



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

### **Supplementary Questions on Notice**

#### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

Education

Wednesday 10 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Monday 5 November 2012

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**  
**Telephone 9230 2412**  
**Fax 9230 2981**  
**[budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

## Questions from the Hon. Helen Westwood, MLC

1. In relation to the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan:
  - a. Why was the funding of \$24.45 million allocated in 2011/12 not spent?
  - b. Will the 2011/12 funding be rolled over into 2012/13, and if so what is the total funding for 2012/13?
  - c. Is the Government still committed to spending \$261 million in total on this plan, and if so where will the underspend in 2011/12 be made up?
  - d. Will the 2011/12 underspend mean the Plan will take longer than the 5 years to implement?
2. How much funding has been allocated to the Best Start Initiative for the 2012/13 year?
3. Will the Government maintain the existing 120 FTE Literacy and Numeracy Leaders as part of the Best Start Programme in addition to the 120 FTE for the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan?
4. Can the Minister confirm that the government schools' share of the 200 literacy and numeracy teachers or equivalent of FTE will be in place in schools by the end of 2012, and can you advise which schools have benefited, or will benefit, from these positions?
5. Can the Minister advise how the 120 teachers or equivalent of FTE are going to be used to improve the literacy and numeracy performance of students?
6. Is the Government committed to keeping the Reading Recovery programme?
7. What is the allocation for the Transition to Year 7 Initiative for 2012/13, and given the Minister has said that year 7 literacy and numeracy is an area where more improvement is needed, will the Government increase funding for the Transition to Year 7 initiative?
8. How do you intend to meet the estimated growth in enrolment over the next 15 – 20 years, given the Department of Education and Communities' submission to the Gonski Review estimated NSW would need approximately 400 new schools, of which 257 would be government schools in the next 15 years?
9. What are the Government's proposals for class sizes after 2016 given the Minister advised the SMH on 4 October that he only supports the current class size policy till 2016?
10. Does the Department have a policy about how many demountables are acceptable on a schools site?
11. Is the Infrastructure NSW Report correct when it states that 29 schools are expected to be built over the next 10 years?
12. Will schools that exceed their relief teacher budget continue to receive supplementation so that teaching programs at schools are not compromised?

13. Were all supplementation requests received for the 2011 school year paid in full and if not which schools did not have their supplementation request paid in full?
14. Will any additional funding be provided to implement any recommendations arising from the Great Teaching Inspired Learning Discussion paper?
15. Are there any plans to limit the number of practicum places?
16. Are there any plans to make accreditation mandatory for all teachers in NSW government schools?
17. How does the department monitor that teachers accredited after 1 October 2004 undertake the required 100 hours of professional learning over every 5 year period?
18. Will the Support for Beginning Teachers initiative continue for 2012-13 and how much funding will be allocated to the initiative in 2012-13?
19. Has the Rural Education Action Plan been finalised?
20. What new funding has been allocated to implement the plan?
21. What have been the outcomes so far from the agreement the Minister negotiated between State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers to make rural education a priority of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood?
22. In the 2012/13 Budget over \$123m is allocated for minor school infrastructure upgrades. What is the process for determining which schools receive funding from this source?
23. Which schools have received funding for minor school infrastructure upgrades in 2012/13?
24. What progress has been made with building a new high school at Medowie?
25. What progress has been made with building a new high school at Kellyville Ridge?
26. What funding will be provided to upgrade Rutherford Technology High School given it was built to cater for 800 students and now has over 1200 enrolled?
27. When will the demountables at Hunter River Community School be replaced given parents have said they are in "horrid disrepair"?
28. How much funding has been allocated for the Hurstville Public School Upgrade for 2012/13, what is the scope of works and what is the estimated total cost of the project?
29. Will Yamba Public School receive funding to air-condition its classrooms as promised by the Government?

