

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Ageing and Disability Services

Answers to be returned by:	Thursday 11 September 2014
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Questions from Ms Jan Barham MLC

AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES

Large Residential Centres:

1. According to answers provided during Budget Estimates 2013, 25 sites are being developed due to Westmead and Rydalmere LRC redevelopment with land acquisitions due to be completed by December 2013. Can you provide an update on this project and whether acquisitions have been completed?

The project to redevelop the Metro Residences requires 46 different land sites for the construction of 64 individual homes. 41 sites have been acquired, while others are being investigated. Seven houses have been completed and 12 houses are under construction.

2. Some of the sites were due to for completion by May 2014. How many of the Westmead and Rydalmere residents have been moved into the new group homes in the last financial year?

People with disability and their families have commenced visiting homes as part of their transition to new accommodation. People will start occupying their new homes permanently once staff training and induction has been completed. Relocation of residents is due to occur in 2014/15.

3. There have been seven new group home projects across regional NSW as part of the Riverside redevelopment with at least one due for completion last September. Can you provide an update in terms of completion dates for all seven projects?

(a) How many Riverside residents have been moved into the new homes in the last financial year?

Due to declining numbers of people in the Riverside Centre, and reassessment of the needs of residents, only ten new homes on eight sites are now required.

Five new homes have been completed and opened. Sites have been either identified or acquired for the last four projects which are due for completion in 2015.

In 2013/14, 22 residents moved into the five new homes.

4. Are the residents of the Stockton Centre being given access to independent advocates and information on the options available to them in choosing appropriate community accommodation settings and supports?

Yes.

5. Have any of the residents of the Stockton Centre transitioned to the NDIS for this financial year, and if so how many

Yes, 130 people had approved plans by 30 June 2014.

6. What is the number of staff members employed within the Stockton Centre?

(a) Can you provide a list, detailing the roles of employees (nurses, carers, etc.) within the Stockton Centre that directly support residents?

985 staff members are employed within the Stockton Centre in various roles.

7. Of the \$30 million allocated to land acquisition in the Hunter region, how much has been allocated towards innovative models for community living for people with disability, other than the building of group homes?

\$30 million was allocated for land acquisition.

8. Are there building works currently taking place on the Stockton site?

(a) If so, are they part of the devolution process, and funded from the \$30 million allocated to additional land acquisition?

No, except for regular maintenance.

9. Can you provide a detailed breakdown on how the \$77.27 million funding that has been allocated for LRC redevelopment for the 2014-15 period is being spent?

Refer to Budget Paper 4.

10. Irrespective of the degree of intellectual disability, regular direct engagement improves people’s quality of life. Can you provide a breakdown on the types of services provided to residents of group homes that covers organised staff support of individual resident participation, and does it include meaningful “active support” by staff members?

Group homes operate in a person centred environment, and as such, the types of supports and services provided differ across homes and for the people living in these homes.

Staff spend time planning with people and others in their support networks to learn what they want to do and how they want to do it. Therefore the activities will focus on the person’s decisions, or those suggested by people who know the person well, and behaviour that indicates the person enjoys particular activities.

Activities may be recreational, for example surfing, swimming, dancing, attending musical concerts, enrolling in programs like *Sailability* classes or *Riding for the Disabled*. Other activities may be educational, and promote the person’s self confidence and skills in drawing and literacy. Many people attend day programs which they engage in a wide a range of activities and outings. Activities also arise informally in the group home, for example some people want to redecorate their rooms and are assisted to choose colour schemes and furnishings.

Many people in group homes also access Ageing, Disability, Home Care funded Life Skills and Employment programs.

11. What is the staff to resident ratio in newly developed group homes?

Staffing is determined and based on assessed individual need and consultation. The staff to resident ratio will differ with out of house activities and at various times of the day/night.

Community Support Program

12. What is the funding allocated to the Community Support Program (CSP) for the current financial year and what is the allocated number of places?

(a) What is the average funding package per participant for the current financial year?

(b) What is the minimum and maximum funding entitlement under the CSP?

In 2014/15, \$107.5 million has been allocated for 1404 places, with a projected average Community Support Program (CSP) individual budget of approximately \$75,000.

Funding is allocated to participants based on priority, assessed need and program capacity.

13. How many people are on the Service Need Register, awaiting assistance under the Community Support Program?

(a) Can you provide a breakdown of the length of time people are waiting for assistance?

As at 27 August 2014, there were 489 applicants on the Community Support Program (CSP) Service Needs Register.

Applicants receive support as soon as it is available.

14. How many of the CSP participants are on the direct payment agreement with FACS, receiving their funding directly?

There are currently 14 Community Support Program (CSP) recipients receiving direct payments.

Another 14 CSP participants have been approved to receive their funding directly and administrative arrangements are being put in place to commence payments.

Young Persons in Residential Aged Care

15. How much money has the NSW government provided to the Young Person in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) program for the current financial year?

(a) How many people in NSW are currently under this program?

The 2014/15 budget allocation for Young Person in Residential Aged Care is \$27,533,775. Almost 300 people require supports from this program.

16. How many people under the YPIRAC program were assisted out of residential aged care facilities in NSW for the current financial?

A total of 15 people have moved into Young Person in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) supported accommodation and a further six people have been assisted to move out of aged care into more age appropriate independent living arrangements not funded by YPIRAC.

17. How many people are on a needs register, awaiting services under the YPIRAC program?

There are currently 62 people who have expressed an interest in moving out of aged care should suitable vacancies become available in their desired location.

18. How many residents of aged care facilities were provided with additional resources and supports under the YPIRAC program for the current financial year?

As at 29 August 2014, 164 young people in residential aged care were provided with supports under the Young Person in Residential Aged Care program.

19. Under the YPIRAC program, \$18.6 million was spent on providing accommodation options during 2013 – 14. What is the budget allocation for the current financial year on providing alternative accommodation support to people in this program?

As at 27 August 2014, the Young Person in Residential Aged Care program is committed to spend \$19.6 million on alternative accommodation support in 2014/15.

20. Other than the YPIRAC program, what other supports are provided to people with a disability currently being inappropriately housed in residential aged care, to find alternative modes of accommodation and personal care supports?

People under the age of 65 in residential aged care may be able to apply for various day programs and community access supports. In some cases they may also be able to apply to be added to the Accommodation Register; however the Young Person in Residential Aged Care program was designed to respond to the needs of this age group as they were not otherwise met.

General ADHC Funded Services

21. How many ADHC clients currently reside in assisted boarding houses and how many of those are in receipt of individualised funding?

(a) Are these clients being given information and support to move to individualised funding if they wish?

I'm advised that there are approximately 370 people living in assisted boarding houses.

Assisted boarding houses are privately operated. Residents receive funded services such as recreation programs, primary and secondary health services, advocacy and case management. These are 'block funded' services mainly due to the transient nature of the boarding house residents.

Where appropriate clients are assisted to transition to individualised funding arrangements

22. Can you provide a detailed breakdown of the Industry Development Fund expenditure for the 2013 – 14 financial year and also expected outlays for the current financial year?

In 2010, \$17 million non-recurrent funding was provided to National Disability Services (NDS) to develop and deliver sector development initiatives over six years up to June 2016. The funds are fully committed to 2016.

Industry Development Fund (IDF) expenditure is managed by NDS in partnership with Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), with oversight provided by the IDF Governance Board.

23. Under Stronger Together 2 2011 – 2016, funding of \$57.5 million has been allocated for research and development. What are the funding allocations for the current financial year, listing each of the programs?

(a) Is any money going towards improving data collection and if so can you provide the specifics?

In 2014/15, *Stronger Together 2* allocates an amount of \$4.6 million to research and data development.

24. Stronger Together Two funding provides for \$25 million for workforce and industry development. How much money is allocated for the current financial year under the Workforce Recruitment Strategy and what are the details?

In 2014/15, \$4.8 million non recurrent funding has been allocated to the Workforce Recruitment Strategy. This funding will support National Disability Services to continue to deliver and expand carecareers and projectABLE initiatives.

25. According to answers given during 2013 Budget Estimates, approximately \$10 million was to be spent by ADHC on staff training across all services to support current reforms. Can you provide more information on the types of training that took place and include the financial outlays to support this training?

