



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

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EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

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

Water at NSW schools

1. Are you aware of any NSW schools buying bottled water, because of the lack of a safe water connection to the school?
 - (a) If so, please list the schools and the measures the government will take to rectify this program?

Rural and Regional NSW

2. Could you please provide a list of the teacher housing stock the Government currently owns, broken down by its asset condition?
3. What work is the government doing to provide an agricultural school education option for female students in North Western NSW?
4. Will the NSW Government be entering into an agreement/national code with the Commonwealth regarding travel rules for boarding students?
5. Have any university campuses in NSW ceased providing teaching courses in 2019, 2020 or 2021?
 - (a) If so, can you please list the courses, universities and the strategies the NSW Government is taking to ensure there isn't gaps in the provision of teacher education?

Inspectorate

6. 'Measurement and outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools' Inquiry, particularly the recommendation to "establishing a School Inspectorate as an independent unit undertaking regular inspections of classroom practices, teacher quality and school management". To ensure that education systems are transparent and do not self-investigate, will the minister commit to the creation of an independent Inspectorate for NSW?
7. To what degree does the Minister agree in conjunction with the recommendations of the 'Measurement and outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools' Inquiry, that such an inspectorate should be based more upon the Scottish 'Education Scotland' model of Inspectorate that is collegial and supportive, rather than the English Ofsted model?
8. To what degree does the Minister agree with the recommendations of the 'Measurement and outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools' Inquiry, particularly the recommendation "That the Government ensure that school inspectors (if established) are truly independent with a

singular focus on improving classroom performance and accountability. They should also be a point of data collection on teacher quality across the government system”?

Home schooling

9. To what degree does the Minister agree with the recommendations of the ‘Measurement and outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools’ Inquiry, particularly the recommendation “That the Department of Education require its schools to seek to conduct exit interviews of parents when students leave a school”?
10. How many children have been registered for home schooling in 2021, broken down by LGA of home residence?
11. What percentage of these have been listed as choosing to do so because of:
 - (a) Bullying
 - (b) Disability
 - (c) Abuse
12. What funding, if any, goes towards the education of children who are home schooled?
13. What happens to the funding that children did have, who then move to home schooling?
14. Given increases in children who are home schooled, what is the Department doing to stem this tide away from the Department and is it recognising there are failings for many children (especially those with a disability)?

OOSH Election Commitment

15. How much of the 2019 election commitment to allocate \$120 million to expand access to before and after school care (BASC) for public primary school children across NSW has been spent to date?
16. How much of the money spent on expanding access to OSHC Services in public schools has been allocated to sites:
 - (a) Where a School Based Parent managed or P&C managed OSHC presently operates?
 - (b) Where a for-profit OSHC currently operates?
17. How much of the money spent specifically on increasing physical space available to OOSH Services in public schools has been allocated to sites:
 - (a) Where a parent managed or P&C managed OOSH presently operates?
 - (b) Where a for-profit OOSH currently operates?
18. Of the ‘OOSH Hubs’ that have been established or have had funding committed, how many have been allocated to sites:

- (a) Where a parent managed or P&C managed OOSH presently operates?
- (b) Where a for-profit OOSH currently operates?

Category A - Parent-managed Services

19. In the Sharing of School Facilities Policy and Procedures the Department has long publicised that “Category A groups [P&C Associations and Not for Profit parent-managed Incorporated Associations] are the preferred providers of outside school hours care (OSHC) services and are not required to tender for appointment as a new service provider.” Is it still the case that these groups are the preferred providers of OSHC services?
- (a) What steps has the Department taken to support Category A Providers in furtherance of this stated preference?
 - (b) What portion of Services in NSW are operated by Category A Providers?
 - i. How does this compare to 5 years ago?
 - ii. 10 years ago?
 - (c) Why has a draft policy been written that removes the protection from tender for Category A Providers?
 - (d) Why are some employees of the Department communicating to Services that this draft policy has been or will shortly be implemented?
 - i. Has the Minister given formal approval or indicated her informal approval?
 - (e) At least one Category A Service has been put out for tender as a result of this change in policy. Has the Department or the Minister’s office been made aware of this?
 - (f) Given that Category A services pay a lower License Fee than other providers, would you agree that there is an disincentive at some level of the Department of Education (whether it be at the level of the School, or other area such as School Infrastructure) to secure more lucrative licence agreements, such as those of category B or C?

