

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Education

Answers to be returned by: Thursday 11 September 2014
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Questions from Mr Greg Donnelly MLC

Gonski Funding

1. Minister, when was the last time you had a formal meeting with Minister Pyne to discuss the issue of funding the full 6 years of the Gonski reforms?
2. Minister, when was the last time your formally wrote to Minister Pyne about this issue?
3. Minister, when was the last time your departmental officials met with their counterparts from the Commonwealth Government to discuss this issue?

Australasian College of Beauty

4. Minister, did you write a letter of support for this organisation or any of it Owners/Directors?
5. What was the date of this letter of support?
6. Who requested this letter of support from you?
7. What was the reason for the request?
8. Have you written any other letters of support for Registered Training Organisations?
9. What was the content of these letter?
10. Who did you send these letter too?
11. When were you made aware that MHM Australasia Pty Ltd had made or was making a donation to either the Liberal Party or National Party?
12. In relation to the fundraiser you attended at the home of Maureen Houssein-Mustafa were there any other Members of Parliament in attendance?
13. If yes, who were they?

14. In relation to the fundraiser you attended at the home of Maureen Houssein-Mustafa were there any Liberal Party or National Party candidates present, who were not Members of Parliament, contesting the March 2011 state election?
15. If yes, who were they?
16. What date did this fundraising event take place?
17. Have you attended any fundraising events hosted by Maureen Houssein-Mustafa or her associates or family members since you became a Minister?
18. If so, what dates did these events take place?
19. Were you briefed or made aware by your Department that the Australasian College of Beauty was under investigation by the NSW or Federal Police?
20. Were you briefed or made aware by your Department that the Australasian College of Beauty was under investigation by the Australian Skills Quality Authority?
21. What information did the Department provide you about why this organisation was under investigation?
22. What officer from the Department gave you this brief?
23. When were you made aware of this?
24. When was your Department first informed of this investigation?

Smart and Skilled

25. When will you be publicly releasing the names of the companies who were successful in gaining tenders under the Smart and Skilled reforms?
26. Have any of the companies who have been successful in gaining tenders under the Smart and Skilled Reforms donated to the National Party and/or Liberal Party?
27. If so who are they?

Demountables

28. Minister, in October 2009 you said: "Every parent, teacher and student knows that learning in a demountable classroom is no alternative to learning in a real classroom". Why then are demountable buildings now at record numbers in NSW schools and TAFE colleges?

29. Why did you cut the Demountable Replacement Program?
30. Why did you approve a cut of \$133 million to schools capital expenditure in the current NSW budget?

Literacy and Numeracy

31. Minister, in January 2011 you and the former Premier announced a policy that would see the provision of 900 additional teachers for the Reading Recovery Program and expanding it to include literacy and numeracy. How many of those 900 teachers are now working in NSW schools?
32. Minister, you promised 60 of the teachers for the Illawarra, your largest election commitment for this significant region. Why is it that only a handful are in Illawarra schools three and half years after you have taken office?
33. Minister, how many of the committed 300 K-2 Support Teachers Learning Assistance that were to provide more intensive support to students in Years 3-10 are now in NSW schools?

Hunter Region

34. Can the Minister ensure that there will be no cuts to counselling staff or counselling hours across TAFE campuses in NSW?
35. This year HSC courses were dramatically cut to all Hunter TAFE Colleges, depriving regional students of an alternative pathway to a HSC Course. Will the Minister be ensuring that HSC classes are resumed in 2015? For which Hunter Colleges?
36. How many teaching hours have been cut in total from all Hunter Colleges in 2015?
37. Rutherford High School has 10 demountables. Will they be replaced by permanent classrooms? When? If not, why not?

Murrumburrah High School

38. Are you aware of the serious issues relating to abusive messages allegedly from a staff members twitter account at Murrumburrah High School in Harden?
39. What is the Department doing to support the school and the staff?
40. Is a formal investigation underway about allegations that a staff members Twitter account was hacked and used to send these abusive messages?

