

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
EDUCATION**

Learning Management Business Reform (LMBR) Program

1. On what date does the department expect to begin the full scale roll out of this program?

- (a) Have locations been chosen for the next phase of the LMBR roll out?**
i. What are these locations?

The Department has advised schools that it expects to begin the full scale roll out of the program in the first half of 2016.

- (a) Yes.**
i. Various locations across NSW.

2. How many administrative staff were employed at the 229 schools in the pilot program in the 2014/15?

- (a) How many of these staff are no longer employed inside public schools?**

Staffing entitlements are allocated to schools by calendar year, accordingly in 2014, the total School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) entitlement at the 229 schools in the pilot program was 1590.338 full time equivalent (FTE) positions.

3. How many administrative staff are employed in the 229 schools in the pilot program as at 31/8/15?

As at 31 August 2015, the total School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) entitlement at the 229 schools in the pilot program is 1600.965 full time equivalent (FTE) positions.

4. At which 229 schools in the LMBR program currently being trialled?

- (a) Have any of these schools requested to be removed from the trial?**

The LMBR solutions are being trialled at all 229 schools who participated in the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership.

- (a) A small number of schools expressed concerns about aspects of the LMBR pilot in the first months. The Department dedicated additional**

support and resourcing to assist schools to adapt to the new ways of working.

5. How many administrative staff if the 229 LMBR pilot schools have applied for workers compensation since 2012?

The workers compensation policy includes all ancillary non-teaching staff working in schools. For example office based administration staff, learning and support officers, and general assistants working in schools.

Claims are made up of approximately 46% sprains and strains, 23% superficial injuries, 9% lacerations, 9% psychological injuries, and 13% other injuries including fractures, burns, concussion, hernia, infection, poisoning and internal injuries.

**6. Has the department budgeted for an increase in stress leave and associated costs in 2015/16 at the 229 schools involved in this program?
(a) What is this increase?**

No.

7. Is the funding necessary to continue this project included in the 2015/16 budget?

(a) If yes, is it considered capital expenditure?

(b) If not, will the department be required to find additional savings in order to cover the costs associated with the LMBR roll out?

Yes.

(a) The funding is a mix of capital and recurrent funding.

(b) Not applicable.

8. What is the average cost for deployment of the LMBR system across the 229 pilot schools?

Program expenditure includes the delivered enterprise solutions to TAFE NSW and corporate areas of the Department. The solutions being trialled in the 229 schools have been built to be scaled to the more than 2200 public schools. This includes overall system development costs, as well as the costs associated with the provision and delivery of training and support materials.

9. Have any of the 229 pilot schools had utilities cut off as a result of late payment of bills?

(a) How many bills at each of these schools were outstanding for more than 60 days in the year to 31/8/15?

A review of water, gas and electricity bills paid for the 229 pilot schools reveals that no utilities were cut off as a result of late payment.

In the twelve months to 31/8/2015, there were no correctly rendered utility bills outstanding for more than 60 days relating to any of the 229 pilot schools.

Audit of religious activities in schools

- 10. How much has been allocated to cover the cost of the audit of religious and prayer groups in NSW public schools announced by the premier earlier this year?**

(a) From which unit or office within the department of education will this funding be drawn?

The audit was conducted within existing resources.

- 11. On what date did this audit begin?**
(a) When is it expected to issue its final report?

The audit commenced on 30 July 2015. The audit report will be submitted to the Government.

- 12. What is the methodology and process for this audit?**
(a) Has consultation with relevant community groups been undertaken?
i. Which community groups?
(b) When will this audit be completed?
(c) Who is undertaking this audit?

The Department developed an online survey which principals were required to complete, including nil returns, for their school.

(a) Consultation with relevant community groups will be undertaken at the appropriate time.

(b) The audit report will be submitted to the Government.

(c) The Department of Education undertook this audit with principals of NSW public schools.

- 13. Will this audit include all religious groups in schools?**
(a) If not, which ones specifically?

The audit collected information on prayer groups operating in NSW public schools.

- 14. To whom will the team or person undertaking this audit report to?**

The Department of Education undertook this audit with principals of NSW public schools.

