


401. What is the total increase for mental health in the past budget year? (Budget speech p.12).

ANSWER

I am advised:

In 2005/06 the mental health budget was \$854 million, which was an increase of 9.1% over the previous year. The mental health budget for 2006/07 is \$946 million - an increase of 10.9% on the 2005/06 figure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Haynes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Haynes" clearly distinguishable.

402. What funding allocation, if any, has been made for a publicity campaign to promote to the public the availability of the mental health call service for NSW that will form part of the National Health Call Centre agreed by COAG?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Funding to publicise the mental health component of the National Health Call Centre will be considered as part of the overall implementation of the National Health Call Centre.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more legible than the last name "Hatzigeorgidis".

403. What measures are in place to assess the cost-effectiveness of the \$10 million to be spent on anti-tobacco campaigning aimed at reducing smoking prevalence?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Assessment of the effectiveness of anti-tobacco campaign activity by the NSW Government is in place through evaluation of the campaigns. Intermediate measures of effectiveness include:

- The Cancer Institute NSW's Annual Smoking and Health Survey that measures knowledge, attitudes and awareness;
- Tracking of mass media campaigns measuring campaign recognition and intentions; and
- Quitline call monitoring and Quitline service evaluation.

Longer term effectiveness is measured by smoking prevalence for NSW annually as part of the NSW Health survey, and results are published each year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

404. Does the \$4 million in capital expenditure for Integrating Primary Health and community care services (i.e. 'the one-stop-shops') include the involvement of health professionals from the private sector, particularly Clinical Psychologists, to address the lack of high quality treatment for the mentally ill? If not, why are only privately practicing GPs included, and not those practitioners who specialize in treating mental health?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Expressions of Interest (EOI) issued did not exclude the involvement of any health professional.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hatzoglou" clearly distinguishable.

405. Will private Clinical Psychologist's services be engaged, given that there are now Medicare items for treatment provided by these specialists?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Government announced on 1 June 2006 in the 'NSW: A New Direction for Mental Health' that the NSW Government 'guarantees employment for up to 50 NSW psychologists while undertaking the Clinical Masters Course.'

Private clinical psychologists' services will be accessed under the mental health call service for NSW Services via links to accredited GPs who can make referrals to clinical psychologist.

Under the National Action Plan for Mental Health endorsed by the July 2006 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) the Commonwealth has undertaken to expand the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) access to GP counselling and to other allied health professional interventions including Clinical Psychologists. This will provide increased capacity to address mild to moderate mental health problems through primary health services and encourage early assessment and management of people with mental illness by a range of skilled health professionals, providing evidence based interventions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hatzigeorgidis', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

406. Given that alternative models for mental health service delivery have been proposed (at the 'Getting Beyond Crisis' forum), which include the contracted professional services of specialist Clinical Psychologists (that are available state-wide, and which are based on current active models such as that in place within the Attorney-General Department), what is the basis of the Minister's apparent reluctance to engage psychological services for mental health patients?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Mental Health interventions including counselling and therapies are core business of public mental health services and it is therefore not generally appropriate to outsource these functions. Clinical Psychologists are currently widely employed by mental health services across NSW.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. King", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

407. What is the estimated cost of establishing after hours GP services co-located at Liverpool and Nepean hospitals? Will a similar arrangement be used to provide access for the public to treatment from high quality mental health professionals such as specialist Clinical Psychologists?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable Member to the publicly available information on the Liverpool clinic and can advise that the Nepean clinic shall operate in a similar manner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Hatfield", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

408. Will the ongoing funding of \$3 million for 14 mental health beds at Liverpool hospital rely on the MHOAT initiative (administered from the Centre Mental Health) to account for better patient care? Is this assessment tool being used at Coffs Harbour in-patient unit; if not, why not? Is there an allocation made for research and follow-up to ensure that post-admission treatment is effective?

ANSWER

I am advised:

- a) No
- b) Yes
- c) Mental health services are committed to continuity of client care so that patient follow-up is an integral component of the care process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

409. How are in-patient treatment services assessed for cost-effectiveness? Can treatment effectiveness be reported by treating professional as the Commonwealth's Better Outcomes in Mental Health program does (e.g. Psychiatric Nurse, Psychiatrist, Clinical Psychologist)? If not, why not?


ANSWER

I am advised:

The development of the information base to measure the effectiveness of both inpatient and community Mental Health services is work in progress and has been part of the National Mental Health Strategy (NSMHS) since its outset. The cost of services has been addressed by the NSMHS which reports the cost of an inpatient bed day by type of unit.