Procedural Fairness for OOSH Services

20. Do you agree that the Department has an obligation to inform Services of alleged or suspected breaches of their Licence Agreement, in order to permit opportunity for remediation?
21. Is the Minister or Department aware of any parent managed Services that have had adverse action taken against them, including non-renewal of License, for alleged or insinuated breaches that have not been communicated to them?
22. If this was to occur, do you agree that this is in breach of the Department’s obligation of procedural fairness towards the Services in question?

National Quality Framework

23. Noting the recent publicity in the Early Childhood sector regarding the volume of compliance notices, breaches or other failures under the National Quality Framework, and quality ratings below a 'Meeting the NQF' level, in for-profit Early Childhood Services, has the Minister or the Department performed any analysis into the quality of care and the cost to parents of care according to Service category (under the Community Use of School Facilities Guide) and/or provider type?
24. Where the licence agreement to operate an OSHC Service on a public school site is put to tender, is it appropriate that part of the selection criteria is that a Provider is willing to apply for a formal space waiver as part of the selection criteria for a winning tender bid?
25. Do you agree that the quality and safety of care is being compromised in order to deliver on the election promise that every primary school child in NSW will have access to before and after school care?

Audit of OOSH Categories

26. Why did the Department conduct an audit of the Categories of Out of School Hours Care Services?
 - (a) Did it not keep records of Categories or were there indications that their records were incorrect?
 - (b) Has this audit concluded?
 - (c) If so, why have the results not been communicated to Services for response and right of reply if necessary?
 - (d) Why were services not sent the same set of questions as part of the audit process?
27. Is the Minister aware that some Services have only been asked to evidence their status against one set of criteria without mention of which category that criteria pertains to?
 - (a) Do you agree that this is deliberately misleading Services to answer that they are a particular Category?
28. Are you aware that some Services have been put out to tender following a finding of the audit of which they have not been aware nor permitted right of reply?
29. Was this audit and/or proposed change of Sharing of School Facilities policy pre-empted by submissions from commercial for-profit providers of OSHC services?
30. Is there a push by the Minister or the Department to corporatise the OSHC sector, away from its historical not-for-profit and parent-managed approach?

Enrolment projections

31. What are the department's most recent projections for total public school enrolments in each of the following years:
- (a) 2022
 - (b) 2023
 - (c) 2024
 - (d) 2025
 - (e) 2026
 - (f) 2027
 - (g) 2028
 - (h) 2029
 - (i) 2030
 - (j) 2031

Out of area teaching

32. The Department of Education reported internally last year that rates of out of field teaching are unacceptably high in maths (22% of subject hours years 7-10), science (16%), history (19%), English (18%) and geography (50%). Can you provide 2021 figures on the proportion of subject hours taught out of field in:
- (a) Maths years 7-10 and 11-12
 - (b) Science years 7-10 and 11-12
 - (c) History
 - (d) English
 - (e) Geography
 - (f) Special Education
 - (g) Technological and Applied Studies
33. The government claimed in the Teacher Supply Strategy that out of field rates are lower than the national average. What are the NSW figures that support that assertion in maths and science?
- (a) What does the government view as an acceptable level of out of area teaching?
 - (b) What changes to the proportion of out of area teaching in NSW will the teacher supply strategy deliver?
34. The department's internal briefings last year reported on CESE research conducted on the impacts of out of area teaching on the HSC results of students. Can you provide a copy of that research to the committee?

Special education

35. The Department of Education reported in June last year that 35% of special education teachers were out of field. What is the current proportion of out of field teachers in this area and what does the government view as an acceptable level of out of area teaching for students with disabilities?

Mid career entry program

36. What are the forecasts for the number of professionals that will be brought in each of the following years as part of the mid career entry program:
- (a) 2022
 - (b) 2023
 - (c) 2024
 - (d) 2025
 - (e) 2026
 - (f) 2027
 - (g) 2028
 - (h) 2029
 - (i) 2030
 - (j) 2031
37. What is the estimated cost of the program in 2022 and 2023?
38. Which institution or institutions will deliver the post graduate education to those in the mid career entry program?
39. Has Commonwealth Higher Education funding been secured for this program?
40. How long will the participants spend studying before they begin teaching?

