



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016 Supplementary Questions**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

Education

Monday 31 August 2015

**Answers due by: Thursday 24 September 2015**

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

Phone 9230 3081

[budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC [on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition]**

**Learning Management Business Reform (LMBR) Program**

1. On what date does the department expect to begin the full scale roll out of this program?
  - (a) Have locations been chosen for the next phase of the LMBR roll out?
    - i. What are these locations?
2. How many administrative staff were employed at the 229 schools in the pilot program in the 2014/15?
  - (a) How many of these staff are no longer employed inside public schools?
3. How many administrative staff are employed in the 229 schools in the pilot program as at 31/8/15?
4. At which 229 schools in the LMBR program currently being trialled?
  - (a) Have any of these schools requested to be removed from the trial?
5. How many administrative staff if the 229 LMBR pilot schools have applied for workers compensation since 2012?
6. Has the department budgeted for an increase in stress leave and associated costs in 2015/16 at the 229 schools involved in this program?
  - (a) What is this increase?
7. Is the funding necessary to continue this project included in the 2015/16 budget?
  - (a) If yes, is it considered capital expenditure?
  - (b) If not, will the department be required to find additional savings in order to cover the costs associated with the LMBR roll out?
8. What is the average cost for deployment of the LMBR system across the 229 pilot schools?
9. Have any of the 229 pilot schools had utilities cut off as a result of late payment of bills?
  - (a) How many bills at each of these schools were outstanding for more than 60 days in the year to 31/8/15?

**Audit of religious activities in schools**

10. How much has been allocated to cover the cost of the audit of religious and prayer groups in NSW public schools announced by the premier earlier this year?
  - (a) From which unit or office within the department of education will this funding be drawn?

11. On what date did this audit begin?
  - (a) When is it expected to issue its final report?
12. What is the methodology and process for this audit?
  - (a) Has consultation with relevant community groups been undertaken?
    - i. Which community groups?
  - (b) When will this audit be completed?
  - (c) Who is undertaking this audit?
13. Will this audit include all religious groups in schools?
  - (a) If not, which ones specifically?
14. To whom will the team or person undertaking this audit report to?
15. Have any instances of extremist preaching been referred to NSW Police since the audit began?

### **Connected Communities Schools**

16. What was the staff turnover rate for the 2014 academic year at;
  - (a) Boggabilla Central School?
  - (b) Bourke Public School?
  - (c) Bourke High School?
  - (d) Brewarrina Central School?
  - (e) Coonamble Public School?
  - (f) Coonamble High School?
  - (g) Hillvue Public School?
  - (h) Menindee Central School?
  - (i) Moree East Public School?
  - (j) Moree Secondary College?
  - (k) Taree Public School?
  - (l) Taree High School?
  - (m) Toomelah Public School?
  - (n) Walgett Community School?
  - (o) Wilcannia Central School?
17. For each of the above schools;
  - (a) What was the staff turnover rate in Term 1 2015?
  - (b) How many teaching positions are currently vacant as at 31/9/15?
  - (c) How many teaching positions are currently filled by short term or casual staff?
  - (d) How many Executive Principal positions are currently vacant as at 31/9/15?
  - (e) How many Executive Principal positions are currently filled by temporary or acting staff?
18. What was the total cost for advertising for executive principals at Connected Communities Schools in 2014/15?
  - (a) In which NSW based publications were these advertisements placed?

- (b) In which national publications were these advertisements placed?
  - (c) In which International publications were these advertisements placed?
19. How much has been allocated for advertising executive principal positions in 2015/16?
  20. How much funding has been allocated for the evaluation and reporting of the Connected Communities Program in 2015/16?
  21. What was the total cost of the Connected Communities Narrative Research Report conducted by the Aboriginal Studies Association?
    - (a) What was the tender process undertaken for this report?
    - (b) Were any potential conflicts disclosed in this process?
  22. Excluding capital works, what is the total funding allocation for Connected Communities schools in 2015/16?
  23. How many FTE staff are employed in the department specifically to oversee the Connected Communities program excluding staff based in the relevant schools?
  24. Has additional funding been allocated to these schools to ensure that students undertaking VTEC courses, who are no longer eligible for TAFE funding as the result of recent changes, can continue their vocational training at school in 2015/16?
    - (a) How much has been allocated?
  25. How much has been spent on the Connected Communities program since 2011?

