

520. Why do fluoridating agents such as hydrofluosilicic acid contain lead and other metal contamination? Isn't it unsafe and unwise to add these contaminants to drinking water supplies? What measures have been put in place to ensure the addition of fluoridating agents to drinking water supplies doesn't contain contaminants such as lead and other metal contamination?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Most fluoridating agents are produced from by-products of other industries. These by-products may contain trace amounts of metals.

NSW Health carefully monitors the quality of community drinking water supplies. The chemical quality of drinking water supplies, which receive fluoridation, are monitored regularly. This includes testing for metals. The water supplied to these communities meets the safe levels of the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2004).

Section 8.1.1.1 of the Code of Practice recommends that Water Supply Authorities ask their fluoride chemical suppliers for regular full chemical analysis. In addition the Water Supply Authorities should periodically obtain independent chemical analysis.



521. NSW Health has advised that exemptions are available to the 'nearest specialist rule', yet consumers and health professionals seem largely unaware of these exemptions. How are these exemptions publicised to doctors? To what extent is the offering of exemptions limited by budget allocations to each IPTAAS office?

ANSWER

I am advised:

- a) Exemptions to the nearest specialist rule can be found in the relevant policy and application form on the NSW Health Internet. This information is also distributed widely through the Public Health System. NSW Health is assisted in communicating with GPs by the Divisions of General Practice. The Divisions undertake to communicate NSW Health policies of relevance to General Practitioners to their members. This is the most effective distribution method available to NSW Health in communicating with GPs throughout NSW.
- b) The granting of an exemption is made on its merits.

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

522. What is the average cost of travel and accommodation incurred by people applying to IPTAAS, and what percentage of this is actually refunded by IPTAAS?

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 "J. Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'H'.

523. What is the average period of time patients must wait for their travel costs to be reimbursed by IPTAAS?

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 Hargrave". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

524. Has the Minister, or anyone from his staff met with members of the Albury/Wodonga community about the problem of health service provision in the border towns. If so, with whom and when?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Representatives of the Greater Southern Area Health Service meet regularly with the community concerning cross border health service provision. In addition I visited Albury on 24 November 2005 accompanied by the local Member.

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

525. Is NSW still committed to the Albury/Wodonga merger? If so, what has the Minister done to expedite the process?

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Health has committed resources within the Department of Health and the Greater Southern Area Health Service to resolve the complex issues surrounding the integration of two hospitals operating under separate state governments.

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

526. When was the last time the Minister or his staff met with his Victorian counterparts to progress the issue?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Albury Wodonga Inter-Departmental Committee consisting of senior representatives from both the NSW and Victoria health departments meet regularly to progress this issue.

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 more compact, flowing style.

527. When does the Minister consider the merger will be achieved?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Integration will only take place when both the NSW and Victorian Governments are certain they have the best possible arrangement for health staff and the community on both sides of the border.

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

528. What was the total expenditure on maintenance work at the Rozelle Hospital / Callan Park site in the following periods:
(a) FY 2004/06;
(b) FY 2005/06?

ANSWER

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

Repairs, maintenance and refurbishment budgets for health facilities are not allocated solely for maintaining grounds and buildings. Nor do they include the salaries and wages costs for grounds staff, tradesmen, administrative support, and supplies.

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

529. What is the total budgeted expenditure for maintenance work at the Rozelle Hospital / Callan Park site for the FY 2006/07?

ANSWER

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

The 2006/07 budget for this facility has not been finalised.

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".

530. How many motor vehicles does each Area Health Service lease and how many does each Area Health Service own? Ie:
- (a) Greater Southern
 - (b) Greater Western
 - (c) Hunter New England
 - (d) North Coast
 - (e) North Sydney Central Coast
 - (f) South Eastern Sydney Illawarra
 - (g) Sydney South West
 - (h) Sydney West
 - (i) Children's Hospital Westmead

ANSWER

Please see response to questions 1-14.

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".

531. By how many in each Area Health Service have the leased fleets grown in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006?

ANSWER

Please see response to question 530. The new Area Health Services were established in 2005.

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

532. Has the NSW Health fleet grown since the introduction of Salary Sacrificing enabling staff to Novate Lease motor vehicles?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Any vehicles under a novated lease arrangement are not part of the NSW Health Fleet.

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

533. Have you had brought to your attention any anomalies /financial discrepancies in
leasing arrangements for motor vehicles by staff or bureaucracy in the past two years?

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable member to the Budget Estimates Transcript page 5.

