

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 3 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| QUESTION      | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> You're still wedded to your election commitments?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> At the moment we're absolutely going to deliver on our election commitments to—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Wasn't one of those commitments a reduction of 9,500 gaming machines?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Are you still committed to that?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes. That's why we have the forfeiture scheme still in place. What the report showed us and told us—today, the number of gaming entitlements is being reduced. That's happening through the current system.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> What are the number of gaming entitlements as of today?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> In the State?</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'll have to take that on notice, to be exactly right.</p> |
| ANSWER        | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>There were 93,452 gaming machine entitlements and 2,300 poker machine permits as of 25 August 2025.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 4 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| QUESTION      | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Minister, you're doing this in the context of the Audit Office having said that this Government is not supporting harm minimisation outcomes effectively. It said:<br/>... the Department's strategy for regulating gaming machines is not based on a clear understanding of current levels of gambling harm ...<br/>While you're sitting on your hands and you're not acting, we see more problems with both gambling harm and money laundering through the system, don't we?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> No, I'd like to see those stats because the number of people experiencing harm is about the same as it was under the previous Government. Whilst there are issues around the perception of money laundering et cetera, it's more about policies and procedures than incidents. We have to be really careful in analysing this.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Minister, to that figure, the Auditor-General's report also calls out there's an 8.5 per cent increase in terms of the GambleAware help which was provided in 2023-24. Isn't that a case of where gambling harm is occurring more under your watch?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> You could draw that conclusion, but the other conclusion is that we've done a really good job advertising that counselling service as well as venues and that more people are accessing it, not that more people are having problems.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Minister, what are the figures that you rely on to substantiate your claim that gambling harm has not increased since you've come to power?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> The Office of Responsible Gambling does research into this. They have released their most recent figures. The variances are quite small, but we can take that on notice and get you the exact figures, particularly in terms of usage when it comes to poker machines in New South Wales, which is reducing.</p> |
| ANSWER        | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The key source of information about gambling harm in NSW is the NSW Gambling Survey which was last undertaken in 2024. The prevalence of moderate-risk and 'problem' gambling in NSW (as defined by the Problem Gambling Severity Index) was relatively stable between the 2019 and 2024 surveys. Moderate-risk gambling was experienced by 3.1% of adults in 2024 and 2.8% in 2019, and problem gambling was experienced by 0.9% of adults in 2024 compared to 1.0% in 2019.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

## Question Pg 7-8

### QUESTION

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Earlier this year in a question without notice I asked about the \$30 million allocated in 2018 for upgrading greyhound tracks across the State to new minimum standards. At that point I understood that \$18.2 million remained unallocated, with \$11.9 million before the new budget in July. I asked then if you could assure the industry that all of the upgrade funding would be allocated for the last financial year, and if not, if the unallocated money would be rolled over to this financial year. Will it be rolled over?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** The good news is that the industry has moved forward with many of their business cases and so a lot of that funding has now actually rolled out to start work on those important upgrades. I might hand over to Tarek to give you specific figures about the rollover. My preference is that it is rolled over. The industry's shown now that they're in a position where they can actually do the/ work that needs to be done. That is certainly my preference. I'll hand over to Tarek to tell you how much is left.

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Thanks, Minister. In June the Minister approved funding for a number of projects—being Temora, the Gardens, Dubbo and Gosford—and funding agreements are now in place between the department and Greyhound Racing NSW for those projects. There are business cases under consideration in relation to Richmond, Grafton and Goulburn. As to where the funds are rolled over, that's a question for the Treasurer, but I can tell you that, to date, \$18,677,387 has been allocated to fund a range of projects—I think, in total, 36 across the life of the program—and there's about \$11,000,492 left to be allocated to future projects that Greyhound Racing NSW submits to us.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Of that \$11 million, how much has been allocated? Or is that still to be allocated?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** Of that \$11 million, there's \$6.794 million allocated for this financial year. For the balance, whether that's rolled forward is really a question for the Treasurer.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Maybe you need to take it on notice, but can you actually give us the dollar allocation for Lithgow, Temora, the Gardens, Dubbo and Gosford tracks?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** I can do that now. Lithgow was \$3,272,150, Temora was \$1,039,500, the Gardens was \$1,128,000, Dubbo was \$1,363,000 and Gosford was \$168,000.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** How much has been allocated for the straight track in Goulburn?

**TAREK BARAKAT:** To the best of my knowledge, that's still under consideration, the Goulburn business case. Nothing has been allocated at this point is my understanding, but if that's incorrect I'll come back and correct it for you.

### ANSWER

I am advised:  
Greyhound Racing NSW has not submitted a business case for the Goulburn Straight Track. GRNSW has submitted a business case for upgrades to the Goulburn Circle Track, which is under consideration. No funds have been allocated to this project.

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 9   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:</b> Can you tell me how many greyhounds have been migrated in this fashion in the last 12 months, and to what countries they went?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> No, not off the top of my head. They're figures and data that are really held by DAFF, the Federal agency. GRNSW are responsible for the rehoming program in the USA, so they obviously keep data in relation to that. We do receive data from GRNSW but, as far as the precise number, I don't have that. As I said, that'd be—</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:</b> Yes, you're not really responsible for that. But there's no-one representing GRNSW here, Minister. Could you take that on notice, please?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes, for sure.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>GRNSW has informed the Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission that 607 greyhounds were exported to Canada and the USA as part of the Greyhounds As Pets NSW Aussie Mates in the States program.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Question Pg 9   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Minister, when did you first become aware of sexual harassment allegations against Steve Griffin, the former CEO of GWIC and the current CEO of Greyhound Racing NSW?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I would have to take on notice the exact date, but I was informed by my staff only very recently.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>My office first received correspondence on 20 June 2025 relating to the return provided by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission on 'Standing Order 52 – Order for Papers - Abuse in the Greyhound Racing Industry'.</p>                                                                                 |

| Question Pg 10-11 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Are you willing to look into it further?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'm happy to talk to GWIC about it but, as I said, the information I have is that they complied with the order as it was given.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Are you willing, though, as some sort of level of responsibility, if there is an into this if there are extreme numbers of accusations, which is what we're hearing from the call for papers?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> We'd have to take that under advisement. I can't give you an answer here today.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Legislative Council agreed to a further Order for Papers on 10 September 2025 relating to abuse in the greyhound racing industry. The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission is responsible for ensuring that it complies with this Order.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 16  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Last year we learnt that 29 out of 128 councils had signed up to be part of the Veterans Employment Program. It seems—I had a quick look on the website—it's more than that now</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes, I believe so.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> I was going through this webpage and it actually shut down on me. I wonder if someone can check if that was a problem at my end and not the other end.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Okay, we can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Just check it's not a common issue. The bulk of what I found as far as the councils that signed up on that was a link back to their council webpage—sometimes the employment page, sometimes the council home page. What do you expect of a council that becomes part of the Veterans Employment Program?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I think the main thing is that they have policies and procedures both to attract veterans to roles but also, if a veteran applies for a role, that their skills are properly assessed because veterans— sometimes their CV doesn't necessarily show their full range of skills. Whether you want to do it now or this afternoon—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Afternoon.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> —I can ask Ms Mackaness to go into more detail about that</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>OVA is not aware of technical issues with the Veterans Employment Program webpage. The site is regularly monitored.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Question Pg 17  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> One of the things that came up last time was that 55 veterans were hired by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development between April and September 2024. How many of those 55 are still employed by DPIRD and were any of them affected with the recent job cuts?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Do you track what happens to these people after they get the job, or is it just that they get the job and that's the stat?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I think that will be a question for Ms Mackaness.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The information the Veterans Employment Program (VEP) receives is provided as deidentified data. Any questions regarding personnel from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development would need to be directed to them.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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2025-2026