### **Aboriginal Education/Programs**

26. Excluding its contribution via the Office of Aboriginal Affairs has the Department of Education allocated any additional funds to the government's OCHRE program?
  - (a) If so, how much and for which initiatives?
27. Please list all campuses provide Aboriginal Studies and Aboriginal Language courses as at 31/8/15?
  - (a) Has there been any reduction in the number of campuses providing these courses since 2015?
    - i. If yes, why?
  - (b) How many classes were provided for these courses in the first semester of 2014?
  - (c) How many classes were provided for these courses in the first semester of 2015?

### **School Security**

28. What is the total funding for the NSW public school Safety and Security Unit (SSU) in 2015/16?

29. What was the total cost to the Department of Education of goods stolen from public schools in 2014/15?
30. What was the total cost to the Department of Education of goods and property destroyed by fire in 2014/15?
31. What was the total cost of goods and property destroyed by vandalism in 2014/15?
32. What was the total funding for the School Security and Safety Unit in 2014/15?
33. How many FTE staff positions are funded for 2015/16 the SSU?
  - (a) How many of these positions are currently vacant?
  - (b) How many of these positions are currently filled by short term or temporary staff?
34. How many public schools have fire alarms installed?
35. How many NSW public schools have centrally reporting intruder alarm systems installed as at 31/8/15?
36. Has the department commissioned and audit of the effectiveness of their current “back to base” alarm system?
  - (a) When was this audit commissioned?
37. How many times has the state-wide alarm monitoring system been delayed in reporting break ins to the Central Monitoring Service or ceased functioning properly in the year to 31/8/15?
38. Has funding been allocated in 2015/16 to improve the functioning of the current state-wide alarm system?
  - (a) How much?
    - i. For which specific programs?

### **Federal Budget Impacts**

39. What is the total impact of federal budget cuts to the NSW Education budget in 2015/16?
  - (a) Which specific NSW Department of Education programs will be affected by these cuts?
40. Over the forward estimates what is the total value of Gonski funding expected to be lost as the result of Federal budget cuts?
  - (a) How much for;
    - i. 2016/17?
    - ii. 2018/19?
    - iii. 2019/20?
  - (b) When was the last time the Minister met with the Federal Minister for Education to discuss the issue of Gonski funding?

- (c) When was the last time the Minister made formal representations to the Federal Minister for Education regarding Gonski funding?
41. Has the Minister formally raised concerns about changes to federal education funding indexation rates with the Federal Minister for Education?
- (a) When?
  - (b) What is the department's estimate of the funding lost to NSW public schools over the next 9 years as a result of these cuts?

**Miscellaneous –**

42. How many of the 60 literacy and numeracy teachers promised during the election are funded in 2015/16?
- (a) How many of these teachers will be placed in schools in each of the following regions;
    - i. The Central Coast?
    - ii. Western Sydney?
    - iii. The Illawarra?
    - iv. The Hunter?
    - v. The Central Coast?
    - vi. The Murray
    - vii. The Far West?
    - viii. The North Coast?
  - (b) For each of the above districts, which schools will these teachers be placed in?
43. How much funding was requested for capital upgrades to be carried out at Austinmer Public School?
- (a) On what basis was this application refused?
  - (b) What priority has been given to this upgrade?
44. What priority has been given to replacing the demountable buildings at Woonona East Public School?
- (a) Has funding for this project previously been sought?
45. When will construction begin on Jordan Springs Public School?
- (a) Has planning for this school begun?
    - i. If not, when will it?
  - (b) What preparations has the department made to ensure that it can deliver its promise to deliver a Jordan Springs Public School in this term of government?
46. Does the department periodically audit temperatures in classrooms to ensure student health and safety?
- (a) Has the department audited temperatures at Bennett Road and Willmot Public Schools?
    - i. What were the department's findings?
  - (b) Is there any official justification for the lack of air conditioning at Bennett Road and Willmot Public Schools?

