

Office of Finance and Services

Estimates Committee hearing, Friday 22 August 2014

Responses to supplementary questions

Questions from Hon Peter Primrose MLC

1. In the Hornsby Advocate on 11th August this year, under the headline 'Rezoning to bring 450 homes to Peat Island and Mooney Mooney', you are quoted as saying that these homes would create 915 jobs during the construction phase, and 110 permanent positions in the local area. How was it calculated that 110 permanent local positions would be created, and what type of jobs you expect them to involve?

ANSWER:

The job numbers are calculated on the basis that the Peat Island and Mooney Mooney rezoning proposal has identified marina and local neighbourhood service centre uses on the site.

The 110 permanent local jobs assume core staff for each of the proposed uses (marina, marina retail, service station and food and beverage) and include full time, part time and casual staff. The numbers are based on comparison with other known operations of a similar scale and encompass jobs such as marina manager, maintenance and operations, mechanics, boat sales, retail service, food and beverage, kitchen and cleaning staff.

2. In evidence to the recent Law and Justice Committee's review of the functions of the Motor Accident Authority, the Authority advised that it was closely monitoring the impact on likely costs arising in the Compulsory Third Party Scheme resulting from the 2012 abolition of journey claims under the Workers Compensation Scheme. In July 2013 the Motor Accident Authority briefed the then Minister that the 2012 changes to the Workers Compensation Legislation were expected to result in additional CTP Greenslip claims. To quote from the document: 'Ernst and Young have estimated the impact on the assumption that insurers will recognise approximately 50 per cent of the cost in their prices in the coming year. Based on this assumption, Ernst and Young anticipate

insurers will increase their premiums by fifteen dollars to cover journey claims in the next 12 months.'

- (a) Did insurers increase their premiums by fifteen dollars?
- (b) If not, by how much? Was Ernst and Young's estimate incorrect?
- (c) Will you seek advice from Ernst and Young and make it public?
- (d) What do you estimate the impact will be in the coming year?

ANSWER:

(a) The Motor Accidents Authority has not permitted insurers to include a specific increase in prices to reflect possible future journey claims in premium filings. Premiums filed were consistent with past claims experience and only reflected the extent to which past claims experience changed.

(b) and (c) The estimate of the impact of additional cost of journey claims provided by Ernst and Young was not an estimate of the expected increase in premiums in 2013, rather it was an estimate of the possible long term impact on premiums after a transition period.

(d) It should be noted that it is not possible to separately identify journey claims from other CTP claims, since purpose of journey is not relevant in making a CTP claim. Hence, the Motor Accidents Authority cannot readily quantify the additional journey claims reported in the CTP scheme to date, to project trends in future journey claims.

3. I refer to the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme Jobs Action Plan. Can you please advise for 2013/14:

- (a) how many positions were registered in the metropolitan area of Sydney; and
- (b) how many in other areas of the state?

ANSWER:

- (a) 34,623 positions were registered in the Sydney metropolitan area; and
- (b) 9,658 positions were registered in regional areas.

4. What new technology or other measures have been put in place to ensure that all emails that emanate from a Minister's Office remain available for review by an authorised agency, even if the emails have been deleted, or the Minister or even the Government changes?

ANSWER:

The Ministers' Office Handbook published in June 2014 contains information in relation to managing email records in accordance with the State Records Act 1998 and the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013

5. (a) As Minister for Finance, can you advise what the procedure is for recovering bad debts owed to the NSW Government?

(b) Do agencies of the government send out dunning Letters?

i. If so, when are they sent out – after the debt hits a particular amount or at a dollar level?

(c) Do all agencies use SAP Business ByDesign for their debt recovery system?

(d) How many dunning letters were sent out by agencies responsible to you in 2013/14?

ANSWER:

(a) The Office of Finance and Services does not manage bad debt recovery on behalf of the NSW Government sector as a whole. Within OFS the agency with the greatest involvement in bad debt recovery is the Office of State Revenue which is predominantly responsible for the collection of tax and fines debt only.

The procedures followed to collect the debt managed by OSR vary according to whether the debt can be easily attached to an asset (i.e. land tax), leveraged against a commercial entity (i.e. payroll tax) or directed against an individual where the contact details and knowledge of their ability to repay are largely unknown (fines).