To assess effectiveness, outcome measurement was introduced to all mental health client services under the 2nd National Mental Health Plan. The data are reported nationally for clinical and self report measures with relevant reports and analyses being developed by the Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network (AMHOCN). Both National and local benchmarking projects are in progress for all service settings.

In determining service effectiveness, outcome measurement is applied to service episodes where a team of providers may be involved. It is therefore not appropriate to link perceived service effectiveness to individual providers.

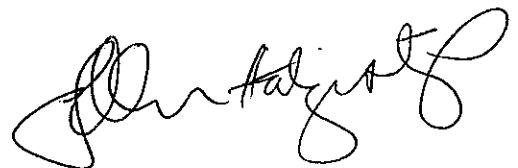
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hatzoglou" clearly distinguishable.

410. Of the \$6.8 million allocated for out-of-hours emergency response to psychiatric emergencies, how much of this funding will be spent assessing the effectiveness of treatment and ensuring appropriate professional services for treatment?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The effectiveness of treatment and ensuring appropriate professional services for treatment of people with mental health emergencies will be undertaken by the Centre for Mental Health as part of the monitoring of implementation of the 2006/07 funding enhancements for mental health, allowing the full allocation to be expended on service delivery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

411. With regard to the \$1.4 million for enhanced mental health treatment services for young people mentioned in the Budget Estimates paper, what procedures are in place to establish cost-effectiveness of evidence-based treatments? Which mental health professionals will actually be involved in providing individual treatment and providing information on outcomes?


ANSWER

I am advised:

The first stage of the Youth Mental Health Service Model (YMHSM) will expand, enhance and further evaluate an existing youth mental health service located in the central coast.

An evaluation will be conducted examining the core components of the model to allow for replication across the State, depending on local environment and service structures.

The YMHSM will also involve staff from a range of disciplines.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hatzoglou" clearly distinguishable.

412. How many specialist psychologists with post-graduate qualifications in Clinical Psychology and/or members of the Clinical College of the Australian Psychological Society are employed by NSW Health? Where are they located, by Area Health Service, and how many are engaged in actual treatment of mental disorders? How many hold senior management positions?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Department of Health does not centrally collect information on the number of specialist psychologist employees with post-graduate qualifications in Clinical Psychology and/or members of the Clinical College of the Australian Psychological Society employed by NSW Health.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis".

413. When was the new rehabilitation unit at Coffs Harbour first announced by the government? What proportion of the \$3.8 million to be spent in NSW for in-patient clinical mental health rehabilitation programs (announced in the Budget) will be spent on actual treatment of individuals using mental health professionals (as opposed to generic mental health workers)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Announcements are matters of public record.

In the project definition plans currently under review, staffing profiles consist of qualified mental health professionals with allowance for support staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Halsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Halsey" clearly distinguishable.

414. What consultation with consumers, carers and other stakeholders from the community has taken place regarding service delivery at the new Central Coast mental health unit and the Coffs Harbour rehabilitation unit? Will the Coffs Harbour Service be servicing local consumers or all NSW residents?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Northern Sydney & Central Coast Area Health Service has advised that Central Coast Mental Health held community forums, which included a presentation on services. These forums were undertaken for the new Wyong Mental Health unit, which opened in 2004/05. A consumer also attends the senior management meeting for the Central Coast Mental Health Service and there is also a Community Consultation Committee which meets regularly. The recent service plan development for the Northern Sydney Coast Mental Health included reference groups, including representatives from the Community Consultative Committee.

The North Coast Area Health Service has advised that during the first six months of 2006 there have been four User Group meetings and three Steering Committee Meetings.

The Coffs Harbour Unit will service the community covered by the North Coast Area Health Service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a large, stylized script and the surname "Hatzigeorgidis" following in a similar but slightly more compact style.

415. How much funding will go to the N.G.Os to deliver the individualized community support programs the community needs at these centres?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The member's question is unclear. If the member is able to clarify the question I would be happy to undertake specific inquiries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hays".

416. Is there any auditing of payments to N.G.O.s which would ensure more timely payments to N.G.O.s?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Member's question is unable to be answered as it does not make sense.

