

Departure of Ray Creen – Ambulance Service

1. What was the total amount of the final payment made to Mr Ray Creen – head of the Ambulance Service after his resignation in July?

Mr Ray Creen was an employee of NSW Health until 15 September 2015. Following his last day, Mr Creen's final payment consisted of:

- Normal hours (i.e. from 1 Sept to 15 Sept); and
- Any unused recreation leave

2. What will be the total salary and remuneration package for his replacement?

The Chief Executive ASNSW is a Health Executive Service (HES) Level 6 position with a remuneration range of \$313,051 to \$351,800 per annum. Remuneration includes employer's contribution to superannuation.

Bed Numbers

3. How many hospital beds were there in NSW as of September 1, 2015?

4. How many hospital beds were there in NSW, as of April 1, 2011?

5. How many hospital beds were there in NSW, as of April 1, 2012? How many hospital beds were there in NSW, as of April 1, 2013?

6. How many hospital beds were there in NSW, as of April 1, 2014?

7. How many hospital beds were there in NSW, as of April 1, 2015?

The number of beds and treatment spaces are reported in the NSW Health Annual Report, showing the average available beds and treatment spaces for the month of June in each respective year. The number of beds and treatment spaces staffed and available for treatment of patients varies on a daily basis depending on service demand.

Further information can be obtained from the NSW Health website at:
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/annualreport14.aspx>

Overseas trips

8. How much was spent by the NSW Ministry of Health on employees travelling overseas on Ministry related activities in:

- a) April 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011?
- b) 2012?
- c) 2013?
- d) 2014?
- e) 2015?
- f) 2014-15 financial year?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

A description of overseas travel undertaken by employees of NSW Ministry of Health is reported each year in the NSW Health Annual Report. All employees travelling overseas on official business do so in accordance with the requirements of NSW Health Policy Directive PD2015_019 Official Travel.

Heart Bypasses

9. In 2014-15, what is the median waiting time for heart bypass surgery at:

- a) Liverpool;
- b) Royal Prince;
- c) Prince of Wales;
- d) St George; and
- e) Royal North Shore.

10. In 2013-14, what is the median waiting time for heart bypass surgery at:

- a) Liverpool;
- b) Royal Prince
- c) Prince of Wales;
- d) St George; and
- e) Royal North Shore.

11. In 2012-13, what is the median waiting time for heart bypass surgery at:

- a) Liverpool;
- b) Royal Prince
- c) Prince of Wales;
- d) St George; and
- e) Royal North Shore.

12. In 2011-12, what is the median waiting time for heart bypass surgery at:

- a) Liverpool;
- b) Royal Prince
- c) Prince of Wales;
- d) St George; and
- e) Royal North Shore.

Data relating to the hospital performance of New South Wales hospitals is regularly published by the Bureau of Health Information.

Cervical Cancer

13. Given that the North Coast and the Blue Mountains have the lowest percentage rate of young women getting vaccinated against HPV, what steps is the Government taking to address this?

Since 2010 NSW Health has implemented a range of strategies to improve HPV vaccination coverage rates for students, including the early identification and follow-up of students requiring catch-up vaccination, the provision of catch-up vaccination into Year 8, additional targeted measures in low-coverage schools, and improving consent form design to enhance return rates.

Fluoride

14. Please list the communities which are waiting fluoride for their water supply

15. Please list the population of the communities which are waiting fluoride for their water supply

16. Please provide a timetable for their supply and expected completion dates

I refer your question to the Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Longest Ambulance Waits

17. Please list the longest 50 recorded ambulance time waits by the incident; suburb and the timeframe from call to response for the Sydney region for:

- a) 2014-15; and
- b) the period January 1- September 1, 2015.

Ambulance response times are published on the NSW Ambulance website at:
<http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au/Our-performance/Response-Times.html>. Melaleuca unit at Blacktown Hospital

18. How many patients have been treated at Melaleuca unit at Blacktown hospital since it was opened in July 2014 until December 31, 2014?

19. How many patients have been treated at Melaleuca unit at Blacktown hospital since it was opened in July 2014 until September 1, 2015?

20. How many periods were there no patients in Melaleuca unit?

I refer your question to the Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Bulli Hospital

21. When will design plans be released to the community for the new Aged Care Facility at Bulli Hospital?

22. How many new full time positions will be created at the Bulli Hospital upon completion of the aged-care facility?

23. Please advise how many patients are presenting to the Urgent Primary Care facility each day in:

- a) 2011
- b) 2012
- c) 2013
- d) 2014
- e) 1 January 2015 until 30 June 2015;
- f) 1 January 2015 until September 1, 2015.

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The NSW Government allocated \$14.7 million in this year's Budget to continue the Bulli Hospital upgrade, with funds from Health and Restart NSW.

We have committed a total of almost \$34 million toward the transformation of Bulli Hospital into the Aged Care Centre of Excellence.

Nepean Hospital

24. In 2014-15, how much will the Government provide to Nepean Hospital's emergency department?

25. When will construction for the Nepean hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?

26. When will the Nepean hospital redevelopment announced during the March 2015 election campaign be completed?

Local health district Chief Executives and Boards are responsible for managing budgets in accordance with requirements of the Service Agreement between the Ministry of Health and the District.

Local health districts have in place programs and strategies to allocate budgets to hospitals to ensure emergency departments are appropriately resourced to meet anticipated demand.

The record \$21 billion NSW health budget for 2015-16 includes \$325 million for increased hospital activity, including 90,000 extra emergency department attendances.

NSW Health is investing in infrastructure worth over \$5 billion in the next four years to meet the challenges of a changing health system.

Projects to commence in 2015-16 were identified in the NSW State Budget. Infrastructure Statement 2015-16, Budget Paper Number 2, identifies the NSW Health capital expenditure in 2015-16 and lists the major projects with both commencement dates and estimated completion dates.

Other works announced as election commitments will be progressed and included in future NSW State Budgets consistent with usual Government approval processes.

For further information, I refer you to the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Budget Allocations - <http://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/nbmlhd-budget-allocations>

The Cosmetic Institute

27. Since 2013, how many letters or complaints has the Ministry for Health received in relation to The Cosmetic Institute, which operates in Parramatta

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

and Bondi Junction?
28. Please detail the nature of those letters.
29. Were those letters or their concerns referred to the appropriate regulatory body?