| Question Pg 17  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Where did you get to with the transport subsidies for regional veterans to travel to medical appointments?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> This has been looked at broadly by government. When we got the royal commission report into suicide for veterans, we convened a whole-of-government group to look at all of these issues. We're working through the responses from across government and in due course we will release the whole-of-government response to that report.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> When did that whole-of-government group last meet?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> We will have to take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Commonwealth Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) is responsible for providing support to regional veterans and their families who need to travel to and from medical appointments.</p> <p>The DVA Travel for Treatment program helps DVA clients and their attendant with transport costs to attend treatment that is covered by their Veteran Card and within Australia. DVA clients may be eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses, including private vehicle allowance, parking, tolls, public transport, meals, and accommodation. Pre-arranged and pre-paid transport to and from medical appointment and DVA ambulance services are also available.</p> <p>The NSW Government Veterans Inter-Departmental Committee (NSW Veterans IDC) last met on 21 August 2025.</p> |

| Question Pg 17  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> That's very much an in-joke. Minister, thank you for your attendance today, and your officials and the witnesses. I want to ask you about the ethical standards you apply in your portfolio to questions of conflict of interest. Would you expect that the head of the Liquor and Gaming authority would not act as a referee—that is, a commercial advocate—for a poker machine company in New South Wales competing for entitlements in our pubs and clubs?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'm not aware of the case. I'm happy to take it on notice and have a closer look at it.</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> But as an ethical standard, you'd expect the regulator to be separate from commercial dealings over which the regulator has some authority?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I wouldn't like to comment without actually knowing the specifics.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>Without further information on the specifics of the matter the Member has referred to, I am unable to provide further advice.</p> <p>Matters relating to governance and probity of government departments and authorities are covered by the relevant legislation and public sector standards.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 18  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> Minister, on probity and ethical grounds, should the racing regulator, Racing NSW, act as a referee for Evergreen in winning these contracts for turf supplies?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Again, I have no personal knowledge of that, so I wouldn't like to comment without having more detail.</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> Why do Peter V'landys, as CEO of Racing NSW, and Graeme Hinton, as its chief operating officer, act as referees for Evergreen in these turf supply tender contracts for racetracks in New South Wales?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> As I said, I have no knowledge of it. I'm happy to take that on notice and check into it, as I do with everything that you raise, Mr Latham.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i>, Racing NSW is not subject to Government control or direction. I have referred this matter to the Chair of Racing NSW.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Question Pg 18  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> But if the regulator is the referee for a certain company that has a broad monopoly in New South Wales, don't you think that the race clubs, who are generally scared of the regulator and are not wanting to get in trouble and risk track upgrades, racing sponsorship and funding, would think, "We better do what the regulator says. They're the referee, the commercial advocate, for Evergreen. If we don't go that way, we could be in some strife"?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Again, I don't want to comment without knowing full details, but I would assume</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> No.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> —and I am assuming that they require a certain standard. But, again, I can't really</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> Would you regard this as a clear conflict of interest? And what, as Minister,</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Well, I can't regard it until I actually know more detail on it.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i>, Racing NSW is not subject to Government control or direction. I have referred this matter to the Chair of Racing NSW.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 18-19 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> Given the large interest Evergreen has in racetrack turf supplies in New South Wales, Would you expect Mr Vlandy's to have declared this Evergreen freebie at his own home under the Racing NSW conflict of interest declarations?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I don't know if he has or he hasn't.</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> Can you check and ensure that it's happened?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes, we can look into that.</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> And also check whether he has declared the fact that he's a referee for these commercial contracts for turf supplies at racetracks right around New South Wales, on behalf of Evergreen, owned by his mate Colless. And would you also do it for Mr Hinton, the chief operating officer? There is not just one of them at the regulator doing this. V'landys' offsider, this Hinton character, is also into it as well. Can you check his conflict of interest declarations accordingly?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Sure.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i>, Racing NSW is not subject to Government control or direction. I have referred this matter to the Chair of Racing NSW.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Question Pg 19  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> You had prior knowledge that the racing regulator was going to cancel the ballot. That's your evidence?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> As I said, I'm not sure if it was on the day or before that. I'd have to check. But, yes, I was made aware that it had been cancelled. I cannot tell you the exact time.</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> Can you check the details with your staff, and who made them aware?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Sure.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I do not recall when I was made aware of the postponement of the vote on Rosehill Racecourse.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 22  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Minister, just going back to those allegations, if I can just try and get a bit of an understanding around what actions were taken. When your office received those allegations, what actions did you or your office take in that immediate instance?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Specifically, I'll take that on notice exactly what we did, but with all of these issues we go to the relevant body to ask for an explanation, or a report, about what they did or didn't do, how they handled it, and then make a judgement based on that, with departmental advice.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> You're still in the process of waiting to get that response?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes. My understanding on that particular case was that GWIC had dealt with it through their processes.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>My office first received correspondence on 20 June 2025 relating to the return provided by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission on 'Standing Order 52 – Order for Papers - Abuse in the Greyhound Racing Industry'. I advised that these concerns are ultimately a matter for GWIC and should be referred to the Chief Commissioner.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Question Pg 22  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Minister, can you confirm for the record if you or your staff, or anyone within your department, ever received a copy or a draft copy or parts of the Drake Report prior to 31 July 2025?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> You don't recall seeing an earlier version of the report prior to 31 July?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I think procedurally these are questions for Commissioner Drake about how she undertook her work. We certainly had conversations around specific issues, but in terms of seeing another report before the final report, no, that wasn't the case.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> But there were discussions around the content of the report?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I think the Commissioner had questions. There were also questions around procedural fairness, which she raised with me, that had been raised by the industry. We discussed how that might be addressed.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Can you take on notice that other question in regard to whether you or anyone at the department saw a copy or a draft copy or parts of a draft copy of the Drake report prior to 31 July?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Sure.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>No drafts, parts of or copies of the Drake report were seen by the Department or the Minister's Office prior to the final report being formally submitted on 31 July 2025. Note, the exception is the Office of the Inquiry team, which supported Commissioner Drake.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 27  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> How many development companies did the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation engage with in respect of this project?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> My memory says 20, but I'll take that on notice and get the exact number.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>19 developer groups were invited to participate in the market sounding via interviews. Of those, 8 participated in market sounding sessions.</p>                                                                                                      |

