

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

COST OF WOOLCOCK REPORT

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – COST OF WOOLCOCK REPORT – The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

What has been the cost of this report?

ANSWER

The funding cost of the study was \$1.2 million as indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Training, NSW Health and the Woolcock Institute.



**Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

CAMERAS USED IN WOOLCOCK STUDY

QUESTION

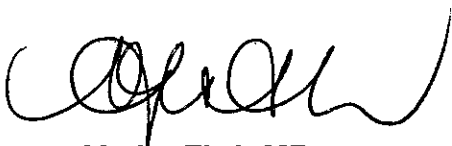
BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – AMERAS USED IN WOOLCOCK STUDY – The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Mr HUNTER: This research looks at those classrooms that were the subject of the Woolcock Institute's work and, as I understand it, they essentially put cameras in to try to grab an image unbeknownst to anyone in the school or the class just of whether the windows were open.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: So cameras on the windows? [...] Cameras for the whole classroom [or] just the windows? How many classrooms?

ANSWER

I am advised that the windows and doors of all classrooms which were part in the Woolcock Institute's Study were photographed during the course of the study.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PROJECTS DEFERRED TO FUND HEATER REPLACEMENT

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – PROJECTS DEFERRED TO FUND HEATER REPLACEMENT – The Hon. Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

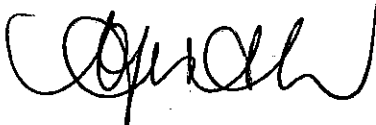
Can you provide the Committee with a list of the projects that will be deferred [to fund the replacement of unflued gas heaters]?

ANSWER

In relation to the \$15 million unflued gas heater replacement program, these funds were committed from within existing resources in 2010-11.

At the time of the decision to undertake the \$15 million program, the 2010/11 minor capital works program for upgrades and additions had not yet been finalised.

As the priority of upgrades and additions is subject to change, it is not possible to provide a definitive listing of projects that may or may not have been deferred.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

**NSW HEALTH ADVICE ON HEATERS –
HUNTER NEW ENGLAND AREA HEALTH SERVICE**

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – NSW HEALTH ADVICE ON HEATERS – Dr John Kaye MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Dr JOHN KAYE: In 2004 the Hunter New England Area Health Service wrote to private schools in their area telling them not to continue to install unflued gas heaters. You say there was no research but clearly Hunter New England Health had some research, perhaps not enough at that stage to say they should be removed but certainly enough to say they should not continue to be installed.

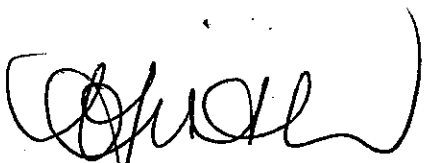
Ms VERITY FIRTH: My advice about that Hunter New England Health advice was that it was about the high NOx heaters.

ANSWER

I am advised that while the NSW Health research did look in to both high and low NOx heaters, it made recommendations only in relation to high NOx heaters. Current advice from the Acting Director Environmental Health Branch, NSW Department of Health, regarding the advice given to independent schools in the mid 2000's is:

"NSW Health conducted surveys of both "high NOx" (or "standard") and "low NOx" unflued gas heaters in non-government schools in 2005 and 2006. One of the recommendation from both these reports was that these school should consider a staged replacement of "high NOx" (or "standard") unflued gas heaters with flued gas heaters or some other heating option."

The NSW Department of Education and Training was already in the process of removing the high NOx heaters from NSW government schools when this report was released.



**Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICERS

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICERS – Dr John Kaye MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

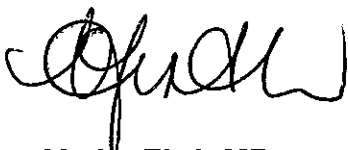
If no principal education officer has a specific libraries focus, and if it means that nobody in the director general's unit has a libraries focus, would you consider that not to be downgrading?

