

Supplementary Questions

Questions from Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC

No 1 & 2 – Supplementary Question

(1) Has the Chief Executive or his team met with the Cleaning Accountability Framework? If so when did he meet with them and what was the outcome of the meeting?

(2) How many casual cleaners are there currently engaged by DPS?

(a) How many casual cleaners have been directly engaged by DPS?

(b) How many casual cleaners have been engaged through a third party e.g. cleaning contractor or labour hire firm?

Answer:

(1) Following the reference to the Cleaning Accountability Framework at the last Estimates hearing, DPS reviewed their offering in relation to our cleaning program. The Cleaning Accountability Framework organisation has the worthy goal of improving labour practices in the cleaning industry.

As the Parliament pays at or above award rates and provides the conditions that the CAF refers to (such as appropriate breaks, free uniforms, regular feedback meetings), it was felt that the cost associated with membership could not be justified.

(2) We have no casual cleaners; our cleaning team are made up of ongoing employees and cleaners from labour hire companies. We have a total of 28 cleaners, with 18 full and part time ongoing cleaners and 10 cleaners from labour hire companies.

(a) Nil

(b) 10

No 3 & 4 – Supplementary Question

(3) Can you please provide an update on the sourcing of items made in Australia and/or NSW for the Parliament Gift Shop?

(a) Do we still have products that have not been sourced from Australia/NSW?

(4) I note stickers in the lift indicated they were produced in the European Union. Was there an attempt to source locally first?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer:

(3) The following table details the sourcing information for items currently stocked in the Parliament Gift Shop. Parliament's commitment to sourcing local and Australian products is outlined in the *Parliamentary Catering Gift Shop Strategy 2024*.

Item	Place of manufacture	Place of design/supplier
Apron White – Parliament House Crest	LeCoste	Unknown
Byron Bay Tea	Australia	Byron Bay, NSW
Candles	Australia	Cargo, NSW
Ceramics	Australia	Central Coast, NSW
Coasters Set(6)	Unknown - supplier out of business (Wompro int.)	Unknown
Coasters Red Dingo	China	Nadeen Dixon, Redfern, NSW
Computer bag - crested	China	Pitt Town, NSW
Cook Book	Australia	Riverwood, NSW
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association book	UK	UK
Crested caps	China	Pitt Town, NSW
Cufflinks - Parliament House Crest	China	Melbourne, VIC
Cushion Natural - Crested	China	Pitt Town, NSW
Drink bottle - Crested Black D wall	Unknown - supplier out of business (Wompro int.)	Unknown
Drink bottle indigenous	China	Melbourne, VIC
Extra virgin olive oil	Australia	Rylestone, NSW
Face mask	China	Shenzhen
Farmers books	Australia	Eugowra, NSW
Hand Wash (Lemon/Rosemary) - Koala	Australia	Wetherill Park, NSW
Hand/Body Lotion (Lemon/Rosemary) 500ml - Koala	Australia	Wetherill Park, NSW
Honey and Glow Soap	Australia	Googong, NSW
Indige-earth products	Australia	Various regions

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Indigenous products	China	Nadeena Dixon, Redfern , NSW
Indigenous tea towel	India	NSW
Keep cups	Australia	Melbourne, VIC
Large - White / Red Waratah Print	Unknown	Northern Beaches, NSW
Linen Tea Towel - Indigenous	India	Sydney, NSW
Linen Tea Towels - Red/White Waratah	Unknown	Northern Beaches, NSW
Magnets	Australia	Gladesville, NSW
Medium - White / Red Waratah Print	Unknown	Northern Beaches, NSW
Mug - Crest Printed	China	Melbourne, VIC
Murray River Salt	Australia	Mourquong Mitigation Basin, NSW
Owl Cufflinks	Unknown	Gladesville, NSW
Parker Ballpoint Pen - Black	France	Melbourne, VIC
Parker Ballpoint Pen Crested - Navy	France	Melbourne, VIC
Parliament House pin	Unknown - supplier out of business (Wompro int.)	Unknown
Pen - Stylus rose gold w Gift box	China	Unknown
Peoples choice parliament book	Fiji	Sydney, NSW
Pillow - Indigenous Assorted	China	Nadeena Dixon, Redfern, NSW
Polo shirt	Australia	Gladesville, NSW
Post Card - Parliament House	Australia	Gladesville, NSW
Power Bank	Hong Kong	Maroochydore, QLD
Rum Hospital book	Australia	Riverwood, NSW
Rush Coffee	Australia	Bowral, NSW
Sunny Honey	Australia	Mudgee, NSW
Tote bag	China	Pitt Town, NSW
Umbrella - Parliament House	China	Melbourne, VIC
Umbrella - crested	China	QLD
Umbrella - indigenous	China	Melbourne, VIC
USB	Hong Kong	Maroochydore, QLD
Wooden gift box	Australia	Rutherford, NSW
Zokoko Chocolate	Australia	Emu Plains, NSW

