provided with services to support their healing?

Answer

I am advised:

The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022-2027 considers the unique needs and experiences of children and young people as victim-survivors. Actions to support these needs include:

- Trialing of specialist supports for accompanied children and young people in homelessness services, focusing on those who are experiencing or at risk of DFV.

- Reviewing the effectiveness and impact of training in the child protection system and identifying ongoing training and support needs, including increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competency training, to better respond to children, young people, and families affected by domestic and family violence.
- Partnering with organisations working with children and young people experiencing or who have experienced DFV to strengthen trauma-informed practice and service delivery.

Other processes that support children who have been impacted by domestic and family violence include:

- Access to specialist workers for children and young people in 20 priority refuges.
- Sharing of information between services working with children and young people who have experienced DFV to be supported across systems.

Domestic Violence and Family Violence Reform Project

183. In relation to the Domestic and Family Violence Reform Project established by NSW Police in 2022, please provide details on the suite of proposed strategies and policies expected to be delivered.

- (a) What is the timeline for the rollout of the Project?

Answer

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism.