

**Budget Estimates 2024-25**

**Portfolio Committee 8 – Customer Service**

**Minister Chanthivong**

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and technology, Building and  
Corrections**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney**

**Answers to supplementary questions received 13 March 2025**

Number	Question	Answer
<b>Questions from Hon Chris Rath (on behalf of the Opposition)</b>		
<b>Strata Management</b>		
1	<p>Is the government looking to provide non-mandatory model strata agreements?</p> <p>(a) Are model agreement(s) in development and if yes, who is being consulted on their content and when is it expected to be released?</p> <p>(b) Are there any plans to make model strata agreements compulsory?</p>	<p>Please see my comments during the Consideration in Detail debate on the Strata Schemes Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 on this matter.</p>
2	Are there any plans to ban insurance commissions for strata managers?	<p>Please see my comments during the debate on the Strata Schemes Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and Strata Managing Agents Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 on this matter.</p>
3	Reforms to increased disclosure and transparency around commissions recently passed the Parliament. Will these be given time to bed down and work or has the government already made its mind up about commissions?	<p>Please see my comments during the debate on the Strata Schemes Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and Strata Managing Agents Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 on this matter.</p>
4	Are there any additional reforms under consideration to further regulate termination fees or notice periods to make it easier for strata plans to 'shop around'?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>These questions were answered at page 54-55 of the hearing transcript.</p>

5	<p>How many complaints have Fair Trading received in the past 2 years relating to strata manager:</p> <p>(a) Conflicts of interest?</p> <p>(b) Overcharging or phantom fees?</p> <p>(c) Kickbacks or other commissions?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Information relating to complaints, enforcement and compliance action is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report.</p>
<b>Strata Taskforce</b>		
6	What will be the Taskforce's annual budget?	Please see my media releases dated 18 June 2024, 14 August 2024, 20 September 2024 and 19 February 2025 for details on the Taskforce. I am advised the 2024-25 Budget includes funding over the forward estimates.
7	What was the \$8.4 million initial funding allocation spent on?	Please see the answer to Question 6.
8	<p>How many FTE are assigned to the taskforce?</p> <p>(a) Are these redeployments within Fair Trading and DCS or new roles?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>This question was answered at page 45 of the hearing transcript.</p>
9	What are the reporting lines? Is the Taskforce under the direct direction of the Strata and Property Services Commissioner?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Taskforce is led by the Strata and Property Services Commissioner.</p>

10	How can the Taskforce be contacted by the public?	I am advised: The Taskforce can be contacted via Fair Trading.
11	Will all strata and property services inquiries and complaints directed to Fair Trading be referred to the Taskforce for action?	I am advised: This question was answered at page 56 of the hearing transcript.
12	Will the Taskforce be empowered to look at issues of education and training for strata agents and other participants in the strata system?	Please see the answer to Question 6.
13	What is the scope of the taskforce? Is it just focused on strata or does it include property services?  (a) Are real estate industry issues such as underquoting included?	Please see the answer to Question 6.
14	What if any are the Taskforce's priority areas?	Please see the answer to Question 6.
15	How many enquiries and complaints has the Strata & Property Services Taskforce received from its conception?  (a) Of these, what actions have resulted including number of:  i. Investigations without further action	I am advised:  Information relating to complaints, enforcement and compliance action is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Education</li> <li>iii. Warnings</li> <li>iv. Enforceable undertakings</li> <li>v. Penalty notices</li> <li>vi. Cases at NCAT</li> <li>vii. Court action</li> </ul>	
<b>Strata &amp; Property Services Commissioner</b>		
16	<p>The position of Commissioner is currently vacant with the departure of John Minns. Minns was cleared of any wrongdoing, but resigned citing ‘the lack of adequate budget and resourcing’ in his resignation. Does the Minister agree with the former Commissioner’s view?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Has the recruitment process for a new Commissioner commenced?</li> <li>(b) When will a new Commissioner be appointed?</li> </ul>	<p>Please see the answer to Question 6 and refer to the comments by the Department of Customer Service Secretary in the hearing transcript regarding this position.</p>
<b>EV Charging in Strata</b>		
17	(1) Many building insurers appear to have set an	I am advised this is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

	arbitrary 4 EV Charger limit in strata buildings over which triggers a review of the policy leading to no insurance or higher premiums. Are there any plans to reduce this barrier for EV use?	
18	<p>In relation to EV Infrastructure work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Would an electrical upgrade for a Class 2 building (many strata plans) require a regulated design by a registered building practitioner under the DBPA?</li> <li>(b) Is an electrician able to perform this work under the DBPA or does the work need to be overseen by a builder?</li> <li>(c) Has Fair Trading clarified the regulatory requirement to either clearly separate these electrical works from the DBPA or create a new class of Building Practitioner to avoid increasing cost for EV infrastructure by up to 20% without any real benefit?</li> </ul>	<p>I am advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The need for regulated designs and the engagement of a building practitioner must be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration clause 13 of the DBP Regulations and the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i>. The assessment should also consider whether the work is because of a mandatory building upgrade or part of a voluntary upgrade. It should also consider the Fire and Rescue NSW position statement in relation to EV charging. The National Construction Code applies to new building work (new builds and remedial work) and contains both the more prescriptive deemed to satisfy approvals pathway, as well as the more flexible performance solution pathway to prove compliance with regulatory requirements.</li> <li>(b) An electrician can only perform work associated with electric wiring. This would cover the installation of the charging station. If there is building work required to support the installation which falls outside of electric wiring work, an appropriate licensed builder would</li> </ul>

		<p>need to be engaged.</p> <p>(c) Building Commission NSW does not currently propose to create a new class of Building Practitioner specific to EV charging installations.</p>
<b>Rental Commissioner and Rental Taskforce</b>		
19	What will be the Taskforce's annual budget?	Please refer to my media releases dated 7 February 2025 and 16 June 2024 for details on the Taskforce. I am advised the 2024-25 Budget includes funding over the forward estimates.
20	What was the \$8.4 million initial funding allocation spent on?	Please refer to the answer to Question 19.
21	How many FTE are assigned to the taskforce? Are these redeployments within Fair Trading and DCS or new roles?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>This question was answered at page 45-46 of the hearing transcript.</p>
22	What are the reporting lines? Is the Taskforce under the direct direction of the Rental Commissioner or the Rental Taskforce Manager?	Please refer to my media releases dated 7 February 2025 and 16 June 2024 for details on the Taskforce.
23	How can a renter contact the Rental Taskforce? Will its existence be widely advertised?	Please refer to my media releases dated 7 February 2025 and 16 June 2024 for details on the Taskforce.

		I am advised the Taskforce can be contacted via NSW Fair Trading.
24	Will all rental inquiries and complaints directed to Fair Trading be referred to the Taskforce for action?	I am advised: This question was answered at page 46 of the hearing transcript.
25	Will the Taskforce only focus on its three stated priorities?	Please refer to the answer to Question 22.
26	<p>How many complaints has the Rental Taskforce received from its conception</p> <p>(a) Of these, what actions have resulted including number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Investigations without further action</li> <li>ii. Education</li> <li>iii. Warnings</li> <li>iv. Enforceable undertakings</li> <li>v. Penalty notices</li> <li>vi. Cases at NCAT</li> <li>vii. Court actions</li> </ul>	I am advised: Information relating to complaints, enforcement and compliance action is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report.



<b>Rental Reforms</b>		
27	When will the uncommenced provisions of the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024, particularly those relating to pets in rentals and no grounds evictions, commence?	Please see the media release dated 25 March 2025.
28	<p>NCAT is already overwhelmed with high caseloads. Are even higher NCAT wait times anticipated as a result of increased compliance activity through the rental taskforce and the commencement of recent rental reforms?</p> <p>(a) If so, what is being done to alleviate this impact?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Questions relating to NCAT are best directed to the Attorney General.</p>
29	<p>The government has announced that the rental bond rollover scheme is finally set to commence later this year. Is there a date for the the scheme will start operating?</p> <p>(a) Has a design being finalised?</p> <p>(b) How much extra funding was given to the Rental Bond Board to implement these changes?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Government's Portable Rental Bond Scheme is being implemented by NSW Fair Trading, not the Rental Bond Board.</p> <p>Please see my comments in the hearing transcript about the budget allocation.</p> <p>Please see my media release dated 29 July 2024 for more details on the scheme.</p>

Underquoting Taskforce		
30	We have heard nothing from the Government about the underquoting taskforce since August 2024. What is its current status?	Please refer to my comments in the hearing transcript on this matter.
31	Has the Taskforce been formed yet?	
32	How many underquoting cases has the Taskforce investigated or prosecuted since its formation?	
33	Is the taskforce investigating measures to strengthen underquoting laws or is it just an enforcement crackdown?	
34	Underquoting shows no sign of slowing down. Why has there been no visible action from the government when consumers continue to be misled by inaccurate price guides?	
35	The previous Coalition governments took clear steps to outlaw underquoting. Why has this government not built upon these reforms or enforced them more vigorously?	

Enforcement and Deterrence of Underquoting		
36	Do you consider a \$2,200 average fine an effective deterrent when real estate commissions on average can exceed \$40,000 on \$2m homes?	Please refer to my comments in the hearing transcript on this matter.
37	Why has Fair Trading never sought the maximum \$22,000 penalty, let alone initiated prosecutions, given clear evidence of systemic underquoting?	I am advised:  This question was answered at page 57 of the hearing transcript.
38	Has the government considered increasing penalties to align with the profits agents make from misleading advertising?	Please refer to the answer to Question 36
39	Does the government support 'naming and shaming' serial underquoters to provide transparency for buyers and deter unscrupulous agents?	Please refer to my public comments on this matter.
40	With 55 penalty notices given to agents in the first half of 2024, is Fair Trading's enforcement approach sufficient when underquoting remains a persistent issue?	Please refer to answer to Question 36.
41	What is the timeframe for Fair Trading to respond to underquoting complaints?	I am advised:  NSW Fair Trading usually responds to underquoting complaints within 7 days.

42	Do you believe that Fair Trading is under-resourced? If so, has there been increased funding or staffing to improve enforcement and consumer protection?	No, I don't believe Fair Trading is under-resourced.
43	How many underquoting investigations and complaints were there in 2024 and YTD 2025?	Please refer to the answer to Question 36.
44	What is the current average time Fair Trading takes to resolve an underquoting complaint?	Please refer to the answer to question 41.
45	How many complaints are still awaiting final resolution?	I am advised information relating to complaints, enforcement and compliance is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report.
46	How many repeat offenders were fined or warned in 2024?  (a) Have any faced escalating penalties or additional sanctions?	
47	How many agents have had their licence suspended or cancelled for underquoting?	