30. How will the department keep track of heaters that need replacing and what is the cost of such monitoring?
31. How much has been allocated for school maintenance for 2012/13 and why is this information no longer provided in the Budget Papers?
32. How much of the \$40m 4 year public school upgrade fund has been allocated in 2011/12 and in 2012/13?
33. Is this funding included in the overall maintenance funding figure?
34. Which schools received funding in 2011 from the public school upgrade fund and for what projects?
35. Which schools received funding in 2012 from the public school upgrade fund and for what projects?
36. What is being done to ensure that all schools in NSW implement best-practice sun protection measures?
37. Is the Department currently reviewing the Protection from the Sun guidelines, what is the process for review, and when will it be completed?
38. How many positions will be lost at the Board of Studies as a result of saving measures?
39. What will be cut from Curriculum Development and Support at the Board of Studies to accommodate the reduction in its budget of nearly \$2 million or 14% in 2012/13?
40. Are there any plans to change the HSC English exams?
41. Why do the 2012/13 Budget papers no longer include employees FTE, and a breakdown of employee related expenses and grants and subsidies in the Service Group Statements, as was provided in the 2011/12 Budget papers?
42. What are the employees FTE, employee related expenses and grants and subsidies for each of the Service Groups in 2012/13?
43. What are the savings in both dollar and FTE terms from the Functional Realignment of the Public Schools Portfolio?
44. What are the savings in both dollar and FTE terms from the restructure of the Regions?
45. Have all teachers' salaries been excluded from calculating the Labour Expense Cap impact for Education?

46. Will the L3 Literacy Programme and the TEN numeracy programmes continue?
47. When will the Review regarding the effectiveness of literacy and numeracy intervention strategies in the early years be completed and will it be released publicly?
48. How many times has the NSW Schools Advisory Council met since it was established at the end of last year?
49. Have there been any discussions with the Shooters and Fishers Party regarding the expansion of shooting as a school sport or classes involving firearms for schools in NSW since the 2011 Budget Estimates hearing?
50. How does the Department of Education and Communities monitor whether government schools are meeting the requirement to develop individual education plans for school aged children and young people in care?
51. What FTE is dedicated to developing policy and programmes to address bullying under the new State office structure and how does this compare to what was available under the previous structure?
52. Will the Resource Allocation Model provide for a funding per student amount that continues to increase while ever student numbers at a school increase?
53. What is the forecast of number of primary students based on given it is only expected to grow by 51 students when it grew by more than 3600 between 2010 and 2011 and more than 1200 between 2009 and 2010?
54. Why was the budget for Primary Education services underspent by more than \$87m in 2011/12?
55. In relation to public preschools:
  - a. What was total number of enrolments in public preschools in 2012 as compared to 2011?
  - b. How has the introduction of fees at public preschools affected the number of days for which children are being enrolled per week?
  - c. How much revenue will the Government receive as a result of charging fees at public preschools in 2012?
56. How much funding is provided for teacher professional development in 2012/13 and how much of this funding is provided directly to schools?

57. How many Teachers Aides were there as at the end of Term 2, 2012, on a region by region breakdown?
58. How many students are currently enrolled in TAFE Fine Arts courses in NSW?
59. How many continuing students are enrolled in TAFE courses that will not complete until 2013 and will these students when they re-enrol for 2013 be charged commercial fees?
60. What is the evidence for the claim that job prospects and completion rates are low in TAFE Fine Arts courses? Will this information be made available?
61. The "Smart and Skilled" discussion paper says that the capacity of the vocational education and training system needs to be improved – how does reducing TAFE's budget, cutting TAFE staff and increasing TAFE fees achieve this?
62. What analysis or modelling was undertaken to assess the impact of increasing TAFE fees and reducing staff on the number of people undertaking vocational education and training? Will this information be made available?
63. What will be the estimated impact on annual student hours of increased fees and reduction in TAFE staff?
64. Why have TAFE teachers not been quarantined from the staff cuts in the same way school teachers have been?
65. Which areas will the 800 positions to be cut from TAFE come from?
66. Will you quarantine apprenticeships and traineeships in skills shortages areas from the cuts in TAFE?
67. Will you guarantee that smaller TAFE campuses in regional and rural NSW won't be closed as a result of your cuts?
68. How will it be determined which Fine Arts areas have predicted job growth and so continue to receive government subsidised fees? Will this information be made available?
69. How will cutting the funding for the Joint Group Training Scheme, which provides the additional support often necessary to achieve completion, help improve completion rates for apprentices and trainees?
70. What will be the impact of cutting the funding for the Joint Group Training Scheme on the more than 40 Group Training organisations across NSW?