(a) What funding for training will be available for ADHC staff for the current financial year to support the reforms in the disability sector, and how much money will be spent to support this?

In 2013/14, the budget for ADHC learning and development was over \$10 million. Funds were expended on a range of initiatives including:

- mandatory training for frontline staff;
- external conferences and seminars that provide ongoing professional development;
- professional development;
- initial employee development for frontline staff;

- qualifications relevant under industrial awards; and
- management and leadership training.

In 2014/15, the budget for learning and development for ADHC staff is over \$10 million. This budget will be used to support the identified training needs of staff.

26. Can you provide an update on the progress of the \$27.9 million annual spend on Ability Links and if all of the 248 Linkers are in place across the state as of July 1, 2014?

(a) Have all of the 27 Aboriginal identified positions been filled across the state, and if not, when will these positions be filled?

(b) Can you explain the specific role of Linkers and how they support people with disability in the community access services?

Ability Links plays a vital role in assisting people with disability, their families and carers to build information and formal support networks and to connect with mainstream and community based options.

Providers were in place and operational across the state from 1 July 2014. There is a staged approach to recruitment, including for the Aboriginal identified positions, and it is anticipated that all of the positions will be filled by late 2014.

Information on Ability Links program is publically available on the Department of Family and Community Services website.

27. How much money has been spent through the Consumer Development Fund for the current financial year?

(a) To date, how many people with a disability have been assisted in My Choice Matters programs, training and workshops?

The \$5 million allocated to My Choice Matters covers the period from June 2012 until 30 June 2016 to allow capacity building activities to be provided at a pace that suits people with disability, their families and communities.

28. According to ADHC figures, individualised funding across all disability services types currently sits at about 16 percent, with the goal to increase this significantly. Can you provide information on how FACS/ADHC plans to go about this; including listing the supports available to assist people with disability receive the necessary training in accountability requirements to directly managing individual budgets?

The NSW Government is committed to a disability service system that increases choice and control for people with disability. For this reason, in December 2012 the NSW Government became the first state to sign a historic agreement with the Commonwealth to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

These reforms mean the budget to support people with disability will increase from \$2.7 billion to a \$6.4 billion partnership between the NSW and Commonwealth governments. Importantly, the NDIS will benefit around 140,000 people with disability in NSW alone.

The NDIS will provide all participants with an individual funding package, based on an assessment of what is reasonable and necessary support to meet their needs, goals and aspirations. Each person with disability will have full choice and control over their funding and the supports they choose to access.

The NSW Government has invested over \$7 million over the past two years in eight capacity building projects to assist people build the skills and confidence to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over how their supports are delivered. This has included training for people who will be self managing their individualised budget. These capacity building projects are complemented by Ability Links NSW which is now established in all districts across NSW.

29. What is the funding allocation for the current financial year under the Living Life My Way/Ready Together banner, broken down into disability type and program for the following:

- (a) Physical disability?**
- (b) Intellectual disability?**
- (c) Neurological disability?**
- (d) Developmental delay?**
- (e) Early intervention supports?**

Funding is not allocated by disability type but on a needs basis allocated by places across programs and areas.

30. Can you explain the \$6 million Disability Employment Strategy that was announced in the budget as there is not a great deal of information available on it?

- (a) How will it help people with a disability gain and stay in employment?**
- (b) How will it support employers in hiring people with a disability?**
- (c) Has the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme been scrapped?**
- (d) Why is the Disability Employment Strategy limited to people with an intellectual disability?**
- (e) Can the Department provide a detailed breakdown of what 'enablement strategies' they are referring to, the services that will receive funding, and the amounts allocated?**

The Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme was repealed on 1 July 2014 and reshaped as the Employment Enablement Strategy (EES) (previously known as the Disability Employment Strategy).

A total of \$6 million has been allocated to the EES to support adults with intellectual disability to secure employment. Individual funding packages will be provided to support people to develop skills and provide on the job support.

The EES will support employers in hiring people with disability by improving the job readiness of people with disability. A capacity building component of the strategy will include developing better linkages between employers and people with disability looking for work.

The EES targets adults aged 30-55 years with an intellectual disability as this group have relatively poor employment outcomes compared to other disabilities supported by Disability Employment Services (DES).

The 'enablement strategies' comprise individual funding packages and capacity building for employers as follows:

- Individual funding packages will be rolled out over 3 years to support 225 people. The first 50 will be rolled out in 2014/15. The packages consist of 12 months funding to develop employment skills and provide on the job training. The support is consistent with the objectives of *Living Life My Way*. People will be able to choose who they would like to support them with their individual funding to help them achieve their goals. Funding for each package will be at the annual Transition to Work rate (currently \$20,426).
- The capacity building component is being developed in conjunction with disability, employer and employment groups.

31. How much money has the NSW government provided to National Disability Services (NDS) for the following periods, detailing all of the funding allocations and programs:

- (a) 2014 – 15
- (b) 2013 – 14
- (c) 2012 – 13
- (d) 2011 – 12

Amounts paid to National Disability Services (NDS) are provided in Annual Reports. The funding provides for base peak activities, workforce projects such as carecareers and projectable, as well as for specific initiatives designed to enhance client centred service provision and to assist providers prepare for the NDIS.

Supported Accommodation and Respite Services

32. What is the current number of people on the Immediate Need register for 24 hour supported accommodation and the average waiting time for assistance, given that the average waiting time for 2011 – 12 was 848 days?

As at 30 June 2014, there were 981 people on the Register of Requests for Supported Accommodation assessed as having an immediate need. An immediate need exists when a person would be willing to accept a place in 24/7 supported accommodation immediately. The average number of days on the register in

2013/14 is lower than the 2011-2012 figures. A range of supports are provided for people on the register who have urgent needs.

33. How many people moved directly from the family home into supported living for the 2013 – 14 period?

58.

34. In response to a 2010 Auditor General's report on access to overnight centre-based disability respite, ADHC started implementing a standardised respite assessment and booking system to promote equity and access based on need. In response, a state-wide rollout of the Respite Assessment and Booking System commenced and was due for completion by the end of July 2013. Can you provide further information on the implementation of this program, and if it has been completed/finalised?

The rollout of this system was completed in May 2013 and is used as a common assessment tool and to provide greater certainty for people with disability and their carers about the amount respite they can expect to receive dependent on their assessed needs.

35. How many clients with disability were assisted with funding for respite services and centre-based respite, including average length of stay, for the 2013 – 14 period?

(a) What was the funding for respite services for the 2012 – 13 period and the 2013 – 14 period?

In 2013/14, there were 10,897 people who accessed respite from ADHC funded services and 2,212 people who accessed ADHC operated centre-based respite. The average length of stay per person in ADHC operated centre-based respite was 31.4 bed nights.

In 2012/13, the total funding expended was \$156.5 million and \$157.9 million in 2013/14 for all centre-based respite.

Community Care Support Program

36. Can you provide a breakdown of the number of clients that received services under the Community Care Support Program (CCSP) for the 2013 – 14 period and average hours per week, and the service type?

Data is not yet available for 2013/14.

37. According to NCOSS, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities have consistently experienced barriers to accessing the CCSP. Can you provide a breakdown on the number of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD clients that were receiving CCSP for 2013 – 14?

- (a) How do these numbers compare to the previous year of 2012 – 13?**
- (b) What was the Aboriginal Home-Care Service budget for 2013 – 14, the estimated number of hours of services and the number clients receiving services?**
- (c) What is the funding allocation to Aboriginal Home-Care Service for the current financial year?**
- (d) How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients of ADHC services are receiving individualised funding or direct payments?**
- (e) What is being done by ADHC to increase services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD communities?**

Aboriginal people access Community Care Support Program through mainstream services as well as ADHC.

The NSW Government continues to increase services to CALD communities through projects such as Aboriginal Ability Linkers, Aboriginal Support Planners and Services Our Way Northcott Disability Services Diversity in Disability Project, National Disability Services for the People, Culture and Communication Project and the Ethnic Child Care Getting Prepared project.

38. How many people are on a needs register, awaiting for services under the CCSP?

This program provides a wide range of services including meals, personal care, domestic assistance and transport and needs registers for these services are not maintained. Individual service providers are responsible for managing and prioritising demand based on local needs.