OSR's procedures follow steps that include knowledge gathering and data verification, and then embark on a series of demands via various channels to make contact and negotiate a settlement in as quick a time as possible once all the circumstances of the debt and the debtor are known.

Actions include due legal process when required, through to and including liquidation and bankruptcy and property seizure where appropriate. Allowances are made for companies and individuals that need time to repay the monies outstanding as well as to provide special support for those who have been deemed as vulnerable and in need of special consideration.

The majority of the collection activity is managed internally within OSR. Only matters that require either specialist legal action, or who have been through the fines collection process and the application of sanctions with no result, are considered for referral to external legal practitioners or our panel of debt collection agencies. Tax debt collection takes a more commercial collection pathway whereas, the collection of fines incorporates a range of sanctions supported by legislation to 'prompt' those who neglect or refuse to pay during any penalty phase to make contact with OSR or simply pay the amount owing.

(b) Letters are sent by OSR at various stages in the collection process. For tax debt, letters are sent at the date immediately after the 'Due' date on the assessment notice. For fines debt, letters are sent once the penalty and penalty reminder notices have expired. All amounts overdue are actioned.

(c) OSR does not use SAP Business ByDesign for its debt recovery system.

(d) In 2013/14 approximately 335,000 fines related demand letters were issued. This excludes 1.28 million enforcement orders that are issued automatically immediately a fine becomes overdue. In addition, approximately 66,000 tax related demand letters were issued in 2013/14.

6. Regarding the workers compensation regulation you announced in June, it is expected that its provisions will not cover workers who lodged claims for matters such as industrial deafness on or after 1 October 2012. Accordingly,

(a) When will the legislation be introduced that will cover workers who lodged claims after 1 October 2012?

(b) Will this legislation restore compensation for hearing impaired workers to pre-2012 levels?

ANSWER:

The nature of the changes for workers who made claims on or after 1 October 2012, has not yet been determined.

7. Will there be any changes to the Whole Person Impairment criteria in the new regulations – will it be harder to remain eligible?

(a) If so, what? On what evidence was this decision made?

ANSWER:

There are no changes being made to the criteria for permanent impairment that will make it harder to remain eligible.

8. Will workers with industrial deafness be eligible under the new regulation, for repairs, batteries and rehabilitation at the pre 2012 settings? What are the specific details?

ANSWER:

The regulatory changes made on 3 September 2014, will ensure workers with industrial deafness claims made before 1 October 2012, have continued access to hearing aids, including repairs and batteries, until they reach retiring age.

9. When the then Minister introduced his new regulation on 20th December last year, it was stated that it would allow injured workers access to medical treatment beyond twelve months if it had been approved by the Insurer prior to 31 December.

(a) Why did neither WorkCover nor the insurers inform anyone of the implications of the new regulation? Is it the case that no “urgent” matters were in fact put before insurers to consider stemming from this regulation, simply because no injured workers had even been informed?

(b) Even if a matter had been put before an insurer, the insurers have rewritten the claims guidelines giving themselves 21 days to make a decision and routinely will not make a decision until the 20th day. What action will you take on this matter?

ANSWER:

(a) The December 2013 regulatory changes were primarily intended to address an anomaly in the workers compensation legislation, whereby medical treatment that had already been approved by the insurer would not have been able to be paid for, if the treatment was provided after 31 December 2013, due to the 12 month limit on medical benefit entitlements.

Under the 2012 reforms, the 12-month time limit on the payment of medical and related expenses took effect on 1 January 2014, for workers with claims prior to 1 October 2012 who were not in receipt of weekly income support.

The regulation of 20 December 2013, was intended to provide coverage in those cases where insurers had already approved specified medical treatment prior to 1 January 2014, but the treatment could not be provided until after that date.

(b) Section 279 of the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998* compels insurers to make a decision about liability in relation to medical treatment within 21 days after a claim is made.

WorkCover guidelines are statutory instruments made by WorkCover that provide additional information to support administration of the legislation. The 21 day timeframe applicable to a number of insurer decisions in the *WorkCover Guidelines for Claiming Compensation Benefits* was, in accordance with the legislation, applicable prior to the 2012 legislative changes.

10. The current WorkCover advice on Mr Fluffy loose fill amosite insulation essentially mirrors the NSW Health Department's advice, saying that: 'exposure is likely to be very low if the asbestos is undisturbed and remains sealed off at all points where entry of asbestos into living areas can occur.'

