



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN

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MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH, AND WOMEN

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

Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014

1. How many draft reports were furnished to the Minister under s34 of the Act in each of the past 5 years?
2. How many special reports were requested by the Minister under s33 of the Act in each of the past 5 years?

Minister for Regional Youth

3. What purpose do you see for your role as Minister for Regional Youth, given the only Legislative oversight in the portfolio is joint administration of the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014 with the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services?
4. What concrete achievements have you made in the role?
5. How many policy proposals for the Regional Youth portfolio have been developed as policy since you assumed the role?

Youth employment

6. What plans, if any, are there to bolster funding and investing in career guidance programs at schools to equip young people with an understanding of work opportunities?
7. What support is provided by the Office of Regional Youth to ensure young people are aware of their rights at work and know what to do if they are underpaid or maltreated at work?
8. What plans, if any, are there to combat regional youth unemployment?
9. What plans, if any, are there to combat insecure work insofar as regional young people are concerned?
10. What targets have been set in any Office of Regional Youth document to reduce regional youth unemployment?
11. What funds have been allocated within the Regional Youth portfolio to achieve the targets referred to in (10)?

“Youth intergovernmental group”

12. In relation to the youth intergovernmental group referred to by Ms Ryan (Hansard, page 35), who are the group’s members?
13. What are the standing agenda items of the intergovernmental group?
14. What has been discussed at the intergovernmental group at its last six meetings?
15. Given that the Department of Education engages with young people through public schools and high schools, do they send a representative to the intergovernmental group?
16. Did the Department of Education ever indicate at the intergovernmental group their proposed changes to funding arrangements for student engagement?

Youth opportunities grants

17. What actions were taken by the Office of Regional Youth to promote the grants in 2020 and 2021?
18. What advocacy did the Office of Regional Youth provide to DCJ on which applications should be successful in 2020 and 2021?
19. Was the Office’s advocacy accepted by DCJ?
20. If a “regional lens” were applied to applications, what would this mean for the assessment of applications?

Stronger Country Communities Fund grants

21. Of the \$100 million grants in round 1 please list the total allocated for youth-related grants by LGA?
22. Of the \$200 million grants in round 2 please list the total allocated for youth-related grants by LGA?
23. Of the \$100 million grants in round 3 please list the total allocated for youth-related grants by LGA?
24. Please list the 290 successful projects specifically targeted at regional youth?
25. Which agency prepared the approval briefs for the three rounds?

26. Which minister/s approved the briefs for the three rounds?

Regional youth coordinators

27. How many regional youth coordinators have been appointed?

28. Does the Regional Youth portfolio fund those positions?

(a) If not, which agency funds that expenditure?

29. In which town is each coordinator based?

30. Which region/s does each coordinator cover?

31. How many coordinator positions are currently vacant?

Regional youth framework

32. The ministerial foreword to the Regional NSW Youth Framework indicates there are “serious challenges such as drought and bushfires, unemployment, mental health concerns and isolation.” What opportunities has the Office of Regional Youth helped to create in those fields?

33. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the North Coast region?

34. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the New England North West region?

35. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Hunter region?

36. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Far West region?

37. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Central West and Orana region?

38. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Central Coast region?

39. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region?

40. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the South East and Tablelands region?

41. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Riverina Murray region?

42. In relation to the \$1.7 billion committed to grow local economies outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong through the Regional Growth Fund (Hansard, page 9) how much funding has been allocated to date?

- (a) How much of the \$1.7 billion is allocated to each region?
- (b) What role does the Minister for Regional Youth have in approving the grants?
43. In relation to the Work Ready pillar, how many young people has the Office of Regional youth prepared for regional jobs of the future?
44. In relation to the Wellbeing pillar, how many young people's mental and physical health has the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth boosted?
45. In relation to the Connectivity pillar, how many young people's transport connectivity to training, work, services and recreational activities have been boosted by the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth?
46. In relation to the Connectivity pillar, how many young people's digital connectivity to training, work, services and recreational activities have been boosted by the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth?
47. In relation to the Community pillar, how many young people have explored their creativity, collaborated with others in teams, developed a sense of achievement or feel socially and culturally connected to and included in their communities and environment due to the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth?
48. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Hunter area?
49. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Central Coast region?
50. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Illawarra area?
51. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the North Coast region?
52. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Monaro area?

