

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITIES, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

---

- 1. Regarding the new consultation process replacing the role of the Multicultural Consultative Committees**
  - a) How will you ensure that a diverse cross section of the community is given an opportunity to participate and be included in the consultation and advisory process?**
  - b) What is the timeline for the new consultation process, including forums across Sydney and NSW?**
  - c) When can stakeholders reasonably expect any resulting framework to be implemented?**

The Ministerial Consultative Committees (MCCs) were successful forums that effectively brought forward issues of concern to government from our multicultural communities. Due to increasing demand the government needed to expand the function of the committees to facilitate this growth and ensure there are adequate resources for participants of the MCCs.

The Community Relations (CRC) will incorporate the functions of the MCCs into its new community engagement strategy. This formalised community engagement strategy forms a key element of the NSW Government's new Strategic Plan – Harmony in Action – which was launched at the CRC's Annual Symposium attended by multicultural leaders from NSW.

This new community engagement strategy will for the first time formally engage across multicultural communities including with religious leaders, women and girls, the Consular Corps and sporting codes to promote social cohesion.

This plan sets a new direction for multicultural practice in NSW that values cultural diversity as both a vital social and economic asset to this state. It includes a clear focus on the beliefs and values which unite us all as Australians and promotes the social and economic benefits of cultural diversity.

This new community engagement strategy will incorporate metropolitan consultative forums (MCFs) that will be conducted by the CRC and will be held for the first time in November this year in Campbelltown, Hornsby & Strathfield. These forums are open to bring issues of concern in all communities to government. I welcome and encourage everyone's attendance at those forums.

- 2. Regarding Emerging Communities**
  - a) With a concerning and very high level of unemployment in the South Sudanese community, 28.6% according to the 2011 census, what work is the Government doing to connect and support emerging communities with sustainable jobs going in to the future?**

Job creation remains one of the key priorities of the NSW Government, highlighted by the NSW Job Action Plan.

On 1 July 2011, the Government introduced the Jobs Action Plan, providing a payroll tax rebate, initially for the first 100,000 new payroll tax paying full-time jobs in New South Wales.

As at end of June 2014, 62,428 new positions, attracting the payroll tax rebates, were created.

### **3. Regarding Youth Unemployment**

#### **a) Given that youth unemployment in NSW is nearly 18%, what is the Government doing to skill up our youth for clean, green sustainable jobs for the future?**

The NSW Government sees Youth Unemployment as an important issue facing the NSW Economy. Currently, the youth unemployment rate in NSW is one of the lowest in Australia, well under the national average.

The NSW Government is committed to addressing Youth Unemployment, which is why in July, the Government announced that at least 1,000 apprentices will be employed to help deliver the state's \$61.5 billion building program.

Under the NSW Government's procurement process for major infrastructure projects, we will set minimum requirements for apprenticeships on a project-by-project basis and ensure bidders spell out how they will leave a lasting legacy of skills in local communities.

In addition, a new TAFE initiative was announced in January aimed at helping young people to make informed choices about apprenticeships.

The 'Trade Readiness' program targets NSW senior school students and those who have left school and are looking to undertake an apprenticeship.

The voluntary program consists of four days of intensive hands-on vocational training and assessment, with a fifth day involving exit interviews, careers advice, counselling and literacy and numeracy checks.

The program was trialled in South Western Sydney in 2013 focussing on skills including initiative, attitude, trade literacy and numeracy, and hand skills and coordination.

Across ten TAFE Institutes there have been approximately 1,000 participants so far.

More generally, the NSW Government has tax incentives in place to encourage business to employ extra staff. The Jobs Action Plan provides a \$5000 payroll tax rebate for employers that hire additional staff.

As of June, more than 62,000 new positions have been created.

4. **Regarding the Youth Advisory Council**
- a) **What selection criteria will be used to select members to this Council?**
  - b) **How will you ensure that the Council represents the full breadth of diversity of youth, including gender, sexuality and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background?**

The NSW Government undertakes a comprehensive selection process to identify appropriate Youth Advisory Council members and to ensure the Youth Advisory Council is representative of the State's demographic and geographic diversity.