(a) Yes, please refer to the table above.

(4) Yes, attempts were made to source locally first. The new lifts consist of 41% locally sourced components and 59% imported elements, with all assembly and installation work undertaken locally.

(a) There is no mainstream lift manufacturer that produces 100% Australian-made lifts, as confirmed by our lift consultant.

No 5 – Supplementary Question

(5) Can you please provide the timetable for the refurbishment of the Special Constables facilities including the Control Room, lockers and bathrooms?

Answer:

As mentioned in the hearing, refurbishment works are due to commence this financial year on Level 5 and will include:

- Creation of a new lift lobby and associated store.
- Refurbishment of the breakout space, including new cabinetry, flooring, wall finishes, ceiling, lighting, appliances, and furniture.
- New ceiling, lighting, flooring, and wall finishes throughout the common area corridors.

The complete refurbishment of the Special Constables' Control Room, lockers, and bathrooms is included in our Capital Investment Plan as part of future works. However, the timeframe for these upgrades is yet to be determined and will depend in part on what is discovered in this first phase of work.

While the current works are underway, we will explore opportunities to refresh or tidy up aspects of the Constables' Control Room and change areas where feasible and will also assess the condition of those areas to inform future design work.

No 6 – Supplementary Question

(6) I'd like to recognise the support of the NSW Parliament for various sustainability initiatives, and in particular thank the President and Julie from Mark Webb's Office for their support and assistance in organising for a Vinnies bin to be placed in the library. Given the other sustainability initiatives, could Parliament look into organising a recycling option for difficult to recycle office stationery items like pens and binders?

Answer

Yes, we will look into options similar to the UNSW Stationery Reuse Centre. They recycle;

- Paper/notebooks
- Pens/pencils
- Staplers
- Calculators
- Tape
- Post-it notes
- Rulers
- Sharpeners
- Erasers
- Plastic Wallets
- Folder Dividers
- Display Folders
- Paper Clips
- Binder Clips
- Hole-punches
- Desk-trays
- File-holders

They do not recycle binders unfortunately.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

No 7 – Supplementary Question

(7) In August 2024 Budget Estimates in response to my supplementary questions regarding Parliament's website meeting compliance with digital access guidelines under the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), you advised there was an evaluation being undertaken in relation to this. What is the progress of this?

(a) How compliant is the website?

(b) Have you evaluated this against each of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)?

Answer:

(7) An accessibility evaluation of the main Parliament website's content was completed in late August 2024. Through a combination of automated and manual testing, the website's navigation, pages, and content were assessed to determine how well they met the needs of visitors with accessibility requirements.

(a) Automated testing reports indicate that the current website meets 71.14% of WCAG AA compliance standards.

To improve this score, we have identified key areas for enhancement, including modernising the web publishing system and refining the website's fundamental design. Additionally, we are focusing on ensuring that all published content adheres to accessibility best practices and reviewing tools and training to support content managers with uplifting and maintaining our compliance.

(b) The evaluation criteria aims to meet the current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) at level AA.

No 8 – Supplementary Question

(8) What work is currently underway in relation to making the public galleries of both the LA and LC chambers accessible?

Answer:

(8) Investigations and preliminary concepts for providing access to the public galleries are well developed. At this stage, NSW Treasury has only provided funding for this initial phase. Any construction costs will be subject to the final design and will require additional funding from NSW Treasury.

No 9 – Supplementary Question

(9) Of the funding from the 2024-25 Budget allocated for Parliament's accessibility upgrades, how much has been spent to date, and how much has yet to be delivered?

