

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions relating to the portfolio of Citizenship and Communities and Aboriginal Affairs

Questions from the Hon Jan Barham MLC

1. Aboriginal Affairs Budget

- a. Can the Minister explain the total budget for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, specifically why and how the figure of \$21.9 million announced by the Minister in his media release following the September NSW Budget varies from the \$26.8 million allocated under the relevant service groups within the Department of Human Services in the September 2011 Budget Papers?
 - i. What are the specific line items that explain the difference between the two figures, and their amounts?
- b. The Aboriginal Affairs budget in 2010/11 was \$26.93 million and the 2011/12 budget is \$22.96 million. What areas within the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio received cuts in the 2011/12 budget?
 - i. What are the specific line items and their amounts?
- c. Recent budgets have seen the end of the Aboriginal Community Development Program (ACDP), a capital construction and upgrade program to raise the health and living standards of Aboriginal communities with urgent environmental health needs. What evaluations of the success of this program have been considered by the Minister?
 - i. Are these evaluations available?

Answer

The Department of Human Services Budget papers outlined projected expenditure for the 2010-11 year with the figure of \$26.8 million. The announcement following the NSW Budget detailed the allocation for 2011-12.

The reduction in recurrent funding to Aboriginal Affairs is consistent with forward estimates for 2011-12 approved by NSW Treasury when Aboriginal Affairs was part of the former Department of Human Services.

It is important to note that the NSW Treasury allocation of \$22.6 million is for the *Nett Cost of Service*. The allocation amount of \$21.9 million is the recurrent allocation which is more commonly used to plan expenditure.

The NSW Treasury recurrent allocation for 2011-12 is \$21.9 million which is approximately \$5 million less than the initial allocation for 2010-11 of \$26.8 million.

There were no cuts to ongoing programs in the 2011-12 budget allocations.

Items that reduced the overall allocation totalling \$6.724 million include:

- Completion in 2010-11 of funding for the ten year \$240 million Aboriginal Community Development Program. The completion of this program results in a reduction to the annual budget allocation to Aboriginal Affairs of \$5.281 million.
- Expiry of scheduled funding for components of the Commonwealth funded COAG Data Gaps programs and the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations funded Economic Development Officer Network program resulted in a further reduction to the 2011-12 allocation of \$0.788 million.
- Movement of \$655,000 funding for the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) from Aboriginal Affairs to other agencies to allow direct funding from these agencies.

Items that increased the overall allocation totalling \$1.676 million include:

- The amounts of \$773,000 derived from roll over funds from 2010-11 to continue components of the Data Gaps and Economic Development Officer Network program.
- Application by NSW Treasury of escalation costs of \$528,000 and an additional allocation of \$375,000 to evaluate Procurement Guidelines and Job Compacts.

Funding for the Aboriginal Community Development Program (ACDP) ceased in 2010-11. The evaluation of the ACDP was undertaken in two stages which were completed in September 2008 and September 2010 respectively.

Aboriginal Affairs is currently finalising a Summary Report combining the findings of two staged evaluation. It is intended that the Summary Report will be made available when completed.

2. Accountability of Aboriginal spending

- a. On what date did the Department of Aboriginal Affairs become the Office of Aboriginal Affairs?
- b. Does the Office of Aboriginal Affairs currently have a Director-General?
 - i. If not, what is the title of the most senior Aboriginal public servant, who has *primary* responsibility for representing Aboriginal people, in NSW?
- c. Does the current senior executive representative of AANSW current sit on the NSW Government CEO Group?
 - i. What is the most senior whole of government executive committee or group on which an Aboriginal person sits in NSW?
- d. What current processes are in place for agencies to report on Aboriginal spending?
- e. What current processes are in place to ensure evidence based Aboriginal spending?
- f. Is it currently a requirement for some or all CEO contracts to include targets and/or KPIs for Aboriginal Affairs spending, service delivery to Aboriginal people, and/ or Aboriginal employment within agencies?
 - i. Are these CEO contracts confidential?

- ii. If yes, what are the mechanisms for the CEOs to be held accountability for these targets?
- g. Given that the contracts for NSW agency heads have included Aboriginal KPIs for a number of years, what will the incoming Liberal Government do differently to avoid the failure of accountability referred to in recent reports by the NSW Ombudsman and the Auditor General?

Answer

Under the previous Government, the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs became an agency of the then Department of Human Services in 2009. As part of the *Public Sector Employment and Management (Departments and Ministers) Amendment Order 2011* the Office of Aboriginal Affairs was removed from the Department of Human Services and added to the Department of Education and Communities, as per Section 26. Specifically, as part of the NSW Office for Communities.

As an entity within the Department of Education and Communities, the Director General of Aboriginal Affairs is the Director General of the Department of Education and Communities.

The Chief Executive Officer of Aboriginal Affairs is the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Communities.

The most senior Aboriginal public servant is Mr James Christian, the General Manager of Aboriginal Affairs.

Dr Michele Bruniges as the Director General of Education and Communities represents Aboriginal Affairs and sits on the NSW CEO Group.

The Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs (the Taskforce) established by the NSW Government includes Aboriginal people, including the General Manager of Aboriginal Affairs.

The Taskforce includes senior NSW Ministers, the Director Generals of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Education and Communities, a representative from the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) and independent Aboriginal advisors specialising in education and employment, as recommended by the Auditor General.

The Taskforce will develop a strategy to deliver concrete reforms in NSW guided by the following Terms of Reference:

1. to Improve service delivery and accountability in Aboriginal affairs, with particular consideration of the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on *Two Ways Together*, and other arising reports;
2. to Improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW; and
3. to Improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

Critical issues such as juvenile detention rates, health and housing will be considered through the framework of education and employment, as these are the two areas that have been identified as vital to achieving generational change. Effective reform in education and employment will help to reduce many of these problems.

