



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

HEALTH

Hearing: Thursday 10 March 2022

Answers due by: 6 April 2022

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HEALTH

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

NSW Hospitals

1. How many hospitals in New South Wales in the last year have not had a doctor overnight?
 - (a) For any hospital in New South Wales that has not had a doctor overnight in the last year, please provide per hospital:
 - i. The number of instances?
 - ii. The dates?
2. How many hospitals in New South Wales in the last year have not had a doctor for three days in a row?
 - (a) For any hospital in New South Wales that has not had a doctor for three days in a row in the last year, please provide per hospital:
 - i. The number of instances?
 - ii. The dates?

COVID-19

3. For every month since June 2021 to current, please provide the number of people or patients who were infected with COVID-19 while being treated in a hospital?
 - (a) Please provide the above data, per month, broken down by each Local Health District?
4. For every month since January 2020, please provide the number of masks purchased by the Government in that month that were of N95, or comparable or greater filtration standard?
 - (a) Please provide the remaining number of masks purchased by the Government in those months that were below the standard?
5. Please provide a list of every order of masks placed by the Government since January 2020, including the following:
 - (a) Date of order?
 - (b) Number of masks ordered?
 - (c) Date of delivery?
 - (d) Number of masks delivered?
 - (e) Unit cost per mask?

- (f) Total cost of order?
 - (g) Location of the manufacturer:
 - i. New South Wales?
 - ii. Elsewhere in Australia?
 - iii. Overseas?
 - (h) The grading or standard of the masks ordered:
 - i. N95?
 - ii. KN95?
 - iii. P2?
 - iv. N99?
 - v. N100?
 - vi. Surgical mask?
 - vii. Other (please indicate)?
6. Can you please provide the number of people with COVID-19 being treated at home under the Hospital in the Home program, for each day since 1 December 2021, to current? (if daily data is not available, please provide weekly data).
7. Can you please provide the number of people with COVID-19 being treated at home under any other hospital-managed program, for each day since 1 December 2021, to current? (if daily data is not available, please provide weekly data).
8. For every month since January 2020:
- (a) Please provide the total dollar amount spent by the State Government to fund COVID PCR testing in New South Wales?
 - (b) Please provide the total dollar amount spent in total by all Governments to fund COVID PCR testing in New South Wales?
 - (c) Please provide the total dollar amount spent by the State Government to fund COVID rapid antigen testing in New South Wales?
 - (d) Please provide the total dollar amount spent in total by all Governments to fund COVID rapid antigen testing in New South Wales?

9. Please provide a list of every order of rapid antigen tests placed by the Government since January 2020, including the following:
- (a) Date of order?
 - (b) Number of rapid antigen tests ordered?
 - (c) Date of delivery?
 - (d) Number of rapid antigen tests delivered?
 - (e) Unit cost per test?
 - (f) Total cost of order?
 - (g) Location of the test manufacturer:
 - i. New South Wales?
 - ii. Elsewhere in Australia?
 - iii. Overseas?
10. For every day since 20 December 2021 to now:
- (a) Please provide the number of rapid antigen tests distributed for free at testing centres or hubs?
 - (b) Please provide the number of rapid antigen tests distributed for free to Government workers, staff, or frontline workers?
 - (c) Please provide the number of rapid antigen tests distributed for free by the Government using any other method not covered in questions 10(a) or 10(b)?
11. For each of the following months, can the Minister please provide the number of Rapid Antigen Tests purchased by every agency or Department in the NSW Government, and what the per unit item cost paid was?
- (a) January 2021?
 - (b) February 2021?
 - (c) March 2021?
 - (d) April 2021?
 - (e) May 2021?
 - (f) June 2021?
 - (g) July 2021?

- (h) August 2021?
- (i) September 2021?
- (j) October 2021?
- (k) November 2021?
- (l) December 2021?
- (m) January 2022?
- (n) February 2022?
- (o) March 2022?

12. Can the Minister please provide the total third dose vaccination rate for New South Wales, for all vaccination channels combined, including NSW Health, General Practitioners, pharmacies, hubs, and all other methods, for each day since booster doses began being rolled out? (If daily data is not available, please provide weekly data).

Sentinel Events

13. For every financial year from 2011-12 to current, please provide the following:
- (a) The total number of sentinel events in public hospitals?
 - (b) A breakdown of that year's sentinel events by category or type of sentinel event?

Elective Surgery

14. In June 2020 \$388 million was announced for elective surgery.
- (a) Can you please outline how much of this has been spent as at 1 March 2022?
 - (b) Can you please provide a breakdown of how this was allocated by Local Health District?

