

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES BUDGET  
ESTIMATES MARCH 2025**

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY, GAMING AND RACING,  
VETERANS, MEDICAL RESEARCH AND THE CENTRAL COAST

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 5-6

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** —those declarations, if in fact they exist, and what the board would have done about this extraordinary property arrangement? A land deal selling this property to Racing NSW for \$1 raises an obvious suggestion that there has been an attempt to avoid stamp duty here. Is that something else that you can check, please?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I said we'll look into it

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Are you aware that the property today is not used for any racing purpose? It's just rented out to tenants like any other property might be, so this has been done for a non-racing purpose. Can that be investigated as well, please?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes, we'll take that on notice

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Also, can you look into the way in which this was done by a sitting board member, not an employee of Racing NSW—as opposed to employees told to do it and someone gives them the money to do it, and they might feel obliged to. Would you investigate the ethics of a board member purchasing a property and then selling it on to the organisation for which she is a board member for \$1?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes. I'm not sure whether we can investigate ethics, but we'll look at the whole issue.

## ANSWER:

I am advised:

- Racing NSW has advised that:
  - the property was purchased by Racing NSW under a bare trust arrangement in accordance with relevant provisions of the *Duties Act 1997* (Duties Act)
  - Dr Cooke acted as an agent of Racing NSW under the arrangement
  - Racing NSW paid all applicable stamp duty when it became the beneficial owner of the property on settlement (31 July 2021)
  - as beneficial owner, Racing NSW managed the leasing of the property, collected and retained all rent received and incurred all expenses relating to the property
  - Dr Cooke received no income in relation to the property and, as such, no disclosures were required in relation to pecuniary interest declarations
  - Disclosures in relation to the payment of the deposit (2021 Annual Report, page 70) and payment of the balance of the purchase price (2022 Annual Report, page 68) were disclosed by Racing NSW in its annual reports
  - Racing NSW applied, and received approval, for an exemption relating to the subsequent transfer of title from the trust to Racing NSW from Revenue NSW.
- The Department sought advice from Revenue NSW in relation to the information provided by Racing NSW, with Revenue NSW confirming, in relation to the following matters within its jurisdiction, Racing NSW's statements on:
  - the bare trust arrangement
  - that the correct stamp duty was paid in relation to the initial purchase of the property
  - approval of a concession in relation to the subsequent transfer of the property.
- Revenue NSW noted that the relevant provisions of the Duties Act provide for a concession from stamp duty (not an exemption).

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 6

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Have you been able to track the \$3.7 million grant that was given to Bathurst race club by the former Government in October 2020, to see if the money was actually spent for the purposes that were specified?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Were you aware that they provided \$3.7 million to widen the track, and that hasn't happened; provide four new stables, and they've provided just one, knocking down an old barn and rebuilding it; provide four horse walkers, and only two have been delivered; and provide four treadmills and only one has been delivered. It has been put to me by people in and around the race club that \$2.7 million has gone missing.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We'll take that on notice, and we'll look into it. What I have done in terms of that program is—

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** That's not Racing for the Regions. This was a COVID emergency grant.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Okay. I have no knowledge of that.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** If you can look into whether or not the \$3.7 million for a racing purpose has actually been expended.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

## ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Lands and Property, with the relevant grant administered by Crown Lands.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 7

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Minister, I entirely recognise that it's not easy. Thank you for letting us know that you were at a meeting the other day dealing with strategies and implementing programs to deal with recidivism. Does that mean that there are actually no strategies or programs currently in place if you're still meeting and talking about doing this?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, what is happening right across communities in New South Wales are programs already in place.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Can you give us examples of three programs actually happening now in Moree that are addressing Aboriginal youth reoffending?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice specifically, but I do know that there is a lot of work going on with the local health service and others—

### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government has invested \$13.9 million towards the delivery of a range of initiatives in partnership with local community groups in Moree. This includes:

- development of a bail accommodation service
- increasing availability of after-hours activities and collaborating between Aboriginal organisations and all levels of government.
- The NSW Government has committed \$9.8 million to expand Justice Reinvestment in NSW to Mount Druitt, Moree, Kempsey, Nowra, Toomelah and Bathurst.
- \$4 million has been committed to support place-based efforts in Bourke and Kempsey to match the Commonwealth Government's investment in the Stronger Places, Stronger People program.
- More than \$2 million in additional funding has been committed to youth engagement with the aim of reducing crime and improving family safety

Three local Aboriginal organisations including Miyay Birray Youth Service, Pius X Aboriginal Medical Service and SHAE Academy will collaborate to deliver a new youth bail accommodation centre and after-hours patrols for Aboriginal children in custody.

Youth Justice has also awarded a five-year contract to Miyay Birray to provide a Casework Support Program (CSP) in Moree commencing in April 2025.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 7

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** With respect to that response and with respect to Dubbo, for example, the Attorney General acknowledged in estimates that there had been no new programs introduced in relation to drug and alcohol offending in Dubbo. Can you give us details of three programs that you've introduced to address drug and alcohol issues for Indigenous offenders and Indigenous youth?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** If you understand the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs, there is a coordination role but we don't directly implement a lot of these programs. It's DCJ, Corrections, juvenile justice—all of those different things. I'm happy to take it on notice, but it doesn't mean we would have clear oversight of every program in New South Wales that's currently being implemented.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** But I think you see the thrust of my questions, Minister. We have figures that tell us that we are failing, yet we have no details of programs that we are putting in place to address these issues. That is deeply concerning because we all want to see—

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I said I'm happy to take that on notice and get you examples of programs that have been put in place.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs and NSW Ministry of Health will be running a tender for a non-government organisation to establish and operate a new alcohol and other drug residential treatment service in Dubbo.

The Dubbo community has been active in achieving support for establishing a Dubbo residential treatment service which includes people impacted by alcohol and other drug use as well as representatives from Aboriginal Communities and non-government organisations.

Further questions should be directed to Minister for Health.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 10

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** You mentioned the role that the State Government plays in employment. How many veterans were placed into full-time roles in 2024 through the Veteran Employment Program?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I might ask Caroline if she wants to give the specific numbers on that. Do you want them now or this afternoon?

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** I will get them this afternoon. The follow-up question would be how many regional veterans have been placed in roles under the same program.

#### ANSWER:

See response to Question on Notice on page 45 of the session transcript.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 11-12

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Thank you. Minister, who undertook the probity check on Saranne Cooke as the new chair of Racing NSW?

**ELIZABETH MILDWATER:** It would have been the probity adviser to the recruitment panel. I can take that on notice because it was a year or so ago, but it would have been an external probity provider.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Minister, would you expect them to bring this \$1 land deal to your attention as something that needed to be explained, at a minimum, by the deputy chair?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's hard for me to—as I said, I didn't know anything about this until today. We'll make inquiries, as I've committed to, and find out if that was—I would assume that if it had come up in the probity investigation, it would have been in the report.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Would you have expected to be notified of a \$1 land deal of this nature, so unorthodox, by someone already on the board as deputy chair—would you have wanted to be notified of this and get an explanation about it?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I would expect that any probity check was detailed.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** In your investigations about this, can you also look at whether or not a finder's fee was part of the arrangement, given that Saranne Cooke lives in Bathurst and might have found this property and a finder's fee is sometimes part of these real estate arrangements?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes, if I can, I will

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Can you also, Minister, have a look at the 2021 and 2022 annual reports of Racing NSW? They're supposed to provide a full account of their finances. Are you aware that there's no mention of this \$1 land deal in any of the work by Racing NSW, as ticked off by their auditor?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes, it's before my time. I wasn't aware of it, so I wasn't looking for it.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** I've looked for it and it's not there. How could you explain that, given your responsibility for making Saranne Cooke now the chair of Racing NSW?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We'll look into it, and we'll get back to you, Mr Latham.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Are you aware of concerns of current and former employees of Racing NSW that the auditing process there is not genuine—that things like this are not reported in their annual reports, an extraordinary \$1 land deal, and the auditor basically just ticks off whatever is provided to them? Furthermore, isn't this an argument for the New South Wales Auditor-General to look at this and other arrangements at Racing NSW?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I can't comment on the specifics because I wasn't aware of it. What I would say is that the expectation is that any annual report correctly reflects what the organisation does and spends. As I said, we've taken this on notice, and we will look into it more deeply.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Would you normally expect an organisation like this to have in its annual report that it purchased a property for \$1 off its deputy chair?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** As I said, I can't go into specifics. It was before my time. I have an expectation that, in reporting their operations, they're accurate and truthful.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** If you find this to be inaccurate, will you now ask the New South Wales Auditor-General to look at this, but also the other 50 properties that Racing NSW has purchased in the last five years?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice. I'm not sure of the legalities of whether that's possible or not, but I will look into it for you.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Are you aware that at the Bathurst race club, the original \$3.7 million COVID emergency grant, there's been no accounting to the directors of how the money has been spent?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Are you further aware at the Bathurst race board that Saranne Cooke's been involved on the selection panel to put directors in and there's a general perception that she has a pretty good relationship with the Bathurst club of her hometown?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We'll have to look into all of that, Mr Latham. I'm not aware of any of the things that you're describing, so it's very hard for me to have an opinion. I take it, as you're always truthful with me, that these are all facts, but without doing an investigation I can't comment on whether it's right or wrong or otherwise.