## Ministerial Office Administration

47. 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?
48. 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?
    - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
49. 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?
    - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
50. 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?
    - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?
51. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
  - (a) What is the cost of this?
52. 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?
53. 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?
    - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?
54. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?
  - (a) What were the gifts purchased?
    - i. Who were they gifted to?
55. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
  - (a) What is the cost of this?
56. 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?
    - i. 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?
57. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

## **Ministerial And Office Travel**

58. 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?
59. 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?
60. 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
61. Have you ever used Uber?
  - (a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?
62. 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?
63. 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?
64. Have you used Airbnb?
65. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?
66. 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?
67. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
  - (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

## **Labour Hire Firms**

68. 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

## **Media And Public Relations**

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

70. 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?
71. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
72. Have you had media training or speech training?
  - (a) If yes, who paid for it?
  - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

### **Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians**

73. 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?
74. 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?
75. 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?
76. 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?
77. 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?
  - (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?
78. 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?
79. 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?
80. 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?
81. 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?
82. 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?
83. 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?

### **Consulting**

84. 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?

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

### **Department/Agency Administration**

86. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - i. Voluntary
    - ii. Forced
  - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?
87. 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?
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
  - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?
88. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
89. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?
90. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
91. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?
92. 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?
93. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
- (a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

94. 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?
  
95. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?
  
96. 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:
    - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
    - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
    - iii. less than 5 staff?
  
97. 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?
  
98. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?
  - (a) If so, what is:
    - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
    - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
    - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

### **Department/Agency Travel**

99. 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
  
100. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?
  
101. 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?

102. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?
103. 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?

### **Departmental/Agency IT**

104. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?
105. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?
106. 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?
107. 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?
    - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

### **Efficiency Dividend**

108. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
109. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
110. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
- (a) 2014/15 financial year
  - (b) 2013/14 financial year
  - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
111. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
- (a) 2014/15 financial year
  - (b) 2013/14 financial year
  - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
112. 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?

113. 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?

## Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

### Questions from Dr Kaye

#### GAYBY baby film

114. Can the Minister please confirm whether the state-wide ban on the screening of this film extends to the viewing of the film within Years 7-12 PD/H/PE lesson time?

#### **GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EAL/D)**

115. In light of the NSW Premier's pre-election press release, dated Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 2014, entitled, 'Investing in our children's future: Gonski funding flows for NSW public schools' which stated that the NSW Liberal National Government, through its needs-based Resource Allocation Model (RAM), is investing \$104 million for students still developing English language proficiency:

- (a) How much of this funding was directed to cover the Department's existing provision of 896 English a Second Language (ESL) teaching positions?
- (b) How much of this funding was directed to cover the Department's existing ESL provision in secondary Intensive English Centres?
- (c) How much of this funding was directed to cover the Department's existing intensive ESL provision in primary schools?

116. What was the total 'Gonski' funding identified for students developing English language proficiency as a result of applying the English language proficiency loading to the Department's 2014 ESL survey data?

- (a) What was this quantum of funding directed to?

117. What additional investment of funding (i.e. funding betterments) has the NSW Government actually made available for ESL teaching provision to support students still developing English language proficiency?

118. Can the Minister guarantee that, in future, all 'Gonski' English language proficiency loading funding identified from the Department's ESL survey data will be made available for the Department's ESL teaching provision to support students still developing English language proficiency, in particular the large number of EAL/D students currently missing out on ESL support?

