

Questions from the Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC

1. How has the NSW Government delivered on their pre-election commitment to reform dental services?
2. How many recommendations of the NSW Ministerial Taskforce on Dental Health have been accepted by the NSW Government and implemented?

ANSWER

The NSW Government has increased its funding to public dental services by \$4.3 million in the past year from \$173.7 million in 2011/2012 to approximately \$178.0 million in 2012/13.

The advice from the Ministerial Taskforce on Dental Health, which convened during 2011, has been incorporated into Oral Health 2020: A Strategic Framework for Dental Health in NSW. The Framework is currently in the final stages of consultation prior to public release.

3. Why does NSW continue to have one of the lowest levels of oral health funding per capita when public dental waiting lists continue to exceed 118,000 (as at March 2012)?

ANSWER

State and Territory government funding of oral health per capita is not comparable across jurisdictions, as this measure does not take into account:

- that different jurisdictions have different eligibility criteria for their services, and hence the proportion of the population eligible to access the public system varies between jurisdictions;
- that some jurisdictions charge a co-payment for their dental services, and NSW does not;
- the level of service activity in a jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's use of varied measures of service activity;
- that NSW has committed significant effort in achieving population access to fluoridation; and
- oral health promotion embedded in other program initiatives such as early childhood programs.

4. How many additional people does the Government estimate will flow back to the public dental system as a result of the closure of the Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Scheme, and how will the Government meet the additional demand for public dental services?

ANSWER

The NSW Government does not have access to the Commonwealth's Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Scheme data and cannot determine the number of people that would be eligible for services in the NSW public dental system, which requires clients to be holders of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, a Health Card, or a Pensioner Concession Card.

NSW is very concerned that the closure of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme will put significant pressure on public health waiting lists and disadvantage New South Wales residents.

End of questions from the Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC

Questions from the Hon. Adam Searle MLC

Mental Health

Mental Health Commission

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| 1. How will the proposed expenditure of \$8.3 million on the Mental Health Commission in 2012-2013 be broken down by program? |
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ANSWER

A key function of the new Mental Health Commission will be the development of a NSW Mental Health Strategic Plan, including monitoring and reporting on its implementation.

The Commission has already commenced this work.

In 2012-2013, the Commission will be commencing activities related to its other statutory functions, which include:

- reviewing, evaluating, reporting on and advising on services and programs;
- undertaking and commissioning research and policy development;
- promoting innovative programs and sharing knowledge about good practices in mental health;
- advocating for system-wide change on behalf of consumers, families and carers;
- educating the public about mental health issues; and
- encouraging prevention and early intervention in mental health.

New Services

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| 2. Budget paper No. 3, p6-5 states there will be \$16 million in additional mental health services at new and expanded mental health facilities. |
| 3. What are each of those new facilities and what will be the expenditure for each of them? |
| 4. Will this expenditure be for the current budget year only or will it be ongoing? If proposed to be ongoing, for what period of time, or is there no time frame proposed? |

ANSWER

The \$16 million in additional mental health services at new and expanded mental health facilities mentioned in Budget Paper No. 3 refers to the following services:

- \$5.9 million for the continued staged opening of the Orange Mental Health Service;
- \$3.9 million for the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit at Prince of Wales Hospital;
- \$2.8 million for the initial staged opening of the Nepean Mental Health Service Redevelopment;
- \$2.7 million for the Chisholm Ross Centre, Goulburn; and
- \$1.1 million additional funding for the operation of the Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre at Prince of Wales Hospital.

This represents \$16.4 million in ongoing recurrent funding for the operation of these services in 2012/13.

National Partnerships

5. Budget paper No. 3, p6-5 also states \$14 million will be spent under National Partnerships Agreements to improve care and support of people living with mental illness.
6. Is this all State Government money?
7. If not, can you please provide the breakdown of what is State money and what the other sources of funding are?
8. Is this expenditure money "new" or "additional" or part on an ongoing project or set of projects?

ANSWER

NSW Health is receiving funding from the Commonwealth under the NPA on Supporting National Mental Health Reform over a period of five years to deliver specific projects that improve the health, social, economic and housing outcomes for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

NSW Health has allocated \$14.4 million from the Commonwealth to be expended for the purpose of the Agreement in 2012/13. This funding is in addition to mental health funding provided by the State.