| Question Pg 28  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:</b> What programs are currently funded by the State to provide for native rangers and other suited persons to help manage that situation on native land?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Most of the rangers in New South Wales are actually funded through the Federal Government, so the rangers program is actually a Federal program. But I might hand over to Mr Hamilton. There may be some cases where there are State ones, but usually it's custodians. There's joint management of national parks and things like that, but they're not specifically rangers.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:</b> I'm not talking about national park land; I'm talking about native title land. The program he has just started and managed—I think he's got six or seven.</p> <p>b Yes, that's federally funded.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:</b> It's far from an adequate amount of funding. Yes, he can train them, but he doesn't actually have any money to run the program. At least, that's what he's told us.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> We'd have to take that on notice because the Federal Government has just spent a large amount of money putting more rangers in place, and my understanding was that was operational funding. I would have to look specifically. I would hate to tell you the wrong thing.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:</b> Could you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>This question is best asked of the Minister for Agriculture.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 34 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| QUESTION       | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> To that point, Minister, in better equipping and enabling communities, has the Government allocated any dedicated funding to Aboriginal land councils or corporations for employment and training initiatives tied to housing construction?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> The Aboriginal Housing Office, which is the statutory government body, they receive funding each year. There are a number of projects being looked at in terms of that training and development. I would have to take on notice specific ones, because some of them are quite local and I don't know that there's anyone other than the Aboriginal Housing Office looking specifically. Maybe they'll be here when Minister Jackson appears and you might be able to ask them questions directly around that.</p> |
| ANSWER         | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>This question is best asked of the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 34-35 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| QUESTION          | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Minister, are you familiar with the Stronger Places, Stronger People funding, specifically any funding that might have gone to the Dhina Durriti group and Learning the Macleay?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'd have to take that on notice unless—</p> <p><b>SHANE HAMILTON:</b> I think it's a Commonwealth—</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> It's not a State one.</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> It is co-funded. We do co-fund it.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Okay, there is some co-funding. We'd have to check specifically. If you provide us the details, we'd be happy to—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> I'd like to know what outcomes are tied to that funding.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> We'd have to look specifically at what it is.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> I can come back to that one this afternoon.</p> |
| ANSWER            | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) is a joint, place-based initiative overseen by the Commonwealth Government and delivered in partnership with state and territory governments. The NSW Government provides \$2.75m in funding to Learning the Macleay in Kempsey. Dhina Durriti Aboriginal Corporation is the funding auspice of Learning the Macleay. This investment continues the bilateral investment for a further five years to 30 June 2029.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 39-40 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The Daily Telegraph said they can reveal that a spokesman told the Telegraph that "the Minister will be issuing a ministerial direction making clear the Government's expectations of the statutory decision-maker." It added:<br/> <i>"ILGA is required to undertake its statutory functions in a manner that promotes public confidence in its decision-making and the conduct of its members."</i><br/>           You would have authorised that spokesperson to speak to the Telegraph, I assume?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Not that I recall directly.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Did that come from your office or the department?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> It didn't come from the department.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> So your office?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Not necessarily.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Did it come from your office, Minister? This is a question in a budget estimates hearing.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I'd have to take that on notice. I don't know.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> So when you saw this, a significant story in The Daily Telegraph—and it said "a spokesman"—about a ministerial direction that you were going to issue, you don't know whether that came from your office or not? I think something is wrong if you don't know whether that came from your office or not.</p> <p><b>The Hon. MARK LATHAM:</b> It went through Cabinet!</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Yes, maybe that's Cabinet. You don't know?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I don't recall. I really don't.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Can you take it on notice to have a look at it?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I can take it on notice, yes. But I don't recall.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> You don't recall?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> No.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> If you could take it on notice and look at that.</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> I just said I'll take it on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:<br/>           A media spokesperson from my Ministerial office advised that an updated Statement of Expectations would be forthcoming.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Question Pg 41  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Before, you said that you confirmed that you and your office haven't received any drafts prior to 31 July. Could I also get you to confirm—I'm happy for you to take it on notice—whether you or anyone in your office received any interim reports, any parts of reports, any notes or any sections of the report as well?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes, I'm happy if you could take that on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>See transcript page p. 23.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 42  |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Minister, what's been the total cost in running the Drake inquiry and the report following that?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> We'll have to take that on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:<br/>\$5.087 million</p>                                                                                                                                                              |