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

534. Have you had brought to your attention any anomalies in leasing arrangement for motor vehicles by NSW Health staff and/or their associates in the past two years?

ANSWER

Please see response to question 533.

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

535. Have you had cause for any of your CEOs to order anomalies be investigated or audited in the past two years?

ANSWER

Please see response to question 533.

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

536. Please provide a list of hotels that have been permitted a second smoking room

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 Hatting", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

537. The NSW Health Annual Report 2004-05 (page 125) reports there are 5,059 'corporate administration' personal. In evidence to General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 on September 4 you inferred these were all members of the senior executive service and their salaries were all reported in the Annual Report. Can you confirm or correct this?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Not all corporate administrative positions are SES. A similar 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hatfield" clearly distinguishable.

538. What is the salary range of NSW Health employees in 'corporate administration' jobs as identified on page 124 of the NSW Health Annual Report 04-05?

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.

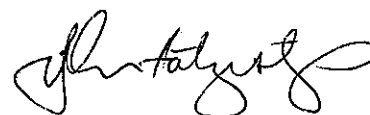
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Anty". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "Anty".

539. What is the average salary of NSW Health employees in 'corporate administration' jobs as identified on page 124 of the NSW Health Annual Report 04-05?

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 "J. H. Taylor", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

540. What is the payroll of each of the Area Health Services and how much relates to those employed in 'Corporate Administration' jobs?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Area Health Services report staffing and financial data in their annual reports.

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

541. How much is the Personal Assistant for the CEO paid in each of the eight Area Health Services?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Area Health Services are required to pay administrative staff against the scales determined by an applicable Award or Determination.

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.

542. How much are members of the Area Health Service Advisory Boards paid in sitting fees and other various allowances?

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Health no longer administers Area Health Service Advisory Boards. However, remuneration fees are paid to the Chairperson and Members of the Area Health Advisory Councils (AHACs) on the basis of role and responsibility and are determined by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT).

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

ANSWER

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

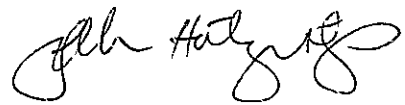
John Hutz

544. You advised the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 on September 4 that information about hospital acquired infection rates for each hospital, by clinical department, was published on the NSW Health website. Please provide the http link.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The link for the NSW Health website is: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

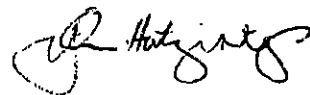
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzigeorgidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hatzigeorgidis" clearly distinguishable.

545. The Clinical Excellence Commission advised on August 21st that there were 125,000 'clinical incidents' notified in NSW public hospitals in 2005-06 but this did not include hospital acquired infections despite this being identified as a key indicator of quality in hospital care by various bodies including the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. Why not?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The number of clinical incidents is inaccurately referred to. Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) data are collected analysed and disseminated by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) on behalf of NSW Health.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Holtzinger".

546. How many people contracted hospital acquired infections in 2005-06?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Data for 2005 will be released in due course.

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

547. What percentage of patients undergoing joint replacement surgery acquired hospital infections in 2005-06?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Department of Health does not centrally collect this information.

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

548. NSW Health have advised that 20,000 people in every one million undergoing hospital treatment went home with an infection acquired during surgery or while recovering in the ward. Therefore what percentage of patients undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery in NSW hospitals acquired infections in 2005-06?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Department of Health does not centrally collect this information.

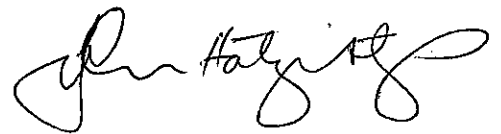
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hargrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Hargrett" clearly distinguishable.

549. Do you agree with the Productivity Commission that unexpected hospital admissions are a key indicator of patient safety.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Member is referred to the response provided by Professor Katherine McGrath during the Estimates Hearing.

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 initial "J" and a stylized "H".

550. How many patients who underwent treatment in 2005-06 were unexpectedly returned to hospital within 28 days of initial treatment? How does this compare to other states?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable member to the Budget Estimates Transcript page 25-26.

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

551. There are 1461 people are on the elective surgery waiting list in Greater Southern Area Health Service. Acting chief executive officer Nigel Lyons stated that a further 22 per cent on the waiting list were on the not ready for care list, which equates to 321 people. That makes a total of 1,782. How many of those 321 people listed as not ready for surgery have waited more than:
- (a) 12 months?
 - (b) 24 months?
 - (c) 36 months?
 - (d) 48 months and over?

