



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN

Hearing: Thursday 11 March 2021

Answers due by: 6 April 2021

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MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN

Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Questions regarding the Banksia Mental Health Unit

1.
 - a) According to an article in the Northern Daily Leader, the clinical services plan estimates that New England North West won't need any additional beds until 2031. Do you agree with that estimate?
 - b) Can you please provide a copy of the Banksia Mental Health clinical services plan?
 - i. Can you please provide a breakdown of services provided by the old Banksia mental health unit and those that will be provided through the new one?
 - c) One thousand people were admitted to the Banksia mental health unit in 2017, that is three a day. How many were admitted in 2020?
 - i. How often was Banksia at capacity or over capacity?
 - d) How much is the new 33-bed unit going to cost?
 - e) Out of the \$700m mental health infrastructure program how much will the Banksia unit receive.
 - i. Has it been budgeted?
 - f) Will the new unit absorb the services currently provided at Dean House, the community mental health centre?
 - g) Hunter New England CEO Michael DiRienzo estimated that the co-design of the Banksia Mental Health Unit could be completed in six-months to a year, with construction completed in 18 months. This would give the unit a 2024 opening date. Is that on track to occur?

Questions regarding drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres

2.
 - a) How full are NSW drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres on an average day?
 - b) Can you provide a list of them and the number of days they're at or over capacity?

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

Bushfire Relief – Deployment of mental health clinicians

3. It has been a year since the devastating bushfires. As part of the bushfire recovery effort the Government deployed 150 mental health clinicians in fire affected area. Can you indicate:
 - a) The cost of the deployment of the mental health clinicians on the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Budgets?
 - b) A breakdown of where mental health clinicians were deployed, by:

- i. Local Health District
 - ii. The number deployed to each fire affected Local Health Districts.
- c) Whether the mental health clinicians deployed were new staff or existing staff resourced from other Local Health Districts.
- i. Which Local Health Districts the mental health clinicians were resourced from.
4. Of the 150 mental health clinicians deployed how many still remain the designated fire affected communities?
- a) How long did/have the clinicians remained in the fire affected communities?
5. What programs are in place in bushfire affected areas to ensure those impacted by the bushfires continue to have access to mental health services?

Mental Health Telephone Line

6. Can you outline the annual budget for the 1800 011 511 Mental Health Telephone Line for:
- a) 2019-2020
 - b) 2020-2021
7. The additional funding provided to the Mental Health Telephone Line as part of the Government's COVID-19 Response was for 12 months.

Will the Mental Health Telephone Line continue to receive additional funding beyond 30 June 2021 to maintain support capacity?

8. Can you please outline the operational structure of the Mental Health Telephone Line, undertaken by:
- a) The Medibank Health Solutions and,
 - b) When the Telephone Line is operated in-house.

Suicide Monitoring System

9. The Suicide Monitoring system currently provides initial data – gender, age, location.

When can we expect the Suicide Monitoring System to be able to provide enhanced data – which will include social, economic and other pressures of a person and previous contacts with the health service?

Fly in and Fly out Psychologists

10. In August the Government committed to 16 permanent fly in and fly out psychologists and telepsychology for students in regional and remote communities of NSW.
 - a) Are all 16 fly in and fly out psychologists employed and available for students to access?
 - b) Which schools will have access to the 16 psychologists?
 - c) Of these schools, will students have access to a psychologist on a full-time basis? If not, what is the allocation of staff?
 - d) Are the 16 psychologists funded out of the \$88.4 million commitment the Government made to school counsellors or is this additional funding?

Hospital waiting times

11. The Healthcare Quarterly notes that there was an increase the bed days for mental health admitted patients in the period of July to September 2020. This was an increase of 10.9% from the same period the year before.

According to personal accounts, on 23 February 2021 a patient was told there was no mental health beds available in NSW.

What actions is the Government taking to resolve the demand for beds in emergency departments?

Women's Health

12. What is the role of Minister for Women in ensuring that local women's health centres across the state are funded to respond to the needs of women for health care, support and health education?
13. What is the average waiting time for access to trauma counselling in a metropolitan women's health centre?
14. What is the average waiting time for access to trauma counselling in a rural or regional women's health centre?
15. What is the government doing to address the disparity in women's health between the metropolitan and rural/regional areas?
16. In order to ensure quality, specialist trauma counselling is available across the State will the Government allocate an additional counsellor to each Women's Health Centre in NSW?

Long-term impact of Domestic and Family Violence on Women's Health

17. What additional funding is being provided for the recovery of women and children who have experience the traumatic impact of domestic and family violence?
18. What new initiatives are being funded to support women and children who can suffer for years, decades, or a lifetime from domestic and family violence trauma? (Beyond short term, crisis responses or 3-6 month post separation programs)?
19. What funding is being provided to establish the first-in-Australia, community supported initiative in the Illawarra for a domestic and family violence Trauma Recovery Centre?
20. What is the Minister doing to advocate the provision of this service?
21. Has a social impact investment opportunity been considered for this, as per the NSW Government Blueprint for Reform?

Women in Prisons

22. What programs are aimed at halting and reducing this increase in female prisoners?
23. How many women in this state's prisons have access to educational programs in?
24. What support services are provided to the children of women prisoners?
25. What culturally specific programs have been implemented to prevent Aboriginal women entering the prison system?
26. What housing and support services are provided to women prisoners exiting prison?

Women Carers

27. What programs have been funded to protect the mental health of women carers?
28. What carer respite programs are available to women carers in NSW?

Equitable Access to Safe and Affordable Abortion & Reproductive Health Services for women

29. Now that the decriminalisation of abortion has been achieved, has Women NSW undertaken any research or planning to identify what reproductive health services, including surgical and medical terminations of pregnancy, are available to women in regional communities such as the Wagga Wagga area?
30. What is the strategy to ensure all women in NSW have access to medical and surgical terminations, regardless of their capacity to pay?

31. What strategies have been put in place to encourage GPs to prescribe and refer women for medical and surgical terminations of pregnancy?
32. What is the plan to ensure resources will be provided to public hospitals to provide free and safe abortions in particular for women
 - a) In rural and regional areas where private service providers are not available?
 - b) Women escaping DFV relationship or who are experiencing financial abuse and/or reproductive coercion?

Employees

33. Minister, for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your portfolio:
 - a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
 - b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees— both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - d) What is the average remuneration received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - e) What is the highest remuneration for male employees— both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
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 - g) What is the average remuneration received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
 - i) What is the highest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - j) What is the lowest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - k) What is the average number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - l) What is the highest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
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 - n) What is the average number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - o) What is the highest number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
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 - t) What is the average number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.
 - v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
 - w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?
34. Cluster Secretary- for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your Cluster:
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