

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TAKEN DURING THE HEARING
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

PAGES 6 AND 7 OF TRANSCRIPT

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: The question is whether funding for early childhood centres will be available from the new year. I would expect, as the Minister, you would be making every effort—

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: That is correct.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: —to advocate to your Federal counterparts. From what I can tell you have written a letter and you are not sure—

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: I have written a number of letters.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I am sorry. In your answer you said that you wrote to them on 13 August. Did you write some letters prior to that?

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: I wrote to Christopher Pyne, I wrote to Scott Morrison and I wrote to Scott Ryan.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: So you wrote three letters on 13 August?

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: No. There were two that were written on 13 August and one on 28 May.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: You have not received a response from the letter written on 28 May?

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

Senator Scott Ryan wrote to the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education on 5 May, to confirm a funding extension for universal access to early childhood education to the end of 2017 (as announced in the Federal Budget). In his letter, Mr Ryan stated that discussions would continue at an officer level.

I responded to Mr Ryan on 28 May, nominating a NSW officer-level representative. No response to my letter was received, but discussions have continued between Commonwealth and NSW Officers.

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Dr JOHN KAYE: I am fascinated. That is absolutely not what the anecdotal evidence tells us, what the parental evidence tells or what the Productivity Commission report on government services tells us. You are up against some fairly strong evidence. We might test that offline. I will now pick up on a question asked by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile. It cost millions of dollars to get out of the ABC Learning disaster. Now we have two new operators—Affinity Education and G8 Education—moving into early childhood services across Australia. Are those two operators in New South Wales? Are they being funded or are they receiving any support from the New South Wales Government?

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: There are more than 5,000 early education services in New South Wales. I do not know the specifics of those organisations. As has been said, we are the regulators of those services through the national quality framework.

Ms LOBLE: I am happy to take on notice questions about any specific provider. Funding is provided to community-based preschools—not-for-profit providers and for-profit providers.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Can you take on notice whether G8 Education and Affinity Education are receiving funding in New South Wales? What percentage of the \$207 million handed in grants and subsidies in 2014-15 went to corporate operators or for-profit operators?

Ms LOBLE: Again, I will take that question on notice. I do not have a breakdown of for-profit and not-for-profit providers.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Does the department collect those statistics?

Ms LOBLE: We would have to look at the proportion of for-profit providers and see if we could identify those specific amounts of funding.

Dr JOHN KAYE: When the department funds a provider, does it know whether it is a for-profit provider?

Ms LOBLE: As part of their registration we would know whether they are a for-profit or a not-for-profit provider. As I said, we fund both.

Dr JOHN KAYE: And registration is tied to funding?

Ms LOBLE: No, it is part of their approval.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Is that done by a separate body or the same body?

Ms LOBLE: The same body.

Dr JOHN KAYE: You have a database that ties registration to funding so that when funding is handed out you know they are registered and it is connected?

Ms LOBLE: We would only fund approved providers. Yes, we fund for-profit and not-for-profit providers.

Dr JOHN KAYE: You will provide that information on notice.

Ms LOBLE: Yes.

ANSWER

In 2014/15 G8 Education Ltd and Affinity Education Group Ltd did not receive any grant funding from Early Childhood Education and Care Grants Program.

In 2014/15 the Early Childhood Education and Care Grants Program did not fund corporate operators or for-profit operators.

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The Hon. WALT SECORD: Can you tell me of the 61 communities how many have clean drinking water and sanitation?

Mr ARDLER: I will take that specific question on notice.

ANSWER

60 communities in the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program have clean drinking water and 59 communities have approved sanitation systems.

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

Portfolio: Early Childhood Education

Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC [on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition]

Topic: Preschool Funding Model

- 1. What support has been offered to pre-school centres receiving transitional funding to ensure they remain viable once transitional funding arrangements expire?**

Information on support provided to preschools transitioning to the Preschool Funding Model is available online at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/community-preschool-funding>

- 2. How many pre-school centres, based on this year's funding arrangement, are likely to be worse off when transitional funding arrangement for preschools cease?**

It is not possible to predict the funding that will be provided to any individual preschool when the transition funding period ends, as this will be subject to services' funded enrolments at that time.

- 3. Of the National Partnership funding for 2015/16:**
 - (a) What funds have already been received from the Federal Government?**
 - (b) What funds from the Federal Government are currently outstanding?**
 - (c) What timeframe has been arranged for the payment of the remaining Federal Government funds?**

The NSW Government is in discussions with the Federal Government regarding funding for the 2015 National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.

- 4. What is the average waiting time for a preschool placement in NSW?**

The Department of Education does not collect this data.