39. Can you provide a detailed list showing lengths of time people are waiting for assistance under the CCSP?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 38.

40. We know that from 2018 onwards, the NSW government will no longer provide direct services to people with a disability; in light of this, what steps is the agency and NSW Home Care Service taking to prepare clients and workers for the transition to the non-government sector and thus minimise disruption?

The Commonwealth Government will replace the HACC Program when it ends on 30 June 2015 and has advised that it will provide details on the structure of the new program later in 2014.

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) has been regularly communicating with staff about the transition to the National Disability Insurance

Scheme, and has also been engaged in peak level consultation with unions representing staff. FACS is rolling out a comprehensive program for engagement of staff in the transition called Working Together, which will provide practical tools to support staff through the transition to the non-government sector.

41. What steps are being taken generally to retain disability support workers when transitioning to the non-government sector and most importantly, maintaining connections with regular clients?

(a) Is the agency talking directly to non-government service providers to assist with providing suitable pathways to take on clients and workers from government agencies and therefore facilitate connections?

(b) If so, can you provide the details of the negotiations?

Refer to supplementary questions on notice 73 and 74.

Complaints

42. How many complaints about Ageing, Disability and Home Care Services has ADHC received for the 2013-14 period?

(a) What is the breakdown of complaints received by ADHC regions for the 2013-14 period?

(b) What is the breakdown of complaints received by ADHC by service type for the 2013 – 14 period?

(c) What is the breakdown of complaints received by ADHC by service issue for the 2013 – 14 period?

ADHC is part of the Department of Family and Community Services and has recorded 368 complaints for the 2013-14 period.

a) Complaints received by ADHC are now categorised under Districts instead of regions.

In 2013/14, disability and Home Care business streams received 367 complaints and feedback across 15 Districts and one complaint in relation to 'Client Relations Line', which was managed by FACS Central Office.

Districts & Division	2013-14 Number of complaints received
Central Coast	4
Central Office	1
Far West	8
Hunter New England	62
Illawarra Shoalhaven	56
Mid North Coast	23
Murrumbidgee	32
Nepean Blue Mountains	3

Northern NSW	13
Northern Sydney	16
South Eastern Sydney	22
South Western Sydney	10
Southern NSW	29
Sydney	22
Western NSW	62
Western Sydney	5
Total	368

b)

Service Types	2013-14 Number of complaints received
Accommodation & Respite	27
Home Care	326
LRCSSL & State-wide Services	5
Planning & Access	10
Total	368

c)

Service Issues	2013-14 Number of complaints received
Service Access	12
Service Delivery	254
Staff	98
Other	4
Total	368

NDIS

43. According to the Ready Together booklet, a \$2.8 million 'organisational transition fund' will be established to provide grants of up to \$25,000 to facilitate transition of non-government organisations to the NDIS. Can you provide a detailed breakdown of the funding allocations under this program for the current financial year and how the money is being spent by NGOs?

To date, \$1.2 million has been allocated to 41 projects through the Organisational Transition Fund. The fourth and final round of the fund closes on 12 September 2014.

44. The Ready Together program states that ADHC will fund a change management team to engage with non-government organisations and assess their readiness to transition to the NDIS. Can more information be provided on this program, if and when it will start and how much it will cost?

(a) How will this initiative support NGOs in preparing for the transition?

The Industry Development Fund (IDF), which is managed by National Disability Services NSW in partnership with Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), has engaged a Change Consultant and four Sector Support Consultants who have met with over 620 ADHC funded organisations.

Since the project's commencement in October 2011, over \$2.9 million has been committed to build organisational readiness for transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

45. The KPMG Interim Report: Review of the Optimal Approach to Transition to the Full NDIS stated that "Policy decisions are being progressed with limited Agency and State involvement [and] limited State involvement in full Scheme design." This is despite the NSW Government funding almost 50 percent of the full scheme costs (\$3.2 billion) in the state. In light of this, are there plans by your Government – and particularly the Department of FACS – to address this anomaly and have more say in the scheme design?

There is a range of robust and clear governance arrangements in place which involves the NSW Government in decision-making processes about the design of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

46. Can you explain what "continuity of support" means for clients over the age of 65, currently in receipt of disability supports such as the Community Support Program who will not be eligible for the NDIS and how the financial arrangements are taken care of between the Commonwealth and NSW government?

People 65 years and over will not meet the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) eligibility criteria. Supports for people aged 65 and over are provided through the Commonwealth's aged care system.

However, people who are living in the Hunter trial site and receiving disability supports will continue to receive, for the period of the NDIS trial, their current level of support through continuity of support arrangements outlined in the NSW Bilateral Agreement for the NDIS trial.

47. Do people with a disability aged 65 and over who are currently living in group homes have security of tenure once NGOs take over their operations? If no –

(a) Does ADHC have information on where people with a disability aged 65 and over have been moved to or will be moved to?

i. For example, will they be moved into a nursing home?

(b) Does ADHC have details on how many people aged 65 and over will be affected by the transition process?

(c) What other funding options will be provided to people aged 65 and over after full transition to the NDIS?

While people 65 years and over will not meet the NDIS eligibility criteria due to their age, people who are living in the Hunter trial site and receiving disability supports will continue to receive their current level of support through continuity of support arrangements.

People who turn 65 once they are a participant of the scheme have the choice to continue to receive disability supports at their current levels through the NDIS or receive aged care supports, depending on their individual needs and choices.

Ageing

48. In response to a question I asked during Budget Estimates 2013, as to whether the Government will consider lowering the age to access the Seniors Card to 45 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, I was told that the NSW government will await the outcome of the review for making any recommendations change Seniors Card eligibility. Has the review process been completed and if so what is the outcome regarding lowering the eligibility age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

The Department of Family and Community Services has undertaken a review of the capacity for the age of eligibility for Seniors Card to be reduced for Aboriginal people. The Department is currently considering the outcomes of this review.

49. Can you provide a detailed breakdown (including relevant statistics) of the number of calls and types of abuse registered to the NSW Elders abuse hotline for the 2013 – 14 period, and the demographics of those making complaints?

For 2013/14, the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit (EAHRU) call statistics were as follows:

Total calls	1191
Helpline	1047
Resource Unit	144

Abuse Type	
Psychological	34%
Financial	31%
Neglect	15%

Physical	10%
Social	9%
Sexual	1%

Callers to the helpline are family members (38%), service providers (32%), older persons (17%) and concerned others (13%).

As an anonymous helpline there are certain limitations to the data reported.

50. Has the NSW Government had deliberations with the Federal Government regarding the National Partnership Agreement on certain concessions for pensioners and seniors card holders?

(a) What was the outcome of those deliberations?

(b) Will the NSW Government continue to fully fund pensioner concessions if the Federal Government does not reverse its decision to abolish this partnership?

The NSW Treasurer and I recently wrote to the Prime Minister regarding the 2014-15 Federal Budget measure to terminate the National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioners and Seniors Card Holders.

The Government remains focused on delivering concessions to our seniors. We are committed to ensuring that the State's pensioners and seniors will not bear the costs arising from changes to Federal funding of senior concessions. In a move to protect NSW pensioners and seniors, the Government will contribute an additional \$107 million towards concessions in 2014-15 to cover the shortfall.

Boarding Houses and Assisted Boarding Houses

51. What measures have been implemented since the commencement of the Boarding House Act 2012 and its associated Regulation on 1 July 2013, for residents with disability living in Assisted Boarding Houses to educate and inform them of their rights and responsibilities under this Act?

The NSW Government in conjunction with Council for Intellectual Disability, People With Disability Australia and the Tenants' Union, has developed a series of four plain English booklets for residents of assisted boarding houses specifically addressing their rights under the *Boarding Houses Act 2012* and Regulation 2013.

Ageing, Disability and Home Care's boarding house case workers work with residents as required to assist them to understand the new legislation and their rights under the Act.

52. Of any measures undertaken to inform residents of Assisted Boarding Houses of changes to the Boarding House Sector, what percentage of the boarding house population has been reached?

From mid September 2014, a series of 12 information sessions, funded by the NSW Government and facilitated by the Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) and People With Disability Australia (PWDA), have been arranged in Southern Sydney. These sessions will cover up to approximately 65 per cent of residents in assisted boarding houses, by end of October 2014.