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 Hurst", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

552. In what categories are their surgery?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to Question 551.

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

- 553 How many patients in the not ready for care category across the state have waited more than:
- (a) 12 months?
 - (b) 24 months?
 - (c) 36 months?
 - (d) 48 months and over?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to Question 551.

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

554. In relation to funding for public oral health services in NSW please advise the:
- (a) Total annual budget allocated to oral health services in the 2005/06 State budget and how much was actually spent.
 - (b) How much was allocated and how much actually spent for each of the following:
 - (i) children's dental services
 - (ii) adult dental services
 - (iii) teaching and education services
 - (iv) oral health promotional activities
 - (v) disability services
 - (vi) other non-government organisations (please specify)
 - (vii) oral health capital expenditure including refurbishing
 - (viii) oral health services provided by Justice Health.

ANSWER

I am advised:

- (a & b) The 2005/06 financial reports for the Department of Health are yet to be audited.

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

555. In relation to funding for public oral health services in NSW please advise the:
- (a) Total annual budget allocated to oral health services in the 2006/07 State budget?
 - (b) How much was allocated for each of the following:
 - (i) children's dental services
 - (ii) adult dental services
 - (iii) teaching and education services
 - (iv) oral health promotional activities
 - (v) disability services
 - (vi) other non-government organisations (please specify)
 - (vii) oral health capital expenditure including refurbishing
 - (viii) oral health services provided by Justice Health.

ANSWER

I am advised:

- (a) The oral health budget for 2006/07 is approximately \$130 million.
- (b)
 - (i); (ii); (iii); (v) The relative expenditure against particular service grouping is at the discretion of local Area Health Services given different populations and needs. The Department of Health does not collect or report against that level of data centrally.
 - (iv) Please see response to question 467.
 - (vi) In 2006/07 grant funding totalling \$3.464M is made available to NGO's for oral health services from the NSW Department of Health, primarily to Aboriginal Medical Services.
 - (vii) Oral health capital allocations from the NSW Department of Health for 2006/07 are currently being determined.
 - (viii) The total allocation for the 2006/07 budget for Justice Health is \$86.6m which is used to provide oral health services amongst other services.



556. In relation to patients treated in the public system please advise the:
- (a) Total number of patients seeking dental treatment in the public sector in New South Wales in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify) according to the following:
 - (i) number of patients categorized by Area Health Service call centres;
 - (ii) number of patients who were assessed only for treatment by a dentist or dental therapist only; and
 - (iii) number of patients provided with actual treatment by a dentist or dental therapist.
 - (b) Total number of adults provided with actual treatment in each Area Health Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify).
 - (c) Total number of children (under the age of 18 years) provided with actual treatment in each Area Health Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify).
 - (d) Projected number of patients who will be treated in public dental facilities in New South Wales in 2010, 2015 and 2020.
 - (e) Please give a brief description of the types of facilities in each Area Health Service providing oral health services to public patients (i.e. hospital clinic, community clinic, school dental service etc).

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to 3483 in the Legislative Assembly in 2005.



557. In relation to patient demographics, please advise the:
- (a) Total population in New South Wales eligible for public dental treatment (expressed in real terms and as a percentage).
 - (b) Total population in each Area Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify).
 - (c) Total adult population in each Area Health Service eligible for public dental treatment (expressed in real terms and as a percentage).
 - (d) Total population (under the age of 18 years) in each Area Health Service eligible for public dental treatment (expressed in real terms and as a percentage).
 - (e) In each Area Health Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify), what percentage of the population was eligible for public dental treatment in each of the following age groups:
 - 0-5
 - 6-16
 - 17-64
 - 65+

ANSWER

I am advised:

Eligibility for public dental services is dealt with in section 2.2 on page 5 of the NSW Department of Health Submission to the Dental Inquiry. In addition, as Centrelink is responsible for issuing both the Health Care Cards and Pensioner Concession Cards that entitle adults to care, numbers fluctuate monthly and this data is not routinely collated by NSW Health.



558. In relation to public dental treatment:
- (a) Please provide a brief description of the types of treatment currently available to public dental patients in each Area Health Service and whether such treatment is classified as routine, preventative or emergency dental treatment.
 - (b) In each Area Health Service, what is the current average waiting period for access to dental care for each of the following programs:
 - (i) general dental care (specifically for codes 1, 3a 3b 3c)
 - (ii) dentures
 - (iii) specialist dental care (adults)
 - (iv) specialist dental care (children)
 - (c) In each Area Health Service, what is the average cost per patient per occasion of service?
 - (d) In each Area Health Service, what is the average cost per adult patient per occasion of service?
 - (e) In each Area Health Service, what is the average cost per child (any patient under the age of 18) per occasion of service?
 - (f) Has the provision of oral health services to public patients in New South Wales changed significantly in the period 1970 to 2005 that would signify changing oral health needs in the community (or any readily identifiable section of the community)?
 - (g) Is the provision of oral health services to public patients in New South Wales projected to change significantly in 2010, 2015 and/or 2020? If so, what changes are envisaged?