The Health Care Complaints Commission is presently investigating a matter in relation to a private cosmetic surgery provider, and whether its clinics' doctors have used deep sedation without being licensed to do so.

NSW Health is investigating whether the clinics have breached the NSW Private Health Facilities Act.

It would be inappropriate to comment further on this matter until these investigations have been completed and their recommendations considered. The Ministry of Health is committed to quality care and patient safety and will determine further action in relation to this matter, and to the broader question of the licensing and regulation of private cosmetic surgery clinics, once these investigations are finalised.

Commitments

30. When will construction for the Tweed hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
31. When will the Tweed hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
32. When will construction for the Westmead hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
33. When will the Westmead hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
34. When will construction for the Westmead Children's hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
35. When will the Westmead Children's hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
36. When will construction for the Prince of Wales hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
37. When will the Prince of Wales hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
38. When will construction for stage two of the Blacktown Hospital Upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
39. When will stage two of the Blacktown Hospital Upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
40. When will construction for the Armidale hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
41. When will the Armidale hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
42. When will construction for the Bowral hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

43. When will the Bowral hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
44. When will construction for the Bulli Hospital Aged-care facility announced during the election campaign commence?
45. When will the Bulli Hospital Aged-care facility announced during the election campaign be completed?
46. When will construction for the Broken Hill hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
47. When will the Broken Hill hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
48. When will construction for the Cooma hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
49. When will the Cooma hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
50. When will construction for the Concord hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
51. When will the Concord hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
52. When will construction for the Gosford hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
53. When will the Gosford hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
54. When will construction for stage two of the Hornsby Hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
55. When will stage two of the Hornsby Hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
56. When will construction for the Inverell hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
57. When will the Inverell hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
58. When will construction for the Macksville hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
59. When will the Macksville hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
60. When will construction for the new Lower Hunter hospital announced during the election campaign commence?
61. When will the Lower Hunter hospital announced during the election campaign be completed?
62. When will construction for the Manning hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
63. When will the Manning hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
64. When will construction for the Mudgee hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
65. When will the Mudgee hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
66. When will construction for the Rouse Hill hospital announced during the election campaign commence?
67. When will the Rouse Hill hospital announced during the election campaign be completed?
68. When will construction for the St George hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
 – 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

69. When will the St George hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
70. When did construction for the Sutherland hospital emergency department upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
71. When will the Sutherland hospital emergency department announced during the election campaign be completed?
72. When will construction for the Wyong hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
73. When will the Wyong hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
74. When will construction for the Shellharbour hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
75. When will the Shellharbour hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
76. When will construction for the Lismore hospital redevelopment stage 3B announced during the election campaign commence?
77. When will the Lismore hospital redevelopment stage 3B announced during the election campaign be completed?
78. When will construction for the Wagga hospital redevelopment Stage 3 announced during the election campaign commence?
79. When will the Wagga hospital redevelopment Stage 3 announced during the election campaign be completed?
80. When will construction for the Coffs Harbour hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign commence?
81. When will the Coffs Harbour hospital redevelopment announced during the election campaign be completed?
82. When will construction for the Dubbo hospital redevelopment stage 3 and 4 announced during the election campaign commence?
83. When will the Dubbo hospital redevelopment stage 3 and 4 announced during the election campaign be completed?
84. When will construction for the Goulburn hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
85. When will the Goulburn hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
86. When will construction for stages two and three of the neonatal intensive care unit at the John Hunter Hospital announced during the election campaign commence?
87. When will stages two and three of the neonatal intensive care unit at the John Hunter Hospital announced during the election campaign be completed?
88. When will Singleton hospital upgrades announced during the election campaign commence?
89. When will the Singleton hospital upgrades announced during the election campaign be completed?
90. When will construction on Grafton hospital's ambulatory care centre announced during the election campaign commence?
91. When will the Grafton hospital's ambulatory care centre announced during the election campaign be completed?
92. When will construction for the Ryde hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
93. When will the Ryde hospital upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

94.	When will construction of the Renal Dialysis service at Blue Mountains Hospital announced during the election campaign commence?
95.	When will the Renal Dialysis service at Blue Mountains Hospital announced during the election campaign be completed?
96.	When will construction for the Shoalhaven Hospital carpark announced during the election campaign commence?
97.	When will the Shoalhaven Hospital carpark announced during the election campaign be completed?
98.	When will the Shoalhaven Hospital's second Linear accelerator announced during the election campaign be installed?
99.	When will construction for the Pottsville Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign commence?
100.	When will the Pottsville Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign be completed?
101.	When will construction for the Kiama Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign commence?
102.	When will the Kiama Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign be completed?
103.	When will construction for the Maitland Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign commence?
104.	When will the Maitland Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign be completed?
105.	When will construction for the Molong Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign commence?
106.	When will the Molong Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign be completed?
107.	When will construction for the Wyong Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign commence?
108.	When will the Wyong Ambulance Station announced during the election campaign be completed?
109.	When will construction for the Wauchope Ambulance Station upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
110.	When will the Wauchope Ambulance Station upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?
111.	When will construction for the Bathurst Ambulance Station upgrade announced during the election campaign commence?
112.	When will the Bathurst Ambulance Station upgrade announced during the election campaign be completed?

NSW Health is investing in infrastructure worth over \$5 billion in the next four years to meet the challenges of a changing health system.

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Other works announced as election commitments will be progressed and included in future NSW State Budgets.

Blood transfusions

113.	Since 1 April 2011, how many people in New South Wales hospitals declined or refused blood transfusions on the grounds of religion such as
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**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

	<p>being Jehovah's Witnesses?</p> <p>Of these people how many were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• women?• men?• under the age of 18?
114.	<p>Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, how many people in New South Wales hospitals declined or refused blood transfusions on the grounds of religion such as being Jehovah's Witnesses?</p> <p>Of these people how many were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• women?• men?• under the age of 18?
115.	<p>Between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012, how many people in New South Wales hospitals declined or refused blood transfusions on the grounds of religion such as being Jehovah's Witnesses?</p> <p>Of these people how many were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• women?• men?• under the age of 18?
116.	<p>Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013, how many people in New South Wales hospitals declined or refused blood transfusions on the grounds of religion such as being Jehovah's Witnesses?</p> <p>Of these people how many were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• women?• men?• under the age of 18?
117.	<p>Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014, how many people in New South Wales hospitals declined or refused blood transfusions on the grounds of religion such as being Jehovah's Witnesses?</p> <p>Of these people how many were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• women?• men?• under the age of 18?
118.	<p>Between 1 January 2015 and 1 September 2015, how many people in New</p>

South Wales hospitals declined or refused blood transfusions on the grounds of religion such as being Jehovah's Witnesses?

