



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 1

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Premier

Tuesday 14 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Friday 7 November 2008

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Questions relating to the portfolio of Premier

14 OCTOBER 2008, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Questions from Ms Rhiannon

1. Can the Premier provide total figures for current NSW spending on nanotechnology research and development? Of this, how much is currently spent on:
 - a. basic research?
 - b. commercial development programs and assistance packages?
 - c. research into environment and health risks?
 - d. broader social and ethical implications?
 - e. supporting effective public participation in policy development?
2. Is the Premier aware that nanotechnology will present new challenges for many NSW regulations?
3. Is the Premier aware of the recent review of Australia's federal regulation of nanotechnology, published by a team of researchers at Monash University, which found 6 serious gaps in the capacity of existing regulations to manage the risks of nanomaterials in commercial use?
4. What steps will the Premier take to review the adequacy of NSW regulations to manage the new risks and challenges of nanotechnology?
5. What funding is currently being made available to conduct such a review?
6. The NSW State Development Committee Inquiry into Nanotechnology in NSW received much evidence of the novel risks posed by nanomaterials now used commercially in NSW. Since the hearings were conducted, further scientific studies have found that carbon nanotubes cause mesothelioma - an incurable cancer previously thought to be caused only by asbestos exposure. What steps will the Premier take to stop sales of nanoproducts and commercial manufacture of nanomaterials until they can be effectively regulated to ensure appropriate new testing and demonstration of safety?
7. The NSW Government provides employer sponsored childcare facilities at Nanbaree Child Care Centre for NSW Public Sector Employees in Sydney. Does the NSW Government provide access to similar employee sponsored childcare facilities that provide the same tax advantages anywhere else in NSW?
 - a. If not, are regional NSW public sector employees disadvantaged when compared to there Sydney based peers?
 - b. What steps will be taken to provide access to employer sponsored childcare facilities to all NSW public sector employees?
8. Does the provision of employer sponsored childcare facilities provide tax benefits to those NSW public sector employees in Sydney who use it?

Questions from Ms Cusack

Employee Related Expenses

9. What is the total number of people who have been provided a redundancy package?

10. What is the total value of redundancy packages provided in the last financial year?
11. Please provide the names of people who were given redundancy packages.
12. Please provide a break down of the total value of the redundancy packages (please note, the packages do not need to be linked to the names of those who have received redundancy packages)
13. Please provide the total budget for Ministerial staff broken down by Minister, employee related costs, accommodation costs and other operating expenses (please see answers to Questions on Notice for Premier and Minister for Citizenship, 2007).
14. With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:
 - a. What was the total expenditure on in-house job-related training for FY 2007-08
 - b. How many hours did staff spend on in-house job-related training for FY 2007-08
 - c. What was the total budgeted expenditure on in-house job-related training for the FY 2007-08?
 - d. What was the total expenditure on external job-related training FY 2007-08
 - e. How many hours did staff spend on external job-related training for FY 2007-08
 - f. What was the total budgeted expenditure on external job-related training for the FY2007-08?

Employee Related Information

15. Please provide the total number of public servants in June of each year for 2000-2008 (*Full time equivalent positions- FTE*).
16. Please provide the total number of NSW public sector employees (FTE) (at June of this year) broken down by:
 - a. Department;
 - b. Frontline, back office; and
 - c. SES / Non-SES.
17. How many employees are there in the Department of Premier and Cabinet?
18. What is the total number of Ministerial Staff?
19. How many car spaces does the Department of Premier and Cabinet have set aside for them?
20. I refer to Budget Paper No. 3 – 2008-09, p 2-40: Would you please provide the names and positions of the individuals appointed to Government Boards and Committees including the names of the relevant Board or Committee to which they have been appointed?
21. With respect to both the Department and the agencies constituted under it:
 - a. How many departmental employees were seconded/assigned to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries as at:
 - (i) 30 June 2007
 - (ii) 30 June 2008
 - b. To what Minister or Parliamentary Secretary outlined in part i) were they assigned?
 - c. What was the total cost of seconding/assigning department employees to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries for FY 2007-08

- d. What is the amount budgeted in FY2008-09 for seconding/assigning department employees to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries?

Mr Ian McFarlane and Mr Bernie Fraser

22. Has either Ian McFarlane or Bernie Fraser briefed the NSW Cabinet in their roles as expert economic advisors to the Government?
23. Will Mr McFarlane and Mr Fraser be available for public questions in relation to the NSW economy? Are there any confidentiality clauses or restrictions on them in answering media questions?
24. Will Mr McFarlane and Mr Fraser be signing-off on the Mini-Budget?