Lithium battery safety		
48	Micromobility devices have seen an increased focus with greater standards imposed recently. How about other lithium-ion devices?	I am advised: More information on what is meant by ‘other lithium-ion devices’ is required to answer this question.
49	<p>Is there a plan to increase the mandatory testing and certification, labelling, or point of sale information standards of all lithium battery product in a similar manner?</p> <p>(a) If yes, when will we see such regulations come into effect?</p>	<p>The Minns Labor Government is leading the nation in protecting consumers against unsafe lithium-ion batteries.</p> <p>I am advised a risk-based approach has been taken on products that represent the greatest risk to consumers.</p> <p>Please see my media releases dated 19 February 2025, 4 November 2024, 8 August 2024 and 14 July 2024 for more information on this matter.</p>
50	What initiatives has Fair Trading taken to increase education of consumers as to lithium-ion safety issues?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW Fair Trading continues to run education campaigns to improve lithium-ion battery safety, along with other NSW Government agencies such as SafeWork NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Environment Protection Authority and Transport for NSW.</p>
51	Is there a Fair Trading taskforce cracking down on dodgy products – testing and removing them from sale?	Please see my media releases dated 19 February 2025, 4 November 2024, 8 August 2024 and 14 July 2024 for details on the

		work by NSW Fair Trading to regulate lithium-ion micromobility devices.
52	How many products not meeting safety standards has Fair Trading removed from the supply chain in the last year?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW Fair Trading inspections of retailers selling electrical articles in 2023/24 identified 33 retailers* that had non-compliant chargers. They were instructed to remove these from sale. For 2024/25, as at 18 March 2025, a further two non-compliant chargers have been identified and removed from sale.</p>
<b>Model constitution and Community Justice Centres</b>		
53	<p>What advice has been provided to the Incorporated Associations in NSW who use the model constitution in relation to the end of Community Justice Centres?</p> <p>(a) When was that advice was provided?</p> <p>(b) If advice has not been provided, why not?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW Fair Trading is liaising with the Department of Communities and Justice regarding the proposed closure of Community Justice Centres, and other possible alternative dispute resolution services. Stakeholders will be informed and the Model Constitution updated as necessary and appropriate.</p>
54	What is the estimate of additional costs which incorporated associations will incur in dispute resolution (the CJC service is free)?	Please refer to the answer to Question 53.
55	When will the Model Constitution be updated to remove	Please refer to the answer to Question 53.

	references to Community Justice Centres?	
56	What dispute resolution procedure will be replacing reference to the CJsCs?	Please refer to the answer to Question 53.
<b>Building Insolvencies of construction companies</b>		
57	Why are NSW construction companies battling to stay afloat? Our state's construction industry is by far the worst performing in the country? Why?	Please refer to my comments in the hearing transcript.
58	With nearly one-third of all NSW insolvencies coming from the construction sector, what safeguards or support is being considered to prevent further collapses?	Please refer to the answer to Question 57.
59	What specific measures is the government implementing to support small and medium-sized building companies struggling with rising construction costs and persistently high interest rates?	Please refer to the answer to Question.
60	How can industry continue to invest, and homebuilders have the confidence to build in such challenging building conditions?	<p>The Minns Labor Government has a strong track record on improving confidence in the building and construction sector.</p> <p>I am advised the Building Commission NSW was established as a dedicated regulator to bring confidence back to the building sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. lifting building standards across the state,</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. supercharging compliance and enforcement, and</li> <li>iii. uplifting the skills of tradespeople in the industry.</li> </ul> <p>The Government is focused on ensuring the regulatory settings for the building industry are modern, balanced and effective.</p> <p>The Government's forthcoming building reforms will work to correct the former government's decade of delay, bringing confidence back to the sector.</p> <p>Please see my media releases dated 20 March 2025, 16 March 2025, 26 February 2025, 17 December 2024, 5 December 2024, 13 November 2024, 20 October 2024, 29 August 2024, 13 August 2024, 28 June 2024, 9 June 2024, 4 December 2023, 19 November 2023 for more information on the Government's work to rebuild confidence in the residential construction sector.</p>
<b>Lack of productivity and innovation</b>		
61	What is the government doing to support productivity in the building sector?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Government's forthcoming building reforms will support productivity in the building sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing quality and standards to cut down defects and the need for builders to re-do work, and</li> <li>○ Supporting the uptake of modern methods of construction, including prefabricated products</li> </ul>



		Please also refer to the NSW Industry Policy.
62	Does the Government agree that productivity and innovation needs to be improved in the building sector? What is your plan to do so?	I am advised:  Yes. Please refer to the recently announced NSW Industry Policy.
63	Can the building sector deliver the government's housing targets without an uplift in Productivity?	I am advised:  The Government is using policy levers across multiple portfolios to work with the building sector to deliver the Government's housing targets.
<b>Skilled workers shortage</b>		
64	How does the government plan to address the current shortage of skilled tradespeople, particularly in residential construction?	I am advised:  In partnership with TAFE NSW, Building Commission NSW has delivered 36 online courses on the Construct NSW digital learning platform that target the most critical issues in the construction sector, relating to waterproofing and knowledge of standards. The building and construction industry has surged to the platform, with an uptake of over 81,000 enrolments. There are 13 additional courses in development.  The Minns Labor Government is also investing a record

		<p>\$2.5 billion in TAFE NSW to boost the number of people doing apprenticeships to ensure we have the tradies to build the homes our state needs.</p> <p>The Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education has delivered the NSW Skills Plan, which is a strategic blueprint that has a particular focus on increasing skills in the housing construction sector.</p>
65	How much does the current shortage of trades add to the cost of a typical build?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The 2024 NSW Productivity and Equality Commission report, <i>Review of Housing Supply Challenges and Policy Options for NSW</i> provides further analysis on this issue.</p>
66	Does the skills crisis affecting the building industry undermine the ability to meet the government's housing targets?	Please see the answer to Question 63.
<b>Building Commission</b>		
67	Has the Building Commission now been fully stood up?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Yes</p>
68	What is current FTE staff at the Building Commission?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Information relating to employment statistics is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report.</p>

69	Has the Building Commission opened any offices or based any staff within regional NSW? If so, where?	Please see my media release dated 28 June 2024 on this matter.
70	<p>How many building complaints has the Commission received from its December 1, 2023?</p> <p>(a) Of these complaints, how did the Building Commission act on them, including numbers resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Investigation without further action</li> <li>ii. Education</li> <li>iii. Warnings</li> <li>iv. Enforceable undertakings</li> <li>v. Penalty notices</li> <li>vi. Rectification Orders</li> <li>vii. Court action</li> </ul>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Information relating to compliance and enforcement action is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report.</p>
71	What is the average time in days from receiving a complaint to the issuing of a rectification order?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The average time from receiving a complaint to the issuance of a rectification order is approximately 45 business days.</p>

		Please note that not every complaint lodged results in a rectification order being issued.
72	How many rectification orders issued with have been complied with? How many remain outstanding?	I am advised:  Orders issued by Building Commission NSW are published on the Register of Building Work Orders website.
73	What is the Commission's Budget this financial year? What will its ongoing operational budget be?	I am advised that information relating to Building Commission NSW's budget is contained in the Budget Papers.
74	Does the Building Commission NSW have data on the costs to consumers of rectifying building works?	I am advised:  Yes.
<b>Single Building Act</b>		
75	When will the Building Bill be introduced?	Please refer to my comments in the hearing transcript.
76	Are you satisfied that consultation with industry and stakeholders has been sufficient?	Yes.
77	Do you believe the consultation is transparent enough and has sufficient detail for stakeholders to make meaningful input?	Yes.

78	Will you commit to consolidating feedback from the current round of industry consultation and reporting this back to industry so they can be aware of where changes have been made to the draft Bills?	Yes, the consultation process is ongoing.
79	Have you taken this draft Bill to cabinet? If not, why not?	I am advised: This information is Cabinet in confidence.
80	How can industry have confidence that any final agreement you reach with them on the content won't be subjected to further changes when they go to cabinet?	I am advised: The ongoing consultation with industry and key stakeholders on the legislation has been robust.
81	Will you commit to releasing a public exposure draft of the Bill once the current round of consultation concludes with at least 6 weeks of consultation after the targeted industry consultation concludes?	Please see the answer to question (80).
82	Industry has called for draft regulations to be presented to the Parliament at the same time as the Bill is introduced given how much you've left to the regulations. Will you commit to do this? If not, why not?	I am advised: Stakeholders will be consulted on draft Regulations as appropriate.
<b>The Home Building Compensation Fund</b>		
83	The Review into the HBCF was to be handed to the Minister	I am advised:

	for Customer Service by 24 February 2025. Did this happen?	This question is best directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice, as the administration of the HBCF falls within the remit of his portfolios.
84	Will the government release the report and when?	Please see the answer to Question 83
85	Is \$340,000 in coverage adequate given the cost of current home builds?	Please see the answer to Question 83-
86	Have there been any payments made over the \$340k maximum amount? If so how many and of what value?	Please see the answer to Question 83
<b>Strata building bonds and transition to DLI</b>		
87	Can you confirm how many approved providers of decennial liability insurance are currently approved in NSW?	I am advised: There are currently no approved providers of decennial liability insurance in NSW.
88	We understand discussions were underway with potential providers leading into the last election. Where are discussions at?	I am advised: Discussions with potential providers are ongoing.
89	What constitutes a “mature market” for DLI insurers?	I am advised:  A mature market in NSW depends on the number and size of insurers who have a DLI Policy/Product operating in NSW.