Of these people how many were:

- women?
- men?
- under the age of 18?

The requested information is not collected centrally by the NSW Ministry of Health.

Cyber attacks

119. Between 1 April 2011 and 31 August 2015, how many cyber-attacks or hacking attempts have been made against NSW Health's computer network?

120. Of those, how many resulted in breaches of security?

- When did those breaches occur?**
- What divisions were infiltrated?**

NSW Health has established rigorous security processes, policies and technologies to protect NSW Health computer systems. Robust technical and manual controls have been implemented to monitor and protect the NSW Health network, and detect and respond to emerging threats.

Between 1 April 2011 and 31 August 2015, no data was compromised.

Parkes Ward - Randwick

121. How many beds are in Parkes Ward 7 in Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick?

122. How many of those beds had patients in them:

- As of 1 April 2011?**
- As of 1 January 2012?**
- As of 1 January 2013?**
- As of 1 January 2014?**
- As of 1 January 2015?**
- As of 1 September 2015?**

123. If there are no beds in Parkes Ward 7 in Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick, is it being used for office space?

124. If it is being used for office space, how many desks are located there?

Decisions regarding bed and ward configurations best suited to deliver hospital services are the responsibility of the Board and Chief Executive of the Local Health District.

Aged Care Beds

125. How many elderly patients over the age of 70 are being accommodated in acute-care hospital beds in New South Wales hospitals while they wait for aged care beds/places?

- a) What was the number:**
- i. As of 1 April 2011?**
 - ii. As of 1 January 2012?**
 - iii. As of 1 January 2013?**
 - iv. As of 1 January 2014?**
 - v. As of 1 January 2015?**
 - vi. As of 1 September 2015**

126. What was the average wait for an aged care bed for an elderly patient seeking an aged care bed:

- a) in 2011?**
- b) in 2012?**
- c) in 2013?**
- d) in 2014?**
- e) Between January 1, 2015 and 1 September 2015**

Information on the average wait for an elderly patient seeking an aged care bed is not held centrally by NSW Ministry of Health

Stolen Prescription Pads

127. What advice does NSW Health provide to doctors who have had their prescription pads stolen?

128. What advices does NSW Health provide to New South Wales pharmacists who discover that they may have prescriptions written on stolen prescription pads?

129. In 2014, what were the top 25 suburbs for doctors losing their prescription pads?

130. In 2014, what were the top 10 drug items purchased via stolen prescription pads?

131. How much was spent via stolen prescription pads in New South Wales in:

- a) 2011?**
- b) 2012?**
- c) 2013?**
- d) 2014?**
- e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?**

132. How much did NSW Health spend on stolen prescription pad recovery within Pharmaceutical Services in New South Wales?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

- a) 2011?
- b) 2012?
- c) 2013?
- d) 2014?
- e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?

133. How many prescription pads were reported stolen to NSW Health in:

- a) 2011?
- b) 2012?
- c) 2013?
- d) 2014?
- e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?

It is estimated that over 90% of all prescriptions are now generated, printed, or issued electronically. Pharmacists are reminded of the legal requirements under the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods legislation to retain prescriptions that have been presented for dispensing that appear to be forged, fraudulently obtained or altered, and notify NSW Police of the offence.

Day Beds

134. As of 1 January 2015, how many day beds were there in New South Wales public hospitals?

135. As of 1 January 2015, how many night beds were there in New South Wales public hospitals?

136. As of 1 January 2015, how many beds were there in New South Wales public hospitals?

Local Health Districts and Specialty Health Networks are funded to provide an agreed level of health service activity to meet local needs, through the NSW Health funding and purchasing model that is consistent with National Health Reform arrangements.

The average available beds and treatment spaces are published each year in the NSW Health Annual Report. The report also contains a number of notations regarding bed reporting which can be found on the NSW Health website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/annualreport14.aspx>.

Dental Treatment

137. How many people were provided with dental treatment by or through the Government in 2011-12?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

	a) How many of those were children? b) How many were over 65?
138.	How many people were provided with dental treatment by or through the Government in 2012-13? a) How many of those were children? b) How many were over 65?
139.	How many people were provided with dental treatment by or through the Government in 2013-14? a) How many of those were children? b) How many were over 65?
140.	How many people were provided with dental treatment by or through the Government in 2014-15? a) How many of those were children? b) How many were over 65?
141.	How many people are on the dental waiting list in New South Wales as of 1 September 2015? a) What is the average wait for treatment in New South Wales? b) What is the average wait for treatment for a person under 18 in New South Wales?

I refer your question to the Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Lost infants

142.	Are there protocols to deal with medical staff misplacing or losing babies in New South Wales hospitals?
143.	What is the official definition of "lost" or misplaced?
144.	How many babies have been lost in New South Wales hospitals in: a) 2011? b) 2012? c) 2013? d) 2014?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?	
145.	What is the longest period of time a baby has been lost or misplaced in a New South Wales hospital in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2011? b) 2012? c) 2013? d) 2014? e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?
146.	Are there protocols or steps taken to ensure that babies are not inadvertently mixed up or switched at birthing unit or in the maternity wing? If so, what are the steps?
147.	How many incidents of "baby switching" between parents have occurred in New South Wales hospitals in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2011? b) 2012? c) 2013? d) 2014? e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?

NSW Health applies strict protocol for identification of newborns to avoid the possibility of “losing” babies. NSW Health implements the following strategies, as described in Policy Directive PD2014_024 *Patient Identification Bands*:

- Newborns have patient identification bands placed on each ankle as soon as practicable after birth and before leaving the birthing room or operating theatre. These protocols are in place to ensure the baby is correctly identified should there be any reason to separate mother and baby, for example, if the baby required admission to a special care nursery or neonatal intensive care unit.
- Maternity services in NSW public hospitals do not separate mothers and babies either in the birthing unit or on the maternity ward unless there is a medical indication that warrants the baby being transferred to higher level care either in the same facility or to tertiary referral hospital.

