

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-13

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Questions relating to the portfolios of Finance and Services, The Illawarra
8 October 2012, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm**

Questions from Mr D. Shoebridge

Finance and Services

1. What consultation was undertaken by the Government before the costs amendments moved by the Hon Fred Nile to the workers compensation bill were supported by the Government?

Answer

The Government worked with employers, peak groups, individuals and employee representatives with regard to the workers compensation reforms. On 23 April 2012 the Government released an Issues Paper detailing the Scheme's failings when compared to its key aims, outlining seven key principles for the proposed reforms and some options for consideration.

A Joint Select Committee was established on 2 May 2012 to inquire into and report on the performance of the scheme in achieving its key objectives:

- Promoting better health and return-to-work outcomes;
- The financial sustainability of the scheme; and
- The functions and operations of the WorkCover Authority.

The Committee took evidence from a wide range of interested organisations and individuals and over 300 submissions were received and considered. Three full days of hearings were held at which 32 organisations and agencies were represented. The Committee's report was published on 13 June 2012.

The report of the Joint Select Committee and the seven key principles outlined in the Issues Paper, informed the Government's approach to reform the New South Wales workers compensation scheme.

2. Of the 353 submissions received by the Workers Compensation Scheme Inquiry, how many were opposed to cuts to benefits?

Answer

Information regarding the published submissions is available on the NSW Parliament website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au.

3. Of the 353 submissions received by the Workers Compensation Scheme Inquiry, how many supported cuts to benefits?

Answer

Information regarding the published submissions is available on the NSW Parliament website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au.

4. What is the current estimate for the scheme's deficit?

Answer

As at 31 December 2011, the independent actuary calculated the Scheme deficit at more than \$4.1 billion.

5. What are the current projections for the number of injured workers in receipt of:
a. Medical expenses as at 30/6/13?

Answer

This information is not yet available.

b. Weekly payments as at 30/6/13?

Answer

This information is not yet available.

6. How do the numbers in 5a and 5b differ from those in 30/07/12?

Answer

This information is not yet available.

7. How have return to work rates for the scheme changes over each of the Financial Years from 2002-2012?

Answer

I am advised that the Return to Work Rates have been relatively stable over that period.

8. What are the projected return to work rates for the 2013 Financial Year?

Answer

This information is not yet available.

9. Which WorkCover insurance companies currently undertaking claims management activities for claims in NSW outside of Australia?

Answer

The contracts between the scheme agents and the nominal insurer are commercial-in-confidence. Details of those contracts cannot be disclosed.

10. What data does the Department and/or WorkCover collect on the onshore or offshore practices of insurance companies who manage claims under the WorkCover system?

Answer

The contracts between the scheme agents and the nominal insurer are commercial-in-confidence. Details of those contracts cannot be disclosed.

11. What is the departmental and/or WorkCover policy regarding offshore management of workers compensation claims?

Answer

There is no formal WorkCover policy regarding offshore management of workers compensation claims.

12. Material on the WorkCover website claims that "The new workers' compensation scheme is helping injured employees return to health and work more quickly and to better look after those severely injured. Reforms will return the scheme to financial sustainability and significant premium increases of 28 per cent have been avoided." What evidence is available to support these claims?

Answer

The best protection for workers, employers, the community and the New South Wales economy is a financially sound Scheme focussed on returning injured workers to work where possible. Workers compensation insurance premiums were maintained at existing levels under the release of the June 2012 Insurance Premiums Order and were not increased by 28 per cent. The New South Wales Business Chamber had estimated the premium increase would have seen the loss of 12,600 jobs across the State.

The new legislation is focused on encouraging and assisting early return to work, and also providing better financial support for seriously injured workers. The reformed Scheme provides more generous benefits to the most seriously injured workers than the old Scheme and from 17 September 2012, seriously injured workers began receiving increased weekly benefits.

Under the reforms, the most seriously injured workers will be guaranteed a rate which is around 70 per cent more than the previous statutory rate. This means that seriously injured workers who were on the statutory rate of \$432.50 will have their benefits increased to \$736 per week.

Workers who lodge a claim on or after 1 October 2012, will receive benefits under the Scheme based on their pre-injury earnings and more closely aligned with their real earnings prior to injury.