41. When will this conclude?

Monaro Electorate

42. What is the budget allocation for the 2014/15 budget for projects in the Monaro Electorate?
43. What is the budget allocation for the Cooma TAFE – Carpentry and Joinery Workshop and Student Support Facility?
- (a) What is the total cost for this build?
44. What is the budget allocation for the following Schools?
- (a) Bombala Primary?
 - (b) Bombala High?
 - (c) Captains Flat Primary?
 - (d) Bungendore Public?
 - (e) Sacred Heart- Bungendore?
 - (f) Queanbeyan Public School?
 - (g) Jerrabomberra Public School?
 - (h) Queanbeyan High School?
 - (i) Monaro High School?
 - (j) Karabar High School?
 - (k) Cooma North Public School?
 - (l) Cooma Public School?
 - (m) Adaminaby Public School?
 - (n) Jindabyne Central School?
 - (o) Snowy Mountains Grammar School?
 - (p) Michelago Public School?
 - (q) Dalgety Public School?
 - (r) St Joseph's School – Bombala?
 - (s) St Gregory's Primary School – Queanbeyan?
 - (t) Queanbeyan East Public School?

Queanbeyan Public School

45. The infants' playground at Queanbeyan Public School has a number of areas of uneven pavement due to its age and the action of tree roots. This is causing a trip hazard for children and staff. It is understood that parents enquiring about this have been told that the school currently does not have the funding available in their maintenance budget to fix the issue.
- (a) Is it acceptable for a hazard which has caused children to trip is left unaddressed?
 - (b) Will you ensure that the issue is addressed?
 - (c) Under your policies for local schools local decisions is funding responsibility with a global maintenance budget for schools in the area or is it the school's responsibility

and therefore is addressing this problem now competing with other educational priorities?

Donations

46. Given evidence at ICAC that Hunter Liberal Members of Parliament received cash from prohibited donors, can you guarantee that you did not receive an illegal donation at the last election?

47. Last week the Premier put out a statement that said:

"I have always absolutely complied with the electoral funding laws and the records are there for all to see. Yes, I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation."

Will you make that same statement?

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

49. Given that the Liberals channel all donations through a centralised accounting system which means most individual MPs do not disclose the people and organisations that personally donate to their campaigns, will you fully disclose the source of all donations you received at the 2011 election campaign?

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

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

Lobbyists

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

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

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

Cross Border Commissioner

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

56. What issues or topics have you referred to the Cross Border Commissioner:
- (a) In the last twelve months
 - (b) Since the creation of the position.

Labour Hire Firms

57. 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

Consultancy Work

58. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Crosby Textor consulted on?
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
59. Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?
60. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
61. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?
62. Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Serco or its affiliates assisted with?
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
63. Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

Phones/iPads

64. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
65. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2013/14 financial year?
66. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
67. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
68. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
69. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
70. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
71. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
72. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?
73. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

Media/public relations

74. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
75. What is the forecast for 2014/15 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Overseas trips

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

Office costs

78. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
79. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

80. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
81. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2014/15?
82. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
83. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
84. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2014/15?
85. How many political advisors are in your office?
86. How many administration staff?
87. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
88. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
89. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
 - (a) If so, in what capacities?
90. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Cabcharge

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

Restructure

92. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
93. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
94. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
95. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
96. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?
97. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
98. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2014/15?

Agency costs

99. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2013/14?
100. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2013/14?
101. What is your Department's catering budget?
102. What is your Department's stationary budget?
103. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
104. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Correspondence

105. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
106. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Paying bills on time

107. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
108. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
109. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Grants to non-government organisations

110. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
111. If yes,
 - (a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - (b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - (c) On what date was the funding advanced?
 - (d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - (e) Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - (f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - (g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/14?
 - (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Contractors

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

Aboriginal employment

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

114. How has that changed since 1 July 2013?

Charter air flights

115. Since 1 July 2013, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

Reviews and studies

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

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

- (a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- (b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- (c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
- (d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- (e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- (f) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Parliamentary Secretary

118. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013

- (a) kilometres travelled
- (b) accommodation,
- (c) air fares
- (d) meals/entertaining?

119. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013;

- (a) meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- (b) functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?

120. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

- (a) Are these meetings documented?
- (b) Who attends these meetings?

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

Media training

122. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;

- (a) Who conducted the training?
- (b) When was it conducted?
- (c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- (d) Who paid for the training?

123. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;

- (a) Who conducted the training?
- (b) When was it conducted?
- (c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- (d) Who paid for the training?

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

Other operating expenses and grants and subsidies

124. Please provide a breakdown of the items covered by “other operating expenses” and “grants and subsidies” in the total expense budgets for public primary and secondary schools, TAFE and VET?

Education employees

125. How many of the 755 new teacher appointments, referred to in the Treasurer’s budget speech, are due to:

- (a) enrolment increases?
- (b) other programs ?