71. How many of these Group Training organisations in regional and rural NSW will fold as a result of this loss of funding?
72. Will the Government rule out reductions in TAFE Outreach and Access and Equity programs as a result of its funding cuts to TAFE?
73. How many courses are either being cut or have enrolments reduced as a result of the Government's cuts to TAFE funding?
74. How many TAFE Institutes will now charge a fee to re-sit exams as a result of the budget cuts to TAFE?
75. Why, for the first time since 2009, has the Government forecast the number of people undertaking enrolments in TAFE diploma and above courses will decline in 2012 and what is the Government doing to increase the number of people undertaking higher level vocational training in NSW?
76. When will the Government announce its response to the Smart and Skilled discussion paper?
77. Will the Government rule out making all government funding for vocational education and training contestable?
78. Given the student concession fee is nearly doubling from 1 January 2013, how will the Government ensure this doesn't reduce the number of more disadvantaged members of the community from undertaking study at TAFE?
79. Why was the vocational education and training budget underspent by more than \$119m in 2011/12?
80. Is the Government implementing the recommendation from the Report of the Commission of Audit to establish TAFE Institutes as separate corporate entities?
81. Has the NSW Implementation Plan for the National Partnership on Skills Reform been submitted? If not, when will it be submitted?
82. How many times has the International Education and Research Taskforce, announced in November last year, met?
83. When will the Action Plan being developed by the International Education and Research Taskforce be finalised?
84. How many apprentices and trainees commenced training in 2012 and how does this compare with 2011?

85. Did the government undertake any study or modelling to ascertain the impact of cutting the Joint Group Training Scheme before it cut funding from the Scheme?
86. Will cuts to this scheme and to TAFE teachers and staff, combined with the increase in fees for TAFE, result in fewer apprentices and trainees commencing or completing their training?
87. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
88. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?
89. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
90. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
91. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
92. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
93. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
94. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
95. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?
96. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
97. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?
98. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
99. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
100. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
101. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
102. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?



103. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
104. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
105. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
106. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
107. How many political advisors are in your office?
108. How many administration staff?
109. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
110. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
111. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?
112. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?
113. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?
114. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
115. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
116. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
117. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
118. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
119. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?
120. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
121. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
122. What is your Department's catering budget?

123. What is your Department's stationary budget?
124. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
125. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?
126. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
127. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
128. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
129. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
130. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?
131. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes:
  - a. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
  - b. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
  - c. On what date was the funding advanced?
  - d. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
  - e. Was any funding withheld or returned?
  - f. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
  - g. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
  - h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
132. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?
133. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
134. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?
135. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?
136. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews, is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then:
  - a. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?

- b. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
  - c. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
  - d. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
  - e. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
  - f. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
137. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
- a. kilometres travelled,
  - b. accommodation,
  - c. air fares,
  - d. meals/entertaining?
138. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
- a. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
  - b. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
139. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
- a. Are these meetings documented?
  - b. Who attends these meetings?
140. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
141. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then:
- a. Who conducted the training?
  - b. When was it conducted?
  - c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
  - d. Who paid for the training?
142. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then:
- a. Who conducted the training?
  - b. When was it conducted?
  - c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
  - d. Who paid for the training?

143. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year? If yes:
- a. Which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?
  - b. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?
  - c. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
  - d. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?
144. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year? If yes:
- a. Which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?
  - b. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?
  - c. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

**End of questions from the Hon. Helen Westwood, MLC.**

## Questions from the Hon. Greg Donnelly, MLC

1. With respect to grants or other forms of financial assistance provided by agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio:
  - a. What organisations will receive grants or other financial assistance in 2012/13? (List all organisations where a decision has been made about their grant or other financial assistance.)
  - b. What is the amount of such grants or other financial assistance in 2012/13? Nominate if the amount of assistance is a one-off or permanent arrangement.
  - c. What were the stated purpose(s) given, for the use of the money, by the organisations who have successfully secured a grant or other forms of financial assistance?
2. How did Treasury arrive at the \$116 million figure that non-government schools will have to accept as cuts over the next four years?
3. If the GST payment to the state does not fall as predicted in 2013/14 or any subsequent year, will the cap that is being applied to non-government schools be lifted?
4. If state revenues improve faster than expected by 2016/17, will grant levels to non-government schools be restored to their 2012/13 levels in real terms?
5. Can the Minister confirm the Government's commitment to quarantining all category 12 (including special schools) funding from the funding cap, including category 12 students in mainstream non-government schools?
6. On page 13 of Hansard for the Education budget estimates hearing on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 you said with respect to the impact of the announced cuts on non-government schools: "I understand the impact we are talking about is less than 1 per cent of the revenues for non-government schools". On what basis do you make this statement?