- 5. Regarding the effectiveness of funding for Early Childhood Education:**
 - (a) How does the Department measure the effectiveness of funds invested into Early Childhood Education?**
 - (b) Over what time period is the effectiveness of this funding measured?**

The annual Preschool Census collects a range of data from Government funded community preschools. The 2014 Census identifies that, overall, enrolments of target cohort children have increased by 2% since the introduction of the Preschool Funding Model in 2013, and enrolments of Aboriginal children and children from low income families have increased by 5%.

6. **Why is it that, according to the Productivity Commission report *Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning*, of estimated recurrent preschool funding in NSW in 2012-13**
- (a) **the proportion of recurrent preschool funding that came from parent fees was higher in NSW than in any other state and territory; and**
 - (b) **the proportion that came from State Government funds was lower in NSW than any other State other than Queensland.**

Providers set their own fees and operational policies.

7. **What is the last 5 year's budgeted and actual annual expenditure for early education, and what is the proportion of NSW and Commonwealth funding in each allocation? Will the full budgeted amount for this financial year will be spent?**

Government budgets and expenditure for early education is available in the Budget Papers.

The proportion of State and Commonwealth funding in the Budget allocation for each year was:

- 2010-11: Early Childhood Education & Care was within the Family and Community Services portfolio during this year
- 2011-12: State 68%, Commonwealth 32%
- 2012-13: State 50%, Commonwealth 50%
- 2013-14: State 61%, Commonwealth 39%
- 2014-15: State 53%, Commonwealth 47%

8. **Following media reports from Albury Preschool, can the Minister confirm if the Preschool Funding Formula creates a financial disincentive for centres enrolling 3 year olds in circumstance where a 4 year old only uses part of their 15 hours a week?**

Under the Preschool Funding Model 3 year old children from low income (health care card holders) or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background receive the maximum per child base funding rate.

9. **Can the Minister confirm that preschool participation is at 97% for children in their year before school?**
- (a) **If so, why are preschools being penalised for enrolling younger children in vacant positions? What is the reasoning behind providing**

preschools with financial penalties for enrolling 3 year olds rather than leaving places vacant?

The proportion of children in New South Wales enrolled in the year before full-time school in quality early childhood education programs in 2013 was 96.2%. This is the most recent published figure as part of the reporting for the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE).

It is a requirement of the NP UAECE that funding is targeted towards children in the year before school. In New South Wales, 3 year old children from low income backgrounds (health care card holders) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive the maximum per child funding.

- 10. Could the Minister provide a list of all other services known to her or her Department, including the KU Children's Services mobile preschool services in Mount Ku-ring-gai, Brooklyn and Maitland, which are closing due to viability problems?**

The decisions that providers of services such as KU Children's Services make regarding their operations are their own, including whether to open or close services. Under the Preschool Funding Model KU Children's Services received a 10% increase in funding overall in 2014 compared to the previous funding arrangement.

- 11. Could the Minister reveal how much funding has been allocated as Viability Funding (also known as 'thin market' funding) for services which received transitional funding which is due to be reduced by 50% in 2016, that will otherwise be unviable after January?**
- a. When will announcements be made as to:
 - i. how much funding is in this funding allocation?**
 - ii. Which services will be eligible for funding under this allocation?**
 - iii. The total amount of viability funding each of these services will receive?****
 - b. Will this funding be in service's bank accounts before their funding is reduced under the Preschool Funding Model in January?**

The 'thin market' program is currently being developed by the Department of Education in consultation with the community preschool sector.

The program will provide support to services that operate in areas where the local demographics are such that additional support may be required to ensure that children have continued access to early childhood education.

- 12. What discussions or correspondence has the Minister had with the Minister for Education to ensure that the fees charged by Out of School Hours Care services located on the grounds of public schools are not increased as a result of exorbitant rent increases charged by the schools?**

The Minister for Education and the Minister for Early Childhood Education regularly discuss Education matters. Schools are required to comply with the Community Use of School Facilities Policy.

13. What is the average cost to establish an Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) centre at a NSW public school?

The OSHC services are delivered by a range of providers including for-profit organisations and not-for-profit organisations such as Parents and Citizens Associations (P&C), local government and community based groups. Details on establishing OSHC services are contained in the Community Use of School Facilities which is available on the DoE website.

Ministerial Office Administration

14. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?**
- (b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

15. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?**
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?**
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

- (a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?**
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?**
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?**

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

- 17. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?**
(a) If so, how many times did this occur?
i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15 a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

- 18. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?**
(a) What is the cost of this?

Yes.

(a) \$599.50

- 19. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?**
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

No.

- 20. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?**
(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

The office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

- 21. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?**
(a) What were the gifts purchased?
i. Who were they gifted to?

\$62.91

(a) Bereavement flowers

- 22. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?**
(a) What is the cost of this?

No.

- 23. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?**

- (a) Do they have ABN's?**
 - i. If so, please provide details?**
- (b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?**
- (c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?**

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

- 24. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?**

N/A.

