



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
(Park)

Hearing: Thursday 21 August 2025

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Wednesday 17 September 2025

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from the Hon John Ruddick MLC
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- (1) **Independence of the Sax Institute:** The Sax Institute declares economic dependency on NSW Health for significant funding, and a senior NSW Health official, Dr Kerry Chant, was a member of its board during the evidence check process. Given these ties, how can you assure the public that the Sax Institute's report on gender-affirming treatments for minors is truly independent and free from bias?
- (2) **Conflict of Interest:** Dr Chant has acknowledged a perceived conflict of interest and claims to have withdrawn from the Sax Institute board "many moons ago." Can you clarify when this withdrawal occurred, whether it was before or during the evidence check process, and how NSW Health ensured no influence was exerted by its officials on the Sax Institute's findings?
- (3) **Delay in Report Release:** The Sax Institute's evidence check was reportedly finalised in February 2024 but not released until seven months later, with the summary taking longer to produce than the report itself. Can you explain the reasons for this significant delay, and why you suggested the February 2024 date might be a typographical error during the Budget Estimates hearing?
- (4) **Quality of Evidence:** The Sax Institute's report acknowledges the evidence for puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and transgender surgery as "weak" due to poor study designs, low participant numbers, and considerable flaws. Given these admissions, why does the report's summary present an overly confident endorsement of these treatments as safe, effective, and reversible?
- (5) **Comparison with International Reviews:** The Sax report appears to downplay findings from more rigorous international reviews, such as the UK's Cass Review and systematic reviews from Finland and Sweden, which describe puberty blockers as experimental due to unknown long-term effects. Why does NSW Health continue to rely on the Sax Institute's rapid review, which is less rigorous, instead of adopting the cautious approaches seen in these countries?
- (6) **Omission of Key Risks:** The Sax report identifies low bone density as the primary concern with puberty blockers but omits potential risks to cognitive and psychosexual development,

which experts like Professor Sallie Baxendale argue are significant. How does NSW Health justify relying on a report that sidesteps these critical risks when informing treatment policies for minors?

- (7) Detransition and Desistance: The Sax report relegates discussion of detransition to an appendix and cites a Dutch study claiming it is “very rare,” despite evidence suggesting higher rates and underreporting. How will NSW Health address the needs of detransitioners, and why was this issue not given more prominence in the Sax report?
- (8) Influence of NSW Health on the Report: The article notes that NSW Health framed the questions, participated in refining the literature search, and co-developed the inclusion criteria for the Sax evidence check. How can you assure the public that this involvement did not bias the report toward supporting NSW Health’s expansion of gender-affirming treatments?
- (9) Outdated Guidelines: The Sax report excludes the Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne, Endocrine Society, and WPATH guidelines from its evaluation, despite NSW Health’s reliance on them. Given that these guidelines were rated poorly by the Cass Review for lacking evidence, will NSW Health reconsider their use in favor of more evidence-based approaches?
- (10) Response to Criticism: Experts like Dr Philip Morris, Dr Jillian Spencer, Dr Andrew Amos, and Professor John Whitehall have criticised the Sax report as shoddy, biased, and less rigorous than the Cass Review. How do you respond to these concerns, and what steps will NSW Health take to ensure its policies are based on high-quality, unbiased evidence rather than the Sax Institute’s findings?

ACON

- (11) In your answer to my question on notice item 3690 you referred to an annual grant that is provided to ACON with performance measures in place that relate to government strategies about HIV and other STIs.
 - (a) What are these performance measures? Have they demonstrated value for money?
 - (b) Does NSW Health acknowledge that ACON's failure to disaggregate its financial reporting makes it impossible for the public to fully understand how its funding is allocated?

- (c) NSW Health has previously engaged independent evaluations of non-governmental organisations funding to assess service delivery effectiveness and financial oversight. Will it apply similar mechanisms to ensure ACON's funding is allocated appropriately, such as commissioning a formal assessment by the NSW Audit Office, Productivity Commission, or an equivalent external body? If not, why not?

Gender Treatment

- (12) As at 21st August 2025, how many children and adolescents who may be or are gender dysphoric or gender questioning are currently being treated by Sydney Children's Hospitals Network?
- (13) As at 21st August 2025, how many children and adolescents who may be or are gender dysphoric or gender questioning are currently being treated at Maple Leaf House?
- (14) As at 21st August 2025, how many children and adolescents who may be or are gender dysphoric or gender questioning are currently being treated at True Colours?
- (a) When did the True Colours facility open its doors?
- (15) Did the NSW Health Legal and Regulatory Services Branch have any involvement or oversight in the development of the 2023 Framework for the Specialist Trans and Gender-Diverse Health Service for People Under 25 Years?
- (16) Did any non-government organisation(s) have any involvement in the development of the 2023 Framework for the Specialist Trans and Gender-Diverse Health Service for People Under 25 Years?
- (a) If so, who were the organisation(s)?
- (17) What steps has NSW Health taken to ensure that medical practitioners prescribing cross-sex hormones are aware of the risks of criminal liability set out in the minors section of the NSW Health's 2025 Consent to Medical and Healthcare Treatment Manual?
- (18) What steps has the Minister for Health taken to determine whether or not medical practitioners have breached s175 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* by prescribing cross-sex hormones to minors under the age of 16 without the approval of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal?
- (19) What steps has NSW Health taken to determine whether or not medical practitioners have breached s175 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* by prescribing

cross-sex hormones to minors under the age of 16 without the approval of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal?

(20) On the NSW Health's Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service webpage it states:

“ NSW Health is committed to providing the best possible care for trans and gender diverse young people and their families across NSW.

NSW Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service (TGD Health Service) provides medical, nursing, and allied health specialist care to make sure trans and gender diverse young people from across NSW get the support they need. The TGD Health Service includes Maple Leaf House (up to 25 in Rural and Regional areas), SCHN Trans and Gender Diverse Service (up to 16 in Sydney areas) and True Colours (16 - up to 25 in Sydney areas).

Our services provide evidence-based, holistic and tailored care to support the individual and their health goals. Being trans and gender diverse is experienced and expressed in many different ways so it is important that care and support reflects what each person needs.”

As you would be aware, there is a growing number of individuals in the community known as detransitioners who are seeking medical and health care services arising from undertaking transgender treatment procedures.

- (a) Has NSW Health established specific medical and health care services for detransitioners?
 - i. If so, when were those services established?
 - ii. If not, why not?
- (b) If such services have not yet been established by NSW Health, when will they be introduced?
- (c) Within NSW Health, where do detransitioners specifically go to access medical and health care services?
- (d) How are employees of NSW Health made aware of the detransitioner medical and health care services?
- (e) How is the public made aware of the detransitioner medical and health care services offered by NSW Health?