Capital Expenditure

NB: Same questions as questions on notice of page 10 of transcript.

9. Capital spending for 2011-2012 was proposed to be \$113.829 million. Only \$23.605 million was actually spent.
10. Why was \$90.224 million of the originally proposed capital expenditure budget for 2011-2012 not spent?
11. Given the capital expenditure delivered in 2011-2012 was only around half of what was delivered in the previous 2010-2011 budget year, how will you ensure this year's proposed capital expenditure will be invested as the Parliament intends?
12. What was the proposed capital expenditure budget for 2011-2012 of \$113.829 million to be spent on, by amount per project and location?
13. What was delivered as part of the \$23.605 million spent by amount per project and location?
14. What was not delivered as part of the \$90.224 million underspend for capital works?

ANSWER

I refer the Member to my response to his question asked on page 10 of the Transcript of the 10 October 2012, before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, which was taken on notice.

Clinical Services Plan

15. When will the Clinical Services Plan commissioned by the Mid North Coast Local Health District be
 - a) Completed; and
 - b) Publicly released?

ANSWER

This is a matter that falls within the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister for Health and should be redirected accordingly.

Healthy Lifestyles

Supplementary questions 16- 40 were asked of Minister Humphries, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles. Please note that tobacco legislation comes under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Health and Medical Research. The responses to questions 16-40 have been provided by Minister Skinner, Minister for Health and Medical Research.

16. Given the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 comes into effect on 7 January 2013, how many extra public health officers will be employed to monitor compliance?

17. Given the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 comes into effect on 7 January 2013, how much money has been budgeted to employ more compliance officers?

18. If the Government intends on maintaining the current number of inspectors in each Local Health District employed to enforce compliance of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 by 7 January 2013, what procedures or systems will be introduced to ensure inspectors can cope with the increased responsibilities?

28. In terms of compliance, how does the Government intend to ensure the reforms detailed in the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 are properly implemented?

29. How many new enforcement officers will the Government employ to cater for the increase in regulatory compliance by 2015 as a result of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012, which will extend a ban on smoking across all outdoor dining areas by 6 July 2015?

30. Given the significant increase in compliance; in your opinion do you think the O'Farrell-Baird Government should create a separate NSW government entity to enforce the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012? Or at the very least increase the number of public health officers?

38. In response to question 4 of Question on Notice 2606 – Smoking Restrictions in Public Places' the Minister for Health responded 'there are no current plans to increase the number of authorised inspectors.'

Do you agree with the Minister for Health that 31 inspectors across NSW will be sufficient to enforce compliance despite the significant increase in workload required for the proper implementation of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012? If so why?

40. If the Government determines that public health officers would not be in the position to enforce compliance of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012, will this work be carried out by local government instead?

ANSWER

The NSW Government already has in place a comprehensive approach to compliance monitoring and enforcement of tobacco control regulations. Authorised Inspectors from the NSW Health Public Health Units located in Local Health Districts across the state are responsible for this activity. However, a broader range of activities, including the delivery of a community education campaign and dissemination of information resources through key government and non-government stakeholders, will support the promotion and educative approach to the implementation of the new legislation.

Authorised Inspectors will be responsible for enforcement of compliance with the new smoking bans in outdoor public places included in the *Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012*. The NSW Government is not planning to increase the number of Authorised Inspectors as a result of the commencement of the Act.

The effectiveness of the current approach to monitoring and enforcement of tobacco and smoke-free legislation is being examined as part of the evaluation of the *NSW Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017*. Data such as the number of complaints received, the percentage of premises complying with the legislation and the number of prosecutions and warning notices issued will help to inform whether current resources in place to monitor and enforce compliance with the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* and the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008* are appropriate.

To enforce compliance under the amendments, Authorised Inspectors will adopt a strategic approach to compliance from 7 January 2013 that is consistent with the approach taken for the introduction of previous legislative amendments in the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008*.

Training will be offered to all Authorised Inspectors in NSW. The training will cover an overview of each of the specific reforms, including signage requirements, penalties and resources for businesses and the community, as well as procedures for undertaking compliance monitoring activities.