- 15. Have any instances of extremist preaching been referred to NSW Police since the audit began?**

No incidents of extremist preaching have been reported to the Department of Education's Safety and Security Directorate during the period from 30 July 2015 to the date of writing.

Connected Communities Schools

16. What was the staff turnover rate for the 2014 academic year at;

- (a) Boggabilla Central School?**
- (b) Bourke Public School?**
- (c) Bourke High School?**
- (d) Brewarrina Central School?**
- (e) Coonamble Public School?**
- (f) Coonamble High School?**
- (g) Hillvue Public School?**
- (h) Menindee Central School?**
- (i) Moree East Public School?**
- (j) Moree Secondary College?**
- (k) Taree Public School?**
- (l) Taree High School?**
- (m) Toomelah Public School?**
- (n) Walgett Community School?**
- (o) Wilcannia Central School?**

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources to be completed within the specified time.

17. For each of the above schools;

- (a) What was the staff turnover rate in Term 1 2015?**
- (b) How many teaching positions are currently vacant as at 31/9/15?**
- (c) How many teaching positions are currently filled by short term or casual staff?**
- (d) How many Executive Principal positions are currently vacant as at 31/9/15?**
- (e) How many Executive Principal positions are currently filled by temporary or acting staff?**

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources to be completed within the specified time.

18. What was the total cost for advertising for executive principals at Connected Communities Schools in 2014/15?

- (a) In which NSW based publications were these advertisements placed?**
- (b) In which national publications were these advertisements placed?**
- (c) In which International publications were these advertisements placed?**

Expenditure of this nature is approved by relevant managers under the budget provided to operating units within the Department of Education.

19. How much has been allocated for advertising executive principal positions in 2015/16?

Expenditure of this nature is approved by relevant managers under the budget provided to operating units within the Department of Education.

20. How much funding has been allocated for the evaluation and reporting of the Connected Communities Program in 2015/16?

Funding for evaluation forms part of the resources provided for major initiatives such as Connected Communities.

**21. What was the total cost of the Connected Communities Narrative Research Report conducted by the Aboriginal Studies Association?
(a) What was the tender process undertaken for this report?
(b) Were any potential conflicts disclosed in this process?**

There was a tender process conducted for the Narrative Research project in compliance with the DEC tender process in collaboration with DEC Procurement.

Funding for evaluation forms part of the resources provided for major initiatives such as Connected Communities.

22. Excluding capital works, what is the total funding allocation for Connected Communities schools in 2015/16?

I refer the Member to the Budget papers for the Department of Education.

23. How many FTE staff are employed in the department specifically to oversee the Connected Communities program excluding staff based in the relevant schools?

The Connected Communities Strategy is staffed as part of the Department of Education's workforce.

**24. Has additional funding been allocated to these schools to ensure that students undertaking VTEC courses, who are no longer eligible for TAFE funding as the result of recent changes, can continue their vocational training at school in 2015/16?
(a) How much has been allocated?**

Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VTET) continues to be provided at no cost to students in government schools.

25. How much has been spent on the Connected Communities program since 2011?

I refer the Member to the Budget papers for the Department of Education.

Aboriginal Education/Programs

26. Excluding its contribution via the Office of Aboriginal Affairs has the Department of Education allocated any additional funds to the government's OCHRE program?

(a) If so, how much and for which initiatives?

I refer the Member to the Budget papers for the Department of Education.

27. Please list all campuses provide Aboriginal Studies and Aboriginal Language courses as at 31/8/15?

(a) Has there been any reduction in the number of campuses providing these courses since 2015?

i. If yes, why?

(b) How many classes were provided for these courses in the first semester of 2014?

(c) How many classes were provided for these courses in the first semester of 2015?

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources to be completed within the specified time.

School Security

28. What is the total funding for the NSW public school Safety and Security Unit (SSU) in 2015/16?

Total funding can be found in the Budget Papers published each year.

29. What was the total cost to the Department of Education of goods stolen from public schools in 2014/15?

The total cost of goods stolen from public schools is not collected centrally.

