



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Education and Training

Wednesday 15 September 2010

Answers to be lodged by: Monday 11 October 2010

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
13 September 2010	Health	7 October 2010 [21 days]
13 September 2010	Ageing	7 October 2010 [21 days]
13 September 2010	Disability Services	7 October 2010 [21 days]
13 September 2010	Volunteering	7 October 2010 [21 days]
13 September 2010	Youth	7 October 2010 [21 days]
15 September 2010	Education and Training	11 October 2010 [21 days]
15 September 2010	Community Services	11 October 2010 [21 days]
15 September 2010	State Plan	11 October 2010 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolios of Education and Training

15 September 2010, 9:15 am – 1:00 pm

Questions from Dr Kaye

How much in funding and grants in 2009-2010 did the following schools receive from;

1. the State Government and
2. the BER grants ?
 - a) Trinity Grammar
 - b) Newington College
 - c) St Andrews Cathedral school
 - d) SCEGGS Darlinghurst
 - e) International Grammar
 - f) Sydney Grammar
 - g) St Scholastica's Glebe
 - h) St Maroun's School
 - i) The Athena School
 - j) AIM Secondary College

How much funding did the following schools receive in 2009-2010 from;

3. the State Government for operations (broken up into core staffing, operational and capital allocations) and,
4. the BER grants?
 - a) Dulwich Hill
 - b) Newtown High School
 - c) Balmain High School
 - d) Leichhardt High School
 - e) Black Wattle Secondary College

Questions from Mr Khan

Dalwood Assessment Centre:

5. What was the budget, broken-down into programs, for children with reading difficulties in:
 - a) 2008-09?
 - b) 2009-10?
 - c) 2010-11?
 - d) 2011-12?
6. What was the budget for the Dalwood Assessment Centre in:
 - a) 2008-09?
 - b) 2009-10?
7. What was the budget for the Palm Avenue School in:
 - a) 2008-09?
 - b) 2009-10?
8. What was the budget for Royal Far West in 2009-10?
9. How much does the department estimate that it cost per-child for one-month's residential care associated with the program at Palm Avenue school in:
 - a) 2008-09?
 - b) 2009-10?
10. How many children across NSW were eligible for assistance by Palm Avenue School based solely on their geographic location in 2009-10?
11. How many children attended assessment at Dalwood in 2008-09?

12. How many children attended assessment at Dalwood/Westmead in 2009-10?
 13. How many children attended the residential intervention at palm Avenue school in:
 - a) 2008-09?
 - b) 2009-10?
 14. How many children are estimated will attend assessment at the Westmead facility in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
 15. How many children are estimated will attend residential intervention at Palm Avenue school/Royal Far West in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
 16. How much has been budgeted for the Centre for Effective Reading under the announced new structure for children with learning difficulties in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
 17. How much has been budgeted for Royal Far West under the announced new structure for children with learning difficulties in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
 18. How much has been budgeted for the proposed regional assessment and intervention services at Site 1, (proposed Wagga Wagga) in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
 19. How much has been budgeted for the proposed regional assessment and intervention services at Site 2 (proposed Dubbo) in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
- How much has been budgeted for the announced Child Development Unit, The Children's Hospital at Westmead in:
- a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?
20. How much has been budgeted for the delivery of the announced programme for children with reading difficulties:
 - a) At the universal level of service?
 - b) At the targeted level of service?
 - c) At the intensive level of service?
 21. How much does the department estimate that it will cost per-child (including costs associated with parents) for one-week's residential care at Royal Far West?
 22. How many children across NSW will be eligible under the announced scheme for reading difficulties based solely on their geographic location in:
 - a) 2010-11?
 - b) 2011-12?

In relation to the sale of the site occupied by the Dalwood Centre:

23. Has the Department entered into any agreements for the sale of the site?
24. Has the Department entered into any negotiations for the sale of the site?
25. Has the Department had the land valued?
26. If the land has been valued, what was the valuation of the land?
27. How many staff were made redundant at the Dalwood Centre with its closing?
28. Were there any reasons associated with the building that housed the Dalwood centre that was a factor in the move away from using the facility?

