



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Health, Medical Research

Monday 24 October 2011

Answers to be lodged by: Thursday 17 November 2011

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
24 October 2011	Health, Medical Research	17 November 2011 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolio of Health

24 October 2011, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

1. When will the government release in full the Tobacco Control Strategy for 2011 – 2016, the recommendations of which have been accepted by various organisations since October 2010?
2. Will the government introduce state wide legislation to ban smoking in outdoor areas, including:
 - a. In or near any sporting or recreation facility;
 - b. In outdoor entertainment venues;
 - c. In outdoor eating venues?
3. Given the Government's goal in the new State Plan to keep people healthy and out of hospital, why has the government increased funding for public hospitals at the expense of primary and community services?
4. Is it too late to reallocate the \$125 million budgeted to Frenchs Forest hospital to upgrade Manly and Mona Vale hospitals?
 - a. What is the likely impact of the proposed hospital on roads in the immediate and surrounding areas to the hospital site, and what are the estimated costs to the taxpayer of the necessary upgrades to local roads and transport services, including the upgrading of the Wakehurst Parkway?
 - b. What is the predicted allocation of annual funds required to run the Frenchs Forest Hospital?
 - c. What values does this government place on the seaside location of Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals as environments for healthier recuperation compared to the proposed Frenchs Forest site, which is surrounded by congested roads?
 - d. What value does this government place on the environmental significance of the proposed Frenchs Forest location, which is site of remnant Duffy's Forest bushland?
 - e. What impacts have been considered for the potential of duplicated health services, health costs, labour supply and patient catchment between Royal North Shore hospital and the proposed Frenchs Forest hospital?
 - f. Is it too late for this government to create an alternative health facilities plan for the northern beaches region that capitalises on the advantages of the existing two hospital premises with upgrades plus innovations in the view of projected needs for local and home0based treatments?
 - g. Has the government costed an alternative site, closer to the northern beaches, eg. Dee Why?
5. Can the Minister clarify whether a person using a wheelchair is classified as a vehicle or a pedestrian, according to the new Wheelchair prescription guidelines?

- a. If such persons are classified as a vehicle, does the Minister believe it is appropriate that people with mobility issues are treated the same as a vehicle in relation to alcohol consumption?
6. Is the Minister aware that Enable NSW has been stating to clinicians and prescribers that there are no funds available for CPAP machines?
7. Is it still the case that the revenue from 10 speed cameras from around NSW is dedicated to spinal research?
 - a. If not, will the government recommit to this initiative, which it supported in Opposition?
8. Is it true that a "business plan" must be produced before a new staff member is employed or a staff member replaced within NSW Health, as well as every time obsolete equipment is replaced?
 - a. If yes, what is the justification for this?
 - b. Is there a policy that sets out the timeframe for how long these business plans must be completed and actioned?
 - c. Does the health budget have built-in provisions for increases as the cost of new technology increases?
9. Is it the case that in order to properly fund hospitals in this state the education budget would be compromised, as staff members at one NSW public hospital have been told?
10. What is the current status of the four hour time limit on emergency department waiting times, an initiative which NSW was signed up to by the Keneally government as part of the National Health Reforms?
 - a. Is it still the case that these targets are tied to reward payments for NSW?
 - i. If so can the Minister please outline the details of these?
11. What was the total cost to taxpayers for the change implemented by your government when Local Health Networks were renamed "Local Health Districts", and the Local Health Network governing councils were renamed "Local Health District Boards"?
12. What measures did the government take to notify the public of the heightened level of PM2.5 particles in the air following the Orica Chemical Spill, after this was detected by air monitoring in Sydney?
13. Why is it that that the NSW air monitoring system only measures PM10, and is 20 years behind international standards?
14. Is the government planning to improve the monitoring of our outdoor air quality to ensure particles as small as pm 2.5 are measured?