Staff members

148.	As of 31 December 2013, how many staff were employed at the Miller Street, North Sydney health department?
149.	What is the total number?
150.	How many were Senior Executive Service positions?
151.	How many were full-time employees as part of the total number?
152.	How many were part-time employees as part of the total number?
153.	As of 31 December 2014, how many staff were employed at the Miller Street, North Sydney health department?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

154. What is the total number?
155. How many were Senior Executive Service positions?
156. How many were full-time employees as part of the total number?
157. How many were part-time employees as part of the total number?
158. As of 1 September 2015, how many staff were employed at the Miller Street, North Sydney health department?
159. What is the total number?
160. How many were Senior Executive Service positions?
161. How many were full-time employees as part of the total number?
162. How many were part-time employees as part of the total number?

I refer you to the NSW Health Annual report 2013-14.

Pay-outs for Patients errors

163. In 2013-14, how much was paid out to patients or their surviving family members by the Government due to hospital or medical errors?
164. How many patients were involved in these matters?
165. What were the top 10 hospitals?
166. In 2011-12, how much was paid out to patients or their surviving family members by the Government due to hospital or medical errors?
167. How many patients were involved in these matters?
168. What were the top 10 hospitals?

Claims settled for medical negligence in any one year can represent incidents that happened many years previously. Claims may not be lodged for many years or may be delayed by other processes, such as Health Care Complaints Commission investigations. The amounts paid in any one year therefore do not necessarily reflect the number of claims or incidents that occurred in that year and cannot be compared.

NSW Health is part of the NSW Government's self-insurance scheme, the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Data on payments to patients and family members is held by that organisation.

I refer you to NSW Health Annual Report 2013-14.

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/annualreport14.aspx>

I refer you to NSW Health Annual Report 2011-12.

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/annualreport12.aspx>

Ice Assaults

169. How many hospital staff reported that they were assaulted by people affected by ice in New South Wales hospitals in 2013-14?
170. How many were unable to return to work?
171. How many lost work days were there?
172. What are the top 10 hospitals for reported incidents?
173. How many hospital staff reported that they were assaulted by people affected by ice in New South Wales hospitals in 2012-13?
174. How many were unable to return to work?
175. How many lost work days were there?
176. What are the top 10 hospitals for reported incidents?

NSW Health has a zero tolerance to violence as set out in the policy "Preventing and Managing Violence in the NSW Health Workplace: A Zero Tolerance Approach" (PD2015_001). The policy includes procedures for identifying, assessing, and eliminating or controlling violence.

GP and Schedule 8

177. How many General Practitioners were authorised to prescribe Schedule 8 drugs in New South Wales in: a) 2011? b) 2012? c) 2013? d) 2014? e) at 1 September 2015?
178. How many specialists were authorised to prescribe Schedule 8 drugs in New South Wales in: a) 2011? b) 2012? c) 2013? d) 2014? e) at 1 September 2015?
179. How many medical doctors had their authorisation to prescribe Schedule 8 drugs revoked in New South Wales in: a) 2011? b) 2012? c) 2013? d) 2014?

e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?

- 180. How many medical doctors had their authorisation to prescribe Schedule 8 drugs revoked in New South Wales after providing patients with a Schedule 8 drug for off-label purposes in:**
- a) 2011?**
 - b) 2012?**
 - c) 2013?**
 - d) 2014?**
 - e) From 1 January 2015 to 1 September 2015?**

Any registered medical practitioner may prescribe a Schedule 8 drug in NSW unless there have been restrictions imposed on them by the NSW Ministry of Health under the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Legislation, or specific prescribing conditions imposed on their registration as a medical practitioner by the NSW Medical Council.

Pseudoephedrine sales

181. When does the Government expect all pseudoephedrine sales in pharmacies to be recorded online?

182. What is currently budgeted for the implementation of the online recording of all pseudoephedrine sales in pharmacies?

The amendment to the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* to require mandatory online recording of pseudoephedrine sales in NSW pharmacies is expected to commence in 2016.

Health Care Interpreting and Translating Service

183. What was the Budget for Health Care Interpreting and Translating Services in 2013-14?

184. What was the Budget for Health Care Interpreting and Translating Services in 2014-15?

185. What is the Budget for Health Care Interpreting and Translating Services in 2015-16?

186. How many people were employed in Health Care Interpreting and Translating Services in 2013-14?

187. How many people were employed in Health Care Interpreting and Translating Services in 2014-15?

188. How many people will be employed in Health Care Interpreting and Translating Services in 2015-16?

189. Are there any plans to privatise or outsource Health Care Interpreting and

Translating Services?

Local Health Districts allocate resources according to demand and service requirements. There are no state-wide plans to privatise or outsource Health Care Interpreter Services.

NSW Health provides over half a million interpreting occasions of service each year, mostly face to face but also by telephone.

Almost 200 in-house staff and between 700 and 1000 casual employees provide language services in approximately 120 languages.

Ministerial Office Administration

- 190. How many staff are in your ministerial office?**
- a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?**
 - b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

- 191. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?**
- a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?**
 - b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?**
 - c) What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

- 192. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?**
- a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?**
 - b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?**
 - c) What was the cost of replacing these devices?**

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

- 193. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?**
a) If so, how many times did this occur?
b) What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

- 194. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?**
a) What is the cost of this?

In mid-2015, Minister Skinner used private funds to provide selected artworks in the office. Additionally artwork was provided within the office budget.

- 195. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?**
a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

Information regarding maintenance expenditure is available in Agency Annual Reports.

- 196. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?**
a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
b) Who is the subscriber for each of these?

The Minister's office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

- 197. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?**
a) What were the gifts purchased?
b) Who were they gifted to?

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

**198. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
a) What is the cost of this?**

No

**199. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for-service arrangement in 2014-15?
a) Do they have ABN's?
 a. If so, please provide details?
b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?**

200. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

Ministerial and Office Travel

**201. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?**

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website, and the Ministry of Health
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ministers/Pages/health.aspx>

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

- 202. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?**
a) What were the nature of these trips?
b) Who paid for these trips?

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website, and the Ministry of Health
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ministers/Pages/health.aspx>

- 203. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:**
a) Taxi hire
b) Limousine hire
c) Private hire care
d) Hire car rental

All travel while on official business is undertaken in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive PD2015_019 Official Travel.