ANSWER

I am advised:

- (a) Please refer to Section 2.1 of the NSW Department of Health Submission to the Dental Inquiry.
- (b) Please see response to question 568.
- (c), (d) The Department of Health does not collect or report against that level of data centrally.
- (e) Please see response to question 558.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) Please refer to Section 2.3 of the NSW Department of Health Submission to the Dental Inquiry.



559. In relation to the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme please advise the:
- (a) Total number of patients in New South Wales in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify) who were allocated with a voucher and subsequently treated by a private practitioner under the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme.
 - (b). Total number of patients in each Area Health Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify) who were allocated with a voucher and subsequently treated by a private practitioner under the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme.
 - (c) Total cost to each Area Health Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify) incurred under the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme.
 - (d) Total number of treatments in each Area Health Service in 2005 (or any other relevant 12 month period used by the Department for accounting or statistical purposes - please specify) falling within each of the following treatment classifications:
 - (i) diagnostic services
 - (ii) oral surgery
 - (iii) endodontics
 - (iv) restorative services
 - (v) prosthodontics
 - (vi) general services
 - (vii) periodontics

ANSWER

I am advised:

- (a) (b) & (c) Data for the 2005/06 financial year is yet to be audited.
- (d) The Department of Health does not collect or report against that level of data centrally.



560. In relation to the dental workforce please advise the:

- (a) Total number of funded oral health positions (including vacancies) in each Area Health Service as at 31 March 2005 for each of the following classifications:
- (i) dentists
 - (ii) dental specialists (please specify by category)
 - (iii) hygienists
 - (iv) dental therapists
 - (v) dental prosthetists
 - (vi) dental technicians
 - (vii) dental assistants/nurses
 - (viii) administrative staff
 - (ix) ancillary staff i.e. cleaners, engineers etc)
 - (x) any other relevant health workers not specified
- (b) Total FTE in each Area Health Service for each classification identified in 6.a.
- (c) Total number of funded vacancies in each Area Health Service as at 31 March 2005 for each classification identified in 6.a.
- (d) Total oral health workforce numbers in New South Wales in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 for each classification identified in 6.a.
- (e) Projected public sector workforce numbers that will be required in New South Wales in 2010, 2015 and 2020 for each classification identified in 6.a.

ANSWER

I am advised:

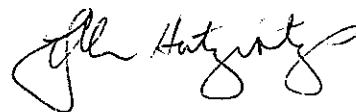
(a) & (b)

The total number of FTE for the dental workforce in NSW, excluding dental prosthetists and dental administrative staff is 1,075 FTE. The following table shows the breakdown of FTE by Area Health Service and award classification as at March 2005. Of note, the Department of Health does not routinely centrally collect FTE information on dental prosthetists and dental administrative staff.

Area	Dentists	Dental Specialist	Dental Hygienist	Dental Therapist	Dental Technician	Dental Assistant	Other	Total
Children's Hospital at Westmead	0.8	1.0					2.5	4.2
Justice Health	2.4					5.5	1.0	8.9
Sydney South West	71.8	5.5	0.5	21.4	33.6	174.0	4.1	310.8
South Eastern Sydney / Illawarra	16.8	0.5		18.4	1.0	47.8		84.4
Sydney West	60.0	13.3	0.6	24.9	21.2	129.7	1.0	250.8
North Sydney / Central Coast	25.7			17.0	6.5	61.6	0.0	110.8
Hunter / New England	28.4	1.1		20.8	4.9	60.8	1.4	117.5
North Coast	15.7			15.0		47.8	0.4	79.0
Greater Southern	10.3			15.4		32.4	0.4	58.6
Greater Western	8.7			17.2		23.9		49.8
Grand Total	240.6	21.4	1.1	150.2	67.1	583.5	10.9	1074.8

Source: DoH HIE. Excludes Third Schedule Hospitals. 'Other' includes Community Dental Health Program Officers, Deputy Director of Dental Services - Westmead Hospital, Deputy Chief Dental Technician - Sydney Dental Hospital, Director of Dental Services - Royal Newcastle, Director of Dental Services - Westmead/Parramatta.