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

Health

15. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research reports 85 assaults on hospital premises in the quarter of April-May 2011. Are there any assaults on staff or threats of violence that are not reported to police that are entered on the Incident Information Management System?
16. Where is the data available?
17. What enhancements in 2011-12 will John Hunter Children's Hospital have toward building a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit?
18. Are there any budget enhancements in 2011-12 for Bankstown Hospital parking?
19. The federal contribution for the office of Preventative Health in 2011-12 is \$24.1 million –
 - a. What will be NSW Health contribution in 2011-12?
 - b. Where in South West Sydney will the office be located?
20. Has recruitment commenced?
21. When will construction on the Nepean Hospital car park commence and finish?
22. Can this be expedited?
23. In the Hunter region, where will the extra promised 107 nurses be employed?
24. When will they start?
25. What is the aim of the "Connecting Care" program?
26. How will the \$15 million allocated funds be spent in 2011-12?
27. Of the \$3 million funding for planning for the Lachlan Valley Hospitals, in the 2011-12 period –
 - a. What is the total estimated final cost of these hospitals?
 - b. How much is for Parkes?
 - c. How much for Forbes?
 - d. How much of the total cost is Federal funding?
 - e. What works will be done this year?
 - f. What is the estimated start date for construction work at Parkes?
 - g. What is the estimated start date for construction work at Forbes?
 - h. Will patients be using any of the new facilities by 1 July 2013?
 - i. What will be the finish date for Parkes?
 - j. What will be the finish date for Forbes?

28. Regarding the \$2 million commitment (\$500,000 in 2011-12) for Cessnock hospital –
 - a. How much will be spent by 1 July 2012?
 - b. What facilities will be constructed by this time?
29. Will Calvary Mater receive any budget enhancement for 2011-12?
 - a. If yes, for what facilities?
30. Will John Hunter hospital receive any budget enhancements in 2011-12?
 - a. If yes, for what facilities?
31. How many patients will be treated in the dialysis unit at Cooma Hospital by 1 July 2012?, and
 - a. Has recurrent funding for nursing supervision of the dialysis service been permanently factored into the Cooma Hospital budget?
32. Given the 11.7% "walkout" rate in the emergency department for July 2011 at Mount Druitt Hospital –
 - a. What enhancements will Mount Druitt emergency department receive in 2011-12?
 - b. When will the external review into Mount Druitt Hospital be publicly released?
33. What are the plans for the future redevelopment of Tumut Hospital?
34. What enhancements will Tumut Hospital receive in 2011-12?
35. What new dialysis facilities are planned?
36. How much of the \$100 million of NSW Government allocated to Tamworth Hospital will be allocated in 2011-12 budget?
37. When will the first patient be treated in the new facility?
38. When will the Health one building at Gulgong be opened?
39. What will be the total cost of a Health one?
40. What will the \$4 million commitment in 2011-12 be used for?
41. What enhancements in the 2011-12 budget are for Mental Health in Shoalhaven?
42. Have you ever, or recently visited, the Dalwood site?
 - a. If no, do you plan to?
 - b. What plans does NSW health have for the site?
43. How much was spent on Medical staff locums in NSW for 2010-11?
44. How much is budgeted to be spent on medical Officer locums state-wide in 2011-12?

45. What plans exist to reduce the demand for locum shifts?
46. When will the \$83 million Wollongong Surgical unit be completed?
47. Does the Government have plans to further privatise any of the remaining State run aged care facilities (e.g. Wallsend, Harden and Garrawarra)?
48. How many full-time equivalent of media/public relations staff are employed by –
 - a. Each local health district?
 - b. NSW Ministry of Health?
 - c. Health Minister's office?
49. What is the total cost of media/public relations and media staff for
 - a. Each local health district?
 - b. NSW Ministry of Health?
 - c. Health Minister's office?
50. Only \$3 million has been allocated for dialysis enhancements for 2011-12 –
 - a. How will this money be spent?
 - b. Will Bowral (which has a chair, but is not staffed) or Tumut Hospital receive additional facilities for dialysis in 2011-12?
51. With regards to the emergency department waiting times website –
 - a. How much did advertising this website cost?
 - b. How many complaints have there been about the accuracy of data on the site?
 - c. Did you or anyone from your office instruct NSW Health to remove the predicted waiting time(s) from the site?
52. What precisely will Pharmacists role be under the "Community Health Checks Program?
53. How will the \$2 million in 2011-12 be spent?
54. How much of the \$2 million will the committee and secretariat cost?
55. Who is on the committee?
56. What of the extra \$8 million in future years?
57. How much has your department spent on management or other consultants since the 2011 election?
58. Were the 3.0 full-time equivalent Career Medical Officers positions at Coffs Harbour Hospital that have recently been employed, new positions, or were they the recruitment of staff to established positions?

