

## Questions from the Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC

### 1. Office of Preventative Health

- a. What is the status of the promised Office of Preventative Health, when will it be established?
- b. Why has it not already been established?
- c. In what form will the NSW Government report on progress in overweight and obesity reduction targets? Will the Office of Preventative Health issue annual progress reports?
- d. What will be the structure of the Office? Will it have an independent Board?
- e. Has the Preventative Health Fighting Fund been established? What expenditure has occurred to date? Which programs have been funded by this initiative thus far?

### ANSWER:

- a. Planning is underway for the establishment of the Office of Preventative Health, which is expected to formally begin work in early 2012.
- b. The establishment of the Office is taking place in alignment with the Governance Review of NSW Health which was announced by the Government upon assuming office.
- c. *NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One* incorporates key targets regarding overweight and obesity rates amongst children and young people, and adults. The NSW Government has committed to regularly report progress on all *NSW 2021* targets online at (<http://2021.nsw.gov.au/about-nsw-2021>) and through an annual report tabled in NSW Parliament.

It is intended that the Office of Preventative Health will supplement *NSW 2021* reporting with additional reporting on population level indicators impacting on overweight and obesity, such as participation in physical activity.

- d. The Office of Preventive Health will report to the Director General of NSW Health through the Deputy Director-General, Population and Public Health and Chief Health Officer, NSW Ministry of Health.
- e. Planning is underway for the establishment of the Preventive Health Fighting Fund. The Fund will have a value of approximately \$120 million over four years achieved through existing NSW and Commonwealth funding.

Expenditure thus far has supported programs to which NSW has made commitments in the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health, including Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service, the Early Childhood Physical Activity and Nutrition Program (*Munch and Move*) and the Targeted Family Physical Activity and Nutrition Program (*Go 4 Fun*).

### 2. Methadone

- a. What is the allocation breakdown of the \$10 million over four years and \$3.4 million increase in 2011/12 announced by Minister Humphries to expand opioid treatment programs?
- b. What is the allocation per person in each of the health districts?
- c. What is the allocation for each of the health districts?
- d. What do the \$10 million over four years and \$3.4 million increase promised in 2011/12 represent in percentage terms of the total NSW expenditure on methadone and buprenorphine treatment?
- e. What percentage of NSW citizens released from prison on methadone treatment will be offered community methadone or buprenorphine treatment?

**ANSWER:**

The allocation for \$10 million for the drug and alcohol NGO sector will be determined by a tender process.

A draft allocation to Local Health Districts and Justice Health for the \$3.4 million enhancement for the NSW Opioid Treatment Program as announced in the State Budget has been completed. A further breakdown is provided below.

It is not possible to calculate this allocation per person per Local Health District as the Government does not assess dependence prevalence on a Local Health District basis.

Sydney Local Health District	\$279,000
South Western Sydney Local Health District	\$279,000
South East Sydney Local Health District	\$279,000
Illawarra Local Health District	\$201,000
Western Sydney Local Health District	\$279,000
Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District	\$201,000
Northern Sydney Local Health District	\$201,000
Central Coast Local Health District	\$201,000
Hunter New England Local Health District	\$201,000
Northern NSW Local Health District	\$201,000
Mid North Coast Local Health District	\$201,000
Southern NSW Local Health District	\$123,000
Murrumbidgee Local Health District	\$75,000
Western NSW Local Health District	\$149,000
Far West Local Health District	\$123,000
St Vincent Hospital Network	\$123,000
Justice Health	\$331,000

The NSW Opioid Treatment Program is funded \$18 million per annum representing 11% of the total Drug and Alcohol Budget. The additional \$3.4 million funding for the NSW Opioid Treatment Program represents a 19% increase in funding for the Program. The \$10 million commitment to the drug and alcohol NGO sector relates to drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and programs, including but not exclusively methadone and buprenorphine treatment.

The \$3.4 million funding enhancement for the NSW Opioid Treatment Program will increase the capacity of the Program on state-wide basis. Those being released from custody will continue to be prioritised for treatment in the public sector; however, it is not possible to determine what percentage of those will continue treatment in the community setting.

**3. Oral health**

- a. Given the waiting list for public dental services exceeds the numbers of people on hospital waiting lists, and that NSW has the lowest funding for public dental services of any other state or territory. Why is there no additional funding for oral health in the 2011-12 budget beyond standard escalation?

**ANSWER:**

The Dental Taskforce was established in April 2011 to develop a NSW Dental Health Action Plan which will identify strategies to take to the Commonwealth Government and the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council to improve Commonwealth dental programs, address workforce shortages and student training.