**End of questions from the Hon. Greg Donnelly, MLC.**

## Questions from Dr John Kaye, MLC

1. Please provide specific details of measures being taken to substantiate his guarantee that TAFE NSW shall avoid the "disasters now confronting Victorian TAFE", as he foreshadowed on ABC radio in July 2012?
2. The "National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development" between the Commonwealth Government and the NSW State Government states in section 25 (d) that the reform direction shall:

*"enable the public providers to operate effectively in an environment of greater competition, recognising their important function in servicing the training needs of industry, regions and local communities, and their role that spans high level training and workforce development for industries and improved skill and job outcomes for disadvantaged learners and communities."*

- a. Please provide specific details about how the NSW government will achieve this agreement for the public education system TAFE?
3. Will the Minister for Education release the findings of the "Smart and Skilled – Making NSW Number One" consultation conducted in 2011?
  - a. If not, will the Minister provide reasons for his withholding of these findings.
4. Will the Minister indicate when the analysis of the "Smart and Skilled – Making NSW Number One" consultation, currently being conducted by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling will be:
  - a. Provided to his Department?
  - b. Made publicly available?
5. Prior to the 2011 NSW state election the Minister for Education signed a pledge to plan long term by investing in infrastructure for TAFE NSW. Will the Minister for Education explain what effect the withholding the findings of the "Smart and Skilled – Making NSW Number One" consultation has on the ability of TAFE NSW to undertake long term infrastructure, educational and financial planning?
6. Will the Minister for Education provide details of the number of TAFE NSW courses cut since the June 2012 announcement by Treasurer Mike Baird?
  - a. How many TAFE Institutes have made cuts to TAFE courses since June 2012?
  - b. What is the total number of courses cut?
  - c. How many TAFE students have been affected by these cuts to TAFE courses?
  - d. How many part time casual TAFE teachers have lost some or all of their work at TAFE since June 2012 due to these course cuts?
7. Prior to the 2011 State Election the Minister signed a pledge to increase permanent teaching positions in TAFE NSW.
  - a. Has the Minister kept this promise?

- b. Please provide information to substantiate any increase in numbers of permanent teachers TAFE teachers since the 2011 election?
8. Please explain why in relation to the NSW budget for 2012-13, TAFE NSW services and teachers are not treated as front line services?
9. In real terms (after allowing for projected CPI) what is the percentage increase or decrease in funding between the 2012-13 budget and the 2011-12 budget, in terms of actual expenses for TAFE NSW?
  - a. Please provide a breakdown of the plus/minus variations in real terms for each line item and program and provide reasons for the variation?
  - b. Please provide this information for the 2012/13 financial year and the forward years?
10. Are redundancies paid to TAFE staff reflected in the proposed expenditure in the 2012-13 NSW budget?
11. As a result of the O'Farrell government's reforms to TAFE NSW:
  - a. How many teaching positions will be permanently abolished?
  - b. From which areas of TAFE NSW will teaching positions be abolished?
12.
  - a. What revenue growth (in both dollar and percentage terms) has been built into the TAFE budget for:
    - i. 2012-13?
    - ii. 2013-14?
    - iii. 2014-15?
  - b. Do teaching staff and student enrolments projections identified in the 2012-13 financial year and forward years reflect this revenue growth?
13. Will the government provide any assistance or protection from the cuts to TAFE for areas of NSW of particular socio-economic disadvantage?
14. With respect to Mt Druitt TAFE Plumbing section, please provide the following data:
  - a. The full-time equivalent (FTE) number of apprentices receiving training services in the previous budget year.
  - b. The FTE number of apprentices expected to be receiving training services in the current budget year.
  - c. The budgeted and actual spending in the previous year
  - d. The budgeted spending for this year.
15. How much money has been collected from the introduction of public school preschool fees in 2012?
16. What were enrolment figures for NSW public preschools:
  - a. In 2011?
  - b. In 2012 to date?

