



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney (Car)

Hearing: Tuesday 27 August 2024

Answers due by: 5pm Tuesday 24 September 2024

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC

Transgender students in schools – Legal Issues Bulletin 55, LIB55

- (1) Is it currently under review?
 - (a) If so, when is the review expected to be completed?
 - (b) If so, when is the updated policy document expected to be publicly released?
- (2) What was the source document/reference/publication/dictionary used to establish the meaning of the terms throughout the policy document?
 - (a) What is the meaning of “gender” used throughout the policy document?
 - (b) What is the meaning of “biological sex” used throughout the policy document?
 - (c) What is the meaning of “gender identity” used throughout the policy document?
 - (d) What is the meaning of “transgender” used throughout the policy document?
 - (e) What is the difference in the meaning between “transgender” and “identify as transgender” used throughout the policy document?
- (3) With respect to the language used under the heading “Privacy legislation and transgender students”. In the final sentence of the second paragraph it states, “This issue should also be discussed with the student’s parent(s) or carer unless the principal believes on reasonable grounds that it is not in the student’s best interests to do this (for example a court order has removed a parent’s parental responsibility for that student).” Why is the word should used instead of must when a “reasonable grounds” exemption for the principal forms part of the provision?
- (4) With respect to the language used under the heading “Name and gender records”. NSW birth certificates are not issued with any reference to “gender”. Why does the first sentence in the first paragraph make reference to “gender” on their birth certificate when no reference is made to “gender” on NSW birth certificates?
 - (a) Should not the reference to “gender” in the first sentence of the first paragraph actually be a reference to “sex” that is specified on NSW birth certificates?

- (5) With respect to the language used under the heading “Name and gender records”. In the first paragraph regarding the exception, “where a student is transgender and seeks to change the way their first name is used and recorded at the school”, are both parents informed of any proposed change, and each required to submit a signed consent indicating approval to assume the new “first name” before, it is used and recorded at the school?
- (a) In the case of transgender students, are both parents informed of any proposed change, and each required to submit a signed consent indicating approval to assume the new “gender” before, it is used and recorded at the school?
- (6) With respect to the language used under the heading “Name and gender records”. In the second paragraph, with respect to “pronouns” used by students, are both parents informed of any proposed change, and each required to submit a signed consent indicating approval to assume the new “pronouns” before, they are used and recorded at the school?
- (7) With respect to the language used under the heading “Supporting a student who has identified as transgender”. Regarding the second paragraph, “Where reasonably practicable, the student should be treated on the same basis as other students of the same identified gender.”
- (a) Does this mean that a transgender girl (biological male) is able to use girls (biological female) toilets in schools?
- (b) Does this mean that a transgender boy (biological female) is able to use boys (biological male) toilets in schools?
- (c) Does this mean that a transgender girl (biological male) is able to use girls (biological female) change rooms in schools?
- (d) Does this mean that a transgender boy (biological female) is able to use boys (biological male) change rooms in schools?
- (e) Does this mean that a transgender girl (biological male) is able to use girls (biological female) showers in schools?
- (f) Does this mean that a transgender boy (biological female) is able to use boys (biological male) showers in schools?

- (g) Does this mean that in regard to overnight excursions, a transgender girl (biological male) is able to be accommodated in girls (biological female) dormitories/rooms/sleeping quarters/tents etc.?
 - (h) Does this mean that in regard to overnight excursions, a transgender boy (biological female) is able to be accommodated in boys (biological male) dormitories/rooms/sleeping quarters/tents etc.?
- (8) With respect to the language used under the heading “Use of toilets and change room facilities”. In the first paragraph it states “An assessment of the risk posed to the student by using the toilets of their identified gender must be undertaken.” Is an assessment made of any risk posed by transgender students to other students in the school?
- (a) Regarding the last sentence in the first paragraph it states “The need for the student to be safe is a paramount concern in these circumstances.” Does this requirement apply, in addition to transgender students, all other students in the school?
 - (b) Regarding the final paragraph it states “If other students indicate discomfort with sharing single-sex facilities (toilets or change rooms for example) with a student who identifies as transgender, this should be addressed through the school learning and support team.” What does “this should be addressed through the school learning and support team” mean?
- (9) With respect to the language used under the heading “Excursion including overnight”. In the final sentence of the paragraph it states “In some circumstances, it may be appropriate to arrange private sleeping quarters.” What does “In some circumstances” mean?
- (10) With respect to the language used under the heading “School Sport”. In the first paragraph it states “A student who identifies as transgender should be permitted to participate in most school-based sports as their identified gender.” What school-based sports are students who identify as transgender not permitted to participate in, involving other students in the school?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund

- (11) In relation to the Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund, why was a decision made to not fund any of the applicants received in the initial round?