Pregnancy Termination

(21) Since the commencement of the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019* on 2nd October 2019, NSW Health has had four versions of the “Notification of termination of pregnancy” form –

October 2019, August 2020, June 2023 and June 2025. The first three versions of the form contained a specific question regarding terminations carried out for the sole purpose of sex-selection. The most recent version of the form (June 2025) has removed the specific question regarding terminations carried out for the sole purpose of sex-selection.

- (a) Why was the specific question regarding terminations carried out for the sole purpose of sex-selection removed from the most recent version of the “Notification of termination of pregnancy” form?
 - (b) When will the specific question regarding terminations carried out for the sole purpose of sex-selection be reincorporated into the “Notification of termination of pregnancy” form?
- (22) Beyond the formal qualifications held by an endorsed midwife, what additional training/certification/qualification etc. is required before the endorsed midwife is able to perform medical terminations?
- (23) Beyond the formal qualifications held by a nurse practitioner, what additional training/certification/qualification etc. is required before the nurse practitioner is able to perform medical terminations?
- (24) Regarding the oral evidence provided at the hearing that with respect to the implementation of the *Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Act 2025*, that relevant NSW Health policy documents in relation to pregnancy termination are being reviewed and updated, will the policy documents contain an explanation of conscientious objection rights prescribed in clause 9 of the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*?
- (25) What steps does a person working in a NSW Health facility take if they believe their conscientious objection rights pursuant to clause 9 of the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019* are being threatened or not observed?
- (26) Regarding the oral evidence provided at the hearing with respect to the investment in SEARCH and SEARCH+ by NSW Health, what has that investment been?
- (a) Detail the specific dollar investment in SEARCH and SEARCH+?
- (27) With respect to the “40 sites providing medical or surgical abortions around the state” referred to at the hearing, please list the 40 sites?

Questions from the Hon Rod Roberts MLC

NSW AMBULANCE – DR DOMINIC MORGAN ASM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Paramedic wellness

- (28) I refer you to page 11 of the uncorrected transcript where, under questioning from the Hon. Rod Roberts, you stated, “We have two more tranches of this program and really the approach we’re taking is to mitigate as much fatigue and on-call around regional New South Wales as we possibly can.” Was NSW Ambulance given a direction from Safe Work NSW to remove on-call or mitigate it?
- (a) Post the removal of on-call has paramedic wellness been measured?
- i. If so, how?

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Human health and environmental risk assessments

- (29) Have any agencies in the Health Portfolio ever engaged EnRisks to conduct human health and/or environmental risk assessments?
- (a) If yes, how many risk assessments have EnRisks conducted for the Health Portfolio in the 10 years between 2015 and 2025?
- i. Please provide details for each risk assessment, including what the assessment covered, when it was commissioned, when it was finalised and whether it has been publicly released (including a link to the final assessment where available)?

Early Drug Diversion Initiative

- (30) In answer to Question on Notice 4114, I was advised that from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025, 121 criminal infringement notice recipients have elected to complete the health intervention under the Early Drug Diversion Initiative. Since 28 February 2025, how many additional recipients have elected to complete the health intervention?
- (a) Based on the latest available data, since the Early Drug Diversion Initiative came into effect on 29 February 2024 how many calls have the Alcohol & Drug Information Service (ADIS) received from those diverted into the program?
- i. Please provide this information broken down month by month.

- (b) How many people have completed an appointment with the nominated health professional over the phone:
 - i. Please provide this information broken down month by month.

Drug Checking Trial at Music Festivals

- (31) Please provide a breakdown of the results of drug checking at each music festival where NSW Health has trialled its pill testing service including:
 - (a) The total number of patrons at the music festival
 - (b) How many people used the service
 - (c) How many tests were undertaken
 - (d) What the client thought they were getting tested and the results of the test, and
 - (e) Whether drug dogs and strip searching occurred at the festival.

Broken Hill lead poisoning and contamination

- (32) Documents released through SO52 indicate that equipment used by health practitioners for lead testing are likely to now be obsolete. What impact is this having on the ability to monitor the health impacts of lead contamination on the Broken hill community?
- (33) What proportion of lead testing equipment in use in Broken Hill as of 2022, is still functioning in 2025?
- (34) If there has been a reduction in the availability of lead testing equipment used by health practitioners, is this causing delays in testing for the Broken Hill community?
 - i. If yes, please detail the delays and the actions being taken to address them.

Assessment of potential impacts from the proposed Bowden's lead mine near Mudgee

- (35) As tabled in budget estimates on Thursday 21 August 2025, the Western and Far West NSW Public Health Unit reviewed and provided comment on the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Bowdens Silver Project. Have any other NSW Health public health units, or any other teams within NSW Health, provided comments on this EIS?
 - (a) If yes, could these please be made available, including details of the particular area of expertise of the staff that provided the comments?

- (36) In the same tabled document noted above, it is noted that the Health Intelligence Unit for the Western and Far West NSW Local Health District reported higher rates of respiratory disease in this district and recommended that “Health Risks related to air emissions should be considered alongside the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Agency assessment of Air Quality Impacts in its submission dated 9 July 2020.”. Please provide details of any further consideration by NSW Health of the health risks that might be posed by the Bowdens mine, in relation to air emissions.

Blue Mountains webinar for GPs

- (37) In relation to the webinar briefing to Blue Mountains doctors regarding the management of patients who may present with concerns about PFAS exposure:
- (a) Please list the details of the health professionals who presented at that webinar including whether they have work/ed for or have had any association with NSW Health or any other government agency, detailing this if so.
 - (b) How many doctors attended the briefing?

PFAS health impacts

- (38) On p.3 of the recommendations of the PFAS Expert Health Panel, the panel concluded “There have been few high-quality studies of workers exposed to high levels of PFAS, and threshold levels”. Has the NSW Government undertaken further research of the impacts on workers exposed to high levels of PFAS in impacted communities?
- (a) Please provide details of any additional research undertaken or commissioned by the NSW Government.

Meeting with GM3

- (39) On 23 May this year you met with the mining company GM3 who have recently purchased Dendrobium mine at Appin. What was that meeting about?

Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
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HEALTH AND REGIONAL HEALTH

Safe Staffing Levels

- (40) What is the total allocated FTE and total recruited FTE for each hospital included in the rollout of Safe Staffing Levels to date?

- (41) What is the timeframe to implement Safe Staffing Levels in wards and departments other than Emergency departments?

Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

- (42) When will the Government response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding be made public?
- (43) Which Local Health Districts, if any, currently invite Medical Staff Council Chairs to attend board meetings?

Preventive health

- (44) The National Preventive Health Strategy (2021) recommends increasing national health expenditure for public and preventive health activities to 5 percent by 2030. Does the NSW government support this target?
- (45) How is preventive health currently addressed through the whole-of-government?
- (46) What are the current barriers to updating government policy development or budget submission processes to require that all new initiatives be assessed for their impact on population health and wellbeing?
- (47) What specific prevention programs are being delivered to reduce preventable disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW?
- (a) How is the success of these programs measured?

