

#	Supplementary Question	Response
1	<p>When is the raising of Ginidgera Weir scheduled to be completed?</p> <p>(a) Is it on track?</p> <p>(b) When is the review of the environmental factors expected to be completed?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>WaterNSW is assessing the feasibility of progressing a business case to raise Gunidgera Weir on the Namoi River by close to 50cm (470mm) to improve water delivery in the Gunidgera-Pian system in the Namoi valley.</p> <p>The intent of this project is to allow more water to be released through the Gunidgera-Pian system while also limiting environmental impacts. The intent is to improve WaterNSW's ability to meet customers' water needs in times of peak demand and also provide erosion protection.</p> <p>WaterNSW is currently developing a business case and revised Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the project. This will consider the costs and benefits of the project to customers and the environment, and whether an investment decision should be made.</p> <p>Construction will not commence unless the business case is approved, following completion of environmental assessments and engagement with key stakeholders.</p>
2	<p>Please provide a list of all NSW water sold to the Australian Government since 22 May 2022, including: WAL Number, volume, consideration, the program they were acquired under.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Questions about the specific programs should be directed to the Australian Government, noting that a number of the transactions in 2022-23 are likely to result from efficiency programs in the Murrumbidgee.</p>
3	<p>The Water Management Amendment (Water Access Licence Register Reform) Bill 2024 was passed on 15 October 2024. It contained the amendment of the Water Management Act 2000 No 92 to include after section 123(5):</p> <p>— (5A) <i>It is a condition of an operating licence that an irrigation corporation must be a member of a dispute resolution organisation prescribed by the regulations.</i></p> <p>(a) Which organisation is the dispute resolution organisation for the Irrigation Corporations?</p> <p>(b) Have the operating licences of any Irrigation Corporations</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Options analysis indicates that the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) is likely to be the most appropriate dispute resolution organisation for Irrigation Corporations. The department has engaged with EWON to define the scope of complaints, type of customers and associated costs if EWON's jurisdiction is expanded to include irrigation corporations. Significant work is required by the department and EWON to establish EWON for this purpose.</p> <p>Amendment of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 is required to prescribe the dispute resolution organisation.</p>

	<p>been amended to include the condition that the irrigation corporation must be a member of a dispute resolution organisation prescribed by the regulations?</p> <p>i. If not, when are the operating licences expected to be amended?</p> <p>ii. If so, which Irrigation Corporations have become members of a dispute resolution organisation prescribed by the regulations?</p>	<p>Governor proclamation and gazettal is required to amend irrigation corporation operating licences to give effect to this section of the bill.</p> <p>This work will be progressed throughout 2025.</p>
4	<p>There have been many complaints about Irrigation Companies. Will the dispute resolution organisation have the ability to address all of these complaints, including, irrigation Companies:</p> <p>(a) taking or borrowing water from customer accounts, without authorisation,</p> <p>(b) inflating water charges to customers,</p> <p>(c) threatening to withhold water delivery to customers,</p> <p>(d) issuing delivery shares inequitably, inconsistently and without transparency, and</p> <p>(e) using their information asymmetry in the water market in a way that could be considered insider trading.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>That this detail will be determined through discussions with EWON throughout 2025.</p>
5	<p>The Government recently assessed that irrigation extractions exceeded allowable valley limits in the New South Wales Border Rivers, the Gwydir and the Namoi. In response, it reduced the potential long-term average of floodplain harvesting in the New South Wales Border Rivers and the Gwydir; and it reduced the 2023/24 Supplementary allocations in the Lower Namoi. Why did the Government adopt a different approach to manage valley limits in the NSW Border Rivers and Gwydir valleys compared to the Namoi valley?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In all three valleys a consistent approach has been adopted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floodplain harvesting licences are designed to address growth in floodplain harvesting to the extent required by the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 - Water sharing plan provisions are followed if action is required due to non-compliance with extraction limits. <p>In all three valleys, the water sharing plans specified that prior to the commencement of floodplain harvesting licences that supplementary access available water determinations (AWDs) are to be reduced where action is required due to non-compliance with extraction limits. The department reduced these AWDs for the Border Rivers and Gwydir in 2021/22 and 2022/23 prior to</p>

		the commencement of floodplain harvesting licences mid-August 2022. There is currently a reduced AWD for supplementary take still in place for the Namoi to address growth in use, where FPH licences are yet to be issued.
6	<p>In calculating the Annual Permitted Take, is there a statutory requirement to use the model used to determine the Baseline Diversion Limit or the Sustainable Diversion Limit?</p> <p>(a) Can the Annual Permitted Take be calculated without using the model used to determine the Baseline Diversion Limit or the Sustainable Diversion Limit?</p> <p>(b) Is the Annual Permitted Take calculated without using the model used to determine the Baseline Diversion Limit or the Sustainable Diversion Limit?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Basin Plan requires that the method to calculate permitted take is shown to be compliant with the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) over a long-term period (see section 10.10). The Water Resource Plans set out this method as described below.</p> <p>a) No. The SDL compliance assessment method uses models for the Barwon-Darling and all inland regulated rivers. The method uses results from two models: the Baseline Diversion Limit (BDL) and the Annual Permitted Take (APT). There is no SDL model. The SDL is calculated by taking the long-term average take from the BDL model and subtracting required recovery, as set out in the Basin Plan. The APT model is meant to represent current conditions as much as feasible so that the water use patterns best reflects current rules and water user behaviour. The method is required to show that over the long-term, permitted take will be compliant with the SDL. The accredited water resource plans specify a scaling method to achieve this.</p> <p>b) No. The BDL model is used to calculate SDL and this is used to derive a scaling factor. This factor is applied to the results from the APT model to determine the annual permitted take.</p>
7	<p>With regards to the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales Inc v Ministers for Water, Property and Housing and Minister for Energy and Environment:</p> <p>(a) Please provide the list of documents made available through the discovery process.</p> <p>(b) Please provide the documents that were made available through the discovery process?</p> <p>(c) What were the settlement terms in that case?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Court did not order discovery in these proceedings.</p> <p>The proceedings were discontinued by the Nature Conservation Council on the basis that each party pay its own costs.</p> <p>Minister Jackson and Minister Sharpe wrote to the Nature Conservation Council setting out ongoing actions and commitments to deal with climate change in the context of water sharing and issued a joint media statement prior to the proceedings being discontinued.</p>

8	<p>With regards to Phelps and Ors v Minister Administering the Water Management Act 2000:</p> <p>(a) Please provide the list of documents made available through the discovery process.</p> <p>(b) Please provide the documents that were made available through the discovery process?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Court did not order discovery in these proceedings.</p>
9	<p>Can a regulated or unregulated river access license take overland flow water from a declared floodplain?</p> <p>(a) If so, what is the enabling provision/s or condition/s to allow this?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> defines overland flow (including floodwater, rainfall run-off and urban stormwater) as water that is flowing over or lying on the ground as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rain or any other kinds of precipitation - Rising to the surface from underground - Any other process or action of a kind prescribed by the regulations. <p>Take of overland flow is only permitted in accordance with a water access licence or under an exemption.</p> <p>Floodplain harvesting access licence both regulated and unregulated authorise the take of overland flow, subject to conditions.</p> <p>Regulated river access licences (other than a floodplain harvesting category) do not permit the take of overland flow and only permit the take of water from within the bed and banks of the relevant water source.</p> <p>However, overland flow can be taken under an unregulated river access licence as the water source is not restricted to within the bed and banks.</p> <p>To ensure this type of water take is accurately measured, the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 was amended on the 7 March 2025 to impose the floodplain harvesting measurement conditions on works used to take overland flow from a declared floodplain.</p>

10	<p>On 10 January 2025, a Question on Notice to the Water Minister on the most recent Baseline Diversion Limit modelling for rivers asked for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) average winter crop area (hectares), (b) average summer crop area (hectares), (c) average total crop area (hectares), and (d) average evaporation (megalitres) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. on-farm-storages, and ii. on-farm channels. (e) An answer was received on 3 February 2025 relating to the Border Rivers, Gwydir and Macquarie water sources. However, no answer was provided for the Namoi and Barwon-Darling water sources. Why was the information requested for the Namoi and the Barwon-Darling not provided? (f) In relation to the most recent Baseline Diversion Limit modelling for the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Source, and the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Source, could you please list by river reach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. average winter crop area (hectares)? ii. average summer crop area (hectares)? iii. average total crop area (hectares)? iv. average evaporation (megalitres) from on-farm-storages? 	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The information for the Namoi and the Barwon Darling valleys were not extracted in the original timeframe. The data for the Namoi and Barwon Darling Valleys is at attachment 'Supplementary Question 10'.</p>
11	<p>With regards to the Economic analysis of the influence of the timing and productivity of water by The Centre for International Economics, (August 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Please provide the Terms of Reference. (b) What was the source for the average area under irrigation? (c) Was the analysis conducted consistently with Treasury guidelines to undertake a cost-benefit analysis? (d) Why did the analysis not include the benefit of increased flows on other people: Aboriginal communities, downstream water irrigators, riparian landholders, and river towns; and 	<p>I am advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A terms of reference was not used in the engagement of the Centre for International Economics. The Centre for International Economics was engaged through a request for quote process. b) The average area under irrigation is an output of the hydrological planning models used to represent the application and effects of the options recommended by the Connectivity expert panel c) The analysis being undertaken by Centre for Economics (CIE) is one component of the socio-economic analysis being conducted to assess options recommended by the Connectivity Expert Panel. The department is also undertaking analysis of other costs and benefits (e.g. environmental and regional economic

	other industries: like inland fishing, tourism and floodplain grazing?	consequences). The various costs and benefits will be brought together into a Treasury-compliant socio-economic analysis (noting that not all costs and benefits will be able to be monetised). d) We will consider whether there are likely to be benefits for these uses, including through co-designed Aboriginal consultation. Material benefits will be incorporated into the analysis, either qualitatively or quantitatively.
12	When will the Government respond to the Connectivity Expert Panel Report?	I am advised: Before any decisions are made the Government will conduct comprehensive hydrologic and economic analyses of the panel's recommendations to fully understand the potential benefits and impacts. This is expected to be completed by mid-2025. Results will be released after my consideration and key stakeholders consulted to discuss findings and seek their input. This analysis and consultation will inform the next steps that government will take, including any amendments to water sharing plans.
13	Will the government respond to each of the 24 recommendations made in the Connectivity Expert Panel Report?	I am advised: Following the completion of analysis and consultation of the panel's proposed flow targets, the Government will release 'pathway to improved northern basin connectivity' which will outline the next steps the government will take. The Government will not prepare a formal response to the Panel's report.
14	When will the Terms of Reference of the Interagency Connectivity Working group be made public?	I am advised: That the terms of the reference of the interagency Connectivity Working Group are now public. They can be accessed on the Northern Basin Connectivity Program web page. https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water/our-work/projects-and-programs/northern-basin-connectivity-program .
15	Is it the intention of the government that the Interagency Connectivity Working Group has a meaningful role reviewing the hydrological and socio-economic modelling, including inputs and assumptions?	I am advised: That the purpose of the interagency Connectivity Working Group to provide advice, where possible, and participate in the planning process by identifying issues and collaborating to consider options for changes to rules to improve northern Basin Connectivity. The working group has met three times since it was

		formed in February and results of the analyses are being presented and discussed with the working group
16	Will the parameters of the additional economic modelling to be done by the Department be assessed by the Interagency Connectivity Working Group?	I am advised: That the interagency working group is providing input into the development of the method to value environmental outcomes of the panel's proposed flow targets.
17	When do you anticipate key stakeholders will be consulted on the results of the hydro hydrological and socio-economic modelling, enhance and restore water sources, their associated ecosystems, ecological processes and biological diversity?	I am advised: That the Government is currently conducting comprehensive hydrologic and economic analyses of the panel's recommendations to fully understand the potential benefits and impacts. This is expected to be completed by mid-2025. Results will be released after Minister's consideration and key stakeholders consulted to discuss findings and seek their input. This analysis and consultation will inform the next steps government will take, including any amendments to water sharing plans.
18	What percentage of entitlement volumes for each coastal Extraction Management Unit (EMU) are local water utilities, and what percentage are major water utilities?	I am advised: Please refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 18'.
19	Excluding water utilities, could the Minister provide a breakdown of total water entitlement volumes grouped by pump size class, in each coastal EMU?	I am advised: Please refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 19'.
20	What is the budget for the Coastal Sustainable Extraction Project, that is expected to be implementable by December 2026?	I am advised: The Coastal Sustainable Extraction project is currently funded until 30 June 2025. The funding for the program over 2023/24 to 2024/5 totals \$1.6 million. The project is subject to the current IPART pricing determination which will confirm the budget to continue to deliver outcomes until December 2026.
21	Will the Coastal Sustainable Extraction Project consider the risks to sustainable extraction if a large percentage of pumps in individual catchments are exempt from metering?	I am advised: Decisions about the sharing of water that are implemented through water sharing plans already consider the impacts of both metered and assumed unmetered use. Estimates of unmetered use are made by considering metered use and remote sensing data. Conservative estimates (potentially over-estimating use) are used to provide environmental protection.

		The Coastal Sustainable Extraction project – to the extent that it informs future water sharing decisions and limits to extraction for coastal water sharing plans – will continue to consider both metered and unmetered extraction.
22	Local Water Utility submissions to the IPART's review of WAMC and Water NSW 2025-2030 pricing included Upper Hunter Shire who calculated increased bulk water prices would double their water delivery charges by 2029-30, Lachlan Shire an additional \$187 per household by 2029-30, and Lithgow City an 83% compound increase CPI adjusted. These increases will be passed directly onto customers. Is the Government doing anything to relieve the negative flow-on effect to regional households and economies?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets the prices that monopoly services can charge for water and wastewater services for NSW. Section 7 of the <i>Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992</i> (IPART Act) provides that the IPART's determinations and recommendations are not subject to the direction or control of the Premier. The IPART is currently conducting a number of reviews of water pricing including the prices for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) - WaterNSW regional and rural bulk water - WaterNSW Greater Sydney - Hunter Water Corporation - Sydney Water Corporation
23	Last year DCCEE Water Group tendered for a managing contractor to oversee the accelerated SDLAM projects. What were the reasons for seeking to engage a managing contractor?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The reasons for seeking to engage a managing contractor were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attract contractors with suitable capability, capacity and a desire to work collaboratively with and support the Department in delivering the SDLAM Acceleration Program - A contract size of scale to attract suitable Tier 1 and Tier 2 contractors - Supports the engagement of full-time safety, environmental, and communications resources - Simplify the stakeholder management with a single point of contact - Provide efficiencies and cost savings by having a single managing contractor manage all delivery packages - To help delivery by the required date. - Avoid competition between multiple contractors for subcontractor labour and materials
24	In late January 2025, after a tender process, DCCEE announced it would not be proceeding with the managing contractor model but would directly engage contractors in a	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The reasons for initially seeking a managing contractor still apply.</p>

	staged package of works. Do the reasons for seeking a managing contractor no longer apply?	<p>However, the tender process revealed that both shortlisted tender's submitted prices were significantly above the budget.</p> <p>After commercial negotiations with the preferred tenderer, their final proposal was deemed as not providing a Value for Money proposition for NSW.</p> <p>As a result, the Department developed and implemented a revised strategy in November 2024, to self-manage the project.</p>
25	<p>What work was not done in relation to the program pending engagement of a managing contractor?</p> <p>(a) Is it possible to quantify the length of time in days, weeks or months between the decision to pursue the managing contractor model and abandoning the tender?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Managing Contractor process did not halt or delay DCCEEW proceeding with developing the work packages. Work continued during the Managing Contractor process to plan the work, develop designs, attain approvals, work with landholders and ready the program for construction.</p> <p>a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EOI was issued on 9 April 2024 - Six (6) EOIs were received by the EOI closing date of 10 May 2024 - Tenders were released to two (2) shortlisted Tenders on 19 June 2024 - Both Tenderers submitted tenders by 1 October 2024 - The preferred tender was identified on 16 October 2024 - Final negotiations occurred in late October and early November 2024 - The Department formally decided not to proceed with the managing contractor model in November 2024.
26	How many additional staff has or will DCCEEW employ to engage and manage contractors for these works?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Department has estimated that an additional 20 internal staff members will be required to manage delivery of the program.</p> <p>These roles will be temporary for the delivery of the SDLAM Acceleration Program.</p>
27	How many additional staff will be located in the Riverina, Murray, or other regions where the works will be undertaken?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>An estimated 300 jobs will be generated due to the resource requirements to deliver the SDLAM Acceleration Program.</p> <p>DCCEEW is engaging with local industry, contractors and suppliers to deliver the</p>

		<p>projects.</p> <p>Direct resources required include project managers, engineers, site supervisors, and site labour. Indirectly, contractor staff and site management support will also be required.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the delivery program will result in there being multiple active sites concurrently. At its peak, the schedule requires 30 active construction sites at one time.</p> <p>In addition, a range of direct construction supplies and services will be needed, as well as other indirect supplies and services.</p>
28	In PC2 hearing on 14 March, Roch Cheroux advised that Sydney Water submitted its annual report, including a \$440.8 million differed tax adjustment to the Minister by the November deadline. Why was the Report not released until 25 February?	<p>I am advised: The 2023-24 Sydney Water Annual Report was released upon tabling to the NSW Legislative Council on 10 February 2025.</p> <p>https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/taledpapers/Pages/taled-paper-details.aspx?pk=190318&houseCode=UH</p>
29	Did the \$440.8 million accounting error or delay in releasing the annual report play a part in IPART's decision to defer its 2025-2030 pricing determination for Sydney Water by three months?	<p>I am advised: This is a matter for the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.</p>
30	The reporting error appeared in Sydney Water's submission to the 2023-2024 half yearly review. Was Sydney Water's balance sheet out by \$440.8 million when it prepared its 2025-2030 pricing proposal for IPART?	<p>I am advised: No.</p>
31	Sydney Water is proposing to increase customer bills by 18% next year and 7% annually for the next four years, plus inflation. Will correcting the accounting error have either upward or downward pressure on these proposed increases?	<p>I am advised: No.</p>
32	In Supplementary Questions in September, the Government said it would consider the implications for local water utilities of new PFAS thresholds anticipated in the Australian Drinking	<p>I am advised: The NSW agencies of DCCEE Water, NSW Health, WaterNSW, and EPA have commenced a bore water screening program to support council's that have</p>

	<p>Water Guidelines once more detail on changes became available. The NHMRC released proposed changes in October with final guidance coming in April. What work is the Government now doing to scope the investment required in local water utilities?</p>	<p>identified PFAS above proposed guideline values in their groundwater.</p> <p>This program includes groundwater bore testing across a wider geographic area in each town to try and identify possible sources of PFAS and support technical options analysis of alternative locations for new town water supply bores in efforts for town water supplies to meet drinking water guidelines.</p> <p>The four councils supported in this sampling program, and their relevant townships, are: Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (Bungendore), Gwydir Shire Council (Warialda), Riverina Water County Council (Tarcutta) and Narrabri Shire Council (Narrabri township).</p> <p>They were identified during 2024 through statewide testing by all 83 local water utilities as having either exceeded current PFAS drinking water guidelines or as not likely to meet proposed new guidelines.</p> <p>In each of these towns, drinking water from the reticulated supply, is being managed and is safe to consume.</p>
33	<p>Does the Government have an estimate on the additional investment in town water and sewer required to address PFAS?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Further investigation and options analysis is required to inform investment decisions. With this information cost estimates can then be prepared for investment decision. The additional testing that is underway will inform if there are alternative locations for new town water supply bores. If a new location cannot be found then treatment options will be pursued to ensure town water supplies meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.</p>
34	<p>Two of Warialda's five bores are offline due to PFAS with a third also out of service. With the Safe and Secure Water Program fully allocated out to 2028, what funding options can the Government offer Gwydir Shire Council to sink new bores outside the contamination zone?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW DCCEEW has committed to funding for Warialda to proceed with test bores to inform future water source options and funding decisions.</p>
35	<p>At Tarcutta, Riverina Water County Council spent \$20,000 in one month just on testing. Is the Government offering any financial support to local water utilities for testing?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW agencies of DCCEEW Water, NSW Health, WaterNSW, and EPA are working together to provide a bore water screening program to support council's</p>

		<p>that have identified PFAS above proposed guideline values in their groundwater.</p> <p>This program includes groundwater bore testing across a wider geographic area in each town to try and identify possible sources of PFAS and support technical options analysis of alternative locations for new town water supply bores in efforts for town water supplies to meet drinking water guidelines.</p> <p>The four councils supported in this sampling program, and their relevant townships, are: Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (Bungendore), Gwydir Shire Council (Warialda), Riverina Water County Council (Tarcutta) and Narrabri Shire Council (Narrabri township).</p>
36	To tackle the emerging PFAS issue, will the Government reconsider its decision to provide no additional funding for the Safe and Secure Water Program beyond the \$1.1 billion committed by the previous Coalition government?	<p>I am advised: The Safe and Secure Water Program is fully committed. Alternative funding sources will be considered for response to the emerging PFAS issue.</p> <p>The Government is carefully considering the recommendations of the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission's Review of <i>Alternative Funding Models for Local Water Utilities</i> (PEC Review) and the <i>Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services</i> to inform future funding decisions.</p>
37	Does the Government have a costing on the backlog of town water supply and sewerage projects across the State outside of the SOCs?	<p>I am advised: The Government does not have a list or costing of all town water supply and sewerage projects across the State. Councils are responsible for their assets. Previously, the Government developed sample project costs for projects that could be eligible under the Safe and Secure Water Program.</p>
38	Does the Government have a list of the backlog of town water and sewerage projects?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 37.</p>
39	Is the Government confident that all landholders affected by proposed prescribed wetlands attached to draft water sharing plans are aware?	<p>I am advised: Best efforts have been undertaken to publicise the exhibition of the draft water sharing plans (held between Nov 2024 to Feb 2025), and the revised approach to proposed wetland rules in March 2025, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - letters to water access licence holders - EDM (email) to all Water Group stakeholder lists