The reforms are taking a holistic approach to facilitate improved return to work outcomes. It is well documented that if a worker does not return to work within the first 12 weeks of their injury, their prospects of ever returning to work is significantly decreased. Returning to work has social and economic benefits. It promotes quicker recovery and can reduce the risk of long term disability and loss of workplace productivity. The reforms include a number of actions to improve recovery and return to work including:

- Providing WorkCover inspectors with powers to issue legally binding notices to employers when they are not meeting their obligations to an injured worker.

WorkCover inspectors can now formally request an employer to provide suitable employment for a worker deemed fit to return to work. Penalties of up to \$11,000 apply for businesses that fail to meet injury management and return to work obligations.

- Creating financial incentives for injured workers to get back to work by addressing the benefit structure.
- Working with employers to build their skills and ability to help injured workers back into the workplace.

This includes the recently commenced *Return to Work Engagement with Workplaces* pilot program to assist injured workers to safely return to or stay at work. The program uses an integrated approach with WorkCover frontline field staff and executive staff, scheme insurance agents and brokers.

The aim of the program is to help businesses take more decisive action by providing suitable employment to injured workers and to keep the cost of workers compensation premiums down.

These actions complement WorkCover's ongoing activities to reduce the number of workplace injuries and also improve outcomes for injured workers including:

- The Focus on Industry Program is WorkCover's flagship work health and safety program to work with the New South Wales community to improve safety in the State's ten highest risk industries. The Focus on Industry Program is about working with employers to develop relevant and effective work health and safety improvements and sustainable injury management, return to work and workers compensation outcomes. It is further evidence of the New South Wales Government's commitment to work with industry and workers to stop workplace incidents before they happen.
- The Severe Injury Management Pilot Program, which is \$4 million program designed to give workers with severe and permanent injuries a better quality of life by providing them with Government-funded specialist case managers who have an enhanced understanding of their circumstances. In the past 12 months, 530 injured workers have been included in the Program, which has received positive feedback from a number of workers and their families about the improvements in the way their claim is now being managed. The Program is assisting severely injured workers to participate more in their community and reach their maximum potential.

13. Are you aware insurers are using the changes to the workers compensation scheme in their advertising of income protection and related products?

Answer

I am advised that this is the case.

14. What are the implications of this for those who cannot afford such insurance?

Answer

Workers compensation continues to provide a range of benefits designed to encourage injured workers to recover and return to work, and to support seriously injured workers who are unable to return to work. These benefits include weekly payments, reasonably necessary medical treatment and associated costs, rehabilitation, and lump sum payments for whole person impairment.

In addition, workers who are not covered by workers compensation may be covered by other insurance arrangements including for example compensation under the Compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme.

15. What modelling has been carried out about the impact of the changes to the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme on the private insurance market in NSW?

Answer

This information is commercial-in-confidence and cannot be disclosed.

Questions from Dr J. Kaye

Finance and Services

1. It is noted that Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) is using a new model for demand-supply planning (iSDP) which was recently funded by the National Water Commission and involved ISF and WSAA.

- a) Can HWC explain what the new modelling shows in terms of supply-demand for the Hunter and future planning?
- b) Can HWC state what the average water consumption figures have been for the last 5 years?
- c) What are HWC's water consumption predictions for 2030 and 2050?
- d) What does HWC now estimate the Lower Hunter's supply (yield) to be?
- e) Do the demand-supply figures indicate that no new dam will be needed in the Hunter?
- f) What emphasis will be placed on demand management and water conservation strategies with the new modelling?

Answer

a) Planning for water security in the Hunter Region is being carried out through the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan.

The Hunter Water forecast model is currently being independently peer reviewed.

b) The average water consumption figures are available in Hunter Water's Annual Reports.

c) Refer answer to 1(a) – the forecasting model is pending peer review

d) This work is in progress and results are not yet available.

e) The demand and supply figures will be considered as part of the Lower Hunter Water Plan once they have been peer reviewed.

f) Demand management and water conservation strategies are important measures in the demand/supply balance, and will be considered as part of the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan.