- (a) Will there be a new round commencing?
 - i. If yes, when will this commence?
 - ii. Will all those who applied for the initial round be invited to apply for the new round?
- (12) The NSW Labor Government made a pre-election commitment to establish this fund to the amount of \$2.5 million. Has any funding has been allocated to this fund to date?
- (13) The Department of Education’s website currently indicates that projects are to commence by February 2025. What are the Department’s plans for the fund?
 - (a) Please provide an updated timeline for the fund, including when applications will open and close, when successful applicants will be notified, and when projects will commence.

October 10 Social media summit

- (14) How much money is the NSW Government spending on the October 10 social media summit at the ICC Sydney?
- (15) What involvement has the Department of Education had in organising the summit?
- (16) How will the government appraise the ideas and information shared to value evidence and to create meaningful practical change?

ECEC subsidies and grants

- (17) How much in subsidies or grants has the NSW Government given to early childhood providers:
 - (a) In the financial year 2021-2022
 - (b) In the financial year 2022-2023
 - (c) In the financial year 2023-2024
 - (d) In the financial year 2024-2025 to date
- (18) For each of these financial years, how much was given to non-profit early childhood providers?
- (19) How much was given to for-profit early childhood providers?

- (20) How much of that money was provided under the Early Childhood Education and Care Flexible Initiatives Trial? Please provide details.

Students with disability

- (21) How many students with disability left the school they were enrolled at, for each year over the last five school years?
- (22) How much does the NSW government spend on Schools for Specific Purposes (SSPs)?
- (a) How much is allocated towards integration to mainstream schools?
- (23) How much does the NSW government spend on legal fees defending claims by students with disabilities and their families?
- (24) How many primary mainstream schools in NSW have a separate 'support unit' for children with a disability?
- (25) How many secondary mainstream schools in NSW have a separate 'support unit' for children with a disability?
- (26) How many SSPs have a full curriculum for children with a disability?
- (27) How many children with a disability initially applied for enrolment in their local mainstream school in 2023/2024?
- (28) How many children with a disability, who initially applied for enrolment in a mainstream school in 2023/2024 actually enrolled in a mainstream school as part of a mainstream class?
- (29) How many children with a disability, who initially applied for enrolment in a mainstream school in 2023/2024 actually enrolled in a mainstream school as part of a support class?
- (30) How many children with a disability, who initially applied for enrolment in a mainstream school in 2023/2024 were actually enrolled in a SSP?
- (31) How many children with a disability, who have been in a SSP, have transferred to mainstream class in a mainstream school in 2023/2024?
- (32) How many new SSPs for children with a disability have been created in the past 4 years?
- (33) How many SSPs for children with a disability are currently in development?
- (34) How many Distance Education spaces are available to support children?
- (35) How many Distance Education spaces are specifically to support children with a disability?

Suspension and expulsions

- (36) In disaggregated data for each school year from K-12, for 2023:
- (a) How often has the same student been suspended?
 - (b) Can you provide a regional or district breakdown of students with disability being suspended?
 - i. Can you provide statistics on the total number of children corresponding to these regions?
 - (c) How many First Nations students have been suspended from school?
 - (d) How many students from Out of Home Care have been suspended?
 - (e) How many students with disability from mainstream schools have been suspended?
 - (f) How many students with disability from support units have been suspended?
 - (g) How many students with disability from SSPs have been suspended?
 - (h) How many kids with disability are homeschooled as a result of suspension, exclusion or expulsion?

NSW Government response to the Disability Royal Commission in relation to complaints management

- (37) According to the NSW Government in response to the Disability Royal Commission, the NSW Education department implemented revised Community Complaint procedures and Staff Complaint procedures in May 2024, following extensive stakeholder consultation. Who was part of this consultation?
- (a) How long did stakeholder consultation take?
 - (b) What changes were made through this revision, in relation to complaints from students with disability and their families?
- (38) According to the NSW Government in response to the Disability Royal Commission, a Community Engagement Policy is in the early stages of development, which will provide greater guidance to schools and education support areas. When will this be completed?
- (a) Will this have a specific focus on supporting students with disability and their families?
- (39) Does the PES ever connect families with advocacy support and specialist disability expertise?
- (a) If no, why not?

