

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
EDUCATION**

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**Gonski Funding**

- 1. Minister, when was the last time you had a formal meeting with Minister Pyne to discuss the issue of funding the full 6 years of the Gonski reforms?**

**ANSWER**

The Minister has had numerous formal meetings, telephone conversations and meetings of the Education Council with Minister Pyne, most of which have included discussions about school funding.

- 2. Minister, when was the last time your formally wrote to Minister Pyne about this issue?**

**ANSWER**

A letter from Minister Piccoli to Minister Pyne regarding years 5 & 6 of the NERA was signed by Minister Piccoli on 14 April and, according to the Department's TRIM system, was dispatched on 17 April 2014.

- 3. Minister, when was the last time your departmental officials met with their counterparts from the Commonwealth Government to discuss this issue?**

**ANSWER**

On Wednesday 13 August 2014, departmental officials participated in a meeting with Commonwealth officials concerning the review of loadings under the National Education Reform Agreement.

**Australasian College of Beauty**

- 4. Minister, did you write a letter of support for this organisation or any of its Owners/Directors?**

**ANSWER**

This question is outside of the scope of the terms of reference, which relate to items of proposed expenditure.

**5. What was the date of this letter of support?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 4

**6. Who requested this letter of support from you?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 4.

**7. What was the reason for the request?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 4.

**8. Have you written any other letters of support for Registered Training Organisations?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 4.

**9. What was the content of these letter?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 4.

**10. Who did you send these letter too?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 4.

**11. When were you made aware that MHM Australasia Pty Ltd had made or was making a donation to either the Liberal Party or National Party?**

**ANSWER**

This question is outside of the scope of the terms of reference, which relate to items of proposed expenditure.

**12. In relation to the fundraiser you attended at the home of Maureen Houssein-Mustafa were there any other Members of Parliament in attendance?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

**13. If yes, who were they?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

**14. In relation to the fundraiser you attended at the home of Maureen Houssein-Mustafa were there any Liberal Party or National Party candidates present, who were not Members of Parliament, contesting the March 2011 state election?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

**15. If yes, who were they?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

**16. What date did this fundraising event take place?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

**17. Have you attended any fundraising events hosted by Maureen Houssein-Mustafa or her associates or family members since you became a Minister?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

**18. If so, what dates did these events take place?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 11.

- 19. Were you briefed or made aware by your Department that the Australasian College of Beauty was under investigation by the NSW or Federal Police?**

**ANSWER**

Yes.

- 20. Were you briefed or made aware by your Department that the Australasian College of Beauty was under investigation by the Australian Skills Quality Authority?**

**ANSWER**

I was advised that the Department had informed the Australian Skills Quality Authority of the investigation.

- 21. What information did the Department provide you about why this organisation was under investigation?**

**ANSWER**

Information relating to matters of administration at the College.

- 22. What officer from the Department gave you this brief?**

**ANSWER**

The briefing was signed by the Relieving Director-General at the time in accordance with standard practice.

- 23. When were you made aware of this?**

**ANSWER**

September 2013.

- 24. When was your Department first informed of this investigation?**

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 23.

## **Smart and Skilled**

- 25. When will you be publicly releasing the names of the companies who were successful in gaining tenders under the Smart and Skilled reforms?**

### **ANSWER**

They are expected to be announced in October.

- 26. Have any of the companies who have been successful in gaining tenders under the Smart and Skilled Reforms donated to the National Party and/or Liberal Party?**

### **ANSWER**

This question is outside of the scope of the terms of reference, which relate to items of proposed expenditure.

- 27. If so who are they?**

### **ANSWER**

See answer 26

## **Demountables**

- 28. Minister, in October 2009 you said: “Every parent, teacher and student knows that learning in a demountable classroom is no alternative to learning in a real classroom”. Why then are demountable buildings now at record numbers in NSW schools and TAFE colleges?**

### **ANSWER**

Since 2011, 694 new permanent classrooms have been announced, which reduces the need for demountables in our schools.

- 29. Why did you cut the Demountable Replacement Program?**

### **ANSWER**

The demountable replacement program was set up by the previous government and that government had scheduled the program to end in the 2010-11 financial year with no future funding provisions.

Since 2011, 694 new permanent classrooms have been announced, which reduces the need for demountables in our schools.

**30. Why did you approve a cut of \$133 million to schools capital expenditure in the current NSW budget?**

**ANSWER**

There has not been a cut of \$133 million to schools capital expenditure in this year's budget

**Literacy and Numeracy**

**31. Minister, in January 2011 you and the former Premier announced a policy that would see the provision of 900 additional teachers for the Reading Recovery Program and expanding it to include literacy and numeracy. How many of those 900 teachers are now working in NSW schools?**

**ANSWER**

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.

As at 22 August 2014 resources equivalent to 500 full time teachers (FTE) have been provided to the three education sectors: the NSW Department of Education and Communities, the Catholic Education Commission of NSW and the Association of Independent Schools NSW.