2. The NSW Government has a policy that Tillegra Dam will not be built and has given a commitment to sell the land in the Tillegra precinct. On p91 of its 2010-2011 Annual Report, Code description, 3, Hunter Water Corporation stated that land not currently used but fully required for future integral needs was 55 properties and \$75.738m.

- a) Does this refer to the Tillegra precinct?
- b) Can HWC state why, in its assets held for sale (same doc), p51, this same land is not listed for sale, when the NSW Government has given a commitment to sell the Tillegra lands?

Answer

- a) The Tillegra Precinct was included, amongst other operational lands.
 - b) The Tillegra precinct properties did not meet the reporting requirements as at the date of the 2010/11 report.
3. In the 2010/11 Hunter Water Corporation Annual Report, the corporation wrote off approximately \$25m of Tillegra expenses.
- a) Are there any more Tillegra expenses to be written off?
 - b) Will any of these costs be passed on to Hunter customers in higher rates?
 - c) If yes, why should these costs be passed on to Hunter ratepayers when it was a political decision to build Tillegra Dam?

Answer

- a) There may be potential for further asset revaluations and/or write downs directly relating to Tillegra land sales.
 - b) No
 - c) N/A
4. Given that the NSW Government has given a commitment that Tillegra Dam won't be built and that the Tillegra lands will be sold:
- a) How can Hunter Water Corporation explain the option of another dam on the Tillegra site?
 - b) Why has this option never appeared in HWC's previous planning documents?

Answer

- a) Through the Lower Hunter Water Planning process, a range of options are being considered except the previously rejected Tillegra Dam.
- b) Development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan, is a new process established by the Government and led by the Metropolitan Water Directorate.

5. We are all aware that land values have dropped significantly in recent times. Will Hunter Water Corporation be writing down the land held for resale in the Tillegra precinct?

Answer

Hunter Water undertakes periodic property revaluations in accordance with Treasury Policy Paper – TPP07-1 'Valuation of physical non-current assets at fair value'.

6. Hunter Water Corporation has purchased land at Mammy Johnson's Creek over the years. What does HWC intend to do with this land?

Answer

Hunter Water has no immediate plans for these rural land holdings.

7. A Report to the Hunter Water Corporation Board of Directors (24 February, October 2011 Parliamentary subpoenaed papers) demonstrated that HWC *'is developing a project plan for its contributions to the Lower Hunter Water Plan that includes a clear scope of works, critical path actions, project budgeting and resourcing.'*

- a) Can HWC detail what it has currently spent on 'options' for the new Lower Hunter Water Plan?
- b) Can HWC detail the breakdown of costs for each option?
- c) What consultants were/have been employed on Lower Hunter Water Plan options?
- d) Why did HWC embark on exploring/spending public money on a suite of options before canvassing the Hunter community on what it was prepared to pay for and before the new Lower Hunter Water panel was formed?

Answer

(a) and b) Development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan, is a new process established by the Government and led by the Metropolitan Water Directorate. Hunter Water's contribution is only part of a broader program of work, and the costs of looking at options for the Plan varies according to several factors, including technical complexity.

c) Consultants engaged (over the value of \$50,000) are published in Hunter Water and the Department of Finance and Services' Annual Report.

d) The Metropolitan Water Directorate, within the Department of Finance and Services, is leading the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan, in consultation with Hunter Water, government agencies, stakeholders and the community. Technical information on a range of possible supply and demand options and alternatives is necessary so that they can be discussed with the community as part of the extensive consultation process.

8. It has been suggested by independent water planners that by implementing water conservation and demand management programs, similar to those currently in place in Sydney, all future water needs of the Lower Hunter region can be adequately met for many decades to come. This strategy still accounts for the high-end prediction of population growth in the Lower Hunter region. Can Hunter Water Corporation comment on this statement?

Answer

Water conservation and demand management are being considered by the Metropolitan Water Directorate as an integral part of the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan.

9. There is currently a one in one million chance of reaching critical storage levels in the Hunter. Hunter Water Corporation has now stated that it is prepared to accept some risk.

- a) Can HWC explain what level of risk it is prepared to take?
- b) How has 'risk' been determined?
- c) How will HWC manage 'risk' in the Lower Hunter?