Responses to Questions d. to f. are matters for the Premier.

3. Aboriginal employment and staffing levels

- a. How many staff are currently employed by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs?
- b. How many staff were employed in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs last year?
- c. If there is a discrepancy, for what reasons are there more or less staff employed in 2010 than in the current year?
- d. What is the current whole of Government Aboriginal employment target for the NSW public service?
- e. Do particular agencies have higher or lower Aboriginal employment targets?
 - i. If yes, specify
- f. What modelling or estimates does the NSW Government have or rely on, to determine the number of Aboriginal people that need to be placed in employment in order to meet the State Plan target of closing the gap in Aboriginal employment within a generation? What is the baseline to assess current Aboriginal employment rates, and how is this figure calculated?
 - i. Are there figures by region?
- g. What is the figure for the number of jobs for Aboriginal people that need to be created?
 - i. Over what time period?
- h. Has any evaluation been done of the Job Compacts program?
 - i. What are these evaluations and are they publicly available?
 - ii. How many Aboriginal people have gained employment as a result of this program?

Answer

As at 30 June 2010, Aboriginal Affairs employed 122 staff and as at 30 June 2011, 127 staff. The relatively minor change to the number of employees within Aboriginal Affairs is the result of the cessation or commencement of project based employment contracts that rely on external funding including funding from the Commonwealth.

The NSW Government is committed to meeting a target of 2.6% Aboriginal employment within the public sector by 2015 and the NSW Public Service Commission is responsible for monitoring departmental Aboriginal employment strategies.

The minimum target is 2.6% Aboriginal employment, however some agencies have voluntarily set higher targets. Monitoring individual agency targets or achievements under Aboriginal Employment Plans is a matter for the Premier.

A baseline evaluation of Job Compacts has been undertaken by Aboriginal Affairs and the report is being finalised. The NSW Government will make available further evaluation of the previous administration's Aboriginal job related programs.

The Job Compacts program aims to change the context of Aboriginal employment by encouraging the development of partnerships and networks between industry groups, businesses, community groups and Aboriginal job seekers through activities such as cultural awareness training, career expos, mentoring and specific skills training. The program does not seek to achieve a specific employment target.

The NSW Government uses a range of data sources with regard to current and desirable Aboriginal employment levels.

Projections for future Aboriginal employment across particular timeframes and regions are to be determined through Ministerial Taskforce process.

4. NSW Aboriginal Taskforce

- a. Who will the Aboriginal Affairs Ministerial Taskforce consult with to develop the Aboriginal Affairs draft policy strategy?
- b. What consultation will take place with Aboriginal communities in NSW in the development of the Aboriginal Affairs Ministerial Taskforce draft policy strategy?
- c. Who will undertake these consultations?
- d. What funding, if any, has been allocated to support the NSW Aboriginal Taskforce, for the 2011-2012 and any further financial years?
- e. What is the budget allocated to the Aboriginal Affairs Taskforce to carry out consultations with Aboriginal communities in NSW?
- f. How many staff have been employed to assist the Aboriginal Affairs Taskforce in the development of the Aboriginal Affairs Ministerial Taskforce draft policy strategy?
- g. How many of these staff are Aboriginal?
- h. What are the terms of reference of the Aboriginal Affairs Ministerial Taskforce?
- i. Were these terms of reference set up in response to the Audit Office's performance review of the Two Ways Together program released in May 2011?
- j. What process was undertaken to determine the members of the NSW Aboriginal Taskforce announced earlier this year?
- k. What is Noel Pearson's role on the Ministerial Taskforce?
 - i. What "special matters" will Noel Pearson be advising on?
 - ii. Is Noel Pearson a paid advisor?
 - iii. If so, how much is Noel Pearson being paid?

Answer

The Taskforce intends to consult with all interested Aboriginal communities and key stakeholders to develop a new strategy for Aboriginal Affairs.

The public consultation and submission process will be announced in December 2011 to provide opportunities to raise ideas, issues and solutions that will inform the Taskforce. This includes an online submission process and a series of Aboriginal community consultations to provide individuals an opportunity to contribute to the work of the Taskforce. This will commence in December 2011 and run through to February 2012.

The Taskforce membership includes a representative from the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations in NSW (CAPO) who will seek contributions from their members to inform the development of the new strategy for Aboriginal Affairs.

In addition, the Taskforce has independent Aboriginal advisors specialising in education and employment. These advisors are Mr Danny Lester, Chief Executive of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and Professor Shane Houston, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) of the University of Sydney.

The Aboriginal community consultations will be organised by Aboriginal Affairs.

The operating expenses of the Taskforce are being met from existing resources. One additional staff member has been recruited to work on the Taskforce. Additional officers for the Taskforce have been allocated from the existing Aboriginal Affairs staff base.

Three out of five staff working directly to support the Taskforce are Aboriginal.

The Taskforce has been established to produce a new Aboriginal affairs strategy. It will include concrete reforms around the following Terms of Reference:

1. to improve service delivery and accountability in Aboriginal affairs, with particular consideration of the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on *Two Ways Together*, and other arising reports;
2. to Improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW; and
3. to Improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

These Terms of Reference were developed in response to the Auditor General's audit of *Two Ways Together*.

Membership was determined with reference to the NSW Government's strong commitment to both:

- Aboriginal people having a strong voice in the development of a new strategy for Aboriginal Affairs; and
- Strong political leadership in realising opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Mr Pearson is not a Taskforce member. The NSW Ombudsman referred to the work of Mr Pearson in his recent report, "Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage: the need to do things differently" and therefore he will be consulted if Taskforce members require his expertise.