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public advertising in local print, radio and social media, - EDM on revised approach to prescribed wetlands to all Water Group stakeholder lists, updated to include all landholders that made a submission on wetlands during public exhibition - Updates at WaterNSW Customer Advisory Group meetings.
40	With the Landholder Negotiation scheme, will the Government rule out ongoing compensation payments per flow event to landholders?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Landholder Negotiation Scheme (LNS) Regulation will establish the negotiation framework to reach agreements with landholders relating to enduring changes to environmental water deliveries. The specific nature of these agreements is determined by the program or project applying the LNS.</p>
41	The Minimum Inflows Project is updating the “drought of record” to incorporate the Millennium drought and the Tinderbox drought and incorporating climate change into the method for determining available water which informs water allocations. Will this increase water security for high priority needs such as town water at the expense of water reliability for general security allocations, such as agriculture and industry?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Minimum Inflows Project is investigating changing the storage reserve when undertaking available water determinations, and any change to this reserve will affect the balance of water security between different licence classes. However, it is important to recognise that any change will require water sharing plan amendments, and the Act has a process for undertaking these amendments. This includes a phase of community consultation, allowing stakeholders to provide input to any proposed changes.</p>
42	The Office of Chief Scientist has an expert panel working on the methodology. Are DCCEEW obliged to adopt it's recommendations when they are delivered?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>DCCEEW is not obliged to adopt the expert panel's recommendations. The report will be made public and DCCEEW will outline its support or otherwise of the panel's recommendations as part of its project approach to the minimum inflows work. Any changes to water sharing plan rules is a decision for the Government following consultation with water users and the community.</p>
43	Does either the OCSE panel or DCCEEW project consider the relative risk appetites for impacts on high priority water security vs general security reliability?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>OCSE has been asked to assess the scientific validity of the department's approach to undertaking the analysis only.</p> <p>Stakeholders will be asked their views on the project including in relation to impacts on licence and entitlement holders.</p>
44	When the Department explored a similar proposal in 2013-2014, using the Lachlan as an example where the millennium drought is the worst on record, the Department found a 5 %	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>There are significant differences in approach between the analysis undertaken in 2013-2014 and the work currently underway. Whereas the previous work</p>

	long term reduction in general security allocations, a 50 % reduction in 5 % of years, and a 20 % reduction in 10 % of years. Whereas it found not using the millennium drought made an average difference for high priority extractions of 0.2 % per year, 5-8% difference in less than 5% of years, and 8% in less than 1 % of years. The Department concluded that changing the drought of record was an inappropriate balance between productive use of water and drought security, and alternative measures including improving infrastructure and alternative water sources were preferable to setting water aside in reserves. Will DCCEEW be doing the same type of assessment this time around?	considered the impact of changing to a new drought of record (as recorded during the millennium drought), this method utilises 10,000 years of paleoclimate informed stochastic data, allowing us to explore the likelihood of impacts by testing a range of storage reserves comparing the plausible past climate and droughts of record in the recent past.
45	Will the social and economic impacts of reducing the reliability of general security water entitlements be taken into consideration?	I am advised: The analysis undertaken will include an economic and environmental assessment to allow outcomes to be assessed.
46	Is the Government determined to maintain the same approach to stormwater management at the Aerotropolis development precinct as at the Mamre Road precinct? (a) Airports being giant expanses of concrete, would a similar approach to stormwater management at the Aerotropolis require vastly more land and stormwater infrastructure per hectare?	I am advised: Sydney Water has adopted learnings from the Mamre Road Precinct in developing the stormwater management plans for the Aerotropolis. Plans for Badgerys Creek and Cosgrove Creek catchments are currently on exhibition. Western Sydney International Airport is regulated under Federal Law. The NSW Government and Sydney Water are in discussions with the airport regarding alignment of stormwater management activities.
47	What actions is the NSW Government taking to address the delays in housing delivery caused by Sydney Water's inability to provide timely water and wastewater connections to growth areas?	I am advised: Sydney Water is part of the Housing Approvals Reform Action Plan with Water NSW and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water. Under this plan, Sydney Water has committed to helping developers and Water Servicing Coordinators get their applications right the first time; promoting early engagement on applications; promoting a culture of fast service and solutions focus; and delivering a new business-to-business workflow system.
48	It was previously estimated that over 54,000 lots are facing development delays due to a lack of sewer and water connections, is this still the case?	I am advised: Sydney Water remains committed to fast-tracking development approvals as part of its commitments in the Housing Approvals Reform Action Plan.

49	How many lots are being impacted by delays to development caused by Sydney Water delays?	I am advised: There are many factors that will impact whether development progresses. Sydney Water is committed to fast-tracking development approvals and ensuring infrastructure is delivered when needed to service new housing and businesses.
50	The issues with water connections by Sydney Water to the Oxford Gardens development in Ingleburn have been raised before at Budget Estimates – what is the current status of water connection to the development?	I am advised: There are no issues with water connections, the development can connect to the existing system. The matter raised in 2024 was in relation to wastewater connections – refer to Supplementary Questions 51 & 52.
51	What is the status of Sydney Water approving the temporary sewage pumping station for the Oxford Gardens development?	I am advised: The temporary pumping station was approved in September 2024.
52	If it has not occurred already, can you provide a clear timeline for when the Section 73 certificate will be issued for the Oxford Gardens development, given the significant delays and the financial impact on over 80 families?	I am advised: The Section 73 Certificate was issued in September 2024.
53	The Commonwealth's schedule was for a new National Water Agreement to be signed-off by the end of 2024. When do we anticipate an agreement will be reached?	I am advised: Timing has been impacted by the upcoming Commonwealth election so when an agreement will be reached is uncertain. NSW needs sufficient time to undertake a full and comprehensive assessment of the benefits and impacts of any new agreement and ensure that our stakeholders' concerns are thoroughly worked through before we will consider signing on. NSW has asked that the Commonwealth hold off finalising the agreement until NSW can provide its final feedback on the draft which will occur over the coming months.
54	Why was a national agreement not reached by the end of 2024 timeframe?	I am advised: A new national water agreement had not been reached by the end of 2024 as final content had not been agreed by all States and Territories. Various elections and caretaker periods in 2024 impacted timeframes. In addition,

		NSW has needed time to consider the draft agreement and consult with stakeholders
55	What consultation has the State done in relation to the National Water Agreement?	I am advised: The NSW Government led consultation with NSW stakeholders over three online workshops in February 2025 on the latest draft agreement published by the Commonwealth in December 2024.
56	Has work begun on the NSW Action Plan?	I am advised: No. Action plans will not be developed until the new agreement is finalised and signed.
57	What consultation is planned in relation to the NSW Action Plan under the National Water Agreement?	I am advised: NSW will have up to two years to develop its action plan once we have signed the agreement. The NSW Government will consult widely with NSW communities and stakeholders during its development.
58	Why has Sydney Water's debt dramatically increased under the Minns Labor Government, and how will this impact future water bills for customers?	I am advised: Sydney Water's debt has funded its increase in capital expenditure for infrastructure that enables growth and housing.
59	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has received direct instructions from the government to delay price increases to avoid political backlash?	I am advised: The NSW Government has not given any direct instructions to Sydney Water to delay price increases as we are awaiting IPART's determination.
60	How much has Sydney Water overspent on infrastructure projects, and how many have been delayed or abandoned due to budget pressures?	I am advised: Sydney Water delivers infrastructure projects under a strong framework of governance, planning, and cost control. Like all major infrastructure providers across Australia, Sydney Water has experienced pressures arising from post-COVID market conditions, including resource constraints, construction escalation, and global supply chain disruptions. These are industry-wide challenges and not unique to Sydney Water. Despite this environment, its projects are delivered within approved budgets and timeframes. Where projects have experienced cost pressures or delivery challenges, these have been transparently managed through Sydney Water's established project assurance processes, with adjustments made to scope or timing where necessary to ensure the best outcomes for its customers and the community.

		Sydney Water has not abandoned projects due to budget pressures. It continues to prioritise investments based on risk, growth, and service needs, in alignment with long-term strategic planning and regulatory approvals. Sydney Water remains committed to delivering reliable, sustainable water services, while ensuring value for money and accountability in every dollar spent.
61	Has Sydney Water been forced to absorb financial losses due to the government's mismanagement of housing and infrastructure policy?	I am advised: No.
62	Why has the government refused to allocate additional funding for Sydney Water's critical infrastructure projects, despite record population growth?	I am advised: Sydney Water's infrastructure projects are funded by its customers via bills. The amount Sydney Water charges its customers and invests in projects is determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal via its pricing determinations.
63	Can Sydney Water confirm whether investment in water security projects has been reduced due to government budget cuts?	I am advised: The amount Sydney Water invests in projects is funded through customers and subject to IPART's pricing determinations.
64	How much of Sydney Water's operational budget has been redirected to politically motivated projects?	I am advised: None.
65	Can Sydney Water confirm if it has been pressured to reduce infrastructure spending to artificially suppress price increases?	I am advised: The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal determines the maximum prices that Sydney Water can charge customers to provide water, wastewater, stormwater, and other services. It does this by examining the costs and impacts for customers.
66	How many capital works projects have been delayed or cancelled due to Minns Labor's economic mismanagement?	I am advised: No projects have been cancelled due to economic conditions. Where project schedules have been adjusted, this has been done to ensure the best outcomes for customers and the long-term interests of the community, in line with Sydney Water's regulatory obligations and investment planning processes. Sydney Water remains focused on delivering infrastructure that supports growth, protects public health and the environment, which provides value for money.

67	Why is Sydney Water being forced to borrow more money, increasing debt levels and future costs for customers?	I am advised: As a State Owned Corporation, Sydney Water borrows sufficient money to fund its cash needs.
68	Can Sydney Water guarantee that every single litre of drinking water supplied meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines without contamination issues?	I am advised: All of the drinking water Sydney Water supplies to its customers meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
69	Has Sydney Water been forced to delay or reduce testing frequency due to government funding constraints?	I am advised: No.
70	How many times in the last 12 months has Sydney Water failed to meet water quality benchmarks?	I am advised: Sydney Water has met the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines for all water supplied to customers.
71	Can Sydney Water confirm whether water quality concerns have been raised internally but not disclosed to the public?	I am advised: All drinking water supplied to customers meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Water quality reporting is included on the Sydney Water web page. No concerns have been raised internally.
72	Has the government instructed Sydney Water to downplay or withhold information about potential contamination risks?	I am advised: No.
73	Why has the government not committed to expanding desalination capacity to prevent future water shortages?	I am advised: The decision to expand the Sydney Desalination Plant is a matter currently being contemplated by the NSW Government.
74	Can Sydney Water confirm whether treatment plants are operating beyond safe capacity due to a lack of investment?	I am advised: All treatment plants are operating safely and meeting customer demand.
75	Is it true that Sydney Water does not have enough resources to respond to a major contamination event?	I am advised: No. Sydney Water maintains capability to respond to major contamination events.
76	What steps has Sydney Water taken to address the growing risk of contamination from deteriorating infrastructure?	I am advised: Sydney Water conducts regular assessment, inspection, monitoring and renewal of critical infrastructure to ensure drinking water is safe and wastewater treatment meets its operating license requirements.
77	Has the government provided Sydney Water with sufficient funding for emergency water treatment measures?	I am advised: Sydney Water's emergency project delivery process is funded from within existing budget envelopes.

78	Given the extreme weather events in recent years, has Sydney Water raised concerns with the government about water infrastructure resilience?	I am advised: Sydney Water incorporates climate and other aspects of resilience into its system planning processes and are included in its IPART pricing proposal, which is currently going through the determination process.
79	How many water main breaks have occurred in the past 12 months, and why has the leakage rate increased well beyond Sydney Water's targets?	I am advised: Between March 2024 to February 2025, 3,305 main breaks occurred. Sydney Water's leakage performance is within the upper band of the International Leakage Index benchmark and is stable. This is a constant focus at Sydney Water, to protect drinking water supplies for Sydney.
80	Can Sydney Water confirm whether service outages have increased due to a lack of maintenance investment?	I am advised: Sydney Water has achieved the operating license targets for service continuity, including for water pressure, water continuity and properties impacted by wastewater overflows.
81	Has the government forced Sydney Water to prioritise politically sensitive areas for infrastructure spending, rather than areas with the greatest need?	I am advised: No.
82	Why have pipeline maintenance budgets been reduced, leading to more leaks and system failures?	I am advised: Leaks and breaks within the water network have been stable over the last two years. Pipeline maintenance budgets have not been reduced. Sydney Water always applies internal efficiency targets to its budgets to strive to deliver the most affordable services for customers.
83	How many Sydney Water assets are operating with outdated or failing equipment?	I am advised: About 5% of assets have been identified as requiring renewal over the next five years, based on condition and performance and provides the underpinnings of Sydney Water's IPART pricing submission renewals and maintenance needs.
84	Why has Sydney Water's response time to leaks and service failures worsened under this government?	I am advised: Response times are a water saving measure based on the time between a customer reported fault and when water is turned off for high priority breaks. Our response times have been impacted by the need to balance maintaining continuity of water supply to our customers as well as extreme weather events, where resources need to be prioritised. Sydney Water is improving its response time and repair methods by investing in improved dispatch tools to optimise

		scheduling of resources and use of innovative tools to avoid the need for shutdowns to enable repairs.
85	How many pump stations are currently running at reduced capacity due to lack of maintenance?	I am advised: Nil. Sydney Water's wastewater pumping stations across its network are all equipped with standby pumps and arrangements to ensure service continuity.
86	Why have customers experienced water pressure problems in multiple suburbs, and what is being done to fix them?	I am advised: Sydney Water meets its Operating License requirements with regards to water pressure.
87	Is Sydney Water being forced to cut back on critical upgrades due to Minns Labor's failure to plan for future demand?	I am advised: The amount Sydney Water invests in projects is funded through customers and subject to IPART's pricing determinations.
88	Can Sydney Water confirm how many times raw sewage has been released into Sydney's waterways in the past year?	I am advised: There have been 502 overflows reaching waterways in dry weather in the 12 months to 28 Feb 2025, primarily due to blockages such as tree roots. The impact to the environment was managed promptly through established response and recovery mechanisms and informed to the EPA.
89	Why has Sydney Water's wastewater system recorded pollution incidents at more than double the target levels?	I am advised: Wastewater pollution incidents vary from year to year and are mainly caused by climatic conditions that impact flow and cause tree root ingress. Use of non-flushable sanitary items can increase incidents.
90	Can Sydney Water confirm whether any sewage overflows have resulted in legal action or environmental fines?	I am advised: There have not been any sewage overflows in the past 12 months which have resulted in legal action or environmental fines.
91	Has Sydney Water had to divert funds away from environmental protection measures due to government budget cuts?	I am advised: No.
92	Why has Sydney Water failed to meet sewage overflow reduction targets, causing further environmental damage?	I am advised: Wet weather overflow reduction targets outlined in Pollution Reduction Programs are addressed by long term capital projects. These projects are often delivered in stages over years, due to their complexity and cost. This means that benefits, including meeting targets, may not happen until all stages are delivered. For both dry and wet weather events, overflow reduction is not directly linked to environmental damage.

93	Is it true that Sydney Water lacks sufficient staff and resources to properly respond to pollution events?	I am advised: No.
94	How many of Sydney's beaches and rivers have been affected by sewage overflows in the past 12 months?	I am advised: Sydney Water records all known dry weather overflows that reach waterways. In the last 12 months, there were 502 dry weather overflows that reached waterways.
95	Can Sydney Water guarantee that stormwater drains in flood-prone areas are properly maintained?	I am advised: More than 90% of stormwater drains across Sydney are the responsibility of local councils, who follow the process in the NSW Government Flood Risk Management Manual. Sydney Water collaborates in this council lead process where it has stormwater assets. Sydney Water stormwater assets are maintained regularly including condition assessments, identification and removal of obstructions and structural repairs as required to ensure assets are safe and working as designed.
96	Why has the NSW Government failed to approve emergency funding for wastewater treatment infrastructure?	I am advised: Sydney Water's infrastructure projects are funded by its customers via bills. The amount Sydney Water charges its customers and invests in projects is determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal via its pricing determinations.
97	Has Sydney Water been pressured to downplay environmental concerns to protect the government's political image?	I am advised: No ministerial directions in this regard have been issued to Sydney Water Corporation under section 93A of the <i>Sydney Water Act 1994</i> .
98	Has Sydney Water received any directives from the Minns Government regarding pricing or financial reporting?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 97.
99	Has Sydney Water been instructed to delay disclosing financial difficulties to the public?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 97.
100	Has the government pressured Sydney Water to withhold information about rising costs or budget cuts?	I am advised: Information regarding financial performance and infrastructure investments of Sydney Water Corporation is available in the Sydney Water Corporation Annual Report 2023-24 and the Long-Term Capital and Operational Plan published on the Sydney Water Corporation website at http://www.sydneywater.com.au .
101	Can Sydney Water confirm if its financial forecasts have been altered to make government policy appear more successful?	I am advised: No.

102	Has Sydney Water raised concerns about government interference in contract negotiations?	I am advised: No.
103	Can Sydney Water confirm whether any projects have been stalled due to delays in government approvals?	I am advised: Sydney Water collaborates with approval agencies to progress approvals and remains focused on delivering infrastructure to support growth and protect the environment.
104	How many government ministers have intervened in Sydney Water's operational decision-making in the past year?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 97.
105	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has been forced to absorb financial losses due to bad decisions made by the government?	I am advised: No.
106	Is it true that Sydney Water has internally warned the government that current infrastructure cannot meet future population demands?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 97.
107	Has the government instructed Sydney Water to hold off announcing major project delays until after the next election?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 97.
108	Why has the government failed to provide a clear long-term funding commitment for Sydney Water's infrastructure needs?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 100.
109	How much taxpayer money has Sydney Water spent on paid media and advertising in the last 12 months, and how does this compare to the previous year?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
110	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has increased its paid advertising spend in politically sensitive periods, such as before elections or major government announcements?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
111	Why has Sydney Water spent money on brand awareness campaigns when it is a monopoly provider with no competition?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
112	How much of Sydney Water's advertising budget has been directed towards government-friendly media outlets?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
113	Has Sydney Water been instructed by the Minns Labor Government to increase or reduce advertising spend based on political considerations?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.

114	Can Sydney Water justify spending public money on glossy TV commercials instead of fixing leaking pipes and upgrading infrastructure?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
115	How much has Sydney Water spent on digital advertising across social media platforms, and what has been the direct benefit to customers?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
116	What proportion of Sydney Water's advertising budget is spent on social media influencers, and why is this necessary for a state-owned monopoly?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
117	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has used behavioural advertising techniques to push government messaging under the guise of public service announcements?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
118	How many paid media campaigns have been focused on reputation management for Sydney Water rather than delivering actual customer benefits?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
119	Has Sydney Water used taxpayer funds to run any campaigns that align with the Minns Labor Government's broader political agenda?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
120	How much has Sydney Water spent on paid search advertising, and why is a state-owned corporation bidding on Google keywords when it has no competitors?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
121	Can Sydney Water confirm whether any of its paid media strategies have been designed to counteract negative news coverage of infrastructure failures or service complaints?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
122	Has Sydney Water allocated advertising spend towards politically convenient messages, such as sustainability, while failing to meet its own environmental targets?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
123	Why is Sydney Water running expensive brand-building campaigns rather than focusing on service delivery and reducing customer complaints?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
124	How much taxpayer money has been spent on focus groups, market research, and A/B testing for Sydney Water's advertising campaigns?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.

125	Can Sydney Water provide a breakdown of how much has been spent on creative agencies, media buying, and production costs for its recent advertising campaigns?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
126	Has Sydney Water engaged in native advertising or sponsored content to shape media narratives in favour of the government?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
127	Can Sydney Water confirm whether any of its paid media campaigns have been influenced by ministerial direction?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
128	Has Sydney Water used taxpayer funds to run media training sessions for executives to manage bad publicity instead of focusing on fixing infrastructure problems?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
129	How many paid media campaigns by Sydney Water have been aimed at managing public perception of rising water prices rather than addressing cost-of-living concerns?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
130	Can Sydney Water confirm whether any of its advertising contracts were awarded to agencies with links to Labor-aligned strategists or media figures?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
131	Why has Sydney Water allocated funding to high-end print magazine advertising when its customer base is entirely residential and commercial consumers?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
132	How much taxpayer money has been spent on ad placements in sports sponsorships, and what is the measurable return on investment for ratepayers?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
133	Has Sydney Water conducted any internal audits to ensure advertising spend is being used effectively rather than to promote the government's political interests?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
134	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has ever coordinated its advertising calendar with the Premier's Office or any other government department?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
135	How much of Sydney Water's advertising budget is dedicated to crisis management rather than service improvement initiatives?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.

136	Why is Sydney Water running paid social media campaigns promoting itself when customers have no alternative providers?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
137	Has Sydney Water used paid advertising to downplay or distract from major service failures, such as water contamination or infrastructure delays?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
138	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has received any directives to shift advertising spend towards certain media platforms for political reasons?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
139	Why is taxpayer money being used for paid advertising by Sydney Water when every household in Sydney has no choice but to use its services?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
140	How much taxpayer money has Sydney Water spent on digital advertising across social media platforms, search engines, and online publications in the last 12 months?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
141	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has used **programmatic advertising** to target specific demographics, and if so, what data sources were used to justify this spend?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
142	Has Sydney Water purchased **Google AdWords or paid search placements** , and if so, why is a state-owned monopoly bidding on search terms with no competitors?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
143	Can Sydney Water provide a **full breakdown of its digital advertising spending** by platform, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, YouTube, and other paid media channels?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
144	How much taxpayer money has been spent on **sponsored content and native advertising** in online media outlets, and why is Sydney Water paying for editorial-style promotions?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
145	Has Sydney Water engaged **third-party digital marketing agencies** for paid media campaigns,, and what is the total cost of these contracts?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.

146	Has Sydney Water conducted **A/B testing on digital ad messaging**, and if so, what were the objectives, key findings, and total costs involved?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
147	Can Sydney Water confirm whether its **retargeting and behavioural tracking** strategies involve collecting customer data, and how this aligns with privacy regulations?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
148	Has Sydney Water allocated digital advertising spend **towards crisis management messaging**, and if so, what were the circumstances and total expenditure?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
149	How much has Sydney Water spent on **video advertising campaigns** on YouTube and other streaming platforms, and what evidence exists to show this benefited customers?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
150	Has Sydney Water **manipulated ad targeting parameters** to focus digital advertising on electorates that are politically sensitive to the Minns Labor Government?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
151	Can Sydney Water confirm whether **it has worked with government departments** to align digital media campaign timing with broader government messaging?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
152	Has Sydney Water run **any paid digital campaigns** aimed at counteracting negative press or criticism rather than providing genuine service information?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
153	How much has Sydney Water spent on **influencer partnerships** and social media collaborations, and what metrics were used to assess the effectiveness of this spend?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
154	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has **used paid digital advertising to amplify certain political narratives**, such as sustainability efforts, while failing to meet environmental targets?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
155	Why has Sydney Water engaged in **paid Facebook and Instagram ad campaigns** when its customers have no alternative provider?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.

