



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Education

Monday 24 October 2011

Answers to be lodged by: Thursday 17 November 2011

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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
24 October 2011	Education	17 November 2011 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolio of Education

24 October 2011, 11.10 am – 1.45 pm

Question from the Hon Dr Kaye MLC

1. What funds have been provided to cater for the needs of the 5.8% of public school students who have a disability or special learning need?
2. Can the minister state how many cases there were in the years 2010 – 2011 where the Department of Education proceeded against parents for failing to ensure that their child is enrolled at, and is attending school.
 - a. Can the average cost per case be provided?
 - b. What are the performance/effectiveness measures that were built into these procedures?
 - c. Do we see any positive outcomes for both schools and young people as a result of these actions?
3. What measures has the New South Wales government taken to put into practice recommendations 29, 30, 32 and 33 of the Australian Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care?
 - a. What recurrent funding has the government provided to the Care Leavers Australia Network or to other such service providers for care leavers?
 - b. Have these services received adequate advertising funding so that care leavers can be made aware of such educational services?
4. What will be the timeframe for the replacement of the remaining unflued gas heaters in NSW public schools?
 - a. How many will be replaced before winter commences in June 2012?
 - b. What alternative heaters have been recommended as safer, environmentally friendly alternatives?
5. Can the minister comment on the status of the School Learning Support Trial in the Illawara?
 - a. When is the evaluation on the program due to be made?
 - b. Are Special Language Classes, intensive reading classes and Early Support Classes to be reinstated in Illawarra Schools in 2012?
 - c. How does the Government intend to meet the educational requirements of the rising number of students with special needs while providing no additional funding as outlined in the 2011 Budget?
6. Is funding to be made available for the development of and further consultation on the Draft Syllabus in English, Maths, Science and History?
 - a. Is funding to be made available for teachers in NSW to be consulted with in the development of Phase 2 of the Australian Curriculum documents?
 - b. What additional funding will be provided to schools for Teacher Professional Development and the development of resources prior to the sending of the Final Australian Curriculum Syllabus Documents to schools in 2013?

- c. Will additional funding be made available for consultation with teachers to incorporate the recently released achievement Standards for the Australian Curriculum into the BOS documents?
7. Does the Government intend to sell the Mann St site of Gosford Public School and what is the estimated revenue to be gained from such a sale?
 - a. What costs are involved if the school was to be relocated to an alternative site to Henry Kendall, such as disused commercial sites within the Gosford Central Business area?
8. How will the imposition of compulsory public school preschool fees and the establishment of a competitive market in preschools make preschool education more affordable to more children, particularly disadvantaged children?
9. The NSW Government has signed up to the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education that provides access to 15 hours preschool for children in the year before school.
 - a. What government funding has been set aside for the provision of the 15 hours with respect to:
 - i. the function of the regulator in the Office of Early Childhood;
 - ii. DEC public school preschools
 - iii. Community preschools;
 - iv. Special education provision in community preschools;
 - v. special education provision in public school preschools;
 - vi. improving Aboriginal participation in preschool; and
 - vii. early intervention services?
 - b. What does the government see as its role in the funding of preschool education to create a user pays market or to expand the provision of public preschools?
 - c. What is the proposed fee structure for DEC preschools from 2012?
 - d. How much money does the government expect to collect from the imposition of preschool fees in 2012?
 - e. Where will the money collected be spent?
 - f. What is the estimated value of preschool fee exemptions in 2012?
 - g. Community preschools are able to access integration funding. What plans are in place for DEC preschools to access integration funding?
 - h. What plans does the government have for the imposition of means tested fees in other areas of public education?
 - i. Should public school parents be required to pay the same fees as the local private school in order to ensure "consistency" across the education sectors?
10. How many dual trained teacher-librarians are employed in libraries in New South Wales public schools and how many of these are in schools that have been affected by the federal Building the Education Revolution?
 - a. How many teachers-in-charge, who do not have any library training, are employed in libraries in New South Wales public schools?
 - i. How many of these are in schools that have been affected by the Building the Education Revolution?
 - b. How many librarians, without teacher training, are employed in libraries in New South Wales public schools?