5. State Plan

- a. What process was undertaken to determine the Aboriginal targets in the NSW State Plan – NSW 2021?
- b. What consultation process was undertaken with Aboriginal organisations and community representatives to determine the Aboriginal targets in the NSW State Plan – NSW 2021?
- c. What scope is there to amend the targets in the State Plan, following the development by the Taskforce for Aboriginal Affairs of a new NSW Aboriginal Affairs strategy?
- d. The State Plan includes an overarching goal to 'close the life expectancy gap within a generation' (ie by 2036).
 - i. Is this goal linked to COAG targets?
 - ii. If yes, in what way?
- e. What data has the NSW Government commissioned, or does it intend to use, to measure progress towards closing the gap?
- f. Does the NSW Government intend to use data published in the Two Ways Together Indicator Report?
- g. What funding is available to meet the State Plan targets relating to supporting Aboriginal Green Teams and other Aboriginal groups working to protect and conserve natural environments?

- i. Out of which agency's budget is this to be funded?

Answer

The Aboriginal related targets in NSW 2021 are more comprehensive than those that featured in the State Plan of the previous administration. Indeed, addressing the needs of Aboriginal people is core business for all NSW Government agencies. Accordingly, the relevant government agencies were responsible for identifying Aboriginal targets relevant to their portfolios for the *NSW 2021* plan.

The consultation process undertaken to support the development of the *NSW 2021* plan was led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the ongoing work of Aboriginal Affairs with Aboriginal peak bodies also helped to inform the development of the targets. Aboriginal Affairs will work closely with the Department of Premier and Cabinet in relation to monitoring and reporting on Aboriginal targets.

The Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs has been established to produce a new strategy for Aboriginal Affairs in 2012. Implementing the strategy may require a realignment of targets.

The target in the *NSW 2021* plan to 'close the life expectancy gap within a generation' matches the targets contained within the COAG National Indigenous Reform Agreement. However, COAG has a target date of 2031 and *NSW 2021* has a target date of 2036.

The NSW Government uses a range of data sources to measure outcomes relating to closing the gap for life expectancy, including agency held administrative data, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census data and surveys such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

The NSW Government does intend to use data published in the *Two Ways Together Indicator Report* where that data is the most recently available.

Issues relating to g. are matters for the Minister for the Environment.

6. Bilateral Agreements between the State and Federal Government

- a. Was a new Overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs negotiated between the New South Wales Government and the Commonwealth Government?
- b. If yes:
 - i. will a copy of this agreement be made available to the Committee?
 - ii. what consultations, if any, had been held with Aboriginal people or their representative organisations on the content of the document?
- c. What other agreements relating to Aboriginal programs, funding and service delivery have been signed or are currently under negotiation between the Australian and NSW Governments?
- d. In particular, is an agreement regarding Closing the Gap under negotiation?
- e. Are these agreements publicly available?
- f. What consultation, if any, was undertaken with Aboriginal people regarding the content of any agreements currently being negotiated?

Answer

The *Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of New South Wales to Close the Gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disadvantage 2010-2015* (OBIP) was signed by the NSW Government in December 2010 and by the Australian Government in January 2011.

The content of this document was informed by priorities identified in the course of Aboriginal Affairs' ongoing work with Aboriginal communities and peak bodies.

This includes the following nine agreements:

1. The Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan between the Commonwealth and NSW to close the Gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disadvantage
2. The National Indigenous Reform Agreement
3. The National Partnership Agreement On Closing The Gap In Indigenous Health Outcomes
4. The National Partnership Agreement On Remote Indigenous Housing
5. The Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnership
6. The National Partnership Agreement On Remote Service Delivery
7. The Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership
8. The Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy
9. The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access

These agreements are publicly available.

A number of the above agreements are focused on Closing the Gap.

7. NSW Ombudsman's Report on Aboriginal Disadvantage Oct 2011

- a. Will the Government be making a formal response to the NSW Ombudsman's report, *Addressing Aboriginal Disadvantage: the need to do things differently?*
- b. When will the Government release its formal response to the NSW Ombudsman's report, *Addressing Aboriginal Disadvantage: the need to do things differently?*
- c. Will the Government be increasing support and allocating resources to Aboriginal peak bodies in light of recommendations within the NSW Ombudsman's report, *Addressing Aboriginal Disadvantage: the need to do things differently?*
- d. Will the Government support the establishment of a new accountability framework for addressing Aboriginal disadvantage in NSW?
 - i. If so, will such a plan be developed with Aboriginal peak bodies and communities in NSW?
- e. Will the Government establish a body with overall responsibility for improving Aboriginal employment outcomes and enhancing Aboriginal economic capacity?
- f. What other agreements relating to Aboriginal programs, funding and service delivery have been signed or are currently under negotiation between the Australian and NSW Governments?

Answer

The recommendations contained in the NSW Ombudsman's report are being considered as a component of the work program of the newly established Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs (the Taskforce).

The NSW Government's response to the Ombudsman's report will be reflected in the new strategy being developed by the Taskforce.

The Taskforce Terms of Reference include:

1. to improve service delivery and accountability in Aboriginal affairs, with particular consideration of the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on *Two Ways Together*, and other arising reports;
2. to Improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW; and
3. to Improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

These Terms of Reference were developed in response to the Auditor General's audit of *Two Ways Together*.

The NSW Government is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal communities. That is why a representative from the CAPO is a member of the Taskforce.

The following nine NSW and Australian Government agreements currently exist:

1. The Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan between the Commonwealth and NSW to close the Gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disadvantage
2. The National Indigenous Reform Agreement
3. The National Partnership Agreement On Closing The Gap In Indigenous Health Outcomes
4. The National Partnership Agreement On Remote Indigenous Housing
5. The Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnership
6. The National Partnership Agreement On Remote Service Delivery
7. The Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership
8. The Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy
9. National Partnership Agreement Remote Internet Access.

