



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016 Supplementary Questions

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Regional Development, Skills, Small Business

Friday 4 September 2015

Answers due by: Wednesday 30 September 2015

Budget Estimates Secretariat

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

GPSC No 6

Regional Development

4 September

Regional Development Misc.

1. Do you endorse the abolition of Regional Minister portfolios?
 - a) How many times have Regional Parliamentary Secretaries addressed the full Cabinet since the March election?
 - b) What working groups or initiatives have been set up by a Regional Parliamentary Secretary?
 - c) How many representations have you received as Minister for Regional Development from Regional Parliamentary Secretaries?
 - i. If any, which Regions and what did they pertain to?
2. Where you consulted directly on the new Jobs for NSW package?
 - a) Were Regional Parliamentary Secretaries consulted?
 - b) Did you raise any concerns about the amount of funding quarantined specifically for Regional NSW?
 - c) Which Regional bodies were consulted before this, Jobs for NSW Package, was released?
 - i. RDAs
 - ii. Regional Development Foundation
 - iii. Rural Councils
 - iv. NSW Farmers
3. What remuneration does the Deputy Secretary, Industry Development receive?
4. What remuneration does the Executive Director, Industry Policy, Economics and Regional Development receive?
5. What the total FTE staff employed in Regional Development?
6. Currently, what size grant applications can be approved directly by Regional Directors?
7. Do Business Development Managers in each Region have access to a government vehicle to assist them in their role?
8. Can you list programs Regional Directors have direct discretionary control of?
9. How many new businesses were assisted in relocating to Regional Areas in 2014/15 and at what cost?
10. Does the Minister support the closing of the Country Embassy here in Sydney ?
 - a) When was he made aware that the embassy was being closed?

11. Is the government conducting any formal studies regarding moving any departments or government services to regional locations?
 - a) If yes, which departments and which locations are being considered?
12. How many RDAs has the Minister met with this year?
 - a) Does the State government support retaining and funding RDAs?
13. What were the total funds expended under the Regional Industries Investment Fund in 2014/15?
 - a) What companies received funding and what were the projects?
14. What percentage of the State Investment Attraction Scheme was allocated to regional NSW in 2014/15?

Ministerial Office Administration

15. 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?
16. 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?
17. 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?
18. 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?
19. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
 - a) What is the cost of this?
20. 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?
21. 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?
22. 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?
- 23. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
 - a) What is the cost of this?
- 24. 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?
- 25. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

Ministerial And Office Travel

- 26. 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?
- 27. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
 - a) What were the nature of these trips?
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35. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

Labour Hire Firms

36. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:
- The names of the firms utilised
 - The total amount paid to each firm engaged
 - The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
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Media And Public Relations

37. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
38. 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?
39. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
40. Have you had media training or speech training?
a) If yes, who paid for it?
b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

41. 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?
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d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
42. 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?
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43. 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?
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44. 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?
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45. 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?
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46. 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?
47. 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?
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 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
48. 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?
49. 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?
50. 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?
51. 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?

Consulting

52. 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?
53. 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

Department/Agency Administration

54. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
 - a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - ii. Voluntary
 - iii. Forced
 - b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?
55. 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?
56. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
57. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
 - a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?
58. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
59. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?
60. 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?
61. 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?

62. 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?

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

64. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?
 - b) What is their remuneration band?
 - c) 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?

65. 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?

66. 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?

Department/Agency Travel

67. 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

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

69. 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?

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

71. 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?

Departmental/Agency IT

72. 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?
73. 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?
74. 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?
75. 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?

Efficiency Dividend

76. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
77. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
78. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
a) 2014/15 financial year
b) 2013/14 financial year
c) 2012/13 financial year?
79. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
a) 2014/15 financial year
b) 2013/14 financial year
c) 2012/13 financial year?
80. 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?
81. 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?

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

GPSC No 6

Skills

4 September

FEE HIKES/ VET HELP

82. In total, how much extra is TAFE NSW charging in fees in 2015, when compared to 2014?
83. How many TAFE students are paying more than \$500 more in 2015 than they would have in 2014 for the same course?
84. How many individual VET Fee-Help Loans have been allocated since Smart and Skilled?
 - a) What is the dollar value of the loans?
 - b) What percentage of the total loans were for TAFE students?
85. In 2013/14 Western Institute offered 8695 students free enrolment because of disadvantage and unemployment, this year there are just 137 scholarships surely you can't believe this is a good outcome for Regional residents?