- (c) The Department of Health does not routinely centrally collect data on funded dental vacancies. The diversion of public resources to answer this question is not justifiable.
- (d) The database does not contain FTE data for the dental workforce for 1990, 1995 and 2000. The diversion of public resources to answer this questions is not justifiable.
- (e) The Legislative Council Standing Committee Dental Services Inquiry Report noted that between 391 and 437 new dentists would be required in both public and private practice to meet demand levels in 2010 (4.21 page 55, clause 421). NSW Health Department does not have detailed predictive models beyond 2010. Given the variability of the workforce input factors the future requirements for the NSW public dental workforce in 2015 and 2020 cannot be reliably predicted. Several important factors include: the recruitment of dental personnel to NSW; annual productivity of dental personnel and macro-economic influences on demand for dental visits and services.



561. When and how will the Government respond to Recommendation 1 of the Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Social Issues Dental Services Report which recommended that: "the funding for public dental services in New South Wales be reviewed and increased to improve public dental services and be comparable to other states.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 466.

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

562. When and how will the Government respond to Recommendation 2 of the Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Social Issues Dental Services Report which recommended that: "area health services spend their oral health budgets on providing oral health services, and that a transparent accounting system be developed to monitor oral health spending in area health services to ensure a coordinated approach to oral health spending."

ANSWER

I am advised:


Please see response to question 466.

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 larger, more prominent script than the surname "Hatzoglou".

563. Is the Minister aware that at the end of April 2005 there were 20,810 adults and 5,333 children waiting for general dental treatment in the Sydney South West Area Health Service, on waiting lists of two and a half years for children and over four and a half years for adults?

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer concerning "waiting lists" on page 42 of the Budget Estimates hearing transcript.

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

Ed. Hatzoglou

565. When and how will the Government respond to Recommendation 19 of the Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Social Issues Dental Services Report which recommended that: "the Priority Oral Health Program be reviewed, with particular reference to waiting times, to ensure that patients in the public system receive adequate treatment within reasonable time frames."

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 466.

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.

566. Why have total number of occasions of service decreased from 1,521,783 in 2002/2003 to 1,392,051 in 2004/2005 despite the fact the demand for public dental services has increased significantly in the past decade?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Occasions of service include a mix of service types varying in complexity and cost and with increased demand many Area Health Services are concentrating their resources on the provision of priority treatment to urgent cases, which may involve more complex care.

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.

567. How many public dental patients were treated in 2005-06?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Department of Health does not routinely collect or report on the number of dental patients treated but uses occasions of service as a measure of service provision.

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

568. How many people are currently on the public dental waiting list?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 563.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hays". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent and the last name "Hays" following in a similar style.

569. Why is there such a large difference in per capita funding for public dental services in New South Wales (\$17) compared to the Northern Territory (\$38), Queensland (\$33), South Australia (\$30) and Tasmanian (\$30)?

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer concerning "per capita funding" on page 27 of the Budget Estimates hearing transcript.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Hatton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" written in a stylized, looped manner and the last name "Hatton" written in a more straightforward cursive style.

570. As it has been confirmed that the telephone call where the patient is asked about their condition, the assessment by a dentist, and the eventual treatment are all counted as separate treatments, can you confirm the number of actual dental treatments completed in NSW last year, as in comparison to the number of treatments (including phone calls and assessments)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

All occasions of service do not involve treatment.

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

571. How many people are waiting for public dental treatment at Griffith, Wagga and Albury?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 563.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Hargrett". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "R" and a cursive "Hargrett".

572. Provide detail as to how many dentists and dental therapists, or their full-time equivalents, are employed by the Greater Southern Area Health Service and how many vacancies currently exist for both?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 463.

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

573. How much money did the NSW Government get from the sale of the former faculty building at Sydney Dental Hospital in Surry Hills?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 390.

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

574. Is there any reason the money was not invested back into dental training or infrastructure?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 390 and 391.

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

575. When will the Clinical Service Plans for each Area Health Service be complete?

ANSWER

Clinical service planning is regularly undertaken by Health Services as part of their continuous planning process.

In addition to regular planning processes, the Area Health Services and the Children's Hospital at Westmead are currently developing Area Healthcare Services Plans.

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

576. How much money has been allocated to developing those plans?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Clinical service planning is regularly undertaken by Health Services as part of their continuous planning process.

No additional funds have been allocated to Health Services for the development of their Area Healthcare Services Plan.