Is your statement that there will be no downgrading consistent with the idea that you will no longer have a principal education officer and you will no longer have anybody in the director general's unit to advise on policy and planning for school libraries?

ANSWER

I am advised that the Principal Education Officer position in the School Libraries and Information Services Unit will be maintained in the new entity. Support for school libraries will not be downgraded in the merger.

Included in the role of the Principal Education Officer in the School Libraries and Information Services Unit will be the function of provision of policy and planning for school libraries.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY TENDER

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY TENDER – the Hon Dr John Kaye MLC -

Director-General could you get back to us with the number of full-time equivalent positions and the total number of positions that will be lost as a result of the change in contracts?

ANSWER

TAFE NSW estimates that 62 equivalent full-time positions will be lost. This is as a result of 36 part time teachers being lost and a number of part time teachers having a reduced program as a result of the loss of the tender.

The NSW Adult Migrant Education Service (AMES) estimates the loss of 15 equivalent full-time positions. This will result in an estimated 25 part time teacher positions being lost.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

USE OF RAWLINSON ASSESSMENT TOOL

BUDGET ESTIMATES — EDUCATION AND TRAINING – USE OF RAWLINSON ASSESSMENT TOOL IN BER - the Hon Robyn Parker MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training —

QUESTION

In the case of unflued gas heaters the Rawlinson assessment tool was used, but in relation to the BER it was said it was not an accurate assessment tool because of the specifications of school equipment and particular requirements. Why was it used for the heaters but not for the BER?

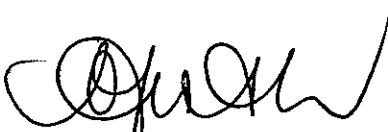
ANSWER

The Rawlinsons Construction Handbook can be helpful in the early stages of a project to prepare an indicative estimate or budget. In regard to the unflued gas heaters, Rawlinsons Construction Handbook was one of several references used by the Government Architect's Office to estimate the cost of heater replacements.

Rawlinsons defines a primary school as "single storey, standard finishes, buildings only, no air-conditioning". BER projects in primary schools have included administration areas, halls, classrooms and libraries. In the case of a library built under the BER program, costings may include such things as videoconferencing, interactive whiteboards, communication and technology infrastructure.

As the introduction to the section in Rawlinsons on 'Building Costs per Square Metre' states, "*Costs can provide no more than a rough guide to the probable cost of a building*". Taking a figure straight from the handbook does not show the basis on which those figures were developed. Particularly in the case of the BER program, other costs need to be factored in. These may include demolition, the site being on a flood plain and environmental issues.

BER project costings also include design and project management fees which are not included in Rawlinsons Handbook's building cost indicators. Even where identical designs are used, cost may vary because a variety of conditions will apply, such as foundation material, degree of slope, access to the site, weather, and heritage concerns. The Rawlinsons figures do not take account of these variables.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

CENTRALISED PROCUREMENT

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – QWN – Centralised Procurement – Parker

QUESTION

How much did you originally expect to save from a centralised procurement?

What did you expect to save in dollar figures?

What have you saved actually per year? Will you provide a breakdown?


ANSWER

Original expectations were that the Department of Education and Training would save \$94.6 million in the financial year 2008/2009.

During the period January 2008 to June 2009 the Department of Education and Training saved \$35 million. This includes \$30M saved during the 2008/2009 financial year. These savings are net of the cost of establishing the procurement directorate from January 2008 to June 2009.

In the financial year 2009/2010 the Department of Education and Training saved \$88 million.