A review will then be undertaken to determine whether additional forums are required and in what locations.

53. Do residents with disability living in Assisted Boarding Houses currently have access to Plain English information booklets or pamphlets outlining their rights and responsibilities under the Boarding House Act?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 51.

54. Has a standardised occupancy agreement in Plain English been developed for residents of Assisted Boarding Houses?

Yes.

55. How many of the currently licensed Assisted Boarding Houses are required to submit a transition plan, as required by Schedule 1 of the Boarding House Regulation 2013, to either address the maximum number of residents and/or provision of single occupancy bedrooms?

All assisted boarding houses are required to submit a transition plan.

56. How many transitions plans have been received to date by FACS?

13 of the 15 required plans have been completed and the Department of Family and Community Services is reviewing them to provide feedback.

FACS has liaised with the remaining two premises.

57. How many monitoring inspections have been completed since the commencement of the Boarding Houses Regulation 2013 for each of the 21 Assisted Boarding Houses currently operating in NSW?

(a) How many Compliant Notices has ADHC issued since the commencement of the Boarding House Regulation 2013?

(b) Of any Compliance Notices issued what Level of Risk Category (as per ADHC's Assisted Boarding Houses Authorisation and Monitoring Manual) was it issued under?

Each Assisted Boarding House has had at least nine visits in the past 13 months since the 2013 Boarding Houses Regulation commenced. No Compliance Notices have been issued.

58. When was the last Full Service Review conducted for each of the 21 Assisted Boarding Houses currently operating in NSW?

The Boarding Houses Monitoring Policy sets out that Full Service Reviews will be conducted at least once every three years. Of the 21 Assisted Boarding Houses, since 1 July 2013 when the Boarding Houses Regulation commenced:

- five full service reviews have been conducted;
- another three are currently in progress, and 12 are planned for completion by early 2015; and
- One assisted boarding house is closed on 28 August 2014 and therefore was not scheduled for a full service review.

59. In relation to Section 83 of the Boarding Houses Act, how many reports has ADHC received about incidents involving:

(a) the sexual assault (or an allegation of sexual assault) of a resident of the boarding house?

(b) the unexpected absence of a resident of the boarding house with additional needs for more than 24 hours?

(c) an assault or allegation of assault (other than a sexual assault) under Part 3 of the Crimes Act of:

(d) a resident by a staff member? Or

(e) a staff member by a resident? Or

(f) a resident by another resident?

a) One

b) Two

c) d) One

e) One

f) None known.

Questions from Ms Amanda Fazio MLC

AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES

60. Dr Harland from the NDIA told the Senate Estimates that "As to whether there are people who are currently accessing state schemes and are not eligible and have not received a service offer, that is really a matter for the state government". www.aph.gov.au/media/estimates/bud_1415/Hansard

An example of such a service is ParaQuad services. Representations have been made to Minister Ajaka regarding ParaQuad concerns. They currently receive around \$103,000 State Government funding to provide reactive or emergency services for eg post-operative services or emergency assistance which keeps people with disabilities out of hospital and saves the NSW Health System an estimated \$21 million per annum. Since these services do not fit the NDIS model and you have classified them as Tier 2 supports, will this service be funded through Health or mainstream funding?

For the period of the trial, people who are currently accessing state funded supports will continue to receive supports under the continuity of support arrangements.

61. Of all the trial NDIS sites, The Hunter recorded the highest number of ineligible requests. In the first nine months of the trial, the NDIA in the Hunter assessed 461 persons or 17 per cent of its applicants as 'ineligible'. The NDIA told Senate Estimates that they have been doing “a review of all those ineligibility decisions; we have completed that on 562 matters [and] Generally, we have found the approach to decision making to be sound” (Community Affairs Legislation Committee p36, 2014 Senate Estimates Commonwealth Government Australia Disability).

Will the NSW Government continue to take responsibility and fund continuity of support for these people?

For the period of the Hunter National Disability Insurance Scheme trial continuity of support will be available to people currently accessing existing disability supports, consistent with the Intergovernmental Agreement and the NSW Bilateral Agreement.

62. It is known that the NDIS will save the NSW Govt a significant amount of money as many services that the NSW Government previously funded (for example, some of the work currently funded through the Dept of Health such as Enable NSW, and some mental health supports). In fact, one economist has calculated that the savings to NSW will be around \$1.7bn saved each year from the NDIS to NSW (.37% of GSP).

Are you planning to use any of this money to put back into Tier 2 or mainstream supports?

The NSW Government has committed \$3.133 billion in 2018/19, which includes the total Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) budget for disability services in NSW (\$2.692 billion), and up to a maximum of \$441 million of in-kind services.

By the end of the transition to a full scheme National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in July 2018, NSW will not have a role in providing residual specialist disability or basic community care services, including the provision of tier 2 supports.

Following the transition to a full NDIS, NSW will continue to meet its agreed responsibilities under the National Disability Strategy, which include working to ensure that people with disability are able to access mainstream supports available to other members of the community.

63. You would be aware of the critical shortage of housing for pwd in NSW. What are you doing to ensure that NDIS participants have access to appropriate housing? Of the \$30 million allocated to land acquisition in the Hunter region, how much has been allocated towards innovative models for community living for people with disability, other than the building of group homes? Are there building works currently taking place on the Stockton site? If so, are they part of the devolution process, and funded from the \$30 million allocated to additional land acquisition?

Access to housing for National Disability Insurance Scheme participants is a matter for the National Disability Insurance Agency. The scheme includes funding for capital purposes.

Refer to supplementary question on notice 7.

64. We know there are about 460 people in Stockton, Kanangara and Tomaree – relocating people from these centres would involve significant investment into housing options. One of the service providers in the Hunter NDIA trial told the federal NDIS committee: “Support and those sorts of things we can do. Bricks and mortar are a problem” (Pg 92 Federal Government Joint Committee into NDIS cites correspondence sent to the committee from NDIA’s Ms Louise Glanville, National Disability Insurance Agency) and furthermore the NDIA has stated that it is under no obligation to contribute to the cost of providing alternate accommodation for those living in Stockton.

(NB Redevelopment of Stockton 2012-13 report says you have allocated 3.1 million to Stockton. Budget papers – ST2 money \$30 million towards new accommodation for people with disability in the Hunter Residential Centres- Constance)

This is not a question.

65. What measures have been implemented since the commencement of the Boarding House Act 2012 and its associated Regulation on 1 July 2013, for residents with disability living in Assisted Boarding Houses to educate and inform them of their rights and responsibilities under this Act?

- (a) Of any measures undertaken to inform residents of Assisted Boarding Houses of changes to the Boarding House Sector, what percentage of the boarding house population has been reached?**
- (b) Do residents with disability living in Assisted Boarding Houses currently have access to Plain English information booklets or pamphlets outlining their rights and responsibilities under the Boarding House Act?**
- (c) Has a standardised occupancy agreement in Plain English been developed for residents of Assisted Boarding Houses?**

Refer to supplementary questions on notice 51 – 54.

66. Under the NDIS Intergovernment Agreement, the States are responsible for ensuring best practice therapy services/compliance.

- (a) With FACS transitioning out of its role in providing disability services, how does the government envisage carrying out this role of ensuring “quality assurance and safeguards frameworks?”**
- (b) Has the Minister met with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) responsible for regulating Allied Health professionals – those responsible for providing many services in the NDIS? If not, why not?**
- (c) Does FACS currently have a policy around only employing Allied Health providers who are registered under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – the federal regulator for Allied Health professionals? If not, why not?**
- (d) If FACS sees the value in only employing AHPRA registered health professionals, why isn’t it ensuring future disability service providers are similarly accredited and regulated?**

Refer to supplementary questions on notice 80, 81, 84 and 85.

ADHC Transition

67. How has the communicated the transfer to ADHC staff? What transition information is the government providing to ADHC staff? Ie emails, seminars...

Regular communication occurs and is being supported through the implementation of a comprehensive program to engage staff in the transition called *Working Together*.

Staff are updated on the National Disability Insurance Scheme fortnightly and as news is available it is circulated via email and on the staff intranet. Staff are also given regular updates through team meetings in Department of Family and Community Services’ Districts.