		Building Commission NSW will work closely with industry groups on this.
90	Why hasn't the definition of a 'mature market' been clearly communicated to industry?	I am advised: Building Commission NSW has been in close consultation with industry in relation to the uptake of DLI.
91	Why won't the Government provide certainty and clarity to industry by providing a clear trigger for the move to 2% to 3% strata building bond rates?	I am advised that the Government is comfortable with its approach to industry consultation.
92	Why can it not be a binding pre-condition that an agreed number of providers must be operating in NSW before the bond is increased?	I am advised that the Government is comfortable with its approach to market maturity.
93	Industry has been calling for a transitional provisions for projects already under construction (i.e those with a construction certificate) because they will not be able to access a DLI policy even if a provider emerges before they are due to complete their project. These builders already priced in a 2% bond rate. Why won't the government commit to sensible transitional arrangements?	I am advised that consultation with industry on the implementation of DLI is ongoing.
<b>Industry &amp; Trade SPACE AND DEFENCE</b>		
94	Are you aware if any NSW based companies are seeking to	I am advised:

	<p>conduct a rocket launch?</p> <p>(a) Does NSW have a dedicated space strategy?</p> <p>(b) According to Investment NSW's website, the latest iteration of NSW Space Industry development strategy is from early 2020 under the former government. Considering this strategy is more than 4 years old, is the NSW Government planning to review it?</p> <p>(c) The Queensland Government commissioned Deloitte Access Economic to conduct economic modelling of Queensland's space industry and subsequently accepted all 15 recommendations from the report. Has NSW conducted similar modelling? Why not?</p> <p>(d) Since coming to government, has the government provided any direct investments or programs to help support our space industry, provide a breakdown?</p>	<p>The NSW Industry Policy notes the importance of the broader aerospace industry. Please also refer to comments from Professor Hugh-Durrant-Whyte, Chief Scientist and Engineer, during the hearing.</p>
95	<p>Have official representatives from the United Kingdom and United States of America visited NSW to discuss defence industry since the announcement of AUKUS in 2021?</p> <p>(a) Please provide a breakdown of these officials, names, titles and rank?</p>	<p>Please refer to information from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Ministerial meeting disclosures.</p>



	<p>(b) Please provide the dates on which these visits occurred?</p> <p>(c) Please provide the locations at which these visits occurred?</p> <p>(d) Have you met with officials from the United Kingdom or United States of America to discuss AUKUS, please provide a breakdown of when and with whom?</p>	
96	<p>Will the NSW Government issue a formal statement of support for the AUKUS partnership, similar to other Australian state jurisdictions?</p> <p>(a) When will this statement be issued?</p> <p>(b) Who will issue the statement?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>AUKUS is an Australian Government partnership agreement. The NSW Government will continue work to capitalise on industry trade opportunities arising from AUKUS.</p>
97	<p>Please provide a breakdown of the direct investments the NSW Government has made into the NSW defence industry since its election in 2023?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Information on NSW Government grants and funding can be found online at: <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding">https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding</a></p>
<b>Innovation, Science &amp; Technology INNOVATION BLUEPRINT</b>		
98	When will the Innovation Blueprint be released, please provide	The Innovation Blueprint has been released.

	<p>exact date?</p> <p>(a) Please outline the reasons behind the delayed release of the document?</p> <p>(b) Why was the NSW Industry Policy released before the Innovation Blueprint and Trade Strategy?</p> <p>(c) When was the blueprint completed by the department and provided to you for review?</p>	
99	<p>What role did industry stakeholders, startups, and research institutions play in shaping the Blueprint, and how has their feedback influenced its direction?</p> <p>(a) What are the government's top three priorities under the NSW Innovation Blueprint, and how will they be implemented over the next five years?</p> <p>(b) How does the Blueprint align with the NSW Government's broader economic and industry policies, including support for local startups and advanced manufacturing?</p> <p>(c) What funding and investment commitments are being made to support the initiatives outlined in the Blueprint, and will there be</p>	<p>Please refer to the Innovation Blueprint and What We Heard Report which can be found at <a href="http://www.investment.nsw.gov.au">www.investment.nsw.gov.au</a></p>

	<p>new grants or incentives for innovators?</p> <p>(d) How will the Innovation Blueprint ensure that NSW remains competitive in the global innovation landscape, particularly in sectors like quantum computing, AI, and biotech?</p> <p>(e) What measures will be introduced to support regional innovation hubs outside of Sydney, ensuring innovation-driven growth across all of NSW?</p> <p>(f) How does the Blueprint support workforce development, particularly in fostering digital skills and STEM education to create high-tech jobs in NSW?</p> <p>(g) What mechanisms will be in place to track the progress and impact of the Innovation Blueprint, and will there be annual public reports on its implementation?</p>	
<b>20 YEAR R&amp;D ROADMAP</b>		
100	<p>What measurable progress has been made in implementing the priorities outlined in the 20- Year NSW R&amp;D Roadmap since its release?</p> <p>(a) What is the annual funding allocation by the NSW Government specifically for the implementation of the 20-Year R&amp;D</p>	<p>(a) (b) (c) (e) (f) Please refer to Budget Papers, comments from Professor Hugh-Durrant-Whyte, Chief Scientist and Engineer, during the hearing and the Office of the Chief Scientist website.</p> <p>(d) I am advised this question is incomplete so cannot be answered.</p>

	<p>Roadmap, and how is this investment being distributed across its key priority areas?</p> <p>(b) Since the NSW 20-Year R&amp;D Roadmap was released under the former government in May 2022, can you outline what funding, programs or initiatives the NSW Government has allocated to support themes and challenges outlined in the Roadmap?</p> <p>(c) How has the government worked with industry and universities to ensure that NSW remains a leader in research and development across key sectors?</p> <p>(d) What specific funding or policy initiatives have been introduced to support the</p> <p>(e) How does the government plan to address challenges in attracting and retaining top research talent in NSW, particularly in emerging technology fields?</p> <p>(f) Given rapid global advancements in R&amp;D, has the government reviewed or updated any aspects of the roadmap to keep NSW at the forefront of innovation?</p>	
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WESTERN SYDNEY STARTUP HUB		
101	<p>What level of government funding has been allocated to the Western Sydney Startup Hub, and how does it compare to the support provided to the Sydney Startup Hub?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) What specific programs or grants are available to startups operating from the Western Sydney Startup Hub to help them scale their businesses?</li> <li>(b) How many startups and scale-ups are currently operating from the Western Sydney Startup Hub?</li> <li>(c) What measurable outcomes has the Hub achieved so far in terms of job creation, investment attraction, and business growth in Western Sydney?</li> <li>(d) How is the government ensuring that Western Sydney-based entrepreneurs, particularly from underrepresented communities, have equal access to the Hub's resources?</li> <li>(e) Are there plans to expand the Western Sydney Startup Hub to accommodate more businesses and enhance facilities in the future?</li> <li>(f) How does the Western Sydney Startup Hub</li> </ul>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the Investment NSW website which can be found at: <a href="https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au">https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au</a></p>

	<p>integrate with other innovation precincts, such as Tech Central, to create a stronger startup ecosystem in NSW?</p> <p>(g) What challenges has the Hub faced since its launch, and how is the government addressing them to improve its impact on Western Sydney's startup ecosystem?</p> <p>(h) Will the government commit to publishing annual performance reports on the Western Sydney Startup Hub to ensure transparency and track its impact over time?</p>	
<b>NSW RNA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING INITIATIVES</b>		
102	<p>What is the current status of the RNA Research and Pilot Manufacturing Facility at Macquarie University, and is the project on track for its expected completion in 2026?</p> <p>(a) What NSW Government funding will be allocated for RnA R&amp;D initiatives, and what specific programs or projects will these funds support?</p> <p>(b) What strategies are in place to attract both domestic and international researchers and organisations to utilize the RNA Research and Pilot Manufacturing Facility once operational?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the Investment NSW website which can be found at: <a href="https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au">https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au</a></p>

	<p>(c) How does RNA Australia plan to facilitate collaboration between universities, research organisations, industry, and investors to build a thriving RNA ecosystem in NSW?</p> <p>(d) What specific outcomes does the NSW Government anticipate from its investment in RNA R&amp;D and manufacturing over the next five years?</p> <p>(e) How will the NSW Government monitor and evaluate the success of the RNA R&amp;D initiatives and the pilot manufacturing facility in achieving their intended goals?</p>	
<b>QUANTUM COMPUTING COMMERCIALISATION FUND</b>		
103	<p>What measurable progress has been made by the recipients of the Quantum Computing Commercialisation Fund, and how is the government tracking their success?</p> <p>(a) Given the rapid global advancements in quantum computing, will the NSW Government commit to expanding or renewing the QCCF to keep the state competitive?</p> <p>(b) How does the government plan to support startups and smaller research teams who may not have received QCCF funding but are</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Recipients of the Quantum Computing Commercialisation Fund (QCCF) are continuing to develop their quantum products and services. The NSW Government assesses their progress on an annual basis.</p>

	<p>critical to the quantum ecosystem?</p> <p>(c) What collaboration efforts exist between NSW-funded quantum projects and international research institutions or private sector investors?</p> <p>(d) How does the QCCF align with broader federal and global quantum initiatives, such as the Australian Government's partnership with PsiQuantum?</p>	
<b>SEMICONDUCTOR SERVICE BUREAU (S3B)</b>		
104	<p>What role does the government see for S3B in attracting semiconductor manufacturing investment to NSW, particularly in the wake of global chip shortages?</p> <p>(a) How is S3B working with international semiconductor leaders and supply chains to integrate NSW-based companies into the global market?</p> <p>(b) What specific measures is S3B implementing to address Australia's workforce gap in semiconductor design, manufacturing, and R&amp;D?</p> <p>(c) How does the government plan to track and report on the impact of S3B in</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the Semiconductor Service Bureau website <a href="https://s3b.au/">https://s3b.au/</a></p>



	strengthening NSW's semiconductor capabilities over the next five years?	
<b>NSW DECARBONISATION HUB</b>		
105	<p>Why has there been no recent public updates on the progress, projects, or outcomes of the NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub?</p> <p>(a) What challenges or delays have affected the Hub's ability to deliver tangible results, and how is the government addressing them?</p> <p>(b) Is the government still committed to funding and supporting the Hub, or has there been a shift in policy or priorities?</p> <p>(c) When can we expect the next official update or report on the Hub's achievements and future initiatives?</p> <p>(d) What specific projects or breakthroughs has the Decarbonisation Innovation Hub supported since its establishment, and how are they contributing to NSW's net-zero targets?</p> <p>(e) How is the government ensuring that</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the Decarbonisation Hub an annual report which can be found at <a href="https://www.decarbhub.au/">https://www.decarbhub.au/</a></p>

	<p>businesses, researchers, and industries can effectively collaborate through the Hub to accelerate clean energy and emissions reduction technologies?</p> <p>(f) What funding commitments and long-term strategies are in place to sustain the Hub and scale up successful decarbonisation initiatives across NSW?</p>	
<b>MVP GRANTS</b>		
106	<p>Please provide a breakdown of rural and regional versus metropolitan recipients of the MVP grants?</p> <p>(a) What is the NSW Government doing to increase the accessibility of the MVP grants for regional and rural applicants?</p> <p>(b) Noting the government's allocation of \$3 million per annum up until 2027 for the program, clearly this isn't enough funding, will the government increase its commitment?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the Investment NSW website which can be found at: <a href="https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au">https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au</a></p>
<b>FEMALE FOUNDER PROGRAM</b>		
107	What is the most up-to-date number of women who have completed the program?	I am advised: 200 women have completed the current program.