- i. How many of these have been affected by the federal Building the Education Revolution?
- c. How many public primary schools are there in New South Wales that do not employ a qualified teacher-librarian?
- d. How many public secondary schools are there in New South Wales that employ a qualified teacher-librarian?
 - i. How many of these schools are affected by the BER?
- e. Is the minister aware of allegations put forward by the Inquiry into School Libraries and Teacher librarians in Australian Schools, that Australia is facing a decline in qualified teacher librarians in its school libraries?
 - i. Does the minister accept these allegations?
- f. How does the Minister plan to address the lack of qualified teacher librarians in New South Wales Schools?
- g. Will the Minister ensure that teacher librarians continue to be staffed in school libraries under the new formula, in spite of possible moves towards localised staffing under the local schools, local decision initiative?

11.

- a. Will the Minister implement the recommendations of the Kennedy Report and dismantle the 'Dubbo College model' and reinstate three stand-alone 7-12 public schools in Dubbo?
 - i. If not, why not?
- b. Will the Minister confirm he does not intend to implement the 'Dubbo College model' in other regional areas of NSW?
 - i. If not, why not?

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

- 12. Did all schools produce their 2010 Annual Reports and make them available to parents by the end of June 2011?
- 13. Is information about significant risk of harm reports from Education and Training to Community Services for the period from 31 March 2011 to 30 June 2011 now available, and how many reports have been made for this period?
- 14. On 20 May 2011 it was reported in the Daily Telegraph that the Minister had asked the Director General of the Department to ensure NAPLAN test results were not used as part of the enrolment process in public schools. Did you make such a request and what action has occurred as a result of this?
- 15. In relation to the Government's Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan:
 - a. How much funding has been allocated in 2011/12 for the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan and how will this funding be used?
 - b. How many new teachers will be employed in 2012 as part of the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan?

- c. Will all 900 new teachers be in place as at the beginning of the school year 2015?
- d. How will you determine where the teachers will be allocated?
- e. How many of the promised 900 additional literacy and numeracy teachers will be allocated to non government schools and how will you determine which schools receive the additional support?
- f. Will the funding provided to non government schools under the Literacy and Numeracy plan be in addition to the funding the Government already provides to the non government sector?

16. In relation to Government preschools:

- a. What modelling or research was done to assess the impact that charging fees for Government preschools will have on the number of students attending preschools, particularly students from low income families or indigenous families?
- b. Who will be exempted from paying fees and how many families will this affect?
- c. Why do the fees for Commonwealth Health Care Card holders range from \$0 to \$20?
- d. What is the cost of administering the new fee structure?
- e. How much revenue will this raise in 2012?
- f. Have you received any advice from the Department of Education and Communities that the number of students attending Government preschools will decline as a result of the introduction of fees?
- g. How do you intend to meet your target of increasing enrolments in early childhood education in the year before school from 81.1% to 91.8%?

17. In relation to school operations:

- a. Will principals be given the ability to recruit all the teachers at their school through a local merit selection process?
- b. Will schools continue to be funded according to the number of students that attend the school?
- c. What changes have been put in place since March to allow principals to use local tradespeople and local businesses?
- d. How much did the Department save over the last financial year from centralised procurement?
- e. What is the estimated cost to NSW Education and Training of providing greater local ownership over maintenance and purchasing?
- f. How many schools will benefit in the 11/12 financial year from the \$40m fund set up to upgrade public schools?
- g. How much funding has been allocated in the 11/12 Budget for air cooling in schools?
- h. How much funding will Sadleir Public School receive in 2011/12 for an electrical upgrade and when will the project be completed?

18. In relation to capital funding:

- a. How many demountable buildings will the \$1.18m statewide Demountable Replacement Program replace/refurbish and how many demountables will still need to be replaced/refurbished after this funding has been spent?

- b. How many schools will miss out on Halls and Gyms this year because the funding for the statewide Gymnasiums and Halls Program has been reduced by more than 60% in this Budget?
- c. Why has funding for the Connected Classrooms Program been reduced by nearly 60% in this year's budget?