156	How much of Sydney Water's digital advertising budget has been spent on **TikTok and other youth-targeted platforms**, and what is the justification for this expenditure?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
157	Has Sydney Water used **geo-targeting techniques** in its digital ads to prioritise messaging in electorates of political interest?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
158	Has Sydney Water's digital advertising included **email marketing campaigns with paid promotional boosts**, and if so, what was the return on investment?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
159	Can Sydney Water confirm whether it has conducted **internal reviews or audits** on the effectiveness of its digital advertising spend, and if so, what were the findings?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
160	How much has Sydney Water spent on **artificial intelligence-driven ad placements**, and has it assessed whether AI-driven campaigns provided value for money?	I am advised: I refer the Member to the answer provided to the Legislative Council Question on Notice 3375.
161	What support is available for carers to better look after their mental health and build social connections to improve their mental health and wellbeing?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW Health funds the NSW Family and Carer Mental Health Program, and the peak representative body Mental Health Carers NSW. Both provide specific services for carers, including young carers, such as online resources, targeted information sessions, advocacy, and education workshops. The Family and Carer Mental Health Program also provides one-on-one support as required.</p> <p>NSW Health has an action in the NSW Carers Strategy: Caring in New South Wales 2020–2030 Third Action Plan 2025–2026 to implement the NSW Health Recognition and Support for Carers: Key Directions 2024–2028 statewide actions. The actions outline indicators of success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key direction 1: NSW Health will recognise, respect and empower carers as partners in patients' care - Key Direction 2: NSW Health will support patients who are carers to have better health and wellbeing - Key Direction 3: NSW Health will support its employees who are carers - Key Direction 4: The NSW health system will enable support for carers.

		<p>The NSW Family Focused Recovery Framework 2020-2025 recognises the caring role that many children and young people play in supporting a parent with a mental illness and notes the potential impact on children's outcomes as well as the importance of identifying and supporting young carers.</p> <p>Actions in the Framework are designed to improve the outcomes for families, including young carers, by expanding the family focused aspect of person-centred assessment, treatment and support.</p>
162	What is your government doing to support young carers and their mental wellbeing?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 161.</p>
163	<p>Minister, how many FTE staff specialist psychiatrists held permanent positions with NSW Health as at:</p> <p>(a) 28 December 2024?</p> <p>(b) 22 February 2025?</p> <p>(c) 1 February 2025?</p> <p>(d) 14 March 2025?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please see attachment 'Supplementary Question 163'.</p>
164	<p>How many Locums or VMOs were employed by NSW Health as at:</p> <p>(a) 28 December 2024?</p> <p>(b) 1 February 2025?</p> <p>(c) 14 March 2025?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please see attachment 'Supplementary Question 164'.</p>
165	What has been the total cost to date of hiring locums and VMOs to fill vacancies created by the resignation of staff specialist psychiatrists since 22 January 2025?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The total cost of hiring locums and VMOs to fill vacancies will not be available until the end of the financial reporting period when all invoices have been submitted for payment and reconciled.</p>
166	How many staff specialist psychiatrists who have resigned on or since 22 January 2025 have since been engaged as locums or VMOs by NSW Health?	<p>I'm advised:</p> <p>72 staff specialists have taken leave without pay from their staff specialist position and been engaged as VMOs.</p> <p>No staff specialists who have resigned have been appointed as locums.</p>
167	What is the government's plan to build back its psychiatric workforce?	<p>I'm advised:</p> <p>NSW Health has undertaken a range of initiatives which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An overseas recruitment campaign for psychiatry after the commencement of

		<p>the expedited specialist pathway which targets internationally qualified psychiatrists who are suitable for the expedited specialist pathway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the NSW Health Psychiatry Medical Workforce Action Plan developed in 2024 in partnership with psychiatrists and unions to address issues relating to psychiatrist support, training and leadership (from phase 3 training to junior consultants), workforce distribution and workplace reform (including reviewing on call work) - Funding additional psychiatry prevocational medical positions, to increase the exposure of junior doctors to psychiatry before they make career training decisions.
168	What is the cost per week for public mental health patients to be relocated to private hospitals including the cost of the private psychiatrist whom they are admitted under?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the response to questions taken on notice on page 39 of the transcript, which advised that, from time to time, NSW Health enters into contracts with private providers to purchase services, including mental health. Contracts are a local agreement between local health districts and providers. The terms of these agreements are commercial in confidence.</p>
169	What is the sessional rate for senior VMOs employed by NSW Health?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Staff specialists and VMOs are difficult to compare due to the very nature of the relevant industrial arrangements. Staff specialists are employees on an annualised salary, whereas VMOs are contractors, paid an hourly rate. Rights to paid leave, superannuation requirements and other difference in remuneration exist. It is not possible to undertake a like-for-like hourly comparison.</p> <p>A high-level comparison of the total cost of a senior staff specialist versus the total cost of senior sessional VMO has been undertaken. It is based on productive time to take account for paid leave. The difference is approximately 13%. This figure is indicative only given the fundamental difference in the two industrial arrangements.</p>
170	What is the hourly rate of a senior staff specialist psychiatrist?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 169.</p>
171	What is the percentage more that VMOs are paid?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 169.</p>

172	<p>The budget papers in 2024-2025 state that a \$111.8 million package was announced to support community mental health and wellbeing by increasing the essential services available to people across NSW. Has this funding been utilised in paying locums in resulting from the psychiatrist resignations?</p>	<p>I'm advised: The NSW Government is investing \$30.4 million to expand Community Mental Health Teams across targeted areas, including in regional NSW. These teams work within local health districts and specialty health networks caring for those who experience persistent and complex mental illnesses. This funding will provide a workforce boost of approximately 35 additional mental health positions, which will support community outreach, allow for extended hours of service and enable more comprehensive case management.</p> <p>The NSW Government is also delivering \$40 million for the Pathways to Community Living Initiative, which is focused on supporting alternatives to long-term hospital care for people with complex needs, who have persistent mental illness. This will fund a complex care clinical workforce of over 25 professionals who will support patients through this program.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW Government is investing an additional \$39 million to strengthen mental health services by establishing a new Mental Health Single Front Door. The NSW Single Front Door, delivered through Healthdirect, currently provides virtual GP, virtual KIDS and Urgent Care Services. Following this investment, this service will expand to include mental health support, allowing those in need to call Healthdirect to receive assessment advice from specialist clinicians and be connected with the appropriate services.</p> <p>The Mental Health Review Tribunal will receive an additional \$2.4 million to enable a digitisation of records, an upgrade to IT systems and an investment in a new case management system. These improvements will support the Tribunal to meet the continued growth in patients and hearings</p>
173	<p>How many mental health-related emergency department presentations were there during:</p> <p>(a) December 2024 (b) January 2025 (c) February 2025 (d) March 2025</p>	<p>I am advised: Internal NSW Health data shows:</p> <p>The number of mental health and self-harm related presentations to emergency departments were: - 11,256 in December 2024</p>

		<p>- 11,296 in January 2025 - 10,322 in February 2025 - 7,824 in March 2025, up to 22 March.</p> <p>Between 1 December 2024 and 22 March 2025, around 2,200 of the above patients spent more than 24 hours in the emergency department.</p> <p>From December 2024 to March 2025, the average length of stay in the emergency department for mental health related presentations was about 8 hours 45 minutes. Time in emergency departments may include initial assessment, triage, assessment by specialist mental health teams, medical stabilisation where appropriate, and arrangement of inpatient or follow-up community care as necessary.</p>
174	For the above how many patients spent more than 24hours in emergency department?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 173.
175	What was the average length of stay in the emergency department?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 173.
176	Following their internal review, NSW Police Force recommended a partnership with NSW Health to explore models of response to mental health incidents in NSW. What actions are you taking as the Minister for Mental Health to ensure a practical and sufficient outcome between departments?	I am advised: NSW Health and the NSW Police Force are working together to explore alternative models of response to mental health incidents.
177	When will the Suicide Prevention Legislation be introduced?	<p>I am advised: The NSW Government is working to deliver landmark whole of government suicide prevention legislation within this term of Parliament, commencing a process of consultation with people with lived and living experience of suicidal distress.</p> <p>Broad consultation has been undertaken across government agencies, the suicide prevention sector and people with a lived and living experience of suicide.</p>
178	What consultation has been undertaken in preparing the Suicide Prevention Legislation?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 177.

179	Which stakeholders have been consulted?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 177.
180	Mr David McGrath Consulting was commissioned in late 2023 to conduct the NSW Psychosocial Research Project to identify the unmet need for psychosocial supports in NSW outside the NDIS. When will you release this report? (a) If not, why not?	I am advised: NSW Health received the Final Report for the NSW Psychosocial Research Project on 27 January 2025. David McGrath Consulting was funded \$54,000 excluding GST to undertake the project. The report will be released later this year.
181	Has the NSW Psychosocial Research Project report been drafted? (a) When was it given to you? (b) What was the cost to prepare the report?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 180.
182	The Mental Health Commission Review was commissioned in November 2023, and the report outcomes were to be submitted to you by 31 August 2024. When will you release this report? (a) If not, why not?	I am advised: Please refer to answers provided to Questions On Notice on page 27
183	Has the Mental Health Commission Review report been drafted? (a) When was it given to you? (b) What was the cost to prepare the report? (c) Have you seen that report?	I am advised: Please refer to answers provided to Questions On Notice on page 27.
184	Minister, do you acknowledge that Official Visitors appointed by yourself are essentially your 'eyes and ears' of Mental Health, playing an essential role in the protection of mental health consumers and their human rights?	I am advised: Official Visitors functions are set out in s 129(3) of the <i>Mental Health Act 2007</i> . Official Visitor departures vary in reason, and program numbers naturally fluctuate. NSW Health assesses the remuneration of Official Visitors in line with the Classification and Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees. NSW Health increased the rates of remuneration for the Official Visitors Program following a formal review in 2019. This included an increase in the annual salary for the Principal Official Visitor to \$108,738 per annum, and an increase to the daily rate for Official Visitors to \$298. NSW Health will continue to

		<p>review pay and training and professional development opportunities in line with the Mental Health Act 2007 and the Framework.</p> <p>Official Visitors are paid out of the NSW Health mental health budget.</p>
185	In December 2024, you were asked to declare the number of Official Visitors in NSW from previous years for the period 2018 to 2024. These figures show a significant decrease, with 100 Official Visitors working in NSW Health in 2019 and 84 Official Visitors employed in 2024. What is the reason for this decrease?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 184.</p>
186	The underpayment of Official Visitors has been raised in the 2023 Annual Report, in direct correspondence to your office and through various briefs to the Ministry. In a meeting with Mr Cameron McLeod, the Principal Official Visitor, you acknowledged it was an issue, expressed sympathy for the cause and intimated you were working towards a solution. Minister, what is the solution and when will it be implemented so that the Official Visitor workforce increases?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 184.</p>
187	Minister, on 11 November 2024 you met with Mr McLeod and were reminded that Official Visitors have not had a pay increase or any adjustment for CPI increases since 2019. Their payrate of \$42 per hour does not include any sick leave, annual leave, long service leave, carers leave, domestic violence leave or parental leave. This rate is not reflective of the skills, experience or responsibilities of Official Visitors under the Mental Health Act. Will you reassess the hourly rate and the conditions of service for Official Visitors?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 184.</p>
188	Are Official Visitors paid from the treasury, health or mental health budget?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 184.</p>
189	How many hearings have been delayed or compromised due to the Tribunal's outdated IT system, and why was this issue allowed to persist for years under this government?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No hearings have been delayed due to the existing IT system.</p> <p>Additional funding is being provided to the Tribunal over 4 years (from 2024-25 to</p>

		2027-28) to enable digitisation of records, an upgrade to IT systems, and investment in a new case management system.
190	Can you confirm whether the Tribunal's current data system has ever lost or corrupted patient records, and if so, how many times?	I am advised: There is no evidence to suggest that patient records have been lost or corrupted.
191	Why has the government failed to consult the Tribunal on the construction of new forensic mental health facilities, leading to some without appropriate hearing rooms?	I am advised: The Mental Health Review Tribunal was consulted in 2020 during the early stages of the SWMHIP on key considerations when designing hearing rooms. More recently they have been engaged in the planning and design of new forensic mental health facilities. Any specific issues identified in relation to hearing rooms can be addressed, with discussion between the Tribunal, the Ministry of Health and relevant local health districts.
192	Given the Tribunal has explicitly stated that it is unable to meet its statutory obligations due to a lack of staff and funding, why has this government failed to provide adequate resources?	I am advised: In the 2024-25 Budget, the Mental Health Review Tribunal received an additional \$2.4 million over four years to enable a digitisation of records, an upgrade to IT systems and an investment in a new case management system. These system improvements will support the Tribunal to meet the continued growth in patients and hearings. The Tribunal's budget will be reviewed as part of the 2025-26 Budget process.
193	How does the government justify funding increases to other areas while the Tribunal struggles with record case loads and inadequate staffing?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 192.
194	The Tribunal President has stated that the safety of staff and visitors at its current premises is a major concern. Please list these concerns and what measures have been implemented?	I am advised: The issues and concerns requiring relocation are set out in the 2023/24 MHRT Annual Report. The NSW government is providing support to the Tribunal to relocate to new premises which will allow sufficient hearing rooms and appropriate facilities such as victim support rooms and rooms for legal representatives, consumers and carers who attend hearings. The relocation project is underway and is progressing at this time.

195	Why has the government taken no action despite the Tribunal's warning that hearing lists are unsustainable, leading to delays and rushed hearings?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 192.
196	How does the government justify the fact that more forensic patients are being apprehended under Section 109 orders, indicating increased breaches and risks to the public?	I am advised: The number of s109 apprehension orders issued does not correlate to breaches of orders by forensic patients because s109 apprehension orders are also issued where there is a report that a forensic patient may be deteriorating in mental health which can occur without there being any breach by the patient. The Tribunal's full time Presidential Members operate an after-hours service so they are available 24/7 to issue apprehension orders if required due to any deterioration in mental health as well as for any breach. Therefore, an increase in apprehension orders may indicate greater protection of the community because it demonstrates that action is taken to address any risk.
197	Given the Tribunal has had to intervene in multiple cases where patients were denied NDIS and Medicare support, why hasn't the government acted to address these failures?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Federal Government.
198	How many forensic patients have been released without appropriate supervision due to a lack of staff or resources, and what risk does this pose to the public?	I am advised: Under legislation, the Tribunal must not order the release of a forensic patient unless satisfied that the safety of the community, any victim, and the patient themselves, will not be seriously endangered by the release. In accordance with the legislation the Tribunal would not be in a position to order the release of a forensic patient if there was not adequate and appropriate supervision.
199	The Tribunal has highlighted a lack of funding for community-based mental health services, leading to more hospitalisations. Why has the government ignored these warnings?	I am advised: The Government is committed to the delivery of high quality, safe and consumer led mental health care. The NSW Government has committed to a record investment of \$2.9 billion on mental health services in 2024-25. A part of this investment was the commitment of \$40 million over 4 years for Pathways to Community Living Initiative (PCLI), that will secure more than 25 clinical positions located across multiple local health districts, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, and St Vincent's Health Network, under a broader complex care PCLI workforce that covers all areas in NSW.

		<p>The NSW Government will invest \$30.4 million over 4 years from 2024-25 to expand community mental health teams across targeted areas in NSW. This funding will equate to 35 FTE mental health positions, which will be added to mental health teams in areas of need.</p> <p>The 35 additional mental health professionals will include 5 out-reach mental health housing liaison positions to support care coordination and pathways into housing. NSW Health is prioritising the expansion of community-based mental health services at a higher rate than that of hospital treatment.</p>
200	How many forensic patients have been released into unsuitable accommodation due to gaps in the mental health system, and what steps are being taken to prevent this?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The <i>Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020</i> provides that the Mental Health Review Tribunal must not make an order for the release of a forensic patient unless it is satisfied that the safety of the patient or any member of the public will not be seriously endangered by the patient's release.</p>
201	Why does the Tribunal not have a dedicated policy officer, education officer, or research officer, despite the growing complexity of forensic mental health cases?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Tribunal employs staff to support its functions.</p>
202	What percentage of forensic patients have been unable to access the necessary support services upon release, and what is the government doing to address this?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The <i>Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020</i> provides that the Mental Health Review Tribunal must not make an order for the release of a forensic patient unless it is satisfied that the safety of the patient or any member of the public will not be seriously endangered by the patient's release.</p>
203	Can you guarantee that all forensic patients released in the last 12 months had appropriate supervision, housing, and medical support?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under legislation, the Tribunal must not order the release of a forensic patient unless satisfied that the safety of the community, any victim, and the patient themselves, will not be seriously endangered by the release. In accordance with the legislation the Tribunal would not be in a position to order the release of a forensic patient if there was not adequate and appropriate supervision and monitoring, specific housing provision and ongoing treatment supervision and support.</p>

204	Why does the Tribunal not have the necessary hearing room space to meet its obligations, and why has this government failed to provide appropriate facilities?	I am advised: The NSW Government is providing support to the Tribunal to relocate to new premises, which will have hearing rooms, victim support rooms, and rooms for legal representatives, consumers and carers who attend hearings.
205	Given the Tribunal President has stated they lack the resources to hold sufficient hearings, how does the government justify its claim that mental health services are properly funded?	I am advised: The long-term health of the NSW population is a central funding priority for NSW Health, with funding allocated across the entire NSW Health system based on overall demand. In the 2024-25 Budget, the Mental Health Review Tribunal received an additional \$2.4 million over four years to enable a digitisation of records, an upgrade to IT systems and an investment in a new case management system. These system improvements will support the Tribunal to meet the continued growth in patients and hearings. The Tribunal's budget will be reviewed as part of the 2025-26 Budget process.
206	Why has the government failed to increase funding despite the Tribunal's annual case load increasing by over 10%?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 192.
207	What is the average wait time for a forensic patient's hearing, and how does this compare to previous years under the Coalition government?	I am advised: The Practice Directions published on the Tribunal website have applicable procedural time frames.
208	How many forensic patients have breached their orders in the past 12 months, and how does this compare to previous years?	I am advised: This information is not available within the Ministry of Health.
209	Why are Tribunal hearings still being conducted in unfit premises with security concerns, despite clear warnings about risks to staff and patients?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 204.
210	How many registered victims have applied for non-association or place restriction orders due to forensic patient releases, and how has this number changed under this government?	I am advised: This information is not available within the Ministry of Health.
211	Given that victims feel the system does not support them, why has the government not implemented alternative forums for their concerns, as recommended by the Tribunal?	I am advised: This question is best directed to the Attorney General.