	<p>(a) Are there plans to increase the number of places available in the future?</p> <p>(b) How many of the women who have successfully completed the course were from regional and rural NSW, provide breakdown by region?</p> <p>(c) What is the total cost of this program over its two-year duration?</p>	<p>(a) Any future funding for the program will be considered as part of the budget process.</p> <p>(b) I am advised reporting provided under this program does not provide a breakdown by region.</p> <p>(c) This program is funded as part of the Investment NSW budget.</p>
<b>NSW SKILLS BOARD</b>		
108	<p>Does the Department have regular dealings with the NSW Skills Board?</p> <p>(a) Was the NSW Skills Board consulted in the development of your industry policy, and what input did they provide?</p> <p>(b) What role does your ministry play in shaping the direction and priorities of the NSW Skills Board, particularly in addressing industry workforce shortages?</p> <p>(c) How is the government ensuring that the recommendations of the NSW Skills Board are effectively implemented to support local industries, including manufacturing and technology?</p>	<p>Please refer to the NSW Industry Policy and the hearing transcript. Please refer questions on the Skills Board to the Minister for Education.</p>

<b>DRIVING DIGITAL SKILLS PROGRAM</b>		
109	<p>(1) What is the current number of participants enrolled in the Driving Digital Skills Program 2024, and how does this compare to initial projections?</p> <p>(a) Will the Driving Digital Skills Program continue in 2025?</p> <p>(b) Can you provide an update on the program's implementation, including any milestones achieved since its commencement?</p> <p>(c) What feedback have participants provided regarding the program's content and delivery, and how is this feedback being incorporated?</p> <p>(d) What metrics are being used to measure the program's success, and can you share any preliminary results or outcomes?</p>	<p>I am advised: The program is not currently active.</p>
<b>Corrections: CESSNOCK CORRECTIONAL CENTRE</b>		
110	Which section of Cessnock Correctional Centre has the Inspector of Custodial Services recommended closure of (Section know as Area 1)?	<p>I am advised: The Inspector of Custodial Services Report into Cessnock Correctional Centre is publicly available. Alternatively, please see the answer in the question.</p>

111	Why was Area 1 closed, and for how long has it been closed?	I am advised:  The decision was made by the former Liberal Government in 2021
112	What measures will be taken to improve the working conditions for staff at Cessnock Correctional Centre given the recommendation from the Inspector?	I am advised: A formal response to the Inspector of Custodial Services Report into Cessnock Correctional Centre was issued by Corrective Services NSW on 8 August 2024.
113	What measures will be taken to improve conditions for inmates in light of recommendations?	Please see answer to Supplementary Question 112.
114	Why does Cessnock have the highest per capita rate of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults?	I am advised:  The statement in this question is incorrect.
115	What measures or examples are there which address the concerns for Cessnock and other correctional centres?	Please see answer to Supplementary Question 112.
<b>BATHURST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE</b>		
116		I am advised:  Corrective Services NSW is considering the Inspector of

	What measures have been taken to address concerns raised by the Inspector of Custodial Services about the dilapidated infrastructure and safety concerns at Bathurst Correction Centre?	Custodial Services Report into Bathurst Correctional Centre and a formal response will be issued in due course.
117	How many Correctional Centres have been visited to address concerns raised by the Inspector?	I am advised: This question cannot be answered without further detail.
118	What actions have been taken to address the infrastructure deficiencies identified in the report, such as broken windows, blocked toilets and malfunctioning smoke detectors?	Please see answer to Supplementary Question 116.
119	How many wings at Bathurst Correctional Centre have been closed?	I am advised: This question cannot be answered without further detail.
120	When will the two wings that have been closed re-open?	I am advised:  Updates on operational matters at Bathurst Correctional Centre will be made when appropriate.
<b>JUNEE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE</b>		
121	What is the extent of your contact with the NSW Police Commissioner on dealing with inmates being held in remand?	I am advised: Please refer to the hearing transcript.
122	Has the NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb called an emergency meeting with the Commissioner of Corrective	I am advised: Please see the answer to Question 121

	Services following concerns of “cells ramping”, with bail-refused inmate locked up in police station for days.	
123	Given this statement, can you explain as to why “cell-ramping” is occurring despite there being 918 vacant beds at Junee Correctional Centre as of this week?	I am advised: Please see the answer to Question 121
124	Given the poor communication regarding the transfer of Junee Correctional Centre and the sharp increase of vacant beds, has Corrective Services reduced the number of prisoners being sent to Junee because CDNSW has no confidence in being able to look after that number of prisoners under their watch?	I am advised: Please see the answer to Question 121
125	Can the government guarantee the continued operation of Junee without a reduction in staffing numbers?	I am advised:  Please refer to my media release dated 2 December 2024.
126	How many people are employed at Junee Correctional centre?	
127	How many will be employed after the centre comes under public management?	
128	What is the total dollar amount of economic contributions Junee Correctional Centre provides to the local economy?	I am advised: Please refer to answer to Supplementary Question 129.

129	7.5m annually is injected into the local economy, with \$77,000 in scholarships to local schoolchildren and \$172,000 in sponsorships and donations to local organisations. Is there a guarantee that this will continue when the facility is taken into the public hands?	I am advised: Please refer to the hearing transcript.
<b>BAIL LAW CHANGES AND IMPACTS ON CORRECTIVE SERVICES</b>		
130	What measures have been implemented to accommodate the significant increase in the prison population resulting from changes to bail laws?	I am advised: Please refer to the hearing transcript.
131	What steps have been taken to mitigate the risks associated with overcrowding?	
132	What steps will be taken to reduce increases in inmate-on-staff assaults?	
133	What steps will be taken to reduce increases in self – harm incidents?	
134	What long-term infrastructure plans (such as construction of new cells) are being considered to address the growing prison population?	



135	Will there be an increase in the number of corrective services staff across NSW as a result of the increase in prison population?	
136	What measures will be put in place to better support corrective services staff to ensure their safety and well-being due to the expected increases in incidents at correctional centres?	
137	When will these measures be put in place?	
<b>CLOSING THE GAP TARGET 11 (INDIGENOUS INCARCERATION RATES)</b>		
138	Aboriginal people remain significantly overrepresented in the NSW prison system, does the government concede that it is failing to meet Closing the Gap Target 11?	I am advised: Specific questions on Closing the Gap Target 11 should be referred to the Attorney General.
139	Can you explain what specific steps the government has taken in the past year to reduce the incarceration of Aboriginal adults?	I am advised: The NSW Government has adopted a whole-of-government approach to addressing the Closing the Gap targets and is working with the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations to carry out this work.
140	Has the government conducted any evaluations of diversionary programs for Aboriginal offenders, and if so, what were the findings?	I am advised:

141	Why has the number of Indigenous offenders on remand remained consistently high, and what policy changes are being considered to address this?	Publicly available data and evaluations relating to the NSW criminal justice system are provided by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
142	What funding has been allocated specifically for reducing Aboriginal incarceration, and how has it been spent?	CSNSW delivers a range of programs and services to support Aboriginal offenders' reintegration into the community on release from custody and reduce the risk of returning to custody. Please see the Corrective Services NSW website for more details.
143	What measures are being taken to prevent Aboriginal offenders from cycling back into custody upon release?	
144	How is the government working with Indigenous organisations to address the systemic factors leading to higher Indigenous incarceration rates?	Specific questions on Closing the Gap Target 11 should be referred to the Attorney General.
<b>REMAND AND SENTENCING</b>		
145	Remand numbers continue to rise. What is driving this increase, and what steps is the government taking to address it?	I am advised: This question should be referred to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty.
146	Does the government acknowledge that bail laws disproportionately impact Aboriginal people? If so, are there any plans to amend these laws?	I am advised: This question should be referred to the Attorney General.

147	What percentage of remand prisoners do not end up receiving a custodial sentence? What steps is the government taking to prevent unnecessary remand?	
148	Given the high rates of remand for non-violent offences, what alternative options is the government exploring to reduce unnecessary custodial remand?	
149	How long are people typically spending on remand before trial, and is there a plan to reduce these wait times?	
150	What programs exist within prisons to address rehabilitation and reduce reoffending, and are they being adequately funded?	I am advised: Information about the programs offered by Corrective Services NSW to support rehabilitation and reduce reoffending are available on the Corrective Services NSW website.
151	Are there specific support services in place for Indigenous people exiting prison to prevent recidivism, and how are they being measured for effectiveness?	I am advised: Please refer to answer to Supplementary Question 143
152	Given the high number of Aboriginal women on remand for non-violent offences, what targeted interventions is the government implementing to address this issue?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 146.
153	Are there concerns that lengthy court delays are leading to longer remand times, and if so, how is the government addressing this?	

154	The data shows that many offenders on remand are later sentenced to time served or non- custodial options. Does this indicate that the government is unnecessarily holding people in custody before trial?	
155	What percentage of offenders who are remanded are ultimately acquitted, and how does this reflect on the bail and remand system?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 146.
156	What role does housing in security play in remand decisions, and what is being done to ensure stable housing for offenders post-release?	I am advised:  The part of this question relating to decision making in sentencing should be referred to the Attorney General.  The Department of Communities and Justice Funded Partnership Initiative provides funding to a range of housing services that support offenders post release.
157	How much money is being spent on incarceration versus diversion and rehabilitation.	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
158	How much of the Corrections budget is going to rehabilitation programs, and how does this compare to the cost of keeping people in prison?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
159	How much money has been spent specifically on reducing Indigenous incarceration in the past year, and what measurable outcomes have resulted?	I am advised:  This question cannot be answered without further detail.

160	Does the government track the long-term success of programs aimed at reducing Indigenous incarceration, and if so, can you provide that data?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 146
161	Has the government undertaken any independent review of its efforts to reduce Indigenous incarceration, and if not, why not?	
162	Why has the government failed to implement justice reinvestment strategies at scale, despite repeated recommendations?	I am advised:  This question cannot be answered without further detail as to the recommendations referenced.
163	What has caused the latest BOCSAR data to show that the number of offenders held on remand has increased significantly over the last three years?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 146
164	How does the government explain this trend, particularly when overall crime rates have not seen a corresponding rise?	
165	Does this indicate a failure in bail laws, court efficiency, or Corrective Services policies?	I am advised:  No.
166	Why are a high proportion of remand prisoners ultimately released without a custodial sentence?	I am advised:  Sentencing is determined by the Courts.