68. How regularly is the government providing this information?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 67.

69. What feedback processes are in place for FACS staff to communicate/share concerns with around the transition process?

Staff are able to provide feedback via their line managers, through a dedicated email addresses and Department of Family and Community Services' senior managers.

70. What is the name of the division(s) that directly provide health/therapy services?

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) provides direct therapy services through the Community Support Teams operated from multiple locations across the 15 FACS districts. Large Residential Centres, Specialist Supported Living and the Community Justice Program also provide therapy services.

71. Please provide funding for these divisions for each of the financial years below:

- (a) 2009-10**
- (b) 2010-11**
- (c) 2011-12**
- (d) 2012-13**
- (e) 2013-14**
- (f) 2014-15**

The Financial Year breakdown of therapy services cannot be fully quantified as services are also provided by Large Residential Centres, Specialist Supported Living and the Community Justice Program and the Community Support Teams.

72. Please provide staff numbers for these divisions for each financial year

- (a) 2009-10**
- (b) 2010-11**
- (c) 2011-12**
- (d) 2012-13**
- (e) 2013-14**
- (f) 2014-15**

The number of Department of Family and Community Services employees is provided in the Department's Annual Report.

73. What is the government doing to ensure staff are not leaving the department prematurely?

The *National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Enabling Act* provides for arrangements for staff to facilitate an orderly transition to the non government sector. The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and NSW Industrial Relations are continuing discussions with unions around the implementation of these arrangements to protect staff entitlements and conditions under the Act's provisions.

FACS is implementing a program to engage staff in the transition called *Working Together*.

74. What is the government doing to ensure the knowledge and experienced retained in the government will be transferred to the not for profit providers sector?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 73.

75. Has the government developed any formal staff transfer agreements with any not for profit organisations?

No.

76. Does FACS have a current feedback process/ complaints handling mechanism in place for existing FACS staff who work as providers within the NDIS who seek to raise issues around process/implementation or other?

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is a service provider for the period of the Hunter NDIS trial. ADHC has established a dedicated transition team to interface with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

77. Can the government provide a breakdown of the main themes/issues FACS staff have raised regarding working within the NDIS launch sites?

Ageing, Disability and Home Care has a collaborative relationship with the National Disability Insurance Agency. Structures are in place to work through issues as they arise. The trial site is providing opportunities for learnings that will assist in the development of the full-scheme of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Workforce – Standard Frameworks

78. Under the Intergovernment Agreement states are responsible for ensuring best practice therapy services/compliance. With ADHC removed, what will the state government be doing to ensure this?

The NSW Government is working closely with all jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, to ensure there is an agreed framework for how nationally consistent quality and safeguards are in place when the National Disability Insurance Scheme rolls out across Australia.

79. At February 13-14 Federal Budget Additional Estimates the Commonwealth Government said essentially the states had responsibility for workforce development, and ensuring best practice, compliant NDIS provider workforce.

This is not a question.

80. See link below for Question on notice no. 446

http://www.aph.gov.au/~media/Estimates/Live/clac_ctte/estimates/add_1314/Social%20Services/Answers/446.PDF

The Intergovernmental Agreement on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch (IGA), and each of the bilateral agreements between the Australian Government and host jurisdictions appended to the IGA, provide that existing state or territory based quality assurance and safeguards frameworks will continue to apply in each jurisdiction during the trial phase of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Accordingly, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has not developed a separate “competencies and minimum standards framework”.

With FACS transitioning out of its role in providing disability services, how does the government envisage carrying out this role of ensuring “quality assurance and safeguards frameworks?”

The NSW Government is working closely with all jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, to ensure there is an agreed framework for how quality and safeguards are considered when the National Disability Insurance Scheme rolls out across Australia.

81. Has the minister met with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) responsible for regulating Allied Health professionals – those responsible for providing many services in the NDIS?

I met with Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) in January 2014 to discuss the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Ageing, Disability and Home Care has also met and collaborated with representatives from the Australian Psychological Society (APS), Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) and the Occupational Therapy (OT) Association to discuss the professional development needs for members leading up to the roll out of the NDIS.

82. If not why not?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 81.

83. Given there is no provision in the recent inclusion legislation, how will the minister ensure, only registered Allied Health Professionals will be involved in providing services?

All allied health professionals are bound by national professional organisations with a code of ethics/conduct and clearly defined membership requirements. Some allied health professionals are also registered with Allied Health Professions Australia (including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, registered nurses, and psychologists).

Registration is bound by law and must be strictly adhered to by the allied health provider themselves. The Department of Family and Community Services currently provides clear policy and practice guides to support their staff to comply, and to safeguard the wellbeing of service recipients through compliance to professional codes and law.

The regulation around both professional registration and professional association eligibility, together with the strict guidelines set by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for provider services registered with them, will safeguard people with a disability who want or need the services of well-qualified allied health professionals.

84. Does FACS currently have a policy around only employing Allied Health providers who are registered under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – the federal regulator for Allied Health professionals? If not why not?

No. Refer to supplementary question on notice 83.

85. If FACS saw the value in only employing AHPRA registered health professionals, why is not ensuring future disability service providers are similarly accredited and regulated?

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) does not only employ Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency registered health professionals.

Registration requirements (where relevant), and other professional requirements, are clearly stipulated in FACS recruitment and in role descriptions. Evidence of current registration (or other eligibility if not a registered profession) is required at the time of recruitment into FACS, and a clear process is in place for managers to record annual registration currency through a secure integrated human resources system. Practice Leaders in the allied health disciplines provide guidance and consultation around registration matters as they arise.

Workforce – Provider Accreditation

86. What does the government see as the main challenges in maintain a high quality workforce after ADHC withdraws as a disability service provider?

There is already a high quality workforce in place across the government and non-government sectors across NSW.

It is estimated that an additional 25,000 workers will be required to deliver the National Disability Insurance Scheme. In partnership with National Disability Services (NDS), the NSW Government have a number of strategies in place to promote attraction and retention of suitable staff, including Carecareers and ProjectABLE.

The NSW Government will ensure ADHC staff will continue to work in the new national system. The NGO sector already employs many thousands of qualified and experienced staff.

87. At February 13-14 Federal Budget Additional Estimates the Commonwealth Government said essentially the states had responsibility for accrediting providers under the NDIS.

This is not a question.

88. See link below question 447

http://www.aph.gov.au/~media/Estimates/Live/clac_ctte/estimates/add_1314/Social%20Services/Answers/447.PDF

What accreditation is the NSW government looking at?

NSW does not accredit service providers. NSW has a process in place where providers are required to attain independent confirmation that they meet the necessary standards.

As indicated by the Commonwealth Government, existing state or territory based quality assurance and safeguards frameworks will continue to apply in each jurisdiction during the trial phase of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

During the trial phase in NSW, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is responsible for ensuring providers registering with the NDIA demonstrate that they meet all relevant qualifications, criteria including third party verification against the NSW Disability Service Standards as outlined in the NDIS Provider Registration Guide to Suitability Requirements - requirements for new specialist disability providers in NSW.

89. Is FACS developing an accreditation process for NGOs seeking to provide services?

All Ageing, Disability and Home Care funded disability service providers are required to implement a quality management system and attain third party verification to confirm their performance against the NSW Disability Services Standards.

During the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial phase in NSW, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is responsible for ensuring providers registering with the agency demonstrate that they meet all relevant qualifications, criteria including third party verification against the NSW Disability Service Standards as outlined in the *NDIS Provider Registration Guide to Suitability Requirements - requirements for new specialist disability providers in NSW*.

90. If so: can you explain the process and timeline you are working towards?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 89.

91. Is there government going to be consulting industry leaders in developing the accreditation process?

Refer to response for supplementary questions on notice 89.

92. A number of workforce related matters are the subject of a current NDIS workforce strategy and review – a project National Disability Services won the tender for. Has the government had input into this review? Will the government in future have input into this review?

The review is a Commonwealth funded project.

93. Does the government foresee a role in assisting the not for profit sector to be workforce ready?

Yes. Refer to response for supplementary questions on notice 31 and 22.