Ministerial and Office Travel

- 25. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?**
- (a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?**

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

- 26. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?**
- (a) What were the nature of these trips?**
 - (b) Who paid for these trips?**

No.

- 27. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:**
- (a) Taxi hire**
 - (b) Limousine hire**
 - (c) Private hire care**
 - (d) Hire car rental**

Expenditure on taxies across the Ministry in 2014/15 was \$84,257. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$175,776.

- 28. Have you ever used Uber?**
- (a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?**

No.

- 29. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?**
(a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

No.

- 30. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?**
(a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

No.

- 31. Have you used Airbnb?**

No.

- 32. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?**

No.

- 33. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?**
(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

No.

- 34. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?**
(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

I have not requested any non-standard features to my assigned ministerial vehicle.

Labour Hire Firms

- 35. 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**
- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company**

The Premier and Cabinet Cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall employment expense budget.

Media And Public Relations

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

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.

- 37. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?**

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.

- 38. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?**

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2014/15 was \$1,775,042 compared to \$3.7m in 2009/10.

- 39. Have you had media training or speech training?**
(a) If yes, who paid for it?
(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

(a) Yes, NSW National Party.
(b) N/A.

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

40. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

41. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

42. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

43. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

44. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

45. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

46. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**

- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

- 47. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

- 48. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

- 49. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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?**

No.

- 50. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
(a) If yes, what is their role in the project?**

No.

Consulting

- 51. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?**

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

- 52. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:**
- (a) Social media**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (b) Photography**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (c) Acting training**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (d) Ergonomics**
 - i. And the cost of these services**

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

Department/Agency Administration

- 53. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
i. Voluntary
ii. Forced
(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?**

There were no redundancies in Early Childhood Education and Care. In Aboriginal Affairs there were twenty voluntary redundancies processed during 2014-15 with a total cost of \$2 million.

- 54. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?**
(a) What was the nature of these works/services?
(b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

No.

- (a) Not applicable
(b) Not applicable

- 55. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?**

Information regarding the movement of Ministerial staff is not held or tracked as they are not government sector employees employed under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*.

- 56. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?**
(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Nil.

- 57. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?**

Given the number of operational locations, including schools, within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 58. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?**

Given the number of operational locations, including schools, within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 59. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?**
(a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

Given the number of operational locations, including schools, within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 60. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?**
(a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

No.

- 61. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?**
- (a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?**
 - (b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?**
 - (c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?**

Please refer to the Minister for Education as the cluster Minister for the answer to this question.

- 62. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 63. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?**
- (a) What is their remuneration band?**
 - (b) For each SES employee, how many have:**
 - i. 0 staff reporting to them;**
 - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and**
 - iii. less than 5 staff?**

This information can be found in the Department of Education's annual report located on their website.

- 64. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:**
- (a) workplace bullying;**
 - (b) stress leave; and**
 - (c) sick leave?**

The fund manager, Allianz Australia Ltd, processes all workers compensation claims and associated leave related to psychological injuries.

- 65. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?**
- (a) If so, what is:**
 - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?**
 - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?**

iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

Department/Agency Travel

- 66. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:**
- (a) Taxi hire**
 - (b) Limousine/private car hire**
 - (c) Hire car rental**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 67. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?**

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at:

<http://arp.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Official%20Travel%20Policy%20within%20Australia%20and%20Overseas%20August%202013.pdf>

- 68. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?**
- (a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 69. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 70. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?
(a) If so what was the purpose and cost?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

Departmental/Agency IT

- 71. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
(a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 72. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
(a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 73. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?
(a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 74. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
(a) If so, how many times did this occur?**

i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

No.

Efficiency Dividend

75. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?

I refer this question to the Minister for Education who is the coordinating Minister for the Education Cluster.

76. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?

I refer this question to the Minister for Education who is the coordinating Minister for the Education Cluster.

77. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
(a) 2014/15 financial year
(b) 2013/14 financial year
(c) 2012/13 financial year?

I refer this question to the Minister for Education who is the coordinating Minister for the Education Cluster.

78. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
(a) 2014/15 financial year
(b) 2013/14 financial year
(c) 2012/13 financial year?

I refer this question to the Minister for Education who is the coordinating Minister for the Education Cluster.

79. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:
(a) 2014/15 financial year
(b) 2013/14 financial year
(c) 2012/13 financial year?

I refer this question to the Minister for Education who is the coordinating Minister for the Education Cluster.

80. For the 2015/16 financial year:
(a) What savings measures will the Department save?
(b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
(c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
(d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

I refer this question to the Minister for Education who is the coordinating Minister for the Education Cluster

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

Participation rate of children in early education in NSW

81. **The Deputy Secretary, External Affairs and Regulation, Department of Education and Communities Leslie Loble stated in Estimates that the overall participation rate of children in early education in the year before school in NSW was 96%. In the *Review of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education* published this year Deloitte Access Economics¹ assessed the proportion of NSW children enrolled in a preschool program for at least 15 hours per week as 59% - the lowest of any state or territory in NSW. The Productivity Commission's 2015 Report on Government Services had the percentage of children in the year before school accessing a preschool program at 73% - again the lowest in Australia.²**

Can the Minister explain the large discrepancy between the 96% her Department is claiming and the much lower figures that these two independent sources claim?