29. If there were any problems associated with the building has any estimate been put on the cost to bring the facility up to a standard where full services could resume?
30. If an assessment was made on the cost to bring the facility up to a standard where services could resume, what was that estimate?
31. How much money was allocated to the meetings, investigation, assessment and report of the Expert Panel's report "Strengthening services to students with complex reading difficulties in rural and remote areas of NSW"?
32. What, if any, is the viable over-night accommodation capacity of Dalwood Centre?
33. What is the current viable over-night accommodation capacity at Royal far West?

Unflued Gas Heaters – Tamworth:

34. How many schools/ TAFEs are there in the Tamworth electorate?
35. What are the names of each of the schools and TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate?
36. How many children, broken down into schools/ TAFEs, were enrolled in NSW public school/ TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate in calendar year 2007?
37. How many children, broken down into schools/ TAFEs, were enrolled in NSW public school/ TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate in calendar year 2008?
38. How many children, broken down into schools/ TAFEs, were enrolled in NSW public school/ TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate in calendar year 2009?
39. How many children, broken down into schools/ TAFEs, were enrolled in NSW public school/ TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate in calendar year 2010?
40. Are there any schools/TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate that are included in the 12 August 2010 announcement/list to replace unflued gas heaters?
41. If there are any schools included in the 12 August 2010 announcement/list what schools are they?
42. If there are any schools included in the 12 August 2010 announcement/ list how many unflued gas heaters will be replaced in each school?
43. If there are any schools included in the 12 August 2010 announcement/ list how much will it cost to replace and install new heaters per item?
44. How many unflued gas heaters are there installed in Tamworth electorate schools, TAFEs?
45. Can the Department provide the Bureau of Meteorology data used to assess all Schools and TAFEs in the Tamworth Electorate?
46. How many children in schools/ TAFEs in 2010 in the Tamworth electorate are subjected to rooms where the only heating source is an unflued gas heater?
47. When is it planned that all schools/ TAFEs in the Tamworth electorate will be provided with a heating source that does not include unflued gas heaters?

Unflued Gas Heaters – Bathurst:

48. How many schools within the Bathurst Electorate currently have unflued gas heaters installed in classrooms?
49. Of these schools, how many will not have their unflued gas heaters removed under the first round of the Government's replacement program for school heaters?
50. What is the expected deadline for the replacement of unflued gas heaters for those schools within the Bathurst Electorate that are to benefit from the first round of the Government's replacement program for school heaters?
51. When is the expected deadline for the replacement of unflued gas heaters for those schools within the Bathurst Electorate that are not included in the first round of the Government's replacement program for school heaters?
52. What is the estimated cost of removing and replacing each individual unflued gas heater?
53. How many unflued gas heaters are currently in use in classrooms across the Bathurst Electorate?

54. What is the estimated combined cost of removing and replacing all unflued gas heaters in classrooms across the Bathurst Electorate?
55. What evidence does the Government hold on evidence of adverse health effects of unflued gas heaters on asthmatic school children or those with other respiratory problems?
56. How many asthmatic children or children with other respiratory problems are currently known to attend schools within the Bathurst Electorate?
57. How many of asthmatic children or children with other respiratory problems are currently known to attend schools within the Bathurst Electorate which will not benefit from the first round of the Government's replacement program for school heaters?

Building the Education Revolution (BER) – Bathurst:

58. What is the combined expenditure on building works in schools within the Bathurst Electorate under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program?
59. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Bathurst Electorate under the BER program that was spent on administration costs incurred by the Integrated Program Office?
60. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Bathurst Electorate under the BER program that was spent on management fees to Managing Contractors?
61. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Bathurst Electorate under the BER program that was spent on incentive fees?

Building the Education Revolution (BER) – Dubbo:

62. Is the BER program in the Western NSW region on budget?
63. Is the BER program in the Western NSW on time?
64. How many complaints has the Department of Education & Training's Western NSW region received since February 2009?
65. How many of those complaints were in relation to the BER program?
66. Given Dubbo based company TCT Constructions, which was subcontracted by the Government for the BER program, went into liquidation in May this year, how many smaller local businesses in the Dubbo region were affected?
67. Given the businesses were owed more than \$1.7million, have these local businesses been paid? If not, please state why.
68. In regards to the \$30,000 COLA constructed at Marra Creek Public School as part of the BER program, are you aware a local welder in Dubbo, Jarrod Kennedy, was sub-contracted to TCT Construction, which has now gone into liquidation?
69. Are you also aware Mr Kennedy was unsure if he would see the \$60,000 he was owed for work at Marra Creek and Corinda State School so he tore the building down and reclaimed his materials?
70. What is your response to Mr Kennedy's comment that there were "too many middle men", and says that what he did is not illegal, as they materials remained his property until he was paid in full?