- 204. Have you ever used Uber?**
a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

- 205. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?**
a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

- 206. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?**
a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

- 207. Have you used Airbnb?**

- 208. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?**

No

- 209. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?**
a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$33,270 in 2014/15. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$282,000.

**210. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?**

None

Labour Hire Firms

211. 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**
- g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company**

NSW Health uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required.

This information is available at: <https://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/accessing-ofs-information/proactive-release-register>.

Media and Public Relations

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

213. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Information on media/public relations staff across NSW is not collected or held centrally. Staffing levels for all types of staff vary from time to time to meet local requirements.

214. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2014/15 was \$1,775,042 compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009/10.

- 215. Have you had media training or speech training?**
a) If yes, who paid for it?
b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

No

Consultants, Lobbyists and Former Parliamentarians

- 216. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

- 217. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

- 218. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

- 219. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?**
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

- 220. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?**

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

<p>a) Who attended those meetings? b) What was the nature of those meetings? c) What was discussed? d) Were any records of those meetings kept?</p>
<p>221. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament? a) Who attended those meetings? b) What was the nature of those meetings? c) What was discussed? d) Were any records of those meetings kept?</p>
<p>222. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament? a) Who attended those meetings? b) What was the nature of those meetings? c) What was discussed? d) Were any records of those meetings kept?</p>
<p>223. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament? a) Who attended those meetings? b) What was the nature of those meetings? c) What was discussed? d) Were any records of those meetings kept?</p>
<p>224. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament? a) Who attended those meetings? b) What was the nature of those meetings? c) What was discussed? d) Were any records of those meetings kept?</p>

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014. I note the Opposition spokesperson for Health is yet to disclose any scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals.

<p>225. 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?</p>

b) Was there a tender process for these projects?

**226. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
a) If yes, what is their role in the project?**

No

Consulting

**227. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?**

**228. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:
a) Social media
 a. And the cost of these services
b) Photography
 a. And the cost of these services
c) Acting training
 a. And the cost of these services
d) Ergonomics
 a. And the cost of these services**

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

Department/Agency Administration

**229. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 a. Voluntary
 b. Forced
b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?**

230. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

- a) What was the nature of these works/services?
b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

231. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**232. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?**

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

233. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

The Ministry of Health does not generally provide catering unless the meeting involves participation of persons from outside the organisation and the provision of the meal is substantiated by the scheduled time of the meeting. Costs are managed within goods and services expenditure.

234. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

Costs for indoor plant hire and maintenance are managed within goods and services expenditure.

**235. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?
a) How much of these bills were alcohol?**

Costs for restaurant meals incurred by employees of the NSW Ministry of Health in the conduct of official business are managed within goods and services expenditure and approved in accordance with the NSW Health Policy Directive PD2015_019 Official Travel.

236. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

There were no instances of internal fraud detected within the NSW Ministry of Health.

NSW Health has a Fraud Control Strategy which aims to foster an environment that actively discourages fraudulent activity in order to protect the Ministry's assets, interests and reputation

237. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?

a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?

b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?

c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

(a) The Department of Premier and Cabinet leases vehicles in accordance with the NSW Motor Vehicle Policy to provide road transport services for approved users. Insurance is provided under Treasury Managed Fund arrangements. Approved users include, but are not limited to the Governor, Ministry, Opposition Leader and the Presiding Officers.

(b) 31 accidents in 2014/15. This compares to 55 accidents in 2009/10.

(c) \$91,808 in 2014/15. This compares to \$147,173 in insurance claim costs in 2009/10.

238. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

Costs for newspaper and journal subscriptions are managed within goods and services expenditure.

239. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?

a) What is their remuneration band?

b) For each SES employee, how many have:

a. 0 staff reporting to them;

b. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and

c. less than 5 staff?

Information regarding SES employees is available in agency annual reports.

240. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio

responsibility during 2014-15 for:

- a) workplace bullying;**
- b) stress leave; and**
- c) sick leave?**

The categories of workers compensation claims for Ministry of Health staff are set out in NSW Health Annual Reports. The latest Annual Report data identifies that in 2013-14.

241. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

a) If so, what is:

- a. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?**
- b. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?**
- c. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?**

The Ministry does not employ actors for staff training.

Department/Agency Travel

242. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- a) Taxi hire**
- b) Limousine/private car hire**
- c) Hire car rental**

All travel while on official business is undertaken in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive PD2015_019 Official Travel.

243. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

244. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?

- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?**

245. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

246. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?

- a) If so what was the purpose and cost?**

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

All travel while on official business is undertaken in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive PD2015_019 Official Travel.

There is no record of any payments having been made to Uber or Airbnb across the Health Cluster.

Department/Agency IT

- 247. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?**
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?**
- a. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?**

No.

- 248. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?**
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?**
- a. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?**

No

- 249. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?**
- a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?**

Nineteen mobile phones/tablets were replaced. No laptops were replaced.

- a) The cost of mobile phone and tablet replacements due to loss or damage was \$11,474.00

- 250. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?**
- a) If so, how many times did this occur?**
- a. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?**

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

All communications are undertaken in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive PD2009_076 Communications - Use & Management of Misuse of NSW Health Communications Systems

Efficiency Dividend

251. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
252. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
253. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for: a) 2014/15 financial year b) 2013/14 financial year c) 2012/13 financial year?
254. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in: a) 2014/15 financial year b) 2013/14 financial year c) 2012/13 financial year?
255. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in: a) 2014/15 financial year b) 2013/14 financial year c) 2012/13 financial year?
256. For the 2015/16 financial year: a) What savings measures will the Department save? b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure? c) Will they require a reduction in staffing? d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

NSW Health retains the savings it makes from efficiencies and reinvests these into frontline health services.

Local Health Districts are responsible for identifying and implementing locally developed efficiency strategies, such as new models of care and adopting better workforce practices, that focus on using resources more effectively and efficiently to ensure our health system can sustain treatment for the growing number of patients requiring health care each year.

E-cigarettes

257. If a business is retailing e-cigarettes in NSW does it have to be licensed? a) If yes, how many retailers are selling e-cigarettes? b) If no, does the Government have any accurate way of knowing which retailers in New South Wales are selling e-cigarettes? a. If yes, how many retailers are selling e-cigarettes?

b. If no, what is the Government's best estimate of the number of retailers engaged in selling e-cigarettes?