Teacher Supply Strategy

41. Out of the \$125 million committed to the teacher supply strategy how much is budgeted for:
- (a) Marketing and TV advertising
 - (b) The mid career entry program
 - (c) Recruiting STEM teachers from other states and countries
 - (d) Scholarship programs
 - (e) Other initiatives (please specify the total for each)
42. What proportion of the \$125m will be spent in:

- (a) 2021/22
 - (b) 2022/23
 - (c) 2023/24
 - (d) 2024/25
43. The Teacher Supply Strategy says 3,700 additional teachers will be delivered over 10 years with the right subject qualifications in locations of need. How many of those teachers will be secondary teachers and how many will be primary teachers?
- (a) Of the secondary teachers how many will be in maths, science, English, geography, history, special education and Technical and Applied Studies?
 - (b) Over which years will the 3,700 be delivered?
 - (c) How many will be delivered each year?
44. Given the forecast growth in enrolments in public schools, why is the government predicting it will need less additional teachers in 10 years (3,700) than it is promising to deliver in the 2019 to 2023 period (4,600)?
45. What research has been carried out to establish the level of interest of non-teaching staff becoming qualified teachers?

STEM

46. How did the government determine the target of recruiting 500 STEM teachers from other states and around the world?
47. What international research has been conducted to show that during a worldwide STEM teacher shortage that NSW will be successful in recruiting STEM teachers?
- (a) Can you provide a copy to the committee of any research conducted?
48. The government is predicting it will be able to recruit 500 STEM teachers from other states and countries in five years. How many STEM teachers is the government planning to recruit in:
- (a) 2022
 - (b) 2023
 - (c) 2024
 - (d) 2025
 - (e) 2026

Teaching degrees

49. How many students commenced an ITE course in 2020 and 2021 in NSW?
50. How many students completed an ITE course in 2020 and 2021 in NSW?

51. Are the forecasts for how many teachers will be required in the teacher supply strategy predicated on the reversal of the rapid decline in teacher commencements and completions that has occurred in NSW since 2014?
52. Does the minister agree with your department's conclusions that one of the main reasons that commencements in teaching degrees are down by 29% is that "other career options are more attractive and salaries more competitive, particularly for high achievers"?
53. Does the minister agree with your department's conclusion that "on average, teacher pay has been falling relative to the pay in other professions since the late 1980s and this makes it a less attractive profession for high achieving students"?

Teach MathsNow

54. Of the six industry professionals who received teach.MathsNow scholarships and commenced study in 2020 how many are still in the program?
55. Of the 17 industry professionals who received teach.MathsNow scholarships and commenced study this year how many are still in the program?

Sponsorships

56. How many teachers started retraining via sponsorship programs in maths, science and engineering studies in 2020 and 2021?

Alphacrucis College – teacher training

57. How much funding is being provided to Alphacrucis College in 2021-22?
58. What evidence base did the government use to support funding the Alphacrucis College model?
59. How many teachers are going to be trained in the hub in 2022?

Vacancies

60. What is the current total number of unfilled vacancies in NSW public schools by operational directorate?
61. What is the current total number of unfilled vacancies in NSW public schools by subject area?

RAM funding

62. What is the total amount of funding for the 4 RAM equity loadings for 2022?
63. How much is budgeted for the socio-economic background loading in 2022?
 - (a) How many students is it estimated it will cover in 2022?

- (b) How many schools are estimated to receive this loading in 2022?
 - (c) What is the mean funding amount per school?
64. How much is budgeted for the low level adjustment for disability loading in 2022?
- (a) How many students is it estimated it will cover in 2022?
 - (b) How many schools are estimated to receive this loading in 2022?
 - (c) What is the mean funding amount per school?
65. How much is budgeted for the English language proficiency loading in 2022?
- (a) How many students is it estimated it will cover in 2022?
 - (b) How many schools are estimated to receive this loading in 2022?
 - (c) What is the mean funding amount per school?