(a) Given recent events in the ACT, is WorkCover satisfied that this advice is still valid?

(b) Do you believe that the current NSW Department of Health's advice on loose fill asbestos insulation needs to be updated?

(c) What advice has WorkCover provided to emergency services including the Fire Brigade and the State Emergency Service regarding homes which are suspected to contain loose fill asbestos insulation in their roof?

(d) What would be the implications for neighbouring families if a house containing such insulation was destroyed or lost its roof in a fire or storm?

ANSWER:

(a) WorkCover is satisfied that this advice is still valid. The risk of exposure to asbestos in buildings containing loose fill asbestos is likely to be very low if the asbestos is undisturbed and sealed off.

(b) For an asbestos risk to arise an exposure pathway must be present. The current initiatives announced on 15 August 2014, include a technical assessment of existing loose-fill insulation homes.

(c) WorkCover has been in contact with Fire and Rescue NSW and the State Emergency Service (SES) regarding loose fill asbestos insulation. WorkCover advised them of the 16 council areas where evidence exists of loose fill asbestos insulation being installed. WorkCover advised that any homes with loose fill insulation built before 1980, could contain loose fill asbestos insulation material and that appropriate control measures for friable asbestos materials should be in place. WorkCover is providing ongoing advice to Fire and Rescue and SES regarding dealing with loose fill asbestos insulation. Local Councils are also providing site information to the emergency services.

(d) The implications are the same for the disturbance of any asbestos materials in residential premises following a flood, fire or storm. Protocols and coordination arrangements are in place to manage such events, as part of the emergency response systems.

11. Are any homes in Western Sydney affected by loose fill asbestos insulation?

(a) Will the Government commit to conducting an investigation into the matter in Western Sydney?

(b) Will the government commit to remedial action in any affected homes?

ANSWER:

This will be a subject of an independent investigation to determine the extent of loose-fill insulation in New South Wales. To date there has been no positive identification of homes in Western Sydney.

(a) As above

(b) The initiatives announced on 15 August 2014, are focused on the identification and assessment of the risks in New South Wales. This information will provide an evidence-base for any further decisions.

12. How many tower cranes are registered in NSW?

(a) How many were inspected in 2013/14?

ANSWER:

369

(a)

Tower crane inspections - Tower Cranes – maintenance	23
Tower crane inspections - Tower Cranes – systems	6
Tower crane verifications for high risk commercial construction	32
TOTAL =	61

Note – this figures shows the number of verifications performed, NOT the number of tower cranes verified. It may be that a tower crane was verified more than once in the 2013/14 period.

13. What was the number of WorkCover staff at the 30th June 2014, in each of the following categories: Permanent; WorkCover Temporary; Agency Temporary; and Graduates/Trainees and Cadets?

ANSWER:

WorkCover	30 June 2014
Permanent	1,044
WorkCover Temporary	42
Agency Temporary	20
Graduates/Trainees & Cadets	0
Agency Temporary	57

14. Regarding the Workers Compensation Scheme, for each category in the Insurance Premium Order (based on the ANZSIC codes) what was the accident and injury rate for 2012/13 and 2013/14?

ANSWER:

The information requested is normally available as part of the WorkCover Statistical Bulletin. The 2012-13 Bulletin will be published on the WorkCover website shortly. The 2013-14 data is not yet available.

15. How many field based inspectors did WorkCover have at 30 June 2013? Where were they based, by location?

ANSWER:

As at 30 June 2013, WorkCover had an establishment of 315 inspectors.

The positions are spread throughout the State in 22 metropolitan, regional and rural locations.

Location	No.	Location	No.
Albury	4	Liverpool	17
Ballina	5	Londonderry	6
Bega	3	Narrabri	3
Blacktown	17	Newcastle	23
CBD South	52	Nowra	4
Coffs Harbour	5	Orange	3
Dubbo	4	Parramatta	56
Gosford	61	Port Macquarie	6
Goulburn	3	Tamworth	5
Griffith	3	Wagga Wagga	5
Hurstville	14	Wollongong	16

16. How many field based inspectors did WorkCover have at 30 June 2014? Where were they based, by location?

ANSWER:

As at 30 June 2014, WorkCover had an establishment of 315 inspectors.

These positions are spread throughout the State in 22 metropolitan, regional and rural locations.