A comprehensive, statewide community education campaign will also be carried out prior to the commencement of the new smoke-free laws to ensure a high level of awareness and compliance by the general public and business community.

At the local level, Public Health Units will be liaising with Local Councils to ensure awareness and understanding of the legislative provisions commencing in January 2013 and to ensure that community education materials promoting the new laws are readily available to the community.

The impact on workload of the Authorised Inspectors will be minimised through effective community education and a focus on an educative approach to compliance in the early stages of implementation. In addition, the existing Tobacco Information Line will continue to respond to enquiries from the public and businesses, in relation to the new outdoor smoking bans.

Where Councils have introduced by-laws which prohibit smoking in settings not covered by the state-wide legislation, such as beaches, Councils will continue to be responsible for the administration and the costs associated with those provisions.

19. What are the compliance benchmarks that each Local Health District is expected to meet in order to ensure the objectives of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 are achieved? If so what are they?

ANSWER

Compliance monitoring for smoke-free environments is currently complaints based and 100% of complaints are to be investigated. A compliance monitoring framework is under development to support the introduction of the new laws.

20. In terms of compliance benchmarks, how often will each playground, bus stop, taxi rank, train platform, sporting spectator area and pedestrian access point in each Local Health District; be monitored from 7 January 2013, to ensure compliance with the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012?

ANSWER

Compliance monitoring for smoke-free environments is currently complaints based and 100% of complaints are to be investigated. A compliance monitoring framework is under development to support the introduction of the new laws.

21. How much funding has been allocated for the administration of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 for 2012-13?

ANSWER

In total, \$1,615,000 has been allocated for the administration of the *Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012* in 2012/13. This budget includes funds for compliance monitoring activities, community education strategies, signage, training for Authorised Inspectors and the continued operation of the Tobacco Information line.

22. What is the proposed funding expected to be to enforce compliance of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 for the budget following periods:
a. 2013-2014
b. 2014-2015

ANSWER

In 2013/14 the projected budget for tobacco compliance monitoring activities will be \$1,230,000. This funding will be provided to Local Health Districts to facilitate their compliance monitoring and enforcement activities. In addition, funding of \$40,000 per year will continue to be provided for the continued operation of the Tobacco Information Line.

The new laws related to commercial outdoor dining areas will come into effect on 6 July 2015. Funding for community education strategies as part of these new laws for 2014/15 is yet to be determined. Findings from the evaluation of the NSW Tobacco Strategy will help to inform the required funding levels for enforcing compliance of the *Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012* for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

23. Are the smoking restrictions, prescribed in the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012, set to be introduced on 7 January 2013 applicable to crowd and fair areas in racing shows that take place in Country NSW?

24. Are the smoking restrictions, prescribed in the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012, set to be introduced on 6 July 2015 applicable to temporary structures such as tents and marquees where food is served, especially in pavilions/marquees that are set up in racing shows that take place in Country NSW?

ANSWER

I refer the Member to my response to the question asked by the Hon Adam Searle MLC on page 12 of the Transcript of the 10 October 2012 NSW Health appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, which was taken on notice, concerning whether changes to tobacco legislation will apply to temporary structures such as tents and marquees.

25. Considering the implementation of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 will come into effect in less than 3 months, what education/information programs have been implemented to ensure business owners, Councils, building managers and the public in general are aware of the new laws and their implications?
26. If there are education/information programs currently in place to advise the community of the changes being introduced under the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012, how much funding has been budgeted for this campaign?
27. What specific funding has been allocated for education/ information programs to inform the community of changes being introduced under the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 for the following financial periods:
- 2013-2014
 - 2014-2015

ANSWER

In 2012/13 the budget for the community education campaign is \$300,000. However, the budget covers printing and advertising costs only. It does not cover the costs of development of the education materials, Ministry of Health marketing and policy advice, disseminating information through key stakeholder information channels or production and distribution of No Smoking signage.

The budget for 2013/14 and beyond is yet to be determined.

A comprehensive community education campaign will be conducted to ensure a high level of awareness and compliance across the NSW public and business community. The education campaign will inform the NSW community about which locations are covered by the smoking bans, when the bans will start and the consequences of non-compliance.

Information will be available via press and radio announcements in metropolitan and regional settings. The NSW Health website will be a key source of relevant and up-to-date information on the new laws, including factsheets and a frequently asked questions resource.