Unflued Gas Heaters – Dubbo:

71. How many schools in total are in the Department of Education & Training's Western NSW region?
72. How many heaters on average does each school have?
73. How many of these heaters are unflued?
74. Under what criteria did the Minister compile the list of 100 schools that would be first to have their heaters removed?
75. What was the reason for Dubbo schools not making this list?

76. Given heaters at schools in the coldest regions are set to be removed first, in what timeframe is it expected that unflued heaters at schools in the Dubbo region will be removed?
77. Building the Education Revolution (BER) – Monaro:
78. What funds were expended on capital works (non BER) in the NSW Education portfolio in the Monaro electorate in each year since 2007?
79. What were these projects?
80. What funds are planned to be expended on capital works in the Monaro electorate in each of the next three years?
81. What is the combined expenditure on building works in schools within the Monaro electorate under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program?
82. Please list individual BER projects in the Monaro electorate including estimated and actual costs?
83. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Monaro Electorate under the BER program that was spent on administration costs incurred by the Integrated Program Office?
84. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Monaro electorate under the BER program that was spent on management fees to Managing Contractors?
85. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Monaro electorate under the BER program that was spent on incentive fees?
86. Building the Education Revolution (BER) – Port Macquarie:
87. What funds were expended on capital works (non BER) in the NSW Education portfolio in the Port Macquarie electorate in each year since 2007?
88. What were these projects?
89. What funds are planned to be expended on capital works in the Port Macquarie electorate in each of the next three years?
90. What is the combined expenditure on building works in schools within the Port Macquarie electorate under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program?
91. Please list individual BER projects in the Port Macquarie electorate including estimated and actual costs?
92. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Port Macquarie Electorate under the BER program that was spent on administration costs incurred by the Integrated Program Office?
93. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Port Macquarie electorate under the BER program that was spent on management fees to Managing Contractors?
94. What is the overall percentage of funds spent on building works in schools within the Port Macquarie electorate under the BER program that was spent on incentive fees?

Questions from Ms Parker

Regarding sending overseas obsolete school furniture and equipment following the BER projects please provide:

95. The cost of each component of the program (for example removal, packing, shipping and distribution)
96. How was this cost funded?
97. What programs does the NSW Government have in place to support school students who are disadvantaged through family circumstances?
98. What programs does the Department of Education have in place to improve educational opportunities for homeless youth?
99. What measures were put in place to protect school children and teachers from possible exposure to asbestos, which was uncovered during building works under the BER program?

100. Does the NSW Government have any plans to build a new high school in Kellyville Ridge?
- If so, when will the school be built and how much funding has been allocated in forward Department of Education budget?
 - If not, why not?

In relation to BER projects at Como West Public School:

101. How much did the covered area built over the basketball court at Como West Public School as part of the BER program cost?
102. Did the NSW Government, Minister for Education or Department of Education receive any correspondence or complaints about this project?
103. In relation to the Premier's announcement on 13 July that the NSW Department of Education and Training International would be hosting an event at the Shanghai World Expo:
104. How much did this hosting this event cost the NSW Government?
105. How many NSW Government employees were sent to this event? Please provide names, length of trip, individual cost of each employee's trip and the purpose for which each employee was sent.
106. Approximately how many prospective students did the Department connect with?
107. From the 1,930 international students from China attending NSW Government education institutions in 2009, what was the average expenditure from these students on tuition and other costs or fees directly payable to the NSW Department of Education?
108. The Premier's media release of 13 July 2010 stated that international students from China contributed approximately \$3.8bn to the national economy in 2008-09. What is the approximate economic benefit contributed to the NSW economy from the 1,930 international students from China attending NSW Government education institutions in 2009?
109. What is the current enrolment in NSW Government education institutions of international students from China?