Location	No.	Location	No.
Albury	4	Liverpool	16
Ballina	6	Londonderry	5
Bega	3	Narrabri	2
Blacktown	21	Newcastle	23
CBD South	53	Nowra	4
Coffs Harbour	6	Orange	3
Dubbo	4	Parramatta	58
Gosford	57	Port Macquarie	4
Goulburn	3	Tamworth	5
Griffith	3	Wagga Wagga	5
Hurstville	16	Wollongong	14

17. How many workplace visits were undertaken by WorkCover Inspectors in 2013/14?

ANSWER:

In 2013/14, WorkCover inspectors conducted a total of 24,724 visits to workplaces throughout New South Wales.

18. How many of these inspections were proactive and how many were in response to incident notifications?

ANSWER:

14,885 are considered proactive (projects and advisory visit requests) project visits.

2,033 were in response to Incident notifications.

7,806 were in response to a request for service (excluding advisory visit requests).

19. How many prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act were initiated in 2013/14? How many were finalised over the same period?

ANSWER:

In 2013/14 there were 11 charges filed under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and 95 charges completed.

20. How many prosecutions under the Work Health and Safety Act were initiated in 2013/14?

How many were finalised over the same period?

ANSWER:

In 2013/14 there were 78 charges filed under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and 12 charges completed.

21. Will you make public the 2012 KPMG Review of the NSW Jobs First Procurement Scheme that you referred to in your evidence? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

I can confirm that the KPMG report is a Cabinet document and as such is subject to cabinet confidentiality requirements.

22. Do you intend to form any Work Health and Safety advisory councils or industry reference groups?

(a) If so, which groups and when?

(b) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The Work Health and Safety Division has employed five Community Stakeholder Relationship Officers. These positions are specifically designed to engage and consult with community and industry groups. WorkCover's engagement is based on current

industry and community priorities and is driven through initiatives such as the Focus On Industry (FOI) Program and the High Consequence Low Frequency (HCLF) program. WorkCover also has formal partnerships, alliances and sponsorship arrangements that also facilitate its engagement with industry and the New South Wales community.

(a) and (b) Specific reference groups are developed as part of WorkCover's FOI programs, most recently in the Wood Products, Road Freight Transport and Sheep and Beef Farming industries. WorkCover also has specific engagement with industry of a technical nature that informs its HCLF Programs.

Additionally, WorkCover has formal relationships with organisations, such as the Master Builders Association, the Boating Industry Association, Forests NSW, the NSW Farmers Association and the Glass and Glazing Association.

23. In your media release of 5th August you state that the new C.E.O. Mr Bhatia will act in the position for an initial period of twelve months while the role and regulatory functions of the division are reviewed by NSW Treasury and Finance.

(a) What are Mr Bhatia's credentials in relation to Work Health and Safety? What qualifications, what experience with health and safety, and performance of safety has he had in other organisations that he has led?

(b) What is the scope and terms of reference for the review by NSW Treasury and Finance?

(c) How will Treasury review the functions of the Work Health and Safety Regulatory function?

ANSWER:

(a) Mr Bhatia has a strong background and understanding of work health and safety including best practice in driving a safety culture across high risk organisations. In particular, Mr Bhatia gained significant insight into best practice in work health and safety during his time at McKinsey Australia working closely with mining, oil and gas and other high reliability industries. As the CEO of Wesfarmers Insurance Mr Bhatia was responsible for meeting the same performance requirements for operational health and safety risk management as all other CEOs in that large industrial conglomerate business.

(b) The details of the review are Cabinet in Confidence.

(c) The details of the review are Cabinet in Confidence.

24. Given the expansion of the Comcare scheme into NSW, what contingencies has the NSW Government made to ensure the effective regulation of health and safety in NSW, considering access to worksite will be made more difficult and there are approximately half a dozen inspectors for all of NSW with Comcare?

(a) What would be the implications for both the workers compensation and the dust diseases schemes if the largest "Dust Employers" and hence the largest premium payers such as James Hardie and CSR or other large companies left the NSW jurisdiction, as allowed by your amended legislation?

(b) Does the most recent valuation of outstanding liabilities by Taylor Fry consider the implications of these companies leaving? Why not?

ANSWER:

The Model Work Health and Safety Act forms the basis of the Work Health and Safety Acts across Australia to harmonise work health and safety law. New South Wales is committed to the harmonisation process and uses a responsive approach to regulation.