30. What was the total cost to the Department of Education of goods and property destroyed by fire in 2014/15?

The Department of Education is covered by the NSW Treasury Managed Fund for fire damage.

31. What was the total cost of goods and property destroyed by vandalism in 2014/15?

The total cost relating to vandalism to goods and property is not collected centrally.

32. What was the total funding for the School Security and Safety Unit in 2014/15?

Total funding can be found in the Budget Papers published each year.

**33. How many FTE staff positions are funded for 2015/16 the SSU?
(a) How many of these positions are currently vacant?
(b) How many of these positions are currently filled by short term or temporary staff?**

Staff numbers for the Department of Education are found in the Annual Report.

34. How many public schools have fire alarms installed?

The Department of Education complies with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.

35. How many NSW public schools have centrally reporting intruder alarm systems installed as at 31/8/15?

1,596.

**36. Has the department commissioned and audit of the effectiveness of their current "back to base" alarm system?
(a) When was this audit commissioned?**

The Department of Education regularly reviews its security processes and systems.

37. How many times has the state-wide alarm monitoring system been delayed in reporting break ins to the Central Monitoring Service or ceased functioning properly in the year to 31/8/15?

It is not appropriate to release specific information related to this question as information about circumstances that may cause alarm delays could compromise the level of safety and security that is able to be provided to our

schools. With the state-wide alarm upgrade, the Department has a more robust and reliable security system.

- 38. Has funding been allocated in 2015/16 to improve the functioning of the current state-wide alarm system?**
- (a) How much?**
- i. For which specific programs?**

With the state-wide alarm upgrade, the Department of education has a more robust and reliable security system.

Federal Budget Impacts

- 39. What is the total impact of federal budget cuts to the NSW Education budget in 2015/16?**
- (a) Which specific NSW Department of Education programs will be affected by these cuts?**

The funding provided by the Commonwealth Government in 2015/16 was in accordance with the National Education Reform Agreement and the signed Bilateral Agreement.

- 40. Over the forward estimates what is the total value of Gonski funding expected to be lost as the result of Federal budget cuts?**
- (a) How much for;**
- i. 2016/17?**
- ii. 2018/19?**
- iii. 2019/20?**
- (b) When was the last time the Minister met with the Federal Minister for Education to discuss the issue of Gonski funding?**
- (c) When was the last time the Minister made formal representations to the Federal Minister for Education regarding Gonski funding?**

NSW Treasury estimates a total loss of \$1.3 billion over 2018 and 2019. Issues of funding have been raised a number of times and will continue to be.

- 41. Has the Minister formally raised concerns about changes to federal education funding indexation rates with the Federal Minister for Education?**
- (a) When?**
- (b) What is the department's estimate of the funding lost to NSW public schools over the next 9 years as a result of these cuts?**

Yes, as part of discussions around the future of education funding.

Miscellaneous

- 42. How many of the 60 literacy and numeracy teachers promised during the election are funded in 2015/16?**
- (a) How many of these teachers will be placed in schools in each of the following regions;**
- i. The Central Coast?**
 - ii. Western Sydney?**
 - iii. The Illawarra?**
 - iv. The Hunter?**
 - v. The Central Coast?**
 - vi. The Murray**
 - vii. The Far West?**
 - viii. The North Coast?**
- (b) For each of the above districts, which schools will these teachers be placed in?**

Under the five year Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2012 - 2016 resources equivalent to an additional 900 teachers are being progressively allocated to targeted schools in order to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Kindergarten to Year 2 most in need of support.

Schools within the Central Coast, Western Sydney, Illawarra, Hunter, Murray, Far West and North Coast areas that receive resources under the Action Plan are identified by the three education sectors using an agreed methodology.

This methodology targets schools in the bottom quartile of NAPLAN performance and was developed collaboratively by the sectors in response to the Ministerial Advisory Group on Literacy and Numeracy recommendation that resourcing available under the Action Plan be strategically allocated on the basis of need across the government and non-government sectors.

