



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

Hearing: Wednesday 31 October 2019

Answers due by: Monday 25 November 2019

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone 9230 3067

BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)
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ClinicalTrialsNSW

1. When was the ClinicalTrialsNSW Strategy developed?
 - (a) How much consultation was there on it?
 - (b) Who was consulted?
2. Who is working in the team?
 - (a) Who gets the emails that are generated from the 'Get in Touch' email on the Medical Research website?
 - (b) Why was the 'Get in Touch' email address changed from clinicaltrialsNSW@health.nsw.gov.au to MOH-OHMR@health.nsw.gov.au ?
 - i. When was it changed?
 - (c) Are they scientists?
3. How many staff are working in ClinicalTrialsNSW?
4. What is the budget for ClinicalTrialsNSW?
5. What internal plans have driven the development of ClinicalTrialsNSW?
6. When was the website updated?
 - (a) Why did it take so long?
 - (b) Was it just a coincidence that it wasn't updated until Labor started asking about it?

Investment in NSW Medical Research

7. How does NSW calculate the value of investment in medical research from overseas and other states from activities conducted within public organisations?
 - (a) If this information is not collected centrally by the NSW Government, who does collect it?
 - (b) How does the NSW Government manage an Office of Health and Medical Research if they don't know what the value of investment from overseas and other states is?
 - (c) How do we know that we are getting bang for our buck?

8. Why do the budget papers differ so markedly from year to year in the way that medical research funding is reported?
9. Is there a set amount of annual budget funding for the Office of Health & Medical Research?

KPIs to encourage CEOs to take advantage of NSW clinical trials

10. Who sets the KPIs for CEOs to encourage them to take advantage of clinical trials in NSW?
 - (a) How are they measured?
 - (b) How often are they measured?
11. Do CEOs receive bonuses or incentives for meeting the KPIs?
 - (a) What are they?
 - (b) How often are the KPIs reviewed?
 - (c) Who reviews the KPIs?

Medical research into drug therapies

12. In your response to Question 311 on the Budget Estimates supplementary questions, you failed to answer the following questions. How much money is spent on the development of medical research into drug therapies?
 - (a) What percentage of the medical research budget is this?
13. What is the Government doing to encourage medical research into drug therapies?

Biotechnology Innovation Organisation

14. Is the Minister for Health and Medical Research attending Biotechnology Innovation Organisation Convention in San Diego, California in 2020?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) It's the world's largest biotech trade association. If NSW is not going, how are we engaging with leading biotech and medical researchers?
 - (c) Is the Minister aware that Premiers from other states go to this Convention to help promote their state for clinical research?
 - (d) Has the Minister discussed attendance at this convention with the Premier or any other Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries?

15. On the Department of Industry website it advises that the 'NSW Government is supporting a delegation to the 2019 BIO International Convention in Philadelphia, US 3-6 June'. Who attended as part of the NSW delegation?
- (a) What was the cost of supporting the delegation?
 - (b) Where was this funded from?

PhD Scholarship Funding

16. In your responses to Question 329 on the Budget Estimates, you only gave figures for 2017 funding of PhD Partnership Program and said that there is an active Scholarship funding round. Does that mean that there were no PhD's allocated in 2018?
- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If there were no grants allocated in 2018, was there money in the budget for this?
 - i. If so, what happened to it?
 - (c) Who was on the Independent Selection Panel that assessed the grants?
 - (d) What was the criteria for the panel to assess the grants?
17. We understand that it can take more than a decade from new discovery to translation, but surely there must be an estimate of the economic or health impact of research as part of the criteria?
- (a) How does the panel pick winners then?
 - (b) If not, are Scientists on the Independent Selection Panel comfortable assessing grants that they hope may be efficacious to health outcomes without actually knowing any estimates of the economic benefit?
18. Who ensures that successful grantees are able to translate their work into clinical trials?
- (a) Is there an oversight of this?
19. At the time of our questions being put to your Department after the budget estimates hearing, we saw another quick update of the website. Is the website the only place these results are published?
- (a) If so, why were they hidden before that?
 - (b) On the website it doesn't quantify what grants have received what funding from the NSW Government? Why is that?
 - (c) Don't you think taxpayers are entitled to know where their taxes are going in terms of medical research?

Ten-year Strategic Plan for Medical Research from 2012

20. One of the recommendations from the NSW Health and Medical Research Strategic Review in 2012 was to establish an Implementation Committee and resourcing the Office for Medical Research to drive implementation.
- (a) Has an Implementation Committee been established?
 - i. If not why not?
 - (b) Who is on the committee?
 - i. How were committee members selected?
 - ii. Was there a formal expression of interest?
 - (c) Are members remunerated?
 - i. If so, how much?
 - ii. What budget are they remunerated from?
 - (d) Who chairs the committee?
 - (e) How often does it meet?
 - (f) When is the next meeting of the Committee?
 - (g) Please provide the dates and locations for all previous meetings
 - (h) Are minutes publically available?
21. Have resources for the Office for Medical Research been increased?
- (a) Please provide the resources provided for each financial year from 2011-2019.
22. Have key performance indicators been established?
- (a) If so, what are they?
 - (b) Are they available publically?
23. Ten years is a short time in research, what plans are on foot to move the strategy forward over the next ten years?

NSW Regional Health Partners

24. What is the relationship between the NSW Government and the NSW Regional Health Partners?
25. Does the NSW Government provide funding to the NSW RHPs?
- (a) What funding is provided and what is it used for?

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NSW Medical Technology Industry Development Strategy

29. Which stakeholders were consulted in the drafting of the NSW Medical Technology Industry Development Strategy?
30. Why was the Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes not consulted?
31. What process for drafting the strategy was undertaken?
32. How much time did stakeholders have to consider the draft strategy?
33. How much will the strategy cost?
 - (a) How is it funded?
 - (b) What Departments?
 - (c) What time frame is it funded for?
 - (d) When will the strategy end?
34. Will there be an implementation committee for oversight?
 - (a) Who will be on the committee?
 - (b) Who will appoint them?
 - (c) When will their terms commence?