The proportion of children in New South Wales enrolled in the year before full-time school in quality early childhood education programs in 2013 was 96.2%. This is the most recent published figure as part of the reporting for the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE).

The Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services 2015* (Chapter 3) notes that 'not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the collection, resulting in an undercount for NSW'. This undercount has been addressed in the reported participation under the NP UAECE.

82. **The Deputy Secretary, External Affairs and Regulation, Department of Education and Communities Leslie Loble stated in Estimates that 97% of Indigenous children accessed a preschool education in NSW in the year before school, yet the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2015³ states that only 60.3% of Indigenous children in NSW access a preschool education in their year before school.**

Can the Minister explain the large discrepancy between the figures her Department claimed and those of the Productivity Commission?

¹http://www.scseec.edu.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Reports%20and%20publications/EC%20Publications/NP_UAECE%20Review-220415.pdf

² Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2015 (Table 3A.146). Data year 2013

³ Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2015 (Table 3A.19)

The proportion of children in New South Wales from an Aboriginal background enrolled in the year before full-time school in a quality preschool program in 2013 was 97.9%. This is the most recent published figure as part of the reporting for the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE).

The Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services 2015* acknowledges that its count of indigenous participation is conservative and that in particular a significant number of children accessing early childhood education in a long day care setting have not been counted.

Mobile preschools funding

- 83. The Department of Education will be offering mobile preschools in NSW a three year contract from 2016 under the Preschool Funding Model with a loading in recognition of their additional costs.**

Does the Minister acknowledge that for some mobile services the amount they could be eligible for under these contracts may be up to \$100,000 less than what they are currently receiving? Does the Minister know how much has been budgeted for services as 'transitional funding' under the new contracts and when will this transitional funding cease?⁴

Transition funding is being provided to support preschool services transition to the new funding arrangements. In 2014 and 2015 no preschool service will lose any funding as a result of the new arrangements. In 2016 this will be phased down to 50% transition funding.

It is not possible to determine a preschool service's future funding allocation as this is based on the number of future enrolments and subject to change and variation.

State government funding of preschools

- 84. When the Minister announced the changes to preschool funding in 2013 it was stated that "no preschool service will be worse off as a result of the new model in 2014 and 2015 - transition funding will be provided in the first two years so that no service receives less funding as a result of these policy changes", what was the total expenditure on so-called transition funding for 2014 and 2015?**

Transition funding is provided as part of the \$150 million available annually for community preschools. The exact quantum of transition funding provided is based on community preschools' enrolment profiles which may be subject to change and adjustment throughout the year.

⁴ <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/community-preschool-funding/mobile-preschools>

85. What modelling has the NSW government done to assess the impact of the withdrawal of the transition funding from 2016?

Modelling shown in the recent *PFM One Year On* report shows that overall enrolments of target cohort children have increased by 2% since 2013, and enrolments of Aboriginal children and children from low income families have increased by 5%.

Portfolio: Aboriginal Affairs

Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC [on behalf of the Labor Opposition]

Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE)

86. How much from the Aboriginal Affairs budget in 2015/16 is allocated to the OCHRE program?

- (a) Is any of this funding allocated for the Deputy Ombudsman for Aboriginal Programs?**
 - i. How much?**
 - ii. How many FTE staff are allocated to specifically support the Deputy Ombudsman for Aboriginal Programs?**
- (b) How much of this funding is allocated for Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests?**
- (c) How much of this funding is allocated for the negotiation and monitoring of Local Decision Making accords?**
- (d) How much of this funding is allocated for the Opportunity Hubs Program?**
- (e) How much of this funding is allocated to the following principles outlined in the OCHRE plan;**
 - i. Connected communities?**
 - ii. Strong accountability reforms?**
 - iii. Language and cultural development?**
 - iv. Local Decision making?**

More than \$5.1 million has been allocated to Aboriginal Affairs in 2015/16 to continue implementation of the OCHRE initiatives.

This allocation includes funding to support the Deputy Ombudsman for Aboriginal Programs and Local Decision Making.

Connected Communities are within the Education budget allocation.

Opportunity Hubs are within the Industry budget allocation.

- 87. What is the total allocation for Aboriginal Language and Cultural Nests including contributions made by departments other than Education in 2015/16?**
- (a) **What is the total allocation for each of the following language nests;**
- i. **North West Wiradjuri?**
 - ii. **Gumbaynggirr?**
 - iii. **Bundjalung?**
 - iv. **Paakantji/Baakanji?**
 - v. **Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalayaay?**
- (b) **As at 31/9/15 how many FTE Aboriginal language tutors have been engaged?**

The total allocation for the five Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests for 2015/16 is \$918,750.