167	Can you provide figures on how many offenders have spent time on remand in the past year only to be acquitted or sentenced to non-custodial penalties?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 146.
168	What does this say about the efficiency and fairness of the bail and remand system?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 167.
169	Indigenous defendants are often remanded in custody due to “lack of stable accommodation.” Why has the government failed to implement a housing-first approach for Indigenous offenders?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 166.
170	Can you provide data on how many Indigenous offenders were refused bail in the past year on the basis of “no fixed address”?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 146
171	The legal system is supposed to treat remand as a last resort, yet the number of Indigenous women and young Indigenous offenders on remand has increased?	
172	Why has the government failed to prevent Indigenous women from being disproportionately affected by remand decisions?	

173	Can you outline specific steps taken in the past two years to reduce remand rates for Indigenous women?	
174	What steps has the government taken to ensure that Indigenous Legal Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) have the funding necessary to provide culturally appropriate bail assistance?	
175	Have you increased funding for bail advocacy services in the past 12 months? If not, why not?	
<b>WOMEN IN PRISON – GROWTH FEMALE INMATES</b>		
176	What has Corrective Services NSW done to prevent the rise in the number of women in custody?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 166
177	What targeted programs exist to divert women away from prison once they enter the correctional system?	I am advised: CSNSW’s Women’s Diversion Pathway Program.
178	Can you provide the most recent breakdown of how many women in custody are first-time prisoners versus repeat offenders?	I am advised:  The most recent available data indicates about one third of all female offenders were in CSNSW custody for the first time.

179	Why are Indigenous women significantly overrepresented in the prison population?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 146
180	What programs exist inside NSW correctional centres specifically for Indigenous women?	I am advised:  CSNSW programs that support Aboriginal women in custody focus on cultural strengthening, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Initiatives include a mentoring program with Aboriginal Elders, Bolwara Transitional Centre at Emu Plains which provides support for Aboriginal women with histories of alcohol and drug use and partnering with the Aboriginal Legal Service to support Aboriginal women transition from custody.
181	What percentage of Indigenous female inmates are currently participating in these programs?	I am advised:  Information on CSNSW programs is included in the Department of Communities and Justice publicly available Annual Report.
182	Have any new Indigenous-specific correctional initiatives been introduced in the past two years?	I am advised:  Yes.
<b>WOMEN ON REMAND</b>		
183	What services are provided to remand prisoners to ensure they do not leave prison worse off than when they arrived?	I am advised:



		Inmates on remand receive support services, medical services and access to support programs for issues that include substance abuse, domestic violence and connection to housing services. Services and Programs Officers assist inmates to maintain external connections. Eligible women on remand may participate in the Mothers and Children Program at Emu Plains Correctional Centre. Initiatives also include the Family, Friends, and Children's Visitor Support Service, Contact Coordination and Support Service, and Inmate Property Service.
184	What is Corrective Services NSW doing to assist women on remand to transition out of prison, particularly those remanded due to homelessness or lack of support?	I am advised: Refer to the answer to Question 183.
185	Can you provide figures on how many women are released from remand without ever receiving a custodial sentence?	I am advised: Data relating to court decisions is publicly available from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
186	Housing insecurity is a major reason women remain in remand because they are deemed unsuitable for bail?	I am advised: Further clarity is required to answer this question.
187	Does Corrective Services NSW have any formal partnerships with housing providers to assist women at risk of being refused bail?	I am advised: CSNSW works with Homes NSW to support eligible individuals in accessing housing services.
188	Has the government explored options to expand pre-release accommodation for women who could be granted bail if they had stable housing?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 166

189	Can you provide figures on how many women in NSW prisons have no fixed address upon entry?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In FY2023-2024, 18% of female inmates released from NSW correctional centres indicated they were homeless on entry.</p>
<b>PRISON CONDITIONS</b>		
190	Why are women in NSW correctional centres often housed in facilities designed for men?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The statement in this question is incorrect. Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre and Dillwynia Correctional Centre are purpose built correctional facilities for women. There are also purpose built areas for women in Wellington Correctional Centre, Mid North Coast Correctional Centre and Clarence Correctional Centre.</p>
191	What has Corrective Services NSW done to make the prison environment more suitable for female inmates?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the response to Supplementary Question 190.</p>
192	What specific policies have been implemented to address the unique needs of women in custody, such as trauma-informed care?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>All staff working with women in custody complete <i>Working with Female Offenders and Trauma-Informed Practice</i> training. The CSNSW Trauma Response Unit provides specialised support to offenders. The Principal Advisor Women Offenders position plays an advocacy role for female offenders in CSNSW custody.</p>
193	Are there plans to expand or improve women-specific prison facilities, and what is the budget allocation for this?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the answer to Supplementary Question 222.</p>

194	Many women in custody have complex mental health needs, why is access to mental health care in correctional centres limited?	I am advised:  This question should be referred to the Minister for Health.
195	How many female prisoners in NSW correctional centres are currently receiving mental health treatment?	
196	What steps has Corrective Services NSW taken to improve mental health services for female inmates?	
197	Are there gender-specific rehabilitation programs available for women with PTSD or histories of domestic violence?	I am advised:  Yes.
<b>REHABILITATION AND RECIDIVISM</b>		
198	Women in prison have different rehabilitation needs than men, why are many programs in NSW correctional centres designed around male offenders?	I am advised:  Rehabilitation programs delivered at NSW correctional centres are designed to address the criminogenic needs and the reoffending risk factors of a range of offenders across genders.
199	What gender-specific rehabilitation programs exist in NSW prisons?	I am advised:  CSNSW delivers specific programs and interventions for women offenders as well as programs targeted at improving outcomes for Aboriginal and other women in custody who are parents. These include Mothering at a Distance, Intensive Drug and Alcohol

		<p>Treatment Program – Women Yallul Kaliarna), High Intensity Program Unit, Out of the Dark.</p> <p>Women in custody can also access a range of other programs, including the EQUIPS suite, RUSH, and CONNECT.</p>
200	What percentage of female inmates are enrolled in these programs?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Information on CSNSW programs is included in the Department of Communities and Justice publicly available Annual Report.</p>
201	Does Corrective Services NSW have an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs?	<p>I am advised</p> <p>Please refer to the answer to Supplementary Question 140.</p>
202	What programs exist within NSW prisons to maintain family ties and reduce the intergenerational cycle of incarceration?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>CSNSW offers a range of parenting programs as well as funding external family support services</p>
203	What percentage of incarcerated mothers have access to family support programs?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Programs are available to eligible offenders.</p>
204	Are there any plans to expand in-prison mother-and-child units?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Any updates on decisions regarding CSNSW operations, programs and infrastructure will be made as appropriate.</p>
205	Why does the number of women returning to custody remain high?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Sentencing is determined by the Courts.</p> <p>The causes of crime are multifaceted and include social, economic and individual factors.</p>

		The case management of all offenders by Corrective Services NSW reflects this complexity and prioritises rehabilitation and reducing reoffending through education and training, employment initiatives, targeted programs and treatment.
206	Can you provide figures on the reoffending rate for women released from NSW prisons?	I am advised:  This data is publicly available from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
207	What post-release support does Corrective Services NSW offer to women to prevent them from cycling back into prison?	I am advised:  CSNSW delivers a range of criminogenic and therapeutic programs and services to support female offenders' reintegration into the community on release from custody and reduce the risk of returning to custody. <u>Please</u> see the website for more details.
208	How does Corrective Services measure the long-term success of its rehabilitation programs?	I am advised:  There are a range of mechanisms for evaluation of programs, including the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and internal process evaluations.
<b>POST RELEASE SUPPORT</b>		
209	How many women are released from NSW prisons into homelessness each year?	I am advised:  Data regarding homelessness is not held by Corrective Services NSW.
210	What post-release housing options are available for women exiting custody?	I am advised:

		CSNSW is not responsible for housing offenders after they are released from custody. However, CSNSW does assist people leaving custody to connect with specialist homelessness services for support and provides financial support to transitional accommodation providers.
211	Has the government expanded transitional housing support for women in the past 12 months?	I am advised: Please refer to question 210.
212	What partnerships does Corrective Services NSW have with employers to help women secure jobs after release?	I am advised: CSNSW delivers pre-employment programs to improve job readiness for female inmates, including workplace licensing opportunities. CSNSW has partnerships with 180 employers and employment service providers across NSW.
213	What percentage of women leaving prison find employment within six months?	I am advised: Corrective Services NSW does not hold this data.
214	Are there any new programs aimed at improving job readiness for female inmates?	I am advised: Updates on decisions regarding CSNSW programs will be provided as appropriate.
215	What specific supports exist for women leaving NSW prisons who have experienced domestic violence?	I am advised: Please refer to question 192.
216	Does Corrective Services NSW track how many women are returning to abusive situations after release?	I am advised:

		Data collection of this nature does not fall within the role of CSNSW.
217	What is being done to ensure that women leaving prison do not become victims of further violence?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Women in custody can access legal and domestic violence support services. The NSW Domestic Violence Line is available via the inmate telephone system. Case management and referrals to community-based services are also part of Community Corrections work with offenders supervised in the community.</p>
<b>NALOXONE</b>		
218	Can you confirm that CSNSW staff are currently only able to administer naloxone to K9 Unit dogs only?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is responsible for the medical care and treatment of inmates.</p>
219	In the event a CSNSW staff member witnesses an overdose in a human (rather than a dog) in a correctional facility or in the community, what is the current policy on how they should respond?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>CSNSW staff must respond in accordance with the Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures for medical emergencies.</p>
220	What are the proposed timings, budget and locations for a proposed pilot increasing access to naloxone for CSNSW?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Updates on decisions regarding CSNSW programs will be made as appropriate.</p>
221	In the event of a death in custody due to the inability for CSNSW to administer naloxone, who is legally responsible for a lack of duty of care action?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>I am not able to provide legal advice on a hypothetical situation.</p>
<b>BUDGET AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>		

222	What percentage of the overall corrections budget is spent on female prisoners?	I am advised: Information relating to Corrective Services NSW is contained in the budget papers.
223	How does this compare to the spending on male prisoners?	
224	Are there plans to increase funding for gender-specific rehabilitation services?	
225	Has funding for programs aimed at reducing female recidivism increased or decreased in the past two years?	
226	How much has been spent on expanding post-release support services for women in the past 12 months?	
227	Has any funding been cut from women's prison programs? If so, which programs and why?	
228	Has the department conducted any independent review of the effectiveness of its policies on women in custody?	I am advised: CSNSW policies and procedures are subject to regular internal review as well as external review and assessment by bodies including BOSCAR, the Inspector of Custodial Services and the NSW Ombudsman
229	If so, what were the key findings, and can you provide them to the Committee?	
230	If not, why hasn't a formal review been conducted?	
231	How much funding has been allocated to Indigenous-specific rehabilitation programs, and can you provide data on their effectiveness?	I am advised:



		Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
232	Why are Indigenous prisoners still more likely to be held in isolation compared to non- Indigenous inmates?	I am advised:  Segregation placements are made on an individual basis, in accordance with legislative and policy requirements.
233	How many Indigenous prisoners have been denied access to culturally appropriate rehabilitation services due to funding or capacity issues?	I am advised:  CSNSW does not hold this data.
234	What measures are in place to ensure Indigenous inmates are not being disproportionately punished through solitary confinement?	I am advised:  Clause 164 of the <i>Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation</i> 2014 prohibits the use of solitary confinement.
<b>WOMEN IN PRISON – SYSTEMIC FAILURES AND INHUMANE TREATMENT</b>		
235	The NPM report highlights the continued use of strip searches on female prisoners, despite evidence showing they are degrading and ineffective. Why is Corrective Services NSW still using this practice?	I am advised:  Inmate searching procedures are conducted in accordance with the publicly available Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures.
236	What alternatives to strip searches have been explored, and why have they not been implemented?	I am advised:  Refer to the response to Question 235.
237	The report identifies that many women are in prison for minor, non-violent offences. What programs are in place to prevent unnecessary incarceration of women?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 146

238	How many women in NSW prisons are currently on remand due to a lack of stable housing?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 146
239	Can you provide figures on the number of women in NSW prisons who are primary caregivers and what support is provided to them?	I am advised: As at March 2025, 54% of women in custody are parents, with 20% having had children in their care prior to entering custody. CSNSW delivers parenting programs, supports ongoing contact between mothers and their children through visits and phone calls, and operates residential programs that allow approved children to reside with their mothers. An in-reach service is delivered in partnership with child protection services to support women in maintaining positive relationships with their children. CSNSW also funds Shine for Kids to provide support services for children of incarcerated parents.
240	What gender-specific rehabilitation programs are available in NSW correctional centres, and how many women actually participate in them?	I am advised: Refer to the answers to Questions 197, 199 and 200.
<b>MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY</b>		
241	How many prisoners currently have an identified mental health condition, and how many of them are receiving regular treatment?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 194.
242	What specific training is provided to corrections officers to manage inmates with mental health conditions?	

243	How many inmates with disabilities are currently in NSW prisons, and what support services are provided to them?	I am advised:  As at 25 March 2025, there are approximately 2020 individuals in custody who have been identified as having a disability. CSNSW provides tailored support for inmates with a disability.
244	Given the report's findings on the inadequate access to rehabilitation programs, has funding for mental health services in prisons increased or decreased in the past two years?	I am advised:  Further information in relation to the report referenced in the question is required to answer the question.
245	Why are prisoners with disabilities more likely to be placed in solitary confinement, and what is being done to change this?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer e to Question 234.
<b>STAFFING SHORTAGES AND FACILITY CONDITIONS</b>		
246	What is the average time out of cell for inmates across NSW correctional facilities, and has this increased or decreased in the past year?	I am advised:  Data on time out of cells is publicly available through the Report on Government Services.
247	What impact have staff shortages had on access to education, work, and rehabilitation programs in NSW prisons?	I am advised:  Access to programs is subject to operational requirements, including staffing levels.
248	The report raises concerns about the management of extreme heat in NSW prisons. What specific measures	I am advised:

	have been implemented to ensure inmate safety during extreme weather events?	Further information in relation to the report referenced in the question is required to answer the question.
249	How many complaints have been received from prisoners about heat-related issues in the past 12 months?	I am advised: Further detail is needed to answer this question.
250	Has the Department conducted any review to determine whether magistrates are applying bail laws disproportionately against Indigenous defendants? If not, why not?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 146
251	How much money has been spent on Indigenous-specific diversion programs in the last two years, and what have been the tangible outcomes?	
252	Can you provide figures on how many Indigenous offenders have successfully avoided incarceration through these programs in the past 12 months?	
253	What directives, if any, has the government given to the courts to ensure greater equity in sentencing?	
254	Has your Department reviewed whether sentencing outcomes for Indigenous offenders align with the Closing the Gap commitments? If not, why not?	

255	Does the government concede that unless radical changes are made to bail laws, sentencing practices, and post-release support, NSW will not meet Closing the Gap Target 11 by 2031?	
256	If you believe you are on track, can you provide the data to back that up?	
257	<p>How many corrective services staff were suspended on full pay over the past year?</p> <p>(a) In the last Budget Estimates, 82 staff were suspended with full pay – how many of those 82 are still suspended?</p> <p>(b) Why do so many remain suspended on full pay minister? What steps have been taken to address this?</p> <p>(c) What are the costs are of having so many suspended on full pay to the budget for Corrective Services?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the hearing transcript. Staffing costs are met within the CSNSW operating budget.</p>
258	The Department of Communities and Justice budget has increased by 5.2%, and capital expenditure has jumped from \$204 million to \$1.26 billion. Exactly how much of this is being allocated to the corrections system?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice budget includes allocations of Corrective Services NSW. Information relating to the Corrective Services NSW is contained in the budget papers</p>

259	Given the increased spending, what measurable improvements can the government point to in reducing recidivism or improving prison conditions?	I am advised:  Data on correctional centre performance can be found in the publicly available Report on Government Services.
260	How much of the capital expenditure is being used for new prison infrastructure versus rehabilitation and reintegration services?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
261	Despite rising expenditure, NSW has one of the highest recidivism rates in the country. Can you explain why increased spending isn't reducing reoffending?	
262	What proportion of the corrections budget is spent on incarceration versus programs aimed at keeping people out of prison?	
263	How much of the additional funding has gone towards reducing remand populations, and what specific initiatives have been funded to address this?	
INDIGENOUS OVERINCARCERATION		
264	Minister, Indigenous Australians remain grossly overrepresented in NSW prisons. How much of the corrections budget has been allocated to Indigenous-specific programs?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 222.

265	What measurable progress has been made in reducing Indigenous incarceration, and is there a timeline for achieving the Closing the Gap targets?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 146
266	The budget does not appear to include any significant increase in funding for Indigenous- led rehabilitation services. Can you explain why?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
267	How much funding is allocated to diversionary programs specifically targeting Indigenous youth and first-time offenders?	I am advised: This question should be referred to the Minister for Youth Justice.
268	The number of Indigenous women in prison remains disproportionately high. Has any funding been allocated for targeted rehabilitation programs for Indigenous women?	I am advised: Please refer to the response to Question 222.
<b>WOMEN IN PRISON – HOUSING POST RELEASE</b>		
269	Has the government increased funding for post-release housing and support for female prisoners, particularly those with children?	I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
270	Can you provide data on how many women are leaving NSW prisons with stable housing and employment?	I am advised: CSNSW does not hold this data. Information about prisoner employment can be found in the publicly available Report on Government Services.

271	Has any additional funding been allocated to address the issue of excessive strip-searching of female prisoners, and are alternative screening methods being funded?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 222.
272	Why has there been no substantial increase in funding for rehabilitation services tailored to women, despite evidence that gender-specific programs are more effective?	
RECIDIVISM AND POST RELEASE SUPPORT		
273	What percentage of prisoners released from NSW correctional facilities are receiving post- release support, and how does this compare to other states?	I am advised:  This question cannot be answered without further detail. CSNSW does not hold data on other jurisdictions.
274	Has funding increased for employment programs that help ex-prisoners secure jobs upon release?	I am advised:  Please refer to the response to Question 222.
275	How many prisoners are released into homelessness each year, and what funding has been allocated to prevent this?	
276	Has funding for justice reinvestment programs increased in this budget, or is the government continuing to prioritise incarceration over prevention?	I am advised:  Please refer to the answer to Question 146
277	What specific performance measures is the Department using to assess the success of post- release programs, and can you provide any data on outcomes?	I am advised:  Performance measures are reported annually in the publicly available Report on Government Services (ROGS).
GENERAL QUESTIONS		
278	CFMEU meetings  Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28	I am advised:  In accordance with the Premier’s Memorandum <i>M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas</i>



	March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?	<p><i>Travel Information</i>, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.</p> <p>Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)</li> <li>• meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political</li> <li>• social or public functions or events</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures</a>)</li> </ul>
279	<p>ETU meetings</p> <p>Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please refer to the answer to Question 278.</li> </ul>

280	<p>Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office</p> <p>On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office.</p> <p>I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.</p>
281	<p>Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees</p> <p>How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:</p> <p>i. Voluntary?</p> <p>ii. Forced?</p> <p>(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?</p> <p>On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses.</p> <p>Published Annual reports can be accessed on respective Departmental websites.</p>
282	<p>Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports</p> <p>On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The annual reports were tabled in accordance with the requirements of the Government Sector Finance Act 2018.</p>
283	<p>Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each</p>	<p>I am advised:</p>

	<p>department / agency in your portfolio printed?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?</p>	<p>Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines <i>TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements</i>. 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.</p>
284	<p>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?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p>
285	<p>In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> and Treasurer's Direction 23-11 Annual reporting requirements.</p>
286	<p>Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?</p> <p>(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25 for each department / agency?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the answer to Question 283.</p>
287	<p>State Records Act</p> <p>(1) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i>.</p>

	<p>Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?</p> <p>(a) If yes, when?</p>	<p>The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.</p> <p>Further information is available on State Records NSW's website (<a href="http://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw">www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw</a>)</p> <p>I expect all my staff to comply with their obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i>.</p>
288	<p>Advertising</p> <p>On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Annual reports are published on the website of the relevant department or agency and are also held by the Parliamentary Library.</p> <p>Department and agency expenditure is also published at <a href="http://data.nsw.gov.au">data.nsw.gov.au</a></p> <p>Agency expenditure must be reported in accordance with TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements and TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements.</p>
289	<p>Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register</p> <p>Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?</p> <p>(a) If yes, is it available online?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department gifts and hospitality register is available at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/gifts-and-hospitality-register">www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/gifts-and-hospitality-register</a></p>