A breakdown of savings by product and year is attached.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

DET Procurement			
Realised Performance Savings by Year			
Category	2007/08 (Jan 08 - Jun 08)	2008/09	2009/10
Acer PCs	\$ -	\$ 285,423	\$ 327,850
Annual School Reports	\$ -	\$ 127,056	\$ 291,168
Apple Desktop PCs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 167,624
Card Readers TAFE SI	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,600
Demountable Transport	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450,000
Furniture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 781,246
ICT Fleet Management	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,281
Imaging Devices (BAU & Opt)	\$ 1,715,478	\$ 9,426,952	\$ 6,939,314
Interactive Whiteboard Software	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,988,400
Interactive Whiteboards (BAU)	\$ 3,265,664	\$ 10,134,489	\$ 5,637,386
Internet Services	\$ -	\$ 1,652,044	\$ -
Lenovo PCs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132,160
Mining Equipment Training Simulator	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Products (Corp Exp)	\$ -	\$ 694,490	\$ 2,465,707
OfficeMax Rebate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 495,340
Print Production Machines	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,493
Printing (School Magazines)	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
Printing Services (TAFE)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,800
Recruitment Management C100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 390,439
School Leases & Licences	\$ -	\$ 764,067	\$ -
Servers T4L	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,489
Solar Panels	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 649,622
Sporting Goods	\$ -	\$ 108,664	\$ 649,614
Student Laptops (DER)	\$ -	\$ 5,636,004	\$ 60,308,226
TAFE Enrolment Forms	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,818
Telephone Audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,242
Telephony (GTA)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,800,000
Travel	\$ 750,000	\$ 714,356	\$ 1,758,070
Vehicle Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 331,550
Grand Total	\$ 5,731,142	\$ 29,558,545	\$ 87,995,439

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

CENTRALISED PROCUREMENT- STAFFING NUMBERS

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – QWN – Centralised Procurement – Staffing Numbers – Parker

QUESTION

How many people work in the centralised procurement operation?

ANSWER

I am advised that the number of Department and Education and Training procurement directorate staff is 35.

This self funded directorate includes technical sourcing staff, contract and vendor management, customer support, compliance, catalogue and systems support, policy, reporting and administration staff.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

CENTRALISED PROCUREMENT – STAFFING COSTS

**BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – STAFFING COSTS –
Centralised Procurement – Parker**

QUESTION

Will you provide the Committee with numbers of staff and costs of staff in the centralised office?

ANSWER

As at financial year 2009/2010, the number of Department and Education and Training procurement directorate staff is 35.

The procurement directorate is cost neutral to the Department of Education and Training and is self funded from procurement activity savings.

The cost of salaries is \$4,132,554, which includes \$655,568 in related costs.



**Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

LEE-ANNE WALKER – SELECTION PROCESS

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – LEE-ANNE WALKER – SELECTION PROCESS - the Hon Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

What are the terms of the contract as to its duration and the payment on a daily basis?


You selected who the expressions of interest would be sought from? Was it you and one other person from human relations?

ANSWER

These questions relate to matters that are subject to investigation by the Internal Audit Bureau (IAB).

The Department will provide the committee with the results of the investigation when they are available.

Until the investigation is completed it would not be appropriate for me to make any further comment.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

NATIONAL SOLAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – NATIONAL SOLAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM – the Hon Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

QUESTION

How many schools have had solar panels installed under the National Solar Schools Program?

Was all of the funding that has been spent on the National Solar Schools Program given to the schools directly?

How many schools will receive solar panels this year?

ANSWER

229 schools have had solar panels installed under the National Solar Schools Program.

Funding for these projects came via the National Partnership Agreement and was passed to the schools for the exact amount of their approved project.

31 schools from the original allocation, and approximately ten additional schools will be approved from surplus funds from the original program.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL FUNDING

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING –COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL FUNDING – The Hon. Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Can you explain why you have allocated \$9 million of spending but the Commonwealth says that its funding for New South Wales Government schools this year is only \$4.67 million?

ANSWER

In 2010-11 it is estimated that \$9.03 million will be spent in the National Solar Schools Program in NSW government schools. This estimated expenditure in 2010-11 includes unspent allocation from the prior year and further Commonwealth funding of \$4.76 million.