As part of this approach, New South Wales remains alert to possible threats that may compromise efficiencies, and works closely with other Agencies to ensure that operational cooperation is achieved on those matters where jurisdiction is either blurred or shared.

WorkCover is a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with all other States, Territories and Comcare that was established to promote best practice in the areas of policy and legislative matters, education and enforcement, including site access and joint investigations, where required.

Additionally, WorkCover is coordinating New South Wales' participation in the current Council of Australian Governments examination that aims to improve the model work health and safety laws.

Forming part of the New South Wales contribution, WorkCover is undertaking analysis of multiple jurisdictional administration coordination arrangements with a view to informing the examination of any changes that may be required to the legislation to facilitate response and prevention activity improvements.

WorkCover approaches multi-jurisdictional situations in an open and collaborative manner and has built positive relationships with other regulators that ensures cooperation and the most appropriate health and safety outcomes.

(a) The *Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Act 1942* established the Workers Compensation Dust Diseases Fund. The Act provides for the Dust Diseases Board to estimate the amount required to be contributed to the Fund each year by workers compensation insurers. The Act provides the WorkCover Authority with powers to vary the contributions of insurers to the Fund, based on the estimate.

The initial advice from the independent Scheme actuary is that the impact on the New South Wales Workers Compensation Scheme is not likely to be material. Safety Return to Work and Support will continue to monitor the progress of the proposed amendments and their implications.

(b) The recent valuations of Dust Diseases Board Scheme liabilities performed by Taylor Fry only relate to disease claims liabilities, not on the future funding.

25. Has the NSW Government been consulted regarding further changes being proposed by the Commonwealth Department of Employment regarding cuts to Comcare scheme benefits?

ANSWER:

WorkCover has no knowledge of further changes being proposed.

26. How many requests have been made in the last year under these provisions of section 54 of the Work Health and Safety Act for inspectorial assistance?

(a) What is the average response time for responding to assist workers by the WorkCover Authority?

(b) Has the WorkCover Authority developed a technical guide for inspectors to assist as is required of inspectors under the Act? If so, will you make this public?

ANSWER:

(a) The average time across all response categories is within three business days. However, the Category One critical matters timeframe of 24 hours is consistently met by WorkCover.

(b) Yes, WorkCover has developed a technical guide for Inspectors. The *National Compliance and Enforcement Policy* is available on Safe Work Australia's website, while the *Compliance Policy and Prosecution Guidelines* is available on WorkCover's website. These documents provide the overarching framework for all supporting inspector policies and procedures.

27. Since the commencement of the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Act 2012:

(a) how many people have had their weekly benefits reduced as a result of work capacity decisions?

(b) how many have been reduced to \$0?

(c) how many injured workers have lost their medical benefits due to not receiving weekly benefits for 12 months?

ANSWER:

(a) and (b) 5,067 claims had their benefits cease in the period following the issuing of the notice, indicating this cessation may have been a result of the capacity decision.

(c) Specific data on the reason that a worker stops receiving medical benefits is not available.

28. In the past 12 months:

(a) How much has been paid into the Workers Compensation Scheme by employers?

(b) How much has been paid to injured workers as weekly benefits?

(c) How much has been paid to rehabilitation providers?

(d) How much has been paid to treating doctors?

- (e) How much has been paid to the employer, their scheme agents, legal or medical representatives?
- (f) How much has been paid to insurers as a bonus?
- (g) How many improvement notices have been issued to employers by WorkCover Inspectors, for a contravention of Chapter three of the Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998?
- (h) How many workers are presently in the workers compensation scheme?
- (i) How many workers are presently assessed as having WPI >30%?
- (j) How many workers are presently assessed as having WPI between 21 and 30% (inclusive)?
- (k) How many workers have suffered hearing loss and require hearing aids?
- (l) How many workers have suffered amputations?
- (m) What are the broad topics/headings of the KPIs that the scheme agents are required to meet under the contracts to provide workers' compensation services?
- (n) How many workers have had a work capacity decision ending their access to workers compensation weekly payments yet they have no suitable employment as per the definition in Section 32A?