	<p>i. If yes, what is the website URL?</p>	<p>The Department of Customer Service gifts and hospitality register is not available online.</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice Gifts, Benefits and Bequest registers are publicly available and can be found at <a href="https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/resources/policies/gifts-benefits-and-bequests.html">https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/resources/policies/gifts-benefits-and-bequests.html</a>.</p>
290	<p>Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality</p> <p>Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the website URL?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p>
291	<p>Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?</p> <p>(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?</p> <p>(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

		purposes of the Policy.
292	<p>Ministerial Code of Conduct</p> <p>Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what was the breach?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.</p> <p>The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.</p> <p>Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier</li> <li>• seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as ‘prohibited interests’)</li> <li>• identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest</li> <li>• disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500.</li> </ul> <p>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>.</p>
293	<p>Credit Cards</p> <p>Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>(a) If yes, under what circumstance?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?</p>	<p>diary for fringe benefit tax purposes.</p> <p>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. NSW Government-issued credit cards for official business trips overseas will be held with government contract bankers and used within credit limits imposed.</p> <p>Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes.</p> <p>Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.</p>
294	Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government.</p>
295	If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Purchasing Card Policy for the Department of Communities and Justice and is available at  <a href="https://arp.nsw.gov.au/assets/ars/attachments/TPP21-02-Use-and-Management-of-NSW-Govt-Purchasing-Cards.pdf">https://arp.nsw.gov.au/assets/ars/attachments/TPP21-02-Use-and-Management-of-NSW-Govt-Purchasing-Cards.pdf</a></p> <p>The Purchasing Card Policy for the Premier's Department is available on the Premier's Department's website:  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/policy-documents">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/policy-documents</a></p>

		The Purchasing Card Policy used by the Department of Customer Service is available at <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/policies-plans-and-procedures/purchasing-card-policy">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/policies-plans-and-procedures/purchasing-card-policy</a>
296	<p>Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office</p> <p>Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>I make use of an office in 52 Martin Place, NSW Parliament and my Electorate office.</p> <p>When travelling, Ministers may make ad hoc arrangements to work for periods in Departmental offices.</p>
297	<p>Senior Executive Drivers</p> <p>As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No senior executives employed by the Premier's Department, Correctives Services NSW and Department of Customer Service have a driver.</p>
298	<p>GIPA Applications – Ministerial Office</p> <p>Has your Ministerial Office received a GIPA Application(s) since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If yes, how many?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what is the website URL of the disclosure log?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>GIPA statistics for Ministers' offices are published in the annual reports of the Department of Communities and Justice.</p> <p>The Ministerial office's disclosure log is available on the Department of Customer Service website.</p>
299	<p>GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)</p> <p>Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>:</p> <p>An agency is not subject to the direction or control of any Minister</p>



	department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?	in the exercise of the agency's functions in dealing with a particular access application. The office of the Minister complies with the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> .
300	GIPA Act – Disclosure Log Website URL  What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?	I am advised:  <a href="https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/gipa/disclosure-log.html">https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/gipa/disclosure-log.html</a>  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/customer-service/access-to-information/departments-and-agencies/customer-service-disclosure-log">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/customer-service/access-to-information/departments-and-agencies/customer-service-disclosure-log</a>  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premiers-department-disclosure-log">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premiers-department-disclosure-log</a>
301	Are you on TikTok?	I am advised: 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.
302	Signal  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?	I am advised:  Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government.

	(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?	I comply with the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> and I expect all staff members to comply with their obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> .
303	<p>Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the description of training?</p> <p>(b) If yes, how much?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ministerial Office Budgets are managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.</p>
304	<p>Cabinet documents</p> <p>Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The conventions and practice for access to Cabinet documents are outlined in Premier's Memorandum M2006-08 - <i>Maintaining Confidentiality of Cabinet Documents and Other Cabinet Conventions</i>.</p> <p>The Premier's Memorandum M2006-08 provides that the unauthorised and/or premature disclosure of Cabinet documents undermines collective ministerial responsibility and the convention of Cabinet confidentiality. It is essential that the confidentiality of Cabinet documents is maintained to enable full</p>

		<p>and frank discussions to be had prior to Cabinet making decisions.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and Small Business was appointed on 17 March 2025.</p>
305	<p>Parliamentary Secretary</p> <p>Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Security passes for the parliamentary precinct and 52 Martin Place are required to be issued in accordance with the Parliament House Security Pass Policy and 52 Martin Place security procedures and the associated Privacy and Surveillance Statement.</p>
306	<p>Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No</p>
307	<p>Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Ministers' Office Handbook provides that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Premier's Department will provide each Minister with a designated vehicle, which may be used by other drivers nominated by the Minister from time to time.</li> <li>the Premier's Department transport services may be used by Parliamentary Secretaries for official business trips in connection with their duties as Parliamentary Secretaries, with costs paid from the Ministers' office budget.</li> </ul>
308	<p>Media releases and statements</p> <p>Are all the ministerial media releases and statements</p>	<p>I am advised:</p>

	<p>issued by you publicly available at <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases">https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases</a>?</p> <p>(a) If no, why?</p>	<p>The Department of Customer Service is responsible for managing <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases">www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases</a> and the publication of media releases.</p>
309	<p>Overseas Travel</p> <p>As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>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:  <a href="https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy">https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy</a></p> <p>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.</p>
310	<p>Data Breaches</p> <p>Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department and Department of Customer Service 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).</p> <p>Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly available a data breach policy. The PPIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public.</p>

		<p>Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>, 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.</p>
311	If yes to 38, what is the website?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>This response is in reference to question 310, not 38 as stated in the question.</p> <p>The Premier's Department and Department of Customer Service each keep an internal register of eligible data breaches as required by section 59ZE, Part 6A of the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act)</i>.</p> <p>Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly available a data breach policy. The PPIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public.</p> <p>Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>, 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.</p>

		The Department of Communities and Justice maintains a register at <a href="https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/gipa/mandatory-notification-of-data-breach-scheme/public-notification-register.html">https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/gipa/mandatory-notification-of-data-breach-scheme/public-notification-register.html</a>
312	<p>Discretionary Fund</p> <p>As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No.</p>
313	<p>Qantas Chairman's Lounge</p> <p>Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The <i>Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983</i> (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>"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</p>

		<p>contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.</p>
314	<p>Local Government Councillors</p> <p>How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i>. 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).</p>
<b>Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>		
315	<p>Costs involved with meeting the fire safety orders</p> <p>On the 13th of January I sent Minister Chanthivong a letter on behalf of a residential flat building owner who is struggling with the exorbitant cost involved in meeting the new fire safety orders. In follow up to the reply received:</p> <p>(a) Besides asking for an extension or seeking legal advice, as suggested in your reply, what</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>New residential building work attracts a statutory warranty period. It is not clear whether the question relates to new building work or the upgrading of an existing building.</p> <p>Building Commission NSW is not aware of any current programs to financially assist persons receiving a fire safety order.</p>

	other ways is the government giving consideration to, or is already providing, to assist struggling residents to be able to meet costs related to the new fire safety orders?	
316	<p>Rental Bonds Board</p> <p>(1) What returns do the Rental Bond Board expect the NSW Government is targeting for the monies held for the Rental Bond Board?</p> <p>(a) If the return on monies was greater than inflation, can you confirm how this money was allocated (noting that the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 has defined uses for money held by or on behalf of the Rental Bond Board)?</p> <p>(b) Is any or all of the money held in OneFund, which targets annual returns over time of CPI plus 4.5%?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Rental Bond Board Government Sector Finance (GSF) Agency holds two statutory accounts: The Rental Bond Account in which rental bonds are deposited and held in trust, and the Rental Bond Interest Account. The Rental Bond Board GSF Agency does not directly invest funds. Consistent with the NSW Government's centralised cash management policy, all cash and investment are the responsibility of NSW Treasury.</p> <p>Questions regarding investment returns should be referred to the Treasurer.</p>
317	Has the Rental Bond Board or the Department of Customer Service requested an accounting of the revenue generated from Rental Bond Board funds?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Rental Bond Board GSF Agency receives an annual appropriation into the Rental Bond Interest Account from consolidated revenue. Expenditure from the Rental Bond Interest Account is published in the Rental Bond Board GSF Agency Annual Report.</p>



318	How has the Rental Bond Board or the Department of Customer Service ensured that the funds held by Treasury are being utilised in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 2010?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Government’s cash management policy ensures an efficient use of cash and centralised investment objectives. This does not impact the underlying funds which remain the responsibility of the Rental Bond Board GSF Agency and the Secretary of DCS (defined as the Commissioner for Fair Trading under the <i>Residential Tenancies Act 2010</i>). Expenditure from the fund is made in accordance with the legislation and published in the Rental Bond Board Annual Report.</p>					
319	<p>For each of the last financial years, can the Minister or Department confirm the amounts spent from the Property Services Interest Account under:</p> <p>(a) Section 189 of the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002; and</p> <p>(b) Section 190 of the Property and Stock Agents Act 2002?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Two expenses are incurred from the Property Services Interest Account each financial year. In FY2023/24 this was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$53,862,000 relating to the administration fee which is the cost to administer the Act under section 189 and 190; and</li><li>• \$13,496,598 relating to 50 per cent Fair Trading contribution to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal expenses under section 190 (1b).</li></ul>					
320	<p>Fair Trade and Penalisation</p> <p>For each of the last 5 financial years:</p> <p>(a) How many complaints were made to Fair Trading in each of the following categories:</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>(a)</p> <table><tr><td>Category:</td><td>2020/21</td><td>2021/22</td><td>2022/23</td><td>2023/24</td></tr></table>	Category:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Category:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24			

	iv. Residential Tenancies;  v. Home Building;  vi. Motor Vehicles; and  vii. General Consumers?  (b) Of these complaints, how many in each category resulted in Fair Trading taking action at each level of the Fair Trading Compliance & Enforcement Approach pyramid?	Residential tenancies	1835	1916	1997	2757
		Motor vehicle/ automotive	5,280	3,632	4,992	6,982
		General consumer / consumer protection	24,601	19,888	20,384	33,402
		Information for the full 2024/25 financial year is not complete.  Fair Trading does not regulate home building work.  (b) I am advised:  This information is published in the Department of Customer Service Annual Report.				
321	For each of the last 5 financial years, how many penalties were issued for each of the penalties outlined in:  (a) Schedule 4 of the Residential Tenancies Regulation 2019; and  (b) Schedule 4 of the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Regulation 2015?	I am advised:  (a) 2022/23: 1, 2023/24: 16, 2024/25 (to 18 March 2025): 142  <i>Note: Data has been provided for the last 3 financial years. Due to a change in management system, previous years are not available in the timeframe.</i>  (b) Nil penalty notices have been issued 2022/23 to date.				
Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC						