The unspent allocation is due to a timing difference between the funds being received and payment being made to the contractor following installation of the equipment.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL FUNDING - ALLOCATION

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING –COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL FUNDING – ALLOCATION – The Hon. Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

The Commonwealth says in its funding guidelines that the allocations will be made in proportion to the number of schools in each State. In New South Wales the government sector is only allocated \$4.67 million and the non-government sector is allocated \$5.7 million. So in fact there may have been an underspend in the [Solar Schools] program?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth indicated in the National Solar Schools Program guidelines that the total funding pool will be allocated in proportion to the number of schools in each State over the life of the program. The program runs from July 2008 to June 2015. Over the life of the program every eligible school will get their full entitlement, however the ratio of government and non-government schools funded in any given year of the program may change.

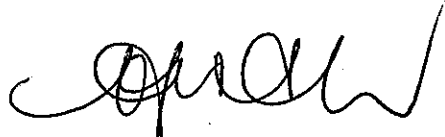
Following the changes to the program announced on 15 July 2010 by the Commonwealth, the National Solar Schools Program web page includes the following advice:

“From the 2010-11 funding round, a specified amount of National Solar Schools funding will be allocated for each state and territory.

Each state and territory’s annual funding allocation will be divided into two categories: government schools and non government schools.

This approach has been developed to provide funding certainty in each financial year and avoid the potential for oversubscription. It will also ensure that each state and territory (government and non-government sectors) receive their proportional share of funding each financial year over the life of the program.

The funding available will be capped each financial year at a level consistent with that state and territory’s share of the total number of Australian schools not yet funded under the NSSP.”



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

TAFE COURSES – COMMERCIAL AND FULL FEE PAYING

QUESTION

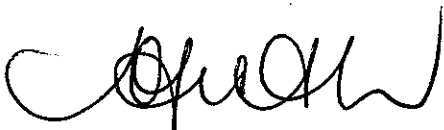
BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – TAFE COURSES – COMMERCIAL AND FULL FEE PAYING – Dr John Kaye MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Minister, I wish to return to the issue of TAFE. Can you give us a rough estimate verbally, and get back to us on notice, of what percentage of TAFE courses, probably best measured by student contact hours, are either commercial or full-fee paying in 2010-11?

ANSWER

Currently, 4.2 per cent of the nationally recognised courses on the TAFE system are provided solely as commercial courses.

However, any qualification or accredited course can potentially be delivered on a commercial basis by an Institute.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – FULL FEE PAYING

QUESTION

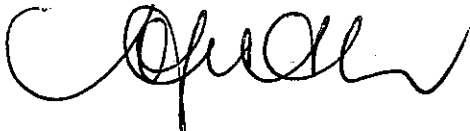
BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – FULL FEE PAYING – Dr John Kaye MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Would it be possible to provide us with a fairly detailed breakdown of how many fees are coming from overseas students, how many are for commercial courses in Australia and how many are for non-commercial courses in Australia? Also could you do that for 2008-09, 2009-10 and for the budget period 2010-11?

ANSWER

Fees to the NSW Department of Education and Training from overseas students were \$87.68 million for 2008-09, \$95.03 million for 2009-10 and \$79.68 million as budgeted for 2010-11.

The fees are all commercial revenue as all international students are full-fee paying students.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

TAFE VIRTUAL ROADMAP - MOYES

QUESTION

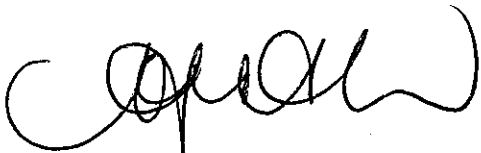
BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING - TAFE - VIRTUAL ROADMAP - Reverend the Hon. Dr GORDON MOYES MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

How many TAFE centres have installed the virtual learning environment roadmap and framework?

