

## BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions relating to the portfolio of Finance and Services  
24 October 2011, 9.00 am – 12.00 pm

#### Questions from Dr Kaye, MLC

1. What incentives and regulations are available to industry to encourage water saving and reuse?

#### Answer

In Sydney:

- Water Wise Rules.
- The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme.
- The Business Customer Services program
- The Building and Sustainability Index (BASIX)
- Water Savings Action Plans

In the Hunter:

- Long term partnerships with major industrial customers to supply recycled water.
- Lower Hunter Recycled Water Initiative
- The Hunter Business Water Savers Program
- The installation of 'smart' water metering systems for large industrial customers and schools
- Subsidising commercial irrigation efficiency studies
- The commencement of a subsidised water audit program for large industrial customers.

2. What incentives and regulations are available to residents to encourage water saving and reuse?

#### Answer

In Sydney

- Water Wise Rules
- The Water Efficiency Labelling Standards scheme (WELS),
- The Building Sustainability Index
- BASIX
- WaterFix
- Greywater guidelines and fact sheets.
- PlumbAssist
- The National Water Efficiency Standards (WES)
- Recycled water supplied by Sydney Water to residential customers is priced by IPART at 80 per cent of the drinking water price.

In the Hunter

A dedicated water efficiency team deliver residential water saving initiatives and incentives such as:

- Home Retrofit Program
- Showerhead Exchange Program
- No Interest Loans for low income customers to buy a water efficient washing machine
- Water efficiency education and giveaways of free shower timers, Do It Yourself water saving kits and hose trigger nozzles at community events
- Provision of water efficient gardening information packs.

3. Is the Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme on track?

**Answer**

Yes

4. Is the Metropolitan Water Plan being updated?

**Answer**

The Metropolitan Water Plan is reviewed regularly.

5. What are the government's water savings targets for 2015 and 2010?

**Answer**

**In Sydney:**

Recycling 70 billion litres of water and saving 145 billion litres of water a year through water efficiency programs by 2015.

**In the Hunter:**

- In 2010-11 Hunter Water had a water saving target of an additional 150ML
- The water saving target for 2015 is yet to be set

#### **Questions from the Hon Mr Veitch, MLC**

6. How many people have been successful in receiving the the Regional Relocation Grant as of today's date?

**Answer**

117 grants have been approved (as at 7 November 2011).

7. How many people have applied?

**Answer**

168 Regional Relocation Grant applications have been received.

8. Where in Sydney were they located before the move?

**Answer**

Applicants came from the following areas:

Ashfield, Bankstown, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Hornsby, Hurstville, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Liverpool, Mosman, North Sydney, Parramatta, Penrith, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Ryde, Sutherland, The Hills, Warringah, Willoughby, Wollondilly

9. Where did they move to?

**Answer**

Applicants moved to the following regional areas:

North - Central Coast, Hunter and North Coast, North West - New England, South - Illawarra and South Coast, South West - Southern Highlands and Western NSW.

10. How many west of the dividing range?

**Answer**

See the answer to Question 9.

11. What were the ages of the successful recipients?

**Answer**

As there may be more than one person named on a Regional Relocation Grant application, the following relates to the eldest applicant for each grant provided, in 10-year age bands.

Age	Number
20 - 60	68
60+	48

12. With regard to the marketing of the programme. How much has been spent so far in advertising the scheme out of the 1 million?

- a. Is there a budget for the campaign?
- b. Who was engaged to prepare the marketing?
- c. Was the ad campaign an open tender or a selective/exclusive process?
- d. Contract for the work?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Trade and Investment.

13. How many people are responsible for administering the Grant program?

**Answer**

OSR absorbed the administration of the regional relocation grant into existing staff, using officers already administering other grants.

14. How many Staff are paid to check compliance with the Grant Program?

**Answer**

See answer to previous question.

15. How do you intend to recoup the money if recipients do not adhere to the conditions of the Grant Program?

**Answer**

Initially OSR would raise an assessment for the amount of the grant. If the grant remains outstanding after the assessment falls due, OSR would commence debt recovery action in line with the Taxation Administration Act. Interest may be imposed if grant is not voluntarily repaid.