**ANSWER:**

See response to Question on Notice on pages 5-6 of the session transcript.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 15**

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Minister, I have two quick follow-ups from the questions before. I believe you were talking about veteran services west of the Great Dividing Range. You gave the example of a community service in Wagga that was now being funded by the State. Is that right?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, I didn't say funded by the State; I said the Federal Government funds hubs.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** So there is no State funding of anything west of the Great Divide?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I can take that on notice. I think that's a very broad question. As I said, Veterans is a very small department. It has traditionally had a very defined role, and other departments have responsibility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Australian Department of Veterans Affairs has funded the establishment of Veterans' and Families' Hubs in locations around the country, including in NSW. The NSW Veterans' and Families' Hubs are operated by RSL LifeCare in Nowra and the Central Coast, with new hubs to be opened in the Hawkesbury region, the Hunter region, the Tweed / North Coast region and Queanbeyan. There are additional Veteran and Family Hubs operated by RSL LifeCare at Wagga Wagga in the Riverina and on the Northern Beaches.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg17

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Given the importance of this and noting the lack of support in regional areas, is this something that we can look into—how we get more support for these events?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Firstly, I reject that you say that there's a lack of support for people in regional areas.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** State-funded support.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** What I would say is that we would be happy to have a look at it. It may be something that I can advocate to colleagues on their behalf. As far as I'm aware, we've never received a letter, so we can't do what we don't know about. But where we are made known about different events, we do our best to find support.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Absolutely. Thank you. I know the local member up there, Michael Kemp, is a veteran. If you are free on 22 March, we'd love to have you up there for that day. Minister, in relation to the gold card concession, my understanding is that a lot of pensioners receive a gold card, which gives discounts through Transport for NSW, for instance, as well as licences and driving tests. However, veterans, despite being gold card carriers, are not eligible for discounts on council rates as other carriers are. If that understanding is correct, will you take that up with the local government Minister to see if we can provide equity with this support?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** As I said, we've got a whole-of-government committee looking at a range of issues from a whole-of-government perspective in responding to the royal commission. I think that's a first. It has not existed before. I'm pleased to refer that to them to have a look at. I think the role of the State and the Commonwealth is evolving and it's still at its very early stages. As I said, the report was only released in September last year and some of these things will take some time.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** That's five or six months ago.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Well, you've got holidays and the whole thing. You've obviously never been in government—

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Not true.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** —and understand that the term "fast-track" is used very loosely.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, how often does that whole-of-government committee meet?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** What level is that? Is it ministerial?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's at quite a high level, yes.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Can we take on notice how often that has met?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I can take that on notice.

## ANSWER:

I refer the member to page 67 of the session transcript.



**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg18**

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, there is obviously a lot of talk around funding for reducing homelessness and building new homes. Within the Government's affordable housing agenda, how many homes have been reserved specifically for veterans?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg18**

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, there is obviously a lot of talk around funding for reducing homelessness and building new homes. Within the Government's affordable housing agenda, how many homes have been reserved specifically for veterans?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Along the same vein, how many for regional veterans?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg18**

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Are there any State Government funded emergency accommodation programs specifically for veterans?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We are working with organisations like New South Wales LifeCare to explore and assist them in furthering some of those sorts of initiatives, but I can take it on notice specifically. But, as I said, it has not been a responsibility of State governments.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, in November you stated changes would be made to the Community War Memorials Fund for 2025. Are they major changes?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice. I don't think they are major changes

**ANSWER:**

I refer the Member to my response on pages 44-45 of the transcript.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg18-19

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** As we see the majority of veterans moving to regional areas, are we able to look within that strategy at a plan to address the disparity in funding between regional areas and metro areas for a lot of these programs?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** You make an assumption in your question. I don't know if that's true or not.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** We'll find out this afternoon, for instance, about the employment program and those sorts of things.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** A number of regional councils are involved in the employment program—signed up.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Can you name a couple? Which of those

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** There is a list. I'm happy to take that on notice and give you the full list of every single council.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

This information is publicly available at: <https://www.vep.veterans.nsw.gov.au/local-governments/>.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg20

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, can you provide an update for us on how the veterans' health centre at Concorde is going? I believe it's a collaboration with NSW Health.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It is. It's actually a great success story. When you ask how it's going, I'd have to take that on notice and know more specifically what you mean.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Just an update of its status.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Sure.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a question for the Minister for Health and Regional Health.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg20

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** On this question raised by Ms Boyd about the head of GWIC coming over to head Greyhound Racing NSW, we have a cooling off period whereby Ministers aren't allowed, straightaway, to go into employment where they take some of their ministerial knowledge and use it to advantage. Minister, don't you think we need a similar cooling off period where a regulator can take specialised knowledge into the operational arm of a racing code and take advantage of it?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's a suggestion that has merit and it will be looked at in the context of what the Drake report recommends to us.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** If it has merit, is it too late to veto the Griffin appointment?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I think retrospectivity is a very difficult thing. I don't know the legalities of it, so I can't comment.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** When is it expected that he will start at Greyhound Racing NSW? You said he was leaving GWIC in May.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I believe he has started, Mr Latham.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** You thought he was leaving in May, but it's earlier.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** He has resigned. We can get back to you on notice the exact timeline. He resigned from GWIC and took leave. I'll get you the exact dates. He has started his new employment.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** But you will look at the cooling off period as a future—

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We're looking at everything in regard to this.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The appointment of a CEO to Greyhound Racing NSW is a matter for the Board of that organisation. I am advised that the appointment of Mr Steven Griffin as CEO of Greyhound Racing NSW commenced on 3 March 2025. The NSW Government will await any relevant findings and recommendations from the inquiry into Greyhound Racing NSW led by the Hon Lea Drake regarding the appropriateness of arrangements for the employment of key personnel within Greyhound Racing NSW.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg22

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Is the Greyhounds As Pets program transferring pet dogs to the USA still continuing?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** My understanding is, yes, that's currently continuing.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Are you aware of how many dogs are currently in that program?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I can take that on notice.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

Greyhound Racing NSW reports greyhound rehoming numbers, including in relation to the US rehoming program, in its annual report.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg24

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** That was in regard to the Wyee issue, that there was an examination of GWIC's role in that. More broadly, of course if the recommendations come back from the Drake inquiry that says that there needs to be a further look at some of these issues, then we will do that. There's a big difference. GWIC is obviously a government statutory authority. Greyhound Racing NSW is not, so the approach is different.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** But obviously the Drake inquiry is set up under GWIC.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's not under GWIC. It's parallel.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** But it's under the powers of GWIC.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes, correct.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** It can't really investigate itself if it's—

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It wasn't required to. That wasn't in the terms of reference.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** That's right. That's what I'm saying, that's not in terms of reference.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** That doesn't mean that issues may not come up through testimony et cetera that there may be things that need to be looked at.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** My understanding is that no-one from GWIC has actually given evidence at the inquiry. Is that correct?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'd have to take that on notice.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

Neither Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission staff or Commissioners have given evidence at public hearings of the inquiry led by the Hon Lea Drake.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg25-26

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Minister, I understand that you've now finally appointed the three treaty commissioners for that process. How will they report the results of their work?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes, they'll do that through reporting. I had a very good meeting with the three commissioners last week.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** How will they report the results of their work?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** They'll write a report to the Government.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Will Aboriginal communities have a role in assessing that work?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Absolutely. This is Aboriginal designed and led.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** What's the process for that?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The actual commissioners are designing the process, not the Government. The Aboriginal commissioners—

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** In terms of Aboriginal designed and led, I understand that you contracted with Naree Pty Ltd to consult on free, prior and informed consent. When did that consultation begin?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** That was a precursor.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** When did it begin?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The department now has—when did it actually—

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I'd have to get the exact date.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We'll take that on notice.

## ANSWER:

I am advised:

Naree was contracted prior to the appointment of Commissioners to undertake consultation on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The start of this work was initially delayed due to logistical issues, which meant that it had not commenced before Commissioners commenced as originally intended.

Consistent with the commitment to Commissioners leading the design of consultation, Commissioners have instead opted to take a different approach and will roll the work on FPIC into the work they are leading prior to consultation rather than continue with a separate contracted project.

The contract with Naree commenced on 13 August 2024 and was concluded early on 5 December 2024.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg27

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, on 1 June 2023 you wrote to the chair of Racing NSW, John Williams, requesting an explanation for a series of complaints. Are you able to take that on notice and table that letter for us?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I don't think that would be a problem.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** We'll take it on notice and, if we can table it, that's fine.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** How were you made aware of these complaints?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** As I said, there was a folder with complaints that was in my office when I arrived, which had been sent. Then there were subsequent complaints from other parties that fed in to that. That resulted in a referral to ICAC. I asked the board to investigate. I think that was the purpose of the letter.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** A folder sent by who?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It was sent anonymously.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** I'm trying to visualise. As you walked in on day one, there was a blue folder sitting on your desk as the number one priority for you to deal with, and it was an anonymous list of complaints?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** They were very detailed. It was also followed up by multiple sources including the media. **The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Did you receive a response to your letter to Mr Williams?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Are you able to table that on notice as well?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

## ANSWER:

I am Advised:

Complaints about Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**) formed the basis for the establishment of the inquiry into GRNSW, led by the Hon Lea Drake (**Drake Inquiry**). Tabling of these documents, which are currently before the Drake Inquiry, may be prejudicial to the fair deliberation of Acting Commissioner Drake.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg29