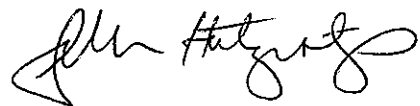
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John H. Hays", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

417. Are statistics kept by area regarding the number of:
- a. Individuals presenting but not admitted to psychiatric units; mental health patients discharged due to pressure on bed numbers;
 - b. Allegations of serious or fatal assaults occurring between staff, patients and/or visitors at in-patient mental health facilities;
 - c. Allegations of serious or fatal assaults occurring between staff, patients and/or visitors at community health centres;
 - d. Patient deaths occurring at in-patient mental health facilities, and the cause of these deaths?
 - e. If not, why not?

ANSWER

I am advised:

- a. See response to 377.
- b. See response to question 374.
- c. See response to question 374.
- d. These matters are reported in several reports of the Department, all of which are in the public domain.
- e. Not relevant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hutzler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hutzler" clearly distinguishable.

ANSWER FOR QUESTIONS 418 to 451 INCLUSIVE

The Minister for Health, the Chief Executive of the Clinical Excellence Commission and the Chief Executive of the Hunter New England Area Health Service held a joint press conference at Parliament House on 25th August 2006 outlining the findings of an independent review of anatomical pathology tests reported by a health service pathologist who previously worked for Pathology New England.

Subsequent to the joint press conference a number of follow up media interviews were held where additional information and clarification was provided. In addition, the Minister for Health provided additional information to the Parliament in response to a Question Without Notice from the Hon Rick Colless on 31st August 2006 on this issue.

The Honourable Member is therefore referred to the extensive public comments previously made on this issue, comments made by the Minister for Health in the Parliament and also the information sheet and press statements available through the Hunter New England Area Health Service's Internet site.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hatzigeorgidis" clearly distinguishable.

452. Will the results of the inquiry into the death of Jehan Nassif be made public? If so, when?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The summary report and finding arising from the inquiry conducted by an independent team of experts was made public on 5 October 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrave". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hargrave".

453. Following the death of Lorenzo Lombardo in 2002, the Coroner, Mr. John Abernathy, commented that the Guidelines For the Early Clinical and Public health Management of Meningococcal Disease in Australia may need to be changed. What has been the government's response?

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Health concurred with the Coroner's recommendation that the Communicable Disease Network of Australia's Meningococcal Disease Guidelines Working Party consider whether the Guidelines For the Early Clinical and Public Health Management of Meningococcal Disease in Australia be altered to include cross-jurisdictional notification when a case is identified who has been on a cruise ship.

The Coroner's report was referred to the Working Party for consideration. Soon after receiving his report, NSW Health's Chief Health Officer wrote to Mr Abernathy to inform him of this opinion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzis", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

454. Will the Guidelines For the Early Clinical and Public Health Management of Meningococcal Disease in Australia be reviewed? If so, when?

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Health believes that it is vital to have nationally consistent guidelines for managing this disease. The Communicable Disease Network of Australia's Meningococcal Disease Guidelines Working Party is responsible for reviewing the Guidelines, not the NSW Government. I understand that the Working Party is reviewing a range of material, including the Coroners' recommendations. I understand that the Guidelines are useful in their current form, and that any changes require a careful review of the scientific evidence, and consultation with experts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

455. When will the Coroner's inquiry into the death of Vanessa Anderson commence?

ANSWER

This question should be directed to the Attorney-General.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. H. H. H." with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

456. Do you agree that the \$4M is allocated for dental services this year, rising by an additional \$4M each year over the next 4 years to an extra \$16M over 4 years is from 5 to 6 times less than needed?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The question is based on a false premise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hatzis" clearly distinguishable.

457. Why is the rate of growth (3.3%) for expenditure on dental services only half that of the expenditure on the rest of health (7.6%)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please refer to Table 6.1 on page 18 of the NSW Department of Health Submission to the Dental Inquiry that illustrates the higher proportion of individual funding and lower proportion of Commonwealth government funding of dental services compared to other types of health services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrave". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hargrave" clearly distinguishable.

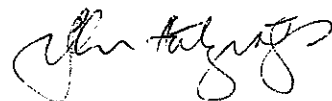
458. What progress has been made on implementing the following measures announced by the Minister for Health in relation to the provision of dental services:
- (a) Dental internships.
 - (b) Establishment of dental teams
 - (c) Funding for 40 new training positions being sought from the Federal government
 - (d) An increased number of clinical positions
 - (e) properly funded dental registrar appointments
 - (f) Rural and remote scholarships
 - (g) Expanded fluoridation

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see responses to questions: 382, 383, 384, 386, 389 and 392.