16. Can you guarantee that unspent funds will not be considered 'windfall gains'?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

17. Can you guarantee that any unspent funds will in fact be spent in Country NSW – West of the dividing range?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

**Questions from the Hon Ms Fazio, MLC**

**Phones**

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

**Answer**

3

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

**Answer**

1 to the Minister

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

**Answer**

0

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

**Answer**

0

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

**Answer**

0

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

**Answer**

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

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

**Answer**

None

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

**Answer**

Not applicable

**Media and Public Relations**

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

**Answer**

Following the amalgamation of a number of agencies, the Department of Finance and Services employs 10 media or public relations officers across its various agencies, including NSW Fair Trading, NSW Public Works, Land and Property Information, Metropolitan Water Directorate, NSW Industrial Relations, NSW Procurement, Office of State Revenue, State Contracts Control Board, State Fleet, State Property Authority, State Records Authority and the Teacher Housing Authority and Housing NSW.

WorkCover's Media Unit consists of a Manager and three media officers.

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

**Answer**

The number of positions may change when the Department of Finance and Services cluster is finalised with the inclusion of former Housing NSW staff.

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

**Answer**

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

## **Overseas Trips**

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

**Answer**

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

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

**Answer**

See answer to question 29

## **Office Costs**

31. 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

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

**Answer**

See answer to question 31

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

**Answer**

See answer to question 31

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

**Answer**

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

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

**Answer**

Yes

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

**Answer**

\$1,601

37. What is your office budget?

**Answer**

See answer to question 34

38. How many political advisors are in your office?

**Answer**

See answer to question 31

39. How many administration staff?

**Answer**

See answer to question 31

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

**Answer**

The Department of Finance and Services has assigned 3 officers to the Ministerial office.

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

**Answer**

Each Minister is provided with a Ministerial driver. There are no staff dedicated full time to ministerial support functions.

**Cabcharge**

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

**Answer**

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

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

**Office Furniture**

43. What new office furniture has been purchased for your ministerial offices in both GMT and Parliament House since your appointment?

**Answer**

No new furniture has been purchased

44. What is the cost of each item of furniture and to whom has that furniture been allocated?

**Answer**

N/A

### **Conference Titles**

45. What is the itemised costing for each ICT seminar and/or conference which has been sponsored by your Department since you took office (i.e. cost of speakers, venues, catering, travel, accommodation and consultants)?

**Answer**

All ICT Forums, seminars, conferences and other undertakings have been interlinked with the development of the ICT Governance reform and ICT Strategy since April 2011.

The total cost to date is \$74,416 + GST. This has included engagement with industry to identify key themes and objectives for the ICT Strategy, ICT Governance reform and Forums, seminars and conferences; to deliver key stakeholder briefings in advance of Forums/seminars; pre and post Forum, seminar and conference material; the operation of the Forums, seminars and conferences; a consultant's report from the Ministerial Strategic ICT Forum including on ICT Strategy & ICT Governance reform; and other undertakings.

### **Restructure**

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

**Answer**

Yes

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

**Answer**

Voluntary redundancies vary between agencies.

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

**Answer**

None.

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

**Answer**

See answer to question 47.

### **Agency Costs**

50. What is your agency's catering budget?

**Answer**

The Department of Finance and Services does not have a specific catering budget.

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

**Answer**

Yes



52. 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.

53. How much has been spent on stationery?

**Answer**

Expenditure on stationery has been minimal. In accordance with its usual practice, the department asked that existing stationery stocks be exhausted before new supplies were ordered. These were primarily envelopes.

Business cards, one of the few items to be printed, are also being rebranded and reprinted as existing stocks are used up.

**Correspondence**

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

**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.

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

**Answer**

See answer to question 54

**Paying bills on time**

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

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

**Answer (56 & 57)**

The department currently pays all its invoices on average 32 days from the date of the invoice and with the introduction of the requirement to pay suppliers within 30 days from receipt of a correctly rendered invoice, the department will endeavour to achieve the 30 day payment goal.

**Grants to non-government organisations**

58. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?

**Answer**

This information will be available in the annual report.

59. 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?

**Answer**

See answer to question 58

**Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews**

60. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews. If so;

- 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.

**Parliamentary Secretary**

61. 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**

The costs for my Parliamentary Secretary were \$550.90

62. 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?

**Answer**

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

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

**Answer:** frequently

- Are these meetings documented?

**Answer:** frequently

- Who attends these meetings?

**Answer:** other parties as required

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

**Answer**

I do, however, if I am unable my staff do it at my direction

65. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so:
- Who conducted the training?
  - When was it conducted
  - Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
  - Who paid for the training?