Inclusive education unit

- (40) What First Nations expertise does the Department's existing inclusive education unit have to allow them to take actions required to improve access to inclusive and culturally appropriate education for First Nations students with disability?
- (41) How many First Nations people work within this unit?
- (42) How many people with disability work within this unit?
- (43) The NSW Government accepted "Recommendation 7.7 Inclusive education units and First Nations expertise" from the Disability Royal Commission, which recommended that educational authorities ensure that inclusive education units contain First Nations expertise to allow them to take actions required to improve access to inclusive and culturally appropriate education for First Nations students with disability. If there is currently no direct First Nations expertise within the department, what steps is the Department taking to ensure that this is met?
- (44) What date was the Department's inclusive education unit formally established?
- (45) How much funding did the Department's inclusive education unit receive, for each financial year since its commencement?
- (46) Is there an intention to publish any details of the inclusive education unit on the Department's website?
- (47) Who is currently employed under the inclusive education unit? Please detail each person's role and whether they are full-time or otherwise.

Learning and Support Teachers (LaST)

- (48) How many LaSTs (Learning and Support Teachers) are employed by the State?
- (49) How many LaSTs are FTE?
- (50) How many schools have LaSTs?
- (51) Are the number of LaSTs at a sufficient level to meet a needs basis system?
- (52) What training is required to enable a staff member to be a LaST?
- (53) What measurement of impact of LaSTs is undertaken?
- (54) What are the specific duties and responsibilities of a LaST or is this dependent upon the school?

- (55) When was the role of LaSTs last reviewed (if ever)?
- (56) What Professional Development programming is available for LaSTs?
- (57) On average what percentage of time do LaSTs spend:
- (a) in classroom teaching/support
 - (b) on administrative tasks/functions?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)

Teacher Vacancies:

- (58) In the media release issued on 27 August 2024, you shared the teacher vacancy rate at the start of the term. What was the teacher vacancy rate at the start of the following terms and years:
- (a) Term 3, 2024?
 - (b) Term 2, 2024?
 - (c) Term 1, 2024?
 - (d) Term 4, 2023?
 - (e) Term 3, 2023?
 - (f) Term 2, 2023?
 - (g) Term 1, 2023?
 - (h) Term 4, 2022?
 - (i) Term 3, 2022?
 - (j) Term 2, 2022?
 - (k) Term 1, 2022?
 - (l) Term 4, 2021?
 - (m) Term 3, 2021?
 - (n) Term 2, 2021?
 - (o) Term 1, 2021?
 - (p) Term 4, 2020?

- (q) Term 3, 2020?
- (r) Term 2, 2020?
- (s) Term 1, 2020?
- (t) Term 4, 2019?
- (u) Term 3, 2019?
- (v) Term 2, 2019?
- (w) Term 1, 2019?

Teacher recruitment

- (59) What plans does the Department of Education have to make it more accessible for individuals to become teachers?

Resource Allocation Model (RAM)

- (60) How many schools have seen a reduction in RAM between 2023 and 2024?
- (61) How is RAM funding calculated for each individual school?

Wages

- (62) What percent of the NSW Education Department budget is spent on wages in:
- (a) 2023-24?
 - (b) 2022-23?
 - (c) 2021-22?
 - (d) 2020-21?

Bullying

- (63) When a bullying complaint is made by a student, what process is taken by:
- (a) School?
 - (b) Department of Education?

Suspensions and Expulsions:

- (64) How many students have been suspended between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?
- (a) What were the three main reasons?

- (65) How many students were suspended between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in metropolitan schools?
- (a) What were the three main reasons?
- (66) How many students were suspended between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in regional schools?
- (a) What were the three main reasons?
- (67) How many students have been expelled between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?
- (a) What were the three main reasons?
- (68) How many students were expelled between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in metropolitan schools?
- (a) What were the three main reasons?
- (69) How many students were expelled between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in regional schools?
- (a) What were the three main reasons?

Department of Education’s Cyber Security:

- (70) In the Sydney Morning Herald on Thursday 24 August, they stated, “around 100 parents managing to crack the code to access the website days before the official offers were made” in relation to selective school admissions.
- (a) What actions are being taken by the Department of Education?
- (b) Has any individual data been released from cyber breaches?