Information about the smoking bans will also be provided to key government and non-government stakeholders, such as Restaurant and Catering NSW, Clubs NSW, Local Council, Transport NSW and NSW Sport and Recreation, via a coordinated dissemination strategy. In addition, the toll-free Tobacco Information Line will continue to respond to enquiries from the public in relation to the new outdoor smoking bans.

Further community education strategies will be budgeted for closer to the implementation of smoking bans in commercial outdoor dining areas on 6 July 2015.

31. How many designated outdoor dining areas are there across NSW as defined by 4A of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000?

ANSWER

Information about the number of commercial outdoor dining areas is not routinely collected. There is no requirement for restaurants, cafes or licensed premises to notify the Government that they have an outdoor dining area as defined by the Act.

32. Please specify what are the current work conditions and hours of work for public health officers/ authorised inspectors employed at Local Health Districts?

33. Do inspectors currently work weekend shifts?

34. What shifts after 6pm do the 31 inspectors currently work?

35. From 7 January 2013 will inspectors be required to work on weekends?

36. From 6 July 2015 will inspectors enforcing compliance of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 be required to work after 6 pm to monitor outdoor dining areas?

37. How will sport events, festivals, racing meets be monitored for compliance on weekends?

ANSWER

The effectiveness of the current approach to monitoring and enforcement of the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* is being examined as part of the evaluation of the *NSW Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017*.

Authorised Inspectors within Public Health Units usually conduct routine smoke-free inspections, including complaints, within normal weekday working hours. Out of hours inspections occur as appropriate, in response to specific complaints or as determined by Public Health Units, such as during school holiday periods when 'sales to minors' controlled purchase operations are also conducted. Compliance with the regulations will be monitored and an appropriate enforcement strategy will be implemented to address the issues identified.

39. Considering the Minister for Health has indicated that the current number of compliance officers employed to enforce compliance of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012 should remain at their current levels (i.e. 31 officers across NSW), do you agree that the O'Farrell-Baird Government is not serious about reducing exposure to second hand smoke?

ANSWER

The NSW Government has a comprehensive portfolio of policy and program initiatives to facilitate the reduction of exposure to second-hand smoke and has established ambitious targets to continue to reduce smoking through the NSW 2021 Plan.

The 2021 Plan states that the Government will aim to:

- o Reduce smoking rates by 3% by 2015 for non-Aboriginal people and by 4% for Aboriginal people; and
- o Reduce the rate of smoking by non-Aboriginal pregnant women by 0.5% per year and by 2% per year for pregnant Aboriginal women.

The *NSW Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017* which the Minister for Health released in February this year, details a comprehensive work program designed to achieve these smoking reduction targets. Strengthening efforts to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke is a priority area within the Strategy and the *Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012* will give effect to the provisions proposed within the Strategy.

Previous experience shows that given the high level of community support for smoking bans, restrictions on smoking are often self-enforcing and have a high level of compliance.

Western New South Wales

41. As Minister for Western New South Wales do you have:

a) An office (apart from your electorate office) in Western NSW?

If so where the office is located, which person or business owns the premises, what is the floor space, what is the annual rent, what is the staffing of the office and how frequently, if ever, do you work out of that office?

b) Dedicated staff to deal with this portfolio responsibility?

If so, how many staff are there and what is their annual remuneration and in which office are they located?

ANSWER

a) No.

b) Yes. There is one staff member whose responsibilities include supporting the Western NSW portfolio. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

42. How many times in the last twelve months have you visited Western NSW in your capacity as Minister for Western NSW?

ANSWER

In 2011/12 I regularly visited the region in my capacity as Minister for Western New South Wales.

43. With whom did you meet and what was the purpose of the meetings?

ANSWER

On my regular visits to Western New South Wales in 2011/2012 I routinely meet with a range of stakeholders, community groups and government and non-government service providers, including Local Councils, NSW Farmers, Community Groups and DPC Regional coordination officers. My regular visits have also included important community forums and events.

44. Were you accompanied by any family members, staff or friends during those visits? If so who accompanied you on each trip and what was the cost to the taxpayer of this?