Primary Care

- (48) What discussions has the NSW Government had with the Commonwealth to address the GP access crisis identified in the SCoI report in rural and regional NSW?
- (49) How many general practice registrars are currently employed through the single employer pathway in each Local Health District?

First Nations health

- (50) How many Aboriginal Liaison Officers are currently employed across NSW Health?
- (51) What measures does NSW Health have in place to assess the effectiveness of “Respecting the Difference” training?

- (52) What specific interventions are in place for Aboriginal communities, to ensure NSW achieves its Closing the Gap target by 2031?

ADHD Diagnosis and prescribing reform

- (53) What is the funding allocation for training GPs within Tier 1 and Tier 2, including child and adult focus within Tier 2, respectively?
- (54) How many GPs have submitted EOIs for Tier 1 and Tier 2 training, including for child and adult focus within Tier 2, respectively?
- (a) How many of the EOIs were from regional or rural NSW within each tier?
 - (b) How will uptake be encouraged/supported for GPs in rural and regional NSW?
- (55) How many GPs is NSW health prepared to offer training for within each of these tiers?
- (56) How will the tier 2 training program for GPs be developed?
- (a) How will GPs' skills be evaluated?
 - (b) When will Tier 2 GPs be ready to commence in practice?
 - (c) Is the accredited training for GPs intended as a one-off training requirement, or will there be ongoing competency or refresher training obligations?
 - (d) Is there a mechanism for GPs to receive exemptions or advanced standing in the new training based on their prior education or experience?
- (57) Regarding current shortages of medications prescribed for ADHD, what is the NSW government doing to ensure that patients relying on this already stretched supply can access the ADHD medication they have been prescribed?
- (58) Will GPs currently approved under Other Designated Prescriber (ODP) scheme need to be re-trained, or will their prior approval under this scheme be recognised?

AOD Treatment

- (59) What is the mean waiting time for patients seeking to access public alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and residential rehabilitation services statewide?
- (a) What is the mean waiting time for each Local Health District?
- (60) How many people are currently on the priority list for public alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and residential rehabilitation?

- (61) For each Local Health District, how many beds are available for public alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and residential rehabilitation in NSW?

ASMOF industrial action

- (62) Leading up to the April 2025 industrial action by the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation, junior doctors received letters from Directors of Medical Services warning that their planned industrial action may “result in disciplinary action, for example, where patient neglect or harm results”. What evidence was there to indicate that planned industrial action by medical staff posed a risk to patient safety?
- (63) Was the Ministry aware of arrangements made within medical teams to ensure continuity of patient care?

Vaping/PAVE

- (64) How many people have downloaded and accessed the Pave application, which is aimed at helping young people quit vaping.
- (a) What is the median age of users of Pave, if known?
- (b) Have there been any reported positive outcomes?
- (65) Is the government funding any other programs to support young people to quit vaping?

Dental care

- (66) The participation rate of the Child Dental Benefits Scheme has yet to reach 40% of eligible kids. What strategies are in place to encourage uptake, particularly in priority populations?
- (67) In which Local Health Districts do Mobile Dental Vans operate?
- (68) Where will the additional mobile dental vans funded in the 2025-26 budget be allocated?
- (69) What is the quantum of forward funding for the Mobile Dental Van program?

Sustainability

- (70) Is NSW Health on track to deliver a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030, per the Net Zero roadmap?
- (71) When will the implementation plan be released to support this work?
- (72) The Net Zero roadmap commits to increasing procurement of renewable electricity by 2030. Is there a target for this increase?

- (73) The Net Zero Roadmap provides that when reaching end-of-life, and where feasible, gas-fired plant and equipment must be replaced with electric or other fossil fuel alternatives by 2035.
- (a) What is the status update on this work?
 - (b) Have any new hospitals been fitted with gas appliances in 2024/25?
 - (c) Of new hospitals and hospital redevelopments in the planning pipeline, which (if any) include gas connections and/or gas appliances?
 - (d) Does this commitment in the Net Zero Roadmap mean that gas appliances could continue in use past 2035, if they weren't nearing end of their life?
 - (e) What would be considered a reason for the replacement of equipment to be unfeasible under this commitment?
- (74) What was the total pool of funding available to applicants in the 2025 round of the Sustainable Futures Innovation Fund?
- (75) Will there be a 2026 round of the Sustainable Futures Innovation Fund?
- (a) If so, how much money has been allocated to this Fund in the 2025-26 budget?

Gender Equality Action Plan

- (76) What funding is allocated to implementing the Gender Equality Action Plan 2025-2028?
- (a) Is there a commitment to funding outcomes from the action to “identify and develop processes that support our staff to apply intersectional gender and sex analysis, including in making policies, service planning, grants and research funding?
 - i. If so, what is the funding commitment?
- (77) Who are the representatives on the Gender Equality Implementation team?
- (a) Who are the ‘implementation partners’ on the team?
- (78) What resourcing is attached to the Gender Equality Implementation team?

LGBTQIA+ health

- (79) In phase one of the LGBTQIA+ Health Strategy, ending in December 2023, the department committed to updating the implementation plan throughout the next five years as progress is made. Has the implementation plan been updated?

- (a) If not, when will it be updated?
- (80) Will the Strategy be renewed beyond 2027?
- (81) What collaboration or consultation has been conducted with LGBTIQ+ communities on the development of the Single Digital Patient Record?
- (82) How is NSW Health ensuring that the Single Digital Patient Record will collect and use data relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations of sex characteristics effectively, sensitively and consistently?

Mandatory training for NSW Health employees

- (83) What is the total number of hours per year spent by NSW Health staff completing mandatory training modules?
- (84) How is the effectiveness of mandatory training modules evaluated?
- (85) What evidence supports the development and implementation of mandatory training modules for NSW Health staff?

Shellharbour Hospital

- (86) Does the Government commit to retaining the current Shellharbour Hospital site in public ownership once the new hospital opens?
 - (a) Will you rule out any sale or long-term private lease of the site?
- (87) What, if any consultation process will occur before deciding the site's future use?
- (88) Has the Government undertaken any analysis on possible future uses of the old Shellharbour Hospital site?

Old Maitland Hospital

- (89) When will stakeholder and community consultation on the future of the former Maitland Hospital site begin?
- (90) What formal consultation process will occur before deciding the site's future use?
 - (a) Who will lead consultation?
 - (b) Will it be independently facilitated?
 - (c) Will it enable input from local residents, health workers, local government and community organisations?

- (d) What is the expected timeline from the start of consultation to a final decision on the site's future use?

(91) What is the current cost to NSW Health of maintaining the old Maitland Hospital site?

Parkes Hospital staffing

(92) What was the rationale for rejection of a proposal for one additional nurse per shift in the Parkes Hospital emergency department?

(93) Does the eventual roll-out of safe staffing levels prevent allocation of additional staff to nursing rosters where there is demonstrated need in the interim?