322	<p>Investigation into inmate discipline in NSW correctional centres – Ombudsman NSW, 21 August 2024</p> <p>How have the Government and CSNSW responded to the state Ombudsman’s Investigation into inmate discipline in NSW correctional centres?</p> <p>(a) How many recommendations have been implemented from the state Ombudsman’s Investigation?</p> <p>(b) Considering the investigation findings that having no legislated right is inherently unfair, will the Minister legislate a right of review or appeal for inmates in disciplinary determinations?</p> <p>(c) How is CSNSW ensuring compliance with its policy and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody to not confine young Aboriginal inmates to segregated confinement and treat it as a last resort for all First Nations inmates?</p> <p>I. Have any policies or procedures been reviewed?</p> <p>(d) Has CSNSW made any correspondence with the Chief Magistrate of the Local Court or the</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The <i>Inspector of Custodial Service Amendment Bill 2024</i> which passed Parliament on 19 February 2024 responds to the NSW Ombudsman’s report on the <i>Investigation into inmate discipline in NSW correctional centres</i> by amending the <i>Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999</i> to introduce an internal review mechanism for decisions made under the correctional centre discipline provisions.</p> <p>Corrective Services NSW continues to work on longer term reform in response to the Report’s recommendations.</p> <p>The Custodial Operations Policy and Procedure (COPP) outlines that young Aboriginal inmates should not be confined to cells alone. As part of broader inmate discipline reform, CSNSW will continue to explore appropriate diversion strategies for vulnerable cohorts, including young Aboriginal people. Please refer to the publicly available Custodial Operations Policies and Procedures.</p>
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	<p>DCJ to consider referrals of disciplinary offences to a Visiting Magistrate?</p> <p>i. Have any policies been amended in this area?</p>	
323	<p>Inspector Of Custodial Services – Inspection Of Broken Hill and Tamworth Correctional Centres 2023 (released December 2024)</p> <p>Will the Minister follow the recommendation of the Inspector of Custodial Services Broken Hill and Tamworth Correctional Centres Report and cease using the 1800s infrastructure?</p> <p>(a) The infrastructure is rife with cruel conditions for inmates, such as hanging points, no light in certain areas, harsh temperatures and ventilation risks. Does the minister agree that the infrastructure creates cruel conditions?</p> <p>i. Does the Minister share the view that the infrastructure is not fit for modern standards?</p> <p>ii. Given the colonial remnants of the infrastructure, has the Minister considered that it is not suitable for First Nations people?</p> <p>(b) Has CSNWS worked to remove all hanging points in the Broken Hill and Tamworth Correctional Centres?</p> <p>i. If not, when?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Corrective Services NSW is considering the Inspector of Custodial Services Report of the Inspection of Broken Hill and Tamworth Correctional Centres and a formal response will be issued in due course.</p>

	<p>ii. Until then, will the Correctional Centres accommodate any people in the cells with hanging points?</p> <p>(c) Has CSNSW now ensured that all remanded inmates are aware of their entitlement to free phone calls in line with the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2014?</p> <p>i. Are inmates at both correctional centres receiving their entitled free phone calls now?</p>	
324	<p>Investigation Into Actions Taken Against Bystander Inmates following an incident at Clarence Correctional Centre 2023 (released August 2024)</p> <p>Has Serco issued an in-writing apology to the inmates that its staff wrongfully and illegally punished them?</p> <p>(a) Have Serco staff received refresher training since the incident?</p> <p>(b) Has CSNSW reviewed Serco's operations, and whether their correctional centre routine at Clarence complies with legal and contractual requirements?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Individual inmates were notified in writing that their records had been expunged.</p> <p>(a) Yes.</p> <p>(b) Compliance requirements for the Operator at Clarence are outlined in the publicly available Custodial Operations Policies and Procedures.</p>
325	<p>Private Prisons</p> <p>When will the Government work to return Clarence Correctional Centre to public hands in the immediate term?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Contracts for privately run facilities are considered as they approach their renewal date, with a focus on delivering the best value for NSW and better outcomes for inmates, staff and communities.</p>

	<p>(a) Given that Clarence is the country's largest prison and the only remaining private prison in NSW, why is there a delay?</p> <p>(b) Will the Government investigate the costs of ending the contract of Clarence with Serco.</p> <p>(c) Given that Serco has been responsible for a secretive immigration detention regime that has neglected the welfare and safety of refugees and asylum seekers for over a decade, is the Government concerned with entrusting Serco with accommodating the largest cohort of prisoners in the state and country?</p>	
326	<p>Inquest Into Death Of Simon Cartwright – Released December 2024</p> <p>How will the Government respond to this significant coronial inquest and its findings, including the coroner's conclusion that CSNSW 'should not be placed in a position to care for a mentally ill person'?</p> <p>(a) Have the officers involved and also complicit in the death of Simon Cartwright faced disciplinary actions?</p> <p>(b) Has CSNSW reviewed its policies in place regarding the restriction of water to prison cells?</p> <p>i. Has the review been finalised?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to reducing all preventable deaths in custody. The recommendations of the coronial inquest into the death of Mr Simon Cartwright are being carefully considered by Corrective Services NSW. Questions regarding the medical care of inmates should be referred to the Minister for Health.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. What are the next steps CSNSW are taking?</li> <li>iii. How will CSNSW ensure people in custody have access to water?</li> </ul> <p>(c) Will CSNSW introduce mandatory Mental Health First Aid training for officers supervising inmates in observation cells and/or risk Risk Intervention Team Management (RIT) Officers?</p> <p>(d) How many mental health beds are currently available across the state for people entering custody, or being remanded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Given the current shortage that forces people with mental health issues into prisons as a default response, will the Government increase the number of mental health beds available across NSW?</li> <li>ii. Given that more than half of people in prisons across Australia report having a mental health issue, will you be investigating alternative responses for people experiencing mental health issues who enter custody?</li> </ul>	
327	<p>Video Calls</p> <p>What were the software and other issues that prevented the use of the MindSpot app on the tablets?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>All digital applications must be compliant with CSNSW security requirements.</p>

328	Has Viapath, the telecommunications supplier, confirmed that video calls are now available for computer tablets in cells?	I am advised:  Yes.
329	Original Letters  If the volume of letters to prisoners were much reduced due to messaging becoming available, would that allow original letters rather than photocopies to be carefully analysed and delivered as an emotional connection with families?	I am advised:  CSNSW policies are subject to review and include consideration of new and emerging technologies.
330	Electoral Commission Website  When will access for prisoners be reinstated to the Australian Electoral Commission website to allow enrolment to vote in the Federal Election?	I am advised:  CSNSW is currently reviewing the technical feasibility of restoring access to the Australian Electoral Commission website.
331	Will prisoners be notified on the tablets of their obligation to enroll for the federal election and the process for enrollment include ID support from staff?	
332	Keyboards	I am advised:  No.



	Does the minister agree that not having keyboards for data entry, thereby restricting prisoners to two thumbs instead of ten fingers, and having to use 30% of an 8" screen, is a serious disadvantage?	
333	How can prisoners develop writing skills without a keyboard?	I am advised:  Keyboards are available in CSNSW facilities.
334	<p>Education</p> <p>Is the Minister and CSNSW considering the proposal to allow prisoners to purchase textbooks through Dymocks for educational purposes, before technology is universally available?</p> <p>(a) If yes, when is a decision expected?</p> <p>(b) If not, will you reconsider?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>CSNSW is currently reviewing the education service delivery model to ensure that it is delivering services that meet the needs of inmates while providing the appropriate level of security and operational flexibility.</p>
335	<p>What "significant operational and security concerns" would arise from encouraging self directed education, by allowing prisoners to purchase textbooks, directly from Australia's largest bookstore until online education becomes available?</p> <p>(a) Could anything be done to address these operational and security concerns?</p> <p>(b) Will this proposal be reconsidered before a final decision is made?</p>	

336	How would the facilitation of self-directed education through external book purchasing lead to inequities among inmates?	
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**Budget Estimates 2024-25**

**Portfolio Committee 8 – Customer Service**

**Minister Chanthivong**

**Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and technology, Building and  
Corrections**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney**

**Answers to further supplementary received 17 March 2025**

Number	Question	Answer
Questions from Hon Emma Hurst MLC		
Corrections		
1	<p>At the hearing, Mr Leon Taylor advised that there are 102 inmates in custody with animal cruelty offences (with 27 of those being convicted and sentenced, and 75 on remand).</p> <p>(a) Could you please clarify the breakdown of the types of animal cruelty offences these 102 inmates have been charged with or convicted of?</p> <p>(b) Do all 102 inmates have charges or convictions for offences under the Crimes Act 1900, or do some of them have charges or convictions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979? If so, please provide details.</p> <p>(c) Of those inmates who have been charged or convicted of bestiality offences under sections 79, 80 and/or 547E of the Crimes Act 1900, how many have also been charged or convicted of offences related to child sexual abuse? Please provide details of the breakdown between conviction and on remand?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>(a) The most common animal cruelty related offences are <i>possession of bestiality material</i> and <i>committing an act of cruelty</i>.</p> <p>(b) Of the 27 sentenced inmates convicted of animal cruelty related offences, 19 were convicted under the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i>, and eight under the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i>. Of the 75 remand inmates charged with animal cruelty, 56 were charged under the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i>, and 19 under other legislation, including the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act</i>, <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act</i>, and <i>National Parks and Wildlife Regulation</i>.</p> <p>(c) Of the 27 sentenced inmates convicted of animal cruelty, 16 had also been convicted of both child pornography and bestiality-related offences, and two had been convicted of child sexual abuse and bestiality-related offences. Among the 75 remand inmates charged with animal cruelty related offences, 36 were charged with both child pornography and bestiality-related offences, and eight with child sexual abuse and bestiality-related offences.</p>

2	In relation to the use of Mindspot on tablets for inmates, Mr Luke Grant stated 'there were some software and other issues that ended up meaning we couldn't use that app'. Can you please elaborate on what these 'software and other issues' were?	I am advised:  All digital applications must be compliant with CSNSW security requirements.
3	Has Viapath, the telecommunications supplier, confirmed that video calls are now available for computer tablets in cells?	I am advised:  Yes.
4	If the volume of letters to correctional centres in NSW were much reduced due to in-tablet messaging becoming available, would that allow original letters rather than photocopies to be carefully analysed and delivered as an emotional connection with families?	I am advised:  CSNSW policies are subject to review and include consideration of new and emerging technologies.
5	In relation to the upcoming Federal Election, will prisoners be notified on their tablets of their obligation to enrol to vote, and the process for enrolment? And will they receive IT support from staff?	I am advised:  CSNSW is currently reviewing the technical feasibility of restoring access to the Australian Electoral Commission website.
6	The Minister has previously advised that facilitating individual book purchases from external suppliers, to enable inmates to engage in self-education, would pose 'serious operational and security concerns'. Can you please elaborate on what these operational and security concerns are?	I am advised:  CSNSW is currently reviewing the education service delivery model to ensure that it is delivering services that meet the needs of inmates while providing the appropriate level of security and operational flexibility.