



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

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Answers due by: 5.00 pm Thursday 23 April 2020

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HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Corona Virus

1. What specific additional funding have you requested from the Federal Government?
2. When did you make this request? And how much have you received and on what date did you receive it?
3. Are you embarrassed that Ryde Council has today been forced to take out ads in their local paper because of the lack of a comprehensive public health campaign?
4. What additional cleaning of NSW Hospitals have taken place?
5. Have the policies and procedures been reviewed for the use of and priority given for the use of ventilators?

Transport

6. Given the World Health Organisation advised that the coronavirus could last on surfaces between 3 hours and several days and 1.9 million people access Central Train Station each week **what specific action** has NSW Health recommended Transport for NSW carry out to ensure train stations and public transport is cleaned?
7. Given you have recommended we don't shake hands.....have you ensured crowded public places like train stations actually have hand sanitiser stations available?
8. Is hand sanitiser available on the trains?
9. Are these available on your new Metro?

Elective Surgery

10. Are there any plans to cancel or delay non-urgent or elective surgeries to make way for corona virus?
11. Which hospitals will this impact on first?
12. How long will the cancellations be in place for?
13. Which procedures will be impacted?
14. Can you guarantee that no allied health worker jobs will be lost if surgeries are cancelled?

Education

15. We have already seen three schools impacted and closed due to corona virus outbreak. What assurances can you give parents that their kids are safe?
16. Who is coming in to do the cleaning of the schools after they have been closed? What personal protective equipment are these cleaners being provided with?
17. Have these cleaners been given specialised training to do this kind of clean?
18. Once the school is reopened, like we saw with Epping Boys High, do they have things like hand sanitiser provided?
19. Will you be placing hand sanitiser at all schools? How many and when?

Ambulance

20. Minister what additional resources have been provided to Ambulance NSW and in particular into the Ambulance vehicles to assist them should they respond to a person suffering from Corona Virus?

AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES

21. Why did the median response time for priority 1 ambulance responses increase last year?
22. Why are patients in NSW waiting longer than other states for ambulance responses?
23. What are the median response times for P3 and P4 ambulance responses in NSW?
24. 11% of urgent cases are waiting over an hour, what % of cases (P2) are waiting 2 hours and 3 hours?

MRI LICENCE FOR LITHGOW HOSPITAL

25. Are you aware that it has been 12 months since the MRI licence was announced for Lithgow Hospital?
26. Are you aware that it was suggested that more than 3,300 patients a year would be able to access the MRI at Lithgow?
27. Are you aware that to date the LHD has not purchased the MRI machine meaning not a single person has had an MRI scan at Lithgow Hospital?
28. What assurances will you give today that the MRI licence will not have to be handed back?

BUSHFIRES

29. Are you confident that all hospitals are ready for an evacuation should a crisis, like the recent bushfires, occurred?
30. Since the bushfires what additional emergency evacuations procedures have been implemented?
31. Since the bushfires what additional training have staff been provided for an emergency evacuation if their hospital is under immediate threat of a bushfire?
32. Given some rural hospitals were cut off, both by road and their communications, during the recent bushfires, are you confident that they had sufficient resources and medical staff available?
33. How many staff had no choice but to work double shifts?
34. Were all staff present in south coast hospitals at the time of the bush fire crisis fully trained in disaster and evacuation response?
35. In relation to South East Regional Hospital in Bega, a burns specialist was on holidays in the area and offered his assistance, even performing an emergency operation to stabilise a patient. What would have happened if that specialist hadn't been in the area?
36. What strategies does the Minister have in place to address the lack of clinical services at these regional hospitals in the event of disasters that result in the isolation of hospitals within the regional network?
37. How do these strategies address the isolation of regional hospitals by road and air simultaneously?
38. Will you review the number of beds, staffing numbers and resources provided to rural hospitals given how stretched they were during the bushfire crisis?
39. Have doctors and nurses from those hospitals been consulted with since the bushfires?
40. Will they have an opportunity to have their concerns raised at the Bushfire Inquiry or will they not have permission to provide a submission?
41. Will you encourage NSW Health employees to make a submission?
42. Will the Government consider sending text messages to alert people to poor air quality and giving advice as to what they can do to minimise exposure?
43. Was there any damage sustained in NSW hospital infrastructure as a result of the recent bush fire crisis?
 - (a) If so, what is cost of this damage and when will it be repaired?