In relation to fluoridation, I refer to my response to a Question without Notice asked in the Legislative Council on 7 July 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hargrave', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

459. What progress has each Area Health Service made in relation to each of the above measures? If no progress has been made, why not? When will the directive be implemented?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 458.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. H. H. H." with a stylized, cursive script.

460. Please provide a list of the recommendations and/or initiatives to address recruitment and retention (in the short term, medium and long term) identified in the following workforce reports from 2002 and outline any progress to date in implementing these recommendations and/or initiatives:
- (a) The 2002 New South Wales Oral Health Workforce Planning Project
 - (b) Draft Review of Statewide and Specialty Oral Health Services
 - (c) Towards an improved oral health team: an issues paper

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to the records of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues' Inquiry into Dental Services in NSW and the subsequent NSW Government response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Tait', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

461. Please provide a list of the recommendations and/or initiatives to address recruitment and retention (in the short term, medium and long term) identified in the following workforce reports from 2004 and outline any progress to date in implementing these recommendations and/or initiatives:
- (a) National Oral Health Plan 2004: Action Area - Workforce Development - short term actions (2004-2005)
 - (b) The NSW Public Sector Oral Health Workforce: A working paper on the present situation, projections for 2010 and proposed activities to address issues
 - (c) New South Wales Workforce Action Plan 2004

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 460.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzis", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

462. In its submission to the Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Social Issues Dental Services Inquiry, NSW Health identified the following workforce related initiatives that may be implemented to address recruitment and retention in the short term, medium and long term. Please outline all progress to date in implementing any of the following initiatives:
- (a) Developing career pathways in the public sector
 - (b) Reviewing State Awards covering oral health professionals
 - (c) A coordinated approach to the recruitment of oral health staff
 - (d) A rural scholarship scheme and incentives for new graduates
 - (e) A conversion course for Dental Therapists to progress to the Bachelor of Oral Health
 - (f) Review of the role of dental assistants
 - (g) Campaign to attract former clinicians back into practice (similar to "Reconnect" in nursing)
 - (h) Clinical placements in rural areas health services for final year dental students
 - (i) Improved data collection on supply and demand

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to questions 458 and 460.

In addition, I am advised that a clinical placement program for final year students from the University of Sydney is currently in place.



463. How many dentists and dental therapists (full-time equivalent) are employed by the Greater Southern Area Health Service? How many vacancies currently exist for both?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 4 September 2006. A response has since been provided to the Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hatfield" clearly distinguishable.

464. Please detail the success or otherwise of plans by the Greater Southern Area Health Service to hire overseas trained dentists from countries including Ireland, England and New Zealand to bring the number of public sector dentist to an acceptable level?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 463.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Hargrave', written in a cursive style.

465. The Standing Committee on Social Issues Dental Services Report was tabled on 31 March 2006. Will the Government provide a response by 29 September 2006 as directed by the Committee?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Government's response was tabled on 29 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John H. Taylor' or similar, written in a cursive style.

466. The Dental Services Report makes 33 separate recommendations. Does the Government intend to implement any of these recommendations - if so which ones?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Government tabled its response to the report on 29 September 2006. I refer the member to that response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hatzoglou" clearly distinguishable.

467. The NSW Oral Health Promotion Network was established in August 2005 to promote implementation of national and state oral health promotion strategies and to ensure oral health promotion activities in NSW are coordinated, effective and appropriately resourced. Please provide details of funds currently allocated to oral health promotion activity in each area health service.

ANSWER

I am advised:

All Area Health Services provide funds to Oral health promotion from their allocated budgets. Funds are also provided to Area Health Services from the Centre of Oral Health Strategy through the NSW Oral Health Promotion Demonstration Project Grants Scheme. In 2005/06 funds of \$77,998.00 were provided for demonstration grants.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. King" or similar, with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

468. What further information can the Department provide about the incarceration of Simeon Opit?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Member to the answer given in the Legislative Council on 8 June 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

469. How many GPs are now participating in the Hunter electronic health records trial?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Electronic Health Record pilot has been operating in selected public health facilities since March 2006. The implementation schedule has been designed to focus on obtaining information from hospital systems first. Now this has been achieved, NSW Health is ready to start bringing GPs on board. GP practice management systems are currently being enhanced to make the changes required for GPs to connect to the EHR. This development is nearing completion and NSW Health is starting to register GPs. The first GPs will start using the system in early November 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hatzistefanis", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

470. How many Hunter GPs have expressed concerns about privacy risks in the design and implementation of the Healthelink system?