Vandalism in schools:

- (71) What was the total reported number of acts of vandalism in schools in:
- (a) 2023-24?
- (b) 2022-23?
- (c) 2021-22?
- (d) 2020-21?

- (72) What is the total cost of vandalism in schools in:
- (a) 2023-24?
 - (b) 2022-23?
 - (c) 2021-22?
 - (d) 2020-21?

Transport Oriented Development (TOD)

- (73) What plans are underway by the Department of Education is undertaking in relation to TOD sites?
- (74) Are there plans to build new schools within TOD sites?

Camellia- Rosehill Development

- (75) What plans are underway by the Department of Education is undertaking in relation to Camellia-Rosehill development?
- (76) Are there plans to build new schools within Camellia- Rosehill development?

Early Childhood Education:

- (77) What is the government doing to retain early childhood educators?
- (78) How is the government working with councils to support infrastructure upgrades to community preschools?
- (79) What is the government doing to work with early childhood operators to better prepare children for their first year of school?
- (80) Is the government looking at ways consent education can be integrated into early learning?
- (81) Does the government and department work with private early learning providers to ensure early childhood outcomes are met across the state?
- (a) If yes, how so?
 - (b) If no, why not?
- (82) How does the government assure that early learning outcomes are being met across the state?

Licences:

- (83) What is the canteen licence income for FY23/24 to date?
- (84) What are the locations of the 240 uniform licenses?
 - (a) How much revenue does this generate?
- (85) Where is the revenue collected from licences allocated towards?
- (86) How long does it take for canteens to receive a licence?
- (87) How long does it take to receive a uniform licence?

Enrolments:

- (88) What is the wait time for enrolment applications to be processed by the department?
- (89) On what grounds can a student's enrolment be denied?
 - (a) How many enrolment applications have been declined between 2023 and 2024?
- (90) How many times between 2023 and 2024 has school boundaries changed?
 - (a) What are the top three reasons for boundary changes?
- (91) What is the government and department doing to?

Milperra High School:

- (92) In a 2020 Facebook post Ms Car said: "Any new development on the Western Sydney University campus at Milperra must include a new high school. Time to get it right for once." What is the status of the announced school?
- (93) Has any funded been allocated to start the planning of the school?
- (94) What role does the department have in the selection of new schools and their locations?
- (95) What schools are within close proximity to WSU Milperra site and the number of enrolled students at the respective schools?
- (96) How many enrolments is the government expecting to accept at the proposed Milperra High School if completed?
- (97) What community consultation has taken place since Labor came into office in March 2023?
- (98) Is there a time frame of when construction will commence?

School Funding

- (99) Does the Minister think that SLSO's in classrooms affect teacher workload?
- (100) Do you think that SLSO's impact student outcomes in those classrooms?
- (101) How many learning support staff have been cut from schools in the last 12 months?

School Infrastructure

- (102) What cuts have been made to the staff within school infrastructure?
- (103) How many staff are working within that unit of the department currently?
- (104) How many staff were there 12 months ago?
- (105) How many contracts have been axed? How will this impact school delivery?

Bungendore High School

- (106) In June this year, The Department announced they will undertake a due diligence review on alternative locations to validate that the Majara / Gibraltar Streets Precinct remains the fastest and most viable location. What are the other locations?
- (107) What is the motivation for an alternative site, is it because the current site is not suitable or is it the ongoing legal challenges of local activist groups?
 - (a) How much more would the project cost if this were to happen?
 - (b) If these alternative sites were deemed unsuitable previously, why are they being considered again?
 - (c) Should an alternative site need to be purchased from an independent land owner, how will you ensure transparency and ethical behaviour for that site purchased?
 - (d) Will the cost of the land be taken from the current budget, impacting the available money for the facilities?
 - (e) Will the project design be able to be migrated to the new location or will it be a 'start again' causing more delays?

Early Childhood Education

- (108) Minister when can we expect to see the first of the 100 promised preschools being finished?

- (109) Are you aware that some of those preschools are threatening other services in that area?
And that the demand wasn't there in some communities, yet others are in childcare desert?
- (110) You've said \$105 million in capital funding has been allocated on top of the \$769 million fund for these preschools, how much has been spent?

Sexual Assaults in Schools

- (111) Has the Minister read the international evidence review on managing sexual assaults commissioned by the Department of Education from the University of New South Wales?
- (112) Is the Minister satisfied that NSW is doing everything it can to protect students?