Answer

a) b) c) - All these matters are being explored by the Metropolitan Water Directorate as part of the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan. The plan seeks to ensure water security for the lower Hunter region in the medium to long term, and is being developed in close consultation with the community.

10. Community-based research has shown residents are ready to take up opportunities to save water if supported to do so. There have also been shown to be sizable, money saving opportunities for business to significantly reduce potable water use without changing work practices, through the installation of water saving appliances and local reuse and rainwater storage facilities.

- a) Can Hunter Water Corporation comment on what it is doing in these areas to change community/business practices?
- b) What expenditure is involved?

Answer

- a) Hunter Water promotes both residential and business water efficiency initiatives.
- b) The 2012-13 budget for water efficiency initiatives is \$240,000.

11. Hunter Water Corporation has an appalling track record on recycling sewage.

- a) How does HWC now compare with other 12 Australian metropolitan supply authorities?
- b) What emphasis will HWC be placing on wastewater strategies in the new Lower Hunter Water Plan?
- c) How will this compare in percentage terms with other options?

Answer

- a) HWC disputes the premise of the question. I refer you to the National Performance Report (2010-11) for Urban Water Utilities reported by the National Water Commission which shows HWC is a leader in recycling sewage.
- b) Wastewater recycling will be addressed by the Metropolitan Water Directorate in developing the Lower Hunter Water Plan, in close consultation with the community.
- c) It is premature to identify any percentage at this time, as this will depend on the outcomes of the Lower Hunter Water Plan process.

12. What percentage of Hunter ratepayers are on partial payments for their water bills?

Answer

1.7%

13. How will Hunter Water Corporation implement the National Urban Water principles, specifically, relating to selecting water sources which will result in the lowest environmental, social and economic costs over the long term?

Answer

The NSW Government is committed to developing the Lower Hunter Water Plan in accordance with the National Urban Water Planning Principles adopted by all Australian governments.

14. In considering the full portfolio of water supply and demand options, how will Hunter Water Corporation optimise existing infrastructure through efficiency measures?

Answer

The use of existing water infrastructure is being examined by the Metropolitan Water Directorate as part of the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan.

15. What readiness options are being considered as part of a drought contingency plan for Hunter Water Corporation?

Answer

Drought contingency planning is being examined by the Metropolitan Water Directorate with support from Hunter Water as part of the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan.

16. Who are being used as secretariats for the 'independent' water panel for the Lower Hunter Water Strategy?

Answer

The Metropolitan Water Directorate within the Department of Finance and Services is providing secretariat services for the Independent Water Advisory Panel.

17. What steps has the Minister taken to liaise with the Ryde Council to ensure that the Ryde Playing Fields on Smalls Road will be kept as open space?

Answer

In a letter to Ryde Council dated 14 February 2012, the State Property Authority invited Council to consider purchasing the surplus land at market value.

On 6 September 2012, the Department of Education and Communities wrote to the State Property Authority advising that it was reviewing demographic information to ensure that forecast future changes in student population can be accommodated and requesting that disposal action be suspended until this review is complete.

18. Does Sydney Water have any further plans to outsource jobs beyond the 335 positions that the Australian Services Union says have been cut in the last 12 months?

Answer

A number of functions are undergoing review to improve customer services and reduce costs.

19. What steps has the NSW government taken to reduce the amount of total suspended solids and other toxic waste from the three deepwater ocean outfalls owned by Sydney Water?

Answer

In 2011-12 the three plants met all licence limits, for concentration, load and toxicity. Regular monitoring will continue and at present indicates that the deepwater ocean outfalls had no measureable impact on ecosystem health.

20. With respect to the Payroll Tax rebate scheme, Jobs Action Plan, when did the scheme begin and how many jobs have been created to date?

Answer

The Payroll tax rebate scheme (Jobs Action Plan) commenced on 1 July 2011. As at 17 October 2012, 13,115 positions have been registered since the scheme began.

21. With respect to jobs created to date under the Payroll Tax rebate scheme, Jobs Action Plan, what modelling or analysis has been performed that demonstrates that those jobs would not have been created without the scheme in place? Please provide.

Answer

The Department of Finance and Services does not hold this information. The matter should be referred to the Treasurer.