ANSWER

I am advised:

GPs are being informed about the details of the privacy model to allay any concerns that they may have. They are also being provided with information about their obligation in relation to privacy through information sessions, training and their participation agreements. They have also sought independent legal advice regarding their participation in the pilot.

No Hunter GPs have made formal queries about privacy to the Electronic Health Record Service centre.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Hargrave".

471. The Western Sydney trial was due to commence in May? When will it commence?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The first site in the greater Western Sydney pilot, the Children's Hospital at Westmead went live on 14 September 2006. Given the technical complexity of implementing this system a decision was made to delay the start of the Western Sydney pilot until September to allow the Hunter pilot to bed down. Additional sites will be brought on incrementally now that the system is live at the Children's Hospital, Westmead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

472. How many GPs have indicated their willingness to participate in the Western Sydney trial?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 469.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more legible than the last name.

473. Is the delay in commencing this trial due to ongoing concerns of GPs about privacy?

ANSWER

I am advised:

No.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatgroff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a prominent "H".

474. Will the Crown Solicitor's advice concerning privacy aspects of the trials be released? If not, why not?

ANSWER

I am advised:

There has been extensive independent legal review and advice. It is not proposed to release this advice, which was obtained to inform the design and development of the system. The NSW Privacy Commissioner is a member of the State Electronic Health Record Steering Committee which oversees all privacy related decisions and will monitor any issues that may arise from the trial.

475. Was the planned trial in Greater Western Sydney delayed because of the opinion given by the Crown Solicitor?

ANSWER

I am advised:

No. Please see response to question 471.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a stylized, looped manner and the last name "Hatzoglou" following in a similar cursive style.

476. Was a privacy impact assessment conducted before the Hunter trials commenced. If not, why not?

ANSWER

I am advised:

A Privacy Threat and Risk Assessment was undertaken before development of the system began.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. King".

477. How will the Hunter and Western Sydney trials be evaluated?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The evaluation will be conducted by an organisation independent from NSW Health.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. H. H.', is located on the right side of the page.

478. Is the Minister of Health aware of the comments made in the Budget estimates committee on March 2006 by Dr Stephen Christley, regarding the performance of Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre since it was moved to the Royal North Shore Hospital site?

ANSWER

Yes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Attwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Attwood" clearly distinguishable.

479. Did Dr Christley assess the performance of the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre as having increased the number of clients seen by 10% since it has been relocated to the Royal North Shore Hospital site?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Dr Christley noted that the activity had increased as stated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr Christley", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

480. Did Dr Christley also compare the performance of Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre with other extended hours teams in the Area which were not relocated? What was the result of these comparisons? For instance, what was the apparent % change in numbers of clients seen by Northern Beaches Extended Hours Team over the same period?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Northern Beaches Extended Hours Team decreased in the number of individuals seen by 6% over the same period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Haljst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "H".

481. What criteria were used to assess the performance of:
(a) the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre; and
(b) the community mental health teams?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Collections of Outcome Measures and Service Contacts as per NSW Health definitions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

482. Did the performance assessment criteria take into account the trends in referrals, client registrations, individual and group occasions of service and client hours?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Yes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

483. What were the trends using all these criteria since the Chatswood team moved to the hospital site?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Activity over the two year period in question increased by 21% for the number of clients seen and 32% for service contacts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hatzis".

484. How do the 2005 and 2004 trends compare with 2003 trends based on these criteria?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 483.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hutzgast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hutzgast" clearly distinguishable.

485. When was the Chatswood Community Mental Health Team moved from the Chatswood site to the Royal North Shore Hospital site?

ANSWER

I am advised:

To ensure staff safety some services previously based at the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre were moved on 15 November 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrave".

486. Were any other community mental health teams relocated at or about the same time?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Psychosis in Young People team was relocated from the Chatswood site to the Royal North Shore site.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatziorgis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

487. What other teams were relocated and from where to where were they relocated?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 486.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

488. Was any other community mental health team relocated from Chatswood to the Royal North Shore Hospital site at around the same time? What other team was relocated in this way at the same time?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 486.

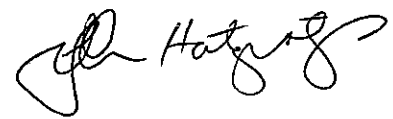
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a prominent "H".