Federal Minister for Youth

53. How often have you met with the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth about the needs of regional youth in NSW?

54. How often have you met with the Hon Luke Howarth MP, Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services about the needs of regional youth in NSW?
55. What priorities have you advised Federal Ministers about in relation to the needs of regional youth in NSW?
56. What funding have you secured from the Commonwealth to support the needs of regional youth in NSW?
57. Have you suggested to Federal Ministers that a ministerial council on youth affairs would be an appropriate means for the states and territories to seek enhanced financial support for regional youth following the COVID-19 pandemic?

Regional youth action plan priorities

58. How many young people leaving Out of Home Care at risk of experiencing homelessness have been provided a combination of personal advice, education, employment mentoring, transitional support and accommodation through the Premiers Youth Initiative (Plan, page 4)?
59. What initiatives targeted at young people with a disability have been strengthened (Plan, page 7)?
60. What flexible support has been provided to children, young people, families and communities, experiencing or at risk of vulnerability (Plan, Page 9)?

Regional youth action plan

61. Since the release of the plan, what funds have been allocated to benefit regional youth in the following initiatives:
 - (a) Arts and cultural funding program: project grants
 - (b) Communities and justice scholarship program
 - (c) Homeless youth assistance program
 - (d) Out of home care pathways scholarship
 - (e) Premiers youth initiative
 - (f) Rent choice youth
 - (g) Teenage education payment
 - (h) Youth on track

- (i) Educational pathways pilot
- (j) Work experience program
- (k) Workplace learning initiative
- (l) Apprenticeships and traineeships
- (m) Opportunity hubs
- (n) Regional industry education partnership
- (o) Regional VET pathways
- (p) The Way Ahead - Apprenticeships and Traineeships for Aboriginal People
- (q) School student transport scheme and School drive subsidy
- (r) Premier's priority to deliver a world class public service.

62. Since the release of the plan, what funds have been allocated to benefit regional youth in the following wellbeing initiatives:

- (a) Creative Kids program
- (b) Coonamble integrated service delivery project
- (c) Out of home care joint protocol
- (d) Residential rehab for young people
- (e) Targeted earlier intervention program
- (f) The bail assistance line
- (g) Youth frontiers
- (h) Wellbeing health in-reach nurse (WHIN) program
- (i) Youth action meetings
- (j) Active Kids
- (k) Active Kids pilot programs in the Shoalhaven
- (l) Active Kids pilot programs in the south east and tablelands regions of NSW
- (m) Mental Health first aid

63. Since the release of the plan, what funds have been allocated to benefit regional youth in the following community initiatives:

- (a) Child rights training
 - (b) Arts and cultural funding program: organisation grants
 - (c) NSW Youth Opportunities program
 - (d) NSW Youth Week
 - (e) Universal screening and supports in high schools
 - (f) COMPACT program
 - (g) Guided tour program
 - (h) Child Safe Support workshops
 - (i) Duke of Edinburgh International Awards
 - (j) Regional Academies of Sport
 - (k) Respite and support service
64. Since the release of the plan, what funds have been allocated to benefit regional youth in the following connectivity initiatives:
- (a) Our local
 - (b) Public transport network service improvement program

Next Women's Strategy

65. Consultation processes will be undertaken with the interdepartmental committee and external stakeholders ahead of the development of the Women's Strategy to take effect after 2022.
- (a) Noting that internal work has commenced on the consultation process, which external stakeholders will be consulted?
 - (b) What form will this consultation take?
 - (c) Noting the intention to invite community feedback on the next Women's Strategy through a "Have your say" public consultation process:
 - i. What form will these consultations take?
 - ii. Will the Government publish any written submissions collected during this consultation process?

- iii. Will the Government publish quantitative data collected during this consultation process?