- (a) The allocation for each of the five Nests is as follows:

North West Wiradjuri: \$187,695
 Gumbaynggirr: \$187,695
 Bundjalung: \$209,135
 Paakantji: \$173,891
 Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalayaay: \$160,334

- b) As at September 2015, there are 19 tutors employed in Aboriginal Language and Culture Nest schools. Tutors are employed on a sessional basis in accordance with their school's Aboriginal language and culture planning and timetabling.

- 88. Has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Vocational Training and Employment Centre been signed as promised?**
- (a) **If not, when will it be finalised?**
- (b) **If yes, where is it published?**

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business.

- 89. What is the total FTE staffing allocation for the Opportunity Hubs program?**
- (a) **How many FTE staff are employed at each of the following Opportunity Hubs;**
- i. **Upper Hunter?**
 - ii. **Dubbo?**
 - iii. **Campbelltown?**
 - iv. **Tamworth?**

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business.

- 90. Has the NSW Aboriginal Economic Development Framework (AEDF) been completed?**

- (a) If not, when is it expected to be completed?
- (b) If yes, how many formal Industry Based Agreements (IBAs) were signed in 2014/15?
 - i. With whom were each of these agreements signed?
- (c) How many IBAs are expected to be signed in 2015/16?
- (d) Have plans to prioritise procurement from Aboriginal suppliers resulted in any formal directives or memorandums?
 - i. Is information about procurement from Aboriginal suppliers published publically?
 - (a) If yes, where?

No.

The NSW Aboriginal Economic Development Framework is expected to be completed by early 2016.

- 91. How much funding is allocated for training and informing NSW public servants about the Local Decision Making accord process in 2015/16?**

This work is within each agency's recurrent budget allocation.

- 92. The OCHRE Plan indicates that the NSW Government will establish an independent Aboriginal Council, has this been completed?**

- (a) When did the council last meet?
- (b) Who are the council members?
- (c) What are the functions of this council?

The Ombudsman Amendment (Aboriginal Programs) Act 2014 enacted the accountability framework proposed in the OCHRE Plan, in place of the proposed independent Aboriginal Council.

- 93. During 2014/15 did other state agencies allocate or transfer funding to the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to help achieve the OCHRE principles?**

- (a) If yes, how much did the following agencies provide to OCHRE;
 - i. The NSW Ministry of Health?
 - ii. The Department of Education?
 - iii. The Department of Justice?
 - iv. Multicultural NSW?
 - v. The NSW Office of Support?

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

- 94. Will the government be pursuing the development of legislation for Local Decision making?**

- (a) If so, when?
- (b) What is the purpose of this legislation given the government's commitment to 'cut red tape'?

Legislation may be considered in the future.

- 95. Has the department commenced a legislative review and consultation program to establish an independent Aboriginal Council and coordinator General position?**

The Ombudsman Amendment (Aboriginal Programs) Act 2014 enacted the accountability framework proposed in the OCHRE Plan, in place of the proposed independent Aboriginal Council and coordinator General position.

- 96. What indicators will the Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre (CIRCA) use to assess OCHRE during its five year Monitoring, Evaluation, reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework?**

- (a) Has Aboriginal Affairs allocated any funds to assist CIRCA in 2015/16**
i. If so, are these funds drawn from the funding allocated for OCHRE in 2015/16?

Having delivered the MERI framework, the work of CIRCA is now complete. The draft indicators CIRCA developed require further development by stakeholders, including local Aboriginal communities.

Culture and Heritage Law Reform

- 97. Does the Government plan to introduce legislation dealing specifically with Aboriginal Heritage in 2015/15?**

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning.

- 98. What involvement does the Minister and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs have in the Aboriginal culture and heritage law reform process?**

The Minister for the Environment has the lead for the Aboriginal culture and heritage law reform.

Aboriginal Affairs works closely with the Office of Environment and Heritage to progress Aboriginal culture and heritage law reform.

- 99. Are any fund allocated for the process of Aboriginal culture and heritage reform in 2015/16**
(a) How much is this allocation?

The Aboriginal culture and heritage reform is being led by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs Staffing

- 100. How many Aboriginal staff are currently employed in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs?**
(a) What proportion of these staff are senior executive staff?

- (b) What is the average remuneration for non-Aboriginal staff?**
- (c) What is the average remuneration for Aboriginal staff?**

At 31 August 2015, there were 47 (60.9%) Aboriginal staff in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

- (a) 3 Aboriginal staff (or 6.3%) are senior executive staff.
- (b) The average remuneration for non-Aboriginal staff, including superannuation, is \$111,764.
- (c) The average remuneration for Aboriginal staff, including superannuation, is \$121,136.

