

Minister Houssos Budget Estimates

March 2025

Supplementary Questions

Finance

Revenue NSW

(1) How many public servants are employed by Revenue NSW?

This information is available in the Department of Customer Service Annual Report 2024-25.

(2) What are the locations of each Revenue NSW office and how many staff are employed at each office?

Revenue NSW has five offices. These are Parramatta, Maitland, Lithgow, Wollongong and Gosford.

The number of employees based in each of these locations is as follows:

Parramatta - 1338 employees

Gosford - 177 employees

Lithgow - 156 employees

Maitland - 209 employees

Wollongong - 36 employees

Further, Revenue NSW employees may elect to work from offices within the Department of Customer Service in line with the DCS Flexible Working Policy.

(3) What are the current work from home arrangements for staff?

The updated Department of Customer Service Flexible Working Policy went live on 24 February 2025. A range of flexible working arrangements are supported with an expectation that work will principally be undertaken from an approved office, in accordance with the C2024-03 NSW Government Sector Workplace Presence Circular.

(4) Are any staff employed by Revenue NSW currently located interstate? If, so, how many?

Revenue NSW has 11 employees that live interstate. Revenue NSW employees may elect to work from offices within the Department of Customer Service in line with the DCS Flexible Working Policy.

(5) What were the overall expenses of Revenue NSW in 2023-2024?

Revenue NSW's expenses form part of the budget of the Department of Customer Service. The expenses of the Department of Customer Service are outlined in the Department's Annual Report 23-24.

(6) What are the projected overall expenses for Revenue NSW in 2024-2025?

Revenue NSW's expenses form part of the budget of the Department of Customer Service. The projected expenses of the Department of Customer Service are outlined in the NSW Budget 2024-25.

(7) From the expected \$51 million increase in compliance revenue, how much will be raised from:

- (a) An increase in Land tax compliance revenue?
- (b) A reduction in write-off tax debts?
- (c) Reduced tax avoidance?

As outlined in Budget Paper 1, Revenue NSW compliance investments operate across tax areas and rely upon a range of measures that are inextricably linked to safeguard the integrity of the tax system. These measures will deliver, in combination, an increase in revenue of \$51 million which will further enable the NSW Government to deliver essential services for families and households.

Hotel Quarantine Debts

(8) How much money is owed to New South Wales by other States and Territories?

(a) Please provide breakdown across:

- i. Queensland
- ii. Western Australia?
- iii. Victoria?
- iv. Northern Territory?
- v. South Australia?
- vi. Australian Capital Territory?
- vii. Tasmania?

State of residence	Amounts outstanding, \$
QLD	105,787,387
WA	26,627,911
ACT	7,409,840
SA	6,441,661
NT	6,661,406

Total	152,928,205
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(9) Considering the Queensland Government's recently announced plans to recover hotel quarantine fees, how is the NSW Government planning on recouping the \$105 million dollars owed to the State by Queensland?

Questions about the Queensland Government's policies should be directed to the Queensland Government.

Payroll Tax

(10) How much do we expect to generate from payroll tax in the upcoming fiscal years:

- (a) 2024-2025?
- (b) 2025-2026?
- (c) 2026-2027?
- (d) 2027-2028?

This information is available in the NSW Budget 2024-25 and NSW Half-Yearly Review 2024-25.

(11) What is the projected growth of payroll tax revenue over the next four years?

This information is available in the NSW Budget 2024-25 and NSW Half-Yearly Review 2024-25.

(12) Are there any anticipated changes to payroll tax regulations that could affect businesses?

Any changes to payroll tax regulations will be subject to the ordinary process for parliamentary scrutiny.

(13) What initiatives are in place to support businesses facing increased payroll tax due to wage growth?

Payroll tax thresholds and rate in NSW are comparable to other states. The Minns Labor Government understands the important role that small and medium businesses play in our state's economy. That's why we have slashed red tape and opened up new opportunities for them to supply their goods and services to government agencies, giving them a platform to grow.

Payroll Tax on Medical Practices

(14) Since 4 September 2024, how many medical practices have received the Bulk Billing Support Initiative rebate?

- (a) How many of these practices are in Metropolitan Sydney?
- (b) How many of these practices are in other areas?

The payroll tax rebate is available to GP clinics that bulk-bill more than 80 per cent of their services in metropolitan Sydney, and above 70 per cent in the rest of the state.

Medical practices have until the end of the financial year to qualify for the rebate for this year.