212	Has the government conducted a risk assessment on the impact of forensic patient releases on community safety, and if so, will you release the findings?	I am advised: The NSW Government looks to publicly available high-quality academic research regarding forensic patients and community safety.
213	How many forensic patients have been transferred from correctional facilities to mental health facilities in the past 12 months, and what proportion were due to inadequate prison mental health services?	I am advised: A subset of forensic patients are 'correctional patients'. Transfer to hospital only occurs when treatment cannot safely and effectively be delivered in a correctional centre (or youth justice centre). In 2024 there were 20 section 84 orders made under the <i>Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020</i> .
214	Given that forensic patients with cognitive impairments face significant gaps in service provision, why has the government not addressed this long-standing issue?	I am advised: NSW Health does not provide defined assessment or supports for forensic patients with cognitive impairment. These questions are best directed to the Minister for Corrections.
215	How does the government explain the Tribunal's claim that forensic patients with cognitive impairments are more vulnerable due to a lack of targeted services?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 214.
216	What is the total budget allocation for forensic mental health services, and how does this compare to previous years?	I am advised: For Justice Health NSW, the Forensic Mental Health Directorate 2024-25 expenses budget is \$116 million, an increase of 15% from the previous year's annualised budget.
217	Why has there been a 14% increase in Mental Health Inquiries, and does this not indicate a worsening crisis under this government?	I am advised: An increase in mental health inquiries does not indicate a worsening mental health crisis. It could indicate that more people are receiving the care they needed. In terms of outcomes following the inquiries, the number of involuntary patient orders made at mental health inquiries only increased by 3%.
218	What specific budget measures has the government implemented to ensure forensic patients are properly monitored and supported post-release?	I am advised: Justice Health NSW's Community Forensic Mental Health Service supports local health district mental health services via consultation services to safely case manage and treat mental health patients, care for forensic patients who have

		<p>been conditionally released to the community, and provide specialist, independent advice to support the function of the Mental Health Review Tribunal when considering forensic patients' release to the community.</p> <p>The Community Forensic Mental Health Service also caters to other patient cohorts, such as those leaving custody and those at increased risk of sexual offending.</p> <p>In 2024-25, this service has an operational budget of \$3.7 million.</p>
219	How many forensic patients have had their cases delayed due to Tribunal under-resourcing, and what impact has this had on public safety?	<p>I am advised: Forensic hearings are held as required by the legislation.</p> <p>In addition, a duty panel has been established on Fridays of each week where urgent forensic matters can be listed at short notice.</p>
220	Has the government considered expanding Tribunal funding to support the increased case load, and if not, why not?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to the answer to Supplementary Question 192.</p>
221	How does the government justify forensic patients being forced to remain in detention longer than necessary due to lack of community-based services?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 216.</p>
222	How many victims have withdrawn from participating in Tribunal reviews due to distress caused by the process, and what measures are being taken to support them?	<p>I am advised: This question is best directed to the Attorney General.</p>
223	Given the rise in apprehension orders, what measures is the government taking to prevent forensic patients from breaching their conditions?	<p>I am advised: The Tribunal considers the history of a patient's orders at each review, including any history of breaches. The Tribunal must always assess risk and decide what order is appropriate at every review (sections 75, 84, 85, 94 of <i>Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020</i>). It must be satisfied that the safety of the community, any victim, and the patient themselves will not be seriously endangered. This should include consideration of whether a patient is likely to breach their conditions.</p>
224	Has the government considered increasing funding for the Tribunal to recruit additional forensic psychiatrists, given the increasing demand for independent reports?	<p>I am advised: The Mental Health Review Tribunal does not recruit forensic psychiatrists to provide independent reports for the purposes of section 84(1)(b) of the <i>Mental</i></p>

		<p><i>Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020.</i></p> <p>Independent reports are procured by parties to Tribunal proceedings and may come from psychiatrists within NSW Health or from private psychiatrists.</p>
225	Why does the Tribunal have to rely on its own case law to determine 'sufficient time in custody,' rather than having clear legal guidance?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The reference to case law is a reference to decisions of the courts which have precedent value for the Tribunal, such as those of the Supreme Court of NSW.</p>
226	How many forensic patients are currently residing in aged care facilities, and does the government have any plans to improve aged forensic care?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>16 forensic patients are currently residing in 10 aged care facilities across NSW.</p> <p>As part of the Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program, a care pathway is being mapped for forensic patients with a principal diagnosis of mental illness who have increasing aged care needs.</p>
227	What is the average length of time a forensic patient spends in custody before being deemed to have served 'sufficient time,' and how does this compare to previous years?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The sufficient time in custody is an individual legal decision based on multiple factors. As absolute numbers of persons subject to limiting terms are small, and the types of crimes and clinical factors vary, data on average times across years cannot be provided.</p>
228	Given the Tribunal's increasing workload, why has the government not provided funding for additional full-time Tribunal members?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 192.</p>
229	What is the government doing to ensure forensic orders are properly communicated to NDIS providers, following reports of breaches due to lack of understanding?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Forensic patients' care coordinators or case managers are involved in the Tribunal hearings and are responsible for ensuring all care providers are informed of the patient's orders, as well as any other legal obligations.</p>
230	How does the government justify a 6% overall increase in Tribunal hearings, yet no matching increase in resources?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 192.</p>
231	What proportion of forensic patient breaches result in re-apprehension, and what measures are being taken to prevent repeat breaches?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>This information is not available within the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Under the Act, the Tribunal must always assess risk and decide what order is appropriate at every review.</p>

232	Has the government conducted a review of the Tribunal's operational capacity, and if so, will it release the findings?	I am advised: No.
233	Why did the Tribunal have to directly intervene in multiple cases to ensure patients received proper care, instead of government agencies doing their job?	I am advised: The Mental Health Review Tribunal makes specific decisions under legislation, including the <i>Mental Health Act 2007</i> (mental health for civil patients who may be detained in hospital for treatment) and the <i>Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020</i> (for forensic and correctional patients). The Tribunal does not have a clinical or service provision role but makes legal decisions and orders based on evidence at hearings. Clinical decisions and resources are a matter for local health districts and other service providers.
234	What steps is the government taking to ensure that the Tribunal's recruitment process for members is not delayed again, as occurred in 2024?	I am advised: Appointments and reappointments have been staggered and the next recruitment in 2026 progress well in advance of Member appointment term expiry. The disruption of recruitment was caused by the former government's cluster of appointment terms.
235	Given that Tribunal members have raised concerns over unsustainable workloads, what action is the government taking to address burnout and retention?	I am advised: The Tribunal is taking action to address over-listing of hearing days and to schedule an appropriate number of matters for each hearing panel, as well as changing schedules to list an appropriate number of panels. The new software will assist to achieve greater efficiency.
236	Why does the Tribunal report state that public mental health services are failing to provide adequate support, yet the government insists they are properly funded?	I am advised: The Tribunal's Annual Report made no statement that public mental health services are failing to provide adequate support. The Annual Report made reference to the strain on mental health services and noted the Tribunal's experience of the benefits of community supports to mental wellbeing and recovery.
237	How many forensic patients have been denied parole or release due to inadequate community support services?	I am advised: The Ministry of Health does not hold information on parole decisions. This question should be directed to the Minister for Corrections.
238	Why has the government not responded to the Tribunal's repeated calls for more funding to deal with the increasing complexity of forensic cases?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 192.

239	From the Budget announcement of \$5.1 billion to deliver new social homes over the forward estimates, is it still the case that this is for 8,400 new social homes?	I am advised: Yes, 8,400 social homes will be delivered.
240	How much of the \$5.1 billion been released or disbursed yet?	I am advised: Of the \$5.1 billion over the four years, the following has been disbursed as at the end of February 2025: LAHC - \$249 million AHO - \$55.4 million
241	What proportion of each of the mechanisms is planned for the distribution of the 30%?	I am advised: Homes NSW are actively developing a pipeline, exploring all options and working closely with Community Housing Provider (CHP) sector partners. Homes NSW anticipate a number of models including development partnerships, opportunities to takeout completed dwellings, and direct dealings. A precise funding allocation across these delivery models has not been locked in. CHPs will play a central role in the delivery and anticipate more than 30% of delivery to be in partnership with CHPs.
242	What is the timetable, i.e. How much and in what form will be available for community housing providers in FY24/25, FY25/26 and FY26/27 for the release of funds, land or other mechanisms?	I am advised: Homes NSW continues engaging with CHP partners through our market sounding activities and the development of the Homes NSW plan. Homes NSW will be engaging with the sector over the coming months on specific opportunities available to them.
243	What is the current (as at 1 March 2025) number of social homes in NSW? (a) Of that number, how many are: i. Currently inhabited? ii. Being refurbished? iii. Are vacant because they are being sold? iv. Listed for demolition? v. Otherwise vacant?	I am advised: a) As at 28 February 2025, the total number of current public housing properties is 92,635. The occupancy rate for public housing is 97.9% and vacancy rate is 2.1%. Of that number, there are: i. Currently inhabited: 89,161 ii. Re-lettable Voids requiring minor works: 1,286 (includes 958 vacants) iii. Being refurbished: 628 iv. Untenantable dwellings requiring major upgrades: 1,560 (includes 117 sold and 16 demolished)

		*Nil response for community housing properties - Information to this level of detail not captured in CHIMES.
244	Assuming 8,400 new social homes are built over the forward estimates, what is the projected net number of social homes, allowing for the retirement of stock?	I am advised: At the end of 2030/31, Homes NSW projected the number of social homes to be approximately 139,900, noting that the program is not yet fully formulated.
245	How many bedrooms are there across social homes in NSW at present?	I am advised: As at 30 June 2024, there were 155,905 social homes in NSW comprising of: Public housing: 94,470 Aboriginal housing: 5,380 Aboriginal Community housing: 6,539 Community housing: 49,516 These equate to the below number of bedrooms: Public housing: 315,004 AHO: 39,521 Community housing: 52,897 Aboriginal community housing: 149,586 TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDROOMS: 557,008 Please note: bedsitters were counted as one bedroom dwellings.
246	With the addition of 8,400 new social homes what is the projected number of bedrooms across social housing properties across NSW?	I am advised: Based on the Homes NSW portfolio, approximately 275,000 bedrooms are projected, noting that the program is not yet fully formulated. This includes government-owned homes managed by community housing providers.
247	How many development applications have been submitted for new social housing properties since 1 September 2024, by month? (a) How many dwellings would these DA's create, by month of submitted DA? (b) For what suburbs have these DA's been submitted – list the suburb, number of DA's and number of dwellings? (c) How many of these DA's have been approved? (d) How many of these DA's are still pending? (e) How many of these DA's have been refused?	I am advised: 17 Development Applications (DA) and State Significant Development Applications (SSDA) have been lodged with Councils/DPHI for new social housing since 1 September 2024. a) 637 dwellings will be delivered. b) DA/SSDAs have been submitted in these LGAs: Parramatta (one DA, 28 dwellings), Campbelltown (one DA, 35 dwellings), Georges River (two DAs, 62 dwellings) Liverpool (one DA, 10 dwellings), Wollongong (three DAs, three dwellings), Canterbury-Bankstown (two DAs, 62 dwellings), Sydney (one DA, 104 dwellings), Lane Cove (one SSDA, 43 dwellings), Randwick (one SSDA, 50

		<p>dwellings), Bayside (one SSDA, 88 dwellings), Port Macquarie (one SSDA, 66 dwellings), Tweed (one SSDA, 80 dwellings) and Port Stephens (one DA, 6 dwellings).</p> <p>c) To date, six DAs have been approved.</p> <p>d) To date, 11 DAs/SSDAs are awaiting approval.</p> <p>e) No DA has been refused.</p>
248	LAHC was allocated \$338,121,000 in 2024-25 for new supply funding, after only 47% of the funding allocated in the 2023-24 budget was used, how much money has been used in 2024-25 from this Budget allocation?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In 2024/25, the allocated budget was \$603.7 million for new supply. As at end February 2025, \$249 million has been expended.</p>
249	<p>What percentage of the \$5.1 billion has been allocated to the following:</p> <p>(a) planning and design costs</p> <p>(b) administrative costs</p> <p>(c) feasibility studies</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No specific dollar amount has been allocated to the costs listed. Different delivery models have different requirements for these activities, and the final pipeline is being developed; including which delivery model will be used for individual projects.</p>
250	How many of the 8,400 social homes promised have already been allocated to specific sites, and how many still need to be identified?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>4,746 social homes have been allocated and 3,654 are yet to be identified.</p>
251	What percentage of these homes will be located in metropolitan Sydney versus regional areas?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>63.1% Greater Sydney, 27.6% regional NSW and the remaining 9.3% yet to be determined.</p>
252	Have you set a goal on how much you want the social housing priority waitlist to be reduced by in 12 months time?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No specific goal has been set, however, our aim is to have the social housing priority waitlist as low as possible. One of the ways we aim to achieve this is by building 8,400 new public homes.</p>
253	<p>Has the CEO of Homes NSW been set targets to reduce the social housing waitlist?</p> <p>(a) If so, what are these targets?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No. Homes NSW has not set specific numerical targets to reduce the social housing waitlist. Addressing housing needs and improving access to safe, secure, and affordable housing remains a core strategic priority for Homes NSW and the NSW Government. The social housing waitlist is one of several important measures used to monitor housing demand and service delivery. It provides a point-in-time view of applicants seeking social housing and reflects a broader range of housing challenges across NSW, including the availability of affordable</p>

		private rental options, cost of living pressures and demand and availability of specialist housing services.
254	How many parcels of land have been transferred to Homes NSW as a result of the land audit so far?	I am advised: Homes NSW is undertaking due diligence on land audit sites. There have been no land audit transfers to Homes NSW to date.
255	Can you please provide a list of all the sites which Homes NSW has announced will be built on from the land audit so far? (a) For all of these sites: i. which government entity currently owns this site? ii. how many homes you anticipate to build?	I am advised: Homes NSW is investigating the following sites for suitability to accommodate social and affordable housing: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 255'.
256	How much has Homes NSW spent on legal fees to enable the transfer of land from other departments, since 1 July 2024?	I am advised: Homes NSW has spent nil on legal fees to enable the transfer of land.
257	How much has Homes NSW paid for land parcels to date?	I am advised: Homes NSW has paid \$2.35 million for land parcels to date.
258	How many applications on the waiting list (general) have been fulfilled during 2024 (to date)?	I am advised: The number of applicant households housed from the NSW Housing Register is published monthly via the Department of Communities and Justice website. This includes a disaggregation by priority and general applicants. In the period from 1 July 2024 to 28 February 2025 1,196 general approved applicant households were housed from the NSW Housing Register. Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 258-259'.
259	How many applications on the waiting list (priority) have been fulfilled during 2024 (to date)?	I am advised: The number of applicant households housed from the NSW Housing Register is published monthly via the Department of Communities and Justice website. This includes a disaggregation by priority and general applicants. From 1 July 2024 to 28 February 2025, 3,963 priority approved applicant households were housed from the NSW Housing Register. Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 258-259'.
260	How many children were on the social housing waitlist on 28 February 2024?	I am advised: As at 28 February 2025, there were 43,244 children on the NSW Housing Register.

261	How many males aged 60 and over were on the social housing waitlist on 30 June 2024?	I am advised: On 30 June 2024, there were 8,413 males aged 60 and over on the NSW Housing Register. Please note: the count includes all males over 60 in the applicant household, not just applicant households where the main applicant was a male over 60.
262	How many females aged 60 and over were on the social housing waitlist on 30 June 2024?	I am advised: On 30 June 2024, there were 9,577 females aged 60 and over on the NSW Housing Register. Please note: the count includes all females over 60 in the applicant households, not just applicant households where the main applicant was a female over 60.
263	How much have the renovations cost, to date?	I am advised: As at end of March 2025, the current spend on the Wade Street Towers is approximately \$400,000.
264	What is the project Budget for these renovations?	I am advised: Please refer to page 61 of the transcript.
265	For what period of time are the Towers expected to house social housing tenants?	I am advised: Initially the Wade Street Towers will be tenanted as social housing for approximately 5-10 years. After that time, the NSW Government will make further decisions about the future of the Towers.
266	What if any planning has been done to provide additional services to Telopea in light of residents moving back to the Wade Street towers	I am advised: Ongoing planning for additional social support is being undertaken by Homes NSW.
267	Has there been any coordination with local services, including police, health, education, NDIA on what additional resources would be required to support the residents moving back into the towers?	I am advised: Homes NSW is currently consulting with relevant stakeholders to support tenants moving into the Wade Street Towers.
268	Will there be any disruption to the Light Rail given the refurbishment works?	I am advised: The refurbishment works of the Wade Street Towers will not cause any disruption to the adjacent Parramatta Light Rail.
269	What Given that LAHC, AHO and Landcom are able to self-assess social and affordable developments of up to 75 dwellings, including residential flat buildings over three storeys where these are permissible:	I am advised: a) To date, 24 projects have been approved or are to be approved by LAHC using the self-assessment planning approval pathway. i. 16 projects have been approved.

	<p>(a) How many self-assessments has LAHC made so far?</p> <p>i. How many proposals were approved?</p> <p>ii. How many are pending?</p> <p>iii. How many were rejected?</p> <p>iv. Can a list of all of these self-assessments by LAHC be provided?</p> <p>(b) How many self-assessments have the AHO made so far?</p> <p>i. How many proposals were approved?</p> <p>ii. How many are pending?</p> <p>iii. How many were rejected?</p> <p>iv. Can a list of all of these self-assessments by AHO be provided?</p>	<p>ii. Eight projects have yet to be approved.</p> <p>iii. Nil</p> <p>iv. A list of all developments self-approved by Homes NSW can be found on the NSW Planning Portal</p> <p>b) To date, 12 projects have been approved or are to be approved by AHO using the self-assessment planning approval pathway.</p> <p>i. 10 have been approved.</p> <p>ii. Two have yet to be approved.</p> <p>iii. Nil</p> <p>iv. A list of all developments self-approved by Homes NSW can be found on the NSW Planning Portal.</p>
270	<p>How many DA's have been submitted to date from the reform to "reduce the minimum lot size for dual occupancies being delivered as a complying development by agency for:</p> <p>(a) LAHC?</p> <p>(b) AHO?</p> <p>(c) Community Housing Providers?</p> <p>(d) Aboriginal Housing Providers?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>a) LAHC response: There have been no approvals submitted to date as a result of these reforms.</p> <p>b) Nil - AHO has been unable to use the reform.</p> <p>c) Homes NSW does not hold this data.</p> <p>d) Homes NSW does not hold this data.</p>
271	<p>How many DA's have been submitted for dual occupancies to date as a result of stage 1 of the Low and Mid Rise Reforms by:</p> <p>(a) LAHC?</p> <p>(b) AHO?</p> <p>(c) Community Housing Providers?</p> <p>(d) Aboriginal Housing Providers?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>a) LAHC response: No DAs have been submitted for dual occupancies to date as a result of the Stage 1 Low and Mid Rise Housing Policy.</p> <p>b) AHO: Nil - has not been able to use the reform.</p> <p>c) Homes NSW does not hold this data.</p> <p>d) Homes NSW does not hold this data.</p>
272	<p>Page 2-9 of the Infrastructure Statement stated under "LAHC Capital Maintenance": "\$700.0 million of this [being \$1.3 billion for maintenance] will be met from proceeds from land transfers from Homes NSW in the DCJ, sourced from the \$4.0 billion new funding for social housing"</p> <p>(a) Can you please explain this process in further detail?</p> <p>(b) So is the funding for new social housing construction in DCJ only really \$3.3 billion?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>a) Property assets earmarked for redevelopment will be vested to DCJ from LAHC at market value. LAHC will use \$700 million of that for Capital maintenance on its existing portfolio.</p> <p>b) No</p> <p>i. LAHC is a public non-financial corporation (PNFC) and cannot receive capital funding directly from the NSW Government.</p>

	i. Why did the Government not just give DCJ \$3.3 billion and then LAHC \$700 million for maintenance? Why the creative accounting?	
273	How many land transfers have occurred from “land transfers from Homes NSW”? (a) What is the total value of these land transfers?	I am advised: Nil land transfers from Homes NSW to other government departments from 1 July 2024 to 28 Feb 2025.
274	The Government announced in July 2024 that 750 homes would be “revamped” as part of the Repair and Restore Maintenance Blitz: (a) As of today, 14 March 2024, how many homes have had their revamps, by LGA: i. Completed? ii. Started? iii. Notified to tenants, but not yet to commence? iv. Scoped? (b) When are the “first tranche” of 750 homes expected to be all fully revamped? (c) How much funding was allotted for the “first tranche” of 750 home revamps? i. How much funding has been spent, to date?	I am advised: a) Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 274'. Data is only available by electorate as at end February 2025. i. 764 upgrades to homes have been completed ii. A further 986 homes have works in progress iii. All tenants have been notified, and works are in progress. iv. Approximately 2,200 homes have been assessed for works required. 1,750 homes were assessed as meeting the criteria for the upgrade program. b) The initial 750 homes have been completed. It is expected the majority of the remaining 986 homes will be upgraded by 30 June 2025. c) \$36 million i. Over \$61.3 million of the program has been spent to date.
275	With there being a shortage in builders and tradespeople in the system – how confident is the Government that there will be enough labour to be able to conduct this maintenance on time and on budget?	I am advised: The procurement of the new Responsive and Programmed Maintenance Contract featured core components that addressed existing capacity and trade-base. Proponents were asked to demonstrate these components as part of their tender. Many factors such as scaling up and down based on workload due to many factors was a featured requirement in evaluation of the submissions. The successful proponents were validated on their demonstrated capacity and proven capability with supporting trades within their tendered areas, providing assurance and confidence that maintenance could be conducted efficiently across the portfolio.
276	Has the program been impacted by a shortage of trades?	I am advised: The successful proponents have provided assurance and confidence that maintenance could be conducted efficiently across the portfolio.

277	What was the target set by government for the number of renovations to be started by the EOFY?	I am advised: 1,950 renovations.
278	What was the target set by government for the number of renovations to be completed by the EOFY?	I am advised: 1,950 renovations.
279	<p>For the contractors contracted by government to complete the “Repair and Restore Maintenance Blitz”, what measures are in place to hold these six companies accountable for their contractors' work?</p> <p>(a) How did the NSW Government ensure that the selection process for maintenance service providers was fair/transparent and prioritised local contractors?</p> <p>(b) In that same media release, it has detailed that the contracts went live from 1 July, did work commence on that date?</p> <p>(c) When did the first work commence from this “maintenance blitz”?</p> <p>(d) Within this program, exactly, what percentage of maintenance work has been allocated to local contractors?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Any failure of a contract requirement can result in a Notice of Non-Compliance issued to Contractors. Failure to remedy a notice will impact KPIs of a contractor and may result in an abatement.</p> <p>a) The maintenance reform undertook an open tender process in accordance with NSW government procurement guidelines. The tender process began with an Expression of Interest (EOI) process which shortlisted invited tenders to submit a Request For Tender (RFT). The process was open to all suitably qualified multi-trade contractors ranging from small to medium enterprises as well as larger scale head contractors. The selection process enabled suitably qualified local contractors to participate in the tendering process and to demonstrate their capacity and skill across the social housing sector. 13 Geographical Contract Areas were created across NSW which provided local contractors the ability to select and align their preferred areas to participate and offer trade availability. Local sub-contractors can also align and offer their specialised maintenance services to the six companies that were selected.</p> <p>b) Yes.</p> <p>c) Work order commitments were issued from August 2024.</p> <p>d) Homes NSW does not capture this data.</p>
280	<p>Has the Maintenance Hub been launched, and how is it progressing?</p> <p>(a) How much did the Maintenance Hub cost to launch?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Maintenance Hub was launched on 1 July 2024. As at 18 March 2025, a total of 363,224 maintenance have been requests raised.</p> <p>a) There were \$8.6 million transition costs associated for the set-up of the Maintenance Hub including labour and non-labour associated costs such as equipment.</p>
281	<p>Has the promised app been launched yet?</p> <p>(a) If so, has there been any app outages?</p> <p>(b) If so, how many, and for how long?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Yes, the MyHousing app was launched on 29 November 2024.</p> <p>a) There have been no unplanned outages.</p> <p>b) N/A</p>