TAFE CLOSURES/LEASING

86. Given that the Crows Nest TAFE site has already been sold can the Minister guarantee that there will be no further sales of TAFE campuses around the State?
87. Has the Department or is the Department in the process of identifying TAFE campuses to be closed?
 - a) Can you guarantee that Belmont TAFE will remain open?
 - b) Dapto?
 - c) Moss Vale?
88. Dapto TAFE will have no classes after September, is that correct?
 - a) How do you explain to that community with high youth unemployment that this is a good outcome?
 - b) Are you then planning to close/sell Dapto TAFE? If not, what are you plans for the campus?
89. Can the Minister tell the Committee of any TAFE Campuses where private providers are leasing space?
90. Can the Minister guarantee that no TAFE run courses have been cut to allow private providers to lease spaces?

TAFE ACT

91. Is TAFE NSW currently continuing to meet its charter under the Technical and Further Education Commission Act?

92. Given the cuts to the support staff for people with a disability, the axing of literacy and Numeracy teachers across campuses and the abolition of HSC equivalent courses around the state is your department in breach of the TAFE Act.? (In reference to issues around equality and accessibility)

PRIVATE PROVIDERS

93. What is the current percentage of the total vocational and training budget going to private RTOs
94. Have you seen the issues with Private RTOs in other Australian jurisdictions?
95. Does it concern you that they have significantly lower completion rates than the public TAFE system?
96. Careers Australia which operates campuses in Newcastle, Parramatta and Sydney have graduated only 300 of 2762 students enrolled in 2012 by 2014 was accused of employing door-to-door salespeople and enrolling poor students with fake entrance exams. Should public money be going to such organisations which have profit as their focus instead of education outcomes?
97. Evocca college had a completion rate of just 22.4% in 2012 should they be a company allowed to operate in NSW receiving public money
98. Evocca received \$400million in VET FEE-Help payments is this acceptable with such low completion rates?
99. Many regional RTOs have told us that 12 month contracts don't allow them to build feasible business models. How does the Minister think these long established RTOs in regional NSW can continue to operate on such short contracts?
100. Will the Minister concede that increasing fees have provided these poor operators to make millions of dollars at the expense of students and the public TAFE system?

Cooma TAFE

101. Have enrolments at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?
102. Has the numbers of teachers at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?
103. Given the cost of a Cert IV in Wool Classing at Cooma TAFE has more than doubled in a year, are you concerned about the impact this is having on young people in that area?

Swansea

104. Does the Government have any plans to sell any buildings currently used by TAFE NSW in the electorate of Swansea?
105. If so, can the Government guarantee that these buildings will remain in public hands?
106. Does the Government have any plans to sell any property currently owned by TAFE NSW in the electorate of Swansea?
107. If so, can the Government guarantee that this land will remain in public hands?

108. What is the total number of students enrolled at Belmont TAFE for each of the years from 2011 to 2015?
109. What is the total number of staff employed at Belmont TAFE for each of the years from 2011 to 2015?
110. Does the Government have plans to remove courses from Belmont TAFE in the next 12 months?
111. How many people completed apprentice Certificate III level programs at Belmont TAFE in each of the years from 2006 to 2008, as well as in 2012 and 2014?

CUTS TO WESTERN SYDNEY INSTITUTE

112. A discussion paper from Western Sydney Institute into possible cuts to Counsellor Positions quotes that enrolments at Blacktown 60%, Blue Mts 53%, Richmond 49% and the Hills 23% have dropped. Minister what is your response to these figures given the youth unemployment rates in Western Sydney.
113. You have explained there is a looming skills shortage, particularly in areas such as construction. Do you think it is acceptable that Western Sydney Institute is considering cutting Building and Construction staff from 20FTE positions to just 8FTE?
114. Previously there were no restrictions on students, if they qualified, gaining free or subsidised access to courses, you now restrict that to 5 000 students per year. Is this policy in line with the principles of TAFE?