If a medical centre realises, they haven't claimed the rebate for this financial year and are entitled to do so, they can claim the rebate in the future by lodging a reassessment within 5 years of the initial assessment.

(15) Since 4 September 2024, what is the total amount claimed by medical clinics under the Bulk Billing Support Initiative rebate?

I am advised: As at 4 February 2025, between 4 September 2024 and 31 December 2024, clinics claimed a rebate on \$41,575,708 of GP wages, resulting in a \$2,244,205 payroll tax rebate.

(16) What is the number of medical clinics which engage general practitioners that have been audited since 4 September 2024?

(a) How much in unpaid payroll tax has been identified as a result of these audits?

(b) How many of these practices are in Metropolitan Sydney?

(c) How many of these practices are in other areas?

I am advised: Revenue NSW has not commenced any new audits on medical clinics in respect of contractor GP wages since the commencement of the Bulk-Billing Support Initiative.

Point of Consumption Tax

(17) Has the Government considered lifting the point of consumption tax rate to – 20%?

This question is best directed to the Treasurer.

(18) Has the Government conducted any modelling to assess the implications of increasing the Point of Consumption tax rate?

This question is best directed to the Treasurer.

(19) Has the Government consulted with stakeholders?

This question is best directed to the Treasurer.

General questions**CFMEU meetings**

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

I am advised;

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum *M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information*, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
 - meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
 - social or public functions or events
 - meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and
 - matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.
- Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website.

(<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

ETU meetings

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

I am advised;

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum *M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information*, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

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Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

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

I am advised:

The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office. I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(23) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary?

ii. Forced?

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

(c) On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?

I am advised:

Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses.

Published Annual reports can be accessed on respective Departmental websites.

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(24) On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published?

The annual reports were tabled in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*.

(25) Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio printed?

(a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?

I am advised:

Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines *TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements*. TP23-10 also requires that an agency's annual report contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including printing costs.

(26) Did the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio use in part or full an external production / body / consultant to draft?

(a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?

I am advised:

In accordance with the Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements, an agency's annual report must contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including fees for consultants.

(27) In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

I am advised:

The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* and Treasurer's Direction 23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

(28) Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

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

I am advised:

Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements. TP23-10 also requires that an agency's annual report contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including printing costs.

State Records Act

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

(a) If yes, when?

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998*.

The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.

Further information is available on State Records NSW's website

(www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw)

All Ministers' offices are expected to comply with their obligations under the *State Records Act 1998*.

Advertising

(30) On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)?

I am advised:

Annual reports are published on the website of the relevant department or agency and are also held by the Parliamentary Library.

Department and agency expenditure is also published at data.nsw.gov.au Agency expenditure must be reported in accordance with TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements and TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements.

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

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

(a) If yes, is it available online?

i. If yes, what is the website URL?

I am advised that Revenue NSW / Department of Customer Service, NSW Procurement / NSW Treasury and NSW Resources / Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development each maintain a gifts and benefits register.

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

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

(a) If yes, what is the website URL?

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff attached to the Ministers' Office Handbook and available on the NSW Government website.

(33) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

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

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct. The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150.

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

Ministerial Code of Conduct

(34) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?
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(a) If yes, what was the breach?

I am advised:

All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.
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The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.
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Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier • seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as ‘prohibited interests’) • identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest • disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500. |
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A substantial breach of the Ministerial Code (including a knowing breach of any provision of the Schedule) may constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the <i>Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988</i> .

Credit Cards

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

(a) If yes, under what circumstance?

(b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?
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I am advised:

Ministers and Ministerial Staff are not eligible to receive Departmental credit cards except in the case of overseas travel. In cases of overseas travel short-term cards will be issued and returned at the completion of official travel together with a travel diary for fringe benefit tax purposes.
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Where a NSW Government-issued credit card is provided the credit card must only be used for official overseas business trips and official business purposes, this includes for transport to/from the airport when departing/returning from the trip.
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NSW Government-issued credit cards for official business trips overseas will be held with government contract bankers and used within credit limits imposed.
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Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes.
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Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.
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(36) Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards?

(a) If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy?

I am advised:

The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government. In addition, individual agencies have policies and procedures to manage the use of purchasing (credit cards) cards.

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

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

I am advised:

I make use of an office in 52 Martin Place and NSW Parliament.

When travelling, Ministers may make ad hoc arrangements to work for periods in Departmental offices.

Senior Executive Drivers

(38) As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

I am advised:

No senior executive employed in departments within my portfolios have a driver.