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Minister, in budget estimates in September 2024 we understood that there was a commitment for the medical research strategy to be finalised within that calendar year. What is the status of that document?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** As we announced at the cardiovascular awards on Thursday night, it is in the final stages of editing et cetera and then it will be released.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** When?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Next month, we think.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Can you outline the intended priorities for the upcoming plan?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I will take that on notice specifically, because they are quite detailed. I would hate to misquote some of them.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

- the NSW Health Research and Innovation Strategy will be released in the coming months.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg30

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Minister, you would be aware of the NHMRC inquiry into the use of puberty blockers. What is the New South Wales Government's stance on this issue?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** That is a matter for the Minister for Health, I think. It doesn't come under my portfolio. **The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** It is medical research, especially when you look at all the research papers being produced by Westmead.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No, it's not covered by our department.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** So you don't know whether or not we are going to continue to administer hormone therapies while they're the subject of review?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** No idea. It's outside my area of responsibility.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** The Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building—are you able to answer questions about that?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We can take them on notice. I was at the opening, but I don't have specific details.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building is under construction with an estimated completion date of late 2025.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg30-31

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Have you looked at the ethical constraints around the use of pluripotent stem cells?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll have to take those on notice because I'm not—

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Okay. We might come back to that this afternoon.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, in regard to the relationship between yourself and the Minister for Health—and you gave an example before of a research project that wasn't in your portfolio—how does that work when it comes to, say, national strategies of research into cancer treatments? Who determines whether we sign up to those things as a State? Is it you as the Minister for Medical Research, or the Minister for Health?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's a bit of a hypothetical. It depends on the situation. Most of the responsibility for national agreements lies with the Minister for Health. The structure that was set up under the previous Government, which is one we're operating with now, is that my role is more about supporting through specific project funding and also working with institutes and local health districts to raise awareness within government about the importance of the work they're doing and obviously try to attract more funding.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** It's just a little bit confusing as to which ones you control. Who sets the overall strategy of where we're headed with our research?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Research comes through the office of medical research and innovation. They develop that strategy. They work within the health department on those things. That's where the strategies come together. It's the model that was set up under the previous Government. In a bipartisan way, we think that it's a model that has great merit. We continue to pursue it.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** What's your budget for project funding?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice. It's fairly extensive.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Office for Health and Medical Research's budget for 2024-25 was \$104.7 million.

Information on funded research grants is available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>

Information about the Office's programs and initiatives is available at

<https://www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/>



#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg36

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Your position is that Greyhound Racing has been subject to an inquiry—

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I've received verbal—

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** People say things verbally. I haven't received them in writing, is what I'm saying. Lots of people have opinions on a whole range of issues; that doesn't make them right. But when you receive them in writing and there becomes an obvious pattern, I took the view that then you refer.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Well, would you expect that most racing participants, if they've got a problem with Racing NSW—and there are hundreds of them out there—would write to you as the Minister?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Can you take on notice how many of those complaints you have received—

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** —to further correct the record from earlier on?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** My understanding is we haven't received any. We receive lots of correspondence but as far as I know—when I asked, the reply was we hadn't received anything.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I can add, Mr Latham, in response to Mr Portelli, we can get some more information for you, but my recollection was that it was referred to the department and, as you say, the complaints related to the CEO of Racing NSW. Those complaints are appropriately dealt with by the board of Racing NSW. I wrote to the chair of Racing NSW requesting that the chair meet with Mr Portelli. My understanding is that that meeting occurred.

#### ANSWER:

As Minister, I receive a small amount of correspondence about the NSW racing industry. Where correspondence is received relating to concerns about a racing controlling body, the Department provides advice on appropriate actions, including whether the matter should be referred to the relevant controlling body or other authorities.

Complaints about the CEO of Racing NSW are a matter for the Board of that organisation.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg36

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** No, but you're the racing Minister. Was there any approval from your office, you, or the Office of Racing that allowed the regulator to run its own tracks and regulate itself?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** My understanding is that a briefing note was sent to my office asking if there were any problems, that the process that had been followed was the correct process—so that's the process.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Right. In asking whether there are any problems, did your office write back with problems?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll take that on notice. I wasn't made aware of any

#### ANSWER:

My office was advised of the decision by the Minister for Lands and Property. As Minister for Gaming and Racing, I have no authority to make decisions about Crown Lands matters, including the appointment of Crown Lands Managers. This authority is with the Minister for Lands and Property.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg38

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Minister, in December 2023 you announced the big, broad cashless gaming trial. How many people took part in that trial?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** There was about 2½ thousand different establishments. As I said earlier—

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** How many people? How many active participants?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The trial we announced was on technology. We announced machines. We didn't announce people. We announced 500 machines and we got a great response from industry, and there were many, many more machines. There was slight complication in that one of the companies had some technology issues, so some of the companies pulled out. Some of them changed providers. We got a very good overview of the technology trial.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** The Independent Panel on Gaming Reform said there were 14 genuine active users. How many of those 500 machines did those 14 people use?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Well, it wasn't 500 machines. As I said, there were 2½ thousand machines.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** How many of those 2½ thousand machines did those 14 people use?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I will have to take that on notice.

### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The number of machines played by participants was not captured as part of the evaluation.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg38

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The Government has been rolling out a whole range of issues, which I mentioned earlier for Mr Borsak. The Government has now put out two discussion papers, as I said, which are on the first- and third-party exclusion program and facial recognition. The Government is also doing an economic analysis on any implementation of further regulation, and the Government will make their decisions at an appropriate time in terms of where we will go, moving forward.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** You say you've done a range of measures. Those measures are two more reports and a discussion paper?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Not at all. I'm happy to give you a full list.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Maybe you can take that on notice.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Yes

### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The gaming measures delivered since March 2023 are as follows:

- **16 June 2023:** The state-wide cap on gaming machine entitlements was reduced by over 3,000.
- **1 July 2023:** The cash input limit was reduced from \$5,000 to \$500 for all new gaming machines.
- **1 July 2023:** Political donations from clubs with electronic gaming machines were banned.
- **13 July 2023:** The Independent Panel on Gaming Reform was established.
- **1 September 2023:** External gaming-related signage and internal gaming-related signage that can be seen from outside the venue was banned.
- **March 2024 - September 2024:** The NSW Government delivered on our election commitment - completing a cashless gaming trial more than four times the size of the original commitment.
- **1 July 2024:** Responsible Gambling Officers in venues with more than 20 gaming machine entitlements were introduced.
- **1 July 2024:** All venues with gaming machines were mandated to keep a Gaming Plan of Management and a Gambling Incident Register.
- **1 July 2024:** The placement of any signage or advertising relating to gaming machines either on, or visible from an ATM or EFTPOS terminal with cash withdrawal facilities was banned.
- **1 January 2025:** Additional changes to the location and visibility of ATMs were made, including ATMs must be located outside of a 5-metre radius of any entrance to, or exit from a gaming area in a hotel or club. An ATM must not be visible from a gaming machine or entry to a gaming room or area or room where gaming machines are located. Also, a gaming machine or jackpot sign must not be visible from an ATM.
- **15 February 2025:** Consultation papers for a third-party exclusion scheme and also the use of mandatory facial recognition technology to support a statewide exclusion register for NSW hotels and clubs with gaming machines, were published for the community to provide feedback on. The consultations close on 28 March 2025.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 4

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Thank you. What's the salary for a role as CEO in GWIC?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It's commensurate with public service. You might be able to answer that specifically.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** It is a band 2 role. That would cover the salary range. I don't know exactly what that salary range is, but I'm happy to take that on notice.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** If you could find out for me. Can you give me a rough estimate of what that is? Around \$300,000, or less than that?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** It would probably be in that ballpark.

#### **ANSWER:**

Band 2 salary range is from \$287,201 to \$361,300.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 39

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** You mentioned you're doing work around the economic modelling. Wasn't that part of what the panel was tasked with doing.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It was made clear to us that until the panel knew what an environment might look like, it couldn't do economic modelling. So we have undertaken to do that, post-report, which has been made public. It also has input from industry and harm-minimisation groups. We've been very transparent with this.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** You talked about some of the issues for the border communities. What were some of the issues that have been raised with you on that?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** Obviously people are concerned about gambling harm, and we take that issue very seriously. What we know is that this is a lot—

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Sorry, specifically to the border communities that you mentioned earlier this morning?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The border communities, yes. It has been raised with us by some of the local members in those areas that we need to be making sure there's consistency, because there is the potential, if New South Wales does one thing and Victoria does another thing, that we get the old story of border hopping, and that can affect businesses. It is the same with the Queensland border. You might note that the Liberal Government in Tasmania worked down the pathway of looking at cashless gaming. They've actually stopped that, and said that this needs a more broad, national approach. We have to be aware of all of those issues.

I don't know if, at a departmental level, there have been meetings with Queensland. I haven't met with the new Minister in Queensland yet, but I've certainly met with the Victorian Minister a number of times. I think I described to you the start of a trial there as well, and we'll be looking carefully at that too. This does need a consistent approach. New South Wales is behind the eight ball a little bit because we have one-way communication to venues. Victoria has two-way communication. Before we do anything, we've got to upgrade that communication network to make sure that whatever is decided can actually be put in place. That's because there has been no investment for decades in that area. Mr Foggo, who was the chair of the independent panel, was the one who actually implemented the one-way communication, back in the day, which happened in about—

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'll take the exact year on notice but a long time ago

### ANSWER:

The first X-series machines were installed in NSW in 1995.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 46

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** I have some questions which are probably better directed to Mr Tutt. Thank you for coming at short notice. In regard to the CEO position, is there any record that's made of who the CEO meets with? Is that something that's documented? If I said, "Could I find out whether or not the CEO has met with these people", are those details you could provide on notice?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Not really. There might be sort of diary notes in individual diaries, but not as a rule.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** It's not specifically recorded. I was just wondering—and perhaps this is something to take on notice with that understanding—whether or not you could find out whether any meetings took place between the former CEO and a man by the name of Shayne Stiff over the last 12 months?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'll take that on notice.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** We were talking to the Minister this morning about the fact that the Greyhound Racing Act provides that greyhound racing participants and former staff members of Greyhound Racing NSW are not allowed to be appointed as GWIC commissioners or inspectors. I'm just wondering if GWIC has any inspectors or commissioners that have formerly worked within Racing NSW, Racing Victoria or other racing codes outside of greyhound racing?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'd have to take on notice if there were any individuals. I believe not, but I'll take that on notice.

## ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (**Commission**):

- Over the last 12 months, the then Commission CEO, Mr Steven Griffin, met with Mr Shayne Stiff on three occasions, in April, August and December 2024.
- These were regular and scheduled joint meetings conducted between the Commission's Leadership Team and representatives of Greyhound Clubs NSW as a part of the Commission's regular stakeholder engagement strategy.
- Mr Stiff was in attendance at these meetings in his capacity as President of Greyhound Clubs NSW, a key industry stakeholder and representative body.

I am advised by the Commission:

- No Commissioners or Inspectors have previously worked for another racing control body.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 48-49

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Let's leave that bit there. Can I ask Mr Tutt—welcome to your interim role. The quarterly life cycle report for October to December, ordinarily it would have been published in mid-February, but it's not been published.

**MATTHEW TUTT:** That's right.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** When is that due and why has it been delayed?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Soon. There was a request to change the template. The commission is just considering that. We would normally publish it, for the one ending on 31 January, sometime in late February. We haven't done that yet, but we'll be doing that shortly.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** We put some questions on notice about this life cycle reporting. The Minister responded, saying: I am advised that the Commission's lifecycle and injury reports for July to September 2024 were delayed as a result of resources being directed towards the production of the Commission's annual report and assisting the Drake Inquiry. Does that accord with your understanding as well?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'd have to check that is the actual case. I thought he might have been referring to the life cycle report ending in January.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Yes. The October to December quarter is the one that we were asking for and we were told it was delayed because of resources being directed to the Drake inquiry

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'll take that on notice, and I'll provide a response to that.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (**Commission**):

- the Commission's Lifecycle report for the October – December 2024 quarter was delayed due to direction of resources to provide briefings and data to the Drake Inquiry and staff being on leave during the December and January period.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 49

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Good. That's what I wanted to hear. The recent New Zealand decision to close greyhound racing in that country—I think we've asked previously about dogs being transferred out of New South Wales into New Zealand and how we track that, but I don't think we've asked about how it comes back the other way. Are you expecting any sort of influx of dogs wanting to be brought into New South Wales, coming out of New Zealand, now that they can't race there?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Not particularly. I know that it certainly might be something that the New Zealand participants might explore, but we're not particularly expecting a great influx into New South Wales.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Have there been any discussions, that you know of, between yourselves, or even has Greyhound Racing NSW told you of any discussions with New Zealand racing authorities?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Certainly not at my level, but I can certainly take it on notice as to whether there's been any discussions with the commission more broadly.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** When you register those incoming registrations from dogs brought in from other jurisdictions, do you normally note the jurisdiction they've come from? Does the register work like that?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'll take it on notice as to how that actually is effected. There is a record, I understand, in our system that reflects where the greyhound has come from, but I can confirm that if I take it on notice. Just back to one of your last points about the resources for responding to Commissioner Drake's inquiry, the resources that were mostly expended by the commission have been from our data analytics team. That's probably the most resource-heavy thing that the commission has been involved in. But otherwise, operationally, it's not affecting the way the commission goes about its operations.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** So the same sort of people or the same resources that would be applied when we ask all of our questions on notice and those sorts of things—it's that sort of department? **MATTHEW TUTT:** That's right—that sort of data-rich response.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** I understand. Apologies, then, for my next question. Can you take on notice how many greyhounds have been transferred from New Zealand to New South Wales for each of the past three years? If that is something that you have available, it would be interesting to see. **MATTHEW TUTT:** I'll take that on notice.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** This morning we were talking about the US greyhound export program. I understand that the Minister took on notice how many dogs are now part of it. Have there been any further reports of injuries or deaths in that program since it started back?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Directly to the commission? Are you asking have there been any reports directly to the commission as to how many deaths?

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Or that you're aware of. Are you aware of any injuries or deaths since it started back?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** We are—since it started back, sorry?

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Yes.

**MATTHEW TUTT:** No, I'd have to take that on notice as to whether we've been provided with information since it started back.

**ANSWER:**



I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (Commission):

- it understands that Greyhound Racing NZ and the New Zealand Government are developing strategies to rehome greyhounds following the closure of the industry in July 2026. The Commission does not anticipate a significant influx of greyhounds from New Zealand following closure of the industry there. To date, GWIC has not participated in any discussions with other greyhound racing control bodies regarding possible transfer of greyhounds from New Zealand to Australia.

I am advised by the Commission:

- the Greyhound Racing Register records identifying details of every registered greyhound that races or is kept in NSW
- identifying information includes the jurisdiction in which the greyhound was bred and registered
- the Commission is therefore able to identify greyhounds that have been transferred to NSW from other jurisdictions
- the Commission's eTrac system records transfer of owner/trainer/breeder details, which includes details of the previous location of a greyhound.

I am advised by the Commission:

- two greyhounds have been transferred from New Zealand to NSW in the last three years; one greyhound in 2024 and one in 2025.

I am advised by the Commission:

- it is not aware of any deaths of greyhounds in the GRNSW 'Aussie Mates in the States' program since the program's recommencement
- it is noted that Greyhound Racing NSW is not required to provide this information to the Commission.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 50

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** How much of the allocated treaty consultation funding has actually been spent to date?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I think I've got that answer here.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** I'm happy for you to take that on notice.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I'll come back to you with that.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** While we're looking at costing, what's the cost of the contract with Naree Pty Ltd in relation to that free, prior and informed consent consultation? I'm happy for you to take that on notice too if that's easier.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I do have a figure, but I'll just confirm it and I'll come back to you on that.

#### ANSWER:

Naree was contracted prior to the appointment of Commissioners to undertake consultation on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The start of this work was initially delayed due to logistical issues, which meant that it had not commenced before Commissioners commenced as originally intended. Naree contract is for \$549,274 (GST inclusive) and 50% was paid at the beginning of the contract.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 51

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** I have some questions about the transfer of Me-Mel/Goat Island. I understand that \$800,000 has been awarded to Primary Communication Partners for a communication and engagement services project for that transfer. What are the KPIs under that contract?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I'm not aware of the contract and the contract hasn't been carried out by Aboriginal Affairs. Aboriginal Affairs is a member on the committee of the transfer but, as I understand it, that is being managed by another department. It's not something we're managing directly.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Is there anybody else here who can help us with that?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I don't think so, no.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** What other department—to whom should these questions be addressed?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I think it's Heritage, but I'd need to confirm who is actually managing it. I can probably get that answer for you, but it's not us directly.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** If you could.

### ANSWER:

I would refer your questions to the Minister for Environment and Heritage. This portfolio responsibility sits with National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 51-52

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Were you invited to comment on the funding received from the Commonwealth for some 500 family, domestic and sexual violence workers and the decision was made to prioritise that funding going to ACCOs to meet Closing the Gap initiatives? Were you invited to comment on that decision?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I'd have to check. I probably was. I'd need to check on where that would have come from—whether it was from a committee that I might be on and whether I had commented. But generally we are consulted.

### ANSWER:

Decisions regarding domestic and family violence funding allocations are generally made at the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Taskforce which Aboriginal Affairs NSW is represented on. Specific questions regarding DFV funding allocations should be directed to the Department of Communities and Justice and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Hon. Jodie Harrison, MP.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 52

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Does anybody have overall oversight on, I suppose, the budget allocation for Closing the Gap initiatives? Who would that be?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** We have oversight of the entire envelope of the Closing the Gap budget. For a portion of that budget, we have a direct contract with CAPO on certain parts of that ourselves. I think it's about \$33 million out of the \$221 million, and the balance of that sits with other government departments who have that contract arrangement or partnership arrangement. I can give you the overall where the \$221 million is broken down and what it's funded for, but we have a coordination role across government. But I can give you the breakdown of the \$221 million.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** If you could give me that on notice, that would be great.