REGIONAL

115. RDA Orana Chairman has expressed concern that a decline in TAFE numbers, staff cuts will impact on his region's skill shortfall; Feedback from across NSW points to a failing system – Smart and Skilled – after only 6 months of operation. Will the Minister accept responsibility and seek to fix the system for the benefit of students not profit makers?
116. As the Minister for Regional Development how do you reconcile that TAFE Western enrolments have dropped by 4000 or 20% since the introduction of Smart and Skilled?
117. Commonwealth Data shows that in 2012/13 8695 students received fee subsidies in Western Institute of TAFE and this year the number has fallen to 137 according to your own figures. Can you honestly maintain that the current system is working?

MISC. TAFE

118. What is the total cost to date of the IT upgrade in TAFE?
 - a) What percentage of that has been spent on actual hardware?
 - b) What percentage has been spent on training staff?
119. Is the LMBR system fully operational in all NSW TAFEs?
 - a) If it is fully operational, on what date did it become fully operational?
120. How many students had problems enrolling because of problems with the LMBR system?
121. How many students tried to enrol but were unable, and never went on to enrol?

122. Have all eligible students eligible been able to graduate?
123. How many TAFE teachers complained to the department about the problems with the computer system?
124. How many teachers took stress leave as a result of the LMBR system?
125. How many students who finished their study in 2014 had their employment and further studies delayed because they were unable to access their transcript or graduate?
126. How many classes were cancelled due to the issues with the enrolment system?
127. Was the LMBR enrolment system tested before it was rolled out?
128. How many TAFE courses which were offered in 2014, are no longer available in 2015?
129. How many full-time equivalent staff have been cut from NSW TAFE since 2011?
130. How many full-time equivalent staff have been cut from NSW TAFE since 2014?
131. In total, how much extra is TAFE NSW charging in fees in 2015, when compared to 2014?
132. How many TAFE students are paying more than \$500 more in 2015 than they would have in 2014 for the same course?
133. How many individual VET Fee-Help Loans have been allocated since Smart and Skilled?
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134. Could you please list any TAFE Campuses where private providers are leasing space?
135. What is the current percentage of the total vocational and training budget going to private RTOs?
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 - a) By how much?
137. Has the numbers of teachers at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?
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- a) Who attended those meetings?
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- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

172. 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?

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- c) What was discussed?
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173. 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?
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174. 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?

175. 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?

176. 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?

Consulting

177. 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?

178. 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

Department/Agency Administration

179. 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?
180. 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?
181. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
182. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
- a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?
183. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
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- a) How much of these bills were alcohol?
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- a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?

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189. 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?
190. 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?
191. 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?

Department/Agency Travel

192. 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
193. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?
194. 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?
195. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?
196. 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?

Departmental/Agency IT

197. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
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198. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
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 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?
199. 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?
200. 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?

Efficiency Dividend

201. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
202. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
203. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
- a) 2014/15 financial year
 - b) 2013/14 financial year
 - c) 2012/13 financial year?
204. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
- a) 2014/15 financial year
 - b) 2013/14 financial year
 - c) 2012/13 financial year?
205. 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?
206. 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?

Questions from Dr Kaye

GPSC No: 6

Skills

4 September 2015

Operational Base Funding for TAFE

207. Are there any plans to change the amount of operational base funding allocated to TAFE in 2015/16?
208. Are there any plans to gradually reduce TAFE's operational base funding to zero in the next 10 years?
209. Can the Minister guarantee no reductions to TAFE's operational base funding for the next 10 years?

TAFE Institute amalgamations

210. Are there any plans to amalgamate any of the Institutes within TAFE NSW?
211. If so, please outline the proposals and what has been agreed to by the government.
212. If no, can the Minister rule out any amalgamations of Institutes within TAFE NSW in the next 10 years?