E-cigarette retailers do not have an obligation to notify the Secretary of NSW Health on their intention to engage in e-cigarette retailing.

258. Has the Ministry of Health issued any approvals for the sale of liquid nicotine for use in e-cigarettes or e-cigarettes containing nicotine?
a) If no, does the ministry of Health accept that liquid nicotine for use in e-cigarettes or e-cigarettes containing nicotine are currently being sold in many retail outlets in NSW?
b) If yes, has the Ministry of Health given any warning or commenced any prosecution action against retailers who are selling liquid nicotine for use in e-cigarettes or e-cigarettes containing nicotine?
i. If not, why not?

No.

259. Does the NSW Government believe e-cigarettes fall outside the definition of products resembling tobacco products under section 21 of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 (NSW)?
a) Has this ever been tested in court?

This has not been tested in court.

260. Does the Minister support the Tamworth Regional Council decision to broaden its smoke free policy to become the first Council in Australia to introduce a ban on e-cigarettes in public spaces?
a) Given E-cigarettes are not currently covered by the Smoke Free Environment Act, can the Tamworth council decision be policed?

This decision is a matter for the Tamworth Regional Council.

261. Can the NSW Health policy of treating e-cigarettes like normal cigarettes on NSW Health property be policed, given they are not currently covered by the Smoke-free Environment Act?

Local Health Districts and specialty network governed statutory health corporations are responsible for ensuring compliance with the NSW Health Smoke-free Health Care Policy. It is the District's responsibility to inform staff, clients and visitors to NSW Health facilities about the requirements under the Policy and ensure compliance including in relation to the use of electronic cigarettes.

Tobacco Act

262. When will the Review of the Tobacco Act be concluded?

- a) **Will the Minister or the department consult with tobacco companies as part of that review?**
- b) **Will the Minister consider further changes to the regulation of e-cigarettes in that review?**

The Statutory Review of the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008* has been completed and the report was tabled in NSW Parliament on 6 May 2015.

Ambulances

- 263. Has the health department done any research or modelling on the economic and/or social costs or impact of outsourcing ambulance services to private providers?**
- a) **If so, what does this research or modelling suggest?**

Any supported non-emergency transport provider that provides services to NSW Health under its centralised booking and dispatch or hub arrangements must comply with the comprehensive minimum service specifications set out in the 2014 NSW Health policy directive "Service Specifications for Transport Providers—Non-Emergency Patient Transport".

The aim of these minimum service specifications is to ensure consistency across the hub network and ensure that appropriate patient transport vehicles, equipment and staff will provide a safe service for patients using supported non-emergency transport within NSW Health.

Compliance with the specifications is enforced through contractual arrangements between providers and the Health Administration Corporation, which administers the hub.

- 264. Why are paramedics across NSW publically claiming that patients are at risk because of a critical shortage of beds in emergency departments in hospitals across the state?**

NSW Ambulance continues to work with the NSW Ministry of Health and local health districts to implement the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on 'Reducing ambulance turnaround time at hospitals' which further validated the extensive work already in progress in NSW to reduce delays for ambulances.

On 26 August 2015, the Minister for Health announced a package of measures to improve patient flow in Emergency Departments, including ambulance off load times and reduce delays to allow ambulances to get back on the road quicker.

The Peak Activity Team led by the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer has commenced work with NSW Ambulance and Local Health Districts and Speciality Networks (LHD/SNs) to implement the following initiatives;

- **Nurse off-stretcher models** that have already demonstrated improved patient flow in some of the largest hospital emergency departments including Royal Prince Alfred and Liverpool Hospitals;

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

- Ensuring **Medical Assessment Units** are being utilised efficiently and that patients with chronic conditions can access hospital with greater ease;
- **Criteria Led Discharge** to avoid unnecessary delays in getting patients home once they have been given the medical all clear;
- **Out of Hospital Care** – making sure patients are accessing the community based care programs that NSW Health has been investing in to help reduce or avoid the need for hospitalisation;
- The usage of **non-Emergency Patient Transport fleet** to reduce demand on the emergency ambulance fleet.

The Peak Activity Team will work with NSW Ambulance and LHDs/SNs to implement the initiatives, and to build on the significant work already undertaken in NSW to improve patient flow and access to facilities and services.

265. What is the average time it takes an ambulance to reach a category 1A patient in NSW?

266. For each local health district in NSW, what is the average time it takes an ambulance to reach a category 1A patient?

Ambulance response times are published on the NSW Ambulance website at:
<http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au/Our-performance/Response-Times.html>.

Isolated Patients Transport and Accommodation Assistance Scheme

267. How many people travel on a weekly basis to Sydney to access healthcare and require subsidised overnight accommodation?

268. What modelling has been done about the future demand for accommodation needs in Sydney tertiary hospitals under the scheme?

Annual funding for IPTAAS has doubled since 2011. The NSW Government's 2015 election commitment will further improve IPTAAS subsidy levels and eligibility criteria. The new higher subsidy rates have been available to patients for trips taken on or after 1 September 2015.

269. How many people are on the waiting list for accommodation in Sydney to access healthcare services?

270. What is the average wait time for accommodation?

This information is not collected centrally by the NSW Ministry of Health.

271. How many beds are currently available in Patient and Carer Accommodation Facilities owned in whole or in part by NSW Health?

272. How many Patient and Carer Accommodation Facilities owned in whole or in part by NSW Health have been closed since 2011? a) How many beds does this add up to?

273. How many Patient and Carer Accommodation Facilities owned in whole or in part by NSW Health have been opened since 2011? a) How many beds does this add up to?

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

This information is not collected centrally by the NSW Ministry of Health.