	(c) If not, when will we get the promised app? i. What stage is the app in development?	c) N/A i. N/A
282	How much has been spent on social housing maintenance in FY 2024/25 to date?	I am advised: From July 2024 to February 2025, \$408,631,726 was spent on public housing maintenance.
283	How many urgent requests for maintenance to social housing properties have been made in FY 2024/25 to date?	I am advised: From 1 July 2024 to 14 March 2025, there have been 89,471 maintenance requests under the work priority timeframes of four hours and 24 hours.
284	How many requests for maintenance to social housing properties have been made in FY 2024/25 to date?	I am advised: From 1 July 2024 to 14 March 2025, there have been 363,224 maintenance requests across all timeframes.
285	What is the average wait time for fulfilment of social housing maintenance, on this date?	I am advised: Maintenance response timeframes and work priorities vary between four hours through to 90 days across responsive and programmed works. Critical timeframes assigned are required to be met by contractors unless there are justifications to adjust the target timeframes, e.g. access issues, inclement weather (impacting the work, roofing, external paint, concrete) or latent conditions impacting the scope and scale of the work (e.g. asbestos identified).
286	How many maintenance requests remain unfulfilled, to date? (a) What is being done by the NSW Government to ensure local businesses advantaged for work?	I am advised: As at 14 March 2025, there are currently 928 maintenance requests at the status of new, triaged and unfulfilled. This includes works that are currently within timeframe for delivery and are being actioned/assigned to a contractor. a) The contractor must engage with and provide opportunities to local industry in each Allocated Contract Area. In doing so, the contractor maximises opportunities for local participation, promote workforce development and management and contribute to the sustainable long-term industry development.
287	What penalties or oversight mechanisms exist to prevent unfair practices of these companies, such as forcing contractors to accept new terms or pricing mid-way through a job?	I am advised: There are mechanisms in the maintenance contract that allow Homes NSW to audit any contract requirement at its discretion. Any failure of a contract requirement can result in a Notice of Non-Compliance issued to contractors and a requirement to remedy.
288	How does Homes NSW ensure contractors are only assigned work within their licensing qualifications?	I am advised: The contractor is contractually obligated to engage subcontractors who are

		qualified. The contract allows Homes NSW the ability to request the contractor to demonstrate that subcontractors are qualified prior to engaging the subcontractor.
289	What reporting mechanisms exist for contractors to raise safety concerns?	I am advised: Contractors are contractually obligated when on site to advise Homes NSW as reasonably practicable, of issues or concerns relating to health and safety. This information is captured, monitored and reported for both internal and contractor meetings/discussions.
290	Are you aware of reports of gas leaks being assigned to unlicensed builders? (a) If so, what action has been taken?	I am advised: Homes NSW is not aware of any gas leaks being assigned to unlicensed builders. Contractors are contractually obligated to engage subcontractors who are qualified.
291	Are you aware that subcontractors are told to “expect financial loss” on some tasks?	I am advised: Homes NSW is not aware of subcontractors being told to "expect financial loss" on some works, nor has there been any endorsed communication on the matter.
292	Does Homes NSW or the Contractor set the payment codes for trade use? (a) Who monitors this? (b) Do you think that codes should be more expensive in 2024 than 2015? (c) Do you agree that outdated and inconsistent payment codes means that Homes NSW is not compensating their tradies fairly?	I am advised: The payment codes or Schedule of Rates (SORs) are set tendered rates and form part of the Maintenance Contract. These rates assist with determining the total cost of the works undertaken. a) SORs are regularly monitored and adjusted periodically by Homes NSW. The rates are also reviewed annually and may result in an adjustment. b) In general, the cost of goods and services are expected to be more expensive in 2024 than 2015. The SORs utilised in the current maintenance contract were established as of July 2024, when the Maintenance Contract went live. c) SORs need to be reviewed regularly to minimise outdated and inconsistent payments. The current maintenance contract facilitates a regular review of the SORs and includes a minimum payment of \$100 for attendance to a site. Contractors manage their pricing with their subcontractors.
293	Do you think that is fair for tradies are subcontractors to Homes NSW?	I am advised: Homes NSW is committed to ensuring that SOR prices are regularly monitored

		and reviewed. This will ensure greater fairness and transparency for contractors. Contractors manage pricing arrangements with their subcontractors and trades.
294	The HAFF is a \$10 billion program from the Commonwealth, how much money has NSW received from it, to date?	I am advised: Homes NSW has not received any HAFF money yet. Homes NSW is not aware whether any CHP applicants have received any HAFF monies.
295	How many projects have been funded in NSW from the HAFF? (a) How many homes in total?	I am advised: Homes NSW has received approval for two of its projects to be funded in HAFF round 1, representing 93 new social and 137 new affordable dwellings. Details about other recipients of HAFF funding are available on the Housing Australia website.
296	How many homes have commenced construction from funding from the HAFF?	I am advised: In respect of the two Homes NSW projects - nil.
297	How many homes have had tenants move into homes built from HAFF funding?	I am advised: In respect of the two Homes NSW projects - nil.
298	Have any agreements with CHPs or other housing organisations been signed, to the knowledge of the NSW Government, as a result of successful applications for HAFF funding? (a) If so, how many agreements? i. How many homes are going to be delivered as a result? (b) If not, when will this process start? (c) Are agreements signed directly between the Commonwealth and CHP's/other organisations?	I am advised: As at 31 March 2025, two Homes NSW projects, which will deliver 230 social and affordable homes. 34 NSW CHP projects have been signed, total number of social and affordable homes can be found here: https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-03/Funding%20Round%20One%20Website%20Update%20-%2031%20March%202025.pdf .
299	The Federal Government have committed that the \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator would have "all funding to be committed by states and territories by 30 June 2025" – has this occurred yet? (a) If not, when it is anticipated that funding will be committed to NSW? (b) Will this funding from the Commonwealth be reflected in the 2025/26 NSW Budget? i. If so, under which Department/agency? (c) Is there an estimation of how much funding NSW will	I am advised: NSW secured \$610.1 million through the Social Housing Accelerator Program, committing to deliver 1500 homes. NSW is on track to deliver 1500 homes by 30 June 2028. a) As at 31 December 2024, NSW has committed or spent \$443.3 million (\$228.6 million committed, 214.4 million spent), or 73% of the funding allocated from the Commonwealth. NSW anticipates all funding will have been committed or spent by 30 June 2025.

	<p>receive from the Accelerator?</p> <p>i. Will the number be between \$600 million and \$650 million?</p>	<p>b) The Commonwealth funding for the Social Housing Accelerator Program will be reflected in the 2025/2026 NSW Budget: This will be a total of \$147 million of which \$40 million is payable to the AHO and \$107 million is payable to LAHC.</p> <p>c) NSW received \$610.1 million from the Commonwealth in June 2023 through the Social Housing Accelerator Program.</p>
300	<p>From the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness, how much has the NSW Government received from that program in FY 2024/25?</p> <p>(a) Have the Commonwealth provided the NSW Government a projection for funding in FY 2025/26</p> <p>(b) How much does NSW anticipate to receive in FY 2025/26?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Bilateral Schedule for NSW of the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness provides information regarding funding for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.</p> <p>The Bilateral Schedule also confirms Commonwealth contributions are paid monthly in advance.</p> <p>See: federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/sites/federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/files/2024-06/nashh-nsw-bilateral-schedule.pdf.</p>
301	<p>What is the number of new social housing dwellings constructed in FY 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>(a) What is the number of social housing dwellings constructed in FY 2024/25 per LGA, to date?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>As at end February 2025, 253 social homes have been delivered including 203 constructed and 50 acquired.</p> <p>a) Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 301'.</p>
302	<p>Can you please provide the number of social housing dwellings constructed in FY 2024/25, to date with:</p> <p>(a) 1 bedroom</p> <p>(b) 2 bedrooms</p> <p>(c) 3 bedrooms</p> <p>(d) 4 bedrooms</p> <p>(e) 5 or more bedrooms</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>As at end February 2025, the number of bedrooms for constructed and acquired homes in 2024/25 are:</p> <p>a) 78</p> <p>b) 118</p> <p>c) 25</p> <p>d) 23</p> <p>e) 9</p>
303	<p>What is the projected number of social housing dwellings to be constructed in FY 2024/25?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In 2024/25 Homes NSW expect to deliver 824 homes, these are constructed and acquired.</p>
304	<p>What is the projected number of social housing dwellings to be constructed in:</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Projected number of social homes dwellings, including constructed and acquired,</p>

	(a) FY 2025/26 (b) FY 2026/27 (c) FY 2027/28 (d) FY 2028/29	noting that the program is not yet fully formulated: a) 1,378 b) 1,546 c) 1,527 d) 927
305	Currently, how many unoccupied social housing properties are in NSW? (a) Provide figures per LGA (to date)?	I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 305'.
306	What was the average time these properties remain unoccupied in? (a) September 2024 (b) October 2024 (c) November 2024 (d) December 2024 (e) January 2025 (f) February 2025	I am advised: Average Void Days for Unoccupied Properties in Public Housing a) September 2024 - 107 days b) October 2024 - 107 days c) November 2024 - 108 days d) December 2024 - 109 days e) January 2025 - 112 days f) February 2025 - 106 days Average Void Days for Unoccupied Properties in Community Housing a) September 2024 - 24.04 days b) October 2024 - 21.11 days c) November 2024 - 15.20 days d) December 2024 - 16.92 days e) and (f) - Community Housing data for 2025 is not yet available
307	At most recent reporting of data, how many social housing tenants were there in NSW?	I am advised: For Homes NSW managed tenancies: As of 28 February 2025, there were 95,520 tenancies managed by Homes NSW (89,161 public housing and 6,359 AHO tenancies). Quarterly data is available via: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/dcj.statistics/viz/DCJquarterlystatisticalreportonhousingdelivery_16853262027950/Socialhousingdeliveryreport?publish=yes .

		<p>For Community Housing:</p> <p>As at 31 December 2024, there were 45,949 tenancies in Community Housing, noting this comprised of 96.8% of the properties. Community Housing data for 2025 is not yet available.</p>
308	<p>How many social housing tenants have, in the months of September 2024, October 2024, November 2024, December 2024, January 2025, February 2025:</p> <p>(a) Requested transfers?</p> <p>(b) Left social housing to private tenancy?</p> <p>(c) Left social housing to homelessness or unknown tenancy/location?</p> <p>(d) Been evicted from social housing?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>For Homes NSW-managed tenancies (Public Housing and AHO)</p> <p>a) As of 28 February 2025, 13,053 households were on the Transfer Register.</p> <p>b) During the period from 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025, 197 households exited Homes NSW managed tenancies to the private market, private ownership or affordable housing.</p> <p>c) 58 Homes NSW managed tenancies were terminated during the period from 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025, where the tenancy termination reason was 'abandoned'.</p> <p>d) 124 households were evicted from DCJ-managed tenancies in the period from 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025.</p> <p>For Community Housing (CH) tenancies: Data is not yet available for 2025.</p> <p>a) Data is not captured for this.</p> <p>b) Between 1 September and 31 December 2024, 307 households left CH and moved to private rentals.</p> <p>NB: There were another 14 households that left CH and went to private ownership.</p> <p>c) Between 1 September and 31 December 2024 there were 476 households that left CH for an unknown location.</p> <p>d) Between 1 September and 31 December 2024 there were 46 evictions from CH.</p> <p>Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 308'.</p>
309	<p>How many social housing homes are there in New South Wales with:</p> <p>(a) 1 bedroom</p> <p>(b) 2 bedrooms</p> <p>(c) 3 bedrooms</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>a) Studio/1 bedroom: 42,879</p> <p>b) 2 bedrooms: 49,015</p> <p>c) 3 bedrooms: 50,902</p> <p>d) 4 bedrooms: 11,964</p>

	(d) 4 bedrooms (e) 5 bedrooms (f) 6 bedrooms (g) 7 bedrooms (h) 8 bedrooms (i) 9 bedrooms or more	e) 5 bedrooms: 961 f) 6 bedrooms: 139 g) 7 bedrooms: 26 h) 8 bedrooms: eight i) 9 bedrooms or more: 11
310	How many complaints have Homes NSW received from tenants in social housing in the following months, broken down by agency? (a) September 2024 (b) October 2024 (c) November 2024 (d) December 2024 (e) January 2025 (f) February 2025	I am advised: See attachment 'Supplementary Question 310' - NB: The Housing Portfolio complaint numbers may include duplicates, as there are two channels into which tenants can lodge complaints. Note over 150 compliments about maintenance have also been received from tenants, since commencement of the maintenance reform. Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 310'.
311	How many complaints remain unresolved to Homes NSW, from tenants in social housing in the following months, broken down by agency? (a) September 2024 (b) October 2024 (c) November 2024 (d) December 2024 (e) January 2025 (f) February 2025	I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 311'.
312	The government has promised to build 8,400 public homes—how many have actually commenced construction since the announcement?	I am advised: Of the 8,400 new homes announced, 2,293 homes are under contract for construction and 253 homes have been delivered as at end of February 2025.
313	Can you provide a detailed breakdown of where these homes are being built, electorate by electorate?	I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 313'.
314	How many of the 8,400 homes have been allocated funding in the current financial year?	I am advised: 2,616.

315	<p>Given that the government claims this is the largest ever public housing investment, how does this compare to the Carr Government's public housing investments?</p>	<p>I am advised: Homes NSW does not hold detailed program-level data going back 15 to 20 years, so it cannot make a like-for-like comparison between the current government's investment and that of the Carr Government.</p> <p>However, historical data on the total number of public housing dwellings is publicly available through the Report on Government Services, published by the Productivity Commission at https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services.</p> <p>For records relating to historical budget allocations, the NSW Budget Archives provides a useful reference point: https://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/budget-archives.</p> <p>The NSW Government is investing \$6.6 billion under the Building Homes for NSW package. This includes funding to deliver over 8,400 new social, affordable, and supported homes by 30 June 2029, with the majority of these homes expected to begin delivery this year.</p> <p>This investment will boost housing supply, improve access to long-term housing, and reduce demand for temporary and crisis accommodation over time.</p> <p>Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 315'.</p>
316	<p>What measures have been put in place to prevent cost blowouts in construction?</p>	<p>I am advised: Homes NSW has in place a robust procurement, project management and governance framework to ensure that projects and expenditure are managed within budget and forecast timeframes. Homes NSW employs professional planning, design, development and project management staff with the requisite skills and experience to manage our construction projects. Homes NSW follows a strict competitive tender process that locks in an agreed dollar amount. This price can only be amended following an agreed variation process laid out in the contract. Regular project meetings, review time and cost, and any substantive</p>

		variation to this price, would require further consideration and approval as part of governance processes.
317	How does the government plan to ensure these homes are not just announced but actually built, given its track record of failing to deliver on infrastructure?	I am advised: Homes NSW has in place appropriate procurement, project management and governance frameworks to ensure that projects and expenditure are managed within forecast timeframes and budget.
318	What contingency plans exist if these projects experience delays or budget overruns?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 316.
319	How many homes are expected to be completed and occupied by the next election?	I am advised: 3,748 homes are expected to be delivered by 30 June 2027.
320	How much of this \$6.6 billion investment is actual new money, and how much is repurposed funding from existing programs?	I am advised: \$4.6 billion is new funding and \$2 billion is existing funding.
321	What will the average cost per home be, and how does that compare to current social housing construction costs?	I am advised: Across Homes NSW, the average cost per social housing home varies depending on the delivery stream, dwelling type, location and specific program design, with average costs ranging from \$560,000 to \$700,000.
322	The government claims it will fix 30,000 public homes—how many homes have actually been repaired so far?	I am advised: As at 28 February 2025, works have been completed in 5,966 homes.
323	What was the total cost of repairs conducted in the last financial year?	I am advised: In 2023/24 \$548 million was spent on repairs, through a total of 436,500 work orders.
324	Given that maintenance is now being brought in-house, how many staff have been recruited for this task, and what is the projected cost to taxpayers?	I am advised: As at 28 March 2025, the Maintenance Response Centre (MRC) has 175 staff (across all grades). \$8.6 million in transition costs associated with setting up the Maintenance Hub, including labour and non-labour-associated costs such as equipment.
325	Will in-house maintenance teams be required to compete against private contractors for efficiency and cost-effectiveness?	I am advised: The function that has been brought in-house to Homes NSW is the operation of maintenance response call centre which is a function that was previously undertaken by maintenance contractors.
326	How does the department define a “fixed” home—does this include partial repairs or only full refurbishments?	I am advised: A fixed home is defined when the home's key components are functional and

		meet the requirements under the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> . This can incorporate any issues, items or defects that have been repaired and addressed, including full restorations which can include component replacements or upgrades such as floor coverings; kitchen replacements; bathroom replacements, roofing; fences; full internal and external painting and vegetation management.
327	Have you conducted any audit of maintenance requests to ensure that the most critical repairs are being prioritised?	I am advised: An initial review was undertaken from July to August 2024 to ensure timely management and completion of priority works. This is continuously being reviewed as part of the contractors' key performance indicators. In addition, an improved Critical Repairs Matrix is currently under review for implementation, based on business evaluation and feedback.
328	How many public housing properties are currently uninhabitable due to maintenance failures?	I am advised: See attachment 'Supplementary Question 331'.
329	Can you provide a list of the most expensive individual maintenance jobs conducted in the past 12 months?	I am advised: As at 13 March 2025, the three highest value work orders since 1 July 2024 were completed in the suburbs of Shalvey, Guildford and Orange. Extensive upgrade works were required including new bathroom, full internal paint, full external paint, floor coverings, new kitchen, new roof, window replacement and fence replacement.
330	What accountability measures are in place to ensure that taxpayers are not funding refurbishments at exorbitant costs?	I am advised: There are two mechanisms that can assist with managing costs: 1) Homes NSW has an agreed tendered Schedule of Rates which determine costs for works. This ensures a consistency of costs. 2) Homes NSW has a supplementary process that requires approval from Homes NSW if the value of works goes above nominated threshold. Only when works are approved can contractors undertake them.
331	How many tenants have been relocated due to the government's failure to maintain properties to a habitable standard?	I am advised: There have been 91 Households during the period 1 September 2024 - 28 February 2025 that have been relocated with a reason of UNINHABITABLE - FIRE/STORM/ETC category. Please refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 331'.

332	The government has allocated \$528 million to tackle homelessness—how much of this is new funding versus recycled funding?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Government's 2024/25 Budget is providing \$527.6 million over four years for homelessness services as part of a record \$6.6 billion investment to reduce homelessness and improve social housing, building 8,400 new homes and repairing 33,500 mainstream and Aboriginal social homes. This is new funding. The first year of this investment provides \$195 million for emergency housing and homelessness support services, which mainly includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least \$156 million for Temporary Accommodation (TA). This is on top of the regular budget for TA and enables Homes NSW to better respond to the challenges of the increased demand for TA and ensure people and families have access to appropriate support. - \$30 million to establish the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF), which will support the sector in delivering innovative responses to the current crisis, focusing on homelessness being rare, brief, and non-recurring. - Around \$5 million to support Specialist Homelessness Services to meet operational funding gaps, resulting from a lower escalation of Commonwealth funding relative to NSW escalation. This will ensure the continued delivery of critical services to clients. This funding is in addition to the baseline funding allocated to homelessness programs and services in 2024/25. - Around \$4 million for setting up a Homelessness Registry and Tenant Support and Education Project.
333	What percentage of this funding will go towards building new crisis accommodation rather than just services?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>\$100 million out of the total \$528 million in homelessness funding (19%) has been allocated to the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF). A key goal of the HIF will be to reduce demand on commercial temporary accommodation, which includes funding projects supporting added capacity for crisis accommodation and supported Temporary Accommodation. The HIF also supports services to trial new service delivery models and drive innovation in practice.</p>
334	The government talks about making homelessness "rare, brief and non-recurring"—what specific performance metrics will be used to measure success?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Homes NSW is currently developing an Outcomes Measurement Framework for the Homelessness Strategy which will include a range of metrics at a program and system level.</p>

335	How many additional crisis accommodation beds will be operational by the next election?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF) grants, a number of projects will be funded that create additional capacity in crisis accommodation. From the first round of HIF grants in 2024/25, just over 200 rooms are expected funded across supported Temporary Accommodation, including crisis beds. These are expected to be operational during 2025.</p> <p>Further capacity for supported Temporary Accommodation, including crisis beds, is expected to be added from subsequent HIF rounds.</p>
336	Given the rise in rough sleeping, can the government guarantee that the homelessness rate will be lower by the next budget?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW is in a housing and homelessness crisis. The current cost of living pressures such as rental affordability, high interest rates and utilities mean more people are finding themselves at risk of homelessness, or are becoming homeless for the first time, or are unable to exit homelessness. The NSW Government inherited a housing system that is broken after over a decade of neglect. The homelessness service system is operating above capacity. This has worsened because of a chronic shortage of safe and affordable longer-term housing options.</p> <p>The NSW Homelessness Strategy sets out a ten-year vision to make homelessness rare, brief, and not repeated based on national and international evidence of what works. It is a whole-of-government Strategy outlining the state-wide system change needed to reduce homelessness. While this is a long-term approach, in the shorter term, initiatives such as the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF) will initially target reducing current demand and costs of temporary accommodation and support service reform and innovation, to better respond to the current crisis. Initiatives funded through the HIF are expected to be operational throughout 2025, with several online in early 2025. The impact of these will therefore not be seen by the next budget.</p>
337	What percentage of homeless people assisted by government programs remain housed after 12 months?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>91.7% of households which were homeless or at risk of homelessness assisted during 2022/23 remained housed in public housing and AHO after 12 months.</p>

338	What proportion of the homelessness budget is being spent on bureaucracy versus frontline services?	I am advised: All of the homelessness budget is spent on frontline services apart from the 4% of expenditure which is allocated to operational and corporate support costs.
339	What is the breakdown of homelessness funding spent on Aboriginal-specific services compared to general homelessness programs?	I am advised: The funding figures provided are for Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) contracts only. Homes NSW does not capture cost differences for delivery of homelessness services to First Nations people. 3.9% of the SHS budget is allocated to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) delivering specialist homelessness services.
340	Can you provide a detailed breakdown of funding allocations for crisis accommodation providers, and whether any politically affiliated organisations received funding?	I am advised: The GIPA Act requires DCJ maintains a register of government contracts that records information about each contract to which DCJ is a party over the value of \$150,000. A copy of DCJ's government contracts register is published on: https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.advancedsearch.home . Homes NSW provides funding for the delivery of a range of programs in addition to SHS. Opportunities to access funding through these programs is advertised through the NSW eTendering website - https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/ . This ensures that Homes NSW approach to allocating funding is fair, transparent, and consistent. HomesNSW comply with grant regulations put forward by former NSW Premier, Dominic Perrottet.
341	How much funding has been allocated to private hotel stays for the homeless, and is this a cost-effective solution?	I am advised: There isn't a specific budget allocated for 'hotel stays' for people experiencing homelessness. Motels and hotels are generally not considered the most cost-effective forms of accommodation; however, they provide flexibility in responding to changes in demand. Homes NSW is actively working to transition clients from temporary accommodation into more appropriate and cost-effective housing options.