BUDGET

44. Will you confirm the Government will strip billions from health over the next decade?
45. Why is the Department projecting 10% reduction of workforce to fill funding gap?
46. Will the Government rule out any future Budget cuts to health and hospitals?
47. What is the expected 'efficiency dividend' for NSW Health in the 2021-22 Budget?

ICE SPECIAL COMMISSION REPORT

48. How much did the Ice Special Commission cost?
49. Why are you not providing a full response until the end of the year given people die every week from Ice in NSW?

GREAT LAKES HOSPITAL

50. Will a new public hospital for Forster Tuncurry be built in this term of Government?
51. The Member for Myall Lakes pledged delivery of a public hospital for Foster Tuncurry will begin in this term of Government, you've said that no commitment beyond planning has been made, who is right?

MACLEAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL

52. Why did the Government want to close an entire ward at Mclean Hospital?
53. Was this proposed closure thanks to the Governments \$252 million 'treasury cap'?
54. This decision has now been halted and advisory group set up. Do we really need a group to be set up to tell us what we already know? That they don't want this ward closed? Is this not just a waste of time?
55. The community has already rallied and signed petitions against this closure. Surely you accept that this closure is not in line with community expectations?
56. Can you give a guarantee that this will not be closed and will remain permanently open?

HOSPITAL SECURITY

57. When will the security trial currently in place at Wyong and Gosford Hospital conclude?
58. Do you have any preliminary results?
59. Have you received the review into security service been carried out by Mr Anderson?
 - (a) If so can you outline the findings of this review?

(b) If not when do you expect to be receiving this review?

60. Once the trial is completed, how long will it take for recommendations to be made and then implemented?

BODY WORN CAMERA PILOT (NSW AMBULANCE)

61. How many paramedics have been assaulted in the past twelve months?

62. When did the Occupational Violence Incident Review Group (OVIRG) last meet?

63. How many 'random dip samples' have been reviewed by the OVIRG?

64. How many assaults have been captured on the body cams?

65. Has any of the footage captured been utilised by NSW Police?

66. Given the reporting of assaults against paramedics is continuing to increase, how long until further locations can expect to have body worn cameras?

BULLI HOSPITAL

67. What is the planned opening date for the new Bulli Hospital?

68. Have you considered using the old Bulli Hospital site, or part of it, for additional parking?

69. How will you manage parking on this site?

70. Will the proceeds from the sale of the old Bulli Hospital site or any part of it be returned to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District to improve local health services?

(a) If not why?

FLU VACCINATIONS

71. How many people were reported as contracting the influenza in NSW Last year?

72. How did that compare to 2018 and 2017 influenza rates?

73. Given the previous year influenza rates how many additional vaccines have been ordered for the upcoming season?

74. What advertising will the Government be doing to encourage people to get the vaccination?

75. What additional resources are going to be given to the Emergency Departments across NSW to help cope with the increase in patient numbers?

76. Do you agree that, where appropriate, making the administration of vaccines available through trained pharmacists as opposed to solely through a general practitioner not only relieves burden

on GPs and hospitals but also increases the likelihood of the average person being vaccinated, boosting herd immunity and decreasing the burden on the health system?

ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING TIMES

77. Why are patients in NSW waiting twice as long as Victoria for elective surgery?
78. Why is the elective surgery at its longest ever?
79. Why for the fifth straight year under this Government are NSW patients waiting longer than the national average?
80. What is the Government doing to reduce the wait-list and wait-times?

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WAITING TIMES

81. Why are people in NSW less likely to survive a heart attack than in Victoria?
82. Why are one in ten people waiting over 8 hours in the ED?
83. Why has the number of calls answered by ambulance staff in 10 seconds fallen to its lowest ever?
84. What is the Government doing to reverse these alarming trends?

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RANDWICK

In reference to the Government's commitment to reinstate full cardiac paediatric services, including cardiac surgery, at Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick (SCHR), which the Minister refers to in his statement published on the NSW Health website on the 24 of January 2020:

85. Is the allocation of \$10 million an annual funding allocation?
86. When will these funds be made available to the hospital?
87. When does the Minister expect cardiac surgery will recommence at SCHR?
88. What percentage of all cardiac surgical presentations will be allocated to SCHR in the 12 months starting:
 - (a) 24 January 2020;
 - (b) 24 January 2021?
89. How many additional cardiac surgeons will be appointed and based at SCHR?
90. How many additional cardiologists will be appointed and based at SCHR?
91. How many additional Cardiac Clinical Nurses will be appointed to the SCHR?
92. How many additional Echocardiographers will be appointed to the SCHR?

WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

93. How many doctors are rostered on during the night shift at Wollongong Hospital?
94. Are you aware of staff concerns about the lack of doctors on to deal with patients?
95. You would be aware that according to BHI data from July to September 2019, there were more than 1,000 additional patients than the same time in 2018. Can you please outline the increase in staff to meet this demand?
96. Given only 53.4% of patients at Wollongong ED left in the benchmark of four hours for that same period, what additional resources are being provided to the hospital?
97. Do you admit that there is a problem at Wollongong ED due to lack of staff and resources?

DUBBO HOSPITAL

98. Can you outline to this committee the amount of fund allocated to date for a new car park at Dubbo Hospital?
99. When will construction commence? (Check it hasn't already)
100. What is the estimated completion date for this project?
101. Will there be a cost for users of the carpark?

SENTINEL EVENTS

102. How many 'Sentinel Events' occurred in NSW Hospitals in 2019?
103. What were the specific hospitals where these events occurred?

EMPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF LOCUM MEDICAL OFFICERS

The Employment and Management of Locum Medical Officers by NSW Public Health organisations states that locum medical officers can only be employed for 13 weeks but that they can be re-employed again for another 13 weeks.

104. How many have been employed in the exact same role more than twice?
105. Which hospitals are these locums located in?
106. How many times is the maximum that they can be re-employed for the same role under this policy?

ADDITIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES

107. Since 1 July 2019 how many of the pledged 5,000 additional FTE nurses and midwives have been recruited?

108. How many of the 100 palliative nurses have been recruited?
109. How many of the 8 children's allergy nurses have been recruited?
110. How many of the 24 cataract surgery nurses have been recruited??
111. How many of the 23 mental health acute nurses have been recruited?
112. How many of the 8.2 paediatric nurses have been recruited? (Policy to recruit in 2019-20)
113. How many of the 24.36 emergency nurses have been recruited?
114. How many the 6 McGrath Foundation Breast Cancer nurses have been recruited? (Policy to recruit in 2019-20)
115. How many of the 383 regional hospital-based nurses have been recruited? (Policy to recruit in 2019-20)?
116. How many of the 6 regional school nurses have been recruited? (Policy to recruit in 2019-20)
117. How many of the 131 regional hospital-based nurses have been recruited?
118. How many of the 48 midwives have been recruited?

ADDITIONAL PARAMEDICS/AMBULANCE STATIONS

119. How many of the additional 750 staff committed in the 2018 Budget for NSW Ambulance have been employed as of 1 March 2020?
120. How many of the additional 221 paramedics and call staff that were committed in the June 2019 Budget have been employed as of 1 March 2020?
 - (a) Can you provide the committee with the list as to where they have been employed?
121. Of the 9 new ambulance stations you committed to construct in regional NSW at the 2019 Budget, can you provide the committee with an update as to where the construction of each of these stations is up too?
122. Of the 3 new ambulance stations you committed to construct in Sydney at the 2019 Budget, can you provide the committee with an update as to where the construction of each of these stations is up too?

JUNIOR MEDICAL OFFICER WELLBEING AND SUPPORT PLAN

According to the NSW Health website, the Junior Medical Officer Wellbeing and support plan has identified ways to better support junior doctors. I understand there is a rostering review is part of the plan.

- 123. Has that review been undertaken?
- 124. If so when was it carried out and when will the findings be released?
- 125. If not, when will it be carried out?
- 126. Have new evidence based safe working hour policies been developed and implemented?
- 127. When were Junior Doctors last consulted about their working hours?

HENDRA VIRUS

- 128. Are you expecting to see further cases of Hendra Virus this year? (Sept last year they said “we have seen Hendra virus cases come down lower than we would have otherwise seen”)
- 129. Which LHDs are prepared to deal with and are expecting to see cases of the Hendra Virus?
- 130. What is NSW Health doing to warn people about Hendra virus?

WYONG EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

There have been two lunch time rallies held by staff outside the Wyong Hospital ED to highlight inadequate staff levels within the ED.