126. Of the 9,573 reduction in “non-frontline staff” referred to in the Budget Statement between June 2012 and June 2013, how many of those positions can be attributed to:

- (a) TAFE teacher positions being deleted?
- (b) TAFE support staff positions being deleted?
- (c) “non-frontline” staff positions being deleted from Primary and Secondary Education Services in Government Schools?

Funding of the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA)

127. Now that the IGA taxes have been abolished, how much of the funding for NERA will be derived from the 1% efficiency dividend from 2015-16 and how much from “VET reforms” referred to in the Budget Statements?
128. What is the net effect on the funding of Primary and Secondary Education Services in Government Schools over the last four budgets arising from cuts to primary and secondary education service expenditure in the form of budget efficiencies/ Labour Expense Caps and additional funding under NERA?
129. Given the importance of the NERA reforms and the minimal impact on the budget, will the Government fund the Commonwealth’s contribution to Gonski in years 5 and 6, if negotiations with the federal government fail?

TAFE

130. Will the majority of diploma courses now only be offered commercially with high fees and charges for full cost recovery?
131. How much has State Training Services expended on developing Smart and Skilled?
 - (a) Please provide amounts per financial year for the last three years.
132. How much has State Training Services spent on remuneration for consultants and contractors over the last three financial years?
 - (a) Please provide amounts by each financial year.
133. Please provide details of State Training Services expenditure on salaries and wages and consultants and contractors fees for each financial year commencing 2010/11 through to the present.
134. How much has each TAFE Institute expended on consultants and contractors over the last three financial years?
 - (a) Please provide amounts broken down by Institute and year.
135. How much has each TAFE Institute expended on consultants and contractors specifically employed to manage transitions to Smart & Skilled over the last three financial years?
 - (a) Please provide amounts broken down by Institute and year.
136. How many TAFE employees have been made redundant in NSW and what has been the total expenditure on those redundancies since and inclusive of 2012?
137. Please provide the total budget savings to the NSW government through the redundancies of TAFE employees since and inclusive of 2012?

138. Please provide a breakdown of which staffing category these redundancies come from (Teacher, Head Teacher, Support Teacher, Manager, etc.).
139. How many Managerial positions have been created since and inclusive of 2012?
 - (a) Please provide details broken down by Institute and position.
140. How much has been allocated to each TAFE Institute for Operational Base Funding?
141. How much has the NSW government allocated in the budget to service Community Service Obligations at TAFE?
 - (a) Please provide amounts by Institute.
142. What is the total NSW Government expenditure on each of the 10 Institutes?
143. What is the total NSW Government expenditure on each TAFE campus?
144. Please provide total revenue generated from fees at TAFE from 2010/2011 until the present.
 - (a) Please provide information broken down by year.
145. What is the projected revenue from fees at TAFE in Semester 1 2015?
146. What is the percentage of contestable funding in the total VET Budget in NSW?
147. What was the percentage of contestable funding in VET in 2011-12, 2011-12, 2013-14?
148. What is the proportionate breakdown by institute of NSW government funding specifically for teaching, support services and management in TAFE?

ESL

149. Has the English Language Proficiency Working Party been established?
 - (a) If so, when was this?
 - (b) If so, who are the members of the Working Party?
 - (c) If so, how often has the Working Party met?
 - (d) If so, has the Working Party produced any reports, recommendations, advice or any other output?
150. In reference to the answers provided by Mr Prior in the Education Budget Estimates Hearing 19 August 2014, will the government guarantee that the funding currently provided for ESL teachers in NSW public schools will be maintained and will be reserved solely for ESL teachers in the upcoming years?
 - (a) If so, how will the government ensure this guarantee?
151. Why was the ESL program treated differently to that of the Aboriginal support programs?

152. What will be the English language proficiency loading proportional split between the staffing component and the other component referred to in the Education Budget Estimates hearing by Mr Prior 19 August 2014?
- (a) What is the other component called and what will be included within it?