342	The department claims it is fixing the planning system—can you provide a list of major housing projects fast-tracked under these reforms?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Hon. Paul Scully MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
343	What is the average approval time for social housing projects in NSW, and how does this compare to Victoria and Queensland?	I am advised: The average development approval time for social housing depends on the planning approval pathway. Under self-approval (Part 5) the average approval times is 3-4 months (which includes community and Council consultation); for development approval by Council (Part 4) the approval time can range from 6-12 months depending on the Council; and for State Significant Development Applications the approval time can range from 6-12 months depending on the development. Homes NSW does not hold any comparative data on the average development approval time for other jurisdictions.
344	What is the department doing to prevent councils from blocking affordable housing developments in areas of high demand?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Hon. Paul Scully MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
345	The government has said it will build housing on empty and unused land—can you provide a list of these sites?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Hon. Paul Scully MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
346	Given that government housing projects often face delays, what enforcement mechanisms exist to ensure projects are completed on time?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 316.
347	Has the department conducted any economic modelling on how these planning changes will impact private sector housing supply?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Hon. Paul Scully MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
348	Can the department guarantee that housing approvals have not slowed since these reforms were introduced?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Hon. Paul Scully MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
349	What specific planning barriers have been removed to expedite approvals for affordable housing projects?	I am advised: This is a matter for the Hon. Paul Scully MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
350	The government claims to be extending the Homes NSW Cadetship Program—how many people have actually secured jobs through this program?	I am advised: The Cadetship Program has supported 75 Participants to complete a Certificate IV

		in Housing and gain invaluable on the job training through their cadetships. A further 26 participants are currently employed in their cadetships.
351	What is the average length of time that cadets stay employed in the housing sector after completing the program?	I am advised: Cadetship Program Participants stay employed in the housing sector for the duration of their 12-month cadetship. A Mid-Point Evaluation is currently underway to explore participant outcomes. Homes NSW will publish the Mid-Point Evaluation Report on the NSW Government's website this year.
352	How much does the cadetship program cost per participant, and how does this compare to industry training programs?	I am advised: The Cadetship Program's per-participant cost fluctuates based on individual needs and TAFE NSW financial support eligibility. The total contract with the Community Housing Industry Association for the Program delivery from 2020/21 to 2028/29 was \$21.7 million. This included: - TAFE NSW course fees for Certificate IV, - Work-ready training, - Cadetship wages subsidies, and - Wrap around supports. A Mid-Point Evaluation is currently underway. Homes NSW will publish the Mid-Point Evaluation Report on the NSW Government's website this year.
353	How many graduates of the cadetship program have gone on to work in government roles versus private industry?	I am advised: A Mid-Point Evaluation is currently underway to explore Participant outcomes. Homes NSW will publish the Report on the NSW Government's website this year. While explicit data cannot be provided at this stage, the Program has seen graduates enter a variety of fields in the community housing and services, public, and private sectors.
354	Given ongoing shortages in the construction workforce, what guarantees does the department have that there will be enough skilled workers to build these promised homes?	I am advised: The NSW Government is taking several steps to ensure there are enough skilled workers to build new social houses. These include: - Expanding training programs to increase apprenticeships and vocational training opportunities. - Facilitating the entry of skilled workers from overseas to fill immediate gaps. - Collaborating with community housing providers, builders associations, construction firms, unions, and educational institutions to enhance training and

		<p>employment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandating minimum training levels for major government projects, through the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP), to align training with industry needs to ensure a steady pipeline of skilled workers. <p>These measures aim to address workforce shortages and support timely construction of new social housing.</p>
355	What evidence exists that this program will actually speed up housing construction, rather than just providing political optics?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Homes NSW Apprenticeship, Traineeship and Cadetship Program (Program) is an \$80 million initiative tackling the skilled workforce shortage in construction. The Program genuinely speeds up housing construction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offering paid, on-the-job training in trades like carpentry and painting, ensuring new workers are quickly integrated. - Partnering with industry bodies like Housing Industry Association (HIA), Master Builders Association of NSW (MBA), and Community Housing Industry Association to enhance training and employment outcomes. - Targeting people facing barriers to employment, such as those in social housing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and women, broadening the workforce pool. <p>With high retention rates and strong diversity outcomes, the Program has already built 100 new social homes and provided 200 paid apprenticeships or traineeships.</p> <p>These initiatives collectively show that the Program is more than just political optics; it is a practical solution to speed up housing construction by addressing the skilled labour shortage directly.</p>
356	Has the government engaged TAFE or other training providers to expand construction-related training for public housing projects?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Homes NSW works with TAFE and other training providers to ramp up construction training for public housing projects.</p> <p>The NSW Government is also investing in Fee-Free TAFE places, in collaboration with the Federal Government, to offer construction courses that reduce the skills gaps and boost housing supply across the state.</p> <p>By partnering with TAFE NSW, Homes NSW is providing hands-on training and</p>

		<p>apprenticeships in trades like carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work. The focus is on skills development to ensure the workforce is equipped for public housing projects, with targeted programs to attract more people to the construction industry. These efforts aim to build a skilled workforce for rapid public housing construction in NSW.</p>
357	How much of the cadetship funding is spent on administration, as opposed to actual training and employment outcomes?	<p>I am advised: The NSW Government is unable to respond to this question as this information is commercial in confidence.</p>
358	Has the department identified any shortfalls in construction trades that could delay the housing rollout, and what is being done to address them?	<p>I am advised: There is no current shortage in trades identified within the Homes NSW delivery program in Greater Sydney. Homes NSW appoints principal contractors to deliver projects, and all trades associated with the project are managed by the principal contractor. The feedback we have received from the principal contractors is that there is no shortage of trades. However, the cost of labour and materials is still high and does place pressure on construction costs.</p> <p>To manage construction cost, Homes NSW is investing time and resourcing to standardise construction projects and utilise Modern Methods Of Construction (MMC) to minimise the reliance on on-site labour, reduce cost and project delivery timeframes. A MMC supplier panel has been established to identify and support the incremental increase of utilising MMC solutions.</p> <p>In regional NSW, procurement of local builders and trades has been more challenging; Homes NSW have reached out to builders in the regions and encouraged them to engage with Public Works and Buy NSW to get registered on the builder's panels. We have also been working with TAFE NSW to provide on-site opportunities for apprentice training to bolster the trade base in the regions. It is anecdotally reported that in several regional NSW areas, building contractors who are not locally based have had great difficulty in procuring local trades and have had to "import" trades to work on Homes NSW projects.</p> <p>In the Northern Rivers region, there has been a shortage of trades following the flood event in 2022. This shortfall has now started to improve as projects are</p>

		<p>delivered, noting that this shortage has been across the board and has not only affected the delivery of residential dwellings. Having said that, a general shortage of builders has meant that some Homes NSW projects have been delivered by contractors based elsewhere in NSW, with some bringing their own trades/teams to carry out/complete the work.</p> <p>Please refer to Minister for Skills for further information.</p>
359	<p>Given that previous government-run cadetship programs have had limited success, what safeguards exist to ensure this isn't just another failed initiative?</p>	<p>I am advised: The Cadetship Program opens up new opportunities for unemployed young people and social housing clients by enabling them to access higher education and paid work experience. That said, the Program is truly unique for its strong wrap around supports that give Participants the best chance of success.</p> <p>Participants have access to mentorship, tailored career guidance and additional resources like mental health support and financial assistance to ensure that they can stay on track with their learning throughout their cadetship.</p> <p>The Program has proven results, with strong retention rates and graduates moving into meaningful employment. As of December 2023, 31 participants had completed the Program and moved into secure employment. Community housing providers employed 80% of those.</p> <p>The Mid-Point Evaluation Report, which will be published on the NSW Government's website this year, will contain updated information.</p>
360	<p>How often does Homes NSW brief the Premier's Department on housing policy decisions, and has the Premier's office overridden any recommendations made by Homes NSW?</p>	<p>I am advised: The Premier's Department is a central government agency that works collaboratively with agencies, including Homes NSW in the Department of Communities and Justice, to deliver the Government's Priorities and election commitments, including the Government's commitment under the National Housing Accord to deliver 377,000 new well-located homes across the state by 2029.</p> <p>All NSW government sector employees are required and expected to act ethically,</p>

		<p>lawfully and in the public interest. The <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> establishes an ethical framework for the government sector, including the core values of integrity, trust, service and accountability, and prescribes principles to guide their implementation.</p> <p>Public service employees are not subject to the direction of ministerial staff, as noted in the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.</p>
361	Has the Premier's Department ever intervened in or delayed the release of housing announcements to suit the government's agenda?	<p>I am advised: The Premier's Department is a central government agency that works collaboratively with agencies, including Homes NSW in the Department of Communities and Justice, to deliver the Government's Priorities and election commitments, including the Government's commitment under the National Housing Accord to deliver 377,000 new well-located homes across the state by 2029.</p> <p>All NSW government sector employees are required and expected to act ethically, lawfully and in the public interest. The <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> establishes an ethical framework for the government sector, including the core values of integrity, trust, service and accountability, and prescribes principles to guide their implementation.</p>
362	Are there any emails, meeting minutes, or correspondence between the Premier's Department and Homes NSW that directed housing projects to be prioritised in Labor-held electorates?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.</p>
363	Has the Premier's Department given any direct instructions to Homes NSW to delay, amend, or modify housing commitments to avoid political backlash?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.</p>
364	Has any advice been provided by Homes NSW that has been ignored or suppressed by the Premier's Department, particularly regarding housing shortages and project delays?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.</p>
365	Has the Premier's Department ever requested that announcements about social housing be delayed or staggered for political gain rather than operational necessity?	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.</p>

366	Are there any instances where Homes NSW has been forced to change project locations or timelines due to directives from the Premier's Department?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
367	What level of oversight does the Premier's Department have over Homes NSW funding approvals, and have they ever blocked or redirected funds based on political considerations?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
368	Were there any key appointments within Homes NSW that were approved or recommended by the Premier's Department, rather than being independent selections based on merit?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
369	Has the Premier's Department directed Homes NSW to engage with specific contractors, consultants, or developers who have ties to the Labor Party?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
370	Has Homes NSW awarded any housing contracts, consultancies, or land sales to companies that have made political donations to the NSW Labor Party?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
371	Have any former staffers from the Premier's office been employed by Homes NSW or any of its associated projects?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 360.
372	Has the Premier's Department been advised of any delays, funding shortages, or feasibility concerns related to the government's housing commitments? If so, why hasn't this been disclosed publicly?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
373	Has the Premier's Department pressured Homes NSW to prioritise politically convenient projects over those with the highest need, particularly in marginal electorates?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
374	Has the Premier's Department given any internal direction to Homes NSW to avoid using terms like "housing crisis" to downplay the severity of the situation?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
375	Are there any instances where Homes NSW has been directed by the Premier's Department to avoid or limit responses to media inquiries or parliamentary questions?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.

376	Can you confirm whether the Premier's Department was consulted on, or attempted to edit, any official reports or data from Homes NSW before their public release?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 361.
377	Why did the Commission fail to fill \$614,000 worth of vacant staff positions while still spending \$194,000 on redundancies?	I am advised: In 2023-24, the Commission undertook a realignment of its corporate support functions to meet business needs. This necessitated the requirements to access redundancy payments. The organisation also went through a significant change in its senior leadership, which resulted in recruitment delays
378	Can you explain how the Commission ended up \$1.098 million under budget on employee expenses, while mental health services remain overstretched?	I am advised: In 2023-24, the Commission went through significant change in its senior leadership which resulted in both recruitment and some program work delays. The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund mental health services.
379	Why did the Commission underspend on grants and subsidies, slashing the allocation from \$937,000 in 2022-23 to just \$272,000 in 2023-24?	I am advised: The reduction in grants and subsidies can be explained by a reclassification of some arrangements with third parties deemed as 'grants' in 2022-23 to 'contracts' in 2023-24. This reclassification better reflected the nature of the arrangements. This also affected the way they were recorded in the Commission's annual report.
380	What specific projects were defunded or deprioritised due to this cut in grants and subsidies?	I am advised: The Commission did not defund any project. The Commission has continued with its existing commitments in full.
381	Given the \$476,000 budget surplus, why has the Commission not redirected funds to front-line mental health services?	I am advised: The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund frontline mental health services.
382	How can you justify an operating revenue shortfall of \$356,000, when mental health services are crying out for funding?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 381.
383	Why did the Commission report an increase in net assets of \$476,000, rather than investing those funds into urgent mental health programs?	I am advised: The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental</i>

		<i>Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund mental health services.
384	How does the Commission explain an increase in cash reserves from \$1.142 million to \$1.422 million, despite the claimed funding shortfalls?	I am advised: Details regarding the increase in the Commission's cash and cash equivalents can be found in the Statement of Cash Flows within the Annual Audited Financial Statements. The primary reason for this increase is that net cash receipts exceeded net cash payments for the financial year.
385	Why did the Commission's operating expenses exceed budget by \$508,000, while core services suffered?	I am advised: In 2023-24, the Commission engaged additional professional services, contingent workers and increased its NSW Health shared corporate support services to meet its statutory requirements. This was in response to significant changes in its senior leadership and subsequent recruitment vacancies.
386	How does the Commission justify entering into a five-year office lease with a 3.75% annual rent increase, while cutting mental health program funding?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 381.
387	Was the Commission's decision to lock into this long-term lease made in consultation with Treasury, and if so, why was it approved?	I am advised: The Commission worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Property NSW (as it then was) to locate an appropriate site for the Commission's relocation. The Commission's relocation off the former Gladesville site approved by the former Minister of Mental Health.
388	How does the Commission justify a \$219,000 loss from asset disposal, and who is accountable?	I am advised: These assets were initially recorded as intangible and were expensed out following advice from the Ministry of Health.
389	What oversight was in place when these assets were sold at a loss?	I am advised: The assets were amortised and disposed in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Board guidelines (AASB 116 – Property, Plant and Equipment).
390	Why did the Commission spend over \$5.2 million on staff costs while failing to fill critical vacancies?	I am advised: The Commission has a labour expenses cap approved by Treasury. This allows the Commission to fund and fill internal staffing roles. The approved budget for employee related expenses for 2023-24 was \$6.3 million. While the Commission strives to limit the period in which roles are unfilled, short-term vacancies are difficult to avoid when there is staff turnover and subsequent recruitment action.

391	What actions have been taken to ensure funds are allocated to frontline services instead of bureaucracy?	I am advised: The Commission has a clear remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It does not fund nor provide frontline mental health services.
392	Given the cost of consultants is rising across the NSW Government, what is the total amount spent on consultants and external advisers in 2023-24?	I am advised: In 2023-24, the Commission engaged one consultant as defined by The Health Procurement (Goods and Services) policy directive. This engagement was less than \$30,000. Further information about the definition of 'external advisers' is required for the Commission to provide further detail.
393	How does the Commission explain the failure to meet its employee services budget, while increasing other expenditure?	I am advised: In 2023-24, the Commission engaged additional professional services, contingent workers and increased its NSW Health shared corporate support services. This was to meet its statutory requirements in response to significant changes in its senior leadership and subsequent recruitment vacancies.
394	Why was one GIPA request refused by default, in breach of statutory response times?	I am advised: The Commission received a GIPA request that was quite complex in scope and detail. Following careful consideration and review, the Commission provided the applicant with access to the information requested, but only after the statutory deadline had lapsed. Under Schedule 2 (Table F) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, not meeting the statutory timeframe is considered a 'deemed refusal' and the Commission was required to disclose this delay in its annual report. This is notwithstanding the fact that access had already been provided by the time the annual report was published.
395	What was the nature of the four remaining GIPA applications, and why were only two granted partial access?	I am advised: The Commission provided applicants with access to information for all four GIPAs it received in financial year 2023-24. Partial access was provided in respect to two GIPAs because the relevant documents included the personal information of third parties and full access would have an adverse impact of the privacy of these individuals. The Commission relied on the presumption against disclosure under section 14 of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> . The personal information was redacted before access was provided.

396	What information did the Commission seek to withhold from public scrutiny in these GIPA requests?	I am advised: Providing full access to the GIPA requests would have an adverse impact of the privacy of third parties by revealing their personal information. The Commission relied on a presumption against disclosure under section 14 of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> in redacting certain information.
397	Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the cost of processing GIPA requests, and how many staff members are assigned to this?	I am advised: Aside from existing staff salaries, there were no additional costs incurred in processing the GIPA requests. One to two Commission staff were involved in processing all four applications.
398	Why has the Commission failed to proactively publish key financial documents that would improve transparency?	I am advised: The Commission has provided complete information required of it in its annual reports in accordance with its obligations under Div. 7.3 of the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> and Treasury Circular TPG 23-10 <i>Annual Reporting Requirements</i> . The full financial statements and external auditor's report are appended to the annual reports.
399	What is the Commission hiding by failing to release additional information in response to public interest disclosures?	I am advised: The Commission is compliant with its responsibilities under the <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022</i> . For the 2023-24 financial year, the Commission did not receive any public interest disclosures.
400	Can the Commission explain why funding for grants to grassroots mental health organisations was slashed, while spending on administration increased?	I am advised: The Commission has reclassified some funding allocations previously recorded as 'grants' to 'contracts' to better reflect the nature of the arrangements. This has affected the way these arrangements are recorded in the Commission's annual reports, with the appearance of a decrease in grant allocation and increase in operating expenditure. In 2023-24, the Commission also engaged additional professional services, contingent workers and increased its NSW Health shared corporate support services. This may also account for the Commission's increase in operating expenditure.
401	Why did the Commission underspend on key mental health initiatives, leading to lower-than-expected service provision?	I am advised: The Commission neither provides nor funds mental health services. The

		Commission has a limited partnership with mental health organisations for specific projects aligned with the work program and priorities of the Commission.
402	What specific programs were affected by the \$1.098 million shortfall in budgeted employee-related expenses?	I am advised: No specific program was affected by an underspend in the Commission's budgeted employee-related expenses. The Commission continued with its existing commitments in full.
403	Can the Commission guarantee that no essential mental health services were cut or delayed due to this budget underspending?	I am advised: The Commission neither provides nor funds frontline mental health services. No mental health service was cut because of the Commission's budget favourability.
404	What oversight measures exist to ensure that money allocated for mental health programs is actually spent on services, not administration?	I am advised: The Commission neither provides nor funds mental health services. The Commission has had a limited partnership with mental health organisations for certain programs, the full details of which are available in its annual report.
405	What specific projects or service expansions were abandoned due to budget mismanagement and underspending?	I am advised: The Commission has not abandoned any existing agreement with partner organisations on specific projects, all of which have been acquitted in full.
406	Why has the Commission failed to provide a clear and detailed breakdown of how mental	I am advised: Incomplete question, unable to answer.
407	What external audits have been conducted into financial management at the Commission, and what were the findings?	I am advised: During the 2023-24 audit by the NSW Audit Office, no matters were identified in their Engagement Closing Report. The Independent Auditor's Report is appended to the Commission's annual reports.
408	How does the Commission justify staffing cuts and unfilled vacancies, while mental health service wait times continue to increase?	I am advised: There are no positions at the Commission that would be considered a frontline mental health service. Any position that was vacant at the Commission would have had no bearing on mental health service wait times.
409	How does the Commission explain its failure to meet its own strategic goals, despite millions of dollars in funding?	I am advised: The Commission has a five-year strategic plan with five priorities. The strategy has been drafted to be in alignment with the Commission's statutory functions. It is working to achieve these priorities over the forward years.
410	How many frontline mental health professionals could have been hired with the \$508,000 in excess operating expenses?	I am advised: Any surplus in operating expenses is dealt with according to the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> .

411	Why has there been no clear strategy for redirecting unused funds into urgent mental health service areas?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 381.
412	What accountability measures exist to ensure that service delivery goals are actually met?	I am advised: The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund frontline mental health services. The Commission has a five-year strategic plan with business planning aligning with achieving its strategic priorities. The Commission is working to achieve its priorities over the forward years.
413	Can the Commission confirm whether any mental health programs faced delays or cancellations due to funding failures?	I am advised: It is not a core part of the Commission's remit to provide or fund mental health programs. As a result, no programs were delayed or cancelled. The Commission has not delayed or cancelled any existing agreement with partner organisations on mental health initiatives, all of which have been acquitted in full.
414	What steps has the Commission taken to prevent future financial mismanagement?	I am advised: The Mental Health Commission, like most public sector agencies in NSW, is subject to a rigorous internal audit program and an annual external audit conducted by the NSW Audit Office. Over the past several financial years, these external audits have consistently confirmed that the Commission maintains robust financial governance, with no issues raised. Additionally, the Commission has diligently complied with all legislative and policy requirements, ensuring transparency and accountability in its financial management.
415	Has the Commission identified any systemic issues in its financial and service delivery planning?	I am advised: The Commission has not identified any systemic issues in its financial and service delivery planning as supported by the audit office 2022-23 Engagement Closing report.
416	How does the Commission explain the \$194,000 spent on redundancies, while simultaneously leaving critical positions vacant?	I am advised: In 2023-24, the Commission undertook a realignment of some of its corporate support functions to meet business needs, this necessitated the requirement to access redundancy payments. The organisation also went through a significant change in its senior leadership, which resulted in recruitment delays. Contingent workers, professional services and NSW Health shared corporate support services

		were engaged to ensure the Commission met its statutory requirements and programs, in response to significant changes in its senior leadership and subsequent recruitment vacancies.
417	How many staff left the Commission in 2023-24 due to job dissatisfaction, workplace culture, or concerns about management?	I am advised: The Commission does not have any mandatory reporting requirements for staff exiting the agency for where such qualitative or quantitative data can be drawn upon for managements review.
418	What steps have been taken to improve staff retention and morale given the reduction in temporary and contract staff?	I am advised: The Commission had a headcount of 31 at 30 June 2023 and 28 at 30 June 2024. These figures included temporary and contracted staff. The Commission has adopted action plans in response to the annual People Matter Employee Surveys to help lift the retention rate and staff morale. This plan includes holding multiple workshops to improve culture and workforce engagement.
419	Why has the Commission not provided detailed transparency on its workplace disputes and staffing concerns?	I am advised: The Commission has a service level agreement with its shared services partner – HealthShare. Under the terms of the agreement, HealthShare manages the Commission’s human resource function, including handling workplace disputes and grievances. When these matters arise, they are treated confidentially in the interest of all parties concerned.
420	How does the Commission justify spending \$40,000 on workers’ compensation insurance, while simultaneously failing to fill vacant frontline roles?	I am advised: The Treasury Managed Fund worker compensation insurance covers an agency’s liability to workers or deemed workers pursuant to the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1998. The value of the deposit contributions made by each member agency is assessed by actuaries using a combination of industry benchmarks, agency risk, exposure measures and claims history. The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the Mental Health Commission Act 2012. It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund frontline mental health services. The Commission has not received feedback from frontline staff.