#### **New public high school at Lindfield**

119. On what date, and why, did the NSW government change the expected opening date of the new public high school at Lindfield from 2017 as told to parents in an email dated 18 July 2014 to the new expected opening date of 2019 as expressed in a March 2015 joint media release between the Minister and local member Jonathan O'Dea?

120. When will the Treasury Gateway Review process be complete and the results of that including the business case be released to the public?

### **Solar in schools program**

121. What incentives are in place for NSW public schools to reduce the cost of electricity usage in their schools?
122. If a school invests in energy efficiency devices or solar panels to create their own energy, what mechanism is in place so that the school can benefit from the savings instead of the Department simply reducing its school budget year on year?
- (a) Can the costs be offset against savings for a five year period, for example?

### **Voluntary religious activities/prayer groups**

123. Can the Minister categorically rule out that NSW public schools have expended public funds on the activities of student-led prayer groups, whether from NSW government funds or from Federal government funds such as the Chaplains in Schools program?
124. Can the Minister or the Department categorically rule out involvement by School Chaplains in the activities of student-led prayer groups in NSW public schools, including in the planning, implementation or the conduct of such prayer groups?
125. Can the Minister or the Department provide data on the number of NSW public schools that presently operate student-led prayer groups, and advise by which funding sources these groups are able to operate on school grounds?
126. Can the Minister or Department advise what Department of Education student safety, welfare and discipline policies pertain to the operation of student-led prayer groups in DE schools, other than those set out in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures?

### **Scripture Union NSW and Voluntary religious activities/prayer groups**

127. Scripture Union NSW is the only provider of voluntary religious activities that is specifically referred to in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures. Was Scripture Union NSW informed by the Department of Education of the changes to the procedures that were made in March 2015 relating to voluntary religious activities?
- (a) If so, when?
- (b) If not, why not, and when will they be formally told of the new guidelines?

### **Learning Management Business Reform**

128. What steps are being put in place now to ensure that all current problems with the LMBR system being experienced in the 229 pilot schools are satisfactorily resolved?
129. What steps are being put in place now to ensure that all staff receive adequate training and support before the state-wide roll-out of LMBR in Term 1 2016?

130. Does the NSW government intend to implement, in part or in full, the original business model for the LMBR that factored in the loss of 1400 School Administration Staff?
- (a) If no, what implications, if any, will the full implementation of LMBR across all NSW public schools have on staffing levels for non-teaching staff?

### **Guidelines for Joint-Denominational SRE Employment Boards**

131. Are the Minister and the Department aware of the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools (NSW) Incorporated (ICCOREIS) document *Guidelines for Joint-Denominational SRE Employment Boards* dated June 2014 that has “*been developed to offer churches an outline of the steps that need to be taken to set up an effective and enduring joint-denominational board for the employment of Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers in New South Wales government schools*”?
132. Does the Minister and Department endorse the statement contained at 2.8 in the Guidelines that “*The DEC (sic) permits a variety of contacts between properly authorised church representatives and students in NSW schools. Through negotiations with the school principal and the SRE employment board, the teacher may be approved for an increased role within the school*”?
- (a) If so, please outline each and all of the “variety of contacts” that the Department permits and the Departmental policy that underpins and regulates that “contact”.
- (b) If no, what steps will the Minister and Department take to inform ICCOREIS of the Department’s position?
133. Does the Minister and Department endorse any or all of the following activities listed throughout the Guidelines as possible avenues for SRE teachers to engage in the school outside of SRE lessons:
- engaging generally with school activities [2-5]
  - attending school camps [2-5]
  - participating in school excursions [3-14]
  - providing extra welfare, support and attention to students, particularly students at risk and those needing assistance with learning. [2-7 & 2-9]
  - participating in peer support and personal development programs [2-9 & 3-10]
  - “meeting with students out of SRE lessons to provide advice and support through informal contact in the playground, through voluntary organisations or through being available for students to drop in to discuss matters of belief or personal need.” [3-10]
  - volunteering and assisting in co-curricular activities including sport, debating and public speaking, drama and musicals, dance and rock festivals, excursions, school formals, clubs, and social activities. [3-10]
  - playground duty [3-20]
- (a) If the answer is yes to any of these, please indicate which ones and for each please indicate which Departmental policy underpins and regulates that activity.
- (b) If no, what steps will the Minister and Department take to inform ICCOREIS of the Department’s position?