| Question Pg 42  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Minister, the Veterans' and Families' Hubs that are being provided— I believe that's in concert with yourself and the Federal Government. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> No. It's in concert with the Federal Government and RSL LifeCare in most cases. They've been given the licence to operate the facilities. Where we've been assisting is finding places for them to be, which we've done—particularly most recently at Richmond—then also helping facilitate any consultation with RSL sub-branches et cetera.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> In terms of your identification of sites, you've outlined the one at Richmond. Are there any other sites that you've got in the pipeline?</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> Yes. We can take that on notice specifically. Did you want—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> I might come back to—</p> <p><b>Mr DAVID HARRIS:</b> There's one other one, yes.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:<br/>The Veterans' and Families' Hubs are delivered through partnerships between the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs and ex-service organisations, with support from State and Territory Governments. In NSW, RSL LifeCare was awarded the contracts and funding from DVA to operate the Veteran and Family Hubs, with the first established in Nowra. Five additional hubs operated by RSL LifeCare have been or are being established in the Central Coast, Queanbeyan, North Coast, the Hunter region and the Hawkesbury region.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 44  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> I have a Liquor and Gaming question to Mr Barakat with respect to the report that was done by Liquor and Gaming NSW—the Review of Gaming Machine Shutdown Hours Framework. Part of that report highlighted:</p> <p><i>Between 1st June and 30 November 2023, the highest ranked club for profits that had a hardship variation was 2nd ...</i></p> <p>Why would a club with the second highest profits have a hardship variation?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> That's a fair question. That was part of the purpose of the review. Those exemptions have been in place since as early as 1997, I think. The hardship exemptions possibly came in a bit later, in the early 2000s. I can take on notice when that particular exemption was granted, but it wouldn't have been something done recently under our remit.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Liquor &amp; Gaming Register on Verify NSW includes information about each venue in NSW and their operating hours, including gaming shutdown hours, available here <a href="https://verify.licence.nsw.gov.au/home/Liquor">https://verify.licence.nsw.gov.au/home/Liquor</a>.</p> <p>The hardship exemption for this venue took effect on 10 August 2006.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Question Pg 45  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> I wouldn't expect you to have it now, but would you be able to take on notice which venues do have hardship exemptions in place?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Absolutely, yes. I can take that on notice.</p>                                                                |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Liquor &amp; Gaming Register on Verify NSW includes information about each venue in NSW and their operating hours, including gaming shutdown hours, available here <a href="https://verify.licence.nsw.gov.au/home/Liquor">https://verify.licence.nsw.gov.au/home/Liquor</a>.</p> |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 47-48 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| QUESTION          | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Mr Honey, the Minister talked about, when decisions of ILGA are made, the ability for the venue to then appeal those decisions. What's that process?</p> <p><b>CHRIS HONEY:</b> Depending on the type of decision, there will be an ability to appeal to NCAT. In the instances where there's no right of appeal to NCAT, I believe that under common law an appeal can be made to the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Is there a clear difference that I'd understand between what does have right to appeal and what doesn't?</p> <p><b>CHRIS HONEY:</b> I will have to take that on notice, unless Mr Barakat can explain the difference between the decisions.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> The types of applications that are appealable to NCAT are set out in section 4 of the Gaming and Liquor Administration Regulation. We can provide that to give you some information about what sorts of applications can actually be appealed.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Would you be able to provide some examples in that as well?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Assuming that's appropriate, yes, I'm happy to provide that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ANSWER            | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Clause 4 of the Gaming and Liquor Administration Regulation 2024 sets out decisions that can be appealed to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) an application for the granting, or removal to other premises, of the following under the <a href="#">Liquor Act 2007</a>— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a hotel licence,</li> <li>(ii) a club licence,</li> <li>(iii) an on-premises licence relating to a public entertainment venue other than a cinema or theatre,</li> <li>(iv) a packaged liquor licence, other than a packaged liquor licence limited to the sale of liquor by telephone, facsimile, mail order or the internet,</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) an application for an ongoing extended trading authorisation in relation to a licence specified in paragraph (a), if the authorisation would allow trading after midnight,</li> <li>(c) an application to vary or revoke a condition imposed by the Authority on a licence specified in paragraph (a)(i)–(iii), if the variation or revocation would allow trading after midnight,</li> <li>(d) an application under the <i>Gaming Machines Act 2001</i>, section 34 to increase a gaming machine threshold, if the application must be accompanied by a local impact assessment under that Act, section 35,</li> <li>(e) an application specified in section 6, if a delegation given by the Authority to a Public Service employee to exercise the Authority's decision-making function in relation to the application is in force.</li> </ul> <p>Details of all NCAT appeals are publicly available on the Caselaw website <a href="http://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au">www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au</a></p> |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 48-49 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| QUESTION          | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> So the money's been allocated, but we're not yet sure what we want that money to achieve?</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> There is an opportunity for us to plan out how that money gets spent, so it's not necessarily—I might take on notice exactly how the governance arrangements work, if that's okay, with regard to the specific allocation. But the money is identified to be spent through Stronger People, Stronger Places in the Kempsey community. Exactly how and what the criteria are around how that's spent, I'll come back to you, if that's okay.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> What about the criteria about how those two programs were selected?</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> I might have to take that one on notice too. When it was originally designed, I wasn't looking after this program. We've definitely responded to interest by the Federal Government with regard to extending that funding this time round. The initial criteria—as I say, I'm happy to take that on notice and come back to you. We were obviously keen to take up the opportunity to match, to co-fund with the Federal Government when they were ready to go back out with more funding.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Was that money that the Federal Government put on the table for the State Government to match?</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> Correct.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Or did the State Government go to the Federal?</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> No. I'll double check, but my understanding is the Federal Government made that commitment and then we co-funded. As I say, it's been a long-term partnership, since 2022, in that community, and then the new round of funding was February this year. Happy to come back with more info, though.</p> |
| ANSWER            | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Government provides funding of \$1.5m to Maranguka in Bourke and \$2.75m to Learning the Macleay in Kempsey. This investment continues the bilateral investment for a further five years to 30 June 2029.</p> <p>The Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) funding provides for the establishment of Backbone teams in each community. The Backbone teams facilitate local planning, joint decision making, governance and data-based decisions to create better outcomes for children and their families and disrupt disadvantage. Funding can also be used to support community engagement to develop and deliver a community strategy and projects that advance the SPSP initiative.</p> <p>Locations for the SPSP initiative are nominated by the Commonwealth and were chosen based on a combination of factors including high levels of social disadvantage, existing community collaborations, strong local leadership, established governance structures, a willingness to work differently, and a shared vision for change.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 52-53 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> That was a good pick-up, thank you, Chair. Okay. I'm obliged to ask other questions. Let's talk about animal cruelty. I understand in relation to greyhound check-ins that retired greyhounds must be checked in every 12 months, whereas racing greyhounds are checked in every six months. Can you tell me what proportion of greyhounds that were subject to check-in requests in the last 12 months were actually checked in within the specified time frame?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> No, I'd have to take that on notice. But, as you say, the requirements do require every retired greyhound to check in at least once every 12 months, and greyhounds that have a status other than retired to check in every six months.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> If you could take that on notice and also tell me how many greyhounds are currently overdue for check-in, unless you've got that now.</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> No. I'll take on notice how many are currently overdue.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>In the last 12 months, 6,629 greyhounds were required to be checked-in with the Commission. As at 9 September 2025, 488 are outstanding which the Commission is currently following up.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Question Pg 53  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> I'd like to come back again to BackTrack, if we may, please. We talked about this program, the 12-week trial that kicked off at the start of this year. Where's that trial up to?</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> I believe they've completed that trial and they've come back to us with some encouraging results both from Neighbourhood Watch and also from the BOCSAR data that I referred to earlier. We're in discussions with BackTrack around whether there's an option for us to assist with further extending that trial as they look at a more sustainable footing for the program. It is relatively new. It's in our grants assessment process at the moment. The Premier has asked for it to be looked at under his discretionary fund.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> When did that trial begin?</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> Can I take that on notice? I'm sorry. I think it was a 12-week trial and it has probably only just finished, so I would be working backwards. But, yes, I'm happy to take that question on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The 12-week BackTrack Night Crew pilot program started in February 2025.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 54 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| QUESTION       | <p><b>THE HON. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> So this money went more to the actual program than any infrastructure that might've been a safe house or—</p> <p><b>KATE MEAGHER:</b> Yes, but there are models for that. I don't have the details in front of me. I'd be more than happy to come back, or with Minister Dib, in the Youth Justice portfolio, we might be able to provide more information through that. There's definitely work through Youth Justice around different models of accommodation. It's a big need with regard to having safe places for people to go. There are things like a PCYC that we fund to stay open after hours. In Moree, again, there's the SHAE Academy, which runs programs late into the evening. Definitely, young people can be taken to those venues. In terms of more widespread accommodation and safe options, there's a big need.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ANSWER         | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>In March 2024, the NSW Government announced a \$13.4 million package of place-based initiatives to address crime, support young people and improve community safety in Moree Plains. The package included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1 million funding to boost after-hours activities for young people.</li> <li>• \$8.75 million to develop a new bail accommodation and support service for young people. The Moree Bail Accommodation Program will provide safe accommodation with supervision for young people granted bail, and a range of other community support services for young people in contact with the courts.</li> </ul> <p>The \$ after-hours funding was allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$285,000 to PCYC to expand the U-Nites program to include Thursday and Saturday evenings.</li> <li>• \$138,000 to SHAE Academy to deliver specialised youth programs after-hours.</li> <li>• \$257,000 to Miyay Birray Youth Services to improve and expand the StreetBeat night program. This includes picking up and dropping young people to a safe place, such as their home or to and between after-hours activities.</li> <li>• \$320,000 to a small grants program to amplify innovative, community-led after-hours activities.</li> </ul> |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

## Question Pg 54/55

### QUESTION

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** Ms Mackaness, how many veterans are currently on the New South Wales social housing waitlist?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** The data is quite tricky, as you know. I noted that you asked questions about homelessness and housing earlier. We have three specific actions in the NSW Veterans Strategy for homelessness. One is Rent Choice Veterans. That's partnering with RSL LifeCare to support eligible veterans and their families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find or retain a lease on a private rental property, to pay a subsidy towards the rent for up to three years, gain skills and work opportunities to help sustain a tenancy and achieve housing independence on the private rental market. Then there's Link2home Veterans and Ex-Service. It provides veterans and ex-service personnel who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless with a dedicated 24/7 statewide information and telephone referral service providing information about local services and assessment to determine what kind of help is needed, and a referral to a service including a homelessness service, support service, veterans services and temporary accommodation or community housing provider. The other things that are probably pertinent to the space are the actions being taken by the Commonwealth. There is an action in the defence and veterans suicide royal commission. There is a piece of work happening at the moment by DVA looking at pathways to all the different service and housing providers for veterans to access. There was also the Veterans' Acute Housing Program. There were two New South Wales programs that received funding from that program. There was Coffs Harbour Legacy Welfare Fund. They received \$4.1 million and RSL LifeCare was awarded \$1.5 million. There's a range of things that come to play between the State Government, the ex-service organisations and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Specific data on how many people have accessed the New South Wales government programs, I would have to take on notice. I don't have an up-to-date figure.