489. What was the performance of the other team (or teams) using the same criteria?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Following the move to Royal North Shore Hospital client contacts for the Psychosis in Young People team remained the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

490. Are the assessment performance criteria used in this instance applied throughout Sydney and in the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Yes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrave". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

491. Was the performance of all the other services in Northern Sydney Central Coast Hospital and Community Mental Health Teams assessed using the same criteria over the same period?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Yes.

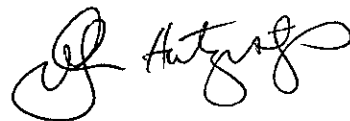
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

492. What was the result of this assessment and how did the performance of each team change?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Assessments and monitoring are ongoing and variable for individual teams. For the entire Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service there was an average increase of approximately 16% per annum for service contacts for the two years in question. The increase in the Central Coast was greater than the increase in the Northern Sydney area.

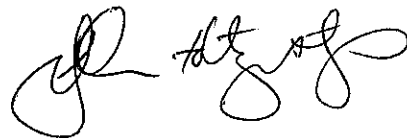
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Antzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'A'.

493. Is it true that equipment and administrative changes make any comparison of a team's performance with another team or between the years of 2003 and 2005 unsafe due to a range of factors including:
- (a) improvements of computer access, speed of computers and staff compliance in registering data over time?
 - (b) changes in instructions in how to register more indirect occasions of service ("group occasions of service" and "group client hours") in more ways and merge them with direct in-person occasions of service? Were these instructions changed in order to maximize the apparent percentage of recorded client-related activity in NSW Mental Health Services?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service continually makes improvements for clinicians to meet their data entry requirements. The Health Service continues to measure the same basic unit (ie; a service contact), which has not changed.

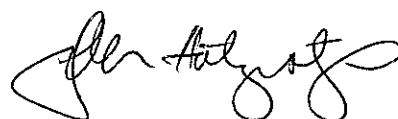
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H. G.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

494. In interpreting the data and performance under the old and new systems, would it be reasonable or appropriate to place a qualification on the comparison due to the extent of the differences in and behind the statistical collection methods and the variations in collection of data due to these differences?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable member to answer 493.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Hain". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

495. If not, why not?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable member to answer 493.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

496. Will the Minister confirm that the Cremorne Community Mental Health Centre (CMHC) will be retained on its present site and the Chatswood CMHC will be returned to their respective community sites?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service and NSW Health are currently investigating a range of options for the Chatswood and Cremorne Community Mental Health services.

The Area Health Service has also conducted a series of consultation workshops with key stakeholders.

Community concerns will be considered before a decision is made on the future configuration of the Chatswood and Cremorne Community Mental Health Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "H".

497. Considering that it is now 20 months since the Chatswood Mental Health Team was "temporarily" urgently relocated to the RNSH site, will the Minister provide a firm time-frame for the rebuilding or refurbishment and return of the Chatswood CMHC to its Chatswood site and the refurbishment of the Cremorne CMHC on its present community site?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 496.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

498. Will the Minister provide an assurance that the Community Mental Health Centres will remain at or be restored to their sites at Cremorne & Chatswood in their entirety, rather than as outposts to a new main Community Mental Health Centre planned to be built on the Royal North Shore Hospital site?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 496.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent and the last name "Hatzigeorgidis" written in a continuous, flowing script.

499. Polling has shown that 82 percent of people want the government to regulate the way food is marketed to children Does your government support the push to ban junk food advertising during children's television viewing hours? Are you working with your State and territory counterparts to pressure the Commonwealth Government on this?

ANSWER

I am advised:

At the 27 July Australian Health Ministers' Conference, NSW tabled a paper presenting a range of options. Following the meeting the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing indicated that the Commonwealth would not accept involvement by AHMC on this issue.

A key outcome from the meeting is a State and Territory Ministerial agreement to establish a working party to examine relevant regulatory codes in conjunction with industry, with a view to reviewing marketing and advertising practices.

The Terms of Reference for the working party, detailing priority areas for consideration and appropriate mechanisms for engaging with industry on these issues, are currently being drafted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hatzigeorgidis', is positioned in the lower right area of the page.

500. Will an inquiry be held into allegations of unethical cremation practices such as multiple cremations and disposal of excess ashes in garbage bins and pre-dug graves?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see Legislative Council Hansard of 7 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a stylized, looped manner and the surname "Hatzoglou" following in a similar cursive style.

501. Which of the recommendations of the 2005 NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into the State's Funeral Industry will be implemented? When will this be done?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see Legislative Council Hansard of 7 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzoglou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

502. When will a licensing system for funeral operators be introduced and an industry ombudsman be appointed to manage complaints?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see Legislative Council Hansard of 7 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hui", with a stylized flourish at the end.