59. What is the current full-time equivalent position establishment for staff specialists in Coffs Harbour emergency department?
60. How many positions are filled?
61. How many emergency department staff specialist positions are vacant?
62. What enhancements do you plan for 2011-12 for emergency department consultants?
63. Have you commenced negotiations to pay Port Stephens council \$48,000 back rent for the Raymond Terrace Community Health Centre as requested by the Member for Port Stephens?
64. When will Raymond Terrace Health One be complete?
65. What enhancements are planned for Tomaree Hospital in 2011-12?
66. Has the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministerial Staff, Director General or other senior department of health staff –
 - a. Travelled overseas at taxpayers cost since the 2011 election?
 - b. How much was the cost?
 - c. What was the purpose of any visits?
 - d. What are the transport and accommodation costs for the above for intrastate travel?
67. In the context of the Australian Medical Association safe hours and given the need to protect staff from fatigue, what audit of working hours have you asked for in each local health district?
68. Has any health professional or doctor ever refused to do a shift because of exhaustion, as you have indicated they are permitted to do?
69. Has any disciplinary action been taken against a doctor/other health professional for doing so?
70. Do you know, or have you asked, how many health professional/doctors work in excess of the Australian Medical Association safe hours?
71. Do nurses or other health professionals have a 'safe hours' provision when they work overtime or double shifts, such as times of staff shortages?
72. What other plans do you have to manage staff fatigue?
73. How much will be allocated by NSW Health in the 2011-12 budget to Bega Hospital?
74. When will the first patient be treated at the new Bega Hospital?
75. What of inpatient hospital services at Pambula once Bega is built

76. How much will the CT Scanner cost?
77. How much was paid for by NSW Health?
78. When will the first CT scan be performed?
79. Will the 10 beds for Wyong Hospital be opened in 2011-12?
80. Are these the emergency medical unit beds?
81. Will recurrent funds be provided to staff in the emergency medical unit?
82. How many extra nurses will be needed?
83. Are these included in the 25 more nurses promised prior to the election?
84. Given that Hornsby Hospital is in need of extensive refurbishment –
 - a. How much is committed for this in 2011-12?
 - b. In the longer term, will the currently used medical and surgical wards (i.e the circular building) be retained?
 - c. When will the first patient be admitted to the new facilities?
85. How many nursing staff does Nepean Hospital have in the –
 - a. Maternity ward?
 - b. Emergency department?
 - c. How many positions are vacant?
86. What is the total budget for Ryde Hospital in –
 - a. 2010-11?
 - b. 2011-12
87. Have you committed to permanently maintaining Ryde emergency department as a 24/7 operating emergency department?
88. What capital enhancements will occur at Ryde Hospital in 2011-12?
89. Is the emergency department at Bulli Hospital currently open?
90. When will funding be allocated for an alternative urgent care centre?
91. Is there a planned start date for construction of the new centre?
92. Will the Bulli emergency department be kept open until the new centre is built?