Teacher PD

- (113) Minister can you guarantee that every teacher will be undertaking ongoing professional development to better support students with their mental health?
- (114) Why have you scrapped requirements for teachers to do PD in these areas, along with curriculum and aboriginal education?
- (a) Why aren't these areas important to your govt?

TOD's

- (115) What discussion have been held with the NSW Department of Planning to ascertain future schooling needs following announced housing targets and housing density changes resulting in an expected influx of new residents?
- (116) Any current budget commitments to meet increased schooling needs for an expected influx of new residents in the tier 1 TOD precincts?
- (117) Any future budget commitments to meet increased schooling needs for an expected influx of new residents in the tier 1 TOD precincts?
- (118) Is it the case that within each of the 8 accelerated TOD precincts (Kellyville, Bella Vista, Hornsby, Macquarie Park, Homebush, Bankstown, Crows Nest, Bays West) there are both primary and secondary schools that are over their enrolment cap?
- (119) Are you aware that all primary schools in the Kellyville catchment were over their enrolment cap in 2023 including Kellyville Ridge, which is more than double their enrolment cap?

- (120) Are you aware that all primary schools in the Bella Vista catchment were over their enrolment cap in 2023 including Caddies Creek Public School, which is nearly 400 students over their enrolment cap?
- (121) If the average cost of a high school is approximately \$80 million, can you tell us how you plan on building the schools needed to support the housing development in these areas?
- (122) How much money is in the budget for school infrastructure in the 8 priority areas:
- (a) Bankstown
 - (b) Bays West
 - (c) Bella Vista
 - (d) Crows Nest
 - (e) Homebush
 - (f) Hornsby
 - (g) Kellyville
 - (h) Macquarie Park

Googong High School

- (123) How will Bungendore High School once opened, affect that catchment?
- (124) Will enrolments in Jerrabomberra be affected by the Googong HS catchment.
- (125) When will the new catchment boundaries be determined?
- (126) Why was this school project funded by the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund when it typically comes out of NSW DoE Infrastructure?

Bungendore High School

- (127) \$16.9 million was expected to be spent on the project till the end of the last financial year.
Are legal fees included in that cost?
- (128) What is the total already spent on the temporary school?
- (129) How much is Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council charging NSW DoE for use of Mick Sherd Oval per year?

- (130) The vacated council buildings acquired for the site, is it true council have left equipment in there and it has been vandalised?
- (131) In regards to student numbers, how many have unenrolled so far this calendar year?
- (132) Are the year 7 enrolments for next year under those for this year?
- (133) The establishment fund is one-off payment to fund new equipment and has already been given to the school. Will a second establishment fund needed to be given to the permanent high school as most equipment could be up to 6 years old?
- (134) Should an alternative site need to be purchased from an independent land owner, how will you ensure transparency and ethical behaviour for that site purchased?
- (135) Will the cost of the land be taken from the current budget, impacting the available money for the facilities?
- (136) Will the project design be able to be migrated to the new location or will it be a 'start again' causing more delays?
- (137) If a new site is chosen, how will the DoE recover moneys already spent to compulsorily acquire council buildings?
- (138) How will this impact school bus runs as it will be to a completely new location? (This will impact drop off times and cost to Transport for NSW)
- (139) Has the department considered infrastructure needed for linkages to the village such as footpaths and public transport?

Rye Park School – Cootamundra

- (140) Minister, will you commit to the extension of the recess of Rye Park School?
- (141) Minister what number of students do you require to make Rye Park Public viable for you to return it to operational status?
- (142) Will you consult with the Rye Park Community on any plans to permanently close the Rye Park Public School.
- (143) Will you commit to ensuring Rye Park Public School remains in community hands if it is closed permanently?
- (144) Minister will you re-let the teacher housing in Rye Park back to the community given there is a housing crisis and this home has been sitting empty for over a year?

(145) Will you reconsider the school catchment policy that enforces that local students are required to attend local schools.

(146) Minister can you confirm how many Rye Park Catchment students were granted exemptions to attend school outside this are in order for Rye Park Public School to be placed in recess.

Rankin Springs

(147) Minister, are you aware that staff resignations still continue, and that one ex staff member not only resigned from the school but also resigned from the public service?

Teacher sick leave rates

(148) Will the Minister advise in all public schools, how many teachers have taken sick leave in 2021-22 and 2022-23, and 2023-24 so far?

(149) Minister, have you met the target to reduce teacher admin by five hours per week? How much time have you saved teachers so far?