274.	Does the Minister agree that all tertiary referral hospitals in New South Wales should provide onsite or nearby accommodation that is affordable (at the Isolated Patient Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme rebate rate), wheelchair accessible and includes facilities which allow people to cook meals?
a)	If yes, which tertiary referral hospitals do not currently meet this need?
275.	How did the government determine the new accommodation reimbursement amounts which came into effect on 1 September 2015?
276.	Will the increase of the per night rebate available for patients using for profit accommodation, but not for those using not-for-profit accommodation, under the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme put not-for-profit providers in regional areas out of business?
a)	Has the government done any modelling on the impact of this change on not for profit providers in regional areas?
277.	Are the moves to different rates available for not for profit and for profit providers and the reduction in the number of NSW Health owned accommodation facilities part of a deliberate move to ensure that in the future patient accommodation is only available in for profit facilities?
278.	Do you accept that this decision will cause the Our House accommodation, for cancer patients who have to travel to Lismore for treatment, to close as the Our House Chair Dr Chris Ingall has said?
279.	How are you going to get around the issue that people will still be out of pocket for significant amounts of money initially because they have to wait 6 to 8 weeks for payment through the Accommodation Assistance Scheme and that this will mean many patients, especially pensioners, cannot afford to make the journey?
280.	Was the decision to increase payments to for profit provider done because so many existing accommodation options have closed?

I refer you to the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme Policy Framework http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2012/PD2012_070.html

It was identified that under IPTAAS, the patients who were most out-of-pocket were those who required long stays in commercial hotels or serviced apartments where market-based rates are charged. Providing greater assistance to these patients was therefore one of priorities for the reforms.

The stepped rates were set at the highest amounts considered to be feasible on the basis of cost modelling and with regard to the cost of hotel accommodation.

Blue Gum Lodge – Royal North Shore

281. Why were NSW Health not prepared with a replacement for Blue Gum Lodge, the 36 room patient accommodation facility at the Royal North Shore Hospital, when they had 8 years warning from Hammond Care that the facility was going to close in January 2014?

282. Why does the replacement have only 18 rooms instead of the original 36 rooms of Blue Gum Lodge?

Blue Gum Lodge had a daily booking for 19 rooms for patients of Royal North Shore Hospital.

283. How many people are on the waiting list for accommodation at Royal North Shore Hospital?

284. What is the average wait time for accommodation at Royal North Shore Hospital?

There are currently no people on the waiting list for accommodation at RNSH.

Federal Cuts

285. Are the assumptions for the health budget based on the proposed federal health cuts which have not yet been legislated occurring?

a) **If not, what further cuts will have to occur to health in NSW if these federal cuts are legislated?**

The 2015 budget is based on existing funding parameters ie: that Commonwealth funding continues to be provided on an activity basis.

Future health funding arrangements are currently the subject of ongoing work through the Leaders Retreat and Federation White Paper processes.

286. Will the proposed Federal Government cuts to health care disproportionately affect rural and regional people in NSW who already have significantly worse health outcomes?

287. Will the proposed Federal Government cuts to health care disproportionately affect poorer people in NSW who already have significantly worse health outcomes?

All local health districts, including those in regional and rural areas of NSW, receive the greater proportion of their budgets under Activity Based Funding which clearly relates funding to patient volumes and service levels, to ensure funding is provided to meet service demand and the health needs of the populations they serve. In 2015-16 all local health districts received growth funding.

Tamworth Nursing

288. Has the decision by Hunter New England Health to ignore the recommendation by the Industrial Relations of Commission of NSW that it

provide an additional 10 nursing hours on night shift in the emergency department of the Tamworth Hospital on a two-month trial been made because the health service does not have the funds to provide an adequate level of care?

- 289. Will the Minister step in to ensure the Industrial Relations Commission decision is upheld?**
- a) **Can the Minister guarantee that this decision will not affect the quality and availability of services to patients in that hospital?**

The Hunter New England Local Health District is responsible for managing the delivery of services and local industrial matters in its district. The Hunter New England Local Health District will continue to consult with the Association on staffing for the new emergency and maternity departments both directly and through the local Reasonable Workloads Committee.

- 290. Does NSW Health have a policy regarding compliance with decisions of the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW?**

Each public health organisation is responsible for managing local industrial matters in its district and responding to industrial matters as they consider appropriate in the circumstances.

Climate Change

- 291. Has NSW Health done any modelling on the health impacts of heatwaves and bushfires in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region, under different climate change scenarios?**
- a) **If yes, how many increased deaths and hospitalisations as a result of increased heatwaves and bushfires are expected in 2050 and 2100 under the different climate change scenarios which have been modelled?**

NSW Health works with other government agencies, such as the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Bureau of Meteorology, in studying and responding to heat and cold events so as to minimise their health impact. NSW Health has contributed to studies that have detailed the health impact of heatwaves, two of which have been published in peer review journals.

Wilcannia

- 292. Does the Minister agree that it is a matter of deep shame for our entire community, state and nation that the life expectancy in Wilcannia for males is only 36.7 years and for women is 42.5 years?**
- a) **What is NSW Health doing to address this appalling statistic?**

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The NSW Government is committed to closing the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal people and continues to support health system reform through the NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013 - 2023 to deliver culturally respectful and responsive services which better meet the needs of Aboriginal people.

The Plan, developed in partnership with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, sets the vision and strategic directions for the health system in NSW to achieve health equity.

NSW Health supports a wide range of services through partnership arrangements with Aboriginal health organisations, including initiatives to address cardiac health, mental health, and healthy lifestyles to tackle smoking, chronic disease, cancer, diabetes, injury and suicide.

293. Does the Minister agree that the availability of good quality drinking water is vital to the health of a community like Wilcannia?

Monitoring this year shows that the drinking water meets health-related guidelines. *E. coli* has not been detected in the water this year. Wilcannia's water is supplied from the Darling River and from a bore.

Drinking water is treated by flocculation, clarification and filtration and disinfected with chlorine. NSW Health and DPI water have been providing considerable support to the Central Darling Shire, which manages Wilcannia's water supply, to help them implement their drinking water management system.

294. Does the Minister agree that the availability of community recreation facilities is critical for the mental health of people in an isolated community like Wilcannia?

I refer your question to the Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

**295. Has NSW Health provided, or been asked to provide, any advice or information to the Minister for Water or his department on the health impacts of the construction of a weir for the people of Wilcannia?
a) If not, will the Minister commit to investigate this issue?**

The Far West Public Health Unit has provided advice to Department of Primary Industries - Water in August.

Broken Hill

296. Has NSW Health investigated or provided any advice related to the health impacts of moving the city of Broken Hill onto bore water?

NSW Health continues to participate in work to ensure an ongoing, safe supply of drinking water for Broken Hill.

Preventative Health

297. How much is currently spent on preventative health programs in regional NSW?

The NSW Office of Preventive Health (OPH) is a state-wide service that has reach and impact across NSW. The 2015-16 budget for the Office is \$24.1 million.

