



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast

Hearing: 22 February 2024

Answers due by: Wednesday, 20th March 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC *(on behalf of the Opposition)*

HEALTH

Palliative Care

- (1) Will the Hunter New England LHD still be hiring the following staff under the World Class End of Life Programme over the next 5 years:
 - (a) 35 Full time Palliative care eNursing Staff
 - (b) 7 Full time Aboriginal health care workers
 - (c) 3 FT Bereavement Services employees
 - (d) 3 FT adolescent and young adult palliative care service.
- (2) Will the Tamworth Palliative Care Unit still have a capacity upgrade of 12 beds as was planned in the 2022 budget?
- (3) Will the Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD still receive an additional 3.5 FTE bereavement counsellors as was planned in the 2022 budget?
- (4) Will the Nepean Blue Mountains LHD still increase the community based multidisciplinary workforce over 5 years to 24.13 FTE as planned in the 22-23 Budget
 - (a) Including in-reach services, nursing, medical and allied health resources?
- (5) How many new FTE specialist palliative care positions will be created over the next 5 years in:
 - (a) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD
 - (b) Hunter New England LHD
 - (c) Western NSW LHD
 - (d) Sydney LHD
 - (e) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD
 - (f) Northern Sydney LHD
 - (g) South Eastern Sydney LHD
 - (h) South Western Sydney LHD

- (i) Sydney LHD
 - (j) Central Coast LHD
 - (k) Mid-North Coast LHD
 - (l) Western Sydney LHD
 - (m) Far West LHD
 - (n) Murrumbidgee LHD
 - (o) Southern NSW LHD
 - (p) Northern NSW LHD
- (6) How many new FTE palliative care nursing positions will be created over the next five years in:
- (a) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD
 - (b) Hunter New England LHD
 - (c) Western NSW LHD
 - (d) Sydney LHD
 - (e) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD
 - (f) Northern Sydney LHD
 - (g) South Eastern Sydney LHD
 - (h) South Western Sydney LHD
 - (i) Sydney LHD
 - (j) Central Coast LHD
 - (k) Mid-North Coast LHD
 - (l) Western Sydney LHD
 - (m) Far West LHD
 - (n) Murrumbidgee LHD
 - (o) Southern NSW LHD
 - (p) Northern NSW LHD

- (7) How many Aboriginal Healthcare workers will be hired for palliative care over the next five years in:
- (a) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD
 - (b) Hunter New England LHD
 - (c) Western NSW LHD
 - (d) Sydney LHD
 - (e) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD
 - (f) Northern Sydney LHD
 - (g) South Eastern Sydney LHD
 - (h) South Western Sydney LHD
 - (i) Sydney LHD
 - (j) Central Coast LHD
 - (k) Mid-North Coast LHD
 - (l) Western Sydney LHD
 - (m) Far West LHD
 - (n) Murrumbidgee LHD
 - (o) Southern NSW LHD
 - (p) Northern NSW LHD
- (8) By what percentage is the demand for palliative care expected to grow across the state?
- (a) Are you able to provide this broken down by LHD?
- (9) How many FTE specialist palliative care positions have been created in the 2023-2024 year in:
- (a) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD
 - (b) Hunter New England LHD
 - (c) Western NSW LHD
 - (d) Sydney LHD
 - (e) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD

- (f) Northern Sydney LHD
 - (g) South Eastern Sydney LHD
 - (h) South Western Sydney LHD
 - (i) Sydney LHD
 - (j) Central Coast LHD
 - (k) Mid-North Coast LHD
 - (l) Western Sydney LHD
 - (m) Far West LHD
 - (n) Murrumbidgee LHD
 - (o) Southern NSW LHD
 - (p) Northern NSW LHD
- (10) How many FTE palliative care nursing positions were created in 2023-2024 in:
- (a) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD
 - (b) Hunter New England LHD
 - (c) Western NSW LHD
 - (d) Sydney LHD
 - (e) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD
 - (f) Northern Sydney LHD
 - (g) South Eastern Sydney LHD
 - (h) South Western Sydney LHD
 - (i) Sydney LHD
 - (j) Central Coast LHD
 - (k) Mid-North Coast LHD
 - (l) Western Sydney LHD
 - (m) Far West LHD
 - (n) Murrumbidgee LHD
 - (o) Southern NSW LHD