**The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:** I presume you have a number of how many veterans we have in New South Wales?

**CAROLINE MACKANESS:** Yes, and I think—

### ANSWER

I am advised:

According to the 2021 ABS Census, almost 130,000 veterans live across NSW. The NSW Office for Veterans Affairs does not have access to information about clients on the NSW Housing Register and is not aware of the number of identified veterans on that list. Questions about the NSW Housing Register would best be directed to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 57  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> You mentioned the number of inspectors at the beginning. You said they had a different name.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Is that because they're generalists, if you like, and they're looking at everything at each particular venue.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> So you're saying that there are 17 gaming machine—</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> There are 17 special investigators.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Why is there the need to have specific gaming machine venue inspectors? Do they do things that the general inspectors can't? I'm trying to work out why you would have this defined.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I can take on notice the specifics. But when our investigators go out to venues, they will look at a range of different factors. It might just be that the focus of that particular inspection is gaming work, I'm happy to take that on notice and provide it to you.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>There are 23 inspectors presently employed and assigned to conduct inspections of non-casino licensed premises, such as hotels and registered clubs. These inspections include monitoring compliance with gaming machine legislation.</p> <p>Of those 23 inspectors, nine are assigned to a gaming-specific inspectorate. While the inspection responsibility is shared, inspectors within the gaming focused inspectorate develop specialised knowledge and subject matter expertise on the operation of gaming machines, legislative requirements and harm prevention or minimisation from gaming.</p> <p>In addition to the inspectors, there are 11 investigators who deal with liquor, gaming and registered club investigations, which include investigations into more serious or systemic breaches of gaming-related legislation.</p>                                                                                                                         |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 58 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| QUESTION       | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Is the course content being changed? The skill level of the Responsible Gambling Officers you were just referring to in terms of the training they need to undertake is this course. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> They have to take undertake Responsible Conduct of Gambling training and Advanced Responsible Conduct of Gambling training. I can take on notice whether we're reviewing those. I know we've just updated our Responsible Service of Alcohol training to include training around sexual violence and domestic violence prevention. We may well be looking at our RCG training as well, but I'm happy to take that on notice and confirm for you.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The report says—this is in the revised course content; I don't know about the advanced one you're referring to, but that would be good to know—that it "only requires staff to speak to a patron directly about their gambling or to offer referrals to gambling counselling services if extreme gambling behaviour is observed." Do you know what "extreme" means?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I can take that on notice. But the RGOs that I've described have a positive obligation to interact when they see someone at risk of experiencing gambling harm or actually experiencing gambling harm.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> That's not what the Auditor-General's report says, though.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> That's talking about the training and the RCG component. Responsible Gambling Officers have to undertake an additional level of training that will provide them with additional skills in that regard.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Is there a reason that this report shows that just 2 per cent of people who are accessing the New South Wales Government's counselling service were referred by venues in 2023-24?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I can take that on notice. I don't know.</p> |
| ANSWER         | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>There is a tiered training framework to acquire the course competencies necessary to work with gaming machines in NSW. Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) training is mandatory for any role where work duties involve gaming machines and the Advanced RCG course (ARCG) is mandatory requirement for certain roles, including Responsible Gambling Officers and gaming-related senior venue staff in hotels and registered clubs.</p> <p>The current RCG and ARCG training materials published in 2023 were updated to align with the 1 July 2024 gaming reforms prior to their commencement.</p> <p>Responsible Gambling Officers have several duties set out in the Gaming Machines Regulation 2019, including to identify patrons who are displaying behaviour related to gambling harm and to make enquiries with a patron if the officer suspects the patron is subject to, or is at risk of, experiencing gambling harm. The training material does not refer to 'extreme' gambling behaviours. All training content is subject to regular review and improvement.</p> <p>We do not have conclusive data on the number of GambleAware clients who are referred to the service by staff in pubs and clubs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

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|  | In 2024-25, the main source of referral identified by clients who disclosed their referral source was the GambleAware Helpline (40.5%) followed by 'other' (22.5%). Some of these clients may have seen or been provided with the phone number in a gambling venue. |
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## Question Pg 62