94. What is the government doing to ensure the not for profit sector will be resourced for this role?

The NSW Government is working in partnership with National Disability Services (NDS) to deliver the Workforce Recruitment and Retention project and the Industrial Relations and Workforce Development Project, both of which focus on assisting Ageing, Disability and Home Care funded non-government organisations prepare for transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Future Workforce

95. How many clinical student placements has the FACS provided in its health/therapy service divisions in the following years?

- (a) 2009-10
- (b) 2010-11
- (c) 2011-12
- (d) 2012-13
- (e) 2013-14
- (f) 2014-15

Clinical placements are coordinated at a local level and no formal record of this information kept.

96. What funding and resources are allocated for these years for this clinical placement function?

Ageing, Disability and Home Care's Specialist Placement and Recruitment Unit has been funded under *Stronger Together* since 2011. Funding excluding indexation includes:

2011/12 - \$175,000
2012/13 - \$287,000
2013/14 - \$310,000
2014/15 - \$500,000
2015/16 - \$658,000

97. Given FACS had a significant role in hosting university clinical placements who does the government believe will take on this role when ADHC withdraws from providing disability services in the NDIS?

It is envisaged that the non government sector would offer clinical placements around supporting people with disability.

98. How will ensure this role continues?

NSW will continue to work with the Commonwealth on this issue.

99. Who does the government believe will oversee this?

Work is continuing with universities, non government organisations and the private sector to develop and maintain student placement capacity.

100. What funding will be allocated to ensure this continues?

This will be a matter for the key universities that attend the University and Disability Sector Practice Reference group to determine whether Commonwealth funding it

receives for each student, along with applications to external funding bodies (grants), will be used to continue this work into the future.

Professional Development

101. How much does FACS spend on professional development each year for its staff?

Information relating to expenditure for staff development is available in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

102. How much funding was allocated for the health/therapy service divisions over the following years?

- (a) 2009-10**
- (b) 2010-11**
- (c) 2011-12**
- (d) 2012-13**
- (e) 2013-14**
- (f) 2014-15**

Refer to supplementary question on notice 101.

103. What percentage of this was spent on Allied Health and other therapy service provider staff?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 101.

104. What kind of professional development do you provide?

Professional development is matched to the individual need of each staff member in relation to their role, skills and experience.

105. Is it provided internally or externally?

Professional development varies depending on the individual's training needs, and will be sourced internally or externally depending on where the professional development is available and the type of training that is most appropriate to meet that need.

106. Do you provide professional development around best practice therapy services and therapy provision?

In addition to professional development training, other opportunities for evidence based and best practice learning is offered by way of on-the-job training and mentoring.

107. What is the ball park figure total cost?

Due to the variety of external training and internal professional development such as on-the-job training and mentoring, the actual cost of this is unable to be determined with any reliability.

108. So now under the Governments arrangements, with FACS not delivering disability services, not for profits will be. How will this important and expensive professional development role – ensuring best practice therapy and services for NDIS participants, be funded and resourced?

The NGO sector currently provides many of the supports that Ageing, Disability and Home Care does – such as group homes, therapy, community care. Currently, over 60 percent of services to people with disability, their families and carers in NSW are delivered by non government organisations.

As with any employer, NGOs have a responsibility for employing suitably qualified staff and providing for their ongoing training and professional development.

109. What action is the department taking to ensure NDIS participants will receive the same quality care from not-for-profit providers, as they did under ADHC?

The NSW Quality Framework for disability services is built on the National Disability Quality Framework and based on the NSW Disability Services Standards. These Standards directly align with the National Standards for Disability Services.

Ageing, Disability and Home Care funded disability service providers are required to implement a quality management system and attain third party verification to confirm their performance against the NSW Disability Services Standards.

The NSW Government is working closely with all jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, to ensure there is an agreed framework for how quality and safeguards are considered when the National Disability Insurance Scheme rolls out across Australia.

110. How many times has the Minister visited the Hunter Launch Site (since becoming the responsible Minister for NDIS). Please provide dates for these meetings.

I have travelled to the Hunter Launch Site on many occasions.

111. Please provide a list of Not for profits the Minister has met with since draft inclusion bill was released for public consultation.

Meetings have been held to consult with organisations and stakeholders to discuss a number of issues, including the Disability Inclusion Bill.

112. Has the Minister and or the department met with NDS around the development of the NDS Workforce Strategy?

Yes.

113. What advice was provided to NDS by either the Minister or the department around the specific workforce needs facing the NSW disability service sector regarding the withdrawal of ADHC as a service provider?

The NSW Government continues to engage with National Disability Services (NDS) regarding the workforce and sector development needs of non-government organisations in preparation for the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

114. There is a very clear need for pwd (particularly those who do not have family or another network of caring people around them) to have access to state funded advocacy to break down the barriers for those seeking to accessing mainstream services so that we do not put too much pressure on the NDIS. One constituent has recently written to us about the critical part that a disability advocacy group has played in helping their son access mainstream high school and access supports at that school such as ramps etc

Why then is there no funding certainty for peak, advocacy or even community development activities after next June? Will you give an undertaking that the NSW government will during and after the NDIS rollout continue to fund advocacy services for NDIS participants who need to use specific government services?

(a) How much funding has been allocated in the Ageing, Disability and Home Care budget to:

- i. Advocacy organisations**
- ii. Independent information provision**
- iii. Peak representative organisations**

(b) How many people have amalgamated support from more than one program into a single funding arrangement under the Living Life My Way policy framework?

(c) What is the no.of people using the following funding arrangements in 2013-14:

- i. **Direct payments**
- ii. **Third-party financial intermediary**
- iii. **Service intermediary**
- (d) **What is the total amount of funding that individuals are receiving through direct payments under the Living Life My Way policy framework?**
- (e) **What is the total amount of funding that individuals are receiving through third-party financial intermediaries under the Living Life My Way policy framework?**
- (f) **How many people with disability using services operated by ADHC have been offered the option of converting the value of their supports into self-directed funding arrangements?**
- (g) **A number of organisations have received funding for projects relating to support planning and other decision supports as part of the Living Life My Way initiative.**
 - i. **How much funding has been allocated to support planning and decision support projects?**
 - ii. **How much funding has been allocated to the My Choice Matters and other 'Getting Prepared' projects?**
 - iii. **How much funding has been allocated to support planning?**
 - iv. **How many organisations have been allocated funding for support planning?**
 - v. **Which organisations have been allocated funding for support planning?**
 - vi. **How will the Government evaluate the effectiveness of the Living Life My Way policy framework?**

Like other services funded by the NSW Government through Ageing, Disability and Home Care, information and advocacy services are engaged under three year funding agreements until 30 June 2015.

The funding of all services from 1 July 2015 will be considered in the context of alignment with the *Disability Inclusion Bill 2014* and future planning for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The broader role of advocacy and information services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme remains the subject of detailed design discussions with the Commonwealth Government on the roles, functions and provision of 'Tier 2' supports.

(a) In 2014/15, ADHC will maintain funding levels to advocacy and information services at approximately \$9.7 million.

In 2014/15, through the Community Care Supports Program, a total of \$642,000 has been allocated in annual funding to Peak organisations.

(b) As of 30 June 2014, fourteen people who had registered under the Living Life My Way framework to individualise or amalgamate their existing funding arrangement had fully transitioned their supports. Data is not currently available on whether this

transition process required the amalgamation of supports from more than one program into a single funding arrangement.

(c) 31 clients received direct payments in 2013/14.

ADHC does not distinguish between financial intermediaries and service intermediaries for its reporting purposes. During the relevant period, 2,635 people with disability received a service through an intermediary service provider.

(d) Approximately \$2.9 million.

(e) Approximately \$62.8 million.

(f) People with disability using services operated by ADHC can register for an individualised funding arrangement in the same way as people using disability services provided by non government organisations.

(g)

(i) Approximately \$8 million was provided for support planning, case management and supported decision-making projects in 2013/14.

(ii) \$7.06 million has been invested in consumer capacity building projects between 2011/12 and 2013/14.

(iii) The NSW Government invested approximately \$2 million in 2013/14 to enable people with disability currently receiving services to access independent support planning over the next 18 months. Support planning is also provided by ADHC and other service providers.

(iv) Refer to supplementary question on notice 114 (g)(i).