Promised Aboriginal Centre of Excellence

- 101. Of the \$10 million allocated in 2015/16 for the Centre of excellence, how much will be spent on consultation?**
- (a) Will a private agency be contracted to run the initial “focus groups”?**
 - (b) How many FTE staff will be allocated from the department specifically to run this project?**

Cox Inall Ridgeway has been engaged, currently 1 FTE staff is allocated to this project.

- 102. Before the announcement for this project was made during the election campaign what investigations were made into its total cost?**

The estimated cost to establish a centre in Western Sydney is \$20 million.

- 103. Before this project was announced during the election campaign what consultation was undertaken with the Aboriginal Community?**

The proposal to establish the Centre for Excellence is consistent with priorities identified during community consultations undertaken in 2012 by the Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs which called for culturally appropriate and supported pathways for Aboriginal young people from school into further education, training and employment.

- 104. Can the Minister guarantee that funding for the centre once it is operational will not be drawn from the existing allocation for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs over the forward estimates?**

A range of funding options will be considered as part of the development of the Centre.

- 105. What is the total remuneration package in 2015/16 for Aiden Ridgeway in his capacity leading the community consultations for this project?**

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

106. If no determination has been made as to the actual functions or location of the Centre, on what basis is the costing of \$20 million made?

\$20 million is the estimated cost to establish a centre in Western Sydney.

Federal Budget Impacts

107. What are the impacts of the 2015/16 federal budget on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs?

(a) How much funding will be lost over the forward estimates and how will the shortfall be filled?

OCHRE, the NSW Government's plan for Aboriginal Affairs, is not impacted by the federal budget

108. Have you met with the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs to discuss the impact of federal cuts on the NSW Aboriginal community

(a) How many times?

(b) When?

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs have spoken on a range of matters relevant to Aboriginal affairs.

109. Have you made representations to the Federal Ministers for Indigenous Affairs, Health or Federal Attorney General raising concerns about budget cuts in their portfolios?

(a) If yes, who?

i. When?

ii. Will their responses be made public?

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs discusses a range of matters related to her portfolio with Federal Ministers.

Miscellaneous

110. Given the growth of Aboriginal communities in some areas across the state is now above 3.5% (eg Maitland) what programs does the Office of Aboriginal Affairs currently run to ensure Aboriginal people who relocate are able to access culturally specific services?

Aboriginal Affairs is an advocacy and coordination agency.

111. Does the Office of Aboriginal Affairs run any programs specifically targeted at enabling Aboriginal people to make connections with Aboriginal social support networks?

Aboriginal Affairs is an advocacy and coordination agency.

112. What is the government doing to ensure that Aboriginal people who move to new areas avoid social isolation?

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Restructure

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

(a) If yes,

- i. how many FTE staffing positions are expected to be cut?
- ii. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of the restructure?
- iii. How many voluntary redundancies were offered by the department to individuals employed in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in 2014/15?
- iv. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2015/16?

No.

Correspondence

114. How long is the Office of Aboriginal Affairs' average turnaround time for responding to correspondence?

The timeframe for completing response to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of correspondence. This is consistent with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Briefing and Correspondence Guide.

115. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days as at 31/8/15?

Zero.

Payment of Bills on time

116. In 2014/15 how many invoices did Aboriginal Affairs fail to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

(a) How many suppliers or contractors to NSW Aboriginal Affairs are considered Aboriginal organisations for reporting purposes?

All invoices were paid within 30 days.

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

No penalty interest has been paid.

118. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days in the year to 1/09/15?

Zero

Grants to Non-Government Organisations

119. Does the Office of Aboriginal Affairs allocate funding to provide recurrent grant funding to non-government organisations in 2015/16?

(a) If yes,

- i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?**
- ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation?**
- iii. On what date was the funding advanced for each organisation?**
- iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?**
- v. Was any funding withheld or returned?**
- vi. What is the indexation rate applied to grant to recurrent grant funds in 2015/16?**

Detail on grants provided by the Department of Education is produced in the Department's Annual Report.

Reports, Studies, Audits, Taskforces and Reviews

120. How many reports, audits, reviews or studies were commissioned by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in 2014/15

(a) What was the total cost of these reports, audits and studies?

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 NSW.

121. Are any reports, audits, reviews or studies planned for 2015/16?

(a) How much has been allocated for the payment of private contractors to complete these initiatives in 2015/16?

(a) See response to 120.

Ministerial Office Administration

122. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

(a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?

(b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

Refer to answer to question 14.

123. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?**
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?**
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

Refer to answer to question 15.

- 124. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?**
- (a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?**
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?**
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?**

Refer to answer to question 16.

- 125. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?**
- (a) If so, how many times did this occur?**
 - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?**

Refer to answer to question 17.