- 43. How much funding was requested for capital upgrades to be carried out at Austinmer Public School?**
- (a) On what basis was this application refused?**
- (b) What priority has been given to this upgrade?**

A project to construct new and refurbish existing facilities at Austinmer Public School has been nominated for inclusion in a future capital works program. The project will continue to be assessed for funding against competing projects in schools across the State.

- 44. What priority has been given to replacing the demountable buildings at Woonona East Public School?**
- (a) Has funding for this project previously been sought?**

A project to construct new and refurbish existing facilities at Woonona East Public School has been nominated for inclusion in a future capital works program. The project will continue to be assessed for funding against competing projects in schools across the State.

- 45. When will construction begin on Jordan Springs Public School?**
- (a) Has planning for this school begun?**
 - i. If not, when will it?**
 - (b) What preparations has the department made to ensure that it can deliver its promise to deliver a Jordan Springs Public School in this term of government?**

- a) Yes.
- b) Construction will begin in this term of government as outlined in the Election Commitments 2015-19 booklet distributed with the 2015-16 Budget Papers.

- 46. Does the department periodically audit temperatures in classrooms to ensure student health and safety?**
- (a) Has the department audited temperatures at Bennett Road and Willmot Public Schools?**
 - i. What were the department's findings?**
 - (b) Is there any official justification for the lack of air conditioning at Bennet Road and Willmot Public Schools?**

The Department of Education does not audit temperatures in classrooms.

Under the Department's Air Cooling Policy, Bennett Road and Willmot Public Schools do not qualify for the provision of air cooling.

Ministerial Office Administration

- 47. How many staff are in your ministerial office?**
- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?**
 - (b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

- 48. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?**
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?**
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?**
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

(a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?

(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?

i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

50. Did you or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

(a) If so, how many times did this occur?

i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15 a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

51. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office? What is the cost of this?

No

52. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?

(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

No

53. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?

(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

The Minister's office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

54. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?

- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
i. Who were they gifted to?

Nil.

55. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

No

56. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for-service arrangement in 2014-15?

- (a) Do they have ABN's?
i. If so, please provide details?
(b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
(c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

57. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

Ministerial & Office Travel

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

(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

No

59. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

(a) What were the nature of these trips?

(b) Who paid for these trips?

No

60. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:

(a) Taxi hire

(b) Limousine hire

(c) Private hire care

(d) Hire car rental

Expenditure on taxies across the Ministry in 2014/15 was \$84,257. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$175,776.

61. Have you ever used Uber?

(a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

No

62. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

(a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

No

63. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

(a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

No

64. Have you used Airbnb?

No

65. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

No

66. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?

(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

I have never chartered a helicopter.

a) Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$33,270 in 2014/15. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$282,000.

67. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

Nil

Labour Hire Firms

68. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised**
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged**
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company**
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company**
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company**
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company**
- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

Media and Public Relations

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

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website

- 70. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website

- 71. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?**

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2014/15 was \$1,775,042 compared to \$3.7m in 2009/10.

- 72. Have you had media training or speech training?**
(a) If yes, who paid for it?
(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of media or speech training.

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

73. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

74. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

75. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

76. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

77. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

78. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

79. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

80. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

81. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?**

- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?**
- (c) What was discussed?**
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

- 82. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?**
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?**

No

- 83. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?**
- (a) If yes, what is their role in the project?**

No.

Consulting

- 84. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?**
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?**

Information on Legal Services expenditure is published in the Department of Education's and Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards' (BOSTES) annual reports, which are available on their websites.

- 85. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:**
- (a) Social media**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (b) Photography**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (c) Acting training**
 - i. And the cost of these services**
 - (d) Ergonomics**
 - i. And the cost of these services**

I refer the Member to the Annual Report for the Department of Education available on the Department's website.

Department/Agency Administration

86. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?

(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary

ii. Forced

(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government' original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

87. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

(a) What was the nature of these works/services?

(b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government' original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

88. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

Information regarding the movement of Ministerial staff is not held or tracked as they are not government sector employees employed under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*.

89. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?

(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

27 staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under the portfolio responsibilities for the period 2014–2015. Reasons for dismissal were in accordance with legislative, award and legal guidelines and requirements.

90. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

91. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

**92. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?
(a) How much of these bills were alcohol?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

**93. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
(a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?**

Yes. Allegations of internal fraud against eight employees were reported during 2014-2015.

- (a) The sum total of the alleged fraud amounted to approximately \$4,000. Four matters are still subject to investigation. One matter was closed as the person was no longer an employee and had moved overseas. There was insufficient evidence to sustain one matter. Remedial action was taken with respect to one employee. One employee was not found to have engaged in misconduct but was required to repay monies owing to the Department.

- 94. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?**
- (a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?**
 - (b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?**
 - (c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?**

The Department of Education's vehicle fleet comprises 1,103 vehicles.

- a) The composition of the fleet in terms of engine size is:
 - i. 1600cc or less 219
 - ii. 1601cc to 2600cc 634
 - iii. 2601cc and over 250
- b) 181 vehicles were involved in accidents during the year 2014-2015 involving collisions with property, animals and other vehicles.
- c) The total cost of insurance claims and repairs was \$871,048.49.

- 95. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 96. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?**

- (a) What is their remuneration band?**
- (b) For each SES employee, how many have:**
 - i. 0 staff reporting to them;**
 - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and**
 - iii. less than 5 staff?**

This information is published in the Department of Education's and Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards' (BOSTES) annual reports, which are available on their websites.

- 97. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:**

- (a) workplace bullying;**
- (b) stress leave; and**
- (c) sick leave?**

The fund manager Allianz Australia Ltd processes all workers compensation claims and associated leave related to psychological injuries.

98. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

(a) If so, what is:

- i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?**
- ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?**
- iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

Department/Agency Travel

- 99. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:**
- (a) Taxi hire**
 - (b) Limousine/private car hire**
 - (c) Hire car rental**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 100. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?**

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel with Australia and Overseas' available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

- 101. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?**
- (a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 102. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 103. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?**
- (a) If so what was the purpose and cost?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

Departmental/Agency IT

- 104. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?**
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?**
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 105. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?**
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?**
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 106. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?**
- (a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

- 107. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?**
- (a) If so, how many times did this occur?**
 - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?**

Given the number of schools and locations within the Education cluster, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for the Education cluster is not held centrally.

Efficiency Dividend

108. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
109. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
110. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
- (a) 2014/15 financial year
 - (b) 2013/14 financial year
 - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
111. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
- (a) 2014/15 financial year
 - (b) 2013/14 financial year
 - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
112. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:
- (a) 2014/15 financial year
 - (b) 2013/14 financial year
 - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
113. For the 2015/16 financial year:
- (a) What savings measures will the Department save?
 - (b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
 - (c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
 - (d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

Answer - 108 to 113

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

GAYBY baby film

- 114. Can the Minister please confirm whether the state-wide ban on the screening of this film extends to the viewing of the film within Years 7-12 PD/H/PE lesson time?**

Screening the documentary Gayby Baby has not been banned in NSW public schools. A direction was issued on 26 August 2015 by the Deputy Secretary, School Operations and Performance to all secondary government school principals indicating that screening the documentary may be considered by a school principal if it is an integral part of the planned curriculum for an age appropriate year group. If a school decides to do so on such grounds then all relevant departmental policy and procedures must be followed.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EAL/D)

- 115. In light of the NSW Premier's pre-election press release, dated Nov 20th 2014, entitled, 'Investing in our children's future: Gonski funding flows for NSW public schools' which stated that the NSW Liberal National Government, through its needs-based Resource Allocation Model (RAM), is investing \$104 million for students still developing English language proficiency:**
- (a) How much of this funding was directed to cover the Department's existing provision of 896 English a Second Language (ESL) teaching positions?**
 - (b) How much of this funding was directed to cover the Department's existing ESL provision in secondary Intensive English Centres?**
 - (c) How much of this funding was directed to cover the Department's existing intensive ESL provision in primary schools?**
- a) Approximately \$90 million which is the standard cost for 896.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) positions.
 - b) None.
 - c) This information is not held centrally. Intensive EAL/D provision in primary schools is provided through the English language proficiency equity loading as well as the New Arrivals Program.
- 116. What was the total 'Gonski' funding identified for students developing English language proficiency as a result of applying the English language proficiency loading to the Department's 2014 ESL survey data?**
- (a) What was this quantum of funding directed to?**

\$14 million. This funding, together with 896.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing positions, was allocated to all schools with enrolments of students identified as developing English language proficiency.