(v) Organisations allocated funding for support planning in 2013/14:

- Down Syndrome Association of NSW
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
- Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation Service
- Physical Disability Council of NSW
- Assessments Australia (was funded specifically to provide support planning for clients transitioning to the Community Support Program).
- University of New South Wales

(vi) The Living Life My Way policy framework is being evaluated in a number of ways to focus on processes designed to facilitate greater choice and control for people with disability.

Community Care Supports Program

115. How much was spent on non-recurrent projects funded by the CCSP in 2013-14?

No non-recurrent projects were funded by the Community Care Supports Program in 2013/14.

116. What projects (for question 18 above) was the money spent on, including a description of each project?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 115.

117. How many clients are currently receiving services through CCSP delivered by ADHC or Department of FACS?

In June 2014, over 7,000 people were receiving supports through the Home Care Service which is funded through the Community Care Supports Program.

118. During 2012 -2013 how many High Need Pool and Attendant Care clients transferred to services being delivered by NGOs and funded through ADHC or FACS?

During 2012/13, the High Needs Pool was exclusively provided by the Home Care Service of NSW.

In 2012/13, eight Attendant Care Program (ACP) clients receiving their supports from the Home Care Service of NSW chose to transfer their supports to an approved Attendant Care NGO.

119. During 2013-2014 how many High Need Pool and Attendant care clients transferred to services being delivered by NGOs and funded through ADHC or FACS?

During 2013/14, two people receiving High Needs Pool and one person receiving Attendant Care transferred their services from the Home Care Service of NSW to a NGO.

120. How many High Need Pool and Attendant Care clients does ADHC or FACS anticipate will transfer to services being delivered by NGOS. For 2014 - 2015? How was this assessment made and what evidence base was used to determine or predict how many clients would transfer to NGOS?

It is not possible to anticipate participant choice.

121. Given that ADHC or FACS in 2014-2015 will still be funding NGOS delivering Home Care services through the CCSP why is there a decline in expenditure of about \$9 million dollars as revealed in Budget Estimates Paper Volume 3 for 2014-2015?

Refer to (a) in Budget Paper 3.

122. Currently how many clients receive funding through the Community Care Supports program by age, region, provider and service type for people under 65 and under 50 for Aboriginal people?

Information on service data is available in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

123. For 2012 -2013 how many clients received funding through the Community Care Program?

Information on service data is available in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

124. For 2013-14 provide information about how many clients receive funding through the Community Care Supports program by age, region, provider and service type.

Information on service data is available in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

Ability Links

125. How many Ability Links NSW coordinators are currently operational?

At 28 August 2014, 204 Linkers, including managers and coordinators, are operational across NSW. Further offers have been made and recruitment of remaining positions is continuing.

126. What area or region is each Ability Links operational?

The Ability Links NSW program is provided across NSW.

127. Who are the Ability Links coordinators employed by in each are or region?

Information relating to the providers for Ability Links is available on the Department of Family and Community Services website.

128. How much funding is provided by ADHC or FACS currently and in 2013-2014 for these coordinators?

Information relating to funding for Ability Links is available on the Department of Family and Community Services website.

Individualised Funding

129. How many people accessed individualised funding in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 by service type, region and provider?

The number of people with disability using individualised services in 2012/13, across all FACS districts, is listed by broad service type as follows:

- Community Support – 7445
- Short-Term Interventions – 128
- Community Living – 429.

The number of people with disability using individualised services in 2013/14, across all FACS districts, is listed by broad service type as follows:

- Community Support – 8549
- Short-Term Interventions – 173
- Community Living – 586
- NDIS Participants – 2251.

Data on individualised funding relating to individual providers is not available.

130. How many people with disabilities who accessed individualised funding in 2012/13 and 2013/14 were Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander?

416 and 447 people respectively.

131. How many people with disabilities who accessed individualised funding in 2012/13 and 2013/14 were High Needs?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 132.

132. By category of need and disability type how many people accessed individualised funding in 2012/13 and 2013/14?

The ADHC Minimum Data Set (MDS) classifies people with disability in the self help category into groups according to disability type and levels of need. Please note: Data is not available for all service users.

Of the 8002 people with disability accessing individualised funding in 2012/13.

- The number of people with disability reported in MDS who were accessing individualised funding in 2012/13 is listed by disability type as follows:
 - Intellectual – 5594
 - Physical – 1530
 - Sensory – 58
 - Psychiatric – 55
 - Not stated/ inadequately described – 190
 - Balance (data not available) - 575

- The number of people with disability reported in MDS who were accessing individualised funding in 2012/13 is listed by category of need in the self help category as follows:
 - High – 3980
 - Medium – 2573
 - Low – 874

Of the 11078 people with disability reported as accessing individualised funding in 2013/14, data is available for 9183.

- The number of people with disability reported in MDS who were accessing individualised funding in 2013/14 is listed by disability type as follows:
 - Intellectual – 6107
 - Physical – 1570
 - Sensory – 122
 - Psychiatric – 120
 - Not stated / inadequately described – 1264
 - Balance (data not available) - 1895

- The number of people with disability reported in MDS who were accessing individualised funding in 2013/14 is listed by category of need in the self help category as follows:
 - High – 4247
 - Medium – 2927
 - Low – 2009

133. How many requests were made for access to individualised funding in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 by category of need and disability type?

The proportion of people using individualised disability funding arrangements has increased significantly.

In 2013/14, the Department of Family and Community Services invited expressions of interest from people using disability services to individualise or amalgamate their funding.

Specific data regarding category of need and disability type is not collected as part of the expression of interest process for individualised funding, as this information is not required for the purpose of transitioning current funded supports to individual arrangements.

134. How many of the requests referred to in question 36 above were refused and specify the reasons for refusal?

Of the requests referred to in Question 133, 87 people had supports in funding programs that are unable to be individualised due to the type of support provided and/or the nature of the program.

If a person's supports are unable to be individualised, their pre-existing support arrangements will continue and they are referred to other support such as the 'Getting Prepared' capacity building initiatives, if appropriate.

Providers are also encouraged by the Department of Family and Community Services district staff to work with individuals to increase the flexibility of support arrangements wherever possible.

135. How many people accessed individualised funding are /were receiving services through the attendant care and CCSP (including former HACC) programs in 2012/13 and 2013/14?

Through the attendant care program, in 2012/13 904 clients received individualised funding and in 2013/14, 945 clients received individualised funding.

No person receiving individualised funding was receiving services through the Community Care Supports Program for either financial years.

136. How much money or funding was (i) allocated and (ii) actually paid in total for individualised funding to individuals in 2012/13 and 2013/14?

In 2012/13 and 2013/14, approximately \$273.5 million and approximately \$329.2 million was expended respectively on programs with individualised funding arrangements.

In 2013/14, the Department of Family and Community Services also invited expressions of interest from people using disability services to individualise or amalgamate their funding.

137. As to question 39 and response thereto, what proportion of the ADHC budget does the amount

(i) allocated and

(ii) actually paid represent in both percentage and actual amount/sum total?

In 2013/14, Community Care Supports Program (CCSP) budget totalled \$0.208 billion of a total disability services budget of \$2.681 billion, representing 7.76 per cent.

In 2013/14, CCSP expenditure totalled \$208 million of a total disability services expenditure of \$2.603 billion, representing 7.99 per cent.

138. If ADHC/FACCS does not keep data on individualised funding by service type, provider and region, why not?

The Department of Family and Community Services collects data on individualised funding by service type and district.

ADHC spending on Aboriginal people

139. What proportion of funding in the following programs is spent on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- (a) Intensive in home support**
- (b) Autism flexible funding**
- (c) Skill development for children and young people**
- (d) Building support networks**
- (e) Early Start diagnosis support workers**
- (f) Aboriginal and family intensive support**
- (g) Flexible respite options**
- (h) Transition to Work program**
- (i) Community Participation Program**
- (j) Transition support for secondary students**
- (k) Community engagement for adults**
- (l) Interagency planning**
- (m) Community groups**
- (n) Leaving Care**
- (o) Community Justice Program**
- (p) Day Programs**
- (q) Supported accommodation**
- (r) Respite**
- (s) Community Care Supports Program**
- (t) Enhanced therapy and behaviour support services**
- (u) Attendant Care Program**
- (v) Early childhood intervention services**
- (w) Early childhood intervention services**

The allocation of \$2.7 billion funding to Ageing, Disability and Home Care will be distributed to funded programs based on a range of criteria used to prioritise assessed need, including those for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

140. What is the NSW Government contribution to the Aboriginal Home Care Service budget for 2014-15?

Over \$23 million has been allocated to the Aboriginal Home Care Service budget for 2014/15.