ANSWER

The TAFE Virtual Learning Environment Roadmap is a framework that guides the implementation of a suite of integrated learning technologies that support educational delivery in TAFE NSW Institutes.

I'm advised that all 10 TAFE NSW Institutes have implemented components of the TAFE NSW Virtual Learning Environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Firth', written in a cursive style.

Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

DIANNE BARRY – APPOINTMENT

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING - Dianne Barry – Appointment – the Hon Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training -

Was there an investigation into Dianne Barry's appointment as a School Education Director in the Sydney Region?

ANSWER

I am advised that in 2004, the then Deputy Director-General (Schools) declared his potential conflict of interest in relation to an applicant, Ms Dianne Barry, for the position of school education director.

Ms Barry was interviewed for school education director positions in Sydney and Northern Sydney regions. I am advised that the then Deputy Director-General (Schools) took no part in the selection or approval process for these positions.

The probity of the selection process for school education directors in Sydney and Northern Sydney Regions was reviewed by the Department's Director of Audit.

The Director of Audit concluded that the selection process followed the merit selection procedures, and that conflicts of interest were declared and appeared to have been well managed.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

APPOINTMENT OF LEE-ANNE WALKER

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – APPOINTMENT OF LEE-ANNE WALKER - the Hon Catherine Cusack to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Will you advise the Committee of the outcomes of your inquiries [into the appointment of Lee-Anne Walker]?

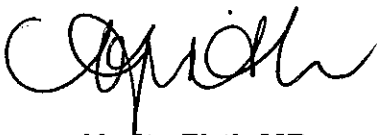
Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: Yes, of course.

ANSWER

This matter is currently subject to investigation by the Internal Audit Bureau (IAB).

The Department will provide the committee with the results of the investigation when they are available.

Until the investigation is completed it would not be appropriate for me to make any further comment.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

DET ADMIN STAFF – NUMBERS

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – DET ADMIN STAFF – NUMBERS – The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training -

Has there been a growth in the number of Department of Education and Training employees in State office and regions in the last three years?

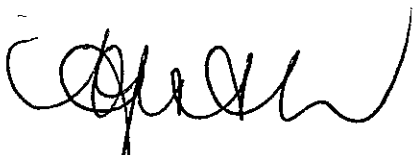
ANSWER

I am advised that during the last three years there has been some growth in employees in State and regional offices to support significant Commonwealth initiatives such as the Building the Education Revolution and the Digital Education Revolution programs and other National Partnership programs.

In addition, the Department of Education and Training has implemented other initiatives such as the establishment of the Child Wellbeing Unit.

There has also been a temporary growth in positions created to undertake the Department's Learning Management and Business Reform program, which will ultimately lead to streamlined delivery of services in human resources and finance and enhanced student learning systems through the Student Administration and Learning Management strand of the program.

After accounting for positions supporting these major initiatives there has been a reduction of approximately 100 staff in State and regional office from 2007 to 2010.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE****DET STAFF – LOCATION****QUESTION**

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – DET STAFF - LOCATION
 – The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training -

How many buildings are head office staff currently located in? Can you come back to the Committee with the locations of those buildings and how many employees are in each of those buildings?

ANSWER

The Department of Education and Training currently accommodates 3,782 staff within its State head office locations across New South Wales. Figures for each building are as follows:

Location	Address	Usage	Current Staff
Bankstown	Civic Tower, 66-72 Rickard Road	Educational Measurement and School Accountability Leased Office Space	83
Bankstown Nth	Bankstown North Public School, 322 Hume Highway	School Sports Unit Owned Space	18
Bathurst	140 William Street	State Office, Leased Office Space	95
Blacktown	22 Main Street	State Office, Leased Office Space	287
Blacktown	Walters Road Public School, Walters Rd	School Security Unit Owned space	67
Darlinghurst	1 Oxford Street	State Office Leased Office Space	1092
Eveleigh	Biomedical Building, Central Ave	Information Technology Leased Office Space	138
Lewisham	Lewisham Public School, The Boulevard	The Arts Unit Owned space	30
Newcastle	117 Bull Street	State Office Leased Office Space	129
Parramatta	Signature Tower, 2 - 10 Wentworth Street	Shared Service Centre Leased Office Space	230
Ryde	3A Smalls Rd	State Office Leased Space	247
St Leonards	39A Herbert Street	Information Technology Leased Office Space	384
Sydney	35-39 Bridge Street	State Office Leased Office Space	595
Sydney	725 George Street	LMBR Leased Office Space	144
Sydney	9 Hunter Street	Information Technology Leased Office Space	35
Sydney	L2, 151 Clarence St	Procurement Leased Office Space	56
Whalan	Mimika Ave	Equity Centre Owned space	2
Wollongong	84 Crown St	State Office Leased Office Space	150
Total			3,782



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

HURSTVILLE PRECINCT PROJECT

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING - HURSTVILLE PRECINCT PROJECT – PLANNING – The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training -

What planning and assessment was undertaken before the proposal was approved to determine the educational needs of, and impacts on, the children affected by the [Hurstville Precinct Project] proposal?

Can you advise me of any other example in the State where year 5 and year 6 children have been placed in shared facilities with a boys' high school?

Was there an option to build a classroom on the Hurstville Public School grounds?

ANSWERS

Over the past 10 years, members of the Hurstville Public School community have discussed with the local Member of Parliament and departmental personnel the need for more classrooms to accommodate an increasing student enrolment. At the same time Georges River College, Hurstville Boys Campus had also indicated the need for an upgrade of facilities.

During 2008 two options were developed and discussed with the local Member, and the two schools. One option was to build an eight classroom block on the Hurstville Public School site. The second option was the redevelopment of buildings on the Georges River College, Hurstville Boys Campus which would include 15 dedicated primary learning spaces.

In May 2009 I met with members of the Hurstville Public School Parents and Citizens Association and the local Member to discuss the building options. The second option was approved.

One current example of year 5 and year 6 students share facilities with a boys' High School is the Neutral Bay Public School Opportunity Class, where students from Years 5 and 6 study on the North Sydney Boys High School site. These primary aged students have their own designated lunch and recess times, playground and toilet facilities.

The arrangement has been successful for three terms this year and will continue until 2011, with all parties appearing to be satisfied that all students have been cared for and that successful learning is occurring.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

HURSTVILLE PRECINCT (continued)

There are also many examples of government co-educational central schools which accommodate the learning of students from Kindergarten to Year 12, and further examples in the non-government sector.

The Hurstville Educational Precinct Proposal was unique in its scope. It was to provide access to separate classrooms, and some shared, high quality facilities in a high school setting while preserving the separate identity and operations of the primary school for its senior students.

However, I have accepted that there is a significant portion of the school community who do not want the project to proceed as planned and I announced changes to the planned works on 21 September 2010.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES - LEARNING MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS REFORM

QUESTION

I assume that Deloitte is the consultancy company on that (the LMBR Program). How much has Deloitte been paid for services to the program? You can come back with Deloitte and Ernst and Young.

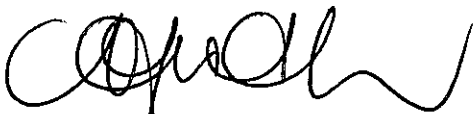
ANSWER

I am advised that from 2006/07 to date the LMBR Program has spent \$14,436,980 for Deloitte's services.

Deloitte's has provided probity advice and audit, taxation advice, shared services solution design and transition for both Finance and Human Resources as well as project management and tendering services for student administration and learning management to the Department of Education and Training.

From 2005/06 to date the LMBR Program has spent \$3,810,286 for Ernst and Young's services.