### ANSWER:

The first Closing the Gap Cross-Portfolio Budget Submission developed in partnership with NSW CAPO was approved in the 2022-23 NSW Budget. The total funding package was \$221 million to be expended over four years to 2025-26 allocated to the following initiatives:

Program	Description	Total Budget Allocation (4 years)
2022/24 NSW Implementation Plan	To deliver projects to deliver on Closing the Gap Socio Economic Targets.	\$128,600,000
2022/24 NSW Implementation Plan	NSW CAPO funding for delivery of Priority Reform Projects and Secretariat	\$33,000,000
Community and Place Grants	ACCO Placed Based Grants	\$37,000,000
Delivering Better Outcomes	Healthy Deadly Kids (AHMRC)	\$10,900,000
	Literacy for Life Project (LFL Foundation)	\$1,500,000
Aboriginal Business Roadmap	NSW Aboriginal Business Growth	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$221,000,000</b>

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 52-53

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Other than the targets that BOCSAR seems to collect data on, the data's really patchy, isn't it, and a lot of it sits as a sort of nest inside Commonwealth data. You can split out New South Wales data, but that's not always straightforward. Are you happy that we've got enough data, or we're collecting enough data? If we're not measuring, it's hard to know whether we're meeting. Do you have any comments on the sufficiency of the data that we're collecting?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I think there are some measures where we don't have enough data to measure the Closing the Gap; that is true.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** In particular, which ones [measures] would you point to?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I'd have to just check which ones they are, but there are. It's fair to say that some are better than others and there's more work to be done, but that's part of Closing the Gap. Priority reform four is not just about data sovereignty but it's about government being able to capture and share that data with Aboriginal community controlled organisations so that when it comes to decision-making, that can be done in a joint way. The community will capture their own data, or have their own data through the services they provide. The Government has the same. Priority reform four is about respecting those principles of data sovereignty but bringing those two together so that joint decisions can be made.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** And of course there's no data sovereignty without data.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** That's true, yes.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** What percentage of Closing the Gap funding is reaching Aboriginal controlled organisations?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Quite a bit. Again, I can give you the exact amount of money that's going directly to ACCOs through Closing the Gap.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Yes, if you could. And in terms of ACCOs, what's being done to help build capacity?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** There's a particular program that's related to capacity building of Aboriginal community controlled organisations. Again, it forms part of Closing the Gap and I can give you the breakdown of that.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Okay. Is it just funding, or are there partnership initiatives where people are working alongside ACCOs and helping with governance or mentoring programs or anything like that?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** It's both, yes. It's both dollars and support and working alongside. I mean, the whole notion of Closing the Gap is us working in partnership. It's not us making all the decisions. It's being done in a joint way with our Aboriginal partners.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Absolutely. You can provide details of that?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I can give you the breakdown of that partnership stuff, yes.

## **ANSWER:**

### **Closing the Gap data and Aboriginal data sovereignty**

- In its [Closing the Gap Review Report](#) released in February 2025, the Productivity Commission found there were critical gaps in data to support the performance monitoring and reporting arrangements in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and recommended improved governance and prioritisation of data development efforts.
- NSW's approach to Priority Reform 4 is an exemplar nationally of funding a time-limited program focused on A) supporting community-led approach to developing a sustainable model for Aboriginal Data Sovereignty and Governance, and B) reforming the foundations of government (data) systems to improved shared access to NSW Government-held data.
- As part of NSW's approach, a NSW Pilot Data Connector Service was established and is providing a culturally-responsive, single point of contact for Aboriginal communities and organisations to request data. To date over 100 data requests have been received through the service from Aboriginal stakeholders. The Service also enables NSW to

better understand the Aboriginal community data requestors data priorities and barriers impacting shared access to data.

- Information collected through the pilot service has informed four trials of technical solutions that directly respond to community feedback and priorities. These trials have the potential to improve shared data access, transparency of data held by government, and improve the relevance of the data provided to Aboriginal communities. NSW recognises the importance of data to Aboriginal communities to enable self-determined initiatives and to improve community-oriented services.
- In regard to the socioeconomic targets, the Data Development Plan (DDP) outlines and prioritises the data development actions under each Socioeconomic Outcome. The DDP is intended to facilitate a richer array of high quality data sources attached to all Socioeconomic Outcomes over the life of the National Agreement.

#### **Closing the gap funding and support to ACCOs**

- Of the 2022-26 \$221 million funding package, \$147.5 million has been allocated to projects delivered by the ACCO sector, with the remainder allocated to projects being delivered jointly between the ACCO sector and NSW Government.
- NSW has invested a total of \$7.4 million to ACCOs through the invitation only Joint Fund on Sector Strengthening program. Funding is allocated across Aboriginal Peak Organisations in four sectors: Housing, Disability, Health and Early Childhood Education and Care.
- The ACCO Comprehensive Support Package is currently under development to address barriers and challenges raised by ACCOs. It is intended that the support package is to be accompanied by comprehensive reforms of government commissioning processes, developed in partnership between Government and NSW CAPO. These are essential steps in ensuring that ACCOs are prioritised in Aboriginal service delivery funding.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Pg 53-54

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** I understand that the New South Wales Aboriginal Procurement Policy aims for 3 per cent of government contracts to go to Aboriginal businesses, but there has been no updated data published for 2023-24. When will that information become available?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** That's not something I'm—

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Is there somebody else who can help me with that?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I think it sits with Treasury.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** I'm a little bit confused. I understand that there might be overlap. But with these things that take a whole-of-government approach, I would have thought that somebody within Aboriginal Affairs would also be interested in that information and have a watching brief on it.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** We can probably find out but, in terms of the actual expenditure in the policy, it's not developed by us.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** It's just that this is, I would think, an important policy goal that doesn't appear to have been reported on, and it would be good to know. What about the New South Wales Aboriginal business growth road map? Do we know what has been achieved with the \$10 million allocated there?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes, I can give you a breakdown of that. Did you want that now?

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** I'm happy to take it on notice, if you can provide it.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes.

### ANSWER:

New South Wales Aboriginal Procurement Policy data sits within NSW Treasury. I would refer your question to the Treasurer. Roadmap for Aboriginal Business Growth 2023-26

- The Roadmap for Aboriginal Business Growth 2023-26 (the Roadmap) is supported by \$10 million in funding. Funding breakdown over three years and delivery status is noted below (as of 8 April 2025):
  - \$1.35 million to NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSWICC) to deliver an awareness program on black cladding. The program will be launched by September 2025.
  - \$1.05 million to NSWICC to lead a project to engage a rural/regional local council and create local Aboriginal business networks. Project under development.
  - \$2.16 million to NSWICC to build a portal providing entrepreneurship and mentoring support to Aboriginal women, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and small-to-medium enterprises. Project under development.
  - \$1.05 million to Yarpa to lead a project to engage a metro local council and create local Aboriginal business networks. Yarpa and Campbelltown City Council are working in partnership to deliver outcomes by June 2026.
  - \$500k to deliver bi-annual Aboriginal Business Roundtables in regional and metro locations, respectively. The next roundtable is expected to be held in late May 2025 at a regional location.
- Remaining funding will be dedicated to initiatives identified in the Roadmap.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 55

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** That's really good to know, thank you. I know who to follow up with next. Also in that last estimates, it was said that GWIC was working on having Greyhound Racing NSW make public the treatment outcomes of injured and euthanised greyhounds. Has any update been done on that?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** I asked some supplementary questions in September, and I was advised by GWIC that since May 2023, 17 greyhounds had been sent to council pounds, 16 of which were approved by the commission. What happened to the greyhound that was sent without prior approval from GWIC? It's quite detailed.

**MATTHEW TUTT:** It is a detail that I don't have before me, but I'll take that one on notice.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** If you could take that on notice—and also which pound it was sent to, how GWIC followed up and where that dog is now—that would be really useful. Also, on what basis were the other 16 approved and which pounds did they go to?

### ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (Commission):

- The Greyhound Care Scheme is a Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) program which subsidises the treatment of greyhounds injured at racetracks.
- The Commission does not have access to data compiled by GRNSW with regard to treatment outcomes of greyhounds that enter the Greyhound Care Scheme.
- However, the Commission reports the number of euthanasia and deaths of greyhounds where the euthanasia or death is clearly associated with a previous race injury. This information has been included in the Commission's quarterly injury reports since January 2021.

I am advised by the Commission:

- The greyhound in question, "*Ziping Sherry*", was sent to Lithgow City Council Animal Shelter, and the transfer was subsequently approved
- All 17 retirements were approved on the basis that they met all requirements under the Commission's Greyhound Rehoming Policy. Specifically in relation to Council pounds, the Rehoming Policy provides that a greyhound must not be transferred to a Council pound unless the pound has a 'no kill' policy in place
- the other greyhounds went to the following facilities:
  - Wingecaribee Animal shelter, six greyhounds
  - Port Macquarie & Hastings Council animal shelter, three greyhounds
  - Liverpool Plains Shire Council, one greyhound
  - Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, two greyhounds
  - Broken Hill City Council, four greyhounds.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 56

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** It's one of those things that in greyhound racing I just think—I watch my dogs. It gets to about 26 and they're flat on the ground. Too hot. The idea of a dog racing at 38 degrees seems quite extraordinary.

**MATTHEW TUTT:** The commission take other measures, of course, in hot weather. They have baths immediately available for dogs to cool down in those sorts of temperatures. There are a whole range of measures that are taken at tracks to ensure that greyhounds, especially racing in summer months, have access to adequate facilities to ensure that their welfare is looked after.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Has there been any breaches to the hot weather water policy since this new version was brought in on 1 January?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'd have to check. I don't believe so, but I'll have to check

### ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission:

- the amended Race Day Hydration and Hot Weather Policy commenced on 1 January 2025. No breaches of the amended Policy have been reported.



## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 56

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Mr Tutt, I'm wondering if you can just give me some background information on the investigation that was done by GWIC in regards to the two deaths at Taree.