- 131. Nurses are pleading for an additional three nurses to be rostered on each shift in the ED. Given presentations have increased by more than 10,000 patients since 2014, will you commit to this request?
- 132. Are you aware that when a nurse is on sick leave, they are not replaced? How often would this be happening?
- 133. Are you aware that nurses are becoming fatigued due to understaffing?
- 134. Given additional nurses have been provided to Blacktown ED, will you also provide the same to Wyong and when will this occur?
- 135. What is the status of the NSW Health review in Lorelie Bellchambers of the Central Coast who suffered a broken neck but was sent home from Wyong Hospital?

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

- 136. Why was the Premier’s Priority to reduce childhood obesity dropped?
- 137. Why is it no longer a Government priority to reduce the overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years?
- 138. Is it because childhood obesity rates have gone up not down? From 20.0 in 2013 to 24.0 in 2018?

139. Does this Government just give up on priorities when the going gets tough?

CROSS BORDER ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENT AT CANBERRA HOSPITAL

140. Under the new accommodation arrangements, will NSW patients and carers incur any additional cost compared to the previous arrangement in terms of:

- (a) Nightly rate, or
- (b) Travel cost between the new accommodation and the hospital?

141. If so, how much will the increase in cost be for NSW patients and carers?

142. Will the NSW government reimburse NSW patients and carers any additional cost incurred under the new arrangements with the ACT government?

143. How long will this cross border arrangement with the ACT Government be available to NSW patients and carers?

144. What strategies does the Minister have in place to provide sufficient health services in NSW hospitals in locations such as the far south coast, to prevent the need to travel Canberra Hospital under a cross border arrangement?

ELECTION COMMITMENT – HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

145. What progress has been made on delivering the following projects?

- (a) Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital
- (b) John Hunter Hospital
- (c) Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- (d) Sydney Children's Hospital Westmead
- (e) Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick and Comprehensive Children's Cancer Centre
- (f) Ryde Hospital
- (g) Shoalhaven Hospital
- (h) St George Hospital
- (i) Griffith Base Hospital
- (j) Eurobodalla Hospital
- (k) Manning Base Hospital
- (l) Sutherland Hospital

- (m) Ballina District Hospital
- (n) Moree Hospital
- (o) Cowra Hospital
- (p) Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital
- (q) Bowral Hospital
- (r) Gunnedah Hospital
- (s) Liverpool Hospital Car Park
- (t) Albury Hospital
- (u) Concord Hospital Car Park
- (v) Goulburn Base Hospital
- (w) Dubbo Hospital Car Park
- (x) Shellharbour Hospital Car Park
- (y) Glen Innes Hospital
- (z) Iluka Ambulance Station
- (aa) Mona Vale Hospital
- (bb) Deniliquin Hospital
- (cc) Leeton Hospital

HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

The Number of complaints in the health system are at an all-time high, they've increased over 100% in a decade

- 146. What are you doing to improve standards, training and resources across the health system?
- 147. What are you doing to address the number of complaints about unregistered health practitioners?
- 148. What are you doing to address the steep rise in complaints about treatment at public hospitals?
- 149. Will the \$252 million cuts to the Health Budget in 2019-20 further drive an increase in health care complaints?

CAR PARKING REVENUE

- 150. How much has the Ministry received in car parking revenue to date this year?

151. Why did revenue increase 11% between 2017-18 and 2018-19?
152. Do the funds go to LHDs or back to the Ministry?
153. What are the most expensive hospitals?
154. Why do some hospitals charge for parking and others do not?
155. Are parking fees of \$32.20 for more than two and a half hours how hospitals are filling the gap left from cuts by the Government?
156. How much has the Ministry received in car parking revenue to date this year?
157. Why did revenue increase 11% between 2017-18 and 2018-19?
158. Do the funds go to LHDs or back to the Ministry?
159. Is parking fees of \$32.20 for more than two and a half hours how hospitals are filling the gap left from cuts by the Government?

KIMBARA LODGE

In 2015, NSW Health announced 60 aged care licenses from Kimbara Lodge in Gloucester with “conditions of transfer to match the needs of the ageing community”, the successful proponent Anglicare has a new facility with just 50 beds

Anglicare have admitted less staff will be needed and there won’t be enough beds for current residents

160. What is the Ministry or LHD doing to assist these residents?
161. Why are residents and staff not being consulted?
162. What are the plans the Kimbara Lodge property

MAJOR PROJECTS

Mudgee Hospital

163. Can you please tell us the budget for the Mudgee Hospital redevelopment project?
164. I understand Hutchinson Builders won the tender. How many local jobs were created for this project?
165. When will this project be completed?