North Coast Institute of TAFE

213. In response to media reports that nearly 200 administrative positions are being spilt at the North Coast Institute of TAFE, can the Minister provide the number of permanent full-time equivalent positions that will be re-filled?
214. Will any current personnel be re-appointed at a lower pay or responsibility grade and will the distribution of pay and responsibility grades across the Institute's campuses remain the same?
215. How many positions will be there be in the new restructure?
216. How many are there currently?
217. What number of positions are currently filled on a contract basis (ie not permanent) and how many will there be in the new restructure?
218. Have staff been provided with a copy of the Change Management Plan outlining the new restructure?
 - a) If not, why not?
219. How many "consultants" are currently being employed by North Coast Institute of TAFE? Please provide a full time equivalent number and the pay scale for these positions.

220. How many positions at North Coast Institute of TAFE are currently being filled by job agency staff? Please provide a full time equivalent number and the pay scale, including if the positions are filled casually at a higher upfront cost.

Revenue from fees and charges

221. In the 2015/16 budget what is the forecast revenue from student VET fee HELP debt?
222. Is this figure included in the figure quoted in the financial statement under revenue “sale of goods and services” listed in the budget papers?
223. What was the level of NSW student VET fee help Debt in 2013?
a) What proportion of this debt was incurred by TAFE students in 2013?
224. What was the level of NSW student VET fee help Debt in 2014?
a) What proportion of this debt was incurred by TAFE students in 2014?
225. What is the expected level of NSW student VET fee help in 2015?
a) What proportion of this debt is expected to be incurred by TAFE students in 2015?

Tendering arrangements for EBS/SALMS/LMBR

226. Please list all the bidders for the tender for the implementation of the above.
227. What is the total cost to date and forecast in the 2015/16 budget for the implementation of the above?

Boggabilla & Quirindi TAFE campuses

228. Can the Minister confirm that neither of these two campuses in the New England TAFE Institute will be closing this year or in 2016?

Level of contestability under Smart and Skilled

229. In the Australian article “Support wanes for open training markets” dated 22 April 2015, the Minister is quoted as saying that he “had not made up his mind about what level of contestability was appropriate” but the “30 per cent level advocated by the NSW opposition could see TAFEs worse off, with the public providers presently attracting 81 per cent of the training funds”.
- a) Given that in 2015/16 that proportion has risen to 33% of the VET budget, above the NSW opposition’s proposed 30 per cent cap, does the Minister support the level of funding allocated to TAFE in the 2015/16 budget or does he believe that TAFE is worse off, as he called it in April this year?
- b) Has the Minister made up his mind of the appropriate level of contestability and if so, what is that level and how will he implement this policy position?

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

GPSC No 6

Small Business

4 September

Small Business Misc.

230. How many staff are currently employed in the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner?
231. How many newsagents received funding under the Newsagent Assistance Fund?
232. What is the current Budget for the Regional Activation program?
233. How many businesses has the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner assisted directly in 2014/15 to resolve systemic issues?
234. How many direct mediation cases have been conducted by Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in 2014/15.
235. How many complaints from Small Business has the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner received in regards to disputes or complaints about a government agency not paying within 30 days in 2014/15?
236. Which Departments were involved?
237. How many small businesses have taken up the \$2000 employment grant up to and including August 2015?
238. When will the government complete its review into licenses given it accepted all of the recommendations in the "Reforming Licensing in NSW" IPART Report

Ministerial Office Administration

239. 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?
240. 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?
241. 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?
- 242. 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?
- 243. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
 - a) What is the cost of this?
- 244. 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?
- 245. 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?
- 246. 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?
- 247. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
 - a) What is the cost of this?
- 248. 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?
- 249. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

Ministerial And Office Travel

- 250. 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?
- 251. 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?
- 252. 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

253. Have you ever used Uber?

- a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

254. 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?

255. 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?

256. Have you used Airbnb?

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

258. 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?

259. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

- a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

Labour Hire Firms

260. 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

Media And Public Relations

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

262. 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?

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

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

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

265. 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?
266. 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?
267. 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?
268. 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?
269. 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?
270. 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?
271. 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?
272. 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?
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273. 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?
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274. 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?
275. 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?

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276. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
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 - i. And the cost of these services
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- i. And the cost of these services

Department/Agency Administration

278. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
 - a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
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- a) What is their remuneration band?
- b) For each SES employee, how many have:
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290. 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?

291. 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?
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 - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

Department/Agency Travel

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- 306. For the 2015/16 financial year:
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