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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> I might start with you, Dr Levesque, if that's okay. What specific funding is allocated into research into rare ovarian cancers such as granulosa cell tumours? How is the Government supporting innovation in early detection and treatment pathways in these under-represented subtypes?</p> <p><b>JEAN-FRÉDÉRIC LEVESQUE:</b> We don't have a specific program in that area. I can take on notice to see if there has been any applications that relate to that condition as part of our programs.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Do you or will you support grassroots operations like ROC Inc [Rare Ovarian Cancer Inc]. to deliver these sorts of programs?</p> <p><b>JEAN-FRÉDÉRIC LEVESQUE:</b> Again, I would have to take that question on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I'm advised:</p> <p>Over the past decade, the Cancer Institute NSW has awarded more than \$5.6 million in ovarian research, supporting world-leading programs, infrastructure and fellowships through competitive, peer-reviewed grants to ensure value for investment. This includes \$3.75 million for precision medicine in ovarian cancers.</p> <p>Additionally, the Cancer Institute NSW invests around \$5 million annually to expand access to high-quality cancer clinical trials. There are currently over 190 clinical trials in NSW for which people diagnosed with ovarian cancer can participate. In 2024-25, there were over 120 patients with ovarian cancer enrolled in a clinical trial.</p>                                                                                          |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 63 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| QUESTION       | <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT:</b> Ms Mackaness, thanks for coming back up. I understand there is a research project going on aimed at improving support services for women veterans that is a partnership with OVA, RSL and Monash University. I just wondered if you could touch on that for us, including some time frames on when that might be rolled out.</p> <p><b>CAROLINE MACKANESS:</b> At the moment, they're calling for participation in that program. It has been a slow boil in terms of the ethics, approvals and the working group. It's been advertised widely. I think they've done the survey work. I might have to take the exact timeline on notice, but it is progressing positively. I know that they've had a good response to the request for participants.</p> |
| ANSWER         | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA), the Returned and Services League of Australia New South Wales Branch (RSL NSW) and Monash University are working together on a research project which aims to understand and improve wellbeing support services for women veterans in NSW. The Shaping Support Services for Women Veterans research project is ongoing. A self-report survey is currently live and will close on 30 September 2025. The research also includes semi-structured interviews with women veterans in NSW and are scheduled to be completed before the end of 2025. It is expected that preliminary data will be available in 2026, followed by a more comprehensive report on the research findings for key stakeholders.</p>             |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 65-66 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Just coming back to the data, though, we have data that shows that those category E—the deaths on track, where they were euthanised on track—have come down. GWIC has then said that that is likely due to improved track conditions. But if you've still got the same number of, or more, dogs who are being killed, whether they're euthanised on the track or off the track, they've still got an injury through the race. They're still being injured on track, so the mortalities coming from injuries on track aren't going down. How can we then say that there's somehow an improvement in track conditions?</p> <p>notice</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'm not sure that the figures are, in fact, an increase, although I can take that on and provide that data. What is clear is that the on-track euthanasias that would have occurred in the past are now significantly less due to those other measures that we've put in place whereby as part of the Greyhound Care Scheme—which is a scheme run by Greyhound Racing NSW—a greyhound that does sustain an injury at a race meeting will, wherever possible, go off to one of those veterinary clinics to be assessed and hopefully rehabilitated so that they don't form part of—</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Mortalities from injuries at the track have decreased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortalities at the track (Category E injuries) have reduced from 1.6 per 1000 starts in 2016-17 to 0.15 per 1000 starts in 2024-25.</li> <li>• Serious race injuries (which includes mortalities at the track and euthanasia by a private veterinarian due to a race injury, as well as non-fatal fractures) have decreased from 3.5 per 1000 starts in 2022-23 to 3.2 in 2024-25.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 66-67 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| QUESTION          | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> On a straight track, are 10 dogs safer or the same or riskier than six dogs?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> We haven't commenced in New South Wales with 10 dogs, so that data is not available at this point.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> But based on the studies that were done a few years back, where we first took on board the evidence that a straight track was safer, even though we continued to build the curved ones, was anything in that research indicating that you could have an unlimited number of dogs running on a straight track, and it would be fine—that it would be just as safe as six?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'd have to take that on notice as to what the actual reports say in relation to that.</p> |
| ANSWER            | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Commission has no research comparing the safety of 10-greyhound and 6-greyhound straight track racing. Any proposal for 10-greyhound straight track racing in NSW is a matter for GRNSW.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 68  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Does Greyhound Racing NSW report to you in regard to how many dogs it is rehoming through that program?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> Yes, we do receive data from GRNSW.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Do they tell you how many dogs are actually rehomed once they arrive in the US?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I don't know what the level of detail is in relation to the information provided to us by GRNSW, but they certainly provide us with information of greyhounds that they rehome generally.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> But they may not be including any rehoming statistics from the US?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I believe they are. I can confirm that and provide the precise answer. But I believe it does contain information about greyhounds that are sent as part of the USA program.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> Sorry, not just sent as part of the US program, but actually rehomed once they arrive in the US—that's the stats I'm trying to find. There have been, obviously, accusations that some of those dogs are ending up in kennels and that they're not rehomed, or that they are euthanised sometime after they've arrived in the US. And so, rather than getting the data as to how many greyhounds they've sent off, I'm wondering if you get data in regard to how many are actually rehomed once they arrive in other countries?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not sure that we get data that goes to the homes once they arrive in the US. I know we certainly get information as part of the program. But what happens beyond that, I'd have to take that on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Commission has no oversight function of GRNSW rehoming programs. GRNSW does provide the Commission with the identity of greyhounds exported to the USA and Canada by Greyhounds As Pets and the names and locations of the overseas organisations to which they are sent, but it does not provide the final rehoming destination or outcome of rehoming.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 69 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| QUESTION       | <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> So you have no idea if the app is effective at all?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> No, we anecdotally know that participants use the app to assess certain usages of medications such as withholding periods and the like. But as far as whether the app itself is correlated to prohibited substances, we don't capture that particular data.</p> <p><b>The Hon. EMMA HURST:</b> You might want to take this one on notice: I'm wondering about the number of cases of prohibited substances that were found in the last 12 months.</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'd have to take on notice the ones that relate to prohibited substance matters. I know in the last 12 months we've had a total of 113 disciplinary matters, but that of course includes things other than prohibited substances.</p> |