**MATTHEW TUTT:** So any death or serious injury is subject to our Race Injury Review Panel. That panel meets on a regular basis. I believe it's monthly. Out of that panel comes recommendations and, essentially, a review of each incident. I don't have the minutes from the Race Injury Review Panel that dealt with the Taree matters, but they are provided and that assesses those injuries.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Are you comfortable to table those minutes for the Committee to see? **MATTHEW TUTT:** Subject to any other matters that might be confidential. Perhaps if I take that on notice, and then we'll confirm that we can provide those minutes.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Thank you. My understanding is that those two deaths were caused by the fact that there was no safety rail at Taree. Are you aware of how many other tracks across New South Wales do not have safety rails?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Not off the top of my head. I'd have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** If you could take that on notice. Is it only a handful of tracks or is it the majority?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** It'd be a small number. The majority would have the safety rails.

## ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission:

- minutes of the relevant Race Injury Review Panel meetings are provided alongside this response.
- the Commission is aware of two currently operating tracks (Nowra and Grafton) that do not have safety rails installed.
- it understands that a safety rail is currently being installed at the Nowra track.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 57

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Thank you. I understand that the role of chief veterinary officer at Greyhound Racing NSW was vacant for a very long time. I'm not sure if you're aware if it's still vacant. From what I'm hearing, my understanding is that animals are waiting extremely long times to then get veterinary treatment signed off because that role remains empty. The process within Greyhound Racing NSW is that the chief veterinary officer signs off on a dog getting urgent medical treatment. The information I'm getting is that greyhounds are being left for hours, and sometimes days, because that role is not filled and there's nobody else to quickly sign off on veterinary treatment. Is that similar information that GWIC has received or looked into?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I'm not aware of it, but I could take that on notice as to whether the commission itself has received similar messages.

### ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (**Commission**):

- the Commission has no jurisdiction in relation to greyhounds kept by Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**)
- it has not received any complaints or other information regarding veterinary treatment of greyhounds kept by GRNSW.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 57-58

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Going back to the questions about how GWIC doesn't have the capacity to go and inspect or re-audit the Aussie Mates in the States program, does that mean that, when the team from GWIC previously went over to the US with Greyhound Racing NSW to look at the program, it didn't need to do that?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** That was done at the request of the Minister's office, so we did that. As I said in the previous answer, that was done as an audit to see if the program met best practice guidelines for New South Wales rehoming.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** And that was because the Minister wanted that?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I have to take that on notice as to how it actually came about but, to travel overseas, an approval process from the Minister had to be made and was made. As I said, that's when the commission undertook that audit.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Because Greyhound Racing NSW paid for GWIC to go on that. If it's not something that GWIC was obliged to do under the regulations, it just strikes me as another example of potential regulatory capture, no?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** No.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** You will no doubt be aware of reports of greyhounds being physically forced into starting boxes at Gosford, I think at the beginning of February. Have you seen that, and what is GWIC doing about it? At what point is a dog that doesn't want to get into a starting box cancelled from racing rather than being made to race?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** I haven't seen that footage.

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Will you take that on notice, then?

**MATTHEW TUTT:** Yes, I'll take that on notice

**ANSWER:**

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (**Commission**):

- the Commission does not have jurisdiction in relation to the management of greyhound rehoming programs by Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**)
- the Commission was not required to undertake a review of the GRNSW 'Aussie Mates in the States' program but did so in October 2023 at the invitation of GRNSW (and not at the request of the Minister's Office as inadvertently indicated)
- GRNSW paid travel costs associated with the project. The Commission sought and obtained approval from the Minister for Gaming and Racing for its officers to undertake international travel. A report resulting from the review was provided to the Minister and GRNSW, with an Executive Summary published on the Commission's website.

I am advised by the Commission:

- the Greyhound Racing Rules provide that where a handler is having difficulty in placing a greyhound in its starting box, the race starter must seek or provide assistance
- where it is not possible to place a greyhound in its starting box, race Stewards may direct that the greyhound be scratched from the race
- the subject greyhound 'Bob and Gary' was nominated to compete in Race 1 at Gosford on 18 February 2025
- the handler had difficulty in placing the greyhound in its starting box, the race starter provided assistance and the greyhound was successfully boxed
- Commission Stewards who supervised the meeting noted the incident in their report and directed that the greyhound be declared difficult to place in a starting box for future starts
- a greyhound with an endorsement for being difficult to be placed in a starting box is placed in the starting boxes before the other runners
- the greyhound subsequently raced without incident on 25 February 2025.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 58-59

**TAREK BARAKAT:** As the Minister said this morning, the panel made the decision based on the fact that it didn't have in front of it a clear model for cashless gaming to recommend that, before Government made the decision, it should be required to undertake some independent economic analysis. And that's what has happened.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Where is work on that new analysis up to?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** It's almost complete, I think. It'll come to the departments first, as is standard practice. Treasury's assisting us with that, and then we'll prepare some advice and provide that to Government to consider in the preparation of its response to the report.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** At this point you've got nothing you can reveal about what it's finding about the impacts this might have?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** No, unfortunately, I can't at this point.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Sorry, did you give me a time frame before that I missed?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I didn't give a time frame. We will be providing it to Government with some advice in the near future. As to when Government responds to the report itself, it's a matter for Government.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Who is conducting that modelling?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'd have to take that on notice, unless the secretary—

**ELIZABETH MILDWATER:** It's a company called CIE. It's an independent organisation procured under the department.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Were they provided terms of reference from the panel or from the Minister?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** They were provided a scope of work during the procurement process from ourselves and NSW Treasury based on some of the deliberations and advice from the panel.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Will they be going out to industry as well to consult on that, or is it a desktop?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'd have to check if they have spoken to anyone during the preparation of the report. If they haven't then the answer would be no, but that's not to say that further consultation can't occur if Government would like it to.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Would you be able to table that scope that they were given?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I can take it on notice and, if it's appropriate to do so, I'm very happy to do so, yes.

## ANSWER:

The Project Requirements provided to CIE for the Cashless Gaming Technology – Economic modelling RFT included the following:

### ***Project Requirements***

*The Government is interested in modelling the potential impact of account based gaming on industry to inform its response to the Panel's recommendations.*

*Modelling is required to assess:*

- *the potential short-run and longer-term impacts of the introduction of a mandatory account-based gaming system on gaming machine activity.*

*And the impacts on:*

- *industry revenue and costs, with separate breakdowns of:*
  - *estimated costs (including upfront investments in technology), and*
  - *estimated revenue impacts (including specific impacts on gaming revenues and any flow-on impacts on other revenues);*

*At an industry-wide level and disaggregated by venue type (club or hotel), and venue size (based on current gaming machine player loss), and geographical location (by regional area),*

*Analysis of these potential impacts on venue profitability and viability, and broader impacts on the broader business model of the industry, would be useful.*

- *industry employment (direct and indirect), at an industry-wide level and disaggregated by venue type (club or hotel), and venue size (based on current gaming machine player loss), and geographical location (by regional area),*
- *net employment for the NSW economy, modelled using a general equilibrium approach where industry-specific shocks are counter-balanced by redirection of resources to or from other industries.*

*Impacts on employment and industry revenue will be the result of both the initial industry-led investment in the technologies, as well as the long-term behavioural changes to gambling following the technology roll out. The impact analysis should capture both these factors, and be able to isolate these effects. L&GNSW will assist the consultant on expected investment cost required for the technical roll out as an input to the modelling.*

*The report will be provided to Government to inform its response to the Panel's recommendations.*

#### **QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 59**

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** The Minister mentioned several harm minimisation measures. I don't have that list in front of me, and I don't think you'd have it off top of your head. Are you able to table that list, along with documentation of when they started work on those measures?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Sure. I can read through the things that have been implemented to date if you'd like me to, but otherwise I'm happy to take it on notice, and I can include commencement dates for some of those reforms as well.

#### **ANSWER:**

The gaming reforms and commencement dates are as follows:

- 16 June 2023 - reduced the state-wide cap on gaming machine entitlements
- 1 July 2023 - reduced the cash input limit from \$5,000 to \$500 for all new gaming machines
- 1 July 2023 - banned political donations from clubs with electronic gaming machines
- 13 July 2023 - Independent Panel on Gaming Reform established
- March 2024 - September 2024 - ran cashless gaming trial
- 1 September 2023 - banned external gaming-related signage and internal gaming-related signage that can be seen from outside the venue

- 1 July 2024 - introduced Responsible Gambling Officers in venues with more than 20 gaming machine entitlements
- 1 July 2024 - mandated that all venues with gaming machines must keep a Gaming Plan of Management and a Gambling Incident Register
- 1 July 2024 - banned the placement of any signage or advertising relating to gaming machines either on, or visible from an ATM or EFTPOS terminal with cash withdrawal facilities.
- 1 January 2025 - Additional changes to the location and visibility of ATMs, including ATMs must be located outside of a 5-metre radius of any entrance to, or exit from a gaming area in a hotel or club. An ATM must not be visible from a gaming machine or entry to a gaming room or area or room where gaming machines are located. Also a gaming machine or jackpot sign must not be visible from an ATM.
- 28 January 2025 - announced a ban of gambling advertising on public transport and the ferries and terminals people catch it from
- 15 February 2025 - published consultation papers for a third-party exclusion scheme and also the use of mandatory facial recognition technology to support a statewide exclusion register for NSW hotels and clubs with gaming machines, for the community to provide feedback on. The consultations close on 28 March 2025.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 59

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** What impact have those things had on gambling habits and losses?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I think we'd have to—we will be evaluating these reforms, as is standard practice. Some of them—the example that springs to mind is ATMs are now required to be five metres from gaming machines and not have visible signage. That really only came into effect early this year. We've got Responsible Gambling Officers in venues with 20 or more gaming machine entitlements, which came into effect 1 July last year. So they are relatively recent, some of them, so they'd probably need a bit more time on the ground for us to actually make a meaningful evaluation as to their impact, but we will be doing that.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** I suspect a similar response, but what reduction are they having, from what we've seen, in relation to money laundering?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Reduction in relation to money laundering?