**32. Minister, you promised 60 of the teachers for the Illawarra, your largest election commitment for this significant region. Why is it that only a handful are in Illawarra schools three and half years after you have taken office?**

**ANSWER**

Resources under the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan are being progressively allocated over the period 2012 – 2016. Schools 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.

**33. Minister, how many of the committed 300 K-2 Support Teachers Learning Assistance that were to provide more intensive support to students in Years 3-10 are now in NSW schools?**

**ANSWER**

All Learning and Support specialist teacher positions, including 1,378 former Support Teachers Learning Assistance, already have been allocated directly to schools since 2012.

## **Hunter Region**

- 34. Can the Minister ensure that there will be no cuts to counselling staff or counselling hours across TAFE campuses in NSW?**

### **ANSWER**

TAFE Institutes receive a global budget allocation.

Counselling services are part of the suite of student support services provided by TAFE NSW. TAFE Institutes allocate resources to support services according to the needs and demands of students.

- 35. This year HSC courses were dramatically cut to all Hunter TAFE Colleges, depriving regional students of an alternative pathway to a HSC Course. Will the Minister be ensuring that HSC classes are resumed in 2015? For which Hunter Colleges?**

### **ANSWER**

The people of the Hunter continue to have the opportunity to enrol in the Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation through Hunter TAFE.

This program is an equivalent course to the HSC and provides students with an entry pathway to university, TAFE or other tertiary study. It also provides an alternative pathway to tertiary studies for people without the HSC and is highly regarded by universities and other tertiary institutions.

- 36. How many teaching hours have been cut in total from all Hunter Colleges in 2015?**

### **ANSWER**

Teaching hours for 2015 will not be determined until 2015.

- 37. Rutherford High School has 10 demountables. Will they be replaced by permanent classrooms? When? If not, why not?**

### **ANSWER**

A project to provide additional permanent classrooms and upgrade existing facilities to meet future enrolment demand and replace demountables at Rutherford High School was approved as part of the Department of Education and Communities' 2013-14 Major Capital Works Program. The project is anticipated to be completed by day 1, Term 1, 2016.

### **Murrumburrah High School**

**38. Are you aware of the serious issues relating to abusive messages allegedly from a staff members twitter account at Murrumburrah High School in Harden?**

#### **ANSWER**

The Department was made aware in May 2014.

**39. What is the Department doing to support the school and the staff?**

#### **ANSWER**

Support to the staff and school is ongoing and provided as required. The Director is in contact with the Principal on a regular basis, supporting and advising him and the school staff. The Director also met with school staff regarding the matter. All staff were offered support through the Employee Assistance Program Support (EAPS) should they experience any distress from the matter.

**40. Is a formal investigation underway about allegations that a staff members Twitter account was hacked and used to send these abusive messages?**

#### **ANSWER**

The Director and Principal reported the incident to NSW Police and the Department's Employee Performance and Conduct (EPAC) Directorate.

**41. When will this conclude?**

#### **ANSWER**

The investigation into the matter is now complete.

### **Monaro Electorate**

**42. What is the budget allocation for the 2014/15 budget for projects in the Monaro Electorate?**



## **ANSWER**

The final budget for capital works and planned maintenance programs in schools in the Monaro Electorate have not been finalised at this stage.

- 43. What is the budget allocation for the Cooma TAFE – Carpentry and Joinery Workshop and Student Support Facility?**  
**(a) What is the total cost for this build?**

## **ANSWER**

The anticipated total building cost is \$5,865,000.

- 44. What is the budget allocation for the following Schools?**
- (a) Bombala Primary?**
  - (b) Bombala High?**
  - (c) Captains Flat Primary?**
  - (d) Bungendore Public?**
  - (e) Sacred Heart- Bungendore?**
  - (f) Queanbeyan Public School?**
  - (g) Jerrabomberra Public School?**
  - (h) Queanbeyan High School?**
  - (i) Monaro High School?**
  - (j) Karabar High School?**
  - (k) Cooma North Public School?**
  - (l) Cooma Public School?**
  - (m) Adaminaby Public School?**
  - (n) Jindabyne Central School?**
  - (o) Snowy Mountains Grammar School?**
  - (p) Michelago Public School?**
  - (q) Dalgety Public School?**
  - (r) St Joseph's School – Bombala?**
  - (s) St Gregory's Primary School – Queanbeyan?**
  - (t) Queanbeyan East Public School?**

## **ANSWER**

School financial information for all government and non-government schools for period 2009 to 2012 is available on the ACARA website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au).