(150) What metric are you using to measure that saving?

Domestic Violence and education

(151) How will the Department of Education implement the domestic and family violence Common Risk Assessment and Management Framework (CRAMF) to ensure school staff have the capability to identify domestic and family violence and assess or manage risk?

(152) Early childhood settings, primary, and secondary schools have an essential role in preventing violence. What is the NSW Government doing to fund and support primary prevention initiatives in early childhood settings, primary, and secondary schools to address the drivers of sexual, domestic and family violence?

(153) Is the funding for violence prevention in education settings adequate? Why or why not?

(154) How much funding is provided per school for respectful relationships education?

(155) What is being done to increase the capacity of schools and teaching staff to effectively deliver this part of the curriculum?

(156) What evaluation is being conducted to measure the capability of teaching staff and the impact of respectful relationships education?

(157) How will the NSW Government ensure a consistent, coordinated, and quality approach to respectful relationships education across NSW schools, rather than an ad hoc approach?

Funding for the purchase of land within the Castle Hill Electorate for a new school.

(158) With respect to the Ministers answer to Question on Notice Number 3228, Purchase of Land in Castle Hill Electorate for a School, can the Minister advise:

- (a) What is the amount of the funding which has been set aside for the purchase of land within the Castle Hill Electorate?
- (b) Has any amount of the funding you have stated “has been set aside for this work” been expended?
 - i. If any amount has been expended how much has been expended?
- (c) Has any work been carried out by the Department directed to the purchase of land for the construction of a new school within the Castle Hill Electorate?
 - i. If so what work has been carried out?

Gender Pronouns

(159) Is there a requirement for teachers to ask students for their preferred pronouns?

(160) Is there a requirement for teachers to acknowledge a student’s pronouns?

(161) Will a teacher be reprimanded if they misgender a student?

(162) Is there a requirement for teachers to ask students about their sexual identity?

(163) Is there compulsory training for teachers relating to pronouns?

- (a) What are the consequences if a teacher refuses any compulsory training?

(164) Is there compulsory training for teachers relating to gender?

- (a) What are the consequences if a teacher refuses any compulsory training?

(165) Is there compulsory training for teachers relating to sexual identity?

- (a) What are the consequences if a teacher refuses any compulsory training?

(166) If a child identifies as Transgender what arrangements are made for bathrooms, school excursions and overnight camps?

Infrastructure

(167) What processes does the department have in place to ensure that educational infrastructure is planned alongside major residential developments like those in the Hills Shire?

- (168) How does the department assess the educational needs of a community before approving large-scale residential projects?
- (169) What are the current timelines for the construction of new schools in areas like the Hills Showground, and how are these timelines being managed?
- (a) Given the projected population growth in the Hills Shire, what contingency plans does the department have if the construction of new schools falls behind schedule?
- (170) How does the department coordinate with local councils to ensure that the infrastructure needs of new residents, including schools, are adequately planned for?
- (171) What data does the department use to forecast the number of school-aged children that will result from new residential developments?
- (172) Can you provide an update on the status of school construction in St Leonards/Crows Nest, given the proposed 7,000 new dwellings?
- (173) What challenges does the department face in securing land for new schools in rapidly growing urban areas?
- (a) How are these being addressed?
- (174) How does the department prioritise which areas receive new school infrastructure first?
- (a) How much say does the current Minister have over this direction?
- (175) In areas where schools are already overcrowded, what immediate actions is the department taking to alleviate the pressure on these schools?
- (176) What lessons has the department learned from past infrastructure planning failures, such as in the Kellyville/Rouse Hill area?
- (a) How are these being applied to current projects?
- (177) How does the department ensure that funding for new schools keeps pace with the need generated by new residential developments?
- (178) What is the department's plan for managing the transition of students into new schools once they are built, particularly in areas with high mobility rates?
- (179) How does the department communicate with local communities about the progress of new school construction projects?
- (180) How does the department work with developers to ensure that infrastructure contributions include provisions for educational facilities?

- (181) What role does public consultation play in the department's planning process for new schools, and how are community concerns addressed?
- (182) Can the department provide a breakdown of current and planned school infrastructure projects across NSW, particularly in high-growth areas?
- (183) What is the department's strategy for dealing with potential delays in school construction due to unforeseen circumstances?
- (184) How does the department ensure that educational infrastructure is not just reactive but anticipatory, meeting the needs of communities as they grow?