- (p) Northern NSW LHD
- (11) What is the level of funding provided to the following LHDs as part of the World Class End of Life Care programme in 2023-2024
- (a) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD
 - (b) Hunter New England LHD
 - (c) Western NSW LHD
 - (d) Sydney LHD
 - (e) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD
 - (f) Northern Sydney LHD
 - (g) South Eastern Sydney LHD
 - (h) South Western Sydney LHD
 - (i) Sydney LHD
 - (j) Central Coast LHD
 - (k) Mid-North Coast LHD
 - (l) Western Sydney LHD
 - (m) Far West LHD
 - (n) Murrumbidgee LHD
 - (o) Southern NSW LHD
 - (p) Northern NSW LHD
- (12) Is the number of children receiving paediatric palliative care expected to increase over the next 5 years?
- (13) How many Palliative Care Specialist doctors (measured as FTEs) work under any of the engagement arrangements available with NSW Health, in any NSW Health facility in the following:
- Metropolitan Local Health Districts
- (a) Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District?
 - (b) Northern Sydney Local Health District?

- (c) South Eastern Sydney Local Health District?
- (d) South Western Sydney Local Health District?
- (e) Sydney Local Health District?
- (f) Western Sydney Local Health District?

Regional and Rural NSW Local Health Districts

- (g) Central Coast Local Health District?
- (h) Far West Local Health District?
- (i) Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (j) Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District?
- (k) Mid North Coast Local Health District?
- (l) Murrumbidgee Local Health District?
- (m) Northern NSW Local Health District?
- (n) Southern NSW Local Health District?
- (o) Western NSW Local Health District?

Specialty Networks

- (p) Sydney Children's Hospitals Network?
- (q) Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health?

Affiliated Health Organisations

- (r) St Vincent's Health Network?
- (s) St Vincent's Hospital?

- (14) How many Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners (measured as FTEs) work under any of the engagement arrangements available with NSW Health, in any NSW Health facility in the following:

Metropolitan Local Health Districts

- (a) Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District?
- (b) Northern Sydney Local Health District?

- (c) South Eastern Sydney Local Health District?
- (d) South Western Sydney Local Health District?
- (e) Sydney Local Health District?
- (f) Western Sydney Local Health District?

Regional and Rural NSW Local Health Districts

- (g) Central Coast Local Health District?
- (h) Far West Local Health District?
- (i) Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (j) Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District?
- (k) Mid North Coast Local Health District?
- (l) Murrumbidgee Local Health District?
- (m) Northern NSW Local Health District?
- (n) Southern NSW Local Health District?
- (o) Western NSW Local Health District?

Specialty Networks

- (p) Sydney Children's Hospitals Network?
- (q) Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health?

Affiliated Health Organisations

- (r) St Vincent's Health Network?
- (s) St Vincent's Hospital?

Voluntary Assisted Dying

- (15) What specific avenue is available for an individual working for NSW Health to report and obtain advice about any instance of their conscientious objection rights, pursuant to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022* being questioned, challenged or overridden?
- (16) Regarding the above, what are the contact details including address, telephone, mobile and email for an individual working for NSW Health to report and obtain advice about any

instance of their conscientious objection rights, pursuant to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022* being questioned, challenged or overridden?

Drug Diversion

- (17) What was the number of drug-related hospital admissions in 2022-2023?
- (18) What was the number of drug-related hospital admissions in 2012-2013?
- (19) Has there been wastewater analysis in Sydney conducted to determine levels of drug use within the community?
 - (a) If so, what were the results of that analysis?
 - (b) Does that analysis indicate the use of particular drugs?
- (20) How many drug-related deaths were there in NSW in 2022-2023?
- (21) How many drug relate deaths were there in NSW in 2012-2103?

David Berry Hospital

- (22) Noting the Department's answers concerning David Berry Hospital, can the Minister rule out the sale of David Berry Hospital?
- (23) If not, what advice is the NSW Government considering concerning the future of the David Berry Hospital site?
- (24) Has the Minister visited David Berry Hospital?
- (25) Will the staffing positions at David Berry Hospital be preserved at another site in the LHD?
- (26) What consultation has taken place with the local community concerning the future of David Berry Hospital?
- (27) Is the Minister aware that the David Berry Hospital was entrusted as a gift to the people of NSW?
- (28) What legal advice has been sought in respect of the trust arrangement?