Grafton Hospital Redevelopment

(94) Are Stage 1 redevelopments of Grafton Hospital set to be completed in 2030?

(a) If not, what is the revised date?

(b) If not, why has this project been delayed?

(95) What is the cost of delaying the move of the maternity unit to the planned site at a later date, compared with completing it in stage 1?

(96) Is there planning for additional car parking?

(a) If so, where will the additional car parks be located?

(b) If so, how many additional car parks will be provided?

Armidale Hospital radiology desert

(97) What is the cost to Hunter New England Local Health District of extended patient stays at Armidale Hospital awaiting an MRI from an external provider?

(98) What is the rationale for no MRI scanner being located at Armidale Hospital?

(99) Has any cost-benefit analysis or other assessment been conducted regarding the provision of an MRI machine at Armidale Hospital?

Calvary Mater

(100) Regarding reported issues with water tanks at Calvary Mater due to insufficient maintenance by NSW Health's private partners - what action has been taken to ensure that similar problems are not arising at other facilities managed under a public-private partnership?

Maternity/neonatal/midwifery services

- (101) Regarding maternity Services at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH):
- (a) How many positions are currently vacant in the Women and Babies Service?
 - (b) Are there currently any plans to cut any beds from the maternity ward?
 - (c) During the last financial year how many midwives left the public sector?
- (102) In relation to the Sydney Local Health District overall, how many midwives left the public sector during the last financial year?
- (103) In relation to the BirthRate Plus workforce planning tool
- (a) If so, why
 - (b) If not, why?
- (104) When does NSW Health expect the Chief Midwife role to be filled?
- (105) Regarding the RPAH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU):
- (a) Of the 16 Resucitaires identified by the RPAH Newborn Care Team as requiring replacement in 2024, how many have been replaced?
 - (b) Of the 3 new Resucitaires that the RPAH Newborn Care Team identified as necessary in 2024, how many have been purchased?
 - (c) Of the Babyroo TN300 Resucitaires which are currently in use at RPAH NICU, how many of these are past their 10 year life cycle?

Nursing workforce

- (106) How many nurses left the public sector from the Sydney Local Health District in the last financial year?
- (107) How many nurses entered the public sector?
- (a) Of these, how many were employed on a temporary or casual basis?
 - (b) Of these, how many have since left the sector?
- (108) What is the average tenure of service of nurses?
- (a) What was the average tenure of services of nurses before leaving the public sector?
- (109) In relation to RPAH:

- (a) How many staff members have secondary employment?
- (b) How many FTE permanent positions are currently vacant?
- (c) What is the average amount of weekly overtime hours worked per staff member?
- (d) What percentage of staff live:
 - i. Within the City of Sydney LGA?
 - ii. Within the Inner West LGA?
 - iii. Within 10km of RPAH?
 - iv. Outside of Greater Sydney?

Questions from the Opposition

HEALTH, REGIONAL HEALTH THE ILLAWARRA AND THE SOUTH COAST

(110) The Broken Hill ambulance station has doubled in FTE employees in the last year or so, however the facilities have remained the same.

- (a) Can you confirm if Ambulance NSW has plans to upgrade this facility?
- (b) When is this scheduled to take place?
- (c) Noting an ABC article from the 15th Aug, states there are plans to upgrade this facility by the end of the financial year. Is this timeline accurate?
- (d) Has planning commenced?
- (e) Has Ambulance NSW engaged with the Broken Hill paramedics?
- (f) What will the refurbishment include? Is it major or minor works?
- (g) What funding has been allocated to this project?
- (h) When can the paramedics in Broken Hill expect shovels in the ground?

Regional Ambulance Ramping

(111) Minister, in mid-June the Daily Telegraph reported significant ambulance ramping in regional communities, particularly Lismore, Albury and the Hunter region. It's now been almost three weeks since it was revealed that John Hunter Hospital was only accepting patients with a risk of limb or life loss. We're still hearing reports from regional patients who can't access the help they need.

- (a) Minister, do you think it's appropriate an elderly patient who is extremely ill and who has lost use of their body is told it will be a 2 hour wait for an ambulance?
- (b) Minister, do you think it is appropriate an elderly patient who was advised to attend the ED is then turned away because there was no space for them?
- (c) Minister, in a recent answer in question time you said building a hospital without an emergency department would be quote 'reasonably stupid' unquote. We're seeing hospitals in regional NSW are essentially operating without a functioning emergency department due to the Labor Government's inability to manage the health system. Would you consider this 'reasonably stupid'?

(112) Why is there such a double standard when it comes to regional health?

Forster Tuncurry Health Facilities

(NB – Given the confusion by the witnesses, by initially mis-identifying the project, we are seeking to recommit all the questions, to ensure a timely response.)

(113) Why has there been no visible progress or timeline announced for the Forster Tuncurry component of the Lower Mid North Coast Health Service project?

(114) Has planning formally commenced for the Forster Tuncurry Health Facility?

- (a) If so, what stage is it at and when will the public see outcomes?

(115) Given the volume of enquiries from healthcare workers, patients and residents in the Myall Lakes electorate, why has there been no public update or community engagement on the status of the Forster Tuncurry health facility?

(116) How much has been allocated within the \$180 million to fund the Forster Tuncurry Urgent Health Facility?

NURSING VACANCIES

(117) What is the total number of funded nursing positions, broken down by LHD?

(118) How many nurses have departed NSW Health in the 12 months to 21 August by local health district?

- (a) What is the reason most cited for departure?

(119) How many midwives have departed NSW Health since in the 12 months to 21 August by local health district?

- (120) What is the total unfilled / vacant nursing positions by local health district?
- (121) What is the total unfilled / vacant midwife positions by local health district?
- (122) What is the total number of nurses currently employed by the NSW public sector?
- (123) What is the total number of midwives currently employed by the NSW public sector?
- (124) How many positions are filled by agency nurses?
- (a) What is the total cost of these contracts?
 - (b) What's the average length of agency nursing contracts?

STAFF VACANCIES

- (125) What is the number of allied health positions are vacant in hospitals across regional NSW, broken down by LHD and role?
- (126) What is the number of staff specialist vacancies in hospitals across regional NSW, by role and LHD?
- (127) What is the average recruitment time for clinical roles in regional facilities?
- (a) By LHD?

RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE INCENTIVE SCHEME

- (128) How many NSW health staff have benefitted from the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme in the following financial years:
- (a) 2022/23
 - (b) 2023/24
 - (c) 2024/25
- (129) By health district, how many vacant health worker accommodation houses / units are currently available?
- (a) How many have waitlists?

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NURSES

- (130) What is the total number of Emergency Department nurses, for each Regional NSW Hospital and urgent care service?
- (a) As 1 July, 2025?

- (b) As 1 July, 2024?
 - (c) At 1 July, 2023?
 - (d) At 1 July, 2022?
- (131) How many emergency department nurses have left the role in the 12 months from 20th August 2025, broken down by LHD?
- (132) How many emergency department nurses have left the role in the 24 months from 20th August 2025, broken down by LHD?