Election Commitments

15. As of 1 March 2022, how many of the 5000 additional nurses and midwives that were committed at the last election have been recruited?
16. As of 1 March 2022, how many of the 100 additional palliative care nurses that were committed at the last election have been recruited?
17. As of 1 November 2021, how many of the 8 additional children's allergy nurses that were committed at the last election have been recruited?
18. As of 1 March 2022, how many of the 24 additional cataract surgery nurses that were committed at the last election have been recruited?

19. As of 1 March 2022, how many of the 23 additional mental health nurses that were committed at the last election have been recruited?
20. As of 1 March 2022, how many of the 8.2 additional paediatric care nurses that were committed at the last election have been recruited?

Cost of locums

21. In relation to locums in NSW hospitals:
 - (a) What is the average cost per day for Locums visiting rural NSW?
 - (b) What is the highest rate that is currently paid for Locums visiting NSW per day?
 - (c) What other costs are covered for Locums when they visit rural NSW? (ie accommodation, food, incidentals)

Cardiac surgery at Sydney Children's Hospital

22. In relation to the Government's announcement in 2020 that paediatric cardiac surgery would be reinstated at Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick (SCHR):
 - (a) Have any surgeries have taken place at SCHR?
 - (b) If not, why?
23. How long is the wait for a child needing an MRI at SCHR?

Dental waiting lists

24. As at 1 March 2022, how many people are on the public dental waiting lists in each of the LHD's?

Domestic Violence NSW

25. In relation to NSW Health funding for domestic violence:
 - (a) Is there funding for NSW Health to roll out the NSW wide 24 Hour dedicated domestic and family violence response, which NSW Health has invested in planning and consulting on?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (c) Why has there been no additional NSW Government funding for domestic and family violence forensic units after the success of the Domestic Violence Documentation Project first trialled in Nepean Hospital in 2010?
26. What are the evaluation results from the pilot project of co-locating Domestic and Family Violence support services in six NSW hospitals?
 - (a) If they are not currently available, when will they be?

27. Has NSW Health finalised protocols and referral pathways for women and children presenting with potential and actual head injuries from Sexual and Domestic Family Violence at NSW Hospitals?
- (a) If so, are these protocols and referral pathways publicly available?

Sexual Assault

28. Many sexual assault services in NSW operate a waitlist and are unable to support numerous victims who are in need. Why has there been no substantial increase in NSW Government funding for sexual assault services across NSW when we have seen a 65% increase in the reporting of sexual assault since March 2020?

Women's health

29. Why hasn't the Government kept Women's Health Centres' core funding, at a minimum, in line with CPI?
- (a) Why hasn't funding for Women's Health Centres kept pace with overall funding of NSW Health?
- (b) Does the Government have any plans to increase baseline funding for women's health centres?
- (c) What will the NSW Government do in order to ensure Women's Health Centres can continue to offer their services to everyone who comes through their door?
30. Will the NSW Government commit to establishing and funding the Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre?
- (a) If not, why will the NSW Government not commit to the project?
31. Are terminations easily accessible (including no cost options), through the public health system (such as public hospitals)?
- (a) Would the NSW Government consider that terminations are easily accessible in rural and remote areas?
- (b) Is the NSW Government working on a plan to make terminations easily accessible in rural and remote areas?
- i. If so, what is the timeline for this plan?
- ii. Under such a plan, where would these services be available?

Mental Health

32. It has been recognised that the current Housing and Mental Health Agreement (HMHA) is not working and needs to be revised. After several rounds of paying consultants to produce reports, why has there been no funding allocated to implement their recommendations?

Maternal Health

33. What additional funding and resources is the NSW Government committing to overcome the disparity in maternal health outcomes between metropolitan and rural /regional NSW?
34. Given the overwhelming evidence of severe disparities in access to reproductive health services between metropolitan and rural/regional NSW, can the NSW Government specify the funding in this budget to start to reverse this situation?
35. Given the overwhelming evidence of the positive impacts of Birthing on Country programs on maternal health and well-being, reduction of preterm births and the health of infants, what additional support is the NSW Government giving to new Birthing on Country sites across NSW?

Consent

36. What support is the NSW Government giving to comprehensive, evidence based, sexuality and consent based education in NSW private and public schools?
 - (a) How is the NSW Government supporting public, health-based education to broaden understanding of sexuality and consent across diverse communities?