93. How many people are on the surgical waiting list for –
 - a. Cataract surgery?
 - b. Appointments in outpatient eye clinics?
94. How many cataract procedures were performed in April-June 2011?
95. What are the median wait times for cataract surgery for category 1,2 and 3?
96. How much of the \$30 million commitment for St George Hospital emergency department is in the 2011-12 budget?
97. When will building works commence?
98. What permanent staffing enhancements will St George Hospital emergency department receive?
99. You have opened beds in St George, Royal Hospital for Women and Prince of Wales –
 - a. How many beds in each hospital?
 - b. Are these totally NSW Government funded?
 - c. Are these beds permanently opened?
100. In south east Sydney local health district and the promised 25 nurses –
 - a. How many full-time equivalent have started?
 - b. In which hospitals/units?
101. Given that you have indicated that the Ministry of Health to allow local health district work more closely with the private sector, can you rule out privatising or putting out to tender such services as cleaning and/or food preparation?
102. You have previously indicated that enrolled nurses should be hospital trained, do you still agree with that?
103. How does Federal Government registration prevent enrolled nurses being trained in hospitals?
104. Since the March 2011 election, what inquiries have you made as to the possibility of re-instating hospital based training for enrolled nurses?
105. With regards to an after-hours on call helicopter service for Orange that you said there may be as few as one call per week and would cost \$700,000 per year, have you re-considered that option, even as a trial?
106. With regards to the \$10 million committed to addiction programs –
 - a. Where are the extra 80 beds planned to be located?
 - b. How much is allocated in the 2011-12 budget?
 - c. How much in the 2011-12 budget is allocated specifically to abstinence programs?
 - d. How will this money be spent?

107. Considering Blacktown Hospital is receiving \$500,000 in funding for this year –
- What will that provide?
 - How many extra beds with the \$125 million will that supply?
 - When will these beds be opened?
 - What is the current status of cardiac catheter facilities at Blacktown?
 - What is the status of staff security in the emergency department?
 - Given "walkout" rates are approaching 10% in the emergency department, what enhancements have been provided for Blacktown emergency department in the 2011-12 financial year?
108. With the abolition of the "cluster" by 1 September 2011, how many staff have taken –
- Voluntary redundancy?
 - Forced redundancy?
109. How many staff have been redeployed?
110. How much have redundancies cost to date?
111. Given that there are planned staff reductions of 150 full-time equivalent in health staff –
- How many will be voluntary redundancy?
 - How many forced redundancy?
 - How many by natural attrition?
112. What is the estimated final cost of these redundancies?
113. How was \$80 million (i.e. over how many years) saving calculated?
114. Did this \$80 million include the cost of the redundancies?
115. With regards to the maternity unit of the Blue Mountains Hospital –
- Has it been closed to deliveries on any occasion since March 2011?
 - What is the total cost for locums in obstetrics, paediatrics and anaesthetics in that time?
 - How many babies per month (May-September 2011) have been delivered?
116. In which of the south west Sydney hospitals will the extra 25 promised nurses be stationed at?
- How many have started?
 - How many of the 275 new nurses educators will go to south west Sydney?
 - How many of the 275 nurse educators are employed to date?
 - Where are they located?
117. Given the \$5 million commitment to open a rehab unit in Woy Woy –
- What new building work is required?
 - How many additional registered nurses will be required?
 - Has the staffing profile for this new unit been included in the forward estimates?

- d. Have you guaranteed that funding for the Wyong rehabilitation unit will be affected by re-opening the Woy Woy unit?

118. When will the new hospital at Bryon Bay, Ewingsdale open?

119. When will stage 3 of Lismore Hospital redevelopment commence?

120. What plans does your Government have to purchase land for a hospital in the lower hunter?

121. With regard to the Health Care Complaints Commission –

- a. Why would you expect the investigations completed within 12 months to fall from 90% back to 85%?
- b. Why would you also expect the percentage of satisfied complaint clients to fall?
- c. Why has the target for implementation in health services of recommendations from investigations been reduced to a figure of 90% when historically the Health Care Complaints Commission has achieved results of 96% and 97%?
- d. Your recent comment on channel 7 raised concerns about the Health Care Complaints Commission performance. Do you still hold those views?

122. Have you instructed the Royal North Shore Hospital to stop using the treatment areas or storage rooms for placing patients who are being disruptive or who are being disturbed by other patients?

123. Has a report on bed occupancy rates for adult acute overnight beds been prepared for NSW Health?

- a. Has the report been released?
- b. If not, when and will it be released to the public?