Supported Accommodation

141. What is the Government doing to meet the gap for unmet need for supported accommodation in NSW?

The provision of additional supports funded by *Ready Together* growth and the implementation of localisation, where services are allocated and managed closely with the communities they support to meet unmet need.

A review of the ADHC *Allocation of Places in Supported Accommodation Policy* aims to streamline the process for identifying vacancies in funded services quickly and transparently to reduce times, fill vacancies and better meet the gap for unmet need.

Ready Together growth is also expanding the supply of new group home places and individualised packages including the Supported Living Fund and Individual Accommodation Support Packages to people who require accommodation supports.

Independent Advocacy

142. Will the NSW Government be maintaining and extending funding to independent advocacy and information providers to support people with disability and their families under NSW implementation of the National Disability Strategy and person centred approaches? By how much?

Refer to the response for supplementary question on notice 114.

Employment for people with a disability

143. Have you reached the State Plan target to increase the employment of people with a disability requiring a workplace adjustment?

The obligation of providing reasonable workplace adjustments fall with individual employers and is not a State Plan target. The NSW Government continues its commitment to increasing opportunities for people with a disability by providing supports that meet their individual needs and realise their potential.

144. How are you tracking on the State Plan Goal 14 specifies that the Government aims to increase participation of people with disabilities in employment or further employment and that 60% of transition to work participants move into employment or further education by 1 July 2014, as well as close the gap in unemployment rate between people with a disability and the overall community by 50% by 2016?

The proportion of Transition to Work participants moving into employment or further education has increased from 62 per cent in 2010 to 68.6 per cent in 2013. This target was exceeded well before 1 July 2014.

Goal 14 of NSW 2021 also commits the NSW Government to closing the gap in the unemployment rate between people with disability and the overall community by 50 per cent by 2016.

FACS will continue its commitment to improving the participation of people with disability in employment and further education through a number of initiatives including the Transition to Work program, the Disability Enterprise Procurement Program, the Employment Enablement Strategy and the NSW public sector wide EmployABILITY initiative.

Social benefit bonds

145. What investment has the NSW Government made in a disability focussed Social Benefit Bond and where and to whom has that investment been made?

Social Benefit Bonds are not a direct funding model. Under a Social Benefit Bond, public funds are only expended after benefits have been achieved. The \$5 million referenced in the *Stronger Together 2* policy statement refers to the potential notional investment that NSW might make in a disability focussed Social Benefit Bond.

Consumer Development Fund

146. Given the importance of getting individualised funding right, why is the Consumer Development funding non recurrent?

My Choice Matters, the Consumer Development Fund will operate until the end of June 2016, when the NDIS rolls out across NSW.

Phones/iPads

147. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

148. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2013/14 financial year?

The 2013-14 total phone bill expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$363,877 (63%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2008-09 of \$578,691 total expenditure.

149. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

150. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

151. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

96 iPads have been issued for the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

152. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

iPads are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

153. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

204 phones have been issued to the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

154. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

155. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

156. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

0 iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

157. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

Media/public relations

158. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

159. What is the forecast for 2014/15 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

Overseas trips

160. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

161. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

Office costs

162. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

163. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

164. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

165. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2014/15?

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

166. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?

Information in relation to repairs, maintenance and relocation for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/165616/Disclosure_Log_Information_-_Ministerial_Renovations.docx.pdf

167. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 166.

168. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2014/15?

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

169. How many political advisors are in your office?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

170. How many administration staff?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

171. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

Number of Department Liaison Officers for NSW Government Ministerial offices at 30 June 2014 was 56.

172. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

NSW Government Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition are provided with road transport services, with Ministerial Drivers assigned for this purpose.

173. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

174. If so, in what capacities?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 173.

175. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

176. If so, in what capacities?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 175.

177. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Refer to supplementary question on notice 175.

Cabcharge

178. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2013/14 financial year?

The 2013-14 taxi expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices was \$117,783 (67%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$175,776.

Restructure

179. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

180. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

181. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

182. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

183. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

184. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

185. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2014/15?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Agency costs

186. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2013/14?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

187. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2013/14?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

188. What is your Department's catering budget?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

189. What is your Department's stationery budget?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

190. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

191. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

Correspondence

192. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

The department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other departments and sources.

193. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

The department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other departments and sources.

Paying bills on time

194. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

195. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

196. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

Grants to non-government organisations

197. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?

Yes.

198. If yes,

- (a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?**
- (b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?**
- (c) On what date was the funding advanced?**
- (d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?**
- (e) Was any funding withheld or returned?**
- (f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?**
- (g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/14?**
- (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?**

(a) (b) and (d) Information regarding funding provided to non-government organisations is provided in the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Report.

(c) Under the terms of the Funding Agreement, funding is deposited on the first business day of each quarter starting from 1 July in any given year. Where a service commences after the first business day of the quarter, payment is made via the weekly or monthly payment run, or on request for an adhoc payment.

(e) Yes.

(f) Funding is returned (recovered) under annual financial acquittals arrangements or returned directly if the organisation is unable to deliver the agreed services. Funding can also be withheld if organisations no longer meet the pre-conditions for receipt of Government funds or are in default of their funding agreement with the Department.

(g) Indexation rates provided by Treasury for recurrent grant related funding to non government organisations in 2013/14 was 2.48 per cent and 2.49 per cent.

(h) As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

Contractors

199. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2014 and at what cost?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

Aboriginal employment

200. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including information regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. The level of Aboriginal employment as at 30 June 2014 is estimated at 2.9%. This is still subject to final quality checks, prior to the November release of the Workforce Profile 2014.

201. How has that changed since 1 July 2013?

The 30 June 2014 estimate of Aboriginal employment in the sector is 2.9%. This compares to the Workforce Profile 2013 report which estimated the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at 2.7%.

Charter air flights

202. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

Reviews and studies

203. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews: Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

- (a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?**
- (d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (f) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?**

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

Media training

204. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;

- (a) Who conducted the training?**
- (b) When was it conducted?**
- (c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?**
- (d) Who paid for the training?**

No.

205. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

206. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

207. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

Donations

208. Given evidence at ICAC that Hunter Liberal Members of Parliament received cash from prohibited donors, can you guarantee that you did not receive an illegal donation at the last election?

I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation.

209. Last week the Premier put out a statement that said:

“I have always absolutely complied with the electoral funding laws and the records are there for all to see. Yes, I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation.”

Will you make that same statement?

Yes.

210. Do you think the people of NSW have a right to know who is making donations to candidates during election campaigns?

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

211. Given that the Liberals channel all donations through a centralised accounting system which means most individual MPs do not disclose the people and organisations that personally donate to their campaigns, will you fully disclose the source of all donations you received at the 2011 election campaign?

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

212. Will you release the full list of donors who donated to your 2011 election campaign?

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

213. In the interest of transparency and accountability, will you commit to publicly release the source of donations for the 2015 election?

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

Lobbyists

214. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

215. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

216. The Minister for Finance has banned lobbyists from meeting him and his office; will you make the same commitment? If not, why not?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

Cross Border Commissioner

217. How many times have you met with the Cross Border Commissioner:

- (a) In the last twelve months**
- (b) Since the creation of the position.**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

218. What issues or topics have you referred to the Cross Border Commissioner:

- (a) In the last twelve months**
- (b) Since the creation of the position.**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

Labour Hire Firms

219. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised**
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged**
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company**
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company**
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company**
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company**

This question will be responded to by the Minister for the Family and Community Services.

Consultancy Work

220. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Crosby Textor consulted on?

- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**
- (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

221. Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries

222. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?

- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**
- (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

223. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

224. Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Serco or its affiliates assisted with?

(a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?

(b) Was there a tender process for these projects?

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

225. Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.