### **SRE Consultative Committee**

134. Who are the current members of the committee? Please indicate which organisations each represents.

135. Are there any unfilled positions? If so, please indicate which bodies they relate to.
136. Has the Minister or the Department given consideration to the additional inclusion of an independent expert on the Department's SRE Consultative Committee to look specifically at how the implementation of SRE in NSW public schools upholds human rights law and religious freedoms including freedom from religion?

### **Domestic Violence Education in Schools**

137. In July, it was announced that the mandatory NSW 7-10 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabus will be updated to explicitly include domestic violence prevention from the start of the first school Term in 2016.
- (a) It is noted that there were consultations with;
- i. Department of Education (DE)
  - ii. Association of Independent
  - iii. Schools NSW (AISNSW)
  - iv. Catholic Education Commission (CEC)
  - v. Australian Council of Health, Physical Education and Recreation NSW (ACHPER NSW)
  - vi. PDHPE Teachers Association
  - vii. Were invitations extended to parties with a Domestic Violence expertise during the consultation process?
- (b) The Board of Studies NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Years 7-10 Syllabus was amended in July 2015 to "make content relating to Domestic Violence more explicit". This includes Outcome 4.3 (recognising abuse), 5.3 (recognising and responding to abusive situations).
- i. Was a budget allocation discussed for the inclusion of domestic violence education in the curriculum? If so, what is it?
  - ii. Will there be resources available for teachers of students who disclose domestic violence situations to them? What will they be?

### **Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy**

138. What was the 2014-2015 budget allocation for the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?
139. Is there a budget allocation for 2015-2016?
- (a) If yes, what is the budget allocation for the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy for 2015-2016?
- i. Are there plans to fund the Skills Strategy past the 2015-2016 budget year?
- (b) If no, why not? Is the program being discontinued?

140. How much of the 2014-2015 budget allocation to the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy has been spent to date?
- Have any unspent funds been carried over to the 2015-2016 budget for the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?
141. In the 2014-2015 Budget Year, how many frontline workers working with victims of domestic and family violence received education, training and professional development through the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?
- What percentage of the total frontline workers participated in the Skills Strategy?
  - What percentage of those who received training work in regional areas?
  - What percentage of those who received training identify as aboriginal or torres strait islander people?
  - What percentage of those who received training work with aboriginal or torres strait islander women and communities?
142. In the 2013-2014 Budget Year, how many frontline workers working with victims of domestic and family violence received education, training and professional development through the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy?
- What percentage of the total frontline workers participated in the Skills Strategy?
  - What percentage of those who received training work in regional areas?
  - What percentage of those who received training identify as aboriginal or torres strait islander people?
  - What percentage of those who received training work with aboriginal or torres strait islander women and communities?
143. Is TAFE NSW still the preferred education provider of the Domestic and Family Violence Skills Strategy, past the 2014-2015 Budget Year?

### **Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE)**

144. 1.Has the Department of Education allocated any funds to the Government's Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE) programs/initiatives?
- If so how much, and for what initiatives?

### **Special Religious Education procedures**

145. 1.Is it the case that a NSW public school that requests signed parental permission forms to opt children out of Special Religious Education lessons before every lesson or seminar is held throughout the year and not simply one form annually is acting in breach of the guidelines contained in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures?
- If so, what steps will the Minister and Department take to ensure that all NSW public schools are aware of this?