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

577. What is the total amount owed to creditors for accounts that are over 45 days?

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Health each year reports on outstanding creditors at the end of the financial year in its Annual Report. The 2005/2006 Annual Report is due to be tabled by 30 November 2006.

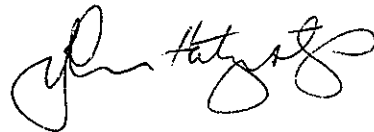
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. H. H.", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

578. How much is owed to creditors for accounts that are over 45 days in each Area Health Service?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 577.

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

579. What is the total budget for Wagga Wagga Hospital this year and how much was it in 2005-06?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Hospital budgets are managed and allocated at an Area Health Service level. In 2006/07 all Area Health Services received increased budget allocations as part of the record \$11.7 billion health budget. I refer the Honourable Member to press releases dated 6th June, 2006 available on the NSW Health website for specific details in relation to the increased allocations against each of the Health Services.

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

580. How many other major hospitals have had their budgets cut this year and by how much (in dollars and percentages)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Hospital budgets are managed and allocated at an Area Health Service level. In 2006/07 all Area Health Services received increased budget allocations as part of the record \$11.7 billion health budget. I refer the Honourable Member to press releases dated 6th June, 2006 available on the NSW Health website for specific details in relation to the increased allocations against each of the Health Services.

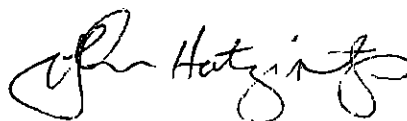
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Atkinson', written in a cursive style.

581. Why have you broken your promise to build a new hospital at Narrabri beginning in and to be completed by 2007? Why have you only just allocated funds to develop a clinical service plan for Narrabri hospital that will take at least 18 months when you had promised the community a new hospital by 2007?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable member to the answer to Question without Notice in the Legislative Council on 20 September 2005 and statements made on 4 August and 6 November 2006.

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

582. How do you explain the jump in total estimated cost of the new Royal North Shore Hospital from \$415.400m in the 2005-06 budget to over \$702.194m in the 2006-07 budget? Why has the expected completion date blown out by 2 years since start of project in 2002? Why has the budget been underspent by \$14.2m this year after being underspent by \$14,6m in 2004/05 and \$2m in 2003/04?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The redevelopment of Royal North Shore Hospital will be the biggest ever undertaken on a single site.

The cost variation incorporates impacts occurring for a large scale project being planned, designed and built over a significant time period. In addition to new population projects to 2016 release by the Department of Planning and clinical services planning following the amalgamation of Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Services.

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

583. Why has the Penrith Hospital Bed Expansion program been delayed by three years, the total estimated cost risen by \$558 million and funding allocated last year underspent by 75%?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Nepean Hospital Bed Expansion Program (now known as Nepean Hospital Allied Health Relocation) required a master plan for the entire Nepean Campus and the need for a review within the project.

The total estimated cost for the Nepean Hospital Allied Health Relocation has not risen by \$558 million. The total estimated cost has risen by \$558,000.

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

584. Why have you broken your promise to build the new Queanbeyan Hospital by 2006 with the project now not due to be completed until 2009? Why was the money allocated in the last budget underspent by 37%?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The redevelopment of Queanbeyan Hospital, when announced as a new work in the 2005/06 Budget Paper 4, was noted for completion in 2008. The project is not delayed, with target completion of the new 60 bed hospital currently scheduled for August 2008, and completion of the second stage comprising demolition of the existing clinical block and construction of the carpark in December 2008.

I am further advised that under-expenditure in 2005-06 was due mainly to slower than anticipated planning for the enabling works, which has now commenced.

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

585. Has any funding been allocated for the repair, upgrade or relocation of Toukley Ambulance station?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Toukley station is functional and adequate for the present staffing level. Recent repairs and upgrades of the facility include the replacement of ambulance station roof, re-painting and new carpet installation.

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.

586. In 2004 you announced a \$241 million mental health package over four years (04 – 05 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 1 p0g 9-8), but according to this years Budget papers you will have only spent \$44.3million or just 18.34% of this promise in the first two years (05 – 06 Budget Paper No 2 pg 2-8, 06-07 Budget Paper No 3, Volume 2 pg 10-9. Why is this and do you think it acceptable given the mental health crisis in NSW?

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 Hatfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

587. Of the additional \$300million over five years you promised in this years budget (06-07 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 2 pg 10-9) why have you only allocated \$38 million in the budget for the first year? (06-07 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 2 pg 10-9).