**Answer**

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has not incurred any expense for this purpose

**Carbon modelling**

66. Has your department engaged consultants to do modelling on the potential impact of carbon pricing on public transport demand?
- If so, who are the consultants?
  - How were they selected?
  - How much will this piece of advice cost?

**Answer**

No.

**Wages policy**

67. How many persons in NSW come within the definition of "public sector employee" as provided for in the *Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2011* and the *Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011*?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

68. How many persons come within the above definition of "public sector employee" in each of the 93 State electorates according to the residential address held for each public sector employee by each public sector employer agency?

**Answer**

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

69. How many persons come within the above definition of "public sector employee" in each of the 93 State electorates according to the usual workplace location of those public sector employees?

**Answer**

See answer to question 68.

70. How many "public sector employees" within the above definition does each public sector employer employ, by agency name:
- Across NSW;
  - By each State electorate according to the residential address held for those employees by the public sector employer agency; and
  - By each State electorate according to the usual workplace location of those public sector employers' employees?

**Answer**

See answer to question 68.

71. Having regard to the \$2 billion savings amount estimated to be achieved through the Government's wages policy as embodied in the Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2011 and the Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011, what is the estimated savings figure to be achieved, by State electorate, according to:
- The residential address held for public sector employees by each public sector employer agency; and
  - The usual workplace location of public sector employers' employees?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

72. Will police officers now covered by the Award made by the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW as a result of proceedings designated IRC 325/2011 come within the meaning of the term "public sector employee" provided for in the Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011 ("the Regulation") and Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2011, and come within the operation of the government policies declared in the Regulation, in any new Award proceedings commenced from this time forward?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

73. When making the Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011, why did your Government not also exempt nurses who had a claim before the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW pending at the time the regulation was made?

**Answer**

It was the NSW Government's intention to have all public servants covered by the wages policy.

74. When making the Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011, why did your Government not exempt fire fighters from the operation of the regulation?

**Answer**

See answer to Question 73.

**Apprentices and Trainees**

75. How many apprentices are employed in the NSW public sector?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

76. How many trainees are employed in the NSW public sector?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

77. Will apprentices be affected by the *Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2011* and the *Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011*?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

78. Will trainees be affected by the *Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2011* and the *Industrial Relations (Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011*?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

79. What amount does the Government expect to save through the application of its wages policy to apprentices?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

80. What amount does the Government expect to save through the application of its wages policy to trainees?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

81. What will be the impact of the Government's wages policy on the Government's policy of providing 2,475 extra nurses?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

**Project performance**

82. Budget paper No. 3 Chapter 5, p9 indicates that projects managed on time and on budget for 2011-2012 is forecast to be only 85 % compared to a rate of 92% for each of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011: why do you intend your Government's performance in this area to be lower than that of the former Labor Government?

**Answer**

The figure of 85 per cent is a performance target and not a forecast.

**Savings**

83. Budget paper No. 2, Chapter 4, p7 states there will be \$1 billion achieved in procurement savings:
- How was this figure arrived at?
  - What modelling was undertaken to achieve it?
  - What body or agency did that modelling?
  - What was the "brief" or terms of reference provided to the body or agency that did the modelling?
  - By what specific measures will this amount be achieved?
  - Will this saving be achieved by increasing procurement from sources located in:

**Answer a-f**

The \$1 billion savings figure was included in the *Make NSW Number One Again: NSW Liberals and Nationals Savings Strategy*. The target was based on goods and services expenditure through whole-of-government contracts. Savings are not location specific.

84. Australian States and territories, other than NSW?

**Answer**

See above

85. Nations other than Australia?

**Answer**

See above.

86. Government spending on procurement is with the private sector: What modelling has been done on the effects of the withdrawal of the \$1 billion from the economy and from private sector providers?

**Answer**

See above.

87. Budget paper No. 2, Chapter 4, p7 states there will be \$6 billion achieved in savings from efficiency dividends, agency-specific savings and wage offsets: please provide a breakdown of this amount by each component (efficiency dividends, agency-specific savings and wage offsets) and inform the Committee:
- How was this \$6 billion figure and each of it's component parts arrived at?
  - What modelling was undertaken to achieve those figures?
  - What body or agency did that modelling?
  - What was the "brief" or terms of reference provided to the body or agency that did the modelling?
  - By what specific measures will this \$6 billion amount be achieved?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