8. Aboriginal child sexual assault

- a. Is the Minister aware that the NSW Ombudsman reported in his report "Addressing Aboriginal disadvantage: the need to do things differently" that the evaluation of the \$22.9 million "Safe Families" program found the program was largely ineffective? Will the Minister be making the evaluation of this program public?
- b. At what date did the Safe Families program becoming fully staffed and operational in each of the five targeted communities?
- c. Did any delays in fully staffing the positions under the Safe Families program result in any budget savings?
 - i. If yes, how much money was saved and how was this reflected in future funding years?
 - ii. Was the funding rolled over or absorbed into other agency budgets?

- d. Will the NSW Minister be revisiting the recommendations of the "Breaking the Silence: Creating the Future" Report?
- e. Is it still the NSW Liberal Government's position, as expressed in the Legislative Council by the Hon Robyn Parker MLC on 8 November 2007, that all 88 of the recommendations of the "Breaking the Silence: Creating the Future" Report be implemented?
- f. Does the Minister consider the \$22 million which was allocated to the Safe Families to be inadequate, particularly given that it fell significantly short of the \$40 million recommended by the "Breaking the Silence: Creating the Future" Report?

Answer

The minister raised his serious concerns around child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities in correspondence which stated:

Further to the evaluation of the Safe Families program, as carried out by the NSW Ombudsman as well as various consultants, I would like to highlight a number of specific concerns.

In making these comments, I fully appreciate that, while the Office for Aboriginal Affairs is the lead agency for the Safe Families program, the delivery of the program is the responsibility predominately of the Department of Family and Community Services and Department of Health.

I am very concerned about the following:

- Limited evidence of the success of the program since its inception in 2008 (especially given the cost of the program);
- Concerns with the time that was taken for the program to begin operating, as well as issues with understaffing and staff with inadequate qualifications;
- The imbalance between the identified need and the level of case management reported;
- Duplication of services and a failure to effectively integrate them; and
- Failure of the Department of Family and Community Services to attract and retain staff.

In response to the NSW Ombudsman's report and the concerns the Minister raised with Aboriginal Affairs, partner agencies of the Safe Families program have re-engineered the service delivery model. The evaluation report has been made available to each of the funded agencies and the Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Police and the NSW Department of Health.

The evaluation identified recruitment and retention of suitably qualified staff as a key challenge for the program. At no time during the term of the program which began in 2008 under the previous Government, have all allocated positions within the Safe Families program been occupied simultaneously across the five targeted communities.

Aboriginal Affairs worked to achieve full staffing in October 2010 with the employment of a full-time Director, (located in Bourke), a Regional Manager and Community Engagement Officers for each of the locations. As a result of this effort, all locations are operational however some are lacking caseworkers and health worker supports.

Locations where the Safe Families program is operational include:

- Wilcannia – fully operational from July 2009, with one caseworker position vacant.
- Lightning Ridge – reopened March 2010 and is fully operational.
- Bourke – opened September 2010 with a full staff complement by October 2010.
- Walgett – opened December 2010 and has one Caseworker position vacant and no Health worker position.
- Brewarrina – Aboriginal Affairs Engagement Officer commenced October 2010 with the office opening in December 2010; Community Services and Health have been unable to recruit Caseworkers and Health worker positions.
- NSW Police have achieved a fully operational JIRT in Bourke that provides services across each of the Safe Families locations except Wilcannia which is serviced by Broken Hill JIRT. Vacancies still exist in Community Services caseworker positions.

The NSW Government is aware of these vacancies which date from 2008 and the need for reform action.

The delays in recruitment and other issues over the first 3 years (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) of the program have resulted in program under expenditure and the savings have been rolled over between budgets.

The under expenditure from the 2010-11 financial year was \$1.8 million across all partner agencies and the funds have been rolled over to implement the new Safe Families model which will include additional service support to be provided by non-government organisations.

The NSW Government has committed to developing a new policy framework to prevent and respond to child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities. All relevant reports will be used to inform the development of the framework, including *Breaking the Silence; Creating the Future*.

Breaking the Silence; Creating the Future contains 118 recommendations. The previous Government decided not to implement the bulk of those recommendations, but instead developed the *Interagency Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities* ('the Interagency Plan'). The Interagency Plan contains 88 actions. 90% of these recommendations have now been implemented. However, several have proven to be unfeasible and are not able to be implemented. The Interagency Plan concludes at the end of 2011.

The allocation of funding to the Safe Families program has been consistently underspent.

9. Stolen Wages/ Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme (ATFRS)

- a. Can the Minister provide an update on the number of direct and descendant claims which have been assessed
- b. What money has been provided to support the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme in the current budget? Under which agencies?
- c. Can the Minister provide an update on the number of direct and descendant claims which have been assessed since 30 June 2011?
- d. How much money has been paid out to claimants throughout the life of the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme? How many trust accounts have been identified by the ATFRS throughout the life of the scheme?

- e. As many Aboriginal people in NSW who may have legitimate claims to trust account monies were not aware of the AFTRS prior to the closing date for registration, will the NSW Government continue to fund a mechanism by which Aboriginal people to claim the trust monies owing to them?
- f. How much money is set aside for an evaluation of the workings of the AFTRS, and does this include funding for a publicly available report?
- g. The audited estimate of the value of money transferred to the Government in 196970 was between \$12 and \$70 million. Is it correct that even if the estimated \$15 million is paid out of the scheme by the time it ends the majority of the money will remain in State hands? What is the NSW government doing to work with the Indigenous community to develop a mechanism to pay back the rest of the money that will remain in State hands after the AFTRS concludes?