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Yes.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I think that's probably a question for the police or AUSTRAC. It's not something we have a remit to oversee but, if there's any information we can provide on that, happy to do so.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Particularly with that earlier question about the impact it's having, if you do have any information, would you be able to provide that on notice?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Sure. Yes, we can provide that on notice

**ANSWER:**

An evaluation of the Responsible Gaming Officer and related requirements will be subject to a formal evaluation 12 months after full implementation. This evaluation will cover the impact on harm minimisation and other impacts.

In relation to money laundering impacts, NSW Police and AUSTRAC are the responsible agencies for investigating and regulating money laundering in NSW. NSW Police, AUSTRAC or NSW Crime Commission may be able to provide further information/evaluation on any impact in relation to money laundering.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 61

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Does the Office for Veterans Affairs break the State down into regions or zones?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** Yes, we do. A couple of things—the census data in 2021, our office has developed an interactive tool so they can actually use that data to drill down to every local government area. That's been very useful. The Minister was able to quote the Central Coast as one of the highest veteran populations in every age category. We've shared that with everyone including the Commonwealth because we've put together this interactivity and that's helped guide what we're doing. My team helped while we were waiting for this afternoon. The census says 60 per cent of veterans in New South Wales live in regional areas.

Our Veterans Employment Program tracks where veterans are being employed in the State. We're about to publish the two-year report on the current data, which tracks where veterans are getting jobs. You asked before and the Minister did quote that we had 1,015 veterans employed to September 2024. That's the first two years of the four-year tally, so we're just over halfway to the 2,000. As an example, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development hired 55 veterans between April and September 2024. We're tracking how many veterans are getting roles in different departments and where across the State they're getting the roles. Those previous reports are all online and the next one will be published in the next month.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** So a geographic breakdown of where they are, beyond—

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** Yes, as much as we can because not every veteran—all of our data is voluntary. We've been encouraging veterans to self-identify more and more. Sometimes veterans have concerns because they've had security clearances and so forth. We don't capture every single veteran but we're trying to say, "It's a good thing. We want you to identify because we want to be able to support your employment."

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** What's the success rate of that program? How many veterans engage with the Veterans Employment Program and then don't end up in a job?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** We're tracking that veterans have a better success rate than the average population and in some areas it's a higher success rate. I'm just looking for where I had some data.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** I'm happy for you to provide that on notice.

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** If you're interested in more data, we can get that to you.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** That'd be great if you could provide it.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:



The NSW Government Veterans Employment Program (VEP) staff (2) attends all NSW and ACT Australian Defence Force Member and Family Transition Seminars and speaks to hundreds of veterans at these events.

Throughout the year the VEP records interactions with all veterans and organisation. Since 2020, VEP speaks on average to 340 veterans per year. Of these, some veterans will continue to serve in the ADF, some will gain civilian employment in corporate organisations, or move interstate or overseas. VEP six monthly reports tracking veteran employment data of jobs gained in the public service can be found here: <https://www.vep.veterans.nsw.gov.au/about/reporting/>

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 63-64

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** If the MRI owns the research, then they own the rights to commercialise, don't they?

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** There's a proper policy around intellectual property. The inventor has some rights and the organisation, so the PHO in which they work, and the team also has IP. We also have—

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Sorry, that's your standard contract then for that? Because if the inventor is employed by an organisation, they have no rights to the IP, other than moral.

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** I can come back to you with our proper policy, but it is a third, a third, a third. The inventor does have some rights to the IP.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** That's in the MRIs, but what about in—

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** That's everywhere.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Everywhere that gets New South Wales Government funding?

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** Yes, or any research that's undertaken.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** I'd love to get details of that on notice, because that's very different to the way I understand how the legislation works.

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** If I misspoke, I apologise, but that's my understanding.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** No, I would love to get the details of that on notice, if I may.

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** We do have a policy, so I can very happily send you that.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

In addition to the clarification provided on this day, NSW Health released the revised Intellectual Property arising from Health Research Policy Directive in February 2023. This Policy Directive outlines the obligations of NSW Public Health Organisations and employees regarding intellectual property arising from health research. The policy provides a clear and consistent guide for Public Health Organisations to protect their intellectual property arising from research, including default positions on ownership and distribution of commercialisation proceeds. As defined in section 7 of the Health Services Act 1997 (NSW), a Public Health Organisation is a local health district, a statutory health corporation or an affiliated health organisation in respect of its recognised establishments and recognised services.

The Policy Directive does not provide a default position on intellectual property ownership where the creator of the intellectual property is a member of a Medical Research Institute. Where a Public Health Organisation provides resources to the Medical Research Institute, there must be an



agreement in place between the parties determining intellectual property rights. Further information on the Policy Directive is available on the NSW Health and Medical Research website.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 65

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** It is to do with the Racing for the Regions Program and the disposition of those funds. I understand that in 2021 there was close to \$8.5 million allocated in relation to building stables and associated infrastructure at Gosford, which has taken some time to be spent. Do you know anything about that particular project?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Racing for the Regions is an allocation of funding provided by the former Government to Racing NSW to do certain things, so it's not something we oversee. We provide the funding on the basis that certain milestones have been hit. I have information here on Gosford, for example, in relation to stables and associated infrastructure.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Who is responsible for overseeing those programs?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Racing NSW. But I can tell you that the information from Racing NSW—

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** But it's your money.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** It's government money. The Government has provided an allocation to Racing NSW for specific projects in regional areas. I think there are nine in total.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** The total funding was something in the order of \$67 million.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I think there is \$67 million in total, about \$58.6 million of which is to Racing NSW for infrastructure projects across nine thoroughbred racecourses. And there's the balance, which I think sits with Crown Lands to upgrade racecourses on Crown land.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** There appears to have been some practices associated with some of those projects whereby Racing NSW has required land to be sold to them so that they can construct and then retain the infrastructure themselves. Was that the understanding of the way the funding was to be allocated?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Not to my knowledge. As I said, this is funding allocated to Racing NSW, so these are probably questions better directed to them. I'm happy to take it on notice if I can, but I think the answer—

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Perhaps I might frame them and put them on notice as supplementary questions—that might be the best thing.

#### ANSWER:

See responses to Budget Estimates Supplementary Questions 37-41.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 65-66

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Perhaps I might frame them and put them on notice as supplementary questions—that might be the best thing. Dr Sutherland, in relation to medical research—I'm just trying to work out which ones. The Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building wasn't an LHD—that's you. That's medical research?

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** I think that's in south-west Sydney and it's to do with the Ingham Institute, which is a medical research institute. To qualify for the Medical Research Support Program, there are criteria. You need to be based in New South Wales, you need to primarily do health and medical research, you need to be an independent organisation, and you need to have at least \$3 million per year for the previous three years in order for us to support the indirect costs of research.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Independent—but this building is associated with WSU. Does that compromise independence, if it's associated with a university?

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** It's a joint agreement for that building, so it's not wholly owned by the institute.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** The areas of research have been identified as addiction medicine, diabetes, Indigenous health, mental health and paediatrics. Are all of those five going to be proceeding, as far as you're aware?

**KIM SUTHERLAND:** I don't know the details around that particular building. I'll have to take that on notice.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised:

#### **The Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building**

The Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building – Macarthur is a collaboration between Western Sydney University, South Western Sydney Local Health District, the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, the University of NSW, and Walker Corporation.

Ingham Institute - Macarthur research focus areas include addiction medicine, diabetes, Indigenous health, mental health, paediatrics & child wellbeing.

More information on the facility is available here: <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/western-growth/lang-walker>

#### **Medical Research Support Program**

To be eligible for the Medical Research Support Program, medical research institutes need to:

1. be located in NSW
2. have health and medical research as their primary purpose
3. have organisational independence
4. conduct high-quality research at a sufficient scale
5. have financial viability.

Organisational independence assessment is demonstrated by:

- legal recognition of the organisation as a discrete operational entity
- an independent board or equivalent body that is not legally controlled by a university, local health district, specialty network, and/or a public or private health care facility
- organisational mechanisms to determine its own research direction and strategy, including a director with clear responsibilities regarding the organisation's research direction and activities
- identifiable infrastructure and overall organisational budgets, and control over how funds are spent, including externally audited financial statements

- an intellectual property policy that is congruent with the National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research (NHMRC, 2021).

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 68-69

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** I'll keep going on the line of questioning in relation to cashless gaming. Wouldn't another one of the key reasons that only 14 people were genuine and active participants—I think that's how it was described—be because it was voluntary and they could go elsewhere to gamble? Isn't that also a reason?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I think that's probably a reason. The panel made the decision early on to make it a voluntary trial and not to mandate venues to use it, for reasons that I'm sure you're well aware of, Ms Faehrmann.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Yes.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** To be fair, yes, people had an option, so they could go elsewhere

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Was that in any way surveyed by the participants? Did you get information or data around that being a reason?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** As to the number of people who decided not to participate?