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 Hatfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a stylized script and the last name "Hatfield" in a more legible but still cursive hand.

588. Why have you revised down the mental health capital works budget from \$51 million (06-07 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 2 pg 10-38) to \$21million (06 – 07 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 2 pg 10-38) – a mere 40% of your original forecast for this year?

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 Hatfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

589. Why do you think it acceptable that community organisations providing critical mental health services will receive just 2% (06-07 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 2 pg 10-37) of the mental health budget – the lowest rate in the country according to the latest National Mental Health Report?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The \$19.121 million figure presented in the Budget Estimates Papers relates to grants to Voluntary Organisations that are centrally managed by NSW Health. This amount does not include Community Residential grants and devolved NGOs funding, which are managed and reported by Area Health Services under the devolved NGO Grants Program.

The lemma Government acknowledges this very important role and provides funding to a range of non-government organisations and not-for-profit agencies to provide specialist mental health support.

Since 2002, this Government has increased funding to mental health non-Government Organisations from \$12.3 million to \$35 million this year.

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

590. Why did you only spend 3% of what you said you would on the Illawarra Older Persons Mental Health Unit during 05 – 06? (total project cost is \$4.2million, they had promised to spend \$3million during 05 – 06 but actually only spent \$100,000)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The project definition planning of this project was combined with other mental health projects to achieve economies of scale. There was a delay in the engagement of a consultant for the mental health program and engineering investigations required to confirm the safety of the structure for the project.

The Project Definition Plan has been completed and design documentation has progressed.

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

591. Why have you only allocated \$800,000 or 6% towards the Mandala Mental Health Unit in Gosford for 06-07 given the total cost of the project is \$13million and is supposed to be completed by 2009?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Sufficient funds have been allocated to this project to allow it to be progressed and completed in accordance with the timetable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Hatfield". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P" and a long, flowing tail.

592. Why have you only allocated \$500,000 or 6% for 06-07 of the cost for Child and Adolescent mental health inpatient services when the total project cost is \$8.3million and the project is to be completed by 2009?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Sufficient funds have been allocated to this project to allow it to be progressed with construction projected to commence in 2007/08.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Taylor'.

593. Why has the State Government refused over four successive years to increase funding for Lifeline's vital telephone counselling service which takes over 200,000 calls per annum?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

I refer the Member to the Legislative Assembly hansard of 8 March 2006.

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

594. During 05-06 how many reported incidences were there of children or adolescents with mental illness being placed in the same wards as mentally ill adults?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Young people may be admitted. Admissions to psychiatric units are based on a clinical assessment of patient need and the involuntary admission requirements prescribed in the Mental Health Act.

In all circumstances, the particular needs of young people in adult wards are assessed and access to child and adolescent mental health staff provided. In addition, the levels of observation of young people in adult mental health facilities can range from one-to-one nursing, in direct line of sight, through to observations on an hourly basis.

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

595. When will you be returning community based mental health services to Hercules Street Chatswood, given you have removed services from that site in October 2004 and the community has been calling for the reinstatement of those vital services?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to question 496.

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

596. What is the status of "Bridgeway House" at Parramatta?
[This was a community based mental health facility which the Government essentially closed down. They claim it was a "relocation"]

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see response to Question No. 4338 in the Legislative Assembly (2005).

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

597. On what evidence-based research has the Government based its model of care for non-acute services where community based facilities including those at Chatswood, Glebe and Bridgeway House at Parramatta have been taken out of the community?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Provision of comprehensive and integrated care across general and mental health services (known by various titles including mainstreaming and co-location) was advocated in the first National Mental Health Strategy in 1992 as a means to combat the marginalisation and stigma associated with mental illness and to facilitate comprehensive care.

Mainstreaming has progressed through a range of models with no reduction of community mental health services as a result.

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

598. The Sentinel Events Review Committee report looking at suicide and homicide by mental health patients recently discharges from inpatient units (Tracking Tragedy 2nd Report 2005 pg 36) found that "a substantial number of deaths were preventable". What has the Government specifically done during the last financial year in direct response to this report in order to prevent further unnecessary deaths? Please indicate which specific recommendation each action refers to?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Member is referred to Hansard and the response provided to a similar question asked in the Parliament on 18th October 2006.

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.

599. Why have you continued to refuse funding for Sunflower House in Wagga, a community based mental health facility established under the auspices of the Schizophrenia Fellowship?

ANSWER

I am advised:

Please see Legislative Council Hansard of 11 May 2006.