Answer

- a. The Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme has assessed 9061 claims of which 1181 were direct claims. The remainder were descendant claims.
- b. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has been provided \$553,784 to support the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme in the current financial year.
- c. All 618 claims outstanding as of 30 June 2011 have been assessed.
- d. As of 30 October 2011, ex-gratia payments totalling \$9,837,711.59 have been approved to 1564 claimants against 868 trust funds with balances requiring repayment.
- e. No - following a decision by the previous Government, applications under the Scheme closed on 31 May 2009.
- f. The Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme Panel will report to Government at the conclusion of the Scheme. There is no specific allocation for evaluation.
- g. No audited estimate of the value of money transferred to the Government was ever conducted and reported estimates of the value referred to in the question were not verified. All payments have been paid out of consolidated revenue.

10.Partnership Community Program (PCP)

- a. How much money has been spent on training, capacity development and employment for Aboriginal people as part of the delivery of the Partnership Community Program, to date?
- b. What is the total amount that has been spent on the PCP to date? How much of this has been spent on AANSW staff (wages) and consultants to AANSW? How much of this has been spent on direct grants to Aboriginal groups?
- c. How much money has budgeted for training, capacity development and employment for Aboriginal people as part of the delivery of the Partnership Community Program in 2011-2012?

- d. How much total funding has been allocated to review the PCP in 2011/12?
- e. How much of this has been allocated to consultation with Aboriginal communities in NSW?
- f. How will funding and service delivery be affected for Aboriginal communities who are not yet, or decline to become, Partnership Communities?
- g. Does the Government plan to continue the Partnership Community Program? If so, for how long?
- h. Will all 40 partnership communities be consulted as part of the PCP review?
- i. How will Aboriginal communities outside the 40 'partnership communities' be engaged/consulted about the future of the PCP?
- j. Is the Government aware of any concerns or concerns raised by Aboriginal groups and communities regarding consultation, funding, training and support for Aboriginal Partnership communities?
 - i. What are these?
 - ii. Will these be made public?
- k. Were the concerns raised by Aboriginal groups or communities reflected in the recent Auditor General's Report regarding Two Ways Together?
- l. How much money has each of the 40 Partnership Communities received in:
 - iii. 2007/08
 - iv. 2008/09
 - v. 2009/10
 - vi. 2010/11
- m. What are the restrictions on how the Partnership Community funding can be spent?
- n. How much money has been allocated towards the development and implementation of the 'Strengthening Wellbeing Toolkit' in
 - i. 2007/08
 - ii. 2008/09
 - iii. 2009/10
 - iv. 2010/11
- o. How much money is forecast to be spent on the 'Strengthening wellbeing toolkit' in 2011/12?

Answer

The Partnership Community Program (PCP) was established under the previous Government in 2008-09 as a basis for Aboriginal communities and government to work together. Support is provided for community based activities that include training and capacity development:

- The Community Solutions Fund provides financial assistance for activities that support communities to establish a community engagement body at \$120,000 per annum (\$3,000 for each of the 40 communities).

- Specific governance and training started in 2011-12 for recognised Partnership Communities. Aboriginal Affairs estimates that \$80,000 will be spent in 2011-12 to support these local plans.
- Staff are employed by Aboriginal Affairs in the delivery of the PCP. To date (end October 2011) \$7.6 million has been spent on salaries since the commencement of the program (2008-09).

To date (end October 2011), an estimated \$8.125 million has been spent on the PCP, including:

- \$7.6 million: Aboriginal Affairs employee expenses for the program to date since the commencement of the program (2008-09).
- \$165,000: consultants to deliver training for PCP Project Officers who commenced in 2009.
- \$360,000: Community Solutions Fund allocation per year is \$120,000 per annum (\$3,000 for each Partnership Community for 3 years).

\$80,000 is budgeted in the Community Solutions Fund for 2010-11 for training for community engagement bodies being delivered in 2011-12.

The NSW Government commenced an internal evaluation process in 2011 through which the executive are consulting with the Partnership Communities about the PCP.

All costs of the evaluation to date relate to consultation with Aboriginal communities. The costs consist of internal operating costs plus the cost of an independent, Aboriginal facilitator at \$21,450. Arrangements are being made to consult all Partnership Communities.

Resources for government programs and services continue to be available to all communities whether or not they are recognised under the PCP. Aboriginal Affairs continues to maintain a relationship and a presence in regional offices with those communities which are currently not Partnership Communities.

Funding from Treasury for the PCP has been allocated until 2013-14 and that decision was made by the previous Government. Consideration of any further funding is subject to an evaluation of the program to be considered in the 2014-15 Budget context.

The NSW Government has been made aware of a range of concerns raised by Aboriginal groups and communities and these have been made public through formal reports provided by the NSW Ombudsman and Auditor-General.

The Partnership Community Program commenced in 2008-2009:

- 2008-09: \$120,000 (\$3,000 for each of the 40 Partnership Communities).
- 2009-10: \$120,000 (\$3,000 for each of the 40 Partnership Communities).
- 2010-11: \$120,000 (\$3,000 for each of the 40 Partnership Communities).

Resources are to support the setting up, training and recognition of the community engagement body as well as related community activities, venue hire and transport. All funding is provided under pre-determined guidelines to meet probity and accountability standards.

Following earlier research, the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) has lead responsibility for developing the Toolkit in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs. Aboriginal Affairs provided funding contributions to OEH for the development of the Toolkit:

- 2007-08: nil.
- 2008-09: nil.
- 2009-10: \$30,000
- 2010-11: \$30,000.

Nil funds were budgeted for by Aboriginal Affairs for 2011-2012 for development of the Strengthening Wellbeing Toolkit.