5. **Regarding the Advocate for Children and Young People**
- a) **In June of last year, the Commission for Children and Young People employed around 76 staff. How many of these staff are still employed by the newly created Advocate for Children and Young People?**
  - b) **What is the total budget for the Advocate for Children and Young People for 2014-2015?**
  - c) **How does that compare to the 2013-2014 budget for the Commission for Children and Young People?**
  - d) **Has the changeover from the Commission to the Advocate already happened?**
    - (i) **If not, what is the timeline for this changeover to take place?**

- a) The Advocate for Children and Young People will be appointed in the coming weeks. Staffing arrangements within the Office of the Advocate for Children & Young People will be a matter for the Advocate once they have been appointed.
- b) Monies allocated to the Advocate for Children and Young People in the 2014-15 totals \$2.89 million.
- c) Monies allocated to the Commission for Children & Young People in the 2013-14 Budget totalled \$2.76 million.
- d) No.
  - (i) The Advocate for Children and Young People will be appointed in the coming weeks.

6. **Has the Government taken any significant action towards implementing a broadly covered settlement plan for humanitarian entrants into NSW?**

On behalf of the NSW Government, the Community Relations Commission for a multicultural NSW (Multicultural NSW) has taken significant action towards implementing a broadly covered settlement plan for humanitarian entrants into New South Wales.

Multicultural NSW, together with the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) has convened a reconstituted NSW Government Immigration and Settlement Planning Committee (GISPC). Membership includes high level representatives of NSW and Commonwealth Government agencies with migration settlement responsibility.

**7. Given the Auditor-General's recommendation in the Public Accounts Committee Report 15/55 – May, to ensure that the Community Relations Commission has explicit responsibility and authority for leading engagement with the Commonwealth and other stakeholders on humanitarian settlement matters, has the Government made any progress towards implementing this recommendation?**

The Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW (Multicultural NSW) has made substantial progress toward implementing Recommendation 7 of the Public Accounts Committee Report 15/55 – May, namely:

Multicultural NSW co-chairs the NSW Government Immigration and Settlement Planning Committee (GISPC), which is the central point for developing and implementing settlement policy and planning in New South Wales, with humanitarian entrants as a key target group. The GISPC has met 3 times in 2014.

The GISPC has developed, endorsed and started to roll out a workplan for 2014-15 that includes:

- preparing a paper that outlines how Commonwealth data gaps can be addressed
- setting a structure for strategic stakeholder consultations on service delivery relevant to migrant settlement
- giving effect to the key principles of the National Settlement Framework through the work of the GISPC

The CEO of Multicultural NSW is the NSW representative on the inter-jurisdictional Senior Officials Settlement Outcomes Group (SOSOG) chaired by the Department of Social Services. The SOSOG works to improve settlement related services and outcomes for eligible recently arrived permanent residents and longer term temporary migrants to achieve sustainable and positive settlement outcomes in Australia.

**8. The Auditor-General recommended for the Government to develop, implement and publicise an information portal by June 2013, which would become a central access point for information for local service providers to assist in planning and for humanitarian entrants to assist in accessing NSW Government services.**

- a) What progress has the Government made towards making this information access point a reality for the people of NSW?**
- b) If no progress has been made, why not?**

The Community Relations Commission for a multicultural NSW (Multicultural NSW) is currently upgrading its communications systems and database, including an information portal. Community, government and service provider information and access requirements are being addressed in the upgrade. This work is in progress and the information portal will be developed & implemented as the upgrade progresses.

9. **The Auditor-General recommended the NSW Government improve the public promotion of the responsibility for NSW Government Agencies to provide interpreters. Have any steps been taken to implement this?**  
a) **If so, what are they?**  
b) **If not, why?**

It is NSW Government's policy that NSW Government agencies fund the provision of Language Services (interpreters and translated materials) when dealing with clients in order to provide all clients with access to Government Services.

The principles of the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW (Multicultural NSW) enshrine in legislation the requirement for all Government agencies to provide the greatest possible access to Government programs and services.

10. **Given the Government has to date, failed to plan for and host the "Voices in Harmony Concert" as outlined in the Multicultural Advantage Action Plan 2012-15, will the "Voices in Harmony Concert" come to fruition before March, 2015?**

Activities planned for Multicultural March 2015 are yet to be finalised.

11. **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?**

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

12. **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?**

Yes

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

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.