Return to Work Program

66. The Return to Work Program was announced in the 2020-21 NSW Budget, offering grants of up to \$5000 to assist women in returning to the workplace.
- (a) Has a review of the effectiveness of this program been undertaken?
 - i. Against what criteria is the effectiveness of the program been measured?
 - ii. How many women have successfully secured employment as a result of this program?
 - (b) How many applications for this program have been made since its commencement?
 - i. How many grants have been delivered to successful applicants?
 - (c) As at 6 April 2021, \$1.8 million in grants had been paid to successful applicants, with an average of \$4,979 approved per successful applicant.
 - i. As of 10 November 2021, how much has been paid out to successful applicants?
 - ii. What is the average dollar amount supplied to successful applicants?
67. Noting the further impact of COVID-19 on NSW over second half of 2021 will the Return to Work program be extended?
- (a) Will the Return to Work program be expanded in terms of funding?

Trade Skills Pathways Centre

68. The Trades Skills Pathways Centre was funded in order to address trades shortages in NSW in part by encouraging and supporting women to pursue careers in the trades.
- (a) Has a review of the effectiveness of this program been undertaken?
 - i. Against what criteria is the effectiveness of the program been measured?
 - (b) How many women have been assisted through this program?
 - (c) Does the Government keep track of future career development and experience?
 - i. If so, what information collected?

- ii. How is this information collected?

Reproductive health care

69. Reproductive health is considered essential to the empowerment of women by international authorities. The World Health Organisation states that reproductive health includes ensuring that individuals “have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.”
- (a) Noting the closure of clinics providing reproductive health services in Regional NSW, such as the Marie Stopes Clinic in Broadmeadow, what steps is the Minister taking to ensure that all women in NSW have access to adequate reproductive health care?
 - i. Noting public statements from Marie Stopes that the closure of the clinic was related in part to the regulatory environment in NSW, what steps has the Minister taken to address these concerns?

Investing in Women Funding Program

70. The 2021 Investing in Women Funding Program offered grants between \$5000 and \$100,000 aimed at “innovative programs that support the economic opportunity, advancement and participation of women and girls in NSW”. Applications closed on 30 April 2021. Successful applicants are not advertised on the website.
- (a) What is the status of the grants program?
 - (b) How many applications were received?
 - (c) How many grants were successful?
 - i. Who were the successful recipients?
 - ii. What were the successful projects?
 - iii. How much funding was awarded to each successful applicant?

Broderick review

71. The ongoing Broderick review is investigating the culture at Parliament and its management of unacceptable behaviour.

- (a) How involved has the minister been in ensuring the work of the review can proceed smoothly?
 - i. How and to what extent has the minister been supportive of women employed at Parliament in engaging with the review?
- (b) What role is the minister intending to take to ensure the review is appropriately considered and its recommendations implemented?

Women in the NSW public service

72. In the 2020 State of the NSW Public Sector Report, 66.4% of government employees were women, with just 41.1% of women in a senior leadership position.
- (a) What is the progress on the government's goal of reaching 50% female representation in leadership positions in the NSW public service?
 - i. How many of these women have been employed in ongoing or full-time positions?
 - ii. What is the average salary for women in this cohort?
 - iii. Is this salary at parity with their male counterparts?

Community Mental Health support and services

73. How much does each LHD spend on community mental health services?
74. What planning work have each of the LHD's done to identify additional support models that they need for their local communities?

Counselling appointments held via Telehealth

75. In relation to online or telehealth services for appointments related to mental health can you please advise how many of these were held in 2020?
76. For each of the LHD's, how many online or telehealth appointments for mental health were held in 2020 and to 1 November 2021?
77. In rural hospitals' Emergency Departments where they rely on mental health services to be conducted via Telehealth, what is the average wait time for someone presenting suicidal to be connected with a specialised trained health worker?

Men's Mental Health

78. How many people have been supported in the HealthWISE suicide prevention initiative in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
79. How many people have been supported in the Next Steps suicide attempt response team in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District?
80. How many people have been supported in the Kumpa Kiira Suicide Prevention Project in the far south-west NSW?