22. Has the CBD office of State Archives been sold or leased? If yes, please provide the value of that deal?

Answer

The property at 66 Harrington Street, The Rocks has not been sold. It remains in Government ownership.

23. What is the current status of NSW government funding for the digital archives project?

Answer

In 2011-12, State Records was allocated \$1.8million as a project grant towards implementing the whole-of-government digital archiving initiative. A further \$1.1 million has been provided in the Authority's 2012-13 budget. This will complete the building of the Digital State Archives to the point that it is ready for live operation.

Questions from The Hon. W. Secord*Finance and Services*Background

Last year you said the public housing maintenance/repair backlog was \$300 million: see Estimates [Finance and Services] Mon 24 October 2011, p39

As at June 2012, you said the "approximate value of outstanding Land and Housing Corporation maintenance work is \$300 million." Answer on Notice 1905 to Jamie Parker MP.

1. Why has your Government made no inroads into this backlog?

Answer

The stated maintenance backlog figure of approximately \$300M has been derived from previous property condition surveys. A revised figure will not be available until the current Property Assessment Survey has been completed.

2. Will you reconsider the \$300 million tax cut to gaming machine operators to fund it?

Answer

This question is about the allocation of State funding and should be referred to the Treasurer.

3. If not, where will you find the money to complete the backlog?

Answer

Land and Housing Corporation will continue to allocate available funds to the highest priorities, in alignment with long term asset portfolio strategies.

4. Over what timeframe will you address the backlog?

Answer

Timeframes to address any outstanding maintenance liabilities will be subject to further identification and analysis of maintenance priorities, and future availability of funds.

Maintenance/repair timeframes

5. Why did the Land and Housing Corporation repairs completed decline from 92% in 2010-2011 to 87% in 2011-2012?

Answer

The volume and type of works orders varies from year to year and has a bearing on the number of works orders completed on time. The benchmark for orders deemed satisfactory is 85%.

6. What percentage will be completed in 2012-2013?

Answer

This information will be available in the 2012/13 agency annual report.

7. Why did the public housing responsive maintenance orders that exceeded the applicable targets increase from 8% in 2010-2011 to 13% in 2011-2012?

8. How many responsive maintenance orders did this comprise?

Answer to 7 and 8.

The volume and type of works orders varies from year to year and has a bearing on the number of works orders completed on time. The benchmark for orders exceeding applicable targets is 15%.

9. What were those responsive maintenance orders for?

Answer

General repairs required for residential properties.

10. What percentage of the responsive maintenance orders will be exceeded in 2012-2013?

Answer

This information will not be available until after the 2012-13 financial year.

11. What mechanisms or procedures are in place in your agency to escalate the priority of maintenance requests and orders?

Answer

Prioritising and timeframes for responsive maintenance is the responsibility of Housing NSW.

12. How are the contractors who perform work (repairs, maintenance, upgrades) on public housing stock selected, and by whom?

Answer

Maintenance Head Contractors were selected by an open public tender in 2008. The maintenance contracts were for a duration of 5 years, with a further 2 year extension.

13. How much money was spent on these contractors during 2011-2012, and how much is proposed to be spent in 2012-2013?

Answer

\$275 million was paid to the five maintenance head contractors over the 2011-12 financial year. It is estimated that approximately \$280 million will be paid to the head contractors in 2012-13.

14. What mechanisms or processes are in place to ensure contracted services have been delivered and to standard?

Answer

The performance management framework policies and procedures are embedded within the maintenance contract which is available on the Housing NSW website.

Sale of public housing properties

15. How many public housing properties have been sold since 27 March 2011?

16. What is the total value of those sales?

Answer to 15 & 16

Sales information is available in the financial statements of the relevant agency annual report.

17. What has happened to that money?

Answer

Sales proceeds are reinvested into new supply programs and upgrading works.

18. How many properties are proposed to be sold during the 2012-2013 budget year?

Answer

The number is variable throughout the year as it is determined by a range of factors including location, market conditions, value achieved, housing demand etc.

19. What is the estimated value of those proposed sales?

Answer

The figure may vary if some transactions are not fully completed within the financial year, or should there be any changes in realising values due to market conditions or lack of interest for purchase of some properties.