ANSWER:

- (a) Information on premiums collected for specific policy renewal years is available in the WorkCover Annual Reports.
- (b) Approximately \$710.4 million.
- (c) Approximately \$107.3 million.
- (d) Approximately \$421.6 million.
- (e) Scheme agent remuneration approximately \$410 million. Approximately \$90.2 million in legal benefits. Approximately \$421.6 million in medical benefits.
- (f) This information is considered commercial-in-confidence under the individual Scheme agent contracts.
- (g) One.
- (h) Approximately 57,966.
- (i) 1,031.
- (j) 1,326.

(k) 953.

(l) 53.

(m) This information is considered commercial-in-confidence under the individual Scheme agent contracts.

(n) 261.

29. If the Commonwealth proceeds with announced changes to the Comcare Scheme, will that have an adverse effect on operations of the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme?

(a) Has WorkCover modelled the possible adverse consequences and what are they?

ANSWER:

See answer to question 24.

30. Does the Minister accept the principle that those injured in the course of their employment are entitled to their lifelong medical and treatment needs? If not, why not? Why is a 20% or 30% WPI threshold being used to separate out funding of treatment needs when treatment is unrelated to WPI?

ANSWER:

Seriously injured workers with permanent impairment assessed at more than 30 per cent are entitled to medical and treatment benefits for their lifetime. Under the new Regulation, made on 3 September 2014, workers who made claims before 1 October 2012, and have a permanent impairment assessed between 21 per cent and 30 per cent will be entitled to medical benefits until retiring age. This recognises the severity of their injuries and their need for ongoing medical treatment to return to work and maintain employment.

Workers are entitled to medical treatment while they are in receipt of weekly income support, or for a period of 12 months where they are not receiving weekly benefits, irrespective of whole person impairment. A worker's ongoing entitlement to medical treatment is limited to 12 months from the date when weekly payments cease, except where the worker has a permanent impairment assessed at greater than 30 per cent, whereby the worker is entitled to medical benefits for life.

31. In a media release of 26 June 2014, the Minister announced “*Our reforms have already seen NSW go from the lowest return to work rate in the country to the equal highest.*”

(a) Is this a genuine measurement of return to work?

(b) Who conducted the research to support this figure?

(c) Is this claim a genuine measurement of return to work or is it just a measurement of cuts to workers receiving weekly benefits?

ANSWER:

(a) and (b) The return to work rates were sourced from the *Safe Work Australia Return To Work Survey, 2012/13 Headline Measures Report (Australia and New Zealand) August 2013*.

(c) The survey was conducted by The Social Research Centre. The Returned to Work Rate referred to in the report is the proportion of injured workers with 10 or more days off work, who returned to work for any period of time at some stage, since they had their first day off work. It is not a measurement of cuts to workers receiving weekly benefits.

32. Are any records being kept as to actual return to work rates as distinct from “*cut off benefits*” rates?

(a) If so, which agency is keeping these records?

ANSWER:

See answer to Question 31 above.

33. Is the Government prepared to extend to injured workers being thrown off benefits by an insurer’s internal decision, the representation necessary to challenge that decision? Will the Minister re-introduce merits review of insurer’s decisions to cease weekly benefits by the Workers Compensation Commission?

ANSWER:

The workers compensation legislation already provides for extensive administrative review mechanisms that allow workers to challenge decisions in a non-legalistic and inexpensive way. Where an insurer's decision to cease a worker's weekly benefits is as a result of a work capacity decision, the worker can apply to WorkCover for an independent merit review of the insurer's work capacity decision, following an internal review by the insurer. Procedural review by the WorkCover Independent Review Officer is also available.

Where an insurer's decision to cease a worker's weekly benefits is not as a result of a work capacity decision, the worker can apply to the Workers Compensation Commission to review the insurer's liability decision.

34. Is the Minister satisfied that an injured worker can navigate a three stage administrative review process without representation?

(a) Why cannot ILARS give a grant of legal funding in relation to these types of disputes?

ANSWER:

The Government's policy intention in establishing the review process for work capacity decisions was to have a non-legalistic, inexpensive administrative process, that could be used by both workers and insurers without the need for separate legal representation.

Information regarding the three-stage process for the administrative review of work capacity decisions is provided in the gazetted *WorkCover Work Capacity Guidelines*.

Workers can also access information about the process through telephone enquiry, on-line material and other mechanisms through their insurer, WorkCover and the WorkCover Independent Review Officer.