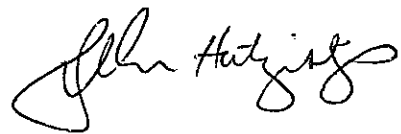
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hatfield".

600. (supplementary to previous question). Does this mean you do not support the other two clubhouse models in Tamworth and the Northern Beaches in NSW. Why is this?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The existing Clubhouses were funded some years ago.

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.

601. What was the number of suicides or homicides involving mental health patients within inpatient facilities during the last year by each Area Health Service?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The only suicide data in which a legal assessment of death as suicide is made is the ABS mortality data collection and in the NSW Coronial Records. However in both these collection there is no means of identifying the mental health status in terms of treatment, care or otherwise of the deceased person as a "mental health patient".

The number of suicide deaths in the legal (coroner) or statistical (ABS) sense involving a mental health patient therefore cannot be provided, as this information is not available/collected by the Department of Health.

The Department publishes information about suspected suicide deaths of mental health patients.

No reports of alleged homicide involving mental health patients within inpatient facilities were made to the Department in 2005/06.

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

602. What was the number of suicides or homicides involving mental health out-patients within 28 days of discharge from an inpatient facility during the past year by Area Health Service?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Department publishes information about suspected suicide deaths of mental health patients.

No reports of alleged homicide involving mental health out-patients within 28 days of discharge from an inpatient facility were made to the Department in 2005/06.

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.

603. What was the total number of, and rate of readmission for mental health patients readmitted within 28 days of discharge from the same hospital during the last financial year for acute patients? For sub acute patients?

ANSWER

I am advised:

I refer the Member to NSW Health 04/05 Annual Report.

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

604. What specific recommendations of the Select Committee Inquiry into Mental Health Services in NSW (Pezzutti Report) tabled in December 2002 were implemented during the last year?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Report of the Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiry into Mental Health Services in NSW (the Report) made some 120 recommendations

The Government's initial response to the report was tabled in the Parliament on 4 December 2003.

A number of key recommendations that are being implemented include:

- The enhancement of forensic mental health services, including the development of a new 135 bed maximum security forensic hospital under construction at Malabar;
- The review of the Mental Health Act; and
- The establishment of the NSW Mental Health Sentinel Events Review Committee, chaired by Professor Peter Baume.

A significant number of recommendations in the Report referred to co-ordinated service response across government agencies. Mental Health was therefore made a standing agenda item on the Human Services Committee of Cabinet. In July 2005, the NSW Interagency Action Plan for Mental Health was released and its implementation is being monitored through the Human Services Senior Officers Group on Mental Health.

The Mental Health Implementation Taskforce was formed to monitor the implementation of the Government Response to the Report. The Taskforce, chaired by Dr Brian Pezzutti, has expressed satisfaction with the implementation process.



605. What are the Government's plans for mental health services at Rozelle Hospital, Callan Park?

ANSWER

I am advised:

These are a matter of public record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Hatgis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "H".

606. How many new Housing Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) places became operational during the last financial year for people with a mental illness (as opposed to how many have been announced)?

ANSWER

I am advised:

460 Lower level Support and 126 High Support places became operational in 2005/06.

As at 30 June 2006 over 700 High and Lower level HASI places were operational.

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

607. What action has the Government specifically taken during the last year to deal with the epidemic of drug induced psychosis, especially in young people?

ANSWER


I refer the Honourable Member to the publicly available information on this matter, including publicly available press releases, speeches and statements to the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Harty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

608. What proportion of complaints before the Health Care Complaints Commission during the past year related to mental health issues?

ANSWER

This information is available in the Health Care Complaints Commission Annual Report.

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

609. According to January 2006 Productivity Commission figures, NSW has 86 (FTE) direct care staff employed in specialised mental health services, by service setting, per 100,000 people, the worst record of all the states with the national average at 93.3. Why do you think NSW is lagging behind the other states?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Government made a submission to the Productivity Commission and I refer the Member to this submission which is available on the Productivity Commission website.

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

610. Mental Health patients comprise about 12% (04-05 Budget Paper No 3 Vol 1 pg 9-7) of patients within the NSW Health Department yet why will mental health only receive 8.0% (06-07 Budget Paper No 3 Volume 2 pg 10-9) of the total health budget?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The lemma Government's 2006/2007 mental health budget is now at a record \$946 million which represents an 11 percent increase on last years budget and is almost three times that of the 1994/1995 mental health budget.

The Premier also announced a near \$1 billion new direction for mental health plan over the next five years details of which are available on the NSW Health website.

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.