503. In the U.K. certain complimentary therapies are incorporated into the National Health. Reflexology, for example, is used in intensive care units because it reduces the time spent in hospitals and is cheaper than many other treatments. How much testing has NSW Health subjected alternative therapies to? Will NSW Health lobby for proven alternative therapies to be covered by the Medicare system?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Complementary therapy is limited on the NHS. At the moment, the kind of complementary treatment available depends on where a person lives. However, complementary therapies are being introduced in more healthcare settings, including hospitals GP surgeries and community clinics. The complementary therapies listed as available on the NHS include acupuncture, osteopathy, homeopathy and chiropractic treatments. Reflexology is not mentioned as being available under the NHS. (More information is available at <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?articleid=911>).

Research into treatments such as acupressure, clover extracts, soy milk and ginger is being undertaken within the NSW health system at the Natural Therapies Unit, which was established at the Royal Hospital for Women in 1998. This unit was established to test alternative treatments and work with industry to improve natural medications.



504. Given the serious shortage of mental health beds in NSW, resulting in thousands of people with severe mental illness ending up on the streets, in jail, or dead, why is NSW Health not reconsidering its decision to close Rozelle Hospital in Callan Park, which could be renovated to current standards at less than one third of the cost of building a new facility like that at Concord Hospital?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was answered during the Budget Estimates Hearing of 4 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzis". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "Hatzis".

505. According to costings done by the Friends of Callan Park, sufficient of the hospital's buildings can be renovated to modern standards (50 square metres per bed) to provide a 400-bed centre of excellence for treatment and rehabilitation, staff training and education, at a cost of \$40 million, compared to the more than \$60 million for the 174-bed facility being built at Concord. What cost/benefit analysis has been done by the Government to justify its decision not to renovate Callan Park? Will the analysis be made public?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was answered during the Budget Estimates Hearing of 4 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

506. Following Health Minister Hatzistergos's unofficial visit to Callan Park on 28 July 2006, he confirmed his guarantee (also made by his predecessor Refshauge) that the remaining World War 2 veterans in 'H Ward' at Rozelle Hospital in Callan Park will not be moved from there, but can remain in what has been their home for 60 years for the rest of their lives.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was answered during the Budget Estimates Hearing of 4 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzistergos". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a prominent "H".

507. Why is the government not setting up in- and outpatient services at Callan Park for Vietnam veterans; and for those who in due course will be returning from Afghanistan and Iraq suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was answered during the Budget Estimates Hearing of 4 September 2006.

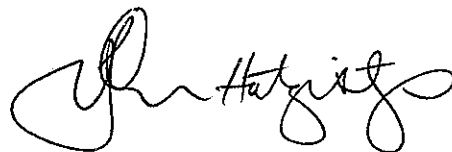
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. T. G. S." with a stylized flourish at the end.

508. Assuming the Callan Park, with the exception of 'H' Ward at Rozelle Hospital is closed, what measures will be put in place to provide skilled medical pharmaceutical, nursing, administration and maintenance backup and catering service for the one remaining ward? How much is this expected to cost?

ANSWER

I am advised by the Sydney South West Area Health Service:

The need for, and cost of, providing clinical and support services for residents of 'H' Ward will be considered closer to the date of the proposed move of services to Concord Hospital.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

509. What has the wrongful dismissal case before the ADT that was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 5.7.06 cost NSW Health? It involved a false claim by the CEO of Sydney South-West Area Health Service that the dismissal had been supported by three senior psychiatrists, including NSW Governor Marie Bashir. And has the matter of that false claim been referred to ICAC?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was answered during the Budget Estimates Hearing of 4 September 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Hatzigeorgidis', is located on the right side of the page.

510. The Friends of Callan Park at a meeting with Health and Planning in March this year were told that Health would supply a full and detailed list of NSW's current mental health beds, including type and location. Senior Health bureaucrat Dr Richard Matthews however has still failed to do so. Why? And to avoid such problems in future, on a matter of great public interest and importance, would it not be cost-effective to set up a website with full details of all hospital and community mental health services in NSW, with the provision that any changes proposed or implemented are clearly stated, in a manner that enables them to be compared with previous years?

ANSWER

I am advised:

A meeting has been arranged with Dr Matthews.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzistefanis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more legible than the last name "Hatzistefanis".