The Taskforce will also consider strategies to improve the oral health outcomes and access to oral health services for populations with high dental health needs.

There will be a continued focus on reducing waiting lists across the state with NSW Health also actively participating in the development of a National Minimum Data Set for dental waiting times under the auspice of the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council. This is currently planned for implementation from 1 July 2012.

**Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC**

**4. Mental Health**

- a. Premier lemma's five year "A New Plan for Mental Health" was due to end 30 June 2011: which policies and programs that were in place when you came to government have been continued by your government, with what amount of total funding over the forward estimates by program and also identifying what new funding has been allocated to them by program, and which programs have been discontinued?
- b. If any have been discontinued, why, and what was the level of funding for them, by program, for the year ended 30 June 2011.

**ANSWER:**

All recurrently funded initiatives announced under *NSW: A new direction for Mental Health* (New Directions) have been maintained with Treasury escalation consistent with announced government policy into forward years. All non-recurrent initiatives including capital works have run until their documented timelines in the New Directions document.

Additional funding has been applied from 2011/12 for the following initiatives:

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>2011/12 Funding (\$ million)</b>
Rural Mental Health Emergency Transport	0.5 (increasing to 2.1 by 2013/14)
Schizophrenia Research Chair	0.5
Clinical Academic Mental Health Research Program	0.8
Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People in Hunter/New England	0.8
Family and Carer Mental Health Program	2.0
Assertive Community Response Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	3.4

5. Western NSW

- a. How many submissions and representations have you made to Cabinet as the Minister for Western NSW?
- b. How many staff are employed in your office to support you in your role as Minister for Western NSW?

**ANSWER:**

- a. Cabinet in Confidence requires submissions and representations made by a Minister to Cabinet to remain confidential
- b. One

Healthy Lifestyles

6. Given the projected smoking rates of 16% by the end of 2012 in the budget papers, what funds and programs will be allocated in 2011-12 by NSW Health to achieve this?

- a. Do you support the licensing of tobacco retailers?
- b. If yes, how do you plan to act on this
- c. If no, why not?

**ANSWER:**

a. – c.

NSW Health has allocated over \$8 million in 2011/12 to a range of tobacco programs focused on decreasing the prevalence of smoking in disadvantaged communities and enforcing regulation which protects the community from second-hand tobacco smoke and decreases tobacco promotion, particularly to minors.

NSW Health introduced a new negative licensing scheme for tobacco retailers on 1 July 2009 and is committed to evaluating its effectiveness. The NSW Government will consider whether a stronger licensing regime is required in light of an evaluation of this scheme.

7. Given that only \$3m has been allocated for dialysis enhancements for 2011-12.

- a. What health promotion activities has your office instituted to reduce the need for dialysis?
- b. How will this money be spent?

**ANSWER:**

a.

The NSW Government currently has a range of health promotion activities to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce illness such as kidney disease. The NSW Healthy Worker Initiative will target adults in paid employment to reduce the risks associated with modifiable risk factors such as smoking, harmful alcohol consumption, overweight and obesity and poor nutrition.

Working adults will have access to a range of tools and resources, including health risk assessments to support them to make healthy lifestyle changes and prevent chronic conditions such as kidney disease.

In addition, the Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service has successfully provided adults with information and telephone coaching to support them to eat healthier, be more active and achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

A range of tobacco control and cessation support strategies are being implemented. Aboriginal communities are a specific focus of a number of these activities given their high rates of smoking and kidney disease.

A Resource Directory has also been developed to support Local Health Districts with the implementation of the NSW Health policy directive PD2010\_023 *Kidney Health Check: Promoting*

*the Early Detection and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease*, which was released on 14 April 2010. The Policy Directive promotes the early detection and management of chronic kidney disease and aims to optimise existing contacts with at risk patients in hospital settings in order to prevent progression to end stage kidney disease. The Directory contains examples of patient information brochures, staff education packages and other resources pertinent to the policy directive.

b.

In the 2011/2012 financial year, enhancement funding of \$3 million was provided to complement Local Health District service investment for a number of renal services projects, including:

- Nurse Practitioner Sydney Children's Hospital's Network (SCHN) at Westmead
- 6 additional dialysis places in Liverpool; Armidale; Taree; and, Broken Hill
- 4 additional dialysis places in Singleton and Justice Health
- 3 additional dialysis places in Campbelltown
- 12 additional dialysis places in Auburn
- 0.7 FTE Staff Specialist at Blue Mountains
- 0.5 FTE Home Dialysis Nurse at South Western Sydney Local Health District
- 0.5 FTE Home Dialysis Nurse at Sydney Local Health District
- 6 additional chairs for 12 additional people in Milton/Ulladulla
- 0.5 FTE Chronic Kidney Disease Clinical Nurse Consultant at Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
- Funding for Away from Home Haemodialysis

8. Will there be an enhancement to the Mt Druiitt Dental Service in 2011-12?

**ANSWER:**

Funding to progress planning and design for the expansion of Blacktown Mount Druiitt Hospital has been allocated for 2011/12. Enabling works are planned to commence in February 2013 with Stage 1 construction planned to commence in October 2013.