- 14. 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?**

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

**21. 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.**

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

**22. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?**

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

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

**23. 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**

This request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

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

- 24. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for your department? 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?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 28. Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the department? 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?**

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

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

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

- 30. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?**

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

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



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

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**33. What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

0 iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

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

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

There is one person employed in the citizenship and communities services group.

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

There is no anticipated change in the number staff employed to provide public information in the citizenship and communities services group during 2014/15.

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

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".

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

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".

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

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).

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

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).

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

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).

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

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.

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

Minor office works were undertaken in NSW Government Ministerial offices at no cost.

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

Minor office works were undertaken in NSW Government Ministerial offices at no cost.

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

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.

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

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).

**53. How many administration staff?**

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).

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

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

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

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

**56. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?**

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

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

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

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

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.

**59. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?**

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No.

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

Not applicable.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**77. 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?

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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%.

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

Financial statements, including expenditure on charter air flights are available in agency annual reports.

**82. 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?**

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.

- 83. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013**
- a) **kilometres travelled**
  - b) **accommodation,**
  - c) **air fares**
  - d) **meals/entertaining?**

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

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

- 84. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013;**
- a) **meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?**
  - b) **functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?**

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

- 85. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?**
- a) **Are these meetings documented?**
  - b) **Who attends these meetings?**

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

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



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

- 87. 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?**

No

- 88. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;**
- a) Who conducted the training?**
  - b) When was it conducted?**
  - c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?**
  - d) Who paid for the training?**

No

- 89. The Ochre packaged is at a value of \$2.4M, with \$730 allocated to the Deputy Ombudsman. Will the rather limited \$1.66 million be dedicated to programing rather than employee rated costs?**

The NSW Government has committed \$5.1 million across government to implement OCHRE, including \$2.4 million from within aboriginal affairs and \$739,000 to establish an aboriginal deputy ombudsman who will monitor the delivery of OCHRE.

The investment in OCHRE has increased by \$400,000 on last year's funding, and will support the revitalisation of Aboriginal languages, support Aboriginal students to stay in school & find meaningful employment, and empower local communities to have a greater say over the programs and services available to them.

- 90. Given the limited funding for Ochre, how is the sustainability of Local Decision Making Accords being managed?**

Aboriginal regional alliances participating in Local Decision Making receive specific funding through OCHRE to contribute to their operational requirements, community consultation and governance and leadership capacity development.

During 2013-14 \$619,000 was spent implementing Local Decision Making, which included direct support provided to regional alliances to strengthen their governance.

The cost of implementing Local Decision Making in 2014-15 is expected to be \$1.05 million, with increased investment in the governance capacity and operations of regional alliances so that they can partner with government on an equal footing to improve outcomes in Aboriginal communities.

**91. The Ochre Plan indicates that you will establish an independent Aboriginal Council. When did it last meet? What are the functions of the Council?**

The Independent Aboriginal Council was attached to the former 'Coordinator General Model' as outlined in OCHRE. The NSW Government has adopted a stronger model for accountability in the appointment of an Aboriginal Deputy Ombudsman.

The accountability functions of the Independent Aboriginal Council as set out in OCHRE have been absorbed by the newly appointed Aboriginal Deputy Ombudsmen.

The decision to proceed with an Aboriginal Deputy Ombudsmen was undertaken following consultation and dialogue with Aboriginal Leaders.

**92. When will you introduce a Bill dealing with Aboriginal Heritage?**

Protection of Aboriginal heritage under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage.

The NSW Government is honouring its commitment to a process of broad reform and will consider new stand-alone Aboriginal heritage protection legislation in NSW. This reform is jointly sponsored by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The NSW Government is working to finalise a preferred model for reform.

**93. Consultation regarding cultural heritage legislation was held up until March 2014. What was the cost of that consultation? What was the outcome?**

All questions regarding consultations regarding cultural heritage legislation should be directed to the Minister for Environment & Heritage, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP.

**94. Will you ensure the publication of submissions regarding culture and heritage law reform?**

All questions regarding consultations regarding cultural heritage legislation should be directed to the Minister for Environment & Heritage, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP.