- 126. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?**
- (a) What is the cost of this?**

Refer to answer to question 18.

- 127. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?**
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?**

Refer to answer to question 19.

- 128. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?**
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?**
 - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?**

Refer to answer to question 20.

- 129. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?**
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?**
 - i. Who were they gifted to?**

Refer to answer to question 21.

- 130. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
(a) What is the cost of this?**

Refer to answer to question 22.

- 131. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?
(a) Do they have ABN's?
i. If so, please provide details?
(b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
(c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?**

Refer to answer to question 23.

- 132. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?**

Refer to answer to question 24.

Ministerial And Office Travel

- 133. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?**

Refer to answer to question 25.

- 134. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
(a) What were the nature of these trips?
(b) Who paid for these trips?**

Refer to answer to question 26.

- 135. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:
(a) Taxi hire
(b) Limousine hire
(c) Private hire care
(d) Hire car rental**

Refer to answer to question 27.

- 136. Have you ever used Uber?
(a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?**

Refer to answer to question 28.

- 137. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?**
(a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

Refer to answer to question 29.

- 138. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?**
(a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

Refer to answer to question 30.

- 139. Have you used Airbnb?**

Refer to answer to question 31.

- 140. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?**

Refer to answer to question 32.

- 141. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?**
(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Refer to answer to question 33.

- 142. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?**
(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

Refer to answer to question 34.

Labour Hire Firms

- 143. 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**
 - (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company**

Refer to answer to question to question 35.

Media And Public Relations

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

Refer to answer to question 36.

145. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Refer to answer to question 37.

146. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

Refer to answer to question 38.

147. Have you had media training or speech training?
(a) If yes, who paid for it?
(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

Refer to answer to question 39.

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

148. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 40.

149. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 41.

- 150. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 42.

- 151. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 43.

- 152. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 44.

- 153. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 45.

- 154. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 46.

- 155. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 47.

- 156. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
 - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
 - (c) What was discussed?**
 - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Refer to answer to question 48.

- 157. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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?**

Refer to answer to question 49.

- 158. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?**
- (a) If yes, what is their role in the project?**

Refer to answer to question 50.

Consulting

- 159. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?**
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?**

Refer to answer to question 51.

- 160. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:**
- (a) Social media**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (b) Photography**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (c) Acting training**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (d) Ergonomics**
 - i. And the cost of these services**

Refer to answer to question 52.

Department/Agency Administration

- 161. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?**
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:**
 - i. Voluntary**
 - ii. Forced**
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?**

Refer to answer to question 53.

- 162. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?**
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?**
 - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?**

Refer to answer to question 54.

- 163. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?**

Refer to answer to question 55.

- 164. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?**
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?**

Refer to answer to question 56.

- 165. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?**

Refer to answer to question 57.

- 166. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?**

Refer to answer to question 58.

- 167. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?**
- (a) How much of these bills were alcohol?**

Refer to answer to question 59.

- 168. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?**
(a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

Refer to answer to question 60.

- 169. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?**
(a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?
(b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?
(c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

Refer to answer to question 61.

- 170. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?**

Refer to answer to question 62.

- 171. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?**
(a) What is their remuneration band?
(b) For each SES employee, how many have:
i. 0 staff reporting to them;
ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
iii. less than 5 staff?

Refer to answer to question 63.

- 172. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:**
(a) workplace bullying;
(b) stress leave; and
(c) sick leave?

Refer to answer to question 64.

- 173. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?**
(a) If so, what is:
i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

Refer to answer to question 65.

Department/Agency Travel

- 174. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:**
- (a) Taxi hire**
 - (b) Limousine/private car hire**
 - (c) Hire car rental**

Refer to answer to question 66.

- 175. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?**

Refer to answer to question 67.

- 176. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?**
- (a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?**

Refer to answer to question 68.

- 177. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?**

Refer to answer to question 69.

- 178. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?**
- (a) If so what was the purpose and cost?**

Refer to answer to question 70.

Departmental/Agency IT

- 179. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?**
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?**
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?**

Refer to answer to question 71.

- 180. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?**
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?**
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?**

Refer to answer to question 72.

- 181. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?**
(a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

Refer to answer to question 73.

- 182. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?**
(a) If so, how many times did this occur?
i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

Refer to answer to question 74.

Efficiency Dividend

- 183. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?**

Refer to answer to question 75.

- 184. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?**

Refer to answer to question 76.

- 185. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:**
(a) 2014/15 financial year
(b) 2013/14 financial year
(c) 2012/13 financial year?

Refer to answer to question 77.

- 186. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:**
(a) 2014/15 financial year
(b) 2013/14 financial year
(c) 2012/13 financial year?

Refer to answer to question 78.

- 187. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:**
(a) 2014/15 financial year
(b) 2013/14 financial year
(c) 2012/13 financial year?

Refer to answer to question 79.