IPTAAS

- (133) What is the average processing time for IPTAAS claims?

NSW HEALTH PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES

- (134) How many NSW health public dental services are located outside metropolitan Sydney?
- (a) Where are these services provided?
 - (b) What is the average wait time for an appointment, by LHD?
 - (c) What is the average wait time by type of care (e.g. emergency, general, child, specialist)?
 - (d) How many patients are currently on the waiting list in each LHD?
 - (e) What proportion of patients are seen within the recommended timeframe?
 - (f) How many dentists, dental therapists, and oral health professionals are employed in public clinics per LHD?
 - i. How many vacancies, by LHD?

AMBULANCE

- (135) What ambulance stations are scheduled for upgrades?
- (a) For each scheduled upgrade;
 - i. What funding has been allocated to the project?
 - ii. Scope of the project?
 - iii. When works will commence?
 - iv. Scheduled completion time?
 - v. Will services be disrupted?

(136) What percentage of NSW residents are within 15 minutes of an ambulance station?

ACCESS

1. What percentage of the population in each LHD lives within 30 minutes of a public hospital?
2. What proportion of the population in each LHD lives within 30 minutes of a public hospital with an open emergency department?
3. What is the average travel time (by road) to the nearest emergency department for residents in each postcode?
4. What is the total number of women in NSW who needed to travel over 100 km to access birthing services in the 12 months to 21 August 2025?
 - (a) In the 12 months to 21 August 2024?

Additional supplementary

(137) How many patients presented to myVirtual Care:

- (a) In 2024-25
- (b) In 2023-24

(138) How many ambulances were dispatched to the Harrington area in:

- (a) 2024-25
- (b) 2023-24

(139) How many emergency incidents were initially attended by volunteers from RFS or SES before ambulance could arrive?

(140) How much does the NSW Government contribute to the running of the Southcare helicopter?

(141) How many times was the Southcare helicopter dispatched to emergencies:

- (a) In 2024-25
- (b) In 2023-24

(142) What is the number of nursing staff currently living in the healthcare worker accommodation in Cooma?

(143) How many times were ambulances used for patient transport in regional areas not equipped with a dedicated patient transport vehicle?

- (144) How many times were emergency responses delayed while the locally stationed ambulance was transporting a patient to hospital?
- (145) How many times ambulances transported patients from the Southern NSW LHD directly to Canberra Hospital?
- (146) How many times ambulances transported patients from the Southern NSW LHD to Queanbeyan Hospital?
- (147) How many times ambulances transported patients from the Southern NSW LHD to Cooma Hospital?
- (148) How many times ambulances transported patients from the NSW Ski fields to hospital?
- (149) How many incidents of ambulance ramping occurred involving NSW Ambulance at Canberra Hospital?

Temora Hospital

- (150) Minister, will the Temora Hospital redevelopment include any on-site or nearby accommodation for essential healthcare staff?
- (151) Minister, what plans are in place to provide key worker accommodation in Temora to support staff working at the redeveloped hospital?
- (152) Minister, has the government applied for or received any federal or interagency funding to support workforce housing for healthcare professionals in rural areas like Temora?
- (153) Minister, what data does the department hold on staff vacancy rates linked to housing stress or lack of available accommodation in the Temora area?
- (154) Minister, what specific options are being considered by Murrumbidgee Local Health District for procuring key worker accommodation in Temora?
- (155) Minister, what is the estimated timeline for a decision on staff housing?
- (156) Minister, has any funding been allocated from the \$200.1 million regional key worker accommodation expansion announced in the 2024–25 State Budget to support accommodation in Temora?
 - (a) If Temora is not being considered for that program, why not?
- (157) Minister, how many positions at Temora Hospital are currently unfilled or at risk due to lack of staff accommodation?

Cowra Hospital

(158) Minister, when will the New Cowra Hospital and Redevelopment of the site be completed for community use?

Coolamon-Ganmain MPS

(159) Minister, will you commit to the building of a new MPS at Coolamon-Ganmain?

(160) Minister, will you commit to the NSW State funding of a new MPS for the people of Coolamon-Ganmain.

(161) Minister will you be approaching the Federal Government in relation to the co-funding of Coolamon-Ganmain MPS ?

Grenfell MPS

(162) Minister, will you commit to the building of a new MPS at Grenfell?

(163) Minister, will you commit to the NSW State funding of a new MPS for the people of Grenfell?

(164) Minister will you be consulting with the people of Grenfell to preserve the history of one of the oldest Medical Facilities in Western NSW?

(165) Minister will you be approaching the Federal Government in relation to the co-funding of Grenfell MPS ?

Intensive Care Ambulances

(166) How do you expect an Intensive Care Paramedic (ICP's) to successfully keep their accreditation if they are working in a Non-Category A station where no ICU Ambulances are utilised.

(167) How many of the new ICP's in the Recent Government announcement on 31 July 2025 will be stationed at No Category A stations or Regional Category A?

Construction Site Signage

(168) Minister, with your various infrastructure projects across the state – what is the current colour on the bunting and wrap on the exterior fences? There are sites including Manning Base Hospital that have updated their wrap from blue to red. What does it cost for a typical site?

(169) Across NSW how many infrastructure projects are currently underway for NSW Health?

- (a) How many have the new red coloured wrap?
- (b) How many of those have replaced the blue?
- (c) What is the total funding statewide to replace signage and wrap for NSW Health?

Kempsey Maternity Services

(170) Will Kempsey District Hospital Remain at Level 3 seven days a week?

(171) Will Mid North Coast Local Health District guarantee level 3 Maternity services at Kempsey District Hospital in 2026?

Glen Innes Hospital

(172) When will construction of the Glen Innes Hospital redevelopment commence?

Moree Ambulance Station

(173) When will Moree receive a new or refurbished Ambulance Station, capable of adequately accommodating the existing workforce, as well as the 16 new paramedics who recently started at the station?

Abortion

(174) I note that NSW Health's Notification of Termination of Pregnancy form has been revised. The question: 'Was the termination carried out for the sole purpose of sex selection' is no longer asked. Given the strong position taken by this parliament in *The Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*, and reflected in s16 of that Act, why is this data no longer being collected?

- (a) When will the Notification of Termination of Pregnancy form be redrafted to continue to seek this important information?

NSW Health Liability

(175) NSW Health published an updated Consent to Medical and Healthcare Treatment Manual on 30 April this year. Did this take into account the decision of Strum J in *Re Devin*?

(176) Have you reviewed consent protocols in the light of *Re Devin*?

- (a) Is a formal gender dysphoria diagnosis always provided before treatment for gender incongruity commences?