**95. Will the proposed culture and heritage protection model incorporate feedback from indigenous organisations and aboriginal people?**

All questions regarding consultations regarding cultural heritage legislation should be directed to the Minister for Environment & Heritage, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

**99. What are the impacts of the 2014/15 Federal Budget on your Department(s)?**

Impacts for the Aboriginal Affairs and Citizenship and Communities service groups in 2014/15 and beyond are yet to be determined.

**100. How much funding will be lost over the forward estimates, and how will you make up the shortfall?**

Any impacts arising would be considered in the context of the development of State Budgets in forward years.

**101. What discussions have you had with the Federal Treasurer or the relevant Federal Minister to get the funding back?**

Private discussions between the Minister and representatives of the Federal Government are confidential.

**102. Does your Department provide any pensioner concessions under the National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Seniors Card Holders?**

No.

**103. If so, will those concessions for pensioners be available from 1 July 2015?**

Not Applicable.

\*\*\*

**DUPLICATE QUESTIONS REMOVED**

\*\*\*

**171. Given the Centenary of ANZAC, will the Government be providing additional funding to the Community War Memorials Fund and if not, why not?**

The NSW Government has established the Community War Memorials Fund to help protect and restore war memorials across NSW.

Grants are considered by a State War Memorials Committee, which will assess the applications.

The NSW Government has invested \$250,000 in the 2014-15 Budget to restore community war memorials.

**172. Regarding the \$534 million worth of cuts announced in the Federal Budget:**

- (a) Has the Government carried out any analysis of the impacts of these cuts on Aboriginal programs in NSW?**
- (b) As the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, have you had any discussions or correspondence with your Commonwealth counterpart regarding their proposed cuts?**
- (c) What additional funding and/or measures will the NSW Government be taking to minimise the detrimental impact of these Federal Budget cuts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, especially given government Closing the Gap commitments?**

The impact of the 2014/15 Federal Budget on Aboriginal programs in New South Wales remains unclear, and the NSW Government continues to monitor possible impacts as the budget measures are implemented.

Private discussions between the Minister and representatives of the Federal Government are confidential.

**173. Can you please explain all sources of the variance between the 2013-14 budgeted Aboriginal Affairs expenditure of \$20.9 million (in the 2013-14 budget papers) and the 2014-15 Budget Revised expenditure for 2013-14 of \$17.4m? Where there was underspending, why was the allocated amount not spent and given the 2014-15 forecast remains below \$20.9 million, why is it expected that the expenditure will remain below the previous budget's allocation?**

There has been no reduction in the State's budget commitment to Aboriginal Affairs in 2014/15.

A total of \$18.4 million in funding is allocated to support the operations of Aboriginal Affairs in 2014/15, including \$2.4 million from a total \$5.1 million allocated for the agency's work in continuing the implementation of the NSW Government's Plan for Aboriginal Affairs - OCHRE – Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment.

The NSW Government has committed \$5.1 million across government to implement OCHRE, including \$2.4 million from within Aboriginal Affairs and \$739,000 to establish an Aboriginal deputy ombudsman who will monitor the delivery of OCHRE.

The investment in OCHRE has increased by \$400,000 on last year's funding, and will support the revitalisation of Aboriginal languages, support Aboriginal students to stay in school & find meaningful employment, and empower local communities to have a greater say over the programs and services available to them.

The 2014/15 budget for Aboriginal Affairs has increased \$2.1 million between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

**174. How many Aboriginal senior executive staff are currently employed in Aboriginal Affairs?**

Of the four senior executive staff currently employed in Aboriginal Affairs, two are Aboriginal.

**175. Will there be a public consultation via an Exposure Draft Bill for any proposed major amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*?**

Yes, there will be public consultation via an Exposure Draft Bill for any proposed major amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

**176. What involvement does the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs have in the Aboriginal cultural heritage law reform process?**

Protection of Aboriginal heritage under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage.

The NSW Government is honouring its commitment to a process of broad reform and will consider new stand-alone Aboriginal heritage protection legislation in NSW. This reform is jointly sponsored by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The NSW Government is working to finalise a preferred model for reform.

**177. What budget has Aboriginal Affairs allocated to the Aboriginal cultural heritage reform process in 2014-15?**

Protection of Aboriginal heritage under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage.

While the reforms are jointly sponsored by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Office of Environment and Heritage has administered the reform process.