## **Queanbeyan Public School**

- 45. The infants' playground at Queanbeyan Public School has a number of areas of uneven pavement due to its age and the action of tree roots. This is causing a trip hazard for children and staff. It is understood that parents enquiring about this have been told that the school currently does not have the funding available in their maintenance budget to fix the issue.**
- (a) Is it acceptable for a hazard which has caused children to trip is left unaddressed?**
  - (b) Will you ensure that the issue is addressed?**
  - (c) Under your policies for local schools local decisions is funding responsibility with a global maintenance budget for schools in the area or is it the school's responsibility and therefore is addressing this problem now competing with other educational priorities?**

### **ANSWER**

- (a) The Department of Education and Communities has systems in place for dealing with issues such as trip hazards.
- (b) Funding for a project to resurface and upgrade the infants playground area and remove all trip hazards was approved as part of the 2014/15 budget.
- (c) The 2014/15 Budget provides for spending of \$10.7 billion on government schools including \$347 million for school maintenance - a 32 per cent increase in school maintenance over the previous Government's last budget. The maintenance allocation to schools is not part of the Local Schools, Local Decisions Resource Allocation Model formula.

### **Donations**

- 46. Given evidence at ICAC that Hunter Liberal Members of Parliament received cash from prohibited donors; can you guarantee that you did not receive an illegal donation at the last election?**

### **ANSWER**

I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation.

- 47. Last week the Premier put out a statement that said:**

***“I have always absolutely complied with the electoral funding laws and the records are there for all to see. Yes, I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation.”***

**Will you make that same statement?**

**ANSWER**

Yes

**48. Do you think the people of NSW have a right to know who is making donations to candidates during election campaigns?**

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

**49. Given that the Liberals channel all donations through a centralised accounting system which means most individual MPs do not disclose the people and organisations that personally donate to their campaigns, will you fully disclose the source of all donations you received at the 2011 election campaign?**

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors

**50. Will you release the full list of donors who donated to your 2011 election campaign?**

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

**51. In the interest of transparency and accountability, will you commit to publicly release the source of donations for the 2015 election?**

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

**Lobbyists**

**52. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?**

**ANSWER**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

**53. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?**

**ANSWER**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

**54. The Minister for Finance has banned lobbyists from meeting him and his office; will you make the same commitment? If not, why not?**

**ANSWER**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

### **Cross Border Commissioner**

- 55. How many times have you met with the Cross Border Commissioner:**
- (a) In the last twelve months**
  - (b) Since the creation of the position.**

#### **ANSWER**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

- 56. What issues or topics have you referred to the Cross Border Commissioner:**
- (a) In the last twelve months**
  - (b) Since the creation of the position.**

#### **ANSWER**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

### **Labour Hire Firms**

- 57. 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

## **ANSWER**

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

This information is not held centrally for the Education and Communities cluster. The number of contractors fluctuates.

## **Consultancy Work**

**58. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Crosby Textor consulted on?**

- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**
- (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?**

## **ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

**59. Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?**

## **ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

**60. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department of Primary Industries? 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?**

## **ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

**61. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?**

## **ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

- 62. Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Serco or its affiliates assisted with?**
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**
  - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?**

**ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

- 63. Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?**

**ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

**Phones/iPads**

- 64. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?**

**ANSWER**

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

- 65. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2013/14 financial year?**

**ANSWER**

The 2013-14 total phone bill expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$363,877 (63%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2008-09 of \$578,691 total expenditure.

- 66. How many have phones have been lost in your office?**

**ANSWER**

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

- 67. What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

**ANSWER**

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

**ANSWER**

96 iPads have been issued for the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

iPads are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

204 phones have been issued to the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**72. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?**

**ANSWER**

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**73. How many iPads have been lost in your office?**



## **ANSWER**

0 iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

### **Media/public relations**

#### **74. 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 at:

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

#### **75. What is the forecast for 2014/15 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 at:

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

### **Overseas trips**

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

## **ANSWER**

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

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

## **ANSWER**

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

### **Office costs**

#### **78. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?**

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

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

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

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

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**81. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2014/15?**

**ANSWER**

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

**82. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?**

**ANSWER**

“Information in relation to repairs, maintenance and relocation for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/165616/Disclosure\\_Log\\_Information\\_-\\_Ministerial\\_Renovations.docx.pdf](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/165616/Disclosure_Log_Information_-_Ministerial_Renovations.docx.pdf)”

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

**ANSWER**

See 82

**84. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2014/15?**

**ANSWER**

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

**85. How many political advisors are in your office?**

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**86. How many administration staff?**

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**87. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?**

**ANSWER**

Number of Department Liaison Officers for NSW Government Ministerial offices at 30 June 2014 was 56.

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

**ANSWER**

NSW Government Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition are provided with road transport services, with Ministerial Drivers assigned for this purpose.

**89. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?  
(a) If so, in what capacities?**

**ANSWER**

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**90. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?****ANSWER**

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**CabCharge****91. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including CabCharge in the 2013/14 financial year?****ANSWER**

The 2013-14 taxi expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices was \$117,783 (67%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$175,776.

**Restructure****92. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?****ANSWER**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

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

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

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

**ANSWER**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

**95. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?**

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**96. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?**

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**97. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?**

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**98. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2014/15?**

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**Agency costs**

**99. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2013/14?**

**ANSWER**

Given the number of schools, colleges and other entities within the Department of Education and Communities, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

**100. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2013/14?**

**ANSWER**

Given the number of schools, colleges and other entities within the Department of Education and Communities, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

**101. What is your Department's catering budget?**

**ANSWER**

Given the number of schools, colleges and other entities within the Department of Education and Communities, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

**102. What is your Department's stationary budget?**

**ANSWER**

Given the number of schools, colleges and other entities within the Department of Education and Communities, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

**103. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?**

**ANSWER**

In May 2011, branding was changed to reflect the agency's name: NSW Department of Education and Communities.

