



# Premier of New South Wales

## Minister for Western Sydney

2013-338983

Mr Stewart Smith  
Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Smith

I refer to my appearance, and that of the Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Mr Chris Eccles, on 16 August 2013 before the General Purpose Standing Committee No.1 for the purpose of giving evidence in relation to the 2013-14 Budget Estimates.

Please find enclosed responses to questions taken on notice at the Estimates hearing (Attachment 1) and Supplementary Questions on Notice (Attachment 2). Soft copies of these responses have also been forwarded to [budget.estimated@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimated@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

Should you have any further inquiries, please contact Matthew Cross, Advisor, on 9228 5239.

Yours sincerely

**Barry O'Farrell MP**  
Premier

**PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY  
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**Supplementary Questions on Notice**

**General Questions**

1. What is your relationship to Michael Photios?

**ANSWER:**

Michael Photos is a former Member of NSW Parliament, former NSW Cabinet Minister, Member of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) and on the NSW Register of Lobbyists.

2. How often do you speak with him?

3. Have you met with clients of PremierState?

4. On how many occasions and what dates did you meet with Michael Photios or representatives of PremierState?

5. What was discussed at these meetings?

6. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with Michael Photios or a client of PremierState?

**ANSWER (2-6):**

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

As I stated in the estimates hearing, if people want to come and see members of my Government they do not need to employ lobbyists, they simply need to ring up and seek an appointment.

7. Did you attend his wedding?

**ANSWER:**

No.

8. Did Michael Photios vote in your preselection?

**ANSWER:**

No.

9. Have you met with lobbyists other than PremierState?

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

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

12. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with a lobbyist?

13. To deliver greater transparency and accountability, will you publish a monthly online diary of all meetings with lobbyists?

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14. In order to deliver greater transparency and accountability, as promised by the Premier, will you commit to keeping a record of all lobbying activities and documentation and allow them to be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act?

**ANSWER (9-14):**

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

As I stated in the estimates hearing, if people want to come and see members of my Government they do not need to employ lobbyists, they simply need to ring up and seek an appointment.

15. Since becoming a Minister, have you taken any interstate or intrastate trips involving overnight accommodation or flights?

16. Will you provide a list to the committee of the details of all travel?

17. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend Liberal/National Party functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

18. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend lobbyists' functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

19. Were these trips paid for by the taxpayer?

20. Were these trips booked through the government travel management system?

21. Since becoming a Minister, have you paid back money to the state because you booked unauthorised travel with the government travel management system? How much? When did you travel? When did you pay back the money? How many occasions has this happened?

22. Have you had meetings scheduled interstate or intrastate on Fridays or weekends which involved you staying overnight?

23. Did you take your spouse/partner on these trips?

**ANSWER (15-23):**

Information regarding travel and reimbursement payments is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log).

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).

24. Have any members of your staff made complaints to or raised concerns with you, your Chief of Staff or the Department of Premier and Cabinet about bullying in your office?

25. If so, have any members of your staff resigned or been removed from their position after making such a complaint or raising such concerns?

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**Supplementary Questions on Notice**

**ANSWER (24-25):**

No.

26. How many blackberries or smart phones are assigned to your staff?

**ANSWER:**

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices.

27. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

The total expenditure on all phone types by the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices as represented in the department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$483,310	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226	\$232,286

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

28. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

**ANSWER:**

For Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices, the number of phones lost was 5.

29. 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.

30. How many iPads or tablet computers does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER:**

The number of iPads issued for the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices for 2012/13 is 75.

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**Supplementary Questions on Notice**

31. How many iPads or tablet computers have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER:**

iPads are supplied by DPC.

32. How many iPhones or other smart phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER:**

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices.

33. How many iPhones or other smart phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER:**

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC.

34. How many iPhones or other smart phones have been lost in your office?

**ANSWER:**

For Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices, the number of phones lost was 5.

35. How many iPads or tablet computers have been lost in your office?

**ANSWER:**

For Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices the number of iPads lost was 2.

36. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads or tablet computers?

**ANSWER:**

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

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

**ANSWER:**

For the Department of Premier and Cabinet there were nil media staff.

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38. What is the forecast for 2013/14 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**ANSWER:**

There are no plans to change the current arrangements.

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

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

**ANSWER (39 & 40):**

Information regarding travel 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".

41. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

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

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

**ANSWER (41-43):**

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).

44. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log).

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

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

**ANSWER (45-46):**

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department's Annual Report.

47. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2013/14?

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**ANSWER:**

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log).

48. How many political advisors are in your office?

49. How many administration staff?

**ANSWER (48-49):**

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

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

**ANSWER:**

Number of Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) are:

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012	Number of DLOs as at 30/06/2013
Premier	1	1
Ministers	57	54
TOTAL	58	55

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

**ANSWER:**

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

52. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

53. If so, in what capacities?

54. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

**ANSWER (52-54):**

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

55. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2012/13 financial year?

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**ANSWER:**

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094	\$92,829

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

56. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?  
57. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?  
58. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

**ANSWER (56-58):**

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.

59. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?  
60. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?  
61. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2013/14?

**ANSWER:**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap 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.

62. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2012/13?

**ANSWER:**

Details regarding expenditure on community events are published in the Department's Annual Report.



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**Supplementary Questions on Notice**

63. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2012/13?

**ANSWER:**

In 2012/13 the Department's expenditure was \$260,000. In 2010/11 the Department's expenditure was \$432,000.

64. What is your Department's catering budget?

**ANSWER:**

Details regarding expenditure on community events are published in the Department's Annual Report.