One of the proposed service enhancements is an expansion of oral health services with an additional 8 dental chairs at the Mt Druiitt Campus. This is in addition to the existing 5 dental chairs.

9. What are the Minister's top three priorities for the Healthy Lifestyles Portfolio?

**ANSWER:**

The top three priorities for the Healthy Lifestyles Portfolio are to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people, decrease overweight and obesity rates in children and adults and to promote oral health.

10. What action is the Government taking to combat the rising instance of obesity in:

- a. Western Sydney?
- b. The Illawarra?
- c. The Central Coast?
- d. The Hunter?
- e. Rural and Regional New South Wales?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is delivering and supporting a range of population based initiatives to address overweight and obesity including telephone coaching services, workplace programs, social marketing campaigns and menu board displays. This is the first time that a New South Wales Government has specifically targeted overweight and obesity among adults.

11. Will the Government consider introducing limitations on displays of foods with high fat, salt and sugar content?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government believes that consumers should be empowered to make informed decisions about the foods that they purchase and consume in order to promote healthy choices.

From 1 February 2011, standard menu food retailers with 20 or more outlets in NSW, or 50 or more outlets nationally, are required to display kilojoule information on menu boards (known as the 'fast choices' initiative). Penalty provisions will apply to retailers who fail to comply from 1 February 2012.

The NSW Government is also participating in the national response to the Blewett review of food labelling law and policy. It is expected that the Council of Australian Governments will respond in early 2012.

12. What information is available about the prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes in each of the 93 Electorates throughout NSW?

**ANSWER:**

Data on the prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes is not collected at an electorate level.

13. What information is available about the prevalence of smoking in each of the 93 Electorates throughout NSW?

**ANSWER:**

Data on the prevalence of smoking is not collected at an electorate level.

14. What action will the Government take to increase awareness about the harmful nature of trans fats?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government will consider what action would be appropriate to increase awareness of the health risks associated with the consumption of certain levels of manufactured trans fats in light of the national response to the Blewett review of food labelling law and policy.

15. Is the Government considering expanding the existing Kings Cross Supervised Injecting Room?

a. Is the Government considering any additional Supervised Injecting Rooms?

**ANSWER:**

I refer the Member to the transcript of the Budget Estimates Hearing on Mental Health, Health Lifestyles and Western NSW on 26 October 2011.

16. What initiatives has the Government introduced to encourage school aged children to increase their rate of physical activity?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is implementing a number of strategies which promote physical activity to school-aged children.

The Children's Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Program enhances the knowledge and skills of key community settings to be more health promoting in relation to physical activity and healthy eating. This includes Live Life Well @ School, a strategy which seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle to primary school aged children including participation in physical activity. Live Life Well @ School provides professional development, resources and ongoing support to teachers to: integrate policies and practices across the school which enable children to be more physically active; and provide information to parents to support their children to be physically active outside the school setting.

The Targeted Family Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Program, also known as Go4Fun, targets overweight and obese children 7-13 years old and their families. As part of this interactive program, delivered over 10-weeks, children participate in one hour of physical activity twice each week as well as developing skills and knowledge to be more physically active. Children who have completed Go4Fun can also participate in the Go4Fun Graduate Program in which they participate in physical activity sessions once a week for 10-weeks.

In addition, through the Healthy Children Initiative, NSW Health will develop and deliver a comprehensive social marketing campaign to deliver key health related messages to young people. This campaign will promote physical activity and use innovative methods of engaging and communicating to youth.

17. Given the significant opposition to the existence of the "Healthy Lifestyles" Portfolio from within the Liberal Party has the Minister been given any guarantees of the ongoing survival of this portfolio?

**ANSWER:**

This question is based on speculation; the NSW Government is committed to preventative health.

18. Given the revelation that one of the Minister's staffers previously worked as a lobbyist in the Tobacco Industry can the Minister advise as to the qualifications and professional experience of his remaining staff?

**ANSWER:**

All employees have suitable qualifications and experience.