88. Budget paper No. 2, Chapter 4, p7 states there will be \$800 million achieved from "program savings" through a "detailed analysis of programs ... to identify activities .. ineffective, inefficient or no longer a government priority.":
- a. By what benchmark, measure or policy will your government determine programs or activities to be ineffective or inefficient?
  - b. How was the amount of \$800 million arrived at?
  - c. What modelling was undertaken to achieve it?
  - d. What body or agency did that modelling?
  - e. What was the "brief" or terms of reference provided to the body or agency that did the modelling?
  - f. By what specific measures will this amount be achieved?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

89. Having regard to the savings to be achieved and identified in Budget paper No. 2, Chapter 4, p7:
- a. What actions have already been taken to achieve the savings?
  - b. What savings have been made to date?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

90. Changes to the "First Home Plus" and "First Home Plus One" Schemes to be effected by the Duties Amendment (First Home-New Home) Bill 2011 are estimated to result in \$1.05 billion in increased tax on first home buyers who buy existing properties from 1 January 2012; based on the experience of the scheme from inception to date (including the number of persons accessing benefits under the scheme, and the amounts of money received by those persons) how much of the \$1.05 billion is estimated to be paid, by postcode, in each financial year across the forward estimates (2011-2012; 2012-2013; 2013-2014; and 2014-2015)?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

91. Following on from the question above and having regard to the Office of State Revenue First Home Benefits Fact Sheet can you inform the Committee of the following:
- a. Applying the new criteria contained in the Duties Amendment (First Home-New Home) Bill 2011 to the top 20 postcodes that have accessed the benefits of the scheme from its inception to date, what would be the reduction in amounts received and how many of the purchasers would not have been eligible for the concession/exemption, by postcode?
  - b. Applying the above new criteria to the total number of purchasers that have benefitted from the scheme and total amounts received to date under the scheme across NSW, what would be the reduction in amounts received and how many of the purchasers would not have been eligible for the concession/exemption, by postcode?
  - c. Applying the above new criteria to Western Sydney (as defined by the WSROC Council areas: Blacktown, Bankstown, Auburn, Penrith, Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains, Holroyd, Parramatta, Fairfield, Liverpool) what would be the reduction in amounts of funding received by postcode and how many of the purchasers would not have been eligible for the concession/exemption, by postcode?

**Answer**

As of 1 January 2012 the policy will apply

92. Why are the 5000 "voluntary redundancies" referred to in the Treasurer's Budget Speech not referred to in the "Delivering Our Commitments" document released as part of the Budget 2011-12 materials?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

93. In July this year there was a delay appointing members to the Dust Diseases Board:
- Why did this delay occur?
  - How many meetings were cancelled, postponed or rescheduled as a result of this delay?
  - How many applications for compensation were to be considered at these meetings?
  - What is the amount of compensation that has since been awarded in cases that were to be considered at these meetings?

**Answer a to d**

Appointments to the New South Wales Workers Compensation Dust Diseases Board were made on 25 July 2011 following Cabinet approval.

Forty two new applications for compensation were considered by the Board on 2 August through the use of out of session provisions.

The total amount of compensation payable in respect of the cases cannot be determined as weekly payments continue.

94. Budget Paper No 3 p5-5 states that in 2010-11, NSW Industrial Relations helped to "recover over \$2 million in back pay to NSW staff, including \$1.5 million after over 300 industrial complaint investigations".

**Answer**

Noted.

95. Has the Government sought advice on the impact that the sacking of 48 NSW Industrial Relations Staff and the closure of NSW Industrial Relations Offices in Penrith, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Gosford will have on:
- The ability of NSW workers to make industrial complaints?
  - The ability of NSW Industrial Relations to investigate complaints?
  - The amount of back pay that will be recovered for NSW workers in 2011-12?
  - The ability to achieve the Department of Finance and Service's key initiative for 2011-12 of "reviewing industrial relations laws and the national workplace relations system, and carrying out compliance and information services, with a focus on updating outmoded regulation and reducing the regulatory burden on businesses" as stated in Budget Paper No. 3 p5 -3

**Answer**

a), b) and c): Most workers in New South Wales are covered by the Fair Work Act and need to use the Fair Work Ombudsman if they need to make a complaint about pay and entitlements.



d) The New South Wales Government is confident that the Department will achieve this initiative.