Code of Conduct

- (185) How does the Department ensure that the Code of Conduct is communicated and enforced among all teachers?
- (186) How often are teachers required to undergo refresher training on the Code of Conduct?
- (187) What mechanisms are in place for students or parents to report violations of the Code of Conduct?
 - (a) How does the Department ensure transparency and accountability in investigating such complaints?
- (188) Are there any measures in place to monitor teachers' compliance with the Code of Conduct on social media platforms?
- (189) How does the Department handle situations where teachers' personal beliefs interfere with their professional responsibilities?
- (190) Has there been any recent review or update of the Code of Conduct to address contemporary issues?
- (191) Can you explain the role of school principals in enforcing the Code of Conduct?
- (192) What steps are taken if a school principal fails to enforce the Code of Conduct within their school?
 - (a) How does the Department plan to prevent similar incidents in the future and ensure adherence to the Code of Conduct?

Civics Education

- (193) How does the Department ensure that Civics education is consistently taught across all schools, given that it is currently integrated within other subjects only?
- (194) What measures are in place to monitor and enforce the teaching of Civics content, particularly in schools where teachers may choose to overlook it?
- (195) Is there any consideration within the Department for establishing Civics as a standalone subject to ensure uniformity and appropriate significance across NSW schools?
- (196) What specific training or professional development is provided to teachers to ensure they are equipped to deliver high-quality Civics education?
- (197) Can the Department provide data on how many schools in NSW actively engage in teaching Civics as part of their curriculum? Can we get that data?
- (198) What strategies does the Department have in place to encourage schools to prioritise Civics education, especially in light of its importance for democratic engagement?
- (199) How does the Department support teachers who feel unprepared or insufficiently trained to teach Civics effectively?
- (200) What resources are provided to schools to enhance the delivery of Civics education, and how is the effectiveness of these resources evaluated?
- (201) Is the Department considering any initiatives to enhance student engagement in Civics beyond the classroom, such as partnerships with community organisations or government bodies?

Independent Schools

- (202) What factors do the department attribute to the 3.6% increase in enrolments in the independent school sector in 2023?
- (203) Has the department conducted any surveys or studies to understand why more parents are choosing independent schools over government schools?
 - (a) If so, what are the key findings?
- (204) Do you think parents are losing faith in the government school system and that this might be driving parents to seek alternatives in independent schools?

(205) How does the department assess the quality of education in government schools in comparison to independent schools, especially in terms of student outcomes, facilities, and teacher satisfaction?

(206) What measures are the department taking to address declining enrolments in government schools?

(a) How is the department working to regain the confidence of parents?

(207) What role does school safety, discipline, and classroom behaviour play in influencing parental decisions to move their children to independent schools?

(a) Are there specific initiatives in place to address these concerns in government schools?

Consent

(208) What resources are being given to schools to help teach the new curriculum content on consent?

Life Education

(209) Why was Funding Cut to Life Education?

(a) Who made that decision?

(210) What replacement or substitute is in place for life education?

Broadwater Public School Rebuild

(211) Can the Minister provide an updated timeline for the rebuild of Broadwater Public School, which was severely impacted by the 2022 floods?

(212) Specifically, can the Minister advise what the anticipated completion date is for the new school and confirm if the students will be back in their new school Day One, Term One next year?

Western Sydney

Southwest Sydney

(213) How does your department justify the reduction of 1.25% in discretionary budgets for public schools in light of the increasing needs of students in underfunded areas like Western Sydney?

- (214) Why are parents at schools like Beecroft Public School being forced to fundraise for basic infrastructure needs, such as out-of-school-hours care, when this should be a government responsibility?
- (215) Minister, with public schools still "scrounging for pens and textbooks," how does the department intend to meet the 100% school resourcing standard as per the Gonski recommendations?
- (216) How can your government claim to prioritise teaching and learning when critical support roles are being cut, directly impacting student outcomes?

Qantas Chairman's Club

- (217) Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairman's Club?
- (a) If no, have you ever previously been a member?
 - (b) If yes, when did you cease to be a member?
 - (c) If yes, when did you initially become a member?
 - (d) If yes, when did you make a declaration to The Cabinet Office?
 - (e) If yes, how many times since 28 March 2023 have you used the Qantas Chairman's Club?

Union membership

- (218) Are you a member of a union?
- (a) If yes, what union?

Union membership fees

- (219) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:
- (a) 2022-23?
 - (b) 2023-24?
 - (c) 2024-25?