117. What additional investment of funding (i.e. funding betterments) has the NSW Government actually made available for ESL teaching provision to support students still developing English language proficiency?

\$14 million additional funding has been made available to support students still developing English language proficiency. Principals, in consultation with their staff and communities, make local decisions about how to use their resources to best meet the needs of their students.

118. Can the Minister guarantee that, in future, all 'Gonski' English language proficiency loading funding identified from the Department's ESL survey data will be made available for the Department's ESL teaching provision to support students still developing English language proficiency, in particular the large number of EAL/D students currently missing out on ESL support?

All 'Gonski' English language proficiency loading funding will be allocated to schools through the equity loading for English language proficiency. In 2015, this funding enabled all schools with identified EAL/D students to receive an English language proficiency equity loading to meet the needs of these students. Principals, in consultation with their staff and communities, make local decisions about how to use their resources to best meet the needs of their students.

119. On what date, and why, did the NSW government change the expected opening date of the new public high school at Lindfield from 2017 as told to parents in an email dated 18 July 2014 to the new expected opening date of 2019 as expressed in a March 2015 joint media release between the Minister and local member Jonathan O'Dea?

The opening date for the new school at Lindfield was announced on 26 March 2015, following extensive consultation with the local community and surrounding school network. To ensure that the new facilities accommodate the desired modes of teaching and learning, and ancillary services, the original opening date of 2017 has been revised to an opening date of 2019.

120. When will the Treasury Gateway Review process be complete and the results of that including the business case be released to the public?

The Treasury Gateway Review process was completed in August 2015. Community and stakeholder consultation on the educational model and school design will commence once funding has been allocated through the Department of Education's Total Asset Management planning process.

Solar in schools program

- 121. What incentives are in place for NSW public schools to reduce the cost of electricity usage in their schools?**

Schools are allocated a budget for the payment of utilities. Should savings generated by the school result in the amount payable dropping below the budget allocated, the school can utilise the savings for other school related expenses.

- 122. If a school invests in energy efficiency devices or solar panels to create their own energy, what mechanism is in place so that the school can benefit from the savings instead of the Department simply reducing its school budget year on year?**

(a) Can the costs be offset against savings for a five year period, for example?

Schools are allocated a budget for the payment of utilities. Should savings generated by the school result in the amount payable dropping below the budget allocated, the school can utilise the savings for other school related expenses.

Voluntary Religious Activities/Prayer Groups

- 123. Can the Minister categorically rule out that NSW public schools have expended public funds on the activities of student-led prayer groups, whether from NSW government funds or from Federal government funds such as the Chaplains in Schools program?**

Any activities implemented as part of a NSW Government or Commonwealth funded program, such as the National School Chaplaincy Programme, need to be approved by the principal.

- 124. Can the Minister or the Department categorically rule out involvement by School Chaplains in the activities of student-led prayer groups in NSW public schools, including in the planning, implementation or the conduct of such prayer groups?**

The audit report will be submitted to the Government.

- 125. Can the Minister or the Department provide data on the number of NSW public schools that presently operate student-led prayer groups, and advise by which funding sources these groups are able to operate on school grounds?**

The audit report will be submitted to the Government.

- 126. Can the Minister or Department advise what Department of Education student safety, welfare and discipline policies pertain to the operation of**

student-led prayer groups in DE schools, other than those set out in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures?

Principals have supervision of all activities that occur within a school including student-led prayer groups.

The Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy and Procedures, Complaints Handling Policy, Work Health and Safety Policy, Controversial Issues in Schools Policy Implementation Procedures and Multicultural Education Policy inform principals' supervision of all school activities.