96. Does the Government expect that the sacking of 48 NSW Industrial Relations Staff and the closure of NSW Industrial Relations Offices in Penrith, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Gosford will:
- Improve or diminish the ability of NSW workers to make industrial complaints?
  - Improve or diminish the ability of NSW Industrial Relations to investigate complaints?
  - Increase or decrease the amount of back pay that will be recovered for NSW workers in 2011-12?
  - Improve or diminish the ability of NSW Industrial Relations to achieve the key initiative stated in Budget Paper No 3 p5-3?

**Answer**

See previous answers to Question 95.

97. How is the closure of NSW Industrial Relations Offices in Penrith, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Gosford consistent with the Government's policy of a "Decade of Decentralisation"?

**Answer**

Most of the private sector workforce is covered by the Federal Government's industrial relations arrangements.

98. Have the Minister for Finance and Services or any staff from his office met with any of the 48 sacked staff from NSW Industrial Relations to discuss these job cuts?

**Answer**

Through the management plan, the Director General, Department of Finance and Services and Executive Director spoke directly with affected staff on several occasions.

99. Budget Paper No 3 p5-3 states that NSW Industrial Relations will review industrial relations laws and the national workplace relations system:
- What is the timetable for this review?
  - Who will conduct this review?
  - What will be the terms of reference for the review?
  - By what means will the members of the public and other stakeholders be able to make submissions to this review?
  - Will public hearings be held as part of this review?
  - Will this review include the Industrial Relations (Child Employment) Act 2006?
  - Will this review include a review of public holiday arrangements in NSW?

**Answer**

The NSW Government is currently considering process and timetable for a review of the Industrial Relations Act 1996 and related legislation and regulation.

100. Budget Paper No 3 p5-3 states that NSW Industrial Relations will review industrial relations laws and the national workplace relations system:
- When will this review be held?
  - What will be the terms of reference for the review?
  - Will public hearings be held as part of this review?

**Answer**

See answer to Question 99.

101. Budget Paper No 3 p5-7 states that a "Future Direction" for the Department of Finance and Services is to "complete the transfer of NSW Industrial Relations' functions to the Australian Government and consolidate the State's responsibilities":
- a. What will be the State's responsibilities at the conclusion of this process?
  - b. Will the Government refer industrial relations functions to the Australian Government in a manner similar to the state of Victoria?

**Answer**

The Statement in the Budget Paper refers to the role of NSW as a partner in the national workplace relations system for the private sector, rather than a direct deliverer of services. As a partner agency, NSW Industrial Relations undertakes compliance activities in the national system under contract to the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Private sector employers and employees are directed to relevant federal agencies for information and support about the national system.

102. Why was notice of the Regulatory Impact Statement for the Industrial Relations (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011 published in the Government Gazette on 14 October 2011, when the Regulation was made and published on the NSW legislation website on 20 June 2011?

**Answer**

Section 5 of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989* requires the responsible Minister to prepare a Regulatory Impact Statement for proposed new principal statutory rules. The usual practice is for Regulatory Impact Statements to be available for public comment for a period of time before the principal statutory rule is made.

Following the introduction of a Motion to disallow this Regulation in June, the matter was extensively debated in Parliament in August.

As notified in the Gazette, copies of the Regulatory Impact Statement and the Regulation itself are available on the NSW Industrial Relations website:

[www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au](http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au).

103. What opportunity did interested parties and stakeholders have to make submissions to the Government in response to the Regulatory Impact Statement for the Industrial Relations (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2011, prior to the Regulation being made and published?

**Answer**

See answer to Question 102.

104. On 10 August 2011, the Industrial Relations Commission handed down the Crown Employees (Public Sector - Salaries 2011) Award:
- Why did it take the Government 58 days to advise crown employees of the outcome of this case?
  - Who made the decision to seek to prevent this award being applied to employees who had taken a voluntary redundancy or who had retired since 1 July 2011?
  - What were the Government's legal costs to contest the case *Re Crown Employees (Public Sector - Salaries 2011) Award (No 4) [2011] NSWIRComm 130*?
  - What amount has the Government paid to former employees as a result of *Re Crown Employees (Public Sector - Salaries 2011) Award (No 4) [2011] NSWIRComm 130*?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

105. Has the Industrial Relations Advisory Council met?

**Answer**

Yes.

106. Who are the members of the Council?

**Answer**

The members of the Industrial Relations Advisory Council are as follows:

**Minister for Finance and Services**

The Hon Greg Pearce MLC (Chair)

**Unions NSW**

Mark Lennon

Secretary

Plus 7 members to be nominated by Unions NSW.