11. Aboriginal Languages

- a. What is the total amount of funding allocated to support for Aboriginal languages in NSW, specifically for the year 2011-2012?
- b. Does this include the funding for the development of the Centre for Aboriginal Languages Coordination and Development?
- c. How is this figure calculated?
- d. Out of which NSW Government Agency budget is this funding provided?
- e. What funding programs are currently available to provide grants to Aboriginal organisations, to deliver Aboriginal language programs?
- f. What are the names of these programs and the amounts available, for each program?
- g. What was the amount of funding available to provide grants to Aboriginal organisations in the last financial year 2010-11, to deliver Aboriginal language programs?
- h. What are the names of these programs, and the amounts available, for each program?
- i. Is the amount of Aboriginal language funding available to Aboriginal groups or Aboriginal language programs increased or decreased from 2009-2010?
- j. If so by how much?
- k. What funding or other forms of support are available to deliver on the NSW State Plan commitment to increase access to Aboriginal languages by teaching Aboriginal languages in NSW Public Schools and TAFE Institutes, and offering Aboriginal languages programs at course and certificate level through TAFE Institutes?

Answer

The amount allocated in the Aboriginal Affairs budget for 2011-2012 to support Aboriginal languages in NSW is \$400,000.

This will provide funding for the Centre for Aboriginal Languages Coordination and Development Project (CALCD) which includes funding to support the establishment Aboriginal Language Centre and community based language projects.

Aboriginal Affairs currently funds the CALCD project via project funding which is administered by the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc (AECG) for three years from 2011-2012.

The CALCD funding agreement includes a total of \$600,000 for the establishment and operation of the Centre and a total of \$600,000 for community based Aboriginal languages projects over the three year period of the project.

In 2010-11, under the Aboriginal Communities Language Assistance Grants Program, a total of \$152,790 was provided to support Aboriginal language initiatives managed by the following organisations:

- Balranald Aboriginal Health Service: \$15,000
- Nar Ya Boo Larng Corp: \$10,000
- Port Stephens Family Support Service: \$16,000
- Parkes Wiradjuri Language Group: \$17,500
- Bourke Public School Bourke: \$20,000
- KARI Aboriginal Resources Inc: \$22,000
- Bangil Gamilroi Language Development Group: \$20,000
- Darawal Language Nest: \$10,000
- Gungarrimaa Aboriginal Corp: \$17,290
- Nar Ya Boo Larng Corp: \$5,000

The amount of Aboriginal language funding available to Aboriginal groups or Aboriginal language programs is consistent with 2009-2010 levels.

Aboriginal languages are being taught across the state through both public schools and the TAFE Institute. The funding associated with these programs are matters for the Minister for Education.

12. Review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act

- a. The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* states that the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* (ALRA) is to be reviewed "as soon as possible" after five years from date of assent of the 2006 amendments (4 December 2011). Given this, has the Government considered when the review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act will begin, and what will be the terms of reference and focus for the review?
- b. Has the Government considered who will conduct the review?
- c. Will Aboriginal organisations be asked for input into any terms of reference for the review?
- d. How will the review be funded?
- e. Is the Government planning any amendments to the ALRA ahead of the review report which must be completed and tabled in Parliament within 12 months (December 3 2012)?

Answer

A working group will be convened as soon as possible on or after 4 December 2011 to review the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALRA). The terms of reference will then be finalised.

This will be done in consultation with key stakeholders including the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

The review will be funded through the normal budgetary process.

There is no current plan to amend the ALRA prior to the review report. However, the Government continuously consults with key stakeholders with regard to legislative frameworks that affect Aboriginal people.

13. Aboriginal Youth Advisory Committee

- a. Does the NSW Government currently have an Aboriginal Youth Advisory Committee?
- b. If yes, what is the name of this committee and who are the current members? What is the current term?
- c. What is the process for groups or individuals to nominate or be selected? Is there a public advertising process?
- d. What budget has been allocated to support the Committee/s?

Answer

The NSW Government currently does not have an Aboriginal Youth Advisory Committee.

Aboriginal Affairs is currently working with the other divisions in the Office of Communities and key Aboriginal community stakeholders to determine a strategy on Aboriginal youth participation in decision making and provision of advice. Aboriginal youth leadership development has also been included as a key part of this work.

The NSW Government is currently working to revitalise Aboriginal youth participation, following the cessation of activity of YAPRR which dissolved during the administration of the previous Government.

14. LALC Housing complaints

- a. How many complaints has the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs received about Aboriginal housing provided by LALCs in 2010-11 and 2011-2012? What are the reasons for these complaints?
- b. How many complaints has the Registrar of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act received about Aboriginal housing provided by LALCs in 2010-11 and 2011-2012? What are the reasons for these complaints?

Answer

The number of representations regarding LALC housing issues for the 2010 to 2012 period total five. The matters of concern include repairs and maintenance, powers of the LALC CEO, rental arrears, tenant allocation and outsourcing to alternate housing providers.

The Registrar has received formal complaints about housing issues from four persons. The reasons are the same as those listed above. The Registrar has received a number of informal enquires in relation to housing. As they are informal, no records of these are kept.

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

15.Languages

- a. Can you explain why Dr Carmichael hasn't received any correspondence in response to the letter she handed to you at an event on 15 September 2011?
- b. What action will you take to ensure that genuine consultation occurs with the elders and custodians of language for each nation and that you ensure that the boundaries drawn for languages are right?

Answer

Dr Carmichael's correspondence was responded to on 8 November 2011. Dr Carmichael's correspondence referred to concerns about language boundaries, and the Minister has requested that the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc (AECG) consider and respond to these concerns.

Based on information provided by AECG, Aboriginal Affairs understands that the regional approach proposed by AECG is intended for operational purposes only. AECG's proposed operating model does not mean that a decision has been made on the creation of language boundaries or related cultural issues.

The language centre will be governed by an independent all Aboriginal Board. A function of the Board will be to ensure that community members are consulted and represented, and that important cultural issues are dealt with sensitively and respectfully.

16.Aboriginal Land Claims

- a. How many land claims are pending finalisation?
- b. How many land claim applications have been approved in the last financial year?
- c. How many land claim applications have been rejected in the last financial year?