| ANSWER         | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>In 2024-25, there were 40 charges relating to prohibited substance, including eight related to permanently banned prohibited substances.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 70  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Could you take on notice the details of the statewide exclusion register— I think you said \$6.4 million or something—and what that money has gone to in terms of if it's consultants, for what report and what it's being spent on?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> At the moment it hasn't all been spent. It's likely we will need to seek approval for more funds to actually develop the scheme. We're at a tender process at the moment, looking for a third party with the relevant technical expertise to appoint to construct this statewide exclusion register to link venues at the back end through a technical process to allow people to be excluded across the State. Yes, I can definitely take on notice how much of the 6.4 has been spent and on what.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The \$6.4 million being referred to is the total funding allocated through forward estimates, spread across three years: \$3.5 million in 2023-24, \$1.9 million in 2024-25, and \$1 million in 2025-26.</p> <p>To date, \$618,000 has been spent, and includes labour expenses and operational expenses consisting of user journey mapping, financial assessment of tenderers, probity advice and legal services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Question Pg 70  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> At this point, the Government has said it's not responding to the road map. We don't know where that's up to. It's sitting with the Government. It has been more than six months. There has been no commitment. In the Roadmap for Gaming Reform, it states very clearly about the \$100 million harm minimisation fund and says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Executive Committee supports use of the Fund to implement the account-based gaming system including communication and marketing, change management activities, evaluation and monitoring and any appropriate industry support and transitional requirements.</p> <p>So it's being spent on other things in terms of what the Government would prefer to do other than account-based gaming?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> No. The remaining I think \$70-odd million—I can get you the exact figure on notice—is still sitting there and available. What was allocated by the Government for the independent panel and the \$6.4 million I spoke about in relation to exploring options for exclusion was allocated before the panel made determine how it wants to spend that remaining money.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>\$60.2 million dollars is remaining in the Harm Minimisation Fund.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 70  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Was the rest of it just quarantined until the Government makes up its mind about whether it's going to do anything that the roadmap has recommended?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> My understanding is it's quarantined to be used on gambling harm minimisation. Exactly how it's used will be a decision for the Government.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The \$10 million for the Office of Responsible Gambling—how much of a percentage of the office's total budget is that?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> The office's total budget for this financial year, 2025-2026, is \$34.5 million. That would include that \$10 million.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The office has been around for three or four years, is that right?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I'd have to take it on notice. I think it's longer than that, though.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Office of Responsible Gambling was established in 2017-18.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Question Pg 70-71 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> I'd be keen to know if the \$10 million is additional to their usual budget and has provided a \$10 million boost, or whether it has been replacing, if you like, a shift—</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I can take that on notice. I see where you're going. I think the \$10 million is an additional \$10 million that would not have been provided, but in terms of whether or not that's increased the budget by \$10 million, it's a bit more complicated than that, given the fact that a large portion of the office's funding comes from the Responsible Gambling Levy on the two casinos. There's obviously been significant issues in the casino space, so the percentage of revenue that's derived from that, that goes back to the office, has actually been reducing. I can get you some detail on that on notice, but it's not as simple as topping it up by \$10 million. There's other factors at play.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The \$10 million is an additional contribution from the NSW Government. However, as it has coincided with a decrease in the revenue paid to the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) from the Responsible Gambling Levy paid by the Star Casino (2% of non-rebate gaming revenue) and in the available reserves in the RGF. It has not resulted in an increase in expenditure by the RGF.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 71  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> With the research projects that the Office of Responsible Gambling is funding, is there a requirement that harm reduction must be one of the aims of that research?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> The overall remit of the Office of Responsible Gambling is harm reduction. I think the vision—and I can take on notice the specific wording—is moving towards zero gambling harm. Everything they do is about trying to minimise harm in the community from poker machines. They've done research about the risks associated with live streaming and gambling; risks about gambling amongst secondary school students; links between gambling and domestic violence; the identification of gambling comorbidity in hospital settings; and obviously there's the New South Wales responsible gambling survey, which is the key piece of research they do on a regular basis.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>All RGF funded research is intended to contribute to harm reduction. The Responsible Gambling Fund Trust Deed requires that all money expended from the fund, including research funding, is used for purposes relating to responsible gambling, which is defined as activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) enable persons to make safer and more informed decisions about their participation in gambling;</li> <li>(b) minimise the potential for, and incidence of, gambling harm; and</li> <li>(c) reduce the incidence, prevalence and severity of gambling problems and gambling harm.</li> </ul> <p>The Responsible Gambling Fund policy guidelines establish the use of the funding for:</p> <p>“Research to inform the development of evidence-based policy, initiatives and regulatory approaches, that prevent and minimise gambling harm as well as monitor and evaluate Fund program effectiveness”.</p> <p>The RGF Research Agenda guides all research funding decisions. Its priority themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual and community level gambling harm minimisation</li> <li>• regulation of gambling products, practices and environments</li> <li>• gambling and gambling harm among vulnerable groups</li> <li>• emerging technologies and new trends</li> <li>• measuring and understanding gambling prevalence and harm</li> <li>• efficacy and effectiveness of treatment.</li> </ul> <p>The agenda is available online on the GambleAware website. Research funded through the RGF Research Grants must address one of these priority themes and meet the eligibility criteria in the Funding Submission Guide. All applications for grant funding are assessed against the published assessment criteria which are also publicly available in the funding submission guide on the GambleAware website.</p> |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 71 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| QUESTION       | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The reason I'm asking is I looked at the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, which is similar, and it does seem to have a lot more of a bent and leaning much more heavily towards gambling harm reduction in the research that they're funding. It was just a genuine question as to whether that was a requirement?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> As to whether it's a requirement of any kind, there's a responsible gambling trust deed and they have—whether that's set out in there as a requirement I can take on notice, but I can say that the focus of that organisation and the Responsible Gambling Fund trust—so the board that oversees it—is moving towards zero gambling harm. That is their driving force.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> It would be great if you could take it on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| ANSWER         | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>All RGF funded research is intended to contribute to harm reduction. The Responsible Gambling Fund Trust Deed requires that all money expended from the fund, including research funding, is used for purposes relating to responsible gambling which is defined as activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) enable persons to make safer and more informed decisions about their participation in gambling.</li> <li>(b) minimise the potential for, and incidence of, gambling harm; and</li> <li>(c) reduce the incidence, prevalence and severity of gambling problems and gambling harm.</li> </ul> <p>The Responsible Gambling Fund policy guidelines establish the use of the funding for:</p> <p>“Research to inform the development of evidence-based policy, initiatives and regulatory approaches, that prevent and minimise gambling harm as well as monitor and evaluate Fund program effectiveness”.</p> <p>The RGF Research Agenda guides all research funding decisions. Its priority themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual and community level gambling harm minimisation</li> <li>• regulation of gambling products, practices and environments</li> <li>• gambling and gambling harm among vulnerable groups</li> <li>• emerging technologies and new trends</li> <li>• measuring and understanding gambling prevalence and harm</li> <li>• efficacy and effectiveness of treatment.</li> </ul> <p>The agenda is available online on the GambleAware website.</p> <p>The ‘In it to win it’ research referred to in the question was funded through a Gambling Research Capacity Grant. The full title of the PHD thesis completed with this funding was “An ethnography of digital marketing and sports betting consumption practices: Implications for harm, marketing regulation, and programmatic intervention approaches”.</p> <p>The project provided insight to the harm that can be caused by digital gambling marketing and sports betting consumption practices and the implications for addressing gambling harm. The project informed a submission</p> |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