New South Wales Local Health Districts

37. Regarding health matters that require engagement at a ministerial level with respect to the Districts listed below, should MLAs and MLCs make contact with and speak to the office of the Minister for Regional Health or the office of the Minister for Health?:
 - (a) Far West Local Health District;
 - (b) Hunter New England Local Health District;
 - (c) Mid North Coast Local Health District;
 - (d) Murrumbidgee Local Health District;
 - (e) Northern NSW Local Health District;
 - (f) Southern NSW Local Health District;
 - (g) Western NSW Local Health District;
 - (h) Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District; and
 - (i) South Western Sydney Local Health District,

ACON

38. The ACON 2020-2021 Annual Report records on page 84 that for the year ended 30th June 2021 the NSW Department of Health provided a grant totalling \$12,639,286 up from the \$12,020,116 provided in the 2019-2020 financial year. What was the criteria used to determine that ACON should receive an increase in funding of \$619,170 between the 2019-2020 financial year and the 2020-2021 financial year?

39. The ACON 2020-2021 Annual Report records on page 84 that for the year ended 30th June 2021, in addition to the grant of \$12,639,286 provided by NSW Department of Health, further grants of \$584,291 (up from the \$439,703 in the 2019-2020 financial year) were provided by Local Health Districts. The Annual Report does not specify which Local Health Districts provided grants.
- (a) What authorisation, if any, was given by the Minister for Health permitting Local Health Districts to, on top of the \$12,639,286 grant provided by NSW Department of Health, provide a further \$584,291 in grants to ACON in the 2020-2021 financial year?
 - (b) Which Local Health Districts provided grants to ACON in the 2020-2021 financial year?
40. On 31st March 2020, ACON launched a new online platform called TransHub. The platform is accessed through the ACON website. TransHub contains extensive information including details about puberty blocking procedures, cross-sex hormone treatment and surgery. It also provides a detailed list of what are referred to as Gender Affirming Doctors. Has the Minister for Health, as far as it relates to children and adolescents, undertaken an examination of the content, information, advice and links on the TransHub platform to ensure that it is medically accurate and fully accords with the policies, directives and clinical standards and guidelines of the NSW Department of Health?

Hospital Staffing

41. What was the patient to nurse ratio in the Hunter New England Local Health District during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
42. What was the patient to nurse ratio in the Central Coast Local Health District during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
43. How many doctors were employed in the Hunter New England Local Health District during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
44. How many doctors were employed in the Central Coast Local Health District during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?

- (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
45. How many nurses were employed in the Hunter New England Local Health District during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
46. How many nurses were employed in the Central Coast Local Health District during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?

GP Access and Emergency Department

47. How many patients attended the Belmont Hospital GP Access clinic during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
48. How many patients attended the Belmont Hospital Emergency Department during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
49. How many patients were referred to the Belmont Hospital GP Access clinic from the Belmont Hospital Emergency Department during the:
- (a) 2019/2020 financial year?
 - (b) 2020/2021 financial year?
 - (c) 2021/2022 financial year?
50. Since 1 January 2022, how many patients have attended the Belmont Hospital GP Access clinic?
51. Since 1 January 2022, how many patients have attended the Belmont Hospital GP Access clinic on a weekend?

52. Since 1 January 2022, how many patients have attended the Belmont Hospital GP Access clinic on weeknights?
53. Since 1 January 2022, how many patients have attended the Belmont Hospital Emergency department?
54. Since 1 January 2022, how many patients have attended the Belmont Hospital Emergency Department on a weekend?
55. Since 1 January 2022, how many patients have attended the Belmont Hospital Emergency Department on weeknights?
56. The Belmont Hospital GP Access after-hours service had its weekend operating hours halved in January, due to state and federal government funding cuts. Will the Belmont clinic also have its weeknight operating hours reduced?

Ettalong Ambulance Station

57. What is the average wait-time for ambulances who have arrived at Gosford Hospital?
58. How many paramedics are currently employed at the Ettalong Ambulance Station?
59. How many ambulances are currently in use at the Ettalong Ambulance Station?
60. Can you please confirm that in 2019, \$185,000 was spent on refurbishing Ettalong Ambulance Station?
 - (a) Are you now planning to close Ettalong Ambulance Station despite spending \$185,000 on the facility not too long ago?
61. Did you consult with the staff at the Ettalong Ambulance Station before you announced the closure?
62. Will all the paramedics from Ettalong Ambulance Station be transferred to Woy Woy Ambulance Station?
63. Have you carried out modelling on the impacts on the response times once you close Ettalong?
 - (a) If this modelling has been done, are you able to provide the modelling?
64. Do you have an estimate of the recent population growth in the postcodes of 2257 and 2251, particularly in light of the impact from COVID-19 as WFH arrangements have attracted those from urban centres to the area?