- 188. For the 2015/16 financial year:**

- (a) What savings measures will the Department save?
- (b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
- (c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
- (d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

Refer to answer to question 80.

Questions from Ms Jan Barham MLC

189. How many Aboriginal senior executive staff are currently employed in Aboriginal Affairs (the department)?

There are currently three Aboriginal senior executives employed in Aboriginal Affairs.

They are assigned to the following roles:

- Head of Aboriginal Affairs;
- Director, Community and Economic Development; and
- Director, Policy and Reform.

Aboriginal Centre for Excellence

190. Is the department working with any other agencies to help with the consultation and delivery of the complex?

Yes, Aboriginal Affairs will work with a number of other agencies during all stages of the Centre's development.

OCHRE

191. In the hearing it was indicated that of the \$3 million allocated for OCHRE, last year approximately \$750,000 was allocated to Local Decision Making and this year the corresponding amount is \$900,000. How much has been allocated to each of the other programs/initiatives, in particular:

- (a) Connected Communities
- (b) Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests
- (c) Opportunity Hubs
- (d) Language and Culture Development
- (e) Strong accountability reforms

OCHRE is a multi-agency strategy. The total allocation to Aboriginal Affairs to support the implementation of OCHRE is \$5.1 million.

This delivers capacity building for Local Decision Making, operation of 3 IBAs, OCHRE Evaluation and independent oversight by the Ombudsman, and a contribution to regional implementation support.

- (a) Connected Communities are within the Education budget allocation.

- (b) Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests are within the Education budget allocation.
- (c) Opportunity Hubs are within the Industry budget allocation.
- (d) Language and Culture Development is not a stand-alone initiative.
- (e) \$839,000 is allocated for strong accountability reforms.

192. During 2014-15 did other state agencies allocate funding to help achieve the OCHRE principles? If so, how much did the following agencies provide to OCHRE?

- (a) Health
- (b) Education and Communities
- (c) Justice
- (d) Multicultural NSW
- (e) Sport

Refer to answer to question 93.

193. During the current (2015-16) financial year how much funding has been allocated by the following state agencies to help achieve the OCHRE principles:

- (a) Health
- (b) Education and Communities
- (c) Justice
- (d) Multicultural NSW
- (e) Sport

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Treasurer.

194. Has Aboriginal Affairs commenced a legislative review and consultation program to establish an independent Aboriginal Council and Coordinator General position?

Refer to answer to question 95.

195. What indicators will the Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre (CIRCA) use to assess OCHRE during its five year monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework)?

- (a) Has Aboriginal Affairs allocated any funds to assist CIRCA in the current financial year?
- (b) If so, do these funds come out of the \$3 million OCHRE allocated funding or are they a separate funding allocation?

Having delivered the MERI framework, the work of CIRCA is now complete. The draft indicators will be further developed by stakeholders, including local Aboriginal communities.

- (a) No
- (b) N/A

Aboriginal heritage legislation

196. What involvement does the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Office of Aboriginal Affairs have in the Aboriginal culture and heritage law reform process?

Refer to answer to question 98.

197. What budget has Aboriginal Affairs allocated to the Aboriginal culture and heritage reform process in 2015-16?

Refer to answer to question 99.

Child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities

198. Given that the Government has not provided any formal or public response to the Ombudsman's January 2013 report on *Responding to child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities*, can the Minister please provide an update on the Government's support for and implementation of the report's 93 recommendations?

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Seniors Card

199. The Legislative Council passed a motion on 21 March 2013 calling on the Government to consider lowering the Seniors Card eligibility age to 45 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

(a) What consideration has the Government given to this proposal?

(b) Noting that previous pre-Budget submissions by NCOSS have estimated the cost at \$2 million, has the Government carried out any analysis of the potential costs of this proposal?

The Minister responsible for these matters is the Minister for Ageing.

Budget Papers

200. Noting that in the 2015-16 Budget Estimates the Aboriginal Affairs department isn't even listed in the table of contents and received only two dot points in the Department of Education's budget highlights, will future budgets give the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio the prominence it deserves given the crucial need to deliver support and services in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and organisations?

The format and content of the State Budget papers is determined by NSW Treasury.

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Juvenile detention

201. What consultation has been had with the Juvenile Justice Department, and Corrective Services NSW more broadly, regarding the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in juvenile detention?

Aboriginal Affairs consults with the Department of Justice through the regular interagency forums and committees on juvenile justice issues.

Consorting laws

202. What consultation has been had with the NSW Police Force about the use of the consorting laws against Aboriginal community members?

Aboriginal Affairs consults with the Department of Justice through the regular interagency forums and committees on policing issues.

Aboriginal child removal rates

203. What consultation has been had with FACs regarding the five-fold increase in the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care since 2003?

Aboriginal Affairs consults with the Department of Family and Community Services through the regular interagency forums and committees on child protection issues