Murwillumbah Birthing Unit

298. Does the decision to close the Murwillumbah Hospital birthing unit conflict with the Goal of the NSW Health Rural Health Plan to “Implement maternity models of care in rural LHDs that help provide services closer to home by using the expertise of all maternity care providers and enabling midwives to work to their full scope of practice?”

299. How many applications were received by the Tweed Byron Health Service Group from doctors for the role of specialised General Practitioner/Visiting Medical Officer Neonatal Roster at the Murwillumbah Hospital birthing unit before it was closed in May this year?

a) Why was the community first told that the closure was due to an inability to identify suitable doctors for the position, that would be vacant after the current incumbent doctor retired?

i. Has the Northern NSW Local Health District misled the community about the reasons for the Birthing Unit’s closure?

ii. Why is the community being told that the GP/VMO establishment is currently full with no capacity to recruit new doctors until the retirement of a GP/VMO?

iii. Why did recruitment not take place prior to the retirement of the existing GP/VMO taking effect?

iv. Has funding for this specialist position been guaranteed in the budget?

300. Will the State government request that the Federal Government release funds from the National Maternity Fund to support the Murwillumbah Birthing Centre?

301. When is the review of the Murwillumbah Hospital birthing unit by the Northern NSW Local Health District expected to be concluded?

a) Will the Minister commit to reopening the service once the review has been concluded?

It is anticipated that the birthing component of the Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) low risk birthing service will resume at Murwillumbah District Hospital (MDH) in October 2015 following the Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD) Board at its meeting on 2 September

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

2015 endorsing the following recommendations from the Steering Committee which is overseeing the review of the MDH Maternity Service:

- Birthing of low-risk mothers who are participating in the MGP Service be approved to deliver at MDH once a neonatal resuscitation escalation plan has been developed and the MGP midwives have completed their advanced training and a schedule for their ongoing skill maintenance had been arranged;
- Women be allowed to self-refer to the MGP Service; and
- NNSW LHD develops a plan to more actively promote the MGP Service.

Hemp

302. What evidence does NSW Health have that the sale of Hemp food products would send a message to consumers that cannabis is safe?

The Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation following its January 2015 meeting has asked the Food Regulation Standing Committee to investigate the issue of hemp in food.

303. Does NSW Health not agree that the Australian Competition and Consumer Act provides consumers with protection from false and misleading advertising and marketing of products and that if hemp foods were made legal it would still be unlawful to market industrial hemp seed products in any way which suggested a link to psychoactive products?
a) **Following this logic wouldn't the sale of poppy seeds send a message the opium is safe?**

This question should be directed to The Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, as the Minister responsible for consumer protection legislation.

304. Why are NSW Health holding up the development of a multibillion dollar industry without any evidence that the sale of hemp seeds will send confusing messages on drugs?

Refer to Question 302.

Enable NSW Aids and Equipment Program

305. The NSW Aids and Equipment Program (AEP) and the Prosthetic Limb Service (PLS) are managed by NSW Health's EnableNSW, there is two separate co-payment policies which is inequitable as people on the PLS are given favourable conditions. I understand that EnableNSW has been reviewing inequitable co-payment policy so I request the Minister please explain where the review is at?
a) **When will the inequitable co-payment policy be addressed to ensure**

people on the AEP are not being charged more than those on the PLS?

- 306. Are there waiting times for eligible people to receive their requested assistive technology through the AEP?**
a) If yes, what are they?
- 307. What is the current cost of the assistive technology that participants are waiting to be provided that would be required to eliminate the waiting list?**
- 308. What benefits are there for participants to be kept waiting to receive such essential and vital assistive technology, which is required to make people more independent and enhance social participation?**

I refer you to the EnableNSW - Assistive Technology for Communication, Mobility, Respiratory Function & Self-Care Policy Directive, and the 2013/14 Annual Report, specifically page 174 relating to HealthShare.

In the 2014/15 FY, the NSW Government provided a \$7.7 million non-recurrent enhancement to the Aids and Equipment Program

People who acquire a spinal cord injury over the age of 65

- 309. Why are patients over the age of 65 years (newly injured or people with an established injury but who have no care services), now ineligible to access HACC and Enable NSW services?**

Age is not a factor when assessing eligibility for assistance through EnableNSW.

- 310. Why are these patients not eligible to apply to NDIS or to the NSW Government (FACS) Family and Community Services – Ageing, Disability and Home Care for disability funding?**
- 311. Why are these patients required to apply for care and equipment through the Commonwealth funded My Aged Care Program with all referrals directed through their 1800 200 422 referral line?**
- Why does EnableNSW not provide equipment to patients over the age of 65 who are in receipt of a Home Care Package, even if the provider does not provide this equipment via the initial funding package?**

Advice on eligibility criteria related to Department of Family and Community Services disability funding will need to be redirected to that Department for response.

The Commonwealth has full funding and policy responsibility for the national aged care system which is now accessed through a central access point, My Aged Care.

Patients over the aged of 65 who do not access an aged care program may be eligible to access aids and equipment through EnableNSW.

- 312. Why are these patients unable to access personal care services and or**

**GPSC NO. 3 – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO
– 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

equipment for discharge from the hospital to home if they access care via the My Aged Care Program?
313. Why are these patients unable to access personal care services and or equipment for discharge from the hospital to home if they access care via the My Aged Care Program?
314. Does the Minister acknowledge that by denying the ability of people with a spinal cord injury over the age of 65 to access specialised equipment, they risk increased readmissions to acute care facilities in the long term, at a cost to the health of the patient, and to the hospital budget, increasing difficulties in access to a hospital bed?
315. Why are patients, family and other responsible individuals unable to access all the information regarding support programs and services in order to make informed decisions? a) Why has this information not been clearly defined?
316. Will the government investigate and consider amending the Specialised Equipment Essential for Discharge (SEED) program eligibility criteria to enable people over 65 years of age with a spinal cord injury to have access to it immediately?

The Australian Government has funding and policy responsibility for aged care services, including equipment provision. EnableNSW does not fund equipment for persons eligible to receive equipment through other government programs, including aged care services.

Post discharge services providing short term care and equipment may be available to patients through NSW Health.

Information regarding NSW Health services including EnableNSW is available on the NSW Health website.