(a) Section 44(6) the *Workers Compensation Act 1987* specifies that a legal practitioner acting for a worker is not entitled to be paid or recover any amount for costs incurred in connection with a review of a work capacity decision of an insurer. Clause 9 of Schedule 8 of the *Workers Compensation Regulation 2012* prevents practitioners from being paid legal costs for work performed for insurers in connection with a review of a work capacity decision.

35. Is the Minister concerned that workers with English as a second language or restricted literacy skills will not be able to avail themselves of the administrative review processes in relation to a work capacity decision?

(a) If the Minister is concerned, what does he propose to do about it?

ANSWER:

Workers have access to interpreter services and resources to assist with understanding any aspect of their claim, including review processes, under the Workers Compensation Scheme. The costs of these services are paid for by the Scheme.

36. Will the Minister require the Motor Accidents Authority to twice annually estimate and publicly identify sources of superimposed inflation?

(a) If so, will the Minister also require the MAA to recommend actions that would limit or offset the impact of superimposed inflation?

ANSWER:

While this issue has been raised as a recommendation of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice's Twelfth review of the exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority and the Government is currently considering its response to the recommendations, it should be noted that the Scheme actuary currently considers scheme costs drivers and advises there has been no superimposed inflation in recent years.

Questions from Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

In relation to the construction of the Raymond Terrace GP Super Clinic about which questions were asked at the Estimates hearing on Friday 22 August 2014:

37. What was the total budget for the project?

ANSWER:

NSW Public Works managed the construction contract for the Raymond Terrace GP Super Clinic. Accountability for the project lies with the Health portfolio. Questions relating to the funding of the project should be directed to that portfolio.

38. What was the total spend on the project?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

39. What money was received from the Federal Government in connection with this project?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

40. What State Government funds, if any, were put into the project?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

41. Does the State Government currently hold any moneys from the Federal Government in relation to this project? If so, how much?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

42. When was the last payment made by the State Government to National Buildplan in connection with this project?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

43. Did the State Government make any payment in connection with this project to the administrator or the liquidator of National Buildplan? If so, how much and when was this payment made? Why was any such payment made to the administrator or liquidator? What precise legal obligation caused the making of any such payment? What is the source of any legal obligation?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

44. Why were moneys not held back for the benefit of subcontractors who performed work for National Buildplan but were not paid for that work? Who made those decisions?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer to Question 37.

45. What representations were made to you as Minister by the Member for Port Stephens regarding the issue of subcontractors to National Buildplan not being paid by for work performed by them on this project?

(a) What were the dates and the content of any such representations?

(b) Please provide any document in any form in connection with any such representations.

ANSWER:

The Member for Port Stephens contacted the Office of Finance and Services with a media enquiry about this matter. The below statement was provided to his office:

Statement attributable for a spokesperson for the Department of Finance and Services:

All contractually due payments for work the project were made to the principal contractor, National Buildplan Group.

As is the case with all projects of this type, the NSW Government and its agencies do not underwrite commercial risks in the private sector. Importantly, they cannot use taxpayer funds to pay twice for the same work.

NSW Public Works understands this is a difficult situation and wherever practicable, existing contractors have been engaged to complete Raymond Terrace Health One Clinic.

NSW Public Works has taken all reasonable steps to meet its responsibility to complete affected projects, as quickly as possible, with as little delay, disruption or additional cost. We acknowledge our responsibilities, and where we are legally liable subcontractors and/or suppliers have been paid as required.

Changes to the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1999 commence on 21 April 2014. These changes include a requirement that subcontractors and suppliers are paid no later than 30 business days after submitting a payment claim and that head contractors must provide a supporting statement when submitting a payment claim to a principal, declaring that subcontractors it has engaged have been paid all amounts due and payable.

Maximum penalties of \$22,000 and/or three months imprisonment apply to false or misleading information provided in these statements.

A trial of project bank accounts (trust accounts) on selected government construction projects will commence this year as part of the NSW Government's commitment to better safeguard the construction industry, particularly sub-contractors, from incidents of insolvency. Rolling financial assessments of contractors engaged by Government agencies commenced on 1 January 2014.

46. In relation to the draft regulation concerning the payment of legal fees in the Motor Accident Scheme, what consultations have you had in connection with the draft regulation and with whom?
- When do you intend to introduce any regulation?

ANSWER:

The Motor Accidents Authority has had preliminary consultation with the legal professions and CTP insurers about remaking the *Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation 2005*.