19. What action is the Government taking to reduce the consumption of the following illicit substances:

- Marijuana?
- Cocaine?
- Heroin?
- MMDA?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government works across all relevant agencies to reduce the consumption of illicit substances. This includes a range of services and programs providing targeted prevention, supply reduction, law enforcement, harm reduction and treatment.

20. What action is the Government taking to assist the Federal Government in tracking individuals who abuse prescription medications in order to reduce their ability to fill these prescriptions?

**ANSWER:**

NSW Health works actively with all other jurisdictions to assist in reducing inappropriate prescribing and potential misuse of medicines.

Doctors in NSW currently have access to Medicare Australia's Prescription Shopping Program. This Program identifies patients obtaining Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidised medicine in excess of their medical need and outlines their prescription history.

21. What funding is available from the NSW Government for:

- a. Alcohol and drug addiction programs?
- b. Gambling Counselling Services?
- c. Tobacco Counselling services?

**ANSWER:**

- a. The annual NSW drug and alcohol budget allocation is just over \$160 million. This funding supports a range of programs to address drug and alcohol addiction including prevention activities, non-government treatment services, the opioid treatment program, government services in Local Health Districts and funding to other agencies for the management of drug and alcohol addiction.
- b. This question should be referred to the Hon George Souris MP, Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing as it falls within his portfolio.
- c. A number of tobacco counselling programs are managed by NSW Health services.

Under the *National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes* funding of approximately \$1 million is allocated in 2011/12 to the Quit for New Life program which supports cessation amongst pregnant Aboriginal women.

Since 2007/08, \$1.2 million has been provided to the *Smoke Check* program which aims to increase the number of health workers with the skills and knowledge to support Aboriginal people to quit.

In 2011/12, around \$4.8 million will be provided to NSW Local Health Districts to support local tobacco control initiatives. It is understood that a number of Local Health Districts use these funds to provide individual and group cessation counselling.

Local Health Districts also receive specific funds for drug and alcohol and mental health services which routinely provide tobacco cessation counselling. Local Health Districts may also use their general funds to support cessation initiatives.

The NSW Cancer Institute funds the *NSW Quit Line* which provides a state wide tobacco counselling and support service. For the 2011 calendar year, the Cancer Institute is providing \$1,611,500 for the *NSW Quit Line*.

22. Phones

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



issued?

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

**ANSWER:**

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

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

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

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

**23. Media and Public Relations**

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

**ANSWER:**

a to b. Due to the ongoing implementation of the Governance Review of Health, positions are still being finalised. This information is therefore not currently available.

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

**24. Overseas Trips**

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

**ANSWER:**

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

**25. Office Costs**

- a. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
- b. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
- c. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

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

**ANSWER:**

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

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

e. and f.

**Office Fitout/Renovations**

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Total Cost (\$) ex GST</b>
Premier	1,283
Deputy Premier Stoner	0
Minister Skinner	200
Minister Piccoli	2,657
Minister Gallacher	1,140
Minister Gay	2,060
Minister Hazzard	7,898
Minister Hartcher	3,006
Minister Berejiklian	250
Minister Souris	3,283
Treasurer Baird	0
Minister Pearce	1,601
Minister Hodgkinson	1,505
Minister Constance	978
Attorney General Smith	0
Minister Page	17,598
Minister Goward	3,823
Minister Roberts	3,640
Minister Humphries	7,089
Minister Parker	100
Minister Dominello	1,930
Minister Annesley	2,196
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,237</b>

**Note:** Information is sourced from contractor invoices. Also this table does not include electronic items purchased / replaced, such as televisions, digital radios, small appliances, whitegoods and cleaning costs.

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

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

**26. Cabcharge**

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

**ANSWER:**

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

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

27. Restructure

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

**ANSWER:**

a to d. Refer to response given by the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research to questions 108 to 114 in Budget Estimates Questions on Notice 2011.

28. Agency Costs

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

**ANSWER:**

a to d. Refer to response given by the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research to questions 164 to 167 in Budget Estimates Questions on Notice 2011.

29. Correspondence

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

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

**ANSWER:**

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

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

30. Paying bills on time

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

**ANSWER:**

The Government's policy to pay small businesses within 30 days became effective from 14 July 2011.

The policy provides for transition to the new arrangement and the requirement to pay penalty interest for late payment to small businesses who have registered with NSW Health will not apply until 1 January 2012.

31. Grants to non-government organisations

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

**ANSWER:**

a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0447—Premier—GRANTS TO NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

32. Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews

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

**ANSWER:**

a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0327—Premier—FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AUDITS, TASKFORCES AND REVIEWS.

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**There were no additional questions on notice lodged by members relating to the portfolio of Mental Health, Healthy Lifestyles, Western NSW.**