421	What feedback has the Commission received from frontline mental health staff about funding shortfalls impacting their work?	I am advised: The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund frontline mental health services. The Commission has not received feedback from frontline staff.
422	How does the Commission plan to address the ongoing concerns of mental health sector workers regarding funding allocations?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 381.
423	What specific instructions did the Minister provide regarding the budget shortfalls and financial mismanagement within the Commission?	I am advised: The Commission receives its funding under appropriations from the grant funding received from NSW Health which, in turn, receives appropriations from the Consolidated Fund. Appropriations for each financial year are set out in the Appropriation Bill that is prepared and tabled for that year. It is a matter for the Commissioner as head of agency to manage the budget in line with the appropriate authorisations and delegations.
424	What briefings did the Minister receive about the underspending on key mental health services?	I am advised: The Commission has a clearly defined remit under section 12 of the <i>Mental Health Commission Act 2012</i> . It is not within its statutory function to provide or fund frontline mental health services. The Commission has not received feedback from frontline staff.
425	Can the Commission confirm if the Treasury or Minister directed it to cut costs, or was this mismanagement entirely internal?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 423.
426	Has the Commission provided the Minister with a detailed plan to rectify the financial and operational failures in this report?	I am advised: The Commission has provided full information required of it in its annual report in accordance with its obligations under Div. 7.3 of the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> and Treasury Circular TPG 23-10 <i>Annual Reporting Requirements</i> . During the 2023-24 audit by the NSW Audit Office, no matters were identified in its Engagement Closing Report. The Independent Auditor's Report is appended to the Commission's annual reports. The Commission has a plan to expend its full budget allocation for future years.

427	Will the Commission commit to publishing all budgetary details, including unused funds, to ensure full transparency for NSW taxpayers?	I am advised: The Commission has provided full formation required of it in its annual reports in accordance with its obligations under Div. 7.3 of the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> and Treasury Circular TPG 23-10 <i>Annual Reporting Requirements</i> . The full financial statements and external auditor's report are appended to the annual reports.
428	When will the 2025 Street Count be conducted?	I am advised: The 2025 Street Count occurred between 4 February to 26 February 2025.
429	How many LGA are participating in the 2025 Street Count?	I am advised: 77 LGAs are participating.
430	When will the results be released?	I am advised: The results will be released in April 2025
431	Have there been any variations in locations of the street counts for 2025? (a) If so, where? (b) If so, why?	I am advised: a) Yes. Cootamundra and Young were excluded from the 2025 Street Count. This was based on the advice of local staff and organisations in the Murrumbidgee district and previous counts. Glen Innes and Wollondilly were added in this year's count. The additional townships and suburbs included in this year's count are as follows: - Chipping Norton (Liverpool LGA) - Bargo, Douglas Park, Menangle, Picton, Tahmoor, Thirlmere (Wollondilly Shire LGA) - Glen Innes (Glen Innes LGA) - Manilla (Tamworth LGA) - Mosman (Mosman LGA) b) Commissioning and Planning Officers and Community Housing Providers in each district selected locations based on data from previous Street Count, Assertive Outreach patrols and advice from relevant local stakeholders including SHS, Council, Aboriginal organisations, NSW Police, and other local organisations.

432	Could the Minister please provide the number people in Temporary Accommodation at its peak so far in 2024?	I am advised: 6,188 unique households were assisted with Temporary Accommodation at its peak in October 2024 for financial 2024/25 (year to date as at 28 February 2025).
433	How many people accessed temporary accommodation, per month from March 2023 to March 2025?	I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 433'.
434	How many people exited Temporary Accommodation in 2023? (a) Of those how many entered: i. Social Housing ii. Some form of rental assistance iii. Other (list)	I am advised: During 2022/23, 5,090 Households exited Temporary Accommodation. a) i. 2,723 households entered Social Housing ii. 2,635 households entered some form of Rental Assistance iii. N/A Please note: a household may have received Rental Assistance and also be housed within the period.
435	How many people exited Temporary Accommodation in 2024? (a) Of those how many entered: i. Social Housing ii. Some form of rental assistance iii. Other (list)	I am advised: During 2023/24, 6,013 Households exited Temporary Accommodation. a) i. 3,412 households entered Social Housing ii. 2,872 households entered some form of Rental Assistance iii. N/A Please note: a households may have received Rental Assistance and also be housed within the period.
436	50% of young clients who presented to Specialist Homelessness Services had a current mental ill health or were experiencing alcohol or drug issues. What is your government doing to support these young people experiencing homelessness?	I am advised: The Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program specifications recognise that mental health issues and problematic drug and alcohol use are factors that may contribute to the complexity of support needs. All service providers require a capacity to work with people with complex support needs and to coordinate multi-disciplinary approaches to supporting these clients. It is an SHS program expectation that people with complex support needs can appropriately access homelessness services. The recently enacted SHS Access, Eviction and Withdrawal of Services Policy reaffirms that eligibility to SHS cannot be based on a person's complexity.

		<p>A key principle of the SHS program is to stabilise accommodation for people with complex needs, as a priority, so that interventions to address other areas such as mental health, can be more effective. Direct support to clients is also provided through referrals to mainstream and specialist services, including mental health services, GPs and drug and alcohol services. Brokerage can be used to assist a client with complex needs where financial support will address elements of a person's support plan. This can include costs for treatment programs and other clinical and/or community-based supports.</p> <p>The SHS Learning and Development program also provides free training to all DCJ-funded SHS services across NSW. Several of these courses address mental health, substance use, and co-morbidity, assisting staff in working more effectively to address these issues.</p>
437	<p>How many people exiting prison were turned away from temporary accommodation in 2023-24?</p> <p>(a) How many were women?</p> <p>(b) How many were men?</p> <p>(c) How many were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?</p> <p>(d) How many were young people?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>During 2023/24, 561 people exiting prison were declined Temporary Accommodation.</p> <p>a) 106 women</p> <p>b) 451 men</p> <p>c) 169 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders</p> <p>d) 41 young people (<25 yrs old)</p>
438	<p>Following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred how many people are using emergency and temporary accommodation as of?</p> <p>(a) 10 March 2025</p> <p>(b) 18 March 2025</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>a) 423 people in emergency accommodation [299 adults and 174 children]</p> <p>b) 5 people in emergency accommodation [5 adults and zero children]</p>
439	<p>Following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred what additional state funding has been provided to support NGOs in the recover?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>This is a matter for the Hon. Janelle Saffin MP, in her capacity as the Minister for Recovery and Minister for the North Coast.</p>
440	<p>Can you provide data on the average length of time women and children remained in a women refuge during:</p> <p>(a) January to March 2024?</p> <p>(b) April to May 2024?</p> <p>(c) July to September 2024?</p> <p>(d) October to December 2024?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Specialist homelessness services data for reporting is only available in cumulative year-to-date increments on a quarterly basis. Information by quarter, as requested, is not available.</p> <p>In 2023/24, of the women and children provided crisis accommodation by SHS,</p>

	(e) January to March 2025? (f) 2023-24	clients were accommodated for an average of 61 nights. In July-December 2024, of the women and children provided crisis accommodation by SHS, clients were accommodated for an average of 61 nights.
441	Can you provide data on the average length of time a young person remained in a youth refuge during: (a) January to March 2024? (b) April to May 2024? (c) July to September 2024? (d) October to December 2024? (e) January to March 2025? (f) 2023-23	I am advised: Specialist homelessness services data for reporting is only available in cumulative year-to-date increments on a quarterly basis. Information by quarter, as requested, is not available. In 2023/24, of the young people presenting alone to SHS and provided crisis accommodation, clients were accommodated for an average of 58 nights. During the period July-December 2024, of the young people presenting alone to SHS and provided crisis accommodation, clients were accommodated for an average of 51 nights.
442	What is the current wait time to access a women's refuge?	I am advised: Wait time or wait lists are not collected as part of the specialist homelessness services data collection in NSW.
443	What is the current wait time to access a youth refuge?	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 442.
444	Have all Specialist Homelessness Services achieved accreditation?	I am advised: Yes. All funded SHS providers and their subcontractors achieved accreditation requirements by 30 June 2024. Core and Cluster (C&C) and Aboriginal Homelessness Sector Growth Project (AHS GP) providers and their subcontractors and supported temporary accommodation providers new to the SHS sector are working towards achieving accreditation for the first time by 30 June 2026. The accreditation policy framework was updated in November 2024 to clarify that if a provider is contracted to deliver DCJ homelessness services for more than 12 months, they need to achieve accreditation within their contract term and maintain compliance with approved standards.
445	When will Homelessness Innovation Fund Round 2 be announced?	I am advised: Round 2 outcomes will be announced in April 2025.

446	Can you confirm all funds will be allocated by 30 June 2025?	I am advised: The allocation of funds will depend on the number and the size of the grants awarded after all three assessment rounds in 2024/25.
447	What trauma informed training is provided to Homes NSW staff when engaging with people experiencing homelessness?	<p>I am advised: The Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) is rolling out trauma-informed workshops designed to build capability, knowledge, and skills in trauma-informed practice while safeguarding staff wellbeing. This program, tailored to AHO, will be attended by all staff over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Disaster Welfare Services staff deployed during disaster events are sourced from DCJ divisions, including but not limited to Community Services, Homes NSW, Sheriffs and Courts and Corrections. Department of Education and TAFE NSW staff have also been recruited to supplement DCJ staff. In addition to the core training provided by their home agencies relevant to their role requirements, all staff deployed for disaster welfare must undertake mandatory Welfare Support Officer training and an additional self-paced e-learning module that includes a component of Psychological First Aid training. Staff are trained to observe the nonverbal cues of disaster-affected persons, listen to what they are saying they require and link them with necessary supports either available within the centre or externally. Any additional needs identified can be escalated to the Emergency Operations Centre, and specialist services such as mental health, alcohol or other drug services, or specialist homelessness services can be engaged to provide specific trauma-informed services.</p> <p>Trauma-informed practice is delivered to all new Housing Services Client Service Officers (CSOs) at their CSO Induction, focusing on identifying and understanding trauma, adaptive communication skills, emotional intelligence workshops, and duty of care.</p>
448	Is there specific training for young people and those under 18 who are experiencing homelessness?	I am advised: Young people receiving casework and accommodation through Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) will receive living skills development and support as part of their service. In addition, brokerage is available (dependant on provider contract terms) through SHS to assist with educational goals, course fees, trade

		<p>licences etc, where that is part of the structured support plan.</p> <p>Through the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) Homes NSW provides targeted and holistic responses to help 12–15-year-olds experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness to reconnect or engage in education.</p> <p>In 2025, DCJ will also offer up to 1,500 scholarships to students living in social housing or out-of-home care enrolled in education or training to help with school expenses and secondary support services.</p> <p>The Rent It Keep It (RIKI) is a new online course available to everyone in NSW. RIKI is for people with a poor rental history or no rental history, such as young people and those under 18. It helps to educate people about how to search and apply for properties in the private rental market and your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.</p>
449	What percentage of staff have undertaken trauma informed training?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Trauma-informed training is available to all AHO staff; it has predominantly been undertaken by those in tenant-facing roles—such as regional teams and Services Our Way staff—who make up approximately 20% of the AHO workforce.</p> <p>All Disaster Welfare Services staff deployed during emergencies are required to undertake psychological first aid training. Trauma-informed Practice is delivered to all new Housing Services Client Service Officers (CSOs) at their CSO Induction. It focuses on identifying and understanding trauma, adaptive communication skills, emotional intelligence workshops, and duty of care.</p>
450	What assistance is provided to people experiencing homelessness to complete form when an individual cannot read or write?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>People can access assistance by phone from the Homes NSW Housing Response Centre or attend their Homes NSW local office for assistance. In addition, an advocate or support person can assist a client in completing relevant Homes NSW application forms.</p>
451	How many people on the social housing waiting list are currently experiencing homelessness during 2023-24?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>As at 28 February 2025, there were 10,973 applicant households on the NSW</p>

		Housing Register approved for priority housing. 3,519 applicant households were approved under HPHL (Homeless) category.
452	What is the number and percentage of temporary accommodation places accessible for people with disability as of 1 March 2025?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>As at 28 March 2025, 134 of the 359 (37%) temporary accommodation providers have wheelchair access.</p> <p>Homes NSW Internal: The data available to us specifically relates to wheelchair accessibility and does not include information on other disability adjustments or modifications.</p>
453	<p>What is the number and percentage of temporary accommodation accessible to families as of 1 March 2025?</p> <p>(a) Provide breakdown by region?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>On 25 March 2025, 359 temporary accommodation providers were available. Of these, 268 (75%) were deemed suitable for families.</p> <p>Below is a breakdown of temporary accommodation providers deemed suitable for families, by Housing District/Region:</p> <p>Housing District/Region:</p> <p>Central Coast - 14</p> <p>Far West NSW - two</p> <p>Hunter New England - 43</p> <p>Illawarra Shoalhaven - 30</p> <p>Mid North Coast - 16</p> <p>Murrumbidgee - 30</p> <p>Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains - 17</p> <p>Northern NSW - 17</p> <p>Sydney, South East Sydney, Northern Sydney - 19</p> <p>South West Sydney - 28</p> <p>Southern NSW - 23</p> <p>Western NSW - 29</p> <p>Total – 268</p>
454	<p>Since 1 October 2024, how many SHS have sought an increase in funding?</p> <p>(a) In which LGAs are the SHS based?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>No SHS have sought funding since 1 October 2024.</p>

455	<p>Please provide the number of callers or clients by age and gender of people who interacted with Link2home during 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Clients aged 12-18 years (b) Clients aged 18-24 years (c) Clients aged 55-65 years (d) Clients aged 65- 75 years (e) Clients aged 75 and over 	<p>I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 455'.</p>
456	<p>How many transitional housing properties are available as of 30 June 2024 to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) women over 55? (b) Women and children escaping violence? (c) Children and young people? (d) People with disability? (e) Women leaving prison? (f) Men leaving prison? (g) People experiencing mental ill health? (h) For the above provide the data by allocation zone and geographic region? 	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 457.</p>
457	<p>How many transitional housing properties are available as of 1 March to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) women over 55? (b) Women and children escaping violence? (c) People with disability? (d) Children and young people? (e) Women leaving prison? (f) Men leaving prison? (g) People experiencing mental ill health? (h) For the above provide the data by allocation zone and geographic region? 	<p>I am advised: Clients are offered transitional housing as it becomes available and according to their presenting needs. While some dwellings are targeted to certain client groups, the allocation is not as specific as the categories mentioned in the question. For example, a women's service may offer a transitional housing dwelling to both women over and under 55, or accessible dwellings may be offered to a person with a disability. The available data does not provide information at the level of specificity requested in the question.</p>
458	<p>In 2023-24 how many young people transitioned from and Specialist Homelessness Services into stable accommodation?</p>	<p>I am advised: In 2023/24, over 13,000 young people 15-24 years in NSW presented alone were assisted by SHS, with 9,200 young people ending their support in the year. Of these, 4,420 (48% of those with closed support) ended their SHS support in stable</p>

		housing ('public or community housing – renter or rent-free' or 'Private or other housing – renter, rent-free or owner').
459	Can you outline reasons a young person is “closed from temporary accommodation access due to disengagement”? (a) Are other factors considered?	<p>I am advised: Clients (including those deemed a ‘young person’) are typically extended in temporary accommodation if they are actively engaged with the housing provider arranging their accommodation.</p> <p>‘Engagement’ includes attending appointments with the housing provider, meeting the requirements of a support plan, applying for social housing, contributing to the cost of accommodation (if required), and engaging with relevant support services.</p> <p>In considering whether a client has disengaged from a housing provider, their overall situation will be considered (e.g., health and psychosocial barriers).</p>
460	How will you measure the success of the Homelessness Innovation Fund?	<p>I am advised: The Homelessness Innovation Fund's success will be measured by monitoring the progress and outcomes of grantees and respective projects funded. This will depend on the project purpose but may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity added across supported temporary accommodation (TA)/refuges and medium accommodation and reducing demand on TA; and - Clients and initiatives that support clients move towards or into long-term accommodation or support to sustain tenancies.
461	What is the NSW Government doing to ensure adequate emergency accommodation is available in rural and regional communities to meet demand?	<p>I am advised: Disaster Welfare in Homes NSW works with partner agencies to provide emergency accommodation during emergencies and disasters. There is no permanent emergency accommodation as this is intended to be in place for a few nights only. The first choice is for affected people to stay with family and friends or in private rental accommodation. When this is impossible, emergency accommodation is provided in hotels, motels and pods villages. Sports camps have also been adapted for emergency accommodation, e.g., the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre in Lennox Head has been adapted to accommodate evacuees during emergencies. Camp Koinonia in Evans Head can also be used for this purpose. The last option is the use of evacuation centres. Local Emergency</p>

		Management Committees (LEMCs) decide what sites are appropriate for an evacuation centre. LEMC members are made up of local council and combat agency representatives. The Disaster Welfare team in Homes NSW coordinates the setup and operation of these evacuation centres during emergencies in partnership with other government agencies, community partners and charities.
462	What specific measures are in place to ensure that frontline service providers in regional NSW have equitable access to homelessness support funds, rather than resources being allocated exclusively to metropolitan areas?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program funds non-government organisations to deliver a range of services and initiatives to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in NSW's regional and metropolitan areas.</p> <p>The Government extended contracts for SHS, the Homelessness Youth Assistance Program, and a range of other homelessness programs until 30 June 2026 to allow time to plan for service recommissioning.</p> <p>Homes NSW is now working with the sector, peaks and other stakeholders to redesign the way NSW's homelessness system is recommissioned, from July 2026.</p> <p>One of the key aims of the recommissioning process will be to balance system reform with the need to maintain a diverse and viable homelessness sector that meets needs across the State including regional areas. Securing funding for services will be a key goal and all contracts will be 5 years long.</p>
463	What is the wait time for people to access emergency housing placements by allocation zone and geographic region?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Wait times for crisis/short-term accommodation provided by specialist homelessness services (SHS) are not collected as part of the SHS data collection in NSW.</p>
464	How will the Homelessness Innovation Fund “prioritise service delivery reform”?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Homelessness Innovation Fund Service Reform and Innovation grant stream enables homelessness and housing providers to propose innovative projects to reform the system and service delivery. Example proposals may include action research, new approaches to client support, flexible use of existing properties, or support for modern methods of construction.</p>

465	<p>What percentage of the Homelessness Innovation Fund is supporting rural and regional communities?</p> <p>(a) List areas</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>55% of offered HIF funding for round 1 supported projects in regional and rural areas. Project locations include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffs Harbour - Dubbo - East Gosford - Huskisson - Kempsey - Lismore - Mount Hutton - Orange - Redhead - Tamworth - Tweed Heads South
466	<p>Will Together Home be funded beyond 2024-25</p> <p>(a) If not, why not?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the 2024/25 NSW budget allocation, no new tranches of Together Home are planned. Together Home was a response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that homeless people accessed safe and secure accommodation with support and avoided illness. Together Home relied on head leases from private landlords, which, in the context of escalating rents, became unaffordable. Homes NSW will continue to embed Housing First practices adopted under Together Home as part of business as usual.</p>
467	<p>How will you measure the success of the Homelessness Innovation Fund?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Supplementary Question 460.</p>
468	<p>Specifically, how will the government facilitate collaboration between housing providers, mental health services, parole officers, and police to ensure a coordinated response to homelessness?</p> <p>(a) Are interagency meetings mandatory?</p> <p>(b) If not, why not?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Housing and Mental Health Agreement 2022 (HMHA) is an agreement between NSW Health and the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) committing the agencies to work together with key stakeholders to support people aged 16 years and over who are living in social housing, experiencing homelessness, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, and require mental health services funded by NSW Health or support to access broader mental health services.</p>

		<p>The HMHA and supporting documents are publicly available at: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/Pages/housing-and-mental-health-agreement.aspx</p> <p>a) Yes. Local Health Districts/ Networks and Homes NSW teams are required to establish and manage local and district-level HMHA groups. In Social Housing Management Transfer Areas, Community Housing Providers manage the groups with Local Health Districts/ Networks.</p>
469	<p>How many people accessed Temporary accommodation during:</p> <p>(a) January to March 2024? (b) April to May 2024? (c) July to September 2024? (d) October to December 2024? (e) January to March 2025? (f) For the above provide the data by allocation zone and geographic region?</p>	<p>I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 469'.</p>
470	<p>What is the average wait time for the Homes Contact Centre during:</p> <p>(a) January to March 2024? (b) April to May 2024? (c) July to September 2024? (d) October to December 2024? (e) January to March 2025?</p>	<p>I am advised: Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 470'.</p>
471	<p>What grants have been provided by your department over the last year to support young people?</p>	<p>I am advised: The Office for Regional Youth supported young people over the last year through the following grant programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Our Region, Our Voice', Regional Youth Investment Program: 67 approved projects from a \$40 million allocation have been in delivery. - Holiday Break Winter / Spring 2024 delivered 206 projects to the value of \$1.3 million. - Holiday Break Summer / Autumn 2024-2025 is delivering 185 projects to the

		<p>value of \$1 million.</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice provides annual grant funding to Local Councils support Youth Week activities that are youth-led. Youth Week activities occur each April and are opportunities for young people across NSW to connect and participate in their local communities. Also, the Youth Opportunities program annually provides one-off grants for time-limited projects that are youth-led and driven.</p> <p>The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People, refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 471'.</p>
472	<p>Does your department conduct any surveys of young people?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what topics were surveyed over the past two years?</p> <p>(b) If yes, are the findings of the surveys publicly available?</p> <p>(c) If yes, what was the cost of the surveys?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Office for Regional Youth does not use surveys.</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice does not conduct surveys of young people.</p> <p>Each year the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People commissions SecNewgate Research to undertake a quantitative survey for Youth Week. This survey is used to explore the experiences, attitudes and behaviours of young people aged 10-24 on a range of topics that are of strategic importance to the Advocate and the NSW Government. This survey consists of between 1,000-2,000 participants drawn from a representative sample of the NSW population. Quota targets are set on gender, age, education and location to provide a good cross-section of participants across demographic subgroups. Additionally, data is weighted to match ABS Census population statistics on age, gender and location. As part of the ongoing monitoring of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024, the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People through SecNewgate Research undertook a survey in 2021. This survey sought to consult with children and young people and collect data to form a baseline measure on a range of issues that underpinned the pillars of the Strategic Plan. These pillars are; health and wellbeing, a good standard of living, love connection and safety, environments for joy and fun, hope for the future and</p>