ANSWER

I was accompanied by family and staff in my regular visits, both formal and informal, to Western New South Wales. Travel costs are included in my Ministerial office budget.

45. How many representations have you made to other Ministers in your capacity as the Minister for Western NSW and what was the nature of those representations?

ANSWER

As Minister for Western New South Wales I regularly liaise with my colleagues on matters which are relevant to the region.

Miscellaneous Questions

46. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
 47. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?
 48. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
 49. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER

In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

The total expenditure on mobile phones by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier's Office	\$103,152	\$76,457	\$68,475	\$27,570
Ministers' Offices	\$475,539	\$358,396	\$120,285	\$169,655
TOTAL	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was:

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	5
Total	6

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

50. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 51. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER:

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices the number of iPads issued was as follows.

	2011/12
Premier	10
Ministers	43
Total	53

iPads are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers' offices.

52. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
53. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
54. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

ANSWER

In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

55. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
56. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

ANSWER

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of iPads lost or stolen was as follows.

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	0
Total	1

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

57. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
58. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Information on media/public relations staff across NSW Health is not collected or held centrally. Staffing levels for all types of staff vary from time to time to meet local requirements.

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

ANSWER:

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

61. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
62. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
63. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

ANSWER

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

64. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

ANSWER

The total budget allocation for the Premier's and Ministers' offices in 2012-13 is \$40,103,650, with \$5,744,883 allocated to the Premier's office and \$34,358,767 to the Ministers' offices.

65. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
 66. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

ANSWER

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

67. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?

ANSWER

The budget allocations for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices are as follows.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Premier	\$7,002,312	\$8,500,000	\$9,075,038	\$5,309,465	\$5,744,83
Ministers	\$39,673,567	\$40,334,000	\$40,978,962	\$31,516,017	\$34,358,767
TOTAL	\$46,675,879	\$48,834,000	\$50,054,000	\$36,825,482	\$40,103,605

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

68. How many political advisors are in your office?
 69. How many administration staff?

ANSWER

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

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

ANSWER

As at 2 November 2012 there is one Ministry of Health employee engaged as a Department Liaison Officer within the Office of the Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Healthy Lifestyles.

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

ANSWER

I am advised:

All Ministry staff are directly or indirectly involved in the provision of information and support on health matters for the Minister.

72. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
 73. If so, in what capacities?
 74. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

ANSWER

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

75. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier	\$26,418	\$32,525	\$27,600	\$15,485
Ministers	\$133,697	\$143,251	\$32,678	\$80,609
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

76. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
 77. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
 78. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
 79. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
 80. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
 81. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Modern organisations are required to adapt to changing requirements. The Government is committed to devolving decision making and enhancing clinician engagement to improve care for patients.

Changes arising from a review of governance of NSW Health in 2011 have been implemented resulting in:

- removal of the middle layer of health service management and services contained in three regional "cluster" organisations and redistribution of the resources, including staff, to Local Health Districts;
- a smaller, more strategic Ministry of Health;
- strengthening of Pillar organisations established as part of the Garling Special Commission recommendations into the Acute Care Health System;
- further development of statewide and shared services.

In addition the Government has also established of a number of new organisations:

- the Mental Health Commission;
- NSW Kids and Families; and
- an Office of Preventive Health in Western Sydney.

These changes and associated changes in staff deployment are now largely completed.

82. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
83. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2011/12?
84. What is your Department's catering budget?
85. What is your Department's stationery budget?

ANSWER

I am advised:

82 and 84

The NSW Ministry of Health does not have a specific budget allocation for catering. Expenditure on catering is generally not provided unless the meeting involves participation of persons from outside the organisation and the provision of the meal must be substantiated by the scheduled time of the meeting. Costs are managed within goods and services expenditure.

83 and 85

The NSW Ministry of Health does not have a specific budget allocation for stationery. Expenditure on printing and stationery is contained within the audited Financial Statements published each year in the Annual Report. Costs are managed within goods and services expenditure.

86. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
87. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

ANSWER

86-7

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health changed its status to the Ministry of Health in October 2011. The former Department, now Ministry, already carried the generic logo as a health agency. This was not required to be changed.

88. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
89. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

ANSWER

Every effort is made to respond to correspondence in a timely manner and is based on the urgency of matters raised.

90. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
91. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
92. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

ANSWER

I am advised:

As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is available on the Department of Finance and Services website. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices across all clusters were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative.

31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

93. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
If yes,
- What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - On what date was the funding advanced?
 - What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
 - What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER

I am advised:

a. b. & d.

Information regarding grants provided by the Ministry of Health to Non Government Organisations under the NSW Health Non-Government Organisation Grant Program is published each year in the Annual Report, including the names of all organisations in receipt of funding, the total amount of funding received by each organisation, excluding goods and services tax and the purpose of each grant.

- c. Generally Non Government Organisations are paid quarterly in advance in accordance with the NSW Health Non Government Organisation Grant Program Guidelines. For grants paid by the Ministry of Health, 2011-12 grant payments were made on:
- 4 July 2011 for 1st quarter payment
 - 29 September 2011 for 2nd quarter payment
 - 19 December 2011 for 3rd quarter payment
 - 29 March 2012 for 4th quarter payment

e. & f.

In a limited number of instances, quarterly grants may be temporarily held back following consultation and agreement with the relevant Non Government Organisation in instances where the organisation was undertaking recruitment to fill or replace position(s) or experiencing a delay in the implementation of a program for which the organisation received approval for grant funding.

- g. Non recurrent grant funds are not subject to annual indexation. The indexation for recurrent grants applied for 2011-12 was 2.5%, where applicable.
- h. Costs are not separately identified.

94. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Contractors are engaged on a temporary basis for a variety of reasons, such as to fill extended staff absences and on projects which require specific expertise not available within the Ministry. In response to the recommendation of the Auditor-General a plan for improved management of contractors has been developed.

95. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
96. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

ANSWER

2009, 2010 and 2011 data can be found as published in the annual Workforce Profile Snapshot Reports.

2012 data is due to be released when the State of the Public Sector Report is released, late 2012.

These reports can be found on the PSC website:

<http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/pscinternet/informaiton.page?>

Additionally, NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 prescribes the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

The NSW Ministry provides statewide workforce data in its Annual Report available on the NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au.

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

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Ministry of Health has not chartered any air flights since July 2011.

Local Health Districts, Specialty Networks and the Ambulance Service engage air transport providers to transport patients for medical treatment when required based on clinical need.

All official travel within Australia and overseas is in accordance with M2009-04 "Official Travel within Australia and Overseas" available at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au. Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

98. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and review, is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so;
- What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER

I am advised:

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

studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

99. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
100. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?
101. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?
102. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
103. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

I am advised:

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

104. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?
105. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?
106. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?
107. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Information on funding grants is available in the NSW Health Annual Report.

108. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;
a. Who conducted the training?
b. When was it conducted?
c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
d. Who paid for the training?

ANSWER

No.

End of questions from the Hon. Adam Searle MLC

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

Mental Health

1. Can the Minister please outline the preventative measures (if any) the NSW Department of Health has initiated regarding the prevention of societal ignorance, prejudice and bigotry and associated issues and potentially volatile situations that often lead to the formation of mental health issues, particularly depression and anxiety among the transgender and gender diverse people of NSW.
 - a. Can the Minister also outline what measures his department has taken to ensure that specialist psychologists, informed and experienced in issues involving depression and anxiety among this most marginalised group of people, are available and easily accessible in rural and regional NSW given that an ever increasing number of people are affirming their true gender identity.

ANSWER

The NSW Ministry of Health provides a range of services to address depression and anxiety experienced by transgender and gender diverse people.

The Ministry of Health provides grant funding to ACON, NSW's largest community-based gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health and HIV/AIDS organisation, to deliver the Peace of Mind Mental Health Literacy project.

This project aims to raise the awareness of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities about mental health issues and support services, and to build the competence of mental health organisations to respond appropriately to these individuals.

In addition, the Gender Centre is a state-wide service which receives NSW Health funding to provide comprehensive information and support services for transgender people across NSW. It is based in Petersham, Sydney.

The Gender Centre is the only service of its kind in Australia. It provides counselling to rural clients via telephone and Skype, support and education to counsellors in rural areas, monthly support groups attended by rural families and an informative website that is heavily frequented.

End of questions from Dr John Kaye MLC