- (a) Have adequate assessments been made as to how this will add to the demand for ambulance and paramedic services in the area?
65. Please provide a copy of the traffic modelling conducted for the new Woy Woy Ambulance Station?
- (a) Has the traffic modelling undertaken an assessment of the use of ambulances during peak hours along Ocean Beach Road and its effect on the following:
 - i. Wait-times for ambulance services, and;
 - ii. Traffic congestion

Disability Employment

66. How many employees who identify with having a disability are employed by:
- (a) Ministry of Health
 - (b) Health Professional Councils Authority
 - (c) Mental Health Commission
 - (d) Health Care Complaints Commission
 - (e) NSW Health
67. How many senior managers who identify with having a disability are employed by:
- (a) Ministry of Health
 - (b) Health Professional Councils Authority
 - (c) Mental Health Commission
 - (d) Health Care Complaints Commission
 - (e) NSW Health

HEALTH

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Sexual Violence Services

68. Please provide a breakdown of all sexual violence services funded by Health, the funding they have received from Health for each financial year since FY2017-18, and where possible the amount of funding requested through pre-budget submissions for each of these years.

24 Hour Domestic & Family Violence Response

69. Is there funding for NSW Health to roll out the NSW wide, 24 Hour dedicated domestic and family violence response which NSW Health have invested in planning and consulting on? If not, why not?

Domestic and family violence forensic units

70. Why has there been no additional NSW Government funding for domestic and family violence forensic units after the success of the Domestic Violence Documentation Project first trialled in Nepean Hospital in 2010?

Cosmetic Surgery

71. Following the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission's 2018 November report entitled 'Cosmetic Health Service Complaints in New South Wales' (the Cosmetic Health Care Report), what research has been undertaken by NSW Health, or by the Federal government and made available to NSW Health, about the behaviours of, and influences on, consumers seeking cosmetic health services?
72. How many complaints in relation to cosmetic health services has the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) investigated in each of the financial years ended 30 June 2018, 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021?
- (a) How many for each of the calendar years ended 31 December 2018, 31 December 2019, 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2021?
 - (b) For each period, how many were in relation to registered practitioners?
 - (c) For each period, how many were in relation to individuals who were not registered practitioners?
73. What are NSW Health's plans for future policy, regulation and education programs in relation to cosmetic surgery?
74. What is the Minister's position on the regulation of the use of intense pulsed light devices and laser devices for cosmetic health services?

- (a) Will the Minister be introducing tighter restrictions on the use of such devices?
75. Is the Minister of the view that individuals providing cosmetic health services, and employees of those persons, in NSW are adequately disclosing commissions, incentives and other payments they receive for encouraging patients to agree to procedures, more of the same procedure or additional procedures?
- (a) How is this disclosure being monitored?
76. What is the Minister's position on the issue of whether patients seeking invasive cosmetic surgery should be required to first consult their General Practitioner?
- (a) Has the Minister raised this issue with the COAG Health Council, as recommended in the Cosmetic Health Care Report?
77. In its response to the recommendations made in the Cosmetic Health Care Report, the Government stated that Health and NSW Fair Trading will consider the Medical Board of Australia's 'Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures' to determine if they remain suitable or whether the Medical Board of Australia should be asked to review the guidelines. What was the result of that review?
78. In its response to the recommendations made in the Cosmetic Health Care Report, the Government stated that Health and NSW Fair Trading will consider whether cosmetic health services provided by non-registered health practitioners should be subject to a cooling off period. What was the result of that review?
79. Is Health able to capture data in relation to revision surgery in the public system to correct cosmetic health procedures, as recommended in the Cosmetic Health Care Report?

HEALTH

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Paramedics

80. Does NSW Health have data on how often paramedics are missing their meal breaks?
 - (a) If yes, can you provide this data?
 - (b) Is this data used by NSW Health as a key indicator of workforce stress?
81. What was the cost of missed meal breaks for Paramedics last year?
82. What was the cost of end of shift overtime for paramedics last year?
83. Have response times for high priority emergencies increased in the last 12 months?
 - (a) If so, by how much?
84. Can you provide a breakdown for each Local Health District of the cost of paramedics transferring patients where a Patient Transfer Service (PTS) vehicle would be more appropriate, but was unavailable?
85. How often do regional NSW paramedics provide Patient Transport Services due to the lack of availability of PTS vehicles?
86. How much does it cost to train an extended care paramedic?
 - (a) What is the additional cost to employ an extended care paramedic per year?
87. What is the average cost of an emergency hospital admission in regional NSW?
88. How many full time equivalent extended care paramedic positions are there for each regional Local Health District?
 - (a) Per local health district, how many of those positions are vacant?
 - (b) Per local health district, how many of those positions are filled?
89. How many full time equivalent intensive care paramedic positions are there for each Local Health District?
 - (a) Per local health district, how many of those positions are vacant?
 - (b) Per local health district, how many of those positions are filled?