- (b) Is an autism assessment required before treatment in a NSW Health Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service clinic commences?
 - (c) Is a full biopsychosocial assessment of the child required before treatment in a Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service clinic commences?
 - (d) If this biopsychosocial assessment is not properly conducted, what are the risks for NSW Health in negligence?
 - (e) Has the use of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines, developed in Victoria, been reconsidered in NSW in the light of Strum J's criticism and his comment that they "do not have the approval or imprimatur of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory government, including any such government minister for, or department of health"?
 - (f) Are you familiar with the decision in *Re Lisa*, a decision of NCAT handed down in October last year?
 - (g) Was this also reviewed in the preparation of the updated Consent Manual?
 - (h) Are all doctors working in your gender clinic services advised of the need under *The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act* to receive NCAT consent before providing treatment such as cross-sex hormones, which could render a child infertile?
- (177) In relation to the answer provided by Ms Elizabeth Wood at the top of *Page 70* of the transcript, could you provide the details of the supports being offered and how they are offered?
- (178) Since January 2025, how much money has NSW Health spent accommodating public mental health patients in private hospitals?

STAFF VACANCIES

Nurses and Midwives

- (179) What is the total number of funded nursing positions in the following local health districts:
- (a) Central Coast
 - (b) Far West
 - (c) Hunter New England
 - (d) Illawarra Shoalhaven

- (e) Mid North Coast
 - (f) Murrumbidgee
 - (g) Northern NSW
 - (h) Southern NSW
 - (i) Western NSW
- (180) What is the total number of nurses that have departed NSW Health in the 12 months to 21 August 2025 in regional local health districts?
- (a) What is the reason most cited for departure?
- (181) What is the total number of midwives that have departed NSW Health since in the 12 months to 21 August 2025 in the following local health districts:
- (a) Central Coast
 - (b) Far West
 - (c) Hunter New England
 - (d) Illawarra Shoalhaven
 - (e) Mid North Coast
 - (f) Murrumbidgee
 - (g) Northern NSW
 - (h) Southern NSW
 - (i) Western NSW
- (182) What is the total unfilled / vacant nursing positions in the following local health districts:
- (a) Central Coast
 - (b) Far West
 - (c) Hunter New England
 - (d) Illawarra Shoalhaven
 - (e) Mid North Coast
 - (f) Murrumbidgee
 - (g) Northern NSW

(h) Southern NSW

(i) Western NSW

(183) What is the total unfilled / vacant midwife positions in the following local health districts:

(a) Central Coast

(b) Far West

(c) Hunter New England

(d) Illawarra Shoalhaven

(e) Mid North Coast

(f) Murrumbidgee

(g) Northern NSW

(h) Southern NSW

(i) Western NSW

(184) What is the total number of nurses currently employed by the NSW public sector?

(a) What is the total number of midwives currently employed by the NSW public sector?

(b) How many positions are filled by agency nurses, as of 21 August 2025?

(c) What is the total cost of these contracts?

(d) What percentage of these contracts are in regional and rural NSW?

(e) What's the average length of agency nursing contracts?

Other Health Staff:

(185) What is the number of allied health positions are vacant in hospitals across regional NSW, broken down by LHD and role?

(186) What is the number of staff specialist vacancies in hospitals across regional NSW, by role and LHD?

(187) What is the average wait time for paediatric appointments in:

(b) Central Coast

(c) Far West

(d) Hunter New England

- (e) Illawarra Shoalhaven
- (f) Mid North Coast
- (g) Murrumbidgee
- (h) Northern NSW
- (i) Southern NSW
- (j) Western NSW

(188) What is the average recruitment time for clinical roles in regional facilities?

(189) How many urgent care clinics are currently operating understaffed?

(190) How many FTE roles are currently vacant across urgent care clinics by local health district?

RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE INCENTIVE SCHEME

(191) How many NSW health staff have benefitted from the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme in the following financial years:

- (a) 2022/23
- (b) 2023/24
- (c) 2024/25

(192) By health district, how many vacant health worker accommodation houses / units are currently available?

(193) What health districts currently have waitlists?

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NURSES:

(194) What is the total number of Emergency Department nurses, for each Regional NSW Hospital and urgent care service:

- (a) As 1 July, 2025?
- (b) As 1 July, 2024?
- (c) At 1 July, 2023?
- (d) At 1 July, 2022?

(195) How many emergency department nurses have left the role in the 12 months from 20th August 2025, broken down by LHD?

(196) How many emergency department nurses have left the role in the 24 months from 20th August 2025, broken down by LHD?

IPTAAS:

(197) What is the average processing time for IPTAAS claims?

NSW HEALTH PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES

(198) What is the total number of NSW health public dental services located outside metropolitan Sydney?

(199) What regional localities have a public dental clinic?

(200) What is the average wait time for an appointment in the following local health districts for public dental services:

- (a) Central Coast
- (b) Far West
- (c) Hunter New England
- (d) Illawarra Shoalhaven
- (e) Mid North Coast
- (f) Murrumbidgee
- (g) Northern NSW
- (h) Southern NSW
- (i) Western NSW

(201) What percentage of patients are seen within the recommended timeframe?

(202) What percentage of patients are seen within the recommended timeframe in regional NSW?

(203) How many dentists, dental therapists, and oral health professionals are employed in public clinics, provided by local health district?

- (a) How many vacancies for these positions exist, provided by local health district?

AMBULANCE

(204) What ambulance stations are scheduled for upgrades?

- (a) For each scheduled upgrade;

- i. What funding has been allocated to the project?
- ii. Scope of the project?
- iii. When works will commence?
- iv. Scheduled completion time?
- v. Will services be disrupted?

(205) What percentage of NSW residents are within 15 minutes of an ambulance station?

(206) How many ambulances were dispatched to the Harrington area in:

- (a) 2024-25
- (b) 2023-24

(207) How many emergency incidents were initially attended by volunteers from RFS or SES before ambulance could arrive?

(208) On how many occasions were ambulances used for patient transport in regional areas not equipped with a dedicated patient transport vehicle?

Broken Hill ambulance station

(209) Does NSW Ambulance have plans to upgrade the Broken Hill ambulance station?

- (a) If so, when is scheduled to take place?
- (b) Has planning commenced?

(210) Has NSW Ambulance engaged with Broken Hill paramedics?

- (a) What will the refurbishment include?
- (b) What funding has been allocated to this project?
- (c) When can the paramedics in Broken Hill expect shovels in the ground?
- (d) When will the upgrade be completed?

Moree ambulance station

(211) Does NSW Ambulance have plans to upgrade the Moree ambulance station?

- (a) If so, when is scheduled to take place?
- (b) Has planning commenced?
- (c) Has NSW Ambulance engaged with Moree paramedics?

- (d) What will the refurbishment include?
- (e) What funding has been allocated to this project?
- (f) When can the paramedics in Broken Hill expect shovels in the ground?
- (g) When will the upgrade be completed?