**104. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?**

**ANSWER**

In the 2013/14 financial year there has been no rebranding.

**Correspondence**

**105. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?**

**ANSWER**

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

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

## **ANSWER**

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

## **Paying bills on time**

**107. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?**

## **ANSWER**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

**108. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?**

## **ANSWER**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

**109. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?**

## **ANSWER**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

## **Grants to non-government organisations**

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

## **ANSWER**

Detail on grants provided by the Department of Education and Communities is produced in the Department's Annual Report.



**111. If yes,**

- (a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?**
- (b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?**
- (c) On what date was the funding advanced?**
- (d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?**
- (e) Was any funding withheld or returned?**
- (f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?**
- (g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/14?**
- (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?**

**ANSWER**

Detail on grants provided by the Department of Education and Communities is produced in the Department's Annual Report.

**Contractors**

**112. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2014 and at what cost?**

**ANSWER**

This information is not held centrally for the Department of Education and Communities. The number of contractors fluctuates.

**Aboriginal employment**

**113. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?**

**ANSWER:**

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including information regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. The level of Aboriginal employment as at 30 June 2014 is estimated at 2.9%. This is still subject to final quality checks, prior to the November release of the Workforce Profile 2014.

**114. How has that changed since 1 July 2013?**

**ANSWER:**

The 30 June 2014 estimate of Aboriginal employment in the sector is 2.9%. This compares to the Workforce Profile 2013 report which estimated the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at 2.7%.

**Charter air flights**

**115. Since 1 July 2013, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?**

**ANSWER**

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/156026/Official\\_Travel\\_Policy\\_within\\_Australia\\_and\\_Overseas\\_-\\_August\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf)

**Reviews and studies**

**116. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:**

**117. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;**

- (a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?**
- (d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- (f) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?**

**ANSWER**

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making.

A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

### **Parliamentary Secretary**

**118. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013**

- (a) kilometres travelled**
- (b) accommodation,**
- (c) air fares**
- (d) meals/entertaining?**

### **ANSWER**

Information on the total costs for NSW Government Parliamentary Secretaries in 2013/14 are:

- (a) Information not available.
- (b) \$1,338
- (c) \$8,773
- (d) Information not available. Expenses are included under (b).

**119. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013;**

- (a) meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?**
- (b) functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?**

### **ANSWER**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier/Minister, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier/Minister of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier/Minister, or which have the Premier/Minister endorsement.

**120. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?**

- (a) Are these meetings documented?**
- (b) Who attends these meetings?**

### **ANSWER**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier/Minister, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier/Minister of some of their

duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier/Minister, or which have the Premier/Minister endorsement.

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

**ANSWER**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier/Minister, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier/Minister of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier/Minister, or which have the Premier/Minister endorsement.

**Media training**

**122. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;**

- (a) Who conducted the training?**
- (b) When was it conducted?**
- (c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?**
- (d) Who paid for the training?**

**ANSWER**

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary.

**123. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;**

- (a) Who conducted the training?**
- (b) When was it conducted?**
- (c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?**
- (d) Who paid for the training?**

**ANSWER**

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC**

## **Other operating expenses and grants and subsidies**

**124. Please provide a breakdown of the items covered by “other operating expenses” and “grants and subsidies” in the total expense budgets for public primary and secondary schools, TAFE and VET?**

### **ANSWER**

A breakdown of the items covered by other operating expenses and grants and subsidies is disclosed in the notes to the Department’s audited financial statements.

## **Education employees**

**125. How many of the 755 new teacher appointments, referred to in the Treasurer’s budget speech, are due to:**  
**(a) enrolment increases?**  
**(b) other programs ?**

### **ANSWER**

The NSW Public Service Commission (2013) Workforce Profile is the source of this figure.

**126. Of the 9,573 reduction in “non-frontline staff” referred to in the Budget Statement between June 2012 and June 2013, how many of those positions can be attributed to:**  
**(a) TAFE teacher positions being deleted?**  
**(b) TAFE support staff positions being deleted?**  
**(c) “non-frontline” staff positions being deleted from Primary and Secondary Education Services in Government Schools?**

### **ANSWER**

(a & b) From 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, 239.5 TAFE teacher and support staff positions were deleted.

(c) Zero.