Maitland Hospital

166. Can you please tell us the total budget for the new Maitland Hospital development?
167. How many local jobs have been created during the construction?

168. Is this project still on track to be opened in early 2022?

Tweed Valley Hospital

169. Are you aware of the following comments made by the Member for Tweed on the 9 February 2019 in the Tweed Daily News regarding parking at the new hospital:

“It’s not going to be paid parking there, I have not heard of any adjacent land being offered or sold, we are going to have free parking here and we’re not closing the old hospital down”

170. Are those comments correct?

171. Will you honour this commitment by the Member for Tweed?

172. Was Mr Provest given a commitment that parking would be free before the last election?

173. Have you or your Department or office informed him that this will no longer be the case?

174. When did you inform him of this?

175. What is the current total budget for this project?

176. How many apprentices will be working on this project?

Bowral & District Hospital

177. Can you please tell us the total budget for the new Maitland Hospital development? (*Should be \$65 mil*)

178. How many local jobs have been created during the construction?

179. When will this project be completed?

Goulburn Hospital

180. Can you please tell us the total budget for the new Maitland Hospital development?

181. How many local jobs have been created during the construction?

182. When will this project be completed?

Westmead Hospital

183. Can you please tell us the total budget for the Westmead Hospital redevelopment project?

184. How many local jobs have been created during the construction?

185. This project included a \$95 mil refurbishment of the Children’s Hospital and the broader hospital. How much of this has been completed as a percentage?

Randwick Campus Redevelopment

186. Can you please tell us the total budget for the Randwick Campus Hospital redevelopment project?
187. How many local jobs will be created during the construction?
188. What is your expected completion date?

SpinalCure Australia

189. How much money was promised to 'SpinalCure Australia' in the lead up to the 2019 election?
190. Who made this promise?
191. How much money has been delivered to 'SpinalCure Australia' since the March 2019 election?

Canterbury Hospital

192. What impact has the coronavirus pandemic had on Canterbury Hospital and surrounding health services?
193. When will the \$6.5 million expansion of Canterbury Hospital's emergency department be completed?
194. Will the \$6.5 million expansion of Canterbury Hospital's emergency department be sufficient to meet the needs of the growing population in the area which Canterbury Hospital serves?
195. Is a master plan being prepared to redevelop Canterbury Hospital?
 - (a) If yes, when will this plan be made public?
196. Is there a timetable to redevelop Canterbury Hospital?
 - (a) If yes, when will this timetable be made public?
197. How many full-time equivalent staff were employed at Canterbury Hospital:
 - (a) On 30 June 2017;
 - (b) On 30 June 2018;
 - (c) On 30 June 2019; and
 - (d) On 1 March 2020?

NSW Health Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-19

198. Regarding the NSW Health Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-19:
 - (a) Has the plan been reviewed?

- i. Have the plan outcomes been assessed against data demonstrating health outcomes for people with disability and their carers?
 - ii. Has NSW Health engaged in any consultation with people with disability and their carers in their review of the plan? If so, what form has this consultation taken?
 - iii. Will the outcomes of any review or consultation be reported and made publicly available?
 - (b) Which of the actions outlined in the plan are outstanding?
 - (c) Which of the actions outlined in the plan are partially completed?
 - (d) Which actions outlined in the plan have been abandoned?
 - i. Why were those actions abandoned?
 - (e) Which groups and individuals has NSW Health engaged with to consult on the next version of their Disability Inclusion Action Plan?
 - (f) Have outstanding actions been taken through into this year's plan?
199. How many Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) materials have been reviewed and amended in line with Action 2.1?
- (a) What percentage of those materials were reviewed and amended in consultation and partnership with people with disability, their carers and families?
200. What percentage of workers in NSW Health have disability?
201. In the following years and on average, what percentage of workers in NSW Health had disability in:
- (a) 2018/19
 - (b) 2017/18
 - (c) 2016/17
 - (d) 2015/16
202. What percentage of new facilities completed or planned in 2016-19 have included a Changing Places accredited adult lay down change facilities?
203. How many Changing Places accredited adult lay down change facilities have been built in existing NSW Health facilities from 2016-19?