Answer

During the last 11 years of the former Government 29,597 land claims were lodged and 3,685 were determined. Since 26 March, 782 land claims have been lodged in numerous locations across the State.

In the last financial year a total of 6 land claims were approved and 188 land claims were refused.

17.Heritage

- a. Isn't strengthening cultural attachment such as heritage just as important as preserving language in order to close the gap?
- b. What are you going to do about the destruction of a Aboriginal carving at Cromer?

Answer

Aboriginal culture, heritage and language are inextricably linked. Culture is defined through language, and language is defined by culture. To better understand what is required to develop Aboriginal languages in NSW, the NSW Government commissioned a study into cultural and linguistic education opportunities in NSW.

The NSW Government is currently leading a broad reform process for Aboriginal cultural and heritage legislation. Our objective is to develop options for the reform of Aboriginal heritage laws by September 2012, through extensive consultation with local communities, to rightfully modernise these laws in a way that the previous Government failed to do.

Issues relating to b. are matters for the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage.

18. Ministerial Taskforce for Aboriginal Affairs

- a. What money in the budget has been allocated to the Ministerial Taskforce and for what purposes? Please provide a breakdown.
- b. Will an initial progress report about the work of the Ministerial Taskforce be provided to the Ombudsman as well as being publically available by December 2011?
- c. Will the Draft Policy Strategy be complete and made publically available and to the Ombudsman by 30 June 2012?
- d. Why did you, in the 2011-12 budget, not publish an annual breakdown on indigenous expenditure across all portfolios and agencies, and compare this to the last 5 years?
- e. What is the total budget expenditure for all Aboriginal expenditure across all agencies and portfolios for 2011-12? Please provide a breakdown.
- f. How does this compare to last year's Aboriginal specific funding?
- g. When will you publish an annual breakdown of indigenous expenditure similar to the federal govt and calculate this against the previous five years?
- h. How much money has been set aside in the 2011-12 budget to combat child abuse? Can you give us a breakdown.
- i. Why is there a Budget decrease from \$26 to 22 million dollars?
- j. Can you explain the variation between the 2010 budget and 2011 budget?
- k. Explain why there is no net increase to your base budget for 2011-12, noting that the Aboriginal Communities Development Program for the 2011-12 has finalised.

Answer

All expenses relating to the Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs (the Taskforce) are being met from within existing resources.

The NSW Ombudsman met with members of the Taskforce on 9 November 2011 and will be kept informed of the Taskforce's progress.

A Taskforce webpage has been established, and provides up to date information on the progress of the Taskforce, including Taskforce meeting communiqués, media releases

from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and other relevant materials. The webpage address is <http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au/taskforce>.

The Taskforce will consult with the Aboriginal community and key stakeholders for a second time once the draft strategy has been created.

Overall responsibility for child protection including child protection matters for Aboriginal children is the responsibility of the Minister for Families and Community Services. Aboriginal Affairs leads the Safe Families program in cooperation with the Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Police and the NSW Department of Health and actively participates in the Keep Them Safe program. The Safe Families program has been funded for \$25 million over 4 years from 2008-09. Aboriginal Affairs will receive \$4.7 million over this time and the remainder of funding is allocated to the Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Police and NSW Department of Health.

The reduction in recurrent funding to Aboriginal Affairs is consistent with forward estimates for 2011-12 approved by NSW Treasury when Aboriginal Affairs was part of the former Department of Human Services. The NSW Treasury recurrent allocation for 2011-12 is \$21.9 million which is approximately \$5 million less than the initial allocation for 2010-2011 of \$26.8 million. The reduction is the result of a number of factors including:

- Completion in 2010-2011 of funding for the ten year \$240 million Aboriginal Community Development Program. The completion of this program results in a reduction to the annual budget allocation to Aboriginal Affairs of \$5.281m.
- Expiry of scheduled funding for components of the Commonwealth funded COAG Data Gaps programs and the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations funded Economic Development Officer Network program resulted in a further reduction to the 2011-2012 allocation of \$0.788 million.
- Movement of \$655 000 funding for the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) from Aboriginal Affairs to other agencies to allow direct funding from these agencies.
- The amounts of \$773,000 derived from roll over funds from 2010-11 and escalation costs of \$528,000 positively affected the 2011-12 allocation. Other minor adjustments accounting for all other differences.

The reduction in the budget allocation from 2010-11 to 2011-12 is the result of the completion in 2010-11 of funding for the \$240 million Aboriginal Community Development Program.

A range of adjustments to the forward estimates as detailed above impacted on the 2011-12 allocation. The amount of \$528,000 was added to the overall allocation to the agency as a cost escalation.

Issues relating to d. to g. are matters for the Treasurer.

19. Office for Aboriginal Affairs

- a. The Office for Aboriginal Affairs has been downgraded bureaucratically so that the CEO no longer directly reports to the Director General of Education and Communities. Do you think the CEO should have direct access to the Director General who makes recommendations to Government?

Answer

The General Manager of Aboriginal Affairs reports to the Chief Executive of the Office of Communities who in turn reports to the Director General of the Department of Education and Communities.

This reporting arrangement is consistent with the Government's reform agenda in terms of achieving overall efficiencies across government- a process also undertaken by the former Government.

The General Manager Aboriginal Affairs and the Director General Education and Communities co-chair the Senior Executive Committee, a sub committee of the Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs. The General Manager Aboriginal Affairs and the Director General Education and Communities are also members of the Ministerial Taskforce.

The General Manager has direct access to both the Minister and Director General of the Department of Education and Communities and meets with the position holder on a regular basis.