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Yes, that's right.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'd have to take that on notice. There were surveys done. As to whether that specific question was asked, I'd need to take that on notice, but I'm happy to.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** I want to ask you about the mandatory six-hour pokie shutdown. My office has asked this and I may have asked this in budget estimates before—yes, I have. I've been told consistently that there was no collection of that data in terms of how many venues in total have applied and been granted the exemption. Is that still the case?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I've got a total figure here, which I'm happy to share with you.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Great.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** The best information I have is that there are approximately 673 venues. Whether that's venues which have applied or which were just granted it early on when they were first introduced, I couldn't tell you. But the figure I have here—the best information I have—is 673 venues. That's some of the information we provided to the trial, so that's as at August 2024.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** That's at August 2024. Do you have the breakdown of pubs and clubs?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'm sure we could provide that on notice. I don't have it with me now.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** I believe that there were some concerns expressed around the extent of the exemptions granted and also the factors that were used for the clubs and pubs to want the exemption. Firstly, does the Government have that data as well?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Yes, it's on our website. We did a review of the existing shutdown hours exemptions, and that's now on our website. It was also provided to the panel.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** In terms of what's on the website, for example, for the 673 venues, is it the number of venues that said it was because of this, or is it just more general that that?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I'll take that on notice, but it is publicly available. I'll come back to you and let you know. The purpose was to provide that picture about what's occurring and, to your point, to

acknowledge that some of these exemptions have been in place since 1997 or 2003, so what may have been justifiable then doesn't necessarily mean that's the case now.

**ANSWER:**

The cashless gaming trial research included 15 interviews with patrons who elected not to sign up to the trial. Barriers for participation included: data privacy and security, loss of choice, loss of privacy, preference for a physical card and a reluctance to engage with new technology when not mandatory. This information is available in the publicly available evaluation:

[https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/1340136/evaluation-of-the-nsw-digital-gaming-wallet-trial-2024.pdf](https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1340136/evaluation-of-the-nsw-digital-gaming-wallet-trial-2024.pdf)

Exemptions

This information is available publicly at:

<https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/resources/review-of-gaming-machine-shutdown-hours-framework>. Out of 673 venues, 34 have hardship exemptions, 199 have 3-hr weekend exemptions, 392 have 6-hour early open exemptions and 48 have a 3 hour early open exemption.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 69-70**

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** What is the shutdown period that they're operating.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I don't know that that was provided to the panel. Through the centralised monitoring system, if you were going back all the way to, say, 1997, it would be a significant piece of work. But you could probably look at the data—

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** The last year or two would be useful.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Yes, we could, and I'm happy to take on notice what we can provide and also what's appropriate to provide. I'm happy to do that and come back to you.

**ANSWER:**

The information available is contained in this report:

[https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/1340136/evaluation-of-the-nsw-digital-gaming-wallet-trial-2024.pdf](https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1340136/evaluation-of-the-nsw-digital-gaming-wallet-trial-2024.pdf)

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 69-70**

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** I'll turn to a slightly different issue, but in the same area of gambling. I want to get an update. Last year in May the Parliament passed a motion in relation to the Government recognising the links between gendered violence and gambling, and pokies in particular. The motion called for the Government to ensure that actions to reduce the pervasive and destructive presence of gambling are a key component of any plan to end men's violence against women. It was unanimously supported with very positive statements by the members who spoke to it for the Government in the House. What has been done since then to acknowledge that and to ensure that it's a key component of any plans? Do you have that information, or should I be asking—

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I've got some here. The Office of Responsible Gambling would be the main entity that takes carriage of that. It's provided face-to-face training on the intersection between family and domestic violence and gambling to its counselling workforce in GambleAware. The office is also working with the family and domestic violence sector so support services can

support clients experiencing gambling harm and link them to the counselling services that GambleAware provides across the State. There's also research being funded. I think the RGF has provided a grant of about \$195,000 to the ANU to look at development of evidence-based prevention programs and intervention services in New South Wales.

Then, through the Community Benefit Payment Scheme, which is effectively where venues seek to have a gaming machine threshold increase the number of machines they can operate, ILGA would determine a payment into this Community Benefit Payment Scheme. About \$6 million out of that scheme is currently funding around 20 organisations that have, as part of what they do or focus on, preventing sexual and family violence. Those organisations are located across Murrumbidgee, Hunter, Illawarra and Central Coast as well as metro Sydney. In addition to that—and I can get more information on this on notice if you'd like me to—the Office of Responsible Gambling also has two actions in the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan, which relate to research and cross-referral.

**ANSWER:**

The Office of Responsible Gambling is the main NSW government entity seeking to understand and respond to the link between domestic violence and gambling.

The Office has provided online and face-to-face training on the intersection of family and domestic violence for the gambling counselling workforce.

The Office is also working with the family and domestic violence sector so their services can support clients experiencing gambling harm and refer them to GambleAware services.

The Responsible Gambling Fund is also funding research which will provide local evidence that supports improved policy and practice to address co-occurring gambling harm and family and domestic violence in NSW. The Responsible Gambling Fund is providing a grant of \$194,432 to the Australian National University for this research.

Funding from the Community Benefit Payment Scheme has also been allocated to family and domestic violence services in areas across the state. There are currently 20 organisations receiving Community Benefit Payments for domestic and family violence services, a total of over \$6 million.

These 20 organisations are located across NSW, in the Murrumbidgee, Hunter, Illawarra and Central Coast regions and in metropolitan Sydney.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 70**

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** I understand Wesley Mission has been asking for some time for venue-by-venue loss data. It's published every six months in Victoria, but we consistently get the justification from New South Wales that it's about tax data and privacy provisions related to the publication of tax information. But we don't need to publish the tax data; the information can still be published in terms of venue-by-venue loss data. So why hasn't this happened? Why isn't Liquor and Gaming—I know it's probably an ILGA thing as well, but you would probably know the reasons why this isn't happening.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I know what you're referring to. We have provided an answer to Wesley, and we do meet with them quarterly and discuss these things and others.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** I'm asking you now.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I think we'll provide it on notice because we did get some specific legal advice to some of those points that you've just raised about tax and things like that. I'm happy

to provide that answer to you, which I think is the same answer we provided to Wesley, as to why that isn't occurring in New South Wales. But we did say to Wesley we're very happy to work with them to look at what we can try to publish, given what we understand to be legal impediments to publishing this data.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** What I understand after my conversations about it is that it's the privacy provisions relating to the publication of tax information. So I know I can't ask you this, and it probably would have been a question for the Minister in terms of a policy shift, so we'll wait and see.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Leave it with me and I'll provide you what we can on notice about that advice so you've got that information

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is committed to providing detailed and transparent data on gaming machines so the community can be kept well informed about gaming activity in the State.

Secrecy provisions contained in the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*, the *Tax Administration Act 1996* and the *Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007* limit the scope for the Government to release information obtained from the centralised monitoring system that collects information from gaming machines. This includes the publication of individual venue profit data.

Gaming machine information is available on a quarterly basis on the Liquor and Gaming website and includes reporting on local government areas and state rankings for gaming machine net profit, including per gaming machine.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 71**

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Has that been successful? Is that successfully used in, for example, Victoria or Queensland—not that anybody has the extent of pokies that we do, of course—to deal with gamblers who have that addiction when their family members or themselves want to be excluded from every club or pub with pokies? Has there been successful use of facial recognition technology across the State to do that or is this a new thing?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** It's relatively new. They use it in South Australia, and I think it does have some success there. I'm pretty sure it's South Australia, yes.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Across the State?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Yes, it is. I'm happy to take that on notice and provide some detail on how that works, but the only one that really springs to mind where it is a similar sort of set-up would be South Australia currently.

**ANSWER:**

South Australia is the only State or Territory in Australia that currently has legislation to specifically govern the use of Facial Recognition Technology systems in gaming venues

South Australia made facial recognition technology a requirement under the *Gaming Machines Act 1992* (SA) and Gaming Machine Regulations 2020 for all gaming areas with 30 or more gaming machines, any one of which may accept cash.

Under the Gambling Administration Guidelines, the technology must be installed for the purposes of identifying barred persons entering a gaming area.

Data collected by a facial recognition system in South Australia must not be used for, or in connection with, the following: encouraging or providing incentives to a person to gamble, customer loyalty or reward programs, a lottery, identifying a barred person in respect of premises other than the licensed premises in relation to which the system is operating, or any other purpose other than what is approved in accordance with the guidelines unless specific approval has been given to the licensee by the Commissioner.

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE Pg 71-72

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Do you know how many land claims are outstanding?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Yes, I'll just get that for you. As of January this year, there were 41,383 Aboriginal land claims awaiting assessment, either undetermined or part undetermined.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** What percentage of the New South Wales landmass does that represent?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I'm not sure. I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have that percentage.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** If you could, I'd be very grateful. If we've got over 41,000 outstanding, do you have any figure historically over how many have been resolved?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** No, I don't have the breakdown of the numbers.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Are you able to take that on notice?

**SHANE HAMILTON:** I can, yes.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** That would be great. Thank you very much. Also please provide what percentage of the landmass that represents, as well—those resolved claims.

**SHANE HAMILTON:** Just to note, again, this is a Crown Lands—they deal with the claims themselves. We obviously are interested in it because the Minister has responsibility under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, and, of course, land councils are those that are putting the claims in, so we track the numbers. We'd have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** That'd be great.

#### ANSWER:

I would refer your question to the Minister for Lands and Property.

#### Aboriginal Land Claims

***As at the end of March 2025:***

Total number of land claims:	58,586
Claims granted by Crown Lands:	4,777
Claims refused by Crown Lands:	10,785
Claims incomplete (undetermined or part undetermined):	41,822
Withdrawn	1,445
Not referred by Registrar	7