Scripture Union NSW and Voluntary religious activities/prayer groups

127. Scripture Union NSW is the only provider of voluntary religious activities that is specifically referred to in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures. Was Scripture Union NSW informed by the Department of Education of the changes to the procedures that were made in March 2015 relating to voluntary religious activities?

(a) If so, when?

(b) If not, why not, and when will they be formally told of the new guidelines?

The Department of Education wrote to Scripture Union on 9 April 2015 and 8 May 2015. The Department also met with representatives of Scripture Union on 28 July 2015.

Learning Management Business Reform

- 128. What steps are being put in place now to ensure that all current problems with the LMBR system being experienced in the 229 pilot schools are satisfactorily resolved?**

Updates have occurred and are ongoing.

- 129. What steps are being put in place now to ensure that all staff receive adequate training and support before the state-wide roll-out of LMBR in Term 1 2016?**

The training approach for all schools in the state wide roll-out of LMBR is based on significant input from the schools involved in the pilot, representatives of the NSW Primary Principals' Association, NSW Secondary Principals' Council and School Administrative and Support groups. Training and support for schools will be managed by local deployment support teams.

- 130. Does the NSW government intend to implement, in part or in full, the original business model for the LMBR that factored in the loss of 1400 School Administration Staff?**

- (a) If no, what implications, if any, will the full implementation of LMBR across all NSW public schools have on staffing levels for non-teaching staff?**

The figure of 1,400 School Administrative Staff is incorrect.

Guidelines for Joint-Denominational SRE Employment Boards

131. Are the Minister and the Department aware of the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools (NSW) Incorporated (ICCOREIS) document *Guidelines for Joint-Denominational SRE Employment Boards* dated June 2014 that has “*been developed to offer churches an outline of the steps that need to be taken to set up an effective and enduring joint-denominational board for the employment of Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers in New South Wales government schools*”?

Yes.

132. Does the Minister and Department endorse the statement contained at 2.8 in the Guidelines that “*The DEC (sic) permits a variety of contacts between properly authorised church representatives and students in NSW schools. Through negotiations with the school principal and the SRE employment board, the teacher may be approved for an increased role within the school*”?

(a) If so, please outline each and all of the “variety of contacts” that the Department permits and the Departmental policy that underpins and regulates that “contact”.

(b) If no, what steps will the Minister and Department take to inform ICCOREIS of the Department’s position?

All activities are required to operate under the auspices and supervision of the principal in line with departmental policies. The principal and school staff maintain duty of care at all times.

133. Does the Minister and Department endorse any or all of the following activities listed throughout the Guidelines as possible avenues for SRE teachers to engage in the school outside of SRE lessons:
- engaging generally with school activities [2-5]
 - attending school camps [2-5]
 - participating in school excursions [3-14]
 - providing extra welfare, support and attention to students, particularly students at risk and those needing assistance with learning. [2-7 & 2-9]
 - participating in peer support and personal development programs [2-9 & 3-10]
 - “meeting with students out of SRE lessons to provide advice and support through informal contact in the playground, through voluntary organisations or through being available for students to drop in to discuss matters of belief or personal need.” [3-10]
 - volunteering and assisting in co-curricular activities including sport, debating and public speaking, drama and musicals, dance and rock festivals, excursions, school formals, clubs, and social activities. [3-10]

-playground duty [3-20]

(a) If the answer is yes to any of these, please indicate which ones and for each please indicate which Departmental policy underpins and regulates that activity.

(b) If no, what steps will the Minister and Department take to inform ICCOREIS of the Department's position?

All activities are required to operate under the auspices and supervision of the principal in line with departmental policies. The principal and school staff maintain duty of care at all times.

SRE Consultative Committee

134. Who are the current members of the committee? Please indicate which organisations each represents.

The list of members of the Special Religious Education Consultative Committee is available on the NSW Department of Education's Curriculum Support website: <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/religion/index.htm>.

135. Are there any unfilled positions? If so, please indicate which bodies they relate to.

Yes, the NSW Teachers Federation.

136. Has the Minister or the Department given consideration to the additional inclusion of an independent expert on the Department's SRE Consultative Committee to look specifically at how the implementation of SRE in NSW public schools upholds human rights law and religious freedoms including freedom from religion?