65. What is your Department's stationary budget?

**ANSWER:**

In 2012/13 the Department's budget was \$430,000.

As indicated in respect to Question 63, stationary expenses were \$260,000 in 2012/13.

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

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

**ANSWER (66-67):**

No agency within the Department of Premier and Cabinet has changed their branding.

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

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

**ANSWER (68 & 69)**

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

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

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**Supplementary Questions on Notice**

70. In 2012/13 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
71. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
72. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

**ANSWER (70-72):**

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

73. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? 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 2013/2013?
  - h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
  - i. Have any provisions been included in grant agreements to prohibit these organisations from criticising the Government or any of its policies?

**ANSWER:**

Grant payments are detailed in the Department's Annual Report.

74. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2013 and at what cost?

**ANSWER:**

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

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

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**ANSWER:**

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at June 2013 will be included in the Workforce Profile 2013 Report, due to be released with the 2013 State of the Public Sector Report in November 2013. NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 outlines Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

76. How has that changed since 1 July 2012?

**ANSWER:**

An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the NSW public sector at June 2012 can be found in the Workforce Profile 2012 Report. This report is available on the PSC website on the Workforce Profile page: <http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/About-the-Public-Sector/workforce-profile>.

77. Since 1 July 2011, 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).

Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

78. 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?

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**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.

79. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretaries incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2012

- a. kilometres travelled
- b. accommodation,
- c. air fares
- d. meals/entertaining?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log).

80. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretaries since 1 July 2012;

- a. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- b. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?

81. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretaries?

- a. Are these meetings documented?
- b. Who attends these meetings?

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

**ANSWER (80-82):**

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

83. Have the Parliamentary Secretaries 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?

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**ANSWER:**

No.

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**Supplementary Questions on Notice**

**Western Sydney**

1. Of the \$146 million allocated in this year's budget for projects for the NSW Police Force,

- a. What proportion of funding has been allocated to train and support the 500 new probationary constables added in Greater Western Sydney since May 2011, in their development to effectively engage with and understand issues particularly affecting the CALD communities of Western Sydney and more generally, other minority groups, for example the LGBTI community?
- b. Is there any plan to introduce such a program?

**ANSWER:**

The Government has allocated \$146 million to the NSW Police Force in 2013-14 for capital works projects. Capital funding is used for a range of purposes, including the construction of new police stations or the purchase of equipment.

Training costs for NSW police officers are met from recurrent funding, which in 2013-14 has increased to an all-time high of \$3.4 billion.

To be confirmed as a Constable, officers must complete the Associate Diploma in Policing Practice which includes a range of subjects addressing working with culturally diverse members of the community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and LGBTI. Officers receive ongoing training and development in these areas throughout their career.

**QUESTION**

2. During the hearing for Western Sydney on Friday 16 August 2013, a correlation was made between sleeping rough and those suffering from a mental illness.

- a. How much of the \$324 million allocated to the Blacktown and Mt Druitt expansion will support the Western Sydney community in addressing mental health issues to alleviate the numbers sleeping rough?
- b. How much of the \$139 million allocated to the redevelopment of Macarthur GP After Hours Service, Stage 1 will support the Western Sydney community in addressing mental health issues to alleviate the numbers sleeping rough?
- c. How much of the \$138 million Nepean Hospital redevelopment will support the Western Sydney community in addressing mental health issues to alleviate the numbers sleeping rough?
- d. What programs does the government have specifically targeting rough sleepers in Western Sydney?

**ANSWER:**

(a) The \$324 million allocated to the Blacktown and Mt Druitt expansion will provide enhanced services to all patients in the area, including mental health patients. The project will provide 170 additional beds including additional Emergency Department spaces and a co-located Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre, additional intensive care / high dependency beds, and a new In-centre renal dialysis unit.

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In addition a new 20 bed sub-acute mental health unit is being built on the Blacktown Hospital site. This unit will assist in transition to community living for mental health consumers and will be of great benefit to those who are currently homeless or at risk of being homeless, by providing mental health community follow up and by providing accommodation assistance and linkage to the Non-Government Organisations in the Blacktown LGA.

(b) Campbelltown Hospital is currently undergoing a \$139 million redevelopment which will include 11 new emergency spaces, 90 inpatient beds, a co-located and expanded floor comprising ambulatory care, outpatients, antenatal, allied health consulting rooms and treatment spaces, and a reconfigured and expanded Emergency Department.

South Western Sydney Local Health District is also undertaking a comprehensive, consultative planning process for the development of a mental health precinct at Campbelltown Hospital. The plan is designed to meet projected population needs, and will build on the existing hospital and community-based services including acute care, mental health promotion, early intervention, and recovery-focused rehabilitation.

The sub-acute facility at Liverpool Hospital was officially opened on 30 May 2013. The 20 bed unit is a District wide resource, which admits patients from the Macarthur, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee regions. The District is exploring options with private health care services in the Liverpool and Macarthur region.

(c) As part of the \$139 million Nepean Hospital Redevelopment, a \$44 million purpose built mental health unit is under construction, and when complete will substantially increase the volume of inpatient mental health services within the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District. The new building will provide a comprehensive range of mental health services, including an assessment unit, observation unit, acute inpatient services, aged psychiatry, access team, treatment service, day services and patient consultation and liaison services. The new unit will increase capacity for mental health patients from the current 32 inpatient beds to 64 inpatient beds.

(d) Under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, there are three initiatives that support rough sleepers in Western Sydney. In addition, there are over 30 services funded under the Specialist Homelessness Services program in Western Sydney, some of which provide services to rough sleepers.