204. Did NSW Health develop guidelines for community engagement with people with disability, their carers and families in line with Action 7.1?
- (a) If so, what are those guidelines called?
 - i. Are they publicly accessible?
205. Did the Bureau of Health Information release a disability focused annual report of patient perspectives on the care people with disability receive through NSW Health?
- (a) What are the titles of the disability focussed annual reports released by BHI from 2016 to 2019?
 - i. Are they publicly accessible?
206. What work has been conducted to make feedback and complaints mechanisms fully accessible to people with disability?
- (a) Has this work been reviewed by people with disability or a representative organisation external to NSW Health?
 - i. If so, what was the outcome of the review?
207. What percentage of NSW Health web pages comply with W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) level 'AA'?
208. How has NSW Health built the capability of all managers to ensure the needs of people with disability are met in the workplace?
209. How many mentoring partnerships has NSW Health fostered for employees with disability?
210. What corporate software systems have been designed to address the access needs of people with disability who are part of the health workforce?

Data collection

211. Are the following people included in NSW population health surveys?:
- (a) Adults with intellectual disability
 - (b) Children with intellectual disability
 - (c) Adults with physical disability
 - (d) Children with physical disability
212. When people with intellectual disability engage with NSW Health, is there a mechanism to identify them as a person with intellectual disability and track their outcomes?

- (a) If yes, is that data gathered and reported?
 - i. If yes, where is that data reported and is it publicly accessible?

Health services interaction with other supports

213. Has NSW Health reviewed how health services interact with other supports for people with disability such as the NDIS?
- (a) If yes, what are the outcomes of that review?

Health outcomes for people with intellectual disability

214. The rate of potentially avoidable deaths amongst people with intellectual disability is 38%, almost double the rate of 17% amongst people without intellectual disability. How is NSW Health managing the increased risk and preventing avoidable death of people with intellectual disability?
215. When an adult with intellectual disability comes to hospital, what is the current approach for gaining their informed consent for medical procedures or other healthcare decisions?
216. Is there data collected on the average length of time provided by health professionals in a hospital setting to people with intellectual disability compared to people without intellectual disability?
- (a) If so, what are those average lengths of time? (please report by type of health professional e.g. doctor, nurse, allied health professional)
217. What is the current NSW Health policy position on supported decision-making for people with intellectual disability?
218. Please outline the programs that are in place in NSW public hospitals and other healthcare settings to enable supported decision making (as distinct from substituted decision making) by people with intellectual disability about their healthcare, with the following information also provided:
- (a) The name of any such programs
 - (b) The cost of any such programs
 - (c) A description of the functions of any such programs
 - (d) The duration of funding for any such programs
 - (e) The size of any targeted cohorts of any such programs

219. Of staff in the public healthcare system that regularly seek patient consent on a regular basis, what percentage have received training regarding patients with intellectual disability?
- (a) Did the aforementioned training include any information about supported decision making for people with intellectual disability?
220. What percentage of written documentation that NSW Health regularly provides to patients is available in an easy read format?
221. What communication tools are available to staff in NSW Health to communicate with patients who have intellectual disability?
222. Are there any variations to the approach of triaging adults with intellectual disability who present to hospital when compared to adults without intellectual disability?
223. Are there any variations to the approach of triaging children with intellectual disability who present to hospital when compared to children without intellectual disability?
224. Has NSW Health tracked and reviewed the rate of pain relief prescribed to people with intellectual disability in hospital as compared to people without intellectual disability?
- (a) If so, please provide a brief summary of the results of that review

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability

225. Does NSW Health consider its practice to exist within a human rights framework?
226. Has NSW Health reviewed its policies, procedures and the actual application of those policies and procedures in terms of how successfully they comply with Article 25 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability of which Australia is a signatory and has ratified?

Funded programs for people with disability and their caregivers

227. Please provide a list of any funded programs, including the program name, budget, number of allocated staff and size of expected patient participant cohort, which work to resolve the following common issues people with disability and their carers experience:
- (a) significant travel expenses for appointments, particularly those living in remote areas of NSW
- (b) communication issues between GPs, specialists, hospitals and other medical care providers leading to inconsistent care
- (c) consolidated healthcare case management to avoid this role being undertaken by caregivers

- (d) trauma experienced by people with disability from multiple invasive and painful health procedures from a young age
- (e) dropping out of the system when awaiting follow-up or surgery confirmations leading to lengthier wait times and worsening condition for the patient

228. Is there a NSW equivalent of the Tasmanian ‘patient partner program’ where people with lived experience of various illnesses or disabilities or carers come in to talk to fourth year medical students?