**NSW Business Chamber**

Dick Grozier

Director Industrial Relations

**Australian Industry Group**

David Hargraves

Director Workplace Relations

**Master Builders Association of NSW**

Brian Seidler

Executive Director

**Australian Federation of Employers and Industries**

Garry Brack

Chief Executive

**Catholic Commission For Employment Relations**

Anthony Farley  
Executive Director

**NSW Bar Association**

Peter Kite SC  
Frederick Jordan Chambers

**The Law Society of NSW**

Joe Catanzariti  
Clayton Utz

**Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW**

Ross Nassif  
Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

**Department of Premier and Cabinet**

Mr Chris Eccles, Director General

**Department of Finance and Services**

Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director-General

107. Which non-government organisations does the Minister consult with about industrial relations issues?

**Answer**

If any organisations wish to put forward views about issues relating to industrial relations in New South Wales, they are welcome to do so.

108. Which unions does the Minister consult with about industrial relations issues?

**Answer**

See answer to Question 107.

109. Which organisations based in rural, regional and remote NSW does the Minister consult with about industrial relations issues?

**Answer**

See answer to Question 107.

110. Which private companies associated with the construction, delivery or maintenance of infrastructure does the Minister consult with about industrial relations issues?

**Answer**

See answer to Question 107.

111. Has the Government conducted any research into the amount of unpaid overtime worked by NSW public sector employees?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

112. What amount of unpaid overtime work does the Government estimate is performed by NSW public sector employees?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

113. What action has the Government taken to implement the recommendations of the Review of the Entertainment Industry Act 1989 released in October 2010 by the Better Regulation Office?

**Answer**

A number of recommendations of the *Review of the Entertainment Industry Act 1989* were implemented by amendments of the Entertainment Industry Regulations earlier this year under the previous Government.

The NSW Government is currently considering whether to implement the remaining recommendations of the report.

114. What action has the government taken to address the exploitation of clothing outworkers?

**Answer**

Since the introduction of Ethical Clothing Trades Extended Responsibility Scheme on 1 July 2005, NSWIR Inspectors have:

- conducted 72 Compliance Campaigns covering 1,027 employers.
- identified 681 breaches of Industrial legislation in 312 workplaces with 219 workplaces failing to adopt the Ethical Clothing Trades Mandatory Code.
- recovered \$60,516.73 in wages

115. Does the Government have any plans to expand the use of individual contracts in the NSW public sector?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

116. Will the Government place more Auslan videos about industrial relations on the NSW Industrial Relations website?

**Answer**

The Commonwealth has the administrative responsibility for delivering the national system to private sector employers and employees in New South Wales through the Fair Work Ombudsman. The Fair Work Ombudsman has now followed the lead of NSW Industrial Relations and has its own series of signed information videos available on its website [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

117. Will the Government place Auslan videos about other topics on other NSW Government websites?

**Answer**

This question should be referred to the Premier.

118. Regional Relocation Grant

- a. How many people have been successful in receiving the the Regional Relocation Grant as of today's date?

- b. How many people have applied?
- c. Where in Sydney were they located before the move?
- d. Where did they move to?
- e. How many west of the dividing range?
- f. What were the ages of the successful recipients?
- g. With regard to the marketing of the programme. How much has been spent so far in advertising the scheme out of the 1 million dollars?
- h. Is there a budget for the campaign?
- i. Who was engaged to prepare the marketing?
- j. Was the ad campaign an open tender or a selective/exclusive process?
- k. Please provide a copy of the contract for the work?
- l. How many people are responsible for administering the Grant program?
- m. How many Staff are paid to check compliance with the Grant Program?
- n. How do you intend to recoup the money if recipients do not adhere to the conditions of the Grant Program?
- o. Can you guarantee that unspent funds will not be considered 'windfall gains'?
- p. Can you guarantee that any unspent funds will in fact be spent in Country NSW – West of the dividing range?

**Answer**

See answers to questions 6-17.

119. Parliamentary Secretary

- a. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
  - i. kilometres travelled
  - ii. accommodation,
  - iii. air fares
  - iv. meals/entertaining?
- b. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
  - i. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
  - ii. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- c. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
  - i. Are these meetings documented?
  - ii. Who attends these meetings?
- d. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
- e. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so:
  - i. Who conducted the training?
  - ii. When was it conducted
  - iii. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
  - iv. Who paid for the training?

**Answer**

See answers to questions 61-65.