## **Funding of the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA)**

**127. Now that the IGA taxes have been abolished, how much of the funding for NERA will be derived from the 1% efficiency dividend from 2015-16 and how much from “VET reforms” referred to in the Budget Statements?**

### **ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

**128. What is the net effect on the funding of Primary and Secondary Education Services in Government Schools over the last four budgets arising from cuts to primary and secondary education service expenditure in the form of budget efficiencies/ Labour Expense Caps and additional funding under NERA?**

### **ANSWER**

The total expenses budgets for the primary and secondary education services in government schools service groups outlined in the State Budget for each year are as follows:

2011-12: \$9.92 billion  
2012-13: \$10.20 billion  
2013-14: \$10.24 billion  
2014-15: \$10.67 billion

**129. Given the importance of the NERA reforms and the minimal impact on the budget, will the Government fund the Commonwealth’s contribution to Gonski in years 5 and 6, if negotiations with the federal government fail?**

### **ANSWER**

The NSW Government has funded its commitments to the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) and has insisted that the Commonwealth Government meet its obligations.

## **TAFE**

**130. Will the majority of diploma courses now only be offered commercially with high fees and charges for full cost recovery?**

## **ANSWER**

Diplomas on the NSW Skills List can be delivered as government subsidised training. Smart and Skilled approved providers can decide whether they will offer fee for service places for these courses for Diploma qualifications on their scope.

### **131. How much has State Training Services expended on developing Smart and Skilled?**

**(a) Please provide amounts per financial year for the last three years.**

## **ANSWER**

State Training Services met the expense involved in developing Smart and Skilled from its allocated budget. It is not possible to disaggregate this expenditure in a way that identifies specific expenditure associated with the development of Smart and Skilled.

### **132. How much has State Training Services spent on remuneration for consultants and contractors over the last three financial years?**

**(a) Please provide amounts by each financial year.**

## **ANSWER**

Information on the Department's expenditure on consultants is published in its annual report, which is available on the Department's website.

### **133. Please provide details of State Training Services expenditure on salaries and wages and consultants and contractors fees for each financial year commencing 2010/11 through to the present.**

## **ANSWER**

Information on the Department's expenditure on salaries and wages is published in Budget Paper 3 in the Vocational Education and Training Service Group Statement.

### **134. How much has each TAFE Institute expended on consultants and contractors over the last three financial years?**

**(a) Please provide amounts broken down by Institute and year.**

## **ANSWER**

Total expenditure on consultants and contractors by the Department of Education and Communities, including the TAFE Commission, is listed in the

financial statements and in the Department of Education and Communities' annual report, published at: [www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports).

**135. How much has each TAFE Institute expended on consultants and contractors specifically employed to manage transitions to Smart & Skilled over the last three financial years?**

**(a) Please provide amounts broken down by Institute and year.**

**ANSWER**

Total expenditure on consultants and contractors by the Department of Education and Communities, including the TAFE Commission, is listed in the financial statements and in the Department of Education and Communities' annual report, published at: [www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports).

**136. How many TAFE employees have been made redundant in NSW and what has been the total expenditure on those redundancies since and inclusive of 2012?**

**ANSWER**

Expenditure on redundancies is included in the TAFE budget.

From 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014, 536 TAFE NSW employees were made redundant.

**137. Please provide the total budget savings to the NSW government through the redundancies of TAFE employees since and inclusive of 2012?**

**ANSWER**

The total cumulative savings from redundancies for 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 are factored into the TAFE budget.

**138. Please provide a breakdown of which staffing category these redundancies come from (Teacher, Head Teacher, Support Teacher, Manager, etc.).**

**ANSWER**



Redundancies by staffing category from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014 were as follows:

Teachers:	289
Others:	247
TOTAL:	536

**139. How many Managerial positions have been created since and inclusive of 2012?**

**(a) Please provide details broken down by Institute and position.**

**ANSWER**

This information is not accessible given the dynamic nature of Institutes' business and staffing levels.

**140. How much has been allocated to each TAFE Institute for Operational Base Funding?**

**ANSWER**

The TAFE budget is published within Budget Paper 3. This information is not available at the Institute level.

**141. How much has the NSW government allocated in the budget to service Community Service Obligations at TAFE?**

**(a) Please provide amounts by Institute.**

**ANSWER**

The TAFE budget is published within Budget Paper 3. This information is not available at the Institute level.

**142. What is the total NSW Government expenditure on each of the 10 Institutes?**

**ANSWER**

TAFE Institute and campus expenditure is commercial in confidence.

**143. What is the total NSW Government expenditure on each TAFE campus?**

**ANSWER**

TAFE Institute and campus expenditure is commercial in confidence.

**144. Please provide total revenue generated from fees at TAFE from 2010/2011 until the present.**

**(a) Please provide information broken down by year.**

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW fee revenue is available in the TAFE annual financial statements.

The annual financial statements for 2013/2014 have not yet been finalised.

**145. What is the projected revenue from fees at TAFE in Semester 1 2015?**

**ANSWER**

Projected TAFE NSW fee revenue for Semester 1 2015: \$210.0M

**146. What is the percentage of contestable funding in the total VET Budget in NSW?**

**ANSWER**

Entitlement to government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled commences from 1 January 2015.

Registered training organisations have been invited to apply for a Smart and Skilled contract. The provider application opened on 30 June 2014 and closed on 8 August 2014.

The provision of contestable funding is currently subject to assessment processes.