CFMEU membership

- (220) Have you ever been a member of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)?

- (a) If yes, when?

CFMEU meetings

(221) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

ETU membership

(222) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?

- (a) If yes, when?

ETU meetings

(223) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

Paper shredder

(224) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(225) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

(226) What department(s)/agency(s) are included in your portfolio?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(227) How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

- (a) 28 March 2023?
- (b) 1 July 2023?
- (c) 1 January 2024?
- (d) 1 July 2024?

(228) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?

(229) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) 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?

Former Ministerial Employees

(230) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

(a) If yes, how many?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(231) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

(232) Will the 2023-24 annual reports for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25?

State Records Act

(233) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?

(a) If yes, when?

Consultants

(234) 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 through a competitive tender?

Legal Costs

(235) 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?

Advertising

(236) 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) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Catering

(237) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?

(238) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?

(239) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Gin

(240) Since 28 March 2023, have you or your ministerial office purchased 'gin' using your ministerial budget?

Stationery

(241) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?

(242) Did your stationery expenditure include gifts for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, what was the gift(s)?

- (b) If yes, who received the gift(s)?

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

(243) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?

(244) As a driver since 28 March 2023:

- (a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?
- (b) Have you been fined for speeding?
- (c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?
- (d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?
- (e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?
 - i. If yes to a) to e), did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

Speeches

(245) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?

(246) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

(247) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?

(248) What local government(s) did they serve?

Ministerial Advisers

(249) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

(250) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Police Commissioner Gin

(251) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Cabinet Sub Committees

(252) What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

E-Toll

(253) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?

- (a) If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

(254) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?

- (a) If yes, is it available online?
- i. If yes, what is the URL?

Workplace complaints

(255) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

(256) Has any member of your ministerial staff been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

(257) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

(258) 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?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

(259) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

Credit Cards

(260) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If yes, under what circumstance?
- (b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?

(261) For each department, agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? (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?
- (e) And what was the card holder's employment grade?
- (f) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
- (g) What was the cost to replace them?
- (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. 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?
 - ii. Were all those amounts repaid?
- (i) 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?
 - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office

(262) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

Senior Executive Drivers

(263) How many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

Mobile phones

(264) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?

(265) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Efficiency dividends

(266) Was an efficiency dividend applied to your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities in:

- (a) 2023-24?
- (b) 2024-25?
 - i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
 - ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

(267) Does your ministerial office have staff member(s) to undertake Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s) and/or Standing Order 52 requests?

- (a) If yes, has that ministerial staffer(s) received formal training about their legal obligations?

(268) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(269) Has your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) undertaken a land audit of surplus government property in any of the following postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
- (b) 2079?
- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?
- (f) 2083?
- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?

- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u), how many properties have been identified?

GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(270) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel

(271) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?

(a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?

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

(273) 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?

(274) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international 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?

(275) 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?

TikTok

(276) Are you on TikTok?

(a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Signal

(277) Are you on Signal?

(a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?

Training

(278) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

(a) If yes, what is the description of training?

(b) If yes, how much?

Cabinet documents

(279) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Parliamentary Secretary

(280) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

(281) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Website usage

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

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

Ministerial visits

(284) Since 28 March 2023, have you visited any of these postcodes:

(a) 2077?

(b) 2079?

(c) 2080?

(d) 2081?

(e) 2082?

(f) 2083?

(g) 2117?

(h) 2118?

(i) 2119?

(j) 2120?

(k) 2121?

(l) 2125?

(m) 2126?

(n) 2151?

(o) 2154?

(p) 2156?

(q) 2157?

(r) 2158?

(s) 2159?

(t) 2756?

(u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u):

1. *What was the purpose of the visit(s)?*
2. *Did you make a funding announcement(s)?*

Hard hats and/or vests

(285) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?

(a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(286) Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:

(a) Handheld camera?

(b) Handheld video recorder?

(c) Microphone?

i. If yes to (a) to (c), how much is each worth when purchased?

Media releases and statements

(287) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases?>

(a) If no, why?

Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC

Early childhood education and care

(288) What funding allocation for capital works has been allocated to early childhood education and care delivered in NSW by:

(a) Council operated

(b) DET operated

(c) ACCO operated

(d) Privately operated

(289) How many new centres are expected to be built as a result of capital works funding allocated to early childhood education and care delivered by:

- (a) Councils
- (b) DET
- (c) ACCO
- (d) Privately

Related document: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/record-early-childhood-investment>