511. Minister, has there been extensive testing of fishers and their family members who ate marine animals from Sydney Harbour conducted by NSW Health or other agency, and what have the results of that testing been?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see the Press release of 20 July 2006, available on the NSW Health website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more legible than the last name.

512. Are there any waterways other than Sydney Harbour to be investigated for dangerous levels of toxic chemicals? Are tests planned for professional fishers who work these waters?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for the Environment and Conservation.

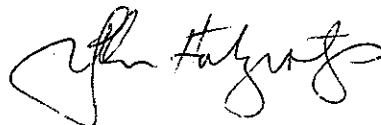
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hatzigeorgidis" clearly distinguishable.

513. People with a hearing loss are disadvantaged when they attend Public Health Facilities because they have to contend with:
- (a) Not enough visual information.
 - (b) Staff talking behind partitions, doors or machines.
 - (c) Staff speaking while facing a computer.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 514.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hays". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

514. What measures or policies does the government have in place to improve the accessibility of information for people with a hearing loss who attend Government health facilities?

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Health requires that generic public health services provided through the Area Health Services are both accessible and responsive to the needs of all people in NSW, including Deaf people and people with a hearing loss.

Deaf people and people with a hearing loss can currently access the Health Care Interpreter Service (HCIS) to assist them when attending NSW Government health facilities. Information on how to access this service is detailed in NSW Health's Public Patient's Hospital Charter, *You and Your Health Service*. The current issue of the Charter is available in print form and on the NSW Health website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/health-public-affairs/you/>

The Charter is currently being updated to include additional information on access to health care interpreting services for Deaf people.

Information in visual form is also available for Deaf people on the NSW Health Hearing Health website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/hearing/index.html>. The website includes information on hearing service pathways for the referral, screening and diagnosis of children and adults, as well details of hearing support organisations and links to the Statewide Infant Screening-Hearing (SWISH) Program website.

In addition, the Ministerial Standing Committee on Hearing, which provides advice to the Minister for Health on hearing services in NSW, has identified access to services and information for Deaf people as a key priority and is developing strategies to improve and enhance existing services in this area.

Other initiatives by NSW Health, relating to health care for people with disabilities, including hearing loss, focus on enhancement of mainstream health services through policy change, including the recent implementation of key policy directives: *People with Disabilities: Responding to their needs during hospitalisation* (2005) and *Responsive Discharge Planning Standards* (2006).



515. What are the Standards or Guidelines which the Public Health Facilities staff are expected to understand and implement in relation to the care of hearing-impaired customers/patients?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Public Health Facilities staff are required to comply with the NSW Health Policy Directive, NSW Health Standard Procedures on Working with Health Care Interpreters PD2006_053. The Directive outlines procedures to ensure appropriate and effective communication between health professionals and Deaf people when using a health care interpreter. It is available to Public Health facilities staff on the NSW Health intranet and to the general public on the NSW Health website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2006/PD2006_053.html

The needs of Deaf people in NSW are also being addressed through the implementation of key policy directives such as People with Disabilities: Responding to their needs during hospitalisation (2005) and Responsive Discharge Planning Standards (2006).



516. Does the NSW Code of Practice for the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies require that 95% of all routine fluoride samples fall within the concentration operating range of 0.90 mg/L to 1.50 mg/L?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies (2002) requires that: "The Water Supply Authority shall set a target that, over a calendar year, greater than 95% of all routine fluoride samples (both treated water and distribution) fall within the fluoride concentration operating range of 0.90 to 1.50 mg/L, unless otherwise specified by NSW Health in the Instrument of Approval."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

517. Did the Report of the New South Wales Chief Health Officer of 24th November 2004, entitled Environment Water Quality-fluoride, show that for 2003, only 68% of samples of fluoridated regional water supplies meet the Code of Practice guidelines?

and

518. Why is there such poor compliance with the Codes requirements for fluoridation of regional water supplies? Is the health of regional communities being put at risk by this poor compliance?

ANSWER

I am advised:

(517 and 518 inclusive)

NSW Health is confident that the health of regional communities was not put at risk by fluoridation in regional NSW, which showed a trend for moderate under-dosing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

519. Does the NSW Code of Practice for the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies state in Section 8.1 Procurement of Fluoridating Agent: "Metals are the main impurities of health significance to be found in fluoride chemicals, particularly with hydrofluosilicic acid where the levels of various metals can vary significantly"?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Yes, in Section 8.1.1.1 of the Code.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hulgras", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.