**147. What was the percentage of contestable funding in VET in 2011-12, 2011-12, 2013-14?**

**ANSWER**

Information on grants provided under the Apprenticeship & Traineeship Training Program and the Strategic Skills Program are published in the Department of Education and Communities' Annual Report.

**148. What is the proportionate breakdown by institute of NSW government funding specifically for teaching, support services and management in TAFE?**

**ANSWER**

This information is not accessible from TAFE financial budget systems.

**ESL**

**149. Has the English Language Proficiency Working Party been established?**

- (a) If so, when was this?**
- (b) If so, who are the members of the Working Party?**
- (c) If so, how often has the Working Party met?**
- (d) If so, has the Working Party produced any reports, recommendations, advice or any other output?**

**ANSWER**

The English Language Proficiency Work Group was established in March 2014. Membership comprises representatives from the Department of Education and Communities:

- Learning, High Performance and Accountability;
- Learning and Business Systems;
- Strategic Information and Reporting;
- Policy, Planning and Reporting; and
- Learning and Leadership.

The NSW Secondary Principals' Council and the NSW Primary Principals' Association are also represented.

The Work Group met for the first time on 27 March 2014 and has met on six occasions. The Work Group is continuing to analyse and refine the new formula for the English language proficiency loading. Recommendations are currently being developed.

**150. In reference to the answers provided by Mr Prior in the Education Budget Estimates Hearing 19 August 2014, will the government guarantee that the funding currently provided for ESL teachers in NSW public schools will be maintained and will be reserved solely for ESL teachers in the upcoming years?**

- (a) If so, how will the government ensure this guarantee?**

## **ANSWER**

The Department of Education and Communities is committed to maintaining the current 896 FTE of EALD teacher positions. In the Education Budget Estimates Hearing on 19 August 2014, Mr Prior stated that:

There are 896 FTEs across that part of the program across the State and that would be maintained into 2015.

### **151. Why was the ESL program treated differently to that of the Aboriginal support programs?**

## **ANSWER**

All new equity loadings under the Resource Allocation Model are developed based on the identified needs of the students. The ESL equity need is different from the other equity needs (such as Aboriginal, low socio-economic and low level disabilities) in that students move along the English language proficiency progression after a single year.

### **152. What will be the English language proficiency loading proportional split between the staffing component and the other component referred to in the Education Budget Estimates hearing by Mr Prior 19 August 2014?**

**(a) What is the other component called and what will be included within it?**

## **ANSWER**

The work to develop the English language proficiency loading has not concluded and therefore no recommendations, including any recommendation about proportional splits between components, have been determined at this stage.

## **Special Needs**

### **153. How many students within the primary and secondary public education systems have been identified as having behaviour disorders?**

## **ANSWER**

Students with Behaviour Disorder do not need to be identified to access a range of support services in schools. Therefore this information is not held centrally.

**154. How many students within the primary and secondary public education systems have been identified as requiring low level mental health support?**

**ANSWER**

Students with low level mental health support are included in the estimated 64,000 students with additional low level learning and support needs in NSW public schools.

Support for these students is provided through the Department of Education and Communities' Learning and Support resource allocation provided to every regular school.

Support for students is based on student learning need and in accordance with Local Schools, Local Decisions, is determined by each principal and school when and where it is needed without a requirement for a student to have a confirmation of disability or to be identified as such.

**155. For each year since 2012, please provide the total funding for and number of students supported by:**

- (a) Integration Funding Support Program**
- (b) Every Student, Every School (now known as the “low level adjustment for disability equity loading” in the Resource Allocation Model)**

**ANSWER**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
a. Integration, Funding Support - funding	\$82,130,180	\$100,689,750
b. Learning and Support - flexible funding	\$40,830,262	\$50,244,891

2014 Integration, Funding Support is as at August 2014 (inclusive of the Semester 2 allocation). Integration Funding Support provides needs based support to students, and the number of students needing and accessing support is variable throughout each school year. The number of students as at August 2014 is not comparable to the number at the end of 2013.

The number of students supported through Learning and Support in regular schools is estimated to be around 64,000. These students are supported in their local schools and are not required to have a medical diagnosis of disability to access additional education provisions.

**156. For each of the next four years, please provide the forecasted total funding for and number of students supported by:**

- (a) Integration Funding Support Program**
- (b) Every Student, Every School**

**ANSWER**

Funding for Integration Funding Support Program and Every Student, Every School is expected to increase over the next four years.

**157. For each year since 2012, please provide (i) the state contribution to and (ii) the total Commonwealth contribution to the total funding of:**

- (a) Integration Funding Support Program**
- (b) Every Student, Every School**

**ANSWER**

The source of funding for both Integration Funding Support and Learning and Support is state recurrent funding.

Please refer to answer to question 156

**158. For each of the next four years, please provide the forecasted (i) state contribution to and (ii) the Commonwealth contribution to the total funding of:**

- (a) Integration Funding Support Program**
- (b) Every Student, Every School**

**ANSWER**

The source of funding for both Integration Funding Support and Learning and Support is State recurrent funding.