In relation to high school teacher vacancies:

110. Of the 288 secondary school vacancies, how many of these vacancies are in "hard-to-staff" regions?
111. Please break down the 288 secondary school vacancies into the following categories:
- Vacant for less than one month
 - Vacant from more than one month but less than three months
 - Vacant for more than three months but less than six months
 - Vacant for more than six months
112. What measures are the Department taking to ensure that students in classes where there is a teacher vacancy remain up to date with other students in NSW? In particular, what measures are being taken for students undertaking the HSC?
113. Please outline which NSW secondary schools currently have multiple teacher vacancies, and state which positions are vacant.
114. "Despite these vacancies, is it true that the Department continues to employ a large number of "over-establishment" positions in schools?
115. How many such teaching positions are there in schools and at what cost?
116. How is the Department meeting this cost?
117. Why is the Department employing teachers "over-establishment" when it has vacancies "hard-to-staff" regions?

In relation to teacher scholarships for “hard-to-staff” areas on offer by the NSW Government?

118. What are the “hard-to-staff” areas in NSW?
119. How many teacher scholarships have been offered since the introduction of the scheme in 2002, and what is the total cost?
120. Please provide the average annual number of teacher vacancies in NSW for the period 2002-present.
121. What criteria must be met for an applicant to be awarded a scholarship?
122. How many applications were made each year during the period 2002-present?
123. For each of the "hard to staff" areas in NSW, please provide the average number of teaching vacancies for the years 2005/06; 2007/08; 2008/09; 2009-10
124. "For each of the "hard to staff" areas in NSW, please the 2010-11 year to date number of teaching vacancies"

In regards to the six “regional program directors” appointed to oversee the BER scheme, at an average cost of \$440,000 each:

125. What is the role of these positions?
126. Who appointed each of these 6 regional program directors?
127. Who was the recruitment manager for these appointments?
128. Was there a selection process?
 - a) If yes, please provide the selection criteria.
 - b) If no, why not?
129. Was there a selection board?
 - a) If yes, please provide the names of the members of the board.
 - b) If no, why not?"
130. Are any of the six regional program directors former employees of any of the following groups: The DET; any other NSW Government Department; any Minister or departmental staff?
131. Please provide the names of the 6 regional program directors
132. How often do these directors report to the Minister?
133. What is the identified need for private sector consultants to oversee the BER scheme?
134. Please outline the nature of the advice provided by these consultants as to changes required for the implementation of the BER scheme.

The 2009 NSW DET annual report shows that the DET had 96,221 employees, comprised of the following: 59,600 teachers, 20,400 teacher support staff and 16,221 other staff (neither teachers nor support staff):

Given that 83% of DET staff are “front line” in nature, of the 17% of the staff that are neither teachers nor support staff, can you please provide:

135. A general break down of the nature of the positions in which they are employed (e.g. procurement, research and development)?
136. Are these staff generally employed at individual schools, in regional offices, or at Department of Education head office?
137. What is the average cost per staff member employed in DET in non-front line positions?

In relation to “Community Use of School Facilities”:

138. How many “Community Use Agreements” are currently in operation for use of school facilities?
 - a) How many of these agreements are of the type negotiated autonomously by school principals?
 - b) How many of these agreements are of the commercial nature requiring further approval by regional DET directors?

139. Please provide the revenue received by DET or DET education institutions from "Community Use of School Facilities" during 2007, 2008 & 2009, and the forecast revenue for 2010.
140. Does the DET retain the revenue generated from such agreements, or is a proportion retained by the school in which the agreement relates to?
141. If yes, is any amount provided to the school in which it relates by the DET, or is it used by DET on projects as it sees fit?
142. If a proportion is retained by the school, please advise of that amount.
143. What is the average length of the commercial agreements for this purpose?
144. Do any of the agreements in place involve the DET receiving a component of non-defined revenue (i.e. percentage of gate taking etc.)? If so, please provide the amount received 2007, 2008 & 2009, and the forecast revenue for 2010.
145. Has the DET been the subject of any legal claims under a "Community Use Agreement"? If yes, please provide the number of claims, and for each individual claim, provide the following: date of incident, location of incident, nature of incident, amount claimed.
146. Is the Minister aware that in 2006 Enrolled nurses made up 15.7% (11,562) of the 73,422 nurses in NSW?
147. Could the Minister provide course enrolments and course completions for TAFE NSW in Enrolled Nurse Diploma for the following years:
 - a) 2006
 - b) 2007
 - c) 2008
 - d) 2009
148. Could the Minister explain the decline in Enrolled Nursing enrolments and completions since 2009?
149. Could the Minister provide a list of course fee costs for individual students enrolled in NSW TAFE Enrolled Nursing Diploma in:
 - a) 2006
 - b) 2007
 - c) 2008
 - d) 2009
 - e) 2010 and
 - f) Projected cost in 2011.
150. Could the Minister explain why fees for enrolled Nursing in NSW TAFE have dramatically increased in NSW since 2008?
151. Could the Minister quantify the impact these fee increases will have on Nursing career pathways.
152. Can the Minister provide historical data related to number of health workers that progress from an Enrolled Nurse qualification to a Bachelor of Nursing?
153. Is the Minister aware that approximately 75% of enrolled Nurses are women?
154. Can the Minister quantify the impact on women in the health workforce without access to quality affordable Enrolled Nursing qualifications?
155. Is the Minister aware that rural and regional communities rely greatly on the skills of enrolled nurses?
156. Can the Minister quantify what impact these changes to Enrolled Nursing course fees will have on rural and regional communities?