ACCESS

- (212) What percentage of the population in each local health district lives within 30 minutes of a public hospital?
- (213) What percentage of the population in each local health district lives within 30 minutes of a public hospital with an open emergency department?
- (214) What is the average travel time (by road) to the nearest emergency department for residents in each postcode?
- (215) What is the total number of women in NSW who needed to travel over 100 km to access birthing services in the 12 months to 21 August 2025?
 - (a) In the 24 months to 21 August 2025?
- (216) How many patients presented to myVirtual Care:
 - (a) In 2024-25
 - (b) In 2023-24
- (217) What funding does NSW Government contribute to the running of the Southcare helicopter?
- (218) How many times was the Southcare helicopter dispatched to NSW emergencies:
 - (a) In 2024-25
 - (b) In 2023-24
- (219) Will Kempsey District Hospital Remain at Level 3 seven days a week?
- (220) Will Mid North Coast Local Health District guarantee level 3 Maternity services at Kempsey District Hospital in 2026?

PARAMEDICS:

- (221) How many of the new Intensive Care Paramedics in the Recent Government announcement on 31 July 2025 will be stationed at No Category A stations or Regional Category A?

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- (222) In relation to the Glen Innes Hospital redevelopment, when will construction commence?
- (223) When will the New Cowra Hospital and redevelopment of the site be completed for community use?
- (224) Will the NSW Government commit to the building of a new Multipurpose Service (MPS) at Coolamon-Ganmain?
- (225) Will the NSW Government approach the Federal Government in relation to the co-funding of Coolamon-Ganmain MPS?

Grenfell MPS

- (226) Will the NSW Government commit to the building of a new MPS at Grenfell?
- (227) Will the NSW Government be consulting with the people of Grenfell to preserve the history of one of the oldest Medical Facilities in Western NSW?
- (228) Will the NSW Government be approaching the Federal Government in relation to the co-funding of Grenfell MPS?

KEY WORKER ACCOMODATION

- (229) In relation to the staff housing at Armidale, when will construction commence?

Temora Hospital Redevelopment

- (230) Will the Temora Hospital redevelopment include any on-site or nearby accommodation for essential healthcare staff?
- (231) What plans are in place to provide key worker accommodation in Temora to support staff working at the redeveloped hospital?
- (232) Has the government applied for or received any federal or interagency funding to support workforce housing for healthcare professionals in rural areas like Temora?
- (233) What data does the department hold on staff vacancy rates linked to housing stress or lack of available accommodation in the Temora area?
- (234) What specific options are being considered by Murrumbidgee Local Health District for procuring key worker accommodation in Temora?
 - (a) What is the estimated timeline for a decision on staff housing?

- (b) Has any funding been allocated from the \$200.1 million regional key worker accommodation expansion announced in the 2024–25 State Budget to support accommodation in Temora?
- (c) If Temora is not being considered for that program, why not?
- (d) How many positions at Temora Hospital are currently unfilled or at risk due to lack of staff accommodation?

Maternity Units

(235) Can you please advise :

- (a) How many rural and regional maternity units have been placed on bypass since March 2023?
- (b) Which units were they?
- (c) How many times was each maternity unit placed on bypass and for what period of time?

Gunnedah Hospital

- (236) Can you please advise why the BHI data shows that in the April to June 2024 quarter, only 10 babies were born at Gunnedah Hospital?
- (237) What is the reason for the downward trends in the number of babies being born in Gunnedah and Narrabri?

CFMEU meetings

- (238) Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

ETU meetings

- (239) Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(240) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(241) In relation to redundancies, will this be made available in your respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(242) Do you have plans to print the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio?

(a) If yes, what is the budgeted expenditure for printing for each department / agency?

State Records Act

(243) 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?

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

(244) 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?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

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

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

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

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

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

(247) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

Senior Executive Drivers

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

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Ministerial Offices

(249) Does your Ministerial Office have a disclosure log in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009?

(a) If yes, what is the URL?

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Departments/Agencies

(250) What is the website URL for the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009 disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

TikTok

(251) Are you on TikTok?

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

Signal

(252) Are you on Signal?

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

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

Training

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

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

(b) If yes, how much?

Parliamentary Secretary & Ministerial Vehicle

(254) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used a Ministerial driver from the pool?

- (a) If yes, why?

Media releases and statements

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

- (a) If no, why?

Overseas Travel

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

Data Breaches

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

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

Discretionary Fund

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

- (a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?
(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

Airline Lounges

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

(260) Are you a member of the Virgin Beyond Lounge?

Ministerial Overseas Travel

(261) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally applied to the Premier to travel overseas?

- (a) If yes, was this application accepted?

Private Jet Charter

(262) Have you travelled on a private jet charter in your Ministerial capacity?

- (a) If yes, was this value for money for taxpayers?

Ministerial Office renovations

(263) Since 28 March 2023, has your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place been renovated?

(a) If yes, how much was the expenditure?

Conflict of Interest

(264) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally written to the Premier with a conflict of interest?

(a) If yes, why?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Intellectual Disability Health Service (IDHS)

(265) The evaluation of the NSW Health Intellectual Disability Health Service was due to be completed by 30 June 2025. Has this been finalised?

(a) What were the results?

(b) Will the NSW Government be providing additional funding to expand the service?

Domestic violence

(266) Last estimates I asked you about the work being done around improving training and protocols for frontline domestic and family violence services to be able to identify traumatic brain injuries in victims of domestic and family violence. Has this work been progressed?

(a) How much funding does the current pilot funded by Health receive, across the 4 LHDs?

(b) Can you give some more detail about the pilot's implementation and progress so far?

(c) Is there any intention to expand this?

(267) How will the NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework (CARAS) be implemented across the NSW Health system to ensure health workers have the capability to identify domestic and family violence and assess or manage risk?

(a) What involvement has the Minister and NSW Health had in this work?

Inclusive healthcare partnership with Get Skilled Access (GSA)

(268) Can you provide an update of the planning, design and implementation of the Inclusive healthcare partnership with Get Skilled Access (GSA)?

(269) Which hospitals have to date received funding under the inclusive healthcare program, in partnership with Get Skilled Access (GSA)?

(a) How many of these hospitals are regional hospitals?

(b) How much money has each hospital received, in the financial year 2022- 23?

(270) Which hospitals will be receiving funding under the inclusive healthcare program, and when?

One Stop Shop clinic trial at Westmead Hospital established by Dr Peter Smith and Dr Rummana Afreen in 2020

(271) I understand this trial has been receiving annual funding from Western Sydney Local Health District. Is this still the case?

(a) Will this clinic be receiving long-term sustainable funding?

(b) Has NSW Health conducted a review of the clinic's operation, to determine its success and consider the potential for scalability?

Coal ash

(272) On what date was Dr Jackie Wright, Director/Principal of Environmental Risk Sciences Pty Ltd, appointed by NSW Health to conduct a Health Risk Assessment under eHealth guidelines and algorithms?