Ernst and Young is engaged as the independent quality assurance advisor to the LMBR program as per Treasury guidelines for major projects.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE 29

SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – SHARED SERVICE CENTRE – SETUP COSTS – Ms Parker MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Further to the work of Deloitte et cetera, what has been the cost of establishing the shared services centre at Parramatta? Can you come back with details on not only the fit-out cost and the lease but also the costs of salaries and how much it costs to basically run the building?

Was additional funding provided by Treasury to establish that centre? Did you have an extra top-up?

ANSWER

I am advised that the cost to date of establishing the Shared Service Centre premises at Parramatta has been \$4.812 million including office fit out, PCs, printers and other technology. The cost of the building lease for 2010/11 is \$1.745 million and includes cleaning and building management services.

The Shared Service Centre's 2010/11 recurrent budget is \$10.844 million, of which \$9.943 million is for staff salaries.

The 2009-10 fit-out costs were funded from the Capital Budget allocated through NSW Treasury. The 2010-11 forecast fit-out costs will be funded from within the Minor Capital Works Budget allocation.

The ongoing salary-related costs do not represent an additional cost, as most of the positions were relocated from elsewhere in the Department.



**Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training**

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

USE OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDING

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – USE OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDING – The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Will you on notice clarify which Commonwealth programs were underspent?

Will you on notice provide the Committee with those programs and the underspending in them?

ANSWER:

As stated by the Director-General during the hearing, to characterise programmes as 'underspent' is to misunderstand the nature of these funding programs. Under and over spends in individual financial years are due to timing issues. Regarding specific funding programs:

1. The Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership runs over seven financial years, during which time 552 schools will benefit from the National Partnership. The schools start in different years and each school will be funded for four calendar years once it joins the program. As a result, there are differences each year between the funding received and the expenditure.
2. The spending of funds under the Productivity Places National Partnership is also dependent on timing. For example, there has been a slower and later than expected take up of qualification places. Approximately 25% of the places' allocations were made in April 2010 and claims for payment for these were not made until July and August 2010.
3. The 'underspend' of the Youth Attainment & Transition National Partnership is due to the major proportion committed for the targeted support projects to receiving payment early in 2010-11.

Commonwealth Revenue Programs are also subject to timing issues. In particular the Skills Centres program is a Commonwealth funded infrastructure program administered via contracts. Each project is unique and will have significantly differing payment schedules. Payments are made only when applicants reach certain milestones in the project life cycle. Accordingly some contract funds are not expended in the financial year they are received from the Commonwealth.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

USE OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDING (Continued)

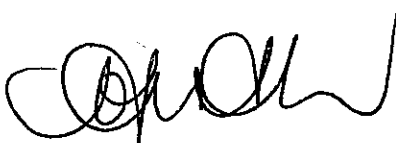
The following Specific Purpose Payments are not targeted to identified programs, but represent funding to support education in NSW:

1. Schools Specific Purpose Payment was underspent by \$8.4M (0.8%) at 30 June 2010.
2. Skills Specific Purpose Payment under the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development was underspent by \$6.0M (1.6%) at 30 June 2010.

The following National Partnership Education Agreements were on-going at 30 June 2010:

	\$ 000
Low SES School Communities NP	34,015
Productivity Places NP	33,980
Digital Education Revolution NP	6,213
Building the Education Revolution NP	5,599
Youth Attainment & Transition NP	600
National Schools Security NP	20
Skills Centres	6,786
Group Training Scheme	835
Other Minor Programs	676

All of these programs will be fully spent during the course of the program.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

STUDENTS IN CHILD WELLBEING UNITS

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – Students in child wellbeing units – Reverend the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes to ask the Minister for Education and Training-

I am interested in child wellbeing units which support out-of-home care children. In a former life I was responsible for many hundreds of such children being involved in government schools. How many students are supported in wellbeing units currently? What is the department's involvement with the not-for-profit sector who care for many children in out-of-home care units?