20.Preschool funding

- a. Following your Government's cuts to free public preschools, how will you ensure that Aboriginal children get adequate preschool education?
- b. How will the new fee structure work?
- c. Will you give an undertaking that Aboriginal people will be consulted on the implementation of this policy?
- d. How will you monitor participation rates of Aboriginal children in public preschools to make sure they are not disadvantaged by this policy?
- e. Please provide a breakdown for each program you are running in Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio, it's type, purpose and funding.
- f. Please provide a breakdown for each program you are running across all Government portfolio and agencies that support Aboriginal people and communities.
- g. For each program that is ongoing from 2010-11, please provide a comparison with last year's budget.

Answer

Issues relating to a. to d. are matters for the Minister for Education.

Issues relating to e. to g. are matters for the Treasurer.

21.Phones

- a. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?
- b. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- c. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

- d. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- e. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- f. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?
- g. How many have phones or devices have been lost in your office?
- h. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

Answer

a. to e. For all Ministerial Offices, there is a total of:

- i. Blackberries – 151
- ii. iPads – 19
- iii iPhones - 3

f. Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government from April 2011 to October 2011 spent a total of \$88,902. This compares with \$238,567 spent under the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

g. to h. For all Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government, there has been one stolen phone, which cost \$577 (ex GST) to replace.

22. Media and Public Relations

- a. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- b. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
- c. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer

- a. **Commission for Children and Young People:** has one officer whose role also includes both media and communications support to the policy, advocacy, research and WWCC functions of the Commission.
Community Relations Commission: has one media officer.
Office of Communities: has two media officers with responsibility for both the Citizenship and Communities and Sport and Recreation portfolios.
Aboriginal Affairs: has one officer with responsibility for public relations and media.
- b. There is no such forecast.
- c. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

23. Overseas Trips

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

Answer

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

24. Office Costs

- a. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
- b. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
- c. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
- d. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?
- e. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April?
- f. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
- g. What is your office budget?
- h. How many political advisors are in your office?
- i. How many administration staff?
- j. How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?
- k. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

Answer

a. to c. and h. to i. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

d. and g. Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set out to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

e. and f. The amount of \$1,930 was incurred as "make good" costs from the former occupants.

j. refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0681— Premier—DEPARTMENTAL LIASION OFFICERS, that details this information as at 7 August 2011.

k. each Minister is provided with a Ministerial driver, with the Premier provided with three Ministerial drivers.

25.Cabcharge

- a. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?

Answer

- a. For all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011.

This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

26.Restricture

- a. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
- b. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
- c. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
- d. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

Answer

No portfolio agencies are undergoing a restructure.

27.Agency Costs

- a. What is your agency's catering budget?
- b. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?
- c. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
- d. How much has been spent on stationary?

Answer

Catering

Aboriginal Affairs does not have a specific budget for catering. Catering is generally only provided for meetings with external stakeholders that occur over lunch time or are longer than 2 hours. These costs are met from the general operating budget.

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People (the Commission) catering budget for 2011-12 is \$5,000.

The NSW Community Relations Commission (CRC) long standing catering budget for 2011-12 is \$95,000. Over 70 per cent of this budget is allocated to the National Multicultural Marketing Awards which generates revenue to offset these and other associated costs.

The Office of Communities' indicative catering budget for 2011-12 is \$15,500 based on expenditure from 2010-11. The launch of Youth Week accounts for half of this budget and the remainder is used for meetings and workshops with external stakeholders.

Branding

As a result of the Administrative Orders issued by government, the former Communities NSW was abolished in April 2011 and the Office of Communities was established in the newly created Department of Education and Communities.

In response to these changes the Office of Communities updated its online stationery templates and updated its style guide. The rebranding was minimal and completed in-house by the Office of Communities.

With the exception of the CRC, all divisions and agencies within the Office of Communities changed its branding to meet these requirements.

Cost of Re-Branding

There are no costs to report.

Stationery

Linked to the re-branding efforts, the Office of Communities has spent \$10,992.63 on printing stationery such as business cards and letterheads since the former Department of Communities was abolished in April 2011. The Commission has spent \$722. Aboriginal Affairs and CRC report nil expenditure.

28. Correspondence

- a. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?
- b. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Answer

a. and b. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.

29. Paying bills on time

- a. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
- b. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?

Answer

Information about the payment of invoices can be found in Annual Reports, which are publicly available.

30.Grants to non-government organisations

- a. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
- b. If yes,
 - i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
 - iii. On what date was the funding advanced?
 - iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - v. Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - vi. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - vii. What is the indexation rate applied to non recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

Answer

a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs— LC 0464—Aboriginal Affairs, Citizenship and Communities—GRANTS TO NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

31.Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews

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

Answer

a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs – LC 0326—Aboriginal Affairs—FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AUDITS, TASKFORCES AND REVIEWS.

32.Parliamentary Secretary Hon Charlie Lynn MLC

- a. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
 - i. kilometres travelled
 - ii. accommodation,
 - iii. air fares
 - iv. meals/entertaining?
- b. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
 - i. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - ii. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- c. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
 - i. Are these meetings documented?
 - ii. Who attends these meetings?
- d. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
- e. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary?
- f. If so:
 - i. Who conducted the training?
 - ii. When was it conducted?
 - iii. Where was it conducted?
 - iv. What were the costs of the training?
 - v. Who paid for the training?
- g. Do you accept that a conflict of interest that exists with the Hon Charlie Lynn being the Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans Affairs given that he is a Director of Adventure Kokoda P/L (which conducts treks across the Kokoda Trail in PNG) and is actively involved in promoting that business?
- h. How to you manage this conflict of interest in order to ensure that Mr Lynn keeps his business interests separate from his duties as your Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer

a. The costs for my Parliamentary Secretaries were nil.

b. to d. Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; officiating at functions; and assisting the Premier and Ministers in some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Minister, or which have the Minister's endorsement.

e to f. The Office of Veteran Affairs has not incurred any expense for this purpose.

g. No

h. See above.