Answer:

(9) The budget for the Parliament of NSW Urgent Disability Access works for FY2024-2025 was \$4,158,000. To date, \$2,384,000 has been spent, with a remaining forecast of \$26,000 for the current financial year. An additional \$1,800,000 has been requested to be carried forward into future financial years for the construction of the Level 9 Garden accessibility solution.

This funding covers the Level 2 recreational accessibility improvements, the provision of an accessibility solution for the Level 9 Garden, and investigations into potential accessibility solutions for the Chamber's public galleries.

No 10 – Supplementary Question

(10) Can you provide an update in relation to accessibility works at the entry and exit from Macquarie Street, specifically in relation to improving access to the security entrance which is still inaccessible for wheelchair users?

Answer:

(10) Funding totalling \$7M was approved by NSW Treasury over three financial years for the Macquarie Street Accessibility Project (Gatehouse and Exit). The architectural services tender is currently in the process of being conducted.

This is a multi-year project, and the current schedule is as follows:

FY24/25: Engagement of architectural services and consultative concept design process.

FY25/26: Preparation of construction documentation, NSW Heritage application.

FY26/27: Construction planned for the major parliamentary state election period (Dec 2026 – April 2027) to minimise disruption to the Parliament during the works.

No 11 – Supplementary Question

(11) Can you provide an update in relation to the accessibility upgrades being undertaken at the Level 9 garden?

Answer:

(11) A detailed analysis has been undertaken over the last quarter, reviewing the structural integrity, building services, and constructability of all access solutions, with a particular focus on creating a ramp between the Tower Building and Fountain Court Building. The outcome of this analysis indicates that the construction of any ramp will be highly disruptive to Parliament operations and presents significant engineering complexity.

The current status is that the construction of the access solution cannot be progressed until the next parliamentary break (2026–2027) at the earliest to minimise disruption to Parliament operations. Further investigation into the design and constructability of the access solution will be continued next financial year with the aim of finding options to overcome the significant engineering risks that have been identified so far or seek alternatives that do not incur such risks.

No 12 – Supplementary Question

(12) What work is currently underway in relation to ensuring wheelchair accessible entrances are actually accessible, not locked and not obstructed at all times?

Answer:

(12) The continued promotion of keeping pathways clear of obstacles is part of regular housekeeping operations throughout the parliamentary complex.

No 13 – Supplementary Question

(13) Are you requesting additional funding for any specific projects or upgrades ahead of the 2025-26 Budget?

Answer:

(13) Subject to agreement, the aim is to seek funding for the construction of the access solution to the Chambers' public galleries, with the proposed construction to be undertaken during the next parliamentary break (2026–2027)

No 14 – Supplementary Question

(14) Given that NSW Parliament's current DIAP is dated from 2022 to 2024, when will an updated DIAP be delivered?

(a) Has the Disability Inclusion Action Plan Steering Committee conducted a review and evaluation of the current DIAP in relation to NSW Parliament's progress in achieving its outcomes, actions and goals?

(b) Which outcomes, actions and goals have been fulfilled, and which have not?

Answer:

(14) The goal is to complete the update within the next 12 months.

(a) As part of updating the plan, executive personnel responsible for their specific areas have consulted and discussed their progress. This progress has been communicated to the Disability Inclusion Network Group.

(b) Significant progress has been made on the four (4) key outcomes of the current Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP):

1. Attitudes & Behaviours – Five actions, with four completed and one at 75% complete.
2. Liveable Communities – Two actions, with one completed and one at 60% complete.
3. Employment – Two actions, with one completed and one at 60% complete.
4. Systems & Processes – Five actions, with four completed and one 50% complete.

No 15 – Supplementary Question

(15) How many times has the Disability Inclusion Action Plan Steering Committee met in this term of parliament?

Answer:

(15) The Disability Inclusion Network Group is well represented by key stakeholders across the parliamentary community. Since the commencement of the 58th Parliament on 7th May 2023, the group has met on 12 occasions. Representatives of executive personnel responsible for actions under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan have participated in these group meetings.

No 16 – Supplementary Question

(16) Please provide a breakdown of the number of security passes currently on issue by category, including details of any access restrictions applicable.

Answer:

We cannot provide this information in a public forum for security reasons.