ANSWER

Child Wellbeing Units have been established under *Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbeing* to advise, support and educate mandatory reporters as to whether there is a risk of significant harm, and to provide advice to Principals about reporting matters to the Department of Community Services Helpline. Child wellbeing units also identify potential responses by the agency or other services to assist and support the child or family.

Child Wellbeing Units do not have a direct role in supporting children and young people, including those in out-of-home care.

From 25 January 2010 until 30 June 2010, the Department of Education and Training's Child Wellbeing Unit received 4,415 contacts via telephone, email or fax about students in government schools and TAFE NSW, including children and young people in out-of-home care.

The Department liaises with, and works collaboratively with, non-government organisations that care for many children and young people in statutory out-of-home care.

An *Out of home care in government schools policy* and procedures have been developed by the Department and released in July 2010. They guide the work of schools in supporting children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW Government schools.

The policy sets the expectation that school and regional staff will liaise with Community Services, or designated non-government organisations, to encourage their involvement in the educational planning process for children or young people in their care.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

STUDENTS IN CHILD WELLBEING UNITS (continued)

School and regional staff have formed close working relationships with local non-government out-of-home care organisations and their caseworkers. This has assisted information exchange and collaboration in decision making.

The Department sought input from key non-government organisations during the development of the out-of-home care policy and procedures. They will also be consulted on the effectiveness of the policy and procedures over the next 12 months.

This is to ensure the policy and procedures are providing a suitable framework for effective interagency collaboration to support improved education outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

TEACHER RETENTION

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – TEACHER RETENTION –
Reverend the Hon. Dr Gordon Moyes MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Has there been a change in the retention rate for beginning teachers?

ANSWER

I am advised that the average retention rate of school teachers in their first five years of service over the years 2005–09 was 88.9 per cent, up from 84 per cent in the five years 2001–05.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

SECURITY FENCING

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – SECURITY FENCING –
Reverend the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

What percentage or numbers of schools are still in the system to get security fences?

ANSWER

The Department of Education and Training undertakes to construct security fences around schools where a need has been identified based on a risk assessment. It should be noted that not all schools will require a security fence to be installed.

Since 1995, security fences have been installed in 711 schools (approximately one third of government schools) at an estimated cost of more than \$78 million.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH PROPOSALS FOR TEACHER TRAINING

QUESTION

BUDGET ESTIMATES – EDUCATION AND TRAINING – COMMONWEALTH PROPOSALS FOR TEACHER TRAINING – the Hon Dr John Kaye MLC to ask the Minister for Education and Training –

Can we be clear here? You would be okay with somebody with just eight weeks of teacher training going into a classroom?

ANSWER

The NSW Government strongly supports the need for new entrants to the teaching profession to complete quality teacher training and gain a qualification that makes them widely eligible for accreditation or registration as a teacher.

Through the NSW Institute of Teachers, only people with a fully recognised bachelor degree can be employed as conditionally accredited teachers. The condition on these teachers is being supervised and mentored within the school and completing an approved teaching qualification through a higher education institution within a limited timeframe. Only a small number of teachers in NSW come through this pathway.

The NSW Government gives in-principle support to the establishment of alternative and innovative programs that encourage the most talented people into teaching. The NSW Government has always argued that these programs should also lead to a recognised teaching qualification. However, any alternative training model that allows teacher trainees into the classroom to teach prior to finishing their teaching qualification needs to be based on the provision of comprehensive supervision, mentoring and support.

The Commonwealth's Teach for Australia program enables the graduates to gain a recognised postgraduate diploma in education through the University of Melbourne. That is the minimum that our own Institute of Teachers would accept for provisional accreditation as a teacher.

Graduates from any teacher education program should be able to demonstrate all of the graduate standards expected of the broader teaching profession. In NSW our own teaching degrees have had to meet exacting program standards through the Institute of Teachers. It is this principle that we have taken into recent discussions on a proposal for developing a national teacher accreditation system to ensure that any teaching degree across Australia meets agreed national Graduate Teacher Standards.



Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training