17. What has been the value of preschool fee exemptions in 2012?
18. Does the Government intend to increase preschool fees for students in public preschools?
19. Will the implementation of the 'Local Schools, Local Decisions' policy lead to a further reduction in the level of funding and staffing, beyond the cuts already announced on September 11?
  - a. If so, what are the projected further savings?
20. In implementing the 'Local Schools, Local Decisions' policy, how will the Department of Education ensure that:
  - a. current permanent classroom teacher, executive and specialist teacher entitlements will be protected; and
  - b. there will be no reduction in the number of these positions?
21. The Department has indicated that none of the 229 schools which shall comprise the 'Local Schools, Local Decisions' pilot in 2013 will be financially disadvantaged as a result of employing higher cost teachers.
  - a. How much extra funding has the Department set aside to ensure that this will be the case?
22. What are the projected savings from allowing schools under 'Local Schools, Local Decisions' policy to make temporary appointments to permanent teaching, executive and specialist teaching positions?
23. Will class sizes be increased under 'Local Schools, Local Decisions' policy?
  - a. If so, what are the projected savings?
24. Can the Minister guarantee that under the government's 'Local Schools, Local Decisions' policy, no Principal will be forced to cut specialist teaching positions in order to ensure basic staffing is maintained in school budgets?
25. Can the Minister guarantee that no teacher librarians will lose their positions as a result of Local Schools, Local Decisions?
  - a. If not, why hasn't the Minister taken the decision to protect teacher librarians positions from being lost? And
  - b. How will the Department replace the work done by teacher librarians in schools where those positions are lost?
26. As mentioned in *NSW 2021*, will every Aboriginal student from Kindergarten to Year 12 in NSW have a personalised learning plan that addresses both literacy and numeracy outcomes?
  - a. How much funding has been budgeted to support the development of individual learning plans?
  - b. When will all individual learning plans be completed?



27. The Department has indicated that it is taking action to finalise the Functional Realignment of the Public Schools Portfolio and that the new structures and functions will be in place for the 2013 school year.
- What additional funding and support is allocated to schools to complete the work currently performed by staff whose positions are being abolished in the 1,800 job cuts announced on September 11?
28. Has the Functional Realignment of the Public Schools NSW Portfolio been factored into the 2012-13 budget and forward years?
- What level of savings (dollars and EFT terms) have been estimated to flow from the Realignment?
29. What is the percentage increase in school global budgets for 2012-13 and forward years?
- How much additional funding is being provided for short term relief and utilities?
  - How does additional funding compare with projected cost movements?
30. How much has been allowed in 2012-13 and forward years for teachers' salary increases in dollar and percentage terms?
31. It has been indicated that the Labour Expense Cap will reduce the rate of growth and avoid additional labour costs of around \$2.2 billion across all government agencies.
- What is the specific Labour Expense Cap for education and training services?
  - What does this equate to in terms of specific staff positions?
32. Is it true that the business case for LMBR is based on a saving of approximately 1,600 SASS positions in schools? When will these positions be removed and how is this factored into the Department's Budget? How many SASS positions will be removed from schools at the start of the 2013 school year?
33. The Minister for Education has previously stated that \$80 million would be required over 4 years to implement the new Board of Studies syllabuses in English, Mathematics, History and Science. How much money has actually been allocated for their implementation?
34. The Government has made significant cuts to the number of staff who currently support both professional learning and curriculum implementation. Please outline:
- The savings achieved by these cuts?
  - The funding which will be provided for a structured program of professional learning to support the implementation of the new syllabuses?
  - Whether or not professional learning will occur in school time?
35. In addition to professional learning opportunities, teachers will require both resources and additional time to ensure that the new syllabuses are implemented in a way that best supports the learning needs of students. Will the Minister outline how much funding has been allocated to meet this objective?
36. Implementation of the new syllabuses, particularly in primary schools, will require significant improvements in physical resources to ensure safe storage and teaching spaces as well as the

purchase of equipment and consumables. Will the Minister assure teachers that funds will be allocated to ensure there is a significant improvement in the physical and other resources necessary to implement the new syllabuses?