229. Please provide a list of any funded programs, including the program name, budget, number of allocated staff and size of expected patient participant cohort, which work towards supporting people with intellectual disability who experience mental illness

All Roles Flex

230. Minister, the Premier announced on International Women’s Day that the public service would all have access to flexible working arrangements by 2019.

- (a) What numbers of staff within your Department currently have access to a flexible role?
- (b) Do you centrally register staff, who have flexible working arrangements?
- (c) What measures are currently in place to implement this?

Hospital Classification

231. Has Manning Base Hospital been downgraded from a trauma hospital to a regional referral hospital or a rural referral hospital? If so please provide the date of when this occurred.

- (a) When did Manning Base Hospital classification as a Principal Referral Hospital commence?
- (b) When did Port Macquarie Hospital classification as a Principal Referral Hospital commence?
- (c) When did Manning Base Hospital classification as a Principal Referral Hospital conclude?
- (d) When did Port Macquarie Hospital classification as a Principal Referral Hospital conclude?
- (e) When did Port Macquarie Hospital classification as a Regional Referral Hospital commence?
- (f) When did Port Macquarie Hospital classification as a Regional Referral Hospital conclude?
- (g) When did Manning Base Hospital classification as a Regional Referral Hospital commence?
- (h) When did Manning Base Hospital classification as a Regional Referral Hospital conclude?

HEALTH

Questions from the Hon Greg Donnelly MLC

232. What are the procedures/protocols/guidelines/clinical practices used by The Sydney Children's Hospital Network Gender Clinic to determine whether or not a child or adolescent experiencing gender dysphoria should progress onto stage 1 puberty blocker treatment?
- (a) Where did the procedures/protocols/guidelines/clinical practices come from?
 - (b) Regarding the procedures/protocols/guidelines/clinical practices, what Commonwealth department, authority or agency has examined them and authorised, approved or endorsed their use for treating children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria?
233. What are the procedures/protocols/guidelines/clinical practices used by The Sydney Children's Hospital Network Gender Clinic to determine whether or not a child or adolescent experiencing gender dysphoria should progress onto stage 2 gender affirming (cross-sex) hormone treatment?
- (a) Where did the procedures/protocols/guidelines/clinical practices come from?
 - (b) Regarding the procedures/protocols/guidelines/clinical practices, what Commonwealth department, authority or agency has examined them and authorised, approved or endorsed their use for treating children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria?
234. Once a child or adolescent has completed stage 1 puberty blocker treatment for gender dysphoria at The Sydney Children's Hospital Network Gender Clinic, what ongoing follow-up procedures are in place to monitor the impact of the treatment on the individual?
235. Once a child or adolescent has completed stage 2 gender affirming (cross-sex) hormone treatment for gender dysphoria at The Sydney Children's Hospital Network Gender Clinic, what ongoing follow-up procedures are in place to monitor the impact of the treatment on the individual?
236. Does The Sydney Children's Hospital Network Gender Clinic record and maintain data regarding children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria, who have go through stage 1 and stage 2 treatment and then proceed onto stage 3 treatment surgery?
237. Regarding stage 1 puberty blocker treatment for children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria, is the treatment reversible?

- (a) If the answer to the question above is yes, please provide the details of the mental health/medical/scientific evidence to support the answer i.e. references to peer reviewed mental health/medical/scientific journals and books?
238. Regarding stage 2 gender affirming (cross-sex) hormone treatment for children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria, is the treatment reversible?
- (a) If the answer to the question above is yes, please provide the details of the mental health/medical/scientific evidence to support the answer i.e. references to peer reviewed mental health/medical/scientific journals and books?
239. Has the Minister since the passage of the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019* instructed “the Secretary of the NSW Ministry of Health to prepare and issue professional guidelines to prevent terminations being performed solely for the purpose of sex selection” as was promised in the letter to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and read to the House by the Minister for Finance and Small Business on 19th September 2019 (Legislative Council Hansard, 19th September 2019, bottom of page 73 and top of page 74)?
- (a) If so, has the Secretary prepared and issued professional guidelines to prevent terminations being performed solely for the purpose of sex selection?
- (b) If so, on what date were they issued?
- (c) If so, what is the content of those guidelines?
240. Has the Secretary commenced the review of whether or not terminations of pregnancy are being performed for the purpose of sex selection?
- (a) If not, when is the review expected commence?
- (b) In conducting the review will the Secretary accept evidence from women who have personal experience of being pressured to undergo an abortion for the purpose of sex selection?