Please refer to answer to question 156.

**159. Please provide the annual contributions to NSW special needs funding of the More for Students with Disabilities National Partnership and explain which program these monies were or will be spent in?**

**ANSWER**

The National Partnership, More Support for Students with Disabilities – Commonwealth funding for NSW public schools is as follows:

2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
\$19.181 M	\$19.181 M	\$19.221 M	\$14.498 M	\$72.082 M

- Annual amounts are based on NSW achievement of National Partnership outputs.

The National Partnership is not contributing direct funding for programs and services supporting students with disability and additional learning and support needs in NSW public schools. Implementation of the National Partnership is supporting the establishment of a learning and support framework in NSW public schools through a range of projects, agreed with the Australian Government, with a strong focus on professional learning and skilling teachers and support staff.

**160. When does the More for Students with Disabilities National Partnership expire?**

**ANSWER**

The National Partnership, More Support for Students with Disabilities finishes on 30 June 2015.

**161. Will funding for Every Student, Every School or any other program be reduced when the More for Students with Disabilities National Partnership expires?**

- (a) If not, how will the funding shortfall be made up?**

**ANSWER**

The National Partnership is not contributing direct funding for programs and services supporting students with disability and additional learning and support needs in NSW public schools. There will be no reduction in funding for programs targeted to support students with disability and additional learning and support needs in NSW public schools.

**162. Have any additional funds in respect of special needs been provided under the National Education Reform Agreement?**

- (a) If so, please provide details, including for each year,**
- i. the contributions from the Commonwealth**
  - ii. the contribution from the State**
  - iii. which programs they have been spent on**

**ANSWER**

The National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) does not specifically provide additional funds for special needs students.

The base and loadings combined provide additional funding for schools below the Schooling Resource Standard. Students with a disability (SWD) receive a loading set at 186% of the per-student rate for SWD in regular schools.

**163. Are any additional funds in respect of special needs scheduled to be provided under the National Education Reform Agreement in future years?**

- (a) If so, please provide details, including for each year,**
- i. the contributions from the Commonwealth**
  - ii. the contribution from the State**
  - iii. which programs they are to be spent on**

**ANSWER**

The National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) does not specifically provide additional funds for special needs students.

The base and loadings combined provide additional funding for schools below the Schooling Resource Standard. Students with a disability (SWD) receive a loading set at 186% of the per-student rate for SWD in regular schools.

The loading for SWD continues in future years.

**164. For each public school in NSW, please provide**

- (a) its name**
- (b) for each year since 2012, the funding that has been provided to that school for:**
- i. Every Student, Every School in respect of prevalence-based funding**
  - ii. Every Student, Every School in respect of NAPLAN-result-based funding**
  - iii. Integration Funding Support Program**



## **ANSWER**

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

### **165. For each public school in NSW, please provide**

#### **(a) its name**

- (b) the forecast for 2015 of the funding that will be provided to that school for:
- i. Every Student, Every School in respect of prevalence-based funding
  - ii. Every Student, Every School in respect of NAPLAN-result-based funding
  - iii. Integration Funding Support Program

## **ANSWER**

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

### **166. In the event that the data in 11 (sic) is not yet available, please state when it will become available and will it be publicly released?**

## **ANSWER**

The data is contained in the Department's financial statements which are included in the Department of Education and Communities' Annual Report, tabled in Parliament in May each year.

The annual report is published at: [www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports).

## **LMBR**

### **167. Is the LMBR software system ready to be rolled out across all schools in 2015?**

## **ANSWER**

The LMBR Schools Student Administration and Learning Management (SALM) and the LMBR Schools Finance software has already been built and tested and rolled out to 229 schools.

**168. What is the current expenditure of LMBR to date?**

**ANSWER**

The total capital expenditure to 30 June 2014 is \$404.6 million.

**169. How much is the total cost expected to be?**

**ANSWER**

Total capital costs for the current stage are expected to be \$404.6 million.

**170. Will any resources and assistance be provided to schools to help them with this rollout?**

**ANSWER**

Yes

**171. What is the most recent feedback the government receiving from principals and school admin staff in the pilot schools?**

**ANSWER**

Capability in using the new finance system has grown significantly throughout 2014. Attention is now moving to build school staff capability to access the full range of functionality from the Student Administration and Learning Management solutions.

**Aboriginal students**

**172. Given that Aboriginal students throughout NSW are over represented among students requiring specialist assistance from special needs teachers, Aboriginal Education Officers and Assistants, Home School Liaison officers, teachers' aides and school counsellors, what provision has been made to allow schools to adequately identify and assist these students?**

**ANSWER**

Aboriginal students attending NSW government schools self-identify.

As part of the Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD) reform, the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) has been developed to allocate funding in the most equitable way. The funding for Aboriginal students is no longer program based, but instead based on student need. In 2014, and for the first time, all 49,000 Aboriginal students received funding through the Aboriginal background equity loading. All public schools with Aboriginal students receive funding. Students with the highest need receive a higher rate of funding.