Special Needs

153. How many students within the primary and secondary public education systems have been identified as having behaviour disorders?
154. How many students within the primary and secondary public education systems have been identified as requiring low level mental health support?
155. For each year since 2012, please provide the total funding for and number of students supported by:
- (a) Integration Funding Support Program
- (b) Every Student, Every School (now known as the “low level adjustment for disability equity loading” in the Resource Allocation Model)
156. For each of the next four years, please provide the forecasted total funding for and number of students supported by:
- (a) Integration Funding Support Program
- (b) Every Student, Every School
157. For each year since 2012, please provide (i) the state contribution to and (ii) the total Commonwealth contribution to the total funding of:
- (a) Integration Funding Support Program
- (b) Every Student, Every School
158. For each of the next four years, please provide the forecasted (i) state contribution to and (ii) the Commonwealth contribution to the total funding of:
- (a) Integration Funding Support Program
- (b) Every Student, Every School
159. Please provide the annual contributions to NSW special needs funding of the More for Students with Disabilities National Partnership and explain which program these monies were or will be spent in?
160. When does the More for Students with Disabilities National Partnership expire?
161. Will funding for Every Student, Every School or any other program be reduced when the More for Students with Disabilities National Partnership expires?
- (a) If not, how will the funding shortfall be made up?

162. Have any additional funds in respect of special needs been provided under the National Education Reform Agreement?
- (a) If so, please provide details, including for each year,
 - i. the contributions from the Commonwealth
 - ii. the contribution from the State
 - iii. which programs they have been spent on
163. Are any additional funds in respect of special needs scheduled to be provided under the National Education Reform Agreement in future years?
- (a) If so, please provide details, including for each year,
 - i. the contributions from the Commonwealth
 - ii. the contribution from the State
 - iii. which programs they are to be spent on
164. For each public school in NSW, please provide
- (a) its name
 - (b) for each year since 2012, the funding that has been provided to that school for:
 - i. Every Student, Every School in respect of prevalence-based funding
 - ii. Every Student, Every School in respect of NAPLAN-result-based funding
 - iii. Integration Funding Support Program
165. For each public school in NSW, please provide
- (a) its name
 - (b) the forecast for 2015 of the funding that will be provided to that school for:
 - i. Every Student, Every School in respect of prevalence-based funding
 - ii. Every Student, Every School in respect of NAPLAN-result-based funding
 - iii. Integration Funding Support Program
166. In the event that the data in 11 is not yet available, please state when it will become available and will it be publicly released?

LMBR

167. Is the LMBR software system ready to be rolled out across all schools in 2015?
168. What is the current expenditure of LMBR to date?
169. How much is the total cost expected to be?
170. Will any resources and assistance be provided to schools to help them with this rollout?
171. What is the most recent feedback the government receiving from principals and school admin staff in the pilot schools?

Aboriginal students

172. Given that Aboriginal students throughout NSW are over represented among students requiring specialist assistance from special needs teachers, Aboriginal Education Officers and Assistants, Home School Liaison officers, teachers' aides and school counsellors, what provision has been made to allow schools to adequately identify and assist these students?
173. What studies have the Department conducted to determine what the impact will be for Aboriginal students of the reduction in TAFE courses available, increased fees and charges, more limited fee exemptions and the commercial imperative on TAFE institutes to give priority to offering profitable courses?
174. Will exemptions for Aboriginal people under Smart and Skilled no longer apply after the first entitlement?
175. Which Aboriginal community representatives has the Minister consulted with regarding the changes to TAFE and VET and how these changes will impact on Aboriginal students or on the government's Close the Gap commitments?
176. Please provide list of meetings, dates, stakeholders and meeting details.
177. Have subsidised courses such as the Diploma of Aboriginal Studies been phased out in favour of a commercial course requiring much higher fees and charges and student debt under the so-called "Fee Help", thus preventing many or most Aboriginal students from enrolling?
178. What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that all school and TAFE teacher education and VET trainer entry qualification programs in NSW have a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness and teaching methodology component?

School facilities

179. Given the events that have unfolded at Molong Central School in regards to unflued gas heaters. Does the Minister have confidence in the process by which unflued gas heaters in schools are checked, tested and maintained?
180. Can the Minister guarantee the safety of all students and teachers in schools that have unflued gas heaters; especially given the adverse findings of the Woolcock Institute study in 2009?
181. Given the need for appropriate heating in areas of extreme cold, when can Molong Central School expect to see all of these unsafe and unreliable unflued gas heaters removed?
182. Noting that the process of removal was commenced by a previous government then abandoned, when can all NSW Public School students and teachers expect to see the removal of every unflued gas heater from every schools?

183. Please advise how many classrooms and staffrooms in NSW public schools still have unflued gas heaters as their only heating source?
184. Please advise how many DEC officers above the grade of Director of Public Schools work in offices heated only by unflued gas heaters?
185. Was there any communication between the Minister's office or the Department with the superintendent responsible for Molong Central School or the school's principal regarding the action organised for 21 August 2014 protesting against the unflued gas heaters?
 - (a) If so, what was the detail of the communication?