(a) What informed the decision behind Dr Wright's appointment prior to the establishment of the Coal Ash and Health Community Advisory Committee?

(b) What are the terms of Dr Wright's appointment?

(c) Was Dr Wright's appointment made by competitive tender or expression of interest?

i. If not, what was the decision behind this?

(273) Can you confirm the details of the Health Risk Assessment being undertaken by Dr Wright, including the assessment's parameters, guidelines and methodology?

(a) Can you confirm whether or not the assessment will include human health outcomes, such as conducting onsite contact with residents, blood tests, respiratory testing or medical investigations?

i. If not, why not?

(274) In line with recommendation 6 of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into costs for remediation of sites containing coal ash repositories, will NSW Health be conducting an epidemiological

assessment of health residents near coal ash dams to establish the health impacts of coal ash?

(a) If not, can you please explain the justification for conducting a health risk assessment instead of an epidemiological assessment as recommended?

(275) Does NSW Health have guidelines for the establishment of community consultative and advisory committees and developing terms of reference, for example the NSW Coal Ash and Health Community Advisory Committee?

(276) Can you list all current members of the NSW Coal Ash and Health Community Advisory Committee and their roles?

(a) Can you please provide a copy of the Committee's terms of reference?

Workers' compensation

(277) In each of the last five financial years, how many investigations were commissioned by NSW Health, Local Health Districts or their claims managers in workers' compensation matters?

(a) How many factual investigations

(b) How many physical surveillance investigations

(278) How many of these investigations involved injured workers with psychological injury claims?

(a) How many factual investigations

(b) How many physical surveillance investigations

(279) How many separate claimants were subject to surveillance investigations each year?

(a) How many factual investigations

(b) How many physical surveillance investigations

(280) At what stage of the claims process are factual investigations most commonly commissioned (e.g. pre-liability determination, after liability acceptance, prior to or after an independent medical examination)?

(281) How many surveillance investigations were conducted in the 30 days before an independent medical examination in the last five years?

(282) How many surveillance investigations were commissioned after a Personal Injury Commission medical assessment had already been conducted?

- (283) What is the total annual expenditure by NSW Health (or through its claims managers) on factual investigations and surveillance since 2019-20?
- (284) Which external investigation providers have been contracted to conduct surveillance/factual investigations on behalf of NSW Health, and what amounts have been paid to each provider in the last five years?
- (285) What internal policies or guidelines does NSW Health apply when deciding to commission surveillance or a factual investigation against a workers' compensation claimant?
- (286) How does NSW Health ensure compliance with:
- (a) SIRA Standard of Practice S25 (Surveillance),
 - (b) GN 3.12 (Surveillance) and GN 3.13 (Factual Investigations), and
 - (c) the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 (NSW)?
- (287) How does NSW Health ensure that any surveillance material provided to an independent medical examiner is also disclosed to the claimant in accordance with SIRA standards of procedural fairness?
- (288) How many complaints or disputes have been raised by workers (or investigated by SIRA) about surveillance or factual investigations commissioned by NSW Health since 2019-20?
- (289) In how many cases where surveillance was commissioned did the investigation materially affect the liability decision or benefit determination?
- (290) How many surveillance or factual investigation reports were ultimately relied upon in Personal Injury Commission proceedings in the last five years?
- (291) What evaluation has NSW Health conducted of the cost-effectiveness and impact of surveillance on claimant trust and scheme outcomes?
- (292) Recommendation 7 of the SIRA TMF Review identified a need for Health to review their workplace strategies to identify opportunities to reduce incidence of psychological injury, particularly in relation to work pressure, harassment, bullying and other mental stress matters. Responses to that recommendation were provided by Health in February 2025. Please detail what strategies and opportunities were identified by Health, and the status of their implementation.

(293) Recommendation 8 of the SIRA TMF Review identified a need for Health review and update their systems, policies and procedures where required to improve compliance with their employer obligations, with a particular focus on:

- Consistent and timely injury notification
- Compliant return to work programs
- Enhancing annual internal audit and risk management policy attestation processes to include workers compensation legislative breaches.

Responses to that recommendation were provided by Health in February 2025. Please detail what strategies and opportunities were identified by Health, and the status of their implementation.

(294) Recommendation 9 of the SIRA TMF Review identified a need for Health to explore and address causal factors of poor return to work with a focus on identifying opportunities for improvement of return to work for psychological injury claims, particularly injuries relating to work pressure, harassment, bullying or other mental stress factors. Responses to that recommendation were provided by Health in February 2025. Please detail what strategies and opportunities were identified by Health, and the status of their implementation.

(295) The SIRA TMF review found, for psychological injury claims, Health only complied with legislative requirements for Injury Management Plan reviews 49% of the time. What activities has Health undertaken to rectify that breach in legislative obligations in the 12 months since the report's publication?

(296) The SIRA TMF review found, for psychological injury claims, Health only complied with legislative requirements for timely notification of injuries 57% of the time. What activities has Health undertaken to rectify that breach in legislative obligations in the 12 months since the report's publication?

(297) The SIRA TMF review found, for non-psychological injury claims, Health only complied with legislative requirements Injury Management Plan reviews 57% of the time. What activities has Health undertaken to rectify that breach in legislative obligations in the 12 months since the report's publication?

(298) The SIRA TMF review found, for non-psychological injury claims, Health only complied with legislative notice requirements for reasonably excused claims 60% of the time. What activities has Health undertaken to rectify that breach in legislative obligations in the 12 months since the report's publication?

- (299) South Western Sydney Local Health District has seen an almost doubling in the number of psychological injury claims in the 12 months to September 2024.
- (a) What specific actions have you taken to address this escalation?
- (300) Icare have found that LHDs that have higher PMES Engagement Scores tend to have lower Psychological Claim Injuries. What practices or guidances have you implemented, or what engagement have you had with LHDs with poor PMES scores? This has a clear impact on workforce capacity, and also a financial impact.
- (301) Has every board member for each LHD been made aware of their obligations and duty of care as Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking?
- (302) What training is required for LHD board members to understand their WHS obligations?
- (303) What compliance or enforcement activity has the government taken against poorly performing Local Health Districts?
- (304) For each financial year from 2018/19 to 2024/25, please provide the number and mechanism of psychological injuries by Types of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS) injury code, for each Local Health District.
- (305) For each financial year from 2018/19 to 2024/25, please provide the number and mechanism of physical injuries by TOOCS injury code, for each Local Health District.
- (306) The NSW Health Policy Directive 'Rehabilitation, Recovery and Return to Work' document was due for review in July this year. What is the status of that review?
- (307) The Health Annual report from last year notes the Ministry of Health has been advised of 225 notifiable incidents to Safework NSW for NSW Health in 2023-24.
- (a) Please provide a breakdown or summary of these incidents.
- (308) For 2024-25, how many notifiable incidents to Safework NSW for NSW Health occurred?
- (a) Please provide a breakdown or summary of these incidents.