**173. What studies have the Department conducted to determine what the impact will be for Aboriginal students of the reduction in TAFE courses available, increased fees and charges, more limited fee exemptions and the commercial imperative on TAFE institutes to give priority to offering profitable courses?**

**ANSWER**

Aboriginal students will continue to be fee exempt for government subsidised qualifications.

The TAFE NSW *Statement of Owner Expectations* states that TAFE NSW will continue to provide inclusive services for people who face disadvantage. This will include continuing to meet the needs of Aboriginal students.

**174. Will exemptions for Aboriginal people under Smart and Skilled no longer apply after the first entitlement?**

**ANSWER**

Aboriginal students are fee exempt for all qualifications under Smart and Skilled.

**175. Which Aboriginal community representatives has the Minister consulted with regarding the changes to TAFE and VET and how these changes will impact on Aboriginal students or on the government's Close the Gap commitments?**

**ANSWER**

The Minister, Minister's Office and the Department of Education and Communities, including TAFE NSW and State Training Services, regularly meet with members of the Aboriginal community on a range of educational issues.

**176. Please provide list of meetings, dates, stakeholders and meeting details.**

**ANSWER**

This would involve an unnecessary diversion of government resources.

**177. Have subsidised courses such as the Diploma of Aboriginal Studies been phased out in favour of a commercial course requiring much higher fees and charges and student debt under the so-called “Fee Help”, thus preventing many or most Aboriginal students from enrolling?**

**ANSWER**

A number of Aboriginal studies related Diplomas are on the Skills List. Aboriginal students will not pay a fee for any government subsidised qualifications.

**178. What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that all school and TAFE teacher education and VET trainer entry qualification programs in NSW have a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness and teaching methodology component?**

**ANSWER**

All TAFE NSW teachers are required to hold the TAE40110 qualification as a minimum. This qualification is from the TAE10 national training package which is developed and maintained by Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA).

TAFE NSW Institutes provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customised cultural awareness, inclusive teaching and learning strategies, and culturally appropriate communication strategies internally for educational and non-educational staff.

**School facilities**

**179. Given the events that have unfolded at Molong Central School in regards to unflued gas heaters. Does the Minister have confidence in the process by which unflued gas heaters in schools are checked, tested and maintained?**

**ANSWER**

All gas heaters in schools are inspected and serviced as required by the maintenance contractor.

For heater related issues schools can log a call on FMWeb, and the maintenance contractor will attend to the matter at no cost to the school.

**180. Can the Minister guarantee the safety of all students and teachers in schools that have unflued gas heaters; especially given the adverse findings of the Woolcock Institute study in 2009?**

**ANSWER**

The health and safety of school students and staff is always the highest priority for the NSW Government.

The Department of Education and Communities engaged Environmental Resource Management in 2011 to undertake an Environmental Health Risk Assessment of heating options for NSW public schools, as recommended by NSW Health.

On 27 February 2012, following the decision of Cabinet, I announced that unflued gas heaters will be replaced with flued gas heaters when the majority of heaters in a school reach the end of their serviceable life.

This decision goes beyond the Assessment's recommendation that unflued gas heaters be replaced with unflued gas heaters. It is however, consistent with the report's advice which says 'if a decision is made, independent of this report, to replace unflued gas heaters with flued gas heaters, this should occur as they reach the end of their useful lives'.

NSW Health advised the Department throughout the Environmental Health Risk Assessment process. NSW Health endorsed the expertise of those who conducted the assessment; its scope; the methodology used; and the conclusions drawn from the Assessment's findings.

The Environmental Health Risk Assessment is publicly available on the Department's website at <http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/Environmental-Health-Risk-Assessment>.

**181. Given the need for appropriate heating in areas of extreme cold, when can Molong Central School expect to see all of these unsafe and unreliable unflued gas heaters removed?**

**ANSWER**

Unflued gas heaters will be replaced with flued gas heaters when the majority of heaters in a school reach the end of their serviceable life.

**182. Noting that the process of removal was commenced by a previous government then abandoned, when can all NSW Public School students and teachers expect to see the removal of every unflued gas heater from every schools?**

**ANSWER**

Unflued gas heaters will be replaced with flued gas heaters when the majority of heaters in a school reach the end of their serviceable life.

**183. Please advise how many classrooms and staffrooms in NSW public schools still have unflued gas heaters as their only heating source?**

**ANSWER**

The majority of heaters in use in NSW Government schools are unflued gas heaters.

**184. Please advise how many DEC officers above the grade of Director of Public Schools work in offices heated only by unflued gas heaters?**

**ANSWER**

Given the number of schools, colleges and other entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

**185. Was there any communication between the Minister's office or the Department with the superintendent responsible for Molong Central School or the school's principal regarding the action organised for 21 August 2014 protesting against the unflued gas heaters?**

**(a) If so, what was the detail of the communication?**

**ANSWER**

I am advised that there was contact between the Director, Public Schools NSW and a number of Directorates in the Department of Education and Communities regarding the proposed meeting for 21 August 2014.