No 17 – Supplementary Question

(17) I have raised with you previously in Budget Estimates the lack of women's toilets in the building, and particularly the need to consider the timing of parliamentary sittings and committee hearings, and how that impacts on demand at particular times of the day. Despite assurances, the experience is of continued pressure on women's bathroom facilities, particularly at peak times. In relation to Level 11, although having more LC women elected and more women working as staff is a very welcome development, it does mean that the 4 cubicles available are insufficient to accommodate us all, and women from Level 11 going to other floors is often not possible due to lack of availability on those levels too. What is being done to increase the number of cubicles women have access to on Lvl 11, particularly given the lack of availability of women's cubicles on other floors?

Answer:

The Department is sympathetic to the situation on Level 11, particularly women's toilets at the southern end. As noted, this building was built 45 years ago when there was a very different demographic. While changes have been made over the years, we have reached the point where the physical limitations of space have made it difficult to quickly or easily make further changes.

After this was last raised in 2023, DPS engaged consultants to undertake a Sanitary Facility Audit of the precinct. This report identified that Level 11 does meet building code for peak days, but highlights other floors such as 7 and 8 where we have a shortfall. While there are equal numbers of male/female members in the southern end level 11, we acknowledge the findings of the report do not reflect the reported experience of some members.

Other options have been explored. For instance, the northern end of Level 11 has had changes which introduced an accessible unisex bathroom, but at the cost of one shower. If the same was completed for the southern end, this would result in one additional unisex toilet, at the loss of one shower. Another option would be to convert one of the existing bathrooms to a unisex facility.

As any changes to the makeup of facilities on level 11 would impact everyone who works on the level, we would need to launch a consultation process on potential options. Funding would then need to be sourced once a preferred solution had been identified.

No 18 – Supplementary Question

(18) How much did it cost to enable the Legislative Council and then the Legislative Assembly to sit late on 20 February 2025, including expenses for parliamentary staff and other additional extra resources required?

Answer:

The sitting day of Thursday 20 February 2025 concluded at 4.00 am on the morning of Friday 21 February 2025. The late sitting night was to enable the House to consider three Government crime bills. The Legislative Assembly subsequently sat at approximately 4.00 am for 15 minutes to agree to Council amendments to one of the bills.

The expense associated with a late sitting night is almost entirely down to employee salaries, coupled with small building running costs.

Legislative Council Salary Expenses:

As is usual on such occasions, the Department of the Legislative Council took steps to manage the workload on the evening of Thursday 20 February 2024. At 10.00 pm, a cohort of staff went home, to be available for the next day. In total 11 staff from the Clerk's Office, the Procedure Office and the Office of the Black Rod (including Chamber and Support) remained until the end of the sitting.

Staff at the Clerk Grade 9/10 level and above are paid a "sessional allowance" when they work back after 8.00 pm, regardless of the time the House rises. This is the case even if the House rises at 4.00 am. So there was no additional cost to the Department of the Legislative Council associated with the work of 6 staff that evening.

For the five staff at the Clerk Grade 7/8 level and below who remained, it is reasonable to calculate their additional staffing costs on the night as the cost of paying them overtime from 10.00 pm (when they might normally have expected to have finished) until 4:00 am.

Allowing that these five officers worked six hours overtime at double time rates from 10.00 pm to 4.00, the total cost of these staff to the Department of the Legislative Council was \$3,470.28.

Legislative Assembly Salary Expenses:

We are unable to provide information in relation to the Legislative Assembly.

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DPS Salary Expenses:

The cost to DPS to sit late on 20 February 2025 was \$9,785. The details are outlined in the table below.

Note: This has been prepared on the basis that "to sit late" includes additional costs after 10:30pm.

Item	AVB	Hansard	Catering	People, Property & Security	IT Services	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Cost of staff for additional time of sitting						
DPS	3,740	-	460	2,212	1,227	7,639
Casual	-	267	-	-	-	267
2. Cost of travel due to late sitting (Note: Taxi fares are not included if already required)						-
DPS	-	-	-	-	53	53
3. Cost of payments to casual staff booked for Friday 21 Feb for late cancellation due to extended sitting						-
Cancelled shifts	1,360	465	-	-	-	1,825
TOTAL cost to sit late on 20 February 2025	5,100	732	460	2,212	1,280	\$ 9,785