In light of the Department of Premier and Cabinet's circular "Premier's Memorandum 2009-15 Staffing Freeze":

157. How many requests for exemptions to the staffing freeze did the NSW Department of Education and Training receive from 26 June 2009 to 14 February 2010?
158. How many requests for exemptions did the NSW Department of Education and Training grant from 26 June 2009 to 14 February 2010?

In light of the Department of Premier and Cabinet's circular "Premier's Memorandum 2010-05 Staffing Freeze":

159. How many requests for exemptions to the staffing freeze has the NSW Department of Education and Training received from 14 February 2010 to date?
160. How many requests for exemptions has the NSW Department of Education and Training granted from 14 February 2010 to date?
161. What is the total number of Department of Education and Training employees that were made redundant in:
 - a) 2008 calendar year / 2008-2009 financial year
 - b) 2009 calendar year / 2009-2010 financial year
 - c) Current calendar/financial year to date
162. The total estimated cost for the Department for redundancy pay-outs in
 - a) 2008 calendar year / 2008-2009 financial year
 - b) 2009 calendar year / 2009-2010 financial year
 - c) Current calendar/financial year to date
163. The total actual cost incurred by the Department on redundancy pay-outs:
 - a) 2008 calendar year / 2008-2009 financial year
 - b) 2009 calendar year / 2009-2010 financial year
 - c) Current calendar/financial year to date
164. What is the total expenditure incurred by the Department of Education and Training on media monitoring services for each financial/calendar year from 2006-2007 to date in relation to sexual assaults in NSW education institutions:
165. How many complaints has the Department received of inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. allegations of sexual assault, comments of a sexual nature etc.), which have been made by students or their families, in relation to a teacher during 2009/10 (or the 2009 calendar year)?
 - a) Of these complaints, how many resulted in the respondent teacher being suspended pending the outcome of an investigation?
 - b) Of these complaints, how many resulted in adverse findings in regards to the conduct of the respondent teacher?
 - c) Of these complaints, how many resulted in the respondent teacher in question being dismissed?
 - d) Please list the names of the schools in which teachers were dismissed for conduct of this nature.
166. How many complaints has the Department received of inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. allegations of sexual assault, comments of a sexual nature etc.), which have been made by teachers or their families, in relation to a student during 2009/10 (or the 2009 calendar year)?
 - a) Of these complaints, how many resulted in the respondent student being suspended pending the outcome of an investigation?
 - b) Of these complaints, how many resulted in adverse findings in regards to the conduct of the respondent student?
 - c) Of these complaints, how many resulted in the respondent student in question being expelled?
 - d) Please list the names of the schools in which students were expelled for conduct of this nature.

167. How many complaints has the Department received of inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. allegations of sexual assault, comments of a sexual nature etc.), which have been made by teachers or their families, in relation to another teacher during 2009/10 (or the 2009 calendar year)?
- a) Of these complaints, how many resulted in the respondent teacher being suspended pending the outcome of an investigation?
 - b) Of these complaints, how many resulted in adverse findings in regards to the conduct of the respondent teacher?
 - c) Of these complaints, how many resulted in the respondent teacher in question being dismissed?
 - d) Please list the names of the schools in which teachers were dismissed for conduct of this nature.