20. What does the government propose to do with that money?

Answer

Sales proceeds are reinvested into new housing supply programs and upgrading works.

From March 2013, the Clean Energy Supplement paid by the Commonwealth Government to public housing tenants will be included as "assessable income" and 25% will be charged as increased rents.

21. How much money will be raised by the NSW Government from this decision?

Answer

The Department of Finance and Services does not hold this information. The matter should be referred to the Minister for Family and Community Services.

22. How much of this money will go into maintenance and repairs for public housing?

Answer

Rental income covers operating expenses of the NSW Land and Housing Corporation.

The redevelopment of Land and Housing Corporation site 8-16 Aubrey Street, Granville is currently programmed to commence in 2013, subject to funding.

23. What is the cost of the proposed redevelopment?

Answer

Over \$4 million

24. How many dwellings are proposed to be constructed?

Answer

Approximately 18 single and double bedroom units.

25. What is the proposed configuration of the redevelopment? (bed sits, 1 br, 2 br etc.)

Answer

Refer to Previous answer.

26. Will construction commence this financial year 2012-13 or the next?

Answer

Construction is planned to commence during this financial year.

Regarding the re-development of the site on the corner of Burns and Clyde Streets, Granville:

27. What is the cost of the proposed redevelopment?

28. How many dwellings are proposed to be constructed?

29. What is the proposed configuration of the redevelopment? (bed sits, 1 br, 2 br etc.)

Answers 27-29

The proposed development on the corner of Clyde and Byrnes Street, South Granville is in very early stages of planning. The project cost, dwelling types and numbers will be determined upon completion of various feasibility and planning option studies.

Properties in Nella Dan Avenue, Magga Dan Avenue and Kita Dan Avenue, Tregear

30. How many properties in this group have been vacant and for how long?

Answer

Two properties, since late January 2012 (from 55 LAHC properties in these streets).

31. Why have they not been re-tenanted?

32. When will they be re-tenanted?

Answer to 31 and 32.

These two vacant properties were sold by public auction, with settlements due shortly.

33. Why has the redevelopment of approximately 50 town houses in Shalvey and Lethbridge Park been stopped? Has this program been cancelled?

Answer

The program has not been cancelled, LAHC is undertaking a comprehensive review of its key estate areas across the state and program of works will be prioritised based on this assessment.

Other properties

34. What other public housing properties have been scheduled for demolition and rebuilding, have had the building demolished or have had tenants vacate, and the

demolition/reconstruction not proceed, from 27 March 2011 to date, with an explanation as to why for each property?

Answer

167 LAHC properties have been demolished or had tenants vacate but demolition/reconstruction did not proceed, for the following reasons:

- Some are earmarked for sale;
- Some have been demolished to allow construction of roads or other infrastructure, or as part of community regeneration projects
- Some have been demolished due to fire or other vandalism which have rendered the property uninhabitable and will be programmed for future redevelopment
- Some are programmed for future redevelopment.

Miscellaneous questions

Phones/iPads

35. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

Answer

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

36. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?

Answer

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

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

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

37. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

Answer

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

	2011/12
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Premier	1
Ministers	5
Total	6

38. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

Answer

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

39. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer

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

	2011/12
Premier	10
Ministers	43
Total	53

40. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer

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

41. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer

See answer to question 35

42. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer

See answer to question 35

43. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

Answer

See answer to question 37

44. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

Answer

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

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	0
Total	1

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45. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

Answer

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

Media/public relations

46. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

Answer

Two media staff are currently employed by the Department of Finance and Services (excluding the Office of Fair trading which falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Fair Trading). 4 media staff are employed by Sydney Water and Hunter Water Corporations. 4 media staff are employed in the Safety Return to Work and Support Division.

47. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Answer

No forecast of that number is currently available.

Overseas trips

48. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

Answer

None

49. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Answer

N/A

Office costs

50. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

Answer

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

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

51. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

Answer

See answer to question 50.

52. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

Answer

See answer to question 50.

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

Answer

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

54. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?

If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

Answer

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

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

Answer

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

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

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

56. How many political advisors are in your office?

Answer

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

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

57. How many administration staff?

Answer

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

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

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

Answer

Number of Department Liaison Officers (DLOs)

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012
Premier	1
Ministers	57
TOTAL	58

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

Answer

There are no staff in the Department dedicated full time to ministerial support functions.

60. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

If so, in what capacities?

Answer

Not applicable.

61. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Answer

Not applicable.

Cabcharge

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

Answer

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

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

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

Restructure

63. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

Answer

Yes.

64. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

Answer

Offers of voluntary redundancy are managed by business units and a central register has not been maintained.

65. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

Answer

See answer to question 64 above.

66. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

Answer

See answer to Question 64 above.

67. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

Answer

From 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2012, there were a total of 332 voluntary redundancies accepted by DFS staff.

68. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

Answer

See answer to Question 64 above.

Agency costs

69. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?

Answer

Expenditure on entertainment and catering is conducted in accordance with C2010-42 New South Wales Government Expenses Policy.

70. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?

Answer

This information is not held centrally across the cluster.

71. What is your Department's catering budget?

Answer

See answer to Question 70 above.

72. What is your Department's stationery budget?

Answer

See answer to Question 70 above.

73. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

Answer

Yes.

74. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Answer

The cost of rebranding was negligible. The widespread use of electronic templates for stationery means there are virtually no print costs associated with a change of branding.

Correspondence

75. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

Answer

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.

This may vary on occasion depending on the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other departments and sources.

76. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Answer

See answer to question 75.

Paying bills on time

77. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

Answer

As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is currently being finalised for release. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative. 31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

78. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

Answer

See the answer to question 77.

79. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Answer

See the answer to question 77.

Grants to non-government organisations

80. 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?

Answer

This information is provided in the Department of Finance and Services' annual report.

Contractors

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

Answer

The Department of Finance and Services employs contractors on an “as needed” basis. For example, to cover leave arrangements, short term administration support, undertake specific project related work within limited timeframes, and to obtain expertise that is not available within the department.

Aboriginal employment

82. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

Answer

This information is provided in the Department of Finance and Services’ annual report.

83. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

Answer

This information is provided in the Department of Finance and Services’ annual report.

Charter air flights

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

Answer

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

Reviews and studies

85. 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?

Answer

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

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

Consultants

86. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

Answer

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

87. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?

Answer

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

88. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?

Answer

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

89. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

Answer

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

90. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

Answer

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

Sponsorships

91. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?

92. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?

93. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?

94. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

Answer for questions 91 to 94

This information is not held centrally within the Cluster.

Media training

95. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;

- a) Who conducted the training?
- b) When was it conducted?
- c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- d) Who paid for the training?

Answer

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

Parliamentary Secretary

96. 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?

Answer

Travel related costs for the Premier's and Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries was as follows.*

	2011-12
Premier's Parliamentary Secretaries	0
Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries	\$19,609
TOTAL	\$19,609

*Flights, accommodation and hire car expenses as detailed in travel contractor report.

- a. Information not available
- b. The total cost of accommodation for travel by Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries during 2011/12 was \$1,925.
- c. The total cost of flights for Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries during 2011/12 was \$17,477.
- d. Information not available

97. 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?

Answer

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

98. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

- a) Are these meetings documented?
- b) Who attends these meetings?

Answer

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

99. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

Answer

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

100. 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?

Answer

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

The Illawarra

101. As Minister for The Illawarra do you have:

- a) An office in The Illawarra?

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

- b) Dedicated staff to deal with this portfolio responsibility?

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

Answer

- (a) As Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra, my Ministerial office is located at Parliament House Sydney and Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place Sydney.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has an Illawarra Regional Coordination Office. It is located at Level 2, Macquarie Tower, 84 Crown St, Wollongong NSW 2500.

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

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

102. How many times in the last twelve months have you visited The Illawarra in your capacity as Minister for The Illawarra?

Answer

In 2011/12, I have had regular engagements in the Illawarra in my capacity as Minister for the Illawarra with stakeholders from business, government, education, community services as well as individuals and families from the local area.

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

Answer

Refer to previous answer.

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

Answer

I was accompanied by family, staff and friends in my regular visits, both formal and informal, to the Illawarra. Travel costs are included in my Ministerial office budget.

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

Answer

As Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra, I receive and respond to issues by way of representations.

The Department'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.