RAM electorate totals

66. What is the total amount of RAM equity funding for schools in each state electorate for 2022?
- (a) What is the total for 2021 for each state electorate?

SBAR

67. What is the School Budget Allocation Report (SBAR) total funding for 2022?
- (a) What was the SBAR total in 2021?
 - (b) What was the SBAR total in 2020?
 - (c) What was the SBAR total in 2019?
68. In the School Budget Allocation Report how much total equity, base and targeted funding was delivered in 2021?
- (a) What are the allocations for total equity, base and targeted funding for 2022?

Faststream

69. Please list the names of the 50 schools that will have a Faststream participant in 2022?

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

70. In relation to State Significant Development 22877506 (Hurlstone Agricultural High School – Boarding Facility and Farm Hub Upgrade):
- (a) Has the proponent responded to the “Request for additional information” issued by the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment on 16 July 2021?
 - i. If so, when was the additional information provided to the Department?
 - ii. If not, why not?
 - iii. If not, when will the additional information be submitted?

- (b) Has the Department of Primary Industries been consulted on the proposed layout of the Farm Hub?
 - i. If not, why not?
 - ii. If so, what feedback has been provided?
- (c) What changes were made to layout of the Farm Hub in response to feedback from the Department of Primary Industries in its submission on the Draft Glenfield Place Strategy?
- (d) Will all of the recommended mitigation measures detailed in the report titled “Hurlstone Agricultural High School Environmental Assessment May 2021” be included in the design of the Farm Hub?
 - i. What mitigation measures will not be adopted and why?
 - ii. What mitigation measures will be adopted?
- (e) What mitigation measures will be put in place to deal with the specific concerns raised by the Department of Primary Industries in its submission on the Draft Glenfield Place Strategy in relation to:
 - i. Noise;
 - ii. Odour;
 - iii. The close proximity of the piggery to Roy Watts Road which is the main access road for the school;
 - iv. The co-location of pigs and poultry and potential biosecurity issues arising from this arrangement; and
 - v. The operational use of the facilities and the management of animal waste products to avoid contamination and biosecurity risks.
- (f) Has work started on preparing an Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]?
 - i. If not, when will the EIS be prepared?
 - ii. If so, when will EIS be finalised and lodged?
- (g) What is the timeframe to deliver the upgrade to the boarding facility and Farm Hub?

Newcastle Education Campus

- 71. Why has the project been renamed to ‘Newcastle Education Campus’ from ‘Newcastle Education Precinct’?
- 72. The project was announced in June 2018 and the business case was submitted to Treasury 12 months overdue; what is the current timeline for this project?
 - (a) On what date was the business case submitted to Treasury?

73. \$5.6 million was committed to the Newcastle Education Campus in this year's Budget to "commence works"; how is this money being spent?
- (a) How much has been spent to date?
 - (b) What works have been completed to date using these funds?
 - (c) Is it common for \$5.6 million to be committed to a project while the business case is still under consideration?
74. A number of heritage buildings at Newcastle High School had damage identified in 2017; what actions has the department undertaken to repair this damage?
- (a) Have all repair works been completed?
 - i. If not, why not?

Sydney Olympic Park High School

75. Why is Sydney Olympic Park High School being constructed in two stages?
- (a) Will students be on-site for the construction of Stage Two?
 - (b) How long will construction of Stage Two take?
 - (c) Will the sporting field that is part of the Peninsula Park but forms the playing space requirements for Stage Two have any fencing?
 - (d) What is the shortfall in teacher parking spaces once Stage Two is completed?
76. Has funding been allocated for Stage Two?
- (a) If not, when will funding be allocated for Stage Two?

Wentworth Point Public School Stage Two

77. Are any demountables proposed for Wentworth Point Public School?
- (a) If so, how many?
 - (b) Are any of these demountables double storey?
 - (c) How much playing space will be taken by demountables?
 - (d) What alternative playing space is being made available to Wentworth Point Public School?

Questions from the Hon Mark Latham MLC

78. For each of the past 5 financial years how much has the Department of Education and its schools spent on:
- (a) Respectful Relationships?
 - (b) Lovebites program?