The Motor Accidents Authority is currently conducting preliminary consultations about remaking the Regulation. A draft Regulation will then be developed for public comment prior to finalisation and commencement.

47. What is the budget allocation for major works in the Monaro Electorate?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

48. What is the budget allocation for State Fleet Motor Vehicles in the 2014/15 budget?

ANSWER:

The 2014-15 budget allocation for the purchase of StateFleet motor vehicles is \$257.602 million. StateFleet is self-funded and there is no budget allocation for operating expenditure.

NSW Land and Housing Corporation

49. What was the total budget allocation for major works in the Monaro Electorate?

(a) How much was allocated to new public housing developments?

(b) How much was allocated to maintenance for the 2014/15 budget period?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Family and Community Services.

State Property Authority

50. What is the total budget allocation for major works in the Monaro Electorate?

(a) What were the projects and what was the funding allocation for each?

ANSWER:

Government Property NSW has not allocated any capital funding for projects in Monaro electorate at the current time.

Sydney Catchment Authority

51. What is the total budget allocation for major works in the Monaro Electorate?

(a) What were the projects and what was the funding allocation for each?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Natural Resources, Land and Water.

Donations

52. 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.

53. 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

54. 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.

55. 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.

56. 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.

57. 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

58. 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.

59. 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.

60. 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

61. 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.

62. 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

63. 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:

Details of labour hire firm engagement including names and amounts paid are not held centrally for all agencies.

The Office of Finance and Services has established a number of prequalification schemes which assist agencies to find suppliers who are prequalified to work with government.

All labour hire is engaged via the Contingent Workforce prequalification scheme which began on 24 January, 2013. The scheme has a number of categories and role types allowing access to panels of expert resources. Agencies choose labour from that list which is accredited for the particular work type required. There has been a mixture of short and medium term engagements.

Consultancy Work

64. 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.

65. 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.

66. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Dept 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.

67. 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.

68. 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.

69. 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

70. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

ANSWER:

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

71. 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.

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

ANSWER:

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

73. 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.

74. 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.

75. 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.

76. 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.

77. 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.

78. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

ANSWER:

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

79. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

ANSWER:

0 iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

80. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

ANSWER:

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

Media/public relations

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

ANSWER:

The Office of Finance and Services, including NSW Fair Trading and Safety, Return to Work and Support employs eight media or public relations advisers.

Service NSW which is a separate agency from OFS does not employ any staff with the title Media or Public Relations adviser. Service NSW employs a Corporate Relations Director and a Communications Manager who as part of their broader education, information and communications responsibilities, are required to handle media relations as required.

82. What is the forecast for 2014/15 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER:

The Office of Finance and Services is currently going through a restructure, which could lead to a change to the number and grading of media relations positions. As this is yet to be finalised, no forecasts have been completed.

Service NSW has no plans to employ a media or public relations adviser.

83. Overseas trips

84. 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".

85. 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

86. 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.

87. 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.

88. 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.

89. 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.

90. 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."

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

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."

92. 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.

93. 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.

94. 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.

95. 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.

96. 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.

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

If so, in what capacities?

ANSWER:

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

98. 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

99. 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

100. 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.

101. 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.

102. 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.

103. 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.

104. 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.

105. 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.

106. 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

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

ANSWER:

Expenditure on entertainment and catering is conducted in accordance with C2010-42 New South Wales government expenses policy.

Information relating to total spend is not held centrally for all agencies.

108. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2013/14?

ANSWER:

Information relating to total spend is not held centrally for all agencies.

109. What is your Department's catering budget?

ANSWER:

See answer to question 107.

110. What is your Department's stationary budget?

ANSWER:

See answer to question 108.

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

ANSWER:

Yes.

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

Answer

The cost of rebranding was negligible. The widespread use of electronic templates for stationery means there are virtually no print costs associated with a change of branding.

Correspondence

113. 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 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.

114. 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 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.

Paying bills on time

115. 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>.

116. 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>.

117. 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

118. 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 2013/14?
- (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER:

This information is provided in the respective agencies annual reports.

Contractors

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

ANSWER:

See response to Question 63 above.

Aboriginal employment

120. 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.

121. 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

122. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

ANSWER:

All official travel within Australia and overseas is in accordance with M2013-08 'Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au.

Details regarding travel costs are published in the respective agencies annual reports.

Reviews and studies

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

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.

Media training

124. 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:

No.