		<p>respect and acceptance. This research provided a benchmark against which progress was measured in the duration of the Plan. This survey consisted of between 800-1,000 participants aged 10-24 years. Quota targets were set to provide a good cross section of children and young people across demographic subgroups. Cell weighting was applied to the sample to match population benchmarks (ABS Census) for age, gender and location.</p> <p>In 2024, the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People in partnership with the Office of Regional Youth, the Department of Communities and Justice and the Office of the Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC, developed the Your Voice Your Future Survey. The survey was codesigned and tested with young people prior to its launch in May 2024. The survey was administered by ACYP. This survey was aimed at informing the work of the Minister for Youth and the development of a central Youth Agency. The total number of responses that met the inclusion criteria and fully completed the survey was 999 participants aged 14-24 years.</p> <p>Refer to attachment 'Supplementary Question 472'.</p>
473	If not, what resources area available so that the department understands what young people want the government to do?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: The Office for Regional Youth has consulted widely with young people on the best way to engage them in policy making, as well as on the key issues of most importance to them.</p> <p>In 2024 the Regional Youth team hosted and attended 100 community events and workshops, speaking to 3,622 young people about what they want and need from government, as part of the Your Voice, Our Future consultation.</p> <p>In addition, the Office for Regional Youth organised the NSW Youth Summit, which was held in November 2024. At the Summit, 100 young people provided feedback and insights about the issues impacting young people in their communities.</p> <p>The Office for Regional Youth published the Interim Report for the Your Voice,</p>

		<p>Our Future consultation in late 2024, providing an overview of the findings from consultation efforts. At the publication stage, 4,880 young people had participated in the consultation.</p> <p>The Office for Regional Youth published the Regional Youth Insights Report in October 2022. This report documents the most important issues for young people in each region of NSW and set out the priorities and initiatives that young people want and need to live their best lives. The Report was based on the consultation of almost 2,000 young people across regional NSW.</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice considers a range of information sources including and not limited to consultation findings and reports released by: the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People; the Office of Regional Youth; the youth sector Peak, Youth Action; and the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW. Input from young people through numerous advisory councils, committees and the NSW Youth Summit 2024 are also taken into account.</p> <p>The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People invest significant resources in understanding what young people want the NSW Government to do, as this is a core aspect of their enabling legislation. In addition to regular surveys, how children and young people want to interact with the NSW Government and what they want from Government, business and community, forms a large part of the Advocate's consultation work. This information is then used by the Advocate in policy and communication materials to the NSW Government and reflected to children and young people.</p> <p>The Advocate remains committed to supporting their colleagues across the NSW Government to continue to embed resourcing and capacity building to understand what young people want from them and how we can serve them better.</p>
474	Could the Minister please provide the most recent copy of the Executive Organisation Chart for DCJ?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/about-us/about-dcj/DCJ_Exec_Chart.pdf</p>

475	Could the Minister please provide the most recent copy of the Organisation Chart for Homes NSW?	I am advised: https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/about-us/about-dcj/DCJ_Exec_Chart.pdf
476	Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?	I am advised: In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions) - Meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political - Social or public functions or events - Meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018</i> and Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and - Matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/accessto-information/ministers-diary-disclosures)
477	Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?	I am advised: In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions) - Meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political - Social or public functions or events - Meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018</i> and

		Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and - Matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/accessto-information/ministers-diary-disclosures)
478	On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?	I am advised: The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office. I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.
479	How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023? (a) Of these redundancies, how many were: i. Voluntary? ii. Forced? (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities? (c) On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?	I am advised: Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses. Published Annual reports can be accessed on respective Departmental websites.
480	On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published?	I am advised: Annual Reports and their tabling dates can be found on the NSW Parliament website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au .
481	Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio printed? (a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?	I am advised: Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines <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.
482	Did the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio use in part or full an external production / body / consultant to draft? (a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?	I am advised: In accordance with the Treasury Policy and Guidelines <i>TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements</i> , an agency's annual report must contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including fees for consultants.

483	In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?	I am advised: The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> and Treasurer's Direction 23-11 Annual reporting requirements.
484	Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy? (a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25 for each department / agency?	I am advised: Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the <i>NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10</i> Annual Reporting Requirements. TP23-10 also requires that an agency's annual report contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including printing costs.
485	Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department? (a) If yes, when?	I am advised: The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> . The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices. Further information is available on State Records NSW's website (www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw). I expect my office to comply with their obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> .
486	On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)?	I am advised: Annual reports are published on the website of the relevant department or agency and are also held by the Parliamentary Library. Department and agency expenditure is also published at data.nsw.gov.au . Agency expenditure must be reported in accordance with TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements and TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements.
487	Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register? (a) If yes, is it available online? i. If yes, what is the website URL?	I am advised: Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: The Department's staff submit and manage their declarations through an internal online portal. This register is not publicly available. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: a) The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) gifts, benefits and hospitality register is available online. i) The DCCEEW gifts, benefits and hospitality register is available at www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew/information-access-governance-and-feedback/gifts-benefits-and-hospitality-register .

		<p>NSW Health: All NSW Health Organisations must maintain a Gifts and Benefits Register under the mandatory requirements of the NSW Health policy directive Conflict of Interest and Gifts and Benefits (PD2015_045). Registers are available on request to the Right to Information contact at the relevant NSW Health Organisation. A list of contacts for all organisations is provided at the following URL: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gipaa/Pages/table-of-contacts.aspx.</p> <p>Department of Communities and Justice: The Department of Communities and Justice has a Gifts, Benefits and Bequests maintains a gift register available online: https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/resources/policies/gifts-benefits-and-bequests.html.</p>
488	<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: 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>
489	<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: All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so. A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct. The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150.</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 purposes of the Policy.</p>
490	<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: All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times. The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance. Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier - Seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as 'prohibited interests') - Identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest - Disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500. 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>.
491	<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>(a) If yes, under what circumstance?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?</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.</p> <p>In cases of overseas travel short-term cards will be issued and returned at the completion of official travel together with a travel diary for fringe benefit tax purposes. 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.</p> <p>NSW Government-issued credit cards for official business trips overseas will be held with government contract bankers and used within credit limits imposed. Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes. Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.</p>
492	<p>Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Department of Communities and Justice:</p> <p>The policy is available at: https://arp.nsw.gov.au/assets/ars/attachments/TPP21-02-Use-and-Management-of-NSW-Govt-Purchasing-Cards.pdf.</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development:</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>

		<p>Further, each Department / Agency within the portfolio have a specified policy. These were attached to the response to Supplementary Questions to the initial hearing on 9th September 2024</p> <p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with the standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government.</p> <p>NSW Health: Where an 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. Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes. Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.</p>
493	Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?	<p>I am advised: I make use of an office in 52 Martin Place and NSW Parliament. When travelling, Ministers may make ad hoc arrangements to work for periods in Departmental offices.</p>
494	As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?	<p>I am advised: No senior executives in my portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a driver.</p>
495	<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: GIPA statistics for Ministers' offices are published in the annual reports of the Department of Communities and Justice.</p> <p>The office of the Minister for Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and Water makes every effort to comply with all its obligations under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p>
496	Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in	<p>I am advised: <i>Under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>: An agency is not</p>

	relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?	subject to the direction or control of any Minister in the exercise of the agency's functions in dealing with a particular access application. My office complies with the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> .
497	What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice GIPA disclosure log is available at https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/gipa/disclosure-log.html.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development GIPA disclosure log is available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dpird/access-information/disclosure-logs.</p> <p>The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water disclosure log is located at www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew/information-access-governance-and-feedback/disclosure-log.</p> <p>The URL for the NSW Ministry of Health disclosure log is: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gipaa/Pages/disclosure-log-table.aspx. Each organisation within NSW Health has their own GIPA disclosure log listing decisions made by that organisation. A list of contacts for each organisation is provided at the following URL: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gipaa/Pages/table-of-contacts.aspx.</p>
498	Are you on TikTok? (a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p>
499	Are you and/or your ministerial staff on Signal? (a) If yes, do you and/or your ministerial staff access Signal from a NSW Government device? (b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government. 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>.</p>
500	Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training. Ministers</p>

	<p>using your ministerial budget?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the description of training?</p> <p>(b) If yes, how much?</p>	<p>have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy. Members of Parliament are provided with a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Determination. Ministerial Office Budgets are managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.</p>
501	<p>Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?</p>	<p>I don't have a Parliamentary Secretary.</p>
502	<p>Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?</p>	<p>I don't have a Parliamentary Secretary.</p>
503	<p>Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?</p>	<p>I don't have a Parliamentary Secretary.</p>
504	<p>Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle?</p>	<p>I don't have a Parliamentary Secretary.</p>
505	<p>Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases?</p> <p>(a) If no, why?</p>	<p>I am advised: The Department of Customer Service (DCS) is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.</p>
506	<p>As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?</p>	<p>I am advised: The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for NSW Government travelling employees and covers official air and land travel by public officials using public money. Section 2.1 of that Policy sets out approvals required in relation to overseas travel.</p> <p>Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here: https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-andtransport-policy. NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements (TPG-10) requires agencies to include information on overseas visits by officers and employees in agency annual reports.</p>
507	<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>(a) If yes, what is the website?</p>	<p>I am advised: The Cabinet Office and Premier's Department 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</i> (PPIP Act). Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly available a data breach policy.</p>

		<p>The PPIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public. 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>
508	<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>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: No. a) N/A b) N/A</p> <p>NSW Health: Yes, this is administered by the Ministry of Health. Grants allocated are published on the NSW Government's Grants and Funding Finder at: nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding.</p> <p>Department of Communities and Justice: No.</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: No</p>
509	<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>

		contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation.” Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not. Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.
510	How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)?	I am advised: Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the <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).
511	How much money was spent on public housing maintenance for the 2024/25 financial year to date?	I am advised: From 1 July 2024 to 28 February 2025, \$408,631,726 was spent on public housing maintenance.
512	As of today's date, how many maintenance requests are currently unresolved: (a) Across NSW; (b) In the CS03 allocation zone; (c) In the CS01 allocation zone?	I am advised: a) As at 14 March 2025 there are currently 928 maintenance requests at the status of new, triaged and unfulfilled. This includes works that are currently within timeframe for delivery and are being actioned/assigned to a contractor. b) Maintenance data is not able to be reported on by allocation zone. c) Maintenance data is not able to be reported on by allocation zone.
513	What is the average time taken for: (a) An operator to answer a call from tenants who call the Maintenance Line; (b) A contractor to attend and inspect a property after a work order has been raised; (c) Substantial works to be completed after an inspection is conducted; and (d) Works to be completed and closed after all the above steps have been completed? (e) Are the expected times for these things to be done set out in policy, procedures or contracts?	I am advised: a) Approximately 3 minutes. b) Work order priorities range from 4 hours, 24 hours, 5 days, 10 days and 18 days depending on the nature of maintenance request. c) The timeframe for substantial works varies according to the scope of the works. d) All work is categorised in the appropriate priority, which applies to the relevant target date. If completion is impacted by, for example, weather, access issues or site conditions, the contractor will apply for an extension of time to complete the work. e) Expected timeframes for works are set out in the Responsive and Programmed Maintenance (RAPM) Contract

	<p>i. If so, what are the details?</p> <p>ii. Which are being met?</p>	<p>i. This document is Commercial in Confidence</p> <p>ii. This document is Commercial in Confidence</p>
514	<p>How many public homes are currently empty in NSW due to being untenanted?</p> <p>(a) Of these, how many are:</p> <p>i. In the Inner West; or</p> <p>ii. In Inner Sydney?</p> <p>iii. Empty because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are currently uninhabitable; • Maintenance or upgrade works are currently underway; • Maintenance or upgrade works are required but not scheduled; • Redevelopment of the home is approved but not yet underway; or • Another reason (please specify). 	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>1,746 DCJ managed (Public Housing and AHO) as at 28 February 2025.</p> <p>a) Of these, how many are:</p> <p>i. In the Inner West: 63</p> <p>ii. In Inner Sydney: 290</p> <p>iii. Empty because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are currently uninhabitable: 0 - Maintenance or upgrade works are currently underway: 475 - Maintenance or upgrade works are required but not scheduled: 61 - Redevelopment of the home is approved but not yet underway: 142 - Another reason (vacant restoration i.e. cleaning, repairs and maintenance before re-tenanting): 1,068
515	<p>In FY 2024-25 to date, how many applications for social housing were rejected under the Inner City Local Allocation Strategy?</p> <p>(a) Has there been a review of the Inner City Local Allocation Strategy since the Minns Government was elected?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In 2024/25 (to date), 24 applicants for social housing returned a positive result to criminal records checks in accordance with the Inner City Local Allocation Strategy (LAS) and have been excluded from receiving offers of social housing within the suburbs covered under the Inner City LAS. Applicants are still eligible for social housing in other parts of CS1 and CS2, which are not within the Inner City LAS.</p> <p>The Inner City LAS is currently being reviewed as part of the Homes NSW functional review and realignment of the Housing Services—Sydney District. The review is expected to be finalised by mid-2025.</p>
516	<p>In FY 2024-25 to date, how many tenants were evicted from social housing under the “3 strikes” tenancy management policy?</p> <p>(a) Has there been a review of the ‘3 strikes’ policy since the Minns Government was elected?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>During 2024/25 (to February 2025) there were 10 tenants issued with a strike 3 notice of termination.</p> <p>a) There has been no review of the ‘3 strikes’ provisions within the Antisocial Behaviour Policy since the Minns Government took office.</p>
517	<p>As of today’s date, how many approved applications are currently on the Homes NSW:</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>As at 28 February 2025, there were:</p>

	(a) General transfer waiting list; (b) Priority transfer waiting list; or (c) At-risk transfer waiting list?	a) 7,009 applications approved for general transfer b) 6,044 applications approved for escalated transfer c) 937 applications were approved as escalated transfers in the at-risk category.
518	In FY 2024-25, what was the average time people spent on each of these waiting lists before being offered a social housing property? (a) In this period, what was the longest time someone spent on the waiting list? (b) Regarding the current general waiting list, how many people on the list have been on it for: i. Over 15 years? ii. Over 10 years? iii. Over 5 years? (c) Regarding the current priority and at-risk waiting lists, how many people on the list have been on it for: i. Over 3 years? ii. Over 2 years? iii. Over 1 year? iv. Over 6 months?	I am advised: The median wait time to be housed from the NSW Housing Register is publicly available via the Social Housing Waiting List Dashboard website. At 31 December 2024, this was 3.6 months for priority applicants and 16.0 months for general applicants. a) In 2023/24, what was the longest time someone spent on the waiting list? 29.7 years b) Regarding the current general waiting list, how many people on the list have been on it for: i. Over 15 years: 11 households ii. Over 10 years: 57 households iii. Over 5 years: 243 households c) Regarding the current priority and at-risk waiting lists, how many people on the list have been on it for: i. Over 3 years: 167 households ii. Over 2 years: 330 households iii. Over 1 year: 826 households iv. Over 6 months: 1,535 households Please note: the data provided in b) and c) are as at 28 February 2025.
519	How many children are currently on the: (a) General social housing waiting list? (b) Priority list? (c) At-risk list?	I am advised: As at 28 February 2025: a) there were 36,555 children on the general waiting list b) there were 6,689 children on the priority waiting list c) there were 1,082 children on the escalated transfer at-risk list
520	In FY 2024-25 to date, how many people on the social housing register were offered, and subsequently moved into,	I am advised: This information is not collected centrally by Homes NSW. The leasing of an

	<p>affordable housing?</p> <p>(a) How does this compare with the figure of social housing eligible people who moved into affordable housing in the prior three financial years?</p>	<p>affordable housing property is managed by the community housing provider (CHPs) that manages the property. There is no central waiting list for affordable housing. While CHPs can access the NSW Social Housing Register to identify an applicant who may be suitable, affordable housing tenants are more likely to be identified through other methods, such as advertising on general letting websites like realestate.com.</p>
521	<p>In FY 2024-25 to date, how much money has Homes NSW/the Department of Communities and Justice spent on:</p> <p>(a) Private Rental Subsidy;</p> <p>(b) Rentstart Bond Loan;</p> <p>(c) Rent Choice Assist;</p> <p>(d) Rent Choice Start Safely; and</p> <p>(e) Headleasing private rental properties for use as social housing?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>From July 2024 to February 2025, the spend figures are as follows:</p> <p>a) \$15.6 million</p> <p>b) \$0.3 million</p> <p>c) \$1.3 million</p> <p>d) \$13.2 million</p> <p>e) \$49.1 million</p>
522	<p>In relation to the Link2Home temporary accommodation program:</p> <p>(a) How much funding did this receive in FY 2024-25;</p> <p>(b) How did this compare with funding received in each of the previous three financial years;</p> <p>(c) How much of this funding is apportioned to each electorate, local government area, region, or other relevant catchment across the state; and</p> <p>(d) Over the past three months, has there been a reduction in funding apportioned to any specific electorates, local government areas, regions, or other relevant catchments? If so:</p> <p>i. How many nights of accommodation through Link2Home have been lost as a result of this reduction; and</p> <p>ii. In particular, has there been a reduction in funding for the Northern Rivers region (including, but not limited to, the Ballina local government area)? If so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many nights of accommodation through Link2Home have been lost in the region and in the Ballina LGA as a result; 	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>a) Link2Home temporary accommodation funding is covered under Homes NSW's broader temporary accommodation budget. Clients are eligible to receive temporary accommodation, subject to meeting eligibility criteria outlined in the relevant policy.</p> <p>b) See response for a).</p> <p>c) Funding for temporary accommodation is not allocated to specific electorates or areas.</p> <p>d) See response for c).</p>

	and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What investments have been made in other forms of temporary accommodation in this region to compensate for this reduction? 	
523	In the past three months, has LAHC terminated engagements with any temporary accommodation providers in the Northern Rivers region and specifically the Ballina LGA? If so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What are these providers; and (b) Why were the engagements terminated? 	I am advised: No.
524	Does Link2Home have a policy of “blacklisting” individuals or marking them as unsuitable for accommodation through the program? If so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) On what basis does this occur? 	I am advised: No, Link2home provides the initial assistance, and any assessments for the provision of further temporary accommodation is conducted by the housing provider (public or community housing) in the location in which the client is presenting.
525	In FY 2024-25 to date, how many maintenance requests have been made in Redfern?	I am advised: From 1 July 2024 to 14 March 2025, 7,513 maintenance requests were raised.
526	Of these, how many requests were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Regarding communal areas; or (b) Regarding individual properties 	I am advised: a) 2,202 requests b) 5,311 requests
527	Of the maintenance requests regarding communal areas in the last financial year, how many were regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Illegal dumping (b) Pest control (c) Plumbing and/or guttering (d) Intercom systems (e) Broken windows/doors (f) Graffiti (g) Sewage (h) Lighting (both internal and external) (i) Cleanliness (j) Landscaping (k) Accessibility upgrades or repairs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. uneven pavements or flooring 	I am advised: Due to the change of reporting systems from 1 July 2024, Homes NSW cannot provide the data for the last financial year. Reporting systems have changed so that all items for repair for a communal area are grouped on the work order. This level of breakdown is not possible.

	ii. internal and external handrails iii. security doors iv. damaged lifts	
528	Within each of the above categories, how do the number of requests compare with each of the prior five financial years?	I am advised: Due to the change of reporting systems from 1 July 2024, Homes NSW cannot provide the data for the last financial year.
529	Of the maintenance requests for communal areas from the last financial year in Redfern: (a) How many have been resolved? (b) What was the average time taken between for a request to be resolved? (c) How does this average time for resolution compare with the previous five financial years?	I am advised: Homes NSW cannot provide this data at this time due to the change of reporting systems effective 1 July 2024.
530	Of the maintenance requests for individual areas from the last financial year in Redfern: (a) How many have been resolved? (b) What was the average time taken between for a request to be resolved? (c) How does this average time for resolution compare with the previous five financial years?	I am advised: Due to the change of reporting systems from 1 July 2024, Homes NSW cannot provide this data at this time.
531	What is the reporting process for contractors contracted to maintain communal areas, who identify a maintenance issue in a communal area when on a Housing property site?	I am advised: If a contractor is onsite and identifies additional works, the contractor is obligated to document the potential works (e.g. through photos) and inform Homes NSW with the relevant evidence. The contractor then undertakes the additional works following approval by Homes NSW.
532	In the last financial year, how many maintenance requests for communal areas have been raised by contractors themselves? (a) Of these maintenance, how many have been resolved?	I am advised: Homes NSW cannot report on which orders are raised by a contractor on site.
533	Is there an arrangement between NSW State Emergency Services (SES) regarding provision of NSW SES services to Homes NSW properties? (a) If so, what specific services are provided under this arrangement at what frequency?	I am advised: Yes. a) Whilst there is no formal agreement or frequency in place, combat agencies like SES and RFS undertake rapid damage impact assessments of Homes NSW

	(b) How many times have SES reported to Homes NSW that they have attended Homes NSW Properties in past financial year?	properties following a disaster. That information is shared through a data-sharing agreement to plan and undertake any necessary repairs and maintenance. b) Homes NSW does not record this information.
534	What is the Homes NSW triage and prioritisation process when assessing major damage to communal areas of Housing properties i.e. Plumbing & Guttering of a building?	I am advised: For responsive works, the triage process starts with a tenant requesting maintenance. The Homes NSW operator asks questions to determine the extent of the work required. A Criticality Response Matrix is used to determine a contractual pre-defined timeframe within which the contractor is required to attend the site and either make the works safe or complete them. A work order is then issued to the contractor to undertake the works as per the criticality/priority timeframe.
535	Does Homes NSW engage private contractors to determine prioritisation?	I am advised: Homes NSW does not engage private contractors to determine the prioritisation of works. Where work is required, Homes NSW assesses, prioritises (based on a criticality response matrix) and approves the work to be undertaken.
536	In FY 2024-25 to date, how many site visits have been conducted by homes NSW staff excluding contractors? (a) Of these site visits, how many maintenance requests have been made by Homes NSW staff?	I am advised: As of the end of February 2024/25 year to date, Homes NSW staff (excluding contractors) have conducted 48,364 Client Services Visits (CSVs). Data on how many maintenance requests were made directly by Homes NSW staff as a result of these visits is not available as tenants and staff are encouraged to log all repair requests through the maintenance app or phone line.