37. Can the government assure teachers in NSW that the cost of implementation of the new syllabuses will not be transferred directly to schools?
38. Will the government ensure that funding for consultancy positions will be restored to support syllabus implementation in NSW schools?
39.
  - a. What strategies have the Minister for Education and his Department initiated or continued, to ensure that the risks faced by transsexual and intersex young people who are affirming their true gender-identity, in relation to discrimination, vilification, victimisation and physical violence are minimised?
  - b. How are such strategies being adapted to ensure young people can experience a safe and secure school environment?
40. What data was relied upon by the Minister for Education, to justify cutting the Arts education budget on the grounds that "Fine Arts, whilst valued by the community, are areas of low employment growth"?
41. The NSW Commission for Children and Young People has consistently recommended that the ratio of school counsellors to students in Government schools be improved to 1:500.
  - a. What is the current ratio of school counsellors to students in Government schools?
  - b. Will the Minister guarantee that school counsellors are classified as 'front-line' staff, and that there will be no cuts to funding for these positions?
  - c. As the Minister is aware, the Department of Education and Communities commenced a review of school counselling services available to NSW public schools in 2011.
    - i. What is the status of this review?
    - ii. Will the report on the review be publicly available?
    - iii. If so when? If not why, not?
42. To date, how many P6 schools have been told by the Department that they will be closed in 2013? Please provide a list of those schools. Please indicate which schools will be closed permanently and which schools will be "in recess" in 2013.
43. Can the Minister confirm whether it is Departmental policy that, despite provisions in the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act, families do not have the right to determine who can share sensitive and personal health information within the NSW public school system?
  - a. If yes, is it true that the same applies for students' counselling records?
44. Are there any plans to amend the policy that refuses families the right to determine who can share sensitive and personal health information within the NSW public school system to reflect the intentions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act?

- a. If not, why not?
  - b. If yes, please outline what steps have been taken.
45. What steps has the Minister taken to protect the Adult and Community Education industry in NSW from damaging entitlements based funding reforms like that experienced in Victoria?
46. A letter sent to John Kaye by Mr Piccoli (reference number: RML12/4949, dated 09/10/12) regarding Adult and Community Education, states that Victoria's experience with vocational education and training reform will be considered in developing the government's approach to reform.
- a. In what way will Victoria's experience be an influence?
  - b. Has the government identified any particular positive or negative developments in Victoria that will be appropriated here in NSW?
47. Can the Minister confirm what the current staffing arrangements are for the nine teacher/consultant for students with disabilities in the South Western Sydney TAFE Institute and in particular can the Minister confirm whether it is true that:
- a. The Teacher/Consultant for students who are deaf and hearing impaired position based at Padstow College has been temporarily filled for 9 years and was recently reduced to 0.5 position with no consultation, change in student numbers or workload.
  - b. The 0.5 Teacher/Consultant for students who have psychiatric disabilities position based at Bankstown College has also been temporarily filled for 9 years.
  - c. The Teacher/Consultant for students who are deaf and hearing impaired position based at Miller College has been temporarily filled for 7 years.
  - d. Two Teacher/Consultants for students who are blind or have vision impairments retired last term with ample notice. One position has been temporarily filled. The other remains vacant.
  - e. The Teacher/Consultant for students who have physical disabilities position at Granville has been temporarily filled for 3 years with casual employees with no qualifications or experience in working with students with physical disabilities. This position was reduced to 0.5 on the advice of the teacher returning from maternity leave.
  - f. There have been no Expressions of Interest (EOI) for these positions since the current manager has been in the position (6 years). Casual employees are instead directly appointed on temporary contracts regardless of qualifications or experience.
  - g. These positions are now renewed on a term by term basis offering no stability to the casual employees acting in the positions and no stability for students with disabilities. These casual employees are contributing to a large extent to the future directions of the disability units at South Western Sydney TAFE Institute.
  - h. Can the Minister confirm whether or not these nine positions are supposed to be permanent positions?
  - i. If yes, what has caused the delay in filling these positions permanently and what steps have you taken to ensure that they are filled as soon as possible?
48. For each of the following equity programs in NSW public schools, please provide the budgeted amount and the expenditure for the previous budget year and the budgeted amount for this budget year:

- a. Priority Action Program
- b. Priority Schools Funding Program

49. For each of the following items of expenditure within the Non-Government Schools service group, please provide the budgeted amount and the expenditure for each of the four previous budget years and the budgeted amount for this budget year:

- a. Operating expenses
- b. Interest subsidies on loans for approved building projects
- c. Conveyance of school children
- d. Grants to organisations
- e. Per capita pupil allowances to primary schools
- f. Per capita pupil allowances to secondary schools
- g. Textbook allowances
- h. Living away from home allowances
- i. Other (please explain)

**End of questions from Dr John Kaye, MLC.**