19. In relation to special education and equity programs:

- a. On 15 June 2011, you advised Parliament of the pressures on the Education Budget, including that "there will be a \$90m increase over the next 4 years for special education":
- b. Will the Government provide the additional funding to address this growth in demand over the next 4 years, and
- c. How much additional funding has been provided in the 2011/12 budget for students with a disability?
- d. How much funding has been allocated in 2011/12 for the Assisted School Travel Program and are there any changes planned for the program?
- e. How much funding is allocated in the 2011/12 Budget for the Priority Action Schools Program and the Priority Schools Funding Program and will you rule out any reduction in funding to these programs?

20. In relation to TAFE and vocational education:

- a. For the 2010/11 year how many industry qualified TAFE staff provided vocational education in schools?
- b. What discussions have you had with the Department of Premier and Cabinet in relation to reforms that could require TAFE to further compete with private providers for funding for the delivery of courses?
- c. How many TAFE teachers are on casual contracts?
- d. How many TAFE teachers are on casual contracts but teaching full-time equivalent hours?
- e. How many casual TAFE teachers did the Government offer redundancy to in July and how much time did you give the teachers to make their decision whether to accept the Government's offer?
- f. Why are 100 hours being cut from course curriculums at West Wollongong TAFE?
- g. Will you refund students who have paid for a TAFE course when multiple hours of class time are cut after enrolment, such as West Wollongong TAFE?
- h. What analysis does TAFE undertake before offering certain courses in response to the skills needs of the NSW economy?
- i. What is the Government doing to attract students to vocational courses that will assist to alleviate the skills shortage currently experienced in NSW?

21. In relation to the NSW Board of Studies:

- a. What support will be provided to schools to implement the National Curriculum?
- b. Do you support the NSW Business Chamber's call for a review of the Higher School Certificate?
- c. Given figures show the Hunter is lagging behind the State average in most HSC subjects, what action is being taken to address this?
- d. Is it correct that nearly a quarter of students do not take Maths in the HSC?

- e. What action are you taking to address the shortage of Maths teachers?
22. How much funding is provided for teacher professional development in 2011/12 and how much of this funding is provided directly to schools?
23. What initiatives is the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood working on to close the divide between rural and urban students?
24. What consultation did you undertake and who did you meet with prior to announcing the changes to Dubbo Secondary College in June?
25. Will you agree to provide additional funding to the hostels in Broken Hill and Dubbo before the start of the 2012 school year so they can continue to provide accommodation to students?
26. Is the implementation of the Learning Management Business Reform Program on track?
27. When will the Learning Management Business Reform Program be rolled out to schools and what impact will this have on school office staff?
28. Do all students in out of home care have individualised learning plans?
29. How much funding to address bullying is estimated in the 2011/12 budget and what new initiatives will be introduced?
30. Why are you expecting a decrease in the number of non government schools inspected by the Board of Studies (from 150 to 132)?
31. How many of the 5,000 public sector job cuts flagged in the 2011/12 Budget will be in Education and Training and what are the position titles, grades and locations of jobs that will go from Education and Training as a result?

Phones

32. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?
33. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
34. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
35. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
36. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
37. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?

38. How many have phones or devices have been lost in your office?

39. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

Media/public relations

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

41. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

42. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

Overseas trips

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

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

Office costs

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

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

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

48. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?

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

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

51. What is your office budget?

52. How many political advisors are in your office?

53. How many administration staff?

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

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

Cabcharge

56. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?

Restructure

57. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

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

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

60. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

Agency costs

61. What is your agency's catering budget?

62. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?

63. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?

64. How much has been spent on stationary?

Correspondence

65. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?

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

Paying bills on time

67. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

68. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?

In relation to Grants to Non-Government Organisations

69. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes,

- What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
- On what date was the funding advanced?
- What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- Was any funding withheld or returned?

f. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?

70. What is the indexation rate applied to non recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

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

71. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews, If so;

g. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?

h. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?

i. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?

j. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?

k. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?

l. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?