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|  | <p>to the Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm as well as.</p> <p>The approach taken by the RGF to funding research is similar to the approach that was taken by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation until it ceased operating on 30 June 2024.</p> |
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## Question Pg 71-72

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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Can I clarify two things I said earlier, if you have time?</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Let me ask just one more question and you can maybe clarify soon-ish. I want to get an update about the ClubGRANTS review, which went to the Minister in October last year. I can't see any update except for the fact everything has just been advertised like there's no issue. What's happening with that?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Again, it's a question for Government. At this stage, nothing has changed. The how it wishes to proceed.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The Independent Panel on Gaming Reform was also looking at ClubGRANTS in parallel. That's what it says.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> No. They were doing their work concurrently to the review.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> That's the word I'm looking for.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> They were separate processes. We did a review of the ClubGRANTS scheme and we consulted with industry, we consulted with community groups and we consulted with the public. It's just that these things were happening concurrently. The panel did its thing on developing its road map; at the same time we looked at ClubGRANTS. Both of those reports have now been provided to Government for it to consider.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> I believe the Minister at some point may have said that the ClubGRANTS was an issue that the independent panel would be looking at in one of the budget estimates. I remember asking about a range of different things, and every single issue about pokies was going to that panel.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I'll take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Now, we don't know what's happening with any of it.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I can clarify that on notice for you, Ms Faehrmann, if that's all right.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> I certainly hope we don't come back here in another six months and have to ask the same questions, and you can't tell me anything because everything's still sitting with this Government and they haven't acted on any of the reviews. Mr Barakat, can you provide on notice the staff organisational chart of Liquor and Gaming in terms of who does what—gambling is what I'm particularly interested in, but you can do liquor as well—and the Office of Responsible Gambling, in terms of the staff structure for that as well?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Yes. I can do that, absolutely.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The review of the ClubGRANTS Scheme was conducted separately to, but concurrently with, the work of the Independent Panel on Gaming Reform. The Panel's Terms of Reference allowed them to provide input into that review.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 71-72 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <b>QUESTION</b>   | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> I certainly hope we don't come back here in another six months and have to ask the same questions, and you can't tell me anything because everything's still sitting with this Government and they haven't acted on any of the reviews. Mr Barakat, can you provide on notice the staff organisational chart of Liquor and Gaming in terms of who does what—gambling is what I'm particularly interested in, but you can do liquor as well—and the Office of Responsible Gambling, in terms of the staff structure for that as well?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Yes. I can do that, absolutely.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>     | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The organisational chart for the executive leadership of Hospitality and Racing is available on the Liquor and Gaming NSW website at <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2025-06/hospitality-racing-executive-leadership.pdf">https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2025-06/hospitality-racing-executive-leadership.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Question Pg 72  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Mr Tutt, how many kennel premises has GWIC inspected in the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'd have to take that on notice, the exact number.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> That would be very useful.</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I can come back to you in relation to one that I took on notice about prohibited substances. There were 40 charges related to breach of prohibited substances in the last financial year, 2024-25, of which eight related to permanently banned prohibited substances.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> If you could take on notice how many kennel premises GWIC inspected in the last 12 months and also in each of the previous three financial years, that would be very useful.</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'll take that on notice. They form part of our annual report, I believe. I'll do that.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>541 kennel inspections were conducted during the last 12 months from 10 September 2024 to 10 September 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2022-23, 561 kennel inspections were conducted</li> <li>• In 2023-24, 453 kennel inspections were conducted</li> <li>• In 2024-25, 496 kennel inspections were conducted</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 72-73 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| QUESTION          | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Looking at greyhound retirements, the number of greyhounds retired under the year are being kept by participants with no oversight except for that 12-month check-in without any further socialisation requirements or any sort of obligation to report their deaths?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> Every greyhound that's with a participant that dies is required to be reported to us, and it's not just the—</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Sorry, even when it's a greyhound that is no longer registered with GWIC?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> If it's with a participant, it's still on our register. Every greyhound that is with a participant is on our register, and there are reporting obligations in relation to those. But it's not just the 12-month check-in in relation to retired greyhounds. There will be kennel inspections at participants' premises that might have a number of racing greyhounds but also retired greyhounds. They're still subject to inspections. There are requirements within the code of practice that pertain to retired greyhounds as they do to other greyhounds. It's not just the check-in that's part of a requirement for a retired greyhound.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> If they need to be checked in to eTrac every 12 months, presumably you could go into eTrac right now and be able to tell me how many retired greyhounds retained by participants are missing or have outdated information.</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> Yes, that data would be available in our system. That's right.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Are you able to maybe on notice—</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> I'll provide the precise number on notice, but that's data that we do capture.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Are you aware or do you track how many greyhounds GWIC has approved to be transferred to an unregistered person who resides at the same address as the participant?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> We do track greyhounds that are rehomed by a participant to a third-party non-participant, so that data is available. In relation to whether it goes to the same premises, we would know that data by virtue of the fact that it goes to a third-party non-participant at the same address, so that would be data that we would be able to capture.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Could you provide on notice how many there are at the moment?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> Yes.</p> |
| ANSWER            | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>192 retired greyhounds were required to be checked-in with the Commission and are outstanding as at 9 September 2025, which the Commission is currently following up.</p> <p>Clause 9 of the Commission's Rehoming Policy does not allow the rehoming of greyhounds to an unregistered person that resides at the same address or registered kennels as a registered participant without approval of the Commission. The Commission is not aware of any requests to rehome a greyhound to an unregistered person at the same address as a registered participant.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 73  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> I understand Greyhound Racing NSW has the highest injury rate in Australasia and possibly globally, with a rate of 37.8 injuries per thousand starts. Is that your understanding?</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> The precise figures, I'd have to take on notice. I don't have that to hand.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> If you could confirm that, that would be very useful. Also if you could detail the injury rates for each of the New South Wales greyhound tracks for the last financial year and then also comparing to the three years prior, that would be very useful.</p> <p><b>MATTHEW TUTT:</b> We'll take that on notice. What I can say, to go back to the euthanasia or sudden deaths at racetracks, is that it has declined since GWIC's commencement from 1.2 per 1,000 starts in 2018-19 to 0.15 in 2024-25, which represents a decline of about 88 per cent.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The provisional total injury rate for NSW in 2024-25, subject to further audit before publication, is 39.8 per 1000 starts.</p> <p>At this time, GWIC does not have access to the total injury rates for all Australasian jurisdictions for the 2024-25 or 2023-24 financial years.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Question Pg 76  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> On the hardship exemptions and the shutdown period a little while ago, asked you about the data for that. Since then, the review has happened. Does Liquor and Gaming or does ILGA, potentially, have all of that data now in terms of what is being granted to which club? Is that transparent now? Forget about transparency. Do you have the data, to begin with?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> The data as to which clubs or which venues are accessing which exemptions?</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I think Mr Farlow or Mr Barrett asked me the same question, so I'll take it on notice. If it's appropriate for us to provide that specific breakdown, then I'm happy to provide that on notice.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Liquor &amp; Gaming Register on Verify NSW includes information about each venue in NSW and their operating hours, including gaming shutdown hours, available here <a href="https://verify.licence.nsw.gov.au/home/Liquor">https://verify.licence.nsw.gov.au/home/Liquor</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 76  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Mr Honey, a couple of years back Aristocrat Leisure was found to have been offering club managers some form of inducements, it looked like, in the form of free travel. In the media reports at the time, it said that ILGA was going to be looking into that and investigating the issue. Did it do that?</p> <p><b>CHRIS HONEY:</b> There is an investigation underway. I will pass that across to Mr Barakat because he can clarify.</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Yes, there's actually an investigation by Liquor and Gaming NSW into that issue, which we would then provide to ILGA. I can check on the exact status of it, but I think our investigation into the manufacturers has now concluded. But the process is that we refer that to ILGA for ILGA to consider and make a determination around whether or not there is a disciplinary complaint to be seen here. That's where things are at the moment.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>L&amp;GNSW investigated six gaming machine manufacturers involved in offering travel inducements and 'study tours' to registered clubs. The findings of the investigation are being compiled into disciplinary complaints against the manufacturers and will be submitted to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority for consideration.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Question Pg 77  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> There's just a process that needs to be gone through. The investigation might be complete but we don't just hand a whole lot of documents over to ILGA. We need to collate that into an appropriate disciplinary complaint so that ILGA can then assess that complaint and make a determination.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> But it's still sitting with you, then—</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> No, it's just going through that process.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> It's to go through that process. You have not provided it. It's not a hard question. When was the investigation finalised?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> Very recently.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> What does that mean?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I can take on notice the exact date. I don't have that off the top of my head.</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> Does very recently mean yesterday or does it mean a few months ago?</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>L&amp;GNSW investigated six gaming machine manufacturers involved in offering travel inducements and 'study tours' to registered clubs. The findings of the investigation are currently being compiled into disciplinary complaints against the manufacturers and will be submitted to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority for consideration.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# THE HON DAVID HARRIS MP – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES

2025-2026

| Question Pg 78  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I've got a couple of questions on behalf of the member for Murray. I suppose they're to you, Mr Barakat. Can you confirm whether gambling companies operating in New South Wales are legally entitled to retain stolen money even after a court has found that those funds are the proceeds of crime?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I would be surprised if they were able to hold onto stolen money if that was proven, but I can take that on notice. It's not something that has come across my desk before, but I'm happy to take that on notice for you.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>There are no provisions under liquor and gaming legislation that govern the handling of proceeds of crime. Such matters are for NSW Police.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Question Pg 79  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>QUESTION</b> | <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> And the other question is, I know that the ClubGRANTS Guidelines were updated to clarify whether that money could be spent on overseas trips and things. Did that come out of this investigation?</p> <p><b>TAREK BARAKAT:</b> I'd have to take on notice whether the investigation was the genesis of that. I think they are separate issues. There's a question from clubs of whether they can fund—one example is young people from the local community going and walking the Kokoda Trail, for example. So I think it is a separate issue.</p> |
| <b>ANSWER</b>   | <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Updates to the ClubGRANTS Guidelines in September 2023 included a provision that prohibits grants for overseas travel and/or education programs, unless it is approved by the Independent Liquor &amp; Gaming Authority. This provision was included to ensure that successful grants align with the intent of the scheme, which is to benefit the local community, not only the individual recipient, and to support expenditure of money inside NSW.</p>                                                                                            |