The purpose of the NSW Department of Education's Special Religious Education (SRE) Consultative Committee is to provide advice to the Department about SRE in NSW government schools and provide an opportunity for the Department and religious persuasions to engage in dialogue regarding matters relating to SRE in NSW government schools.

Domestic Violence Education in Schools

137. In July, it was announced that the mandatory NSW 7-10 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabus will be updated to explicitly include domestic violence prevention from the start of the first school Term in 2016.

(a) It is noted that there were consultations with;

- i. Department of Education (DE)
- ii. Association of Independent Schools NSW (AISNSW)
- iii. Catholic Education Commission (CEC)
- iv. Australian Council of Health, Physical Education and Recreation NSW (ACHPER NSW)
- v. PDHPE Teachers Association
- vi. Were invitations extended to parties with a Domestic Violence expertise during the consultation process?

(b) The Board of Studies NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Years 7-10 Syllabus was amended in July 2015 to “make content relating to Domestic Violence more explicit”. This includes Outcome 4.3 (recognising abuse), 5.3 (recognising and responding to abusive situations).

- i. Was a budget allocation discussed for the inclusion of domestic violence education in the curriculum? If so, what is it?
- ii. Will there be resources available for teachers of students who disclose domestic violence situations to them? What will they be?

- a. Amendments to the NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Years 7-10 syllabus were made in consultation with education sectors and subject associations. The changes were endorsed by BOSTES which includes representation from a wider range of education stakeholders.

Subsequent to the approval of the changes, experts in relation to Domestic Violence have joined with BOSTES in a collaborative process to design appropriate and accurate support for teachers.

These experts include:

- Domestic Violence NSW
- Our Watch
- National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)
- Youth Action.

- b. i and ii

No additional budget was required to update the syllabus to include domestic violence prevention.

All teachers undergo mandatory Child Protection training each year. Should a student disclose incidences of Domestic Violence, teachers will follow their schools' child protection policy for reporting.

Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy

138. What was the 2014-2015 budget allocation for the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?

This is a matter for the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

139. Is there a budget allocation for 2015-2016?

(a) If yes, what is the budget allocation for the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy for 2015-2016?

i. Are there plans to fund the Skills Strategy past the 2015-2016 budget year?

(b) If no, why not? Is the program being discontinued?

This is a matter for the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

140. How much of the 2014-2015 budget allocation to the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy has been spent to date?

(a) Have any unspent funds been carried over to the 2015-2016 budget for the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?

This is a matter for the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

141. In the 2014-2015 Budget Year, how many frontline workers working with victims of domestic and family violence received education, training and professional development through the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?

(a) What percentage of the total frontline workers participated in the Skills Strategy?

(b) What percentage of those who received training work in regional areas?

(c) What percentage of those who received training identify as aboriginal or torres strait islander people?

(d) What percentage of those who received training work with aboriginal or torres strait islander women and communities?

This is a matter for the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

142. In the 2013-2014 Budget Year, how many frontline workers working with victims of domestic and family violence received education, training and professional development through the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?

- (a) What percentage of the total frontline workers participated in the Skills Strategy?**
- (b) What percentage of those who received training work in regional areas?**
- (c) What percentage of those who received training identify as aboriginal or Torres Strait islander people?**
- (d) What percentage of those who received training work with aboriginal or Torres Strait islander women and communities?**

This is a matter for the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

143. Is TAFE NSW still the preferred education provider of the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy, past the 2014-2015 Budget Year?

This is a matter for the Minister for Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE)

144. Has the Department of Education allocated any funds to the Government's Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE) programs/initiatives?

- (a) If so how much, and for what initiatives?**

I refer the Member to the Budget Papers for the Department of Education.

Special Religious Education procedures

145. Is it the case that a NSW public school that requests signed parental permission forms to opt children out of Special Religious Education lessons before every lesson or seminar is held throughout the year and not simply one form annually is acting in breach of the guidelines contained in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures?

- (a) If so, what steps will the Minister and Department take to ensure that all NSW public schools are aware of this?**

No.