124. With regard to the bed occupancy rates of acute adult overnight beds, what was the average occupancy for the month of July 2011 in –

- a. Bankstown Hospital,
- b. Concord Hospital,
- c. Gosford Hospital,
- d. John Hunter Hospital,
- e. Liverpool Hospital,
- f. Nepean Hospital,
- g. Prince of Wales Hospital,
- h. Royal North Shore Hospital,
- i. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital,
- j. St George Hospital,
- k. St Vincent's Hospital,
- l. Westmead Hospital,
- m. Wollongong Hospital,
- n. Blacktown Hospital,
- o. Campbelltown Hospital,
- p. Fairfield Hospital,

- q. Mt Druitt Hospital,
- r. Sutherland Hospital,
- s. Wyong Hospital,
- t. Maitland Hospital,
- u. Port Macquarie Hospital,
- v. Tamworth Hospital, and
- w. Wagga Wagga Hospital?

125. With regard to the bed occupancy rates of acute overnight beds, what was the average occupancy for the month of July 2011 in –
- a. The Children's Hospital at Westmead, and
 - b. Sydney Children's Hospital?
126. What is the increase in recurrent funding for Specialist Palliative Care services in 2011-12?
127. At the end of the period 2011-12, which NSW public hospitals will have Specialist Palliative Care services operating onsite?
128. At the end of the period 2011-12, which NSW public hospitals will not have Specialist Palliative Care services operating onsite?
129. What provision has been made for the development of palliative care training resources for carers in 2011-12?
130. What provision has been made for the establishment and operation of a state-wide Palliative Care Information Service in 2011-12?
131. What provision has been made for the funding of a state-wide training program for palliative care volunteers in 2011-12?

Medical Research

132. Which institutes, organisations or bodies receiving funding for medical research from the NSW Government in 2011-12 are conducting research or experimentation on embryonic stem cells?
133. What are the names of the medical research programs receiving funding from the NSW Government in 2011-12 that involve research or experimentation on embryonic stem cells?
134. What specific funding amounts will be provided by the NSW Government in 2011-12 to medical research programs involving research or experimentation on embryonic stem cells? Nominate the amount of funding associated with the respective program?

Phones

135. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?

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

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

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

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

140. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?

141. How many phones or devices have been lost in your office?

142. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

Media/public relations

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

144. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

145. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

Overseas trips

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

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

Office costs

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

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

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

151. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?

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

153. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

154. What is your office budget?

155. How many political advisors are in your office?

156. How many administration staff?

157. How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?

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

Cabcharge

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

Restructure

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

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

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

163. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

Agency costs

164. What is your agency's catering budget?

165. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?

166. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?

167. How much has been spent on stationary?

Correspondence

168. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?

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

Paying bills on time

170. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

171. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?

In relation to Grants to Non-Government Organisations

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

In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:

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

Parliamentary Secretary Questions

175. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
- kilometres travelled
 - accommodation,
 - air fares
 - meals/entertaining?
176. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
- meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
177. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
- Are these meetings documented?
 - Who attends these meetings?
178. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

179. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so:
- 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?

Questions from the Hon Helen Westwood MLC

Denman Multipurpose Service

180. Can the Minister provide details of measures her Department, and Hunter New England Local Health Network has in place to recruit and retain doctors in the Upper Hunter?
181. The Minister would be aware that the Denman Multipurpose Service has not had a Visiting Medical Officer for over two years now, which impacts on the level of health care the Denman Multipurpose Service can provide. Can the Minister outline specific measures in place to recruit a Visiting Medical Officer to Denman Multipurpose Service?

Muswellbrook Aged Care Facility

182. I refer the Minister to the Muswellbrook Aged Care Facility, which is located within Muswellbrook District Hospital. Is the Minister aware that the facility requires reaccreditation and is need of significant maintenance works¹?
183. Can the Minister advise of plans in place to upgrade the facilities at Muswellbrook Aged Care Facility?
184. Can the Minister provide her view on whether the State Government should remain in the business of operating Aged Care Facilities given they are a Federal Government responsibility?

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There were no additional questions on notice lodged by members relating to the portfolio of Health, Medical Research.

¹ Minutes of the Hunter New England Local Health Network Governing Council, Friday, 6 May 2011