GIPA Applications – Ministerial Office

(39) Has your Ministerial Office received a GIPA Application(s) since 28 March 2023?

(a) If yes, how many?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL of the disclosure log?

I am advised:

Information concerning the obligations of a Minister's Office as an agency under the *Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009* is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act. The information is included in the annual report of the Department of Communities and Justice in accordance with section 125(3) and (5) of the Act.

An agency must maintain a disclosure log of access applications where access was provided to some or all of the information applied for, and where the agency considers the information to be of interest to other members of the public.

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

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

I am advised:

Under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*:

An agency is not subject to the direction or control of any Minister in the exercise of the agency's functions in dealing with a particular access application. The office of the Minister complies with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

GIPA Act – Disclosure Log Website URL

(41) What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

I am advised:

Revenue NSW / Department of Customer Service:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/customer-service/access-to-information/departments-and-agencies/customer-service-disclosure-log>

NSW Procurement / NSW Treasury:

<https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/about-treasury/right-information/open-access-information>

Resources NSW / Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dpird/access-information/disclosure-logs>

TikTok

(42) Are you on TikTok?

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

The Circular DCS-2025-01 Cyber Security NSW Directive - Restricted Applications List advises how NSW Government agencies are required to appropriately manage risks to NSW Government information on government-issued devices, or personal devices that are used for government business.

Signal

(43) Are you and/or your ministerial staff on Signal?

(a) If yes, do you and/or your ministerial staff access Signal from a NSW Government device?

(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

I am advised:

Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government.

I comply with the *State Records Act 1998* and I expect all staff members to comply with their obligations under the *State Records Act 1998*.

Training

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

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

(b) If yes, how much?

I am advised:

Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.

Ministers have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy.

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

Ministerial Office Budgets are managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.

Cabinet documents

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

I do not have a Parliamentary Secretary.

Parliamentary Secretary

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

I do not have a Parliamentary Secretary.

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

I do not have a Parliamentary Secretary.

(48) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle?

I do not have a Parliamentary Secretary.

Media releases and statements

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

(a) If no, why?

I am advised:

The Department of Customer Service (DCS) is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.

Overseas Travel

(50) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

I am advised:

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for NSW

Government travelling employees and covers official air and land travel by public officials using public money. Section 2.1 of that Policy sets out approvals required in relation to overseas travel. Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here: <https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy>

NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements (TPG-10) requires agencies to include information on overseas visits by officers and employees in agency annual reports.

Data Breaches

(51) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?

I am advised:

Revenue NSW (Department of Customer Service), NSW Procurement (NSW Treasury) and NSW Resources (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) each keep an internal register of eligible data breaches as required by section 59ZE, Part 6A of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIP Act).

(52) If yes to 51, what is the website?

I am advised:

The PPIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public. Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, it is conclusively presumed that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information contained in a document prepared for the assessment of an eligible data breach under the PPIP Act, Part 6A, if the information could worsen a public sector agency's cyber security or lead to further data breaches.

Discretionary Fund

(53) As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?

(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

Details of the budget are contained in the budget papers.

Qantas Chairman's Lounge

(54) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?

I am advised:

The *Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983* (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Review of the Code of Conduct, Aspects of Disclosure of Interests, and Related Issues (December 2010) notes that:

"Advice has been received from the Crown Solicitor that use of the Chairman's Lounge by invitation is not a "gift" for the purposes of clause 10 of the Regulation, as it

does not involve disposition of property. However, when the membership leads to an upgrade valued at more than \$250, it becomes disclosable as a contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation.”

Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not.

Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.

Local Government Councillors

(55) How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)?

I am advised:

Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*. All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the NSW Office

Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including obligations to seek approval for secondary employment, and to take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interest (real or apparent).

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Clarence Wilderness Lodge and Tooloom Creek

(56) Minister Courtney Houssos replied in a letter to me, dated 15 August 2024, that compliance matters I raised were referred to the Resources Regulator for review and further investigation if warranted.

(a) What is the status of that investigation? (Any outcome/action?)

I am advised that the Resources Regulator has investigated the matters and determined the claims could not be substantiated. The Landholder was advised of the outcomes of this investigation.

Gas infrastructure costs

(57) What is the likely cost of both the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline and the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline?

(a) What percent of these costs will Santos seek to recoup from NSW gas customers?

(b) If both pipelines are built, what would gas consumers in NSW be charged?

(c) Over what period of time will costs be recouped to cover the costs of building these pipelines?

These questions are best directed to Santos.