

QUESTION - Premiers Priorities

1. Will the current Premiers Priorities be re-adopted?
 - (a) If yes, will the current targets and timelines remain for each?
2. What is the process to decide which priorities will be adopted?
3. What is the timeline for deciding which Priorities to adopt?
4. When will the next update of data be published for each priority?
5. Please provide a breakdown by LGA for each of the following Priorities:
 - (a) Proportion of children and young people reported at risk of serious harm who are re-reported within 12 months of closure of their case plan
 - (b) Number of domestic violence assault reoffenders
 - (c) Proportion of adult reoffenders
 - (d) Greener public spaces
 - (e) Greening our city

ANSWER:

- 1–3. The Premier is currently working with Cabinet to set the forward policy agenda.
4. The Premier's Implementation Unit publishes data for all priorities in Q4 of the calendar year. The public facing website is due to be updated shortly.
5. The Department of Premier and Cabinet does not hold LGA-level data on these priorities, and requests should be directed to the Department of Communities and Justice and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

QUESTION - Resourcing of NSW independent bodies

6. Will you guarantee to provide the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) with all the resources it has requested to ensure elections in this state are operated safely from cybersecurity attacks?
 - (a) What level of funding has been requested in each of the past four financial years by the NSWEC?
 - (b) What level of added estimated funding is needed to enable the NSWEC to continue to undertake its important work?
7. Will your government provide the NSW Electoral Commission with the \$40m of total ongoing operational funding that the agency has sought but been denied over the past four budget cycles?
 - (a) When did the NSWEC first inform you of the need for \$40m to help assist it meet the New South Wales Government minimum standards?
8. Will you guarantee ongoing operational funding to the NSW Electoral Commission to help protect the jobs of the over 70 State Government employees whose employment will be put at risk from no funding source next financial year?

9. Will you also guarantee to provide adequate ongoing operational funding to enable other independent bodies, such as the ICAC and the Auditor-General, to continue their crucial oversight functions?

10. Local Government elections are less than a month away, yet concerns about the cyber safety of these elections remain and the Commissioner has requested an urgent meeting

(a) Have you meet with them yet?

(b) If not, have you offered representatives of these agencies with a meeting yet?

ANSWER:

The integrity and security of elections in New South Wales is of fundamental importance. The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that the New South Wales Electoral Commission is fully equipped to deliver elections safely and securely.

The Electoral Commission's proposal for cyber security funding from the Digital Restart Fund is being considered by the Government.

The Electoral Commission will receive \$201.4 million in 2021-22. This significant increase in funding, totalling an increase of 178% from last year, is for costs associated with conducting local government elections in December 2021.

The Government is committed to maintaining the highest standards of accountability and transparency. In doing so, the Government is fully committed to ensuring that the integrity agencies are properly resourced to fulfil their legislative mandates.

Following concerns raised by integrity bodies, the Government requested the Auditor-General to undertake a review of the effectiveness of the financial arrangements and management practices of integrity bodies. The Auditor-General's report was tabled in Parliament in October 2020. That report formed part of a series of reports in funding arrangements for integrity bodies.

The Public Accountability Committee of the Legislative Council has also conducted an inquiry into the Budget process for independent oversight bodies and the Parliament, and has tabled its two reports, including its final report.

The Government is now carefully considering the reports of the Auditor-General and the Public Accountability Committee in determining its position in relation to all the issues raised.

The Government has provided an interim response to the Public Accountability Committee noting that a full response will be provided to the Auditor-General's report and the Committee's report at the same time.

The delay is at the request of the Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Chairperson of the NSW Electoral Commission, and the Auditor-General, who wrote to the Premier to request further time for consultation on the Government's response. The Premier is in the process of meeting with the heads of these integrity agencies.

The Government takes the matters raised by the integrity bodies seriously, and their concerns, together with the recommendations of the various reports, are under active consideration.

The Government understands that the Electoral Commission is undertaking a number of activities to ensure the integrity and security of the upcoming local government elections, including collaborating with Cyber Security NSW to mitigate cyber security threats.

QUESTION – Youth

11. Which Minister in your government is responsible for youth affairs in metropolitan areas?
12. What support will the NSW Government provide to metro youth during recovery from COVID?
13. What support will the NSW Government provide to regional youth during recovery from COVID?
14. Will the NSW Government develop a Metropolitan NSW Youth Framework?
15. One of the four key pillars of the Youth Action Plan is “Wellbeing – mentally and physically healthy” with an allocation of “\$87 million for the Suicide Prevention Framework, where young people and regionally-based people are priority groups.”
https://www.regional.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1244345/NSW-Regional-Youth-Action-Plan.pdf Is suicide prevention a similar priority for metro youth?
- (a) Which Minister in your government is responsible for regional youth suicide prevention?
- (b) Which Minister in your government is responsible for metropolitan youth suicide prevention?
16. Will the NSW Government develop a Metropolitan Youth Action Plan?
17. Will the NSW Government establish an Office of Youth?
18. How many staff are employed by the NSW Government focusing on metropolitan youth affairs?
 - (a) In which agencies are they employed?
19. Which of the Premiers Priorities are relevant to Metropolitan Youth?
 - (a) Which agencies have identified staff to implement those priorities with a focus on metropolitan youth?

ANSWER:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.

QUESTION – Youth

19. Which of the Premiers Priorities are relevant to Metropolitan Youth?
 - (a) Which agencies have identified staff to implement those priorities with a focus on metropolitan youth?

ANSWER:

The Premier’s Priorities are publicly available.

QUESTION - Charter bus operators

20. What instructions have been given to schools regarding the safety of school excursions and school camps, and whether those activities can proceed?
21. What financial support has been offered to charter bus operators who have seen all their tours cancelled, and are reliant on either tourism or school excursions?
22. Will you commit to replying to correspondence received from Rod Williams, a charter bus operator and small business owner located in the Blue Mountains, who has seen his business decimated through cancellations?

ANSWER:

20. Advice provided on the Department of Education website notes that excursions will be allowed outdoors and indoors from 8 November. If the excursion is indoors, the cohort will need to have sole use of the venue. Excursions are day-only and not overnight. Excursions must comply with any COVID-safe requirements in place for that venue. Transportation to and from venues must maintain cohorts. Excursions will be allowed indoors or outdoors in cohorts. Any visitors on site to support excursions must be fully vaccinated and will be required to check in using the school check-in app and show proof of vaccination status on entry to the school site.

21. A range of supports have been offered to business, including:

- The 2021 COVID-19 business grant: designed to support businesses that experienced reduced demand or had to close due to the public health orders during the first 3 weeks of the lockdown. Businesses, sole traders and not-for-profit organisations impacted by COVID-19 were able to apply for a one-off payment of between \$7,500 and \$15,000.
- The 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant: designed to provide cash flow support for micro-businesses in NSW who have had their work impacted by the restrictions while continuing to incur business costs. Eligible businesses could apply for a fortnightly payment of \$1,500.
- The JobSaver payment: designed to provide cash flow support to impacted businesses throughout NSW to help maintain their NSW employee headcount.

22. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has received, and is currently responding to, the correspondence received from Mr Chris Minns MP on behalf of Mr Rod Williams.