Hawkesbury Hospital – transfer to NSW Health

- (29) Will staff be expected to pay for parking at Hawkesbury Hospital when it is transferred to the public health system, and will that commence on the 1st July 2024 or any date going forward?

- (30) Will patients and visitors also be expected to pay for parking at Hawkesbury Hospital when it is transferred to the public system or any time thereafter?
- (31) Will all current permanent, part-time and casual employees at the Hawkesbury Hospital will retain their job and conditions when they are transferred from St John of God Health Care to NSW Health?
- (32) Can the Minister for Health guarantee no staff transferring from St John of God Health Care to NSW Health will be compelled to join a Union as a condition of their on-going employment at the Hawkesbury Hospital?
- (33) Will there be no reduction in patient or visitor accessibility times at Hawkesbury Hospital after it transferred to NSW Health?
- (34) Can the Minister for Health provide plans for the Hawkesbury Hospital community health services after the Hospital is transferred to NSW Health and guarantee there will be no reduction in community health services available from Hawkesbury Hospital?
- (35) Can the Minister for Health provide details of plans and projects Health Infrastructure NSW have for Hawkesbury Hospital for the next four years. Can the Minister advise whether Health Infrastructure is undertaking any project scoping for the Hawkesbury Hospital?
- (36) Can the Minister for Health guarantee there will be seamless payroll functioning when the transfer of the Hawkesbury Hospital is actioned? Can the Minister guarantee all St John of God Health Care staff entitlements will be transferred to NSW Health without disadvantaging quantity or value of the entitlements. These entitlements include, but are not limited to, sick leave, annual leave and long service leave?
- (37) Can the Minister for Health provide an undertaking a Hawkesbury Hospital Community Consultative Committee will be established and resourced by Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District when the Hospital is transferred to NSW Health?
- (38) Media reports of abuse and assaults at the mental health unit at Cumberland Hospital quote you as saying you have been aware of the serious safety issues at the hospital since the middle of 2023. Minister, can you provide this committee with a briefing of your response and actions to the stop the assaults on patients and staff at Cumberland Hospital mental health unit?

- (39) As Minister responsible for whistle-blower protection at NSW Health,
- (a) Can you provide a report of the response to staff allegations of assaults and abuse of staff and patients at Cumberland Hospital mental health unit?
 - (b) Does the response to whistle-blower reports comply with the NSW Public Interest Disclosure Act 2022?
 - (c) Can you assure this Committee no current or former staff member at Cumberland Hospital has suffered detrimental action following their reports of assaults and abuse at the hospital?

REGIONAL HEALTH

Manning Base Hospital Acute Ward

- (40) Is the Manning Base Hospital supporting aged care patients by appointing the necessary legal powers, such as Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship, to enable a smooth transition from the acute medical wards to a registered aged care facility?
- (a) Please outline what this support looks like.
- (41) NSW health guidelines stipulate patients with impaired capacity cannot be transferred to a residential aged care facility without a legally appointed decision-maker. Does this mean the onus on social work staff to support patients to explore all options to appoint Power of Attorney legally?
- (42) Without a legally appointed decision maker, the residential aged care facility will not accept patients. Is it correct that this was made a barrier of discharge in September?
- (43) What resources is the hospital providing to vulnerable aged care patients to reduce the length of stay at the hospital?
- (44) Is the social work team held accountable for their Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship responsibility?
- (45) How often are formal check-ins conducted with the social work team?
- (46) Have any aged care patients passed away in Manning Base Hospital without a Power of Attorney or Enduring Guardianship?
- (a) If so, how many?
- (47) Are patients no longer requiring acute medical care at increased risk of acquiring hospital-related infections?

(48) Is there a plan to improve the current situation in the Acute Ward of the Manning Base Hospital?

Manning Base Hospital Stage Two

(49) When will the Clinical Services Plan for the Stage Two Redevelopment be made available?

(50) When will the Stage Two Redevelopment will be completed?

(51) Are there any further plans for future redevelopment of the Manning Hospital?

(52) Have considerations been made for cardiac services?

(53) What about a hybrid theatre within the Clinical Services Plan as part of the Stage Two Redevelopment of the Manning Hospital?

(54) Is there sufficient funding to complete the project, or will it need to be rescope?

(55) If a rescope is required, what is the scheduled timeline to look at the rescope of the project?

(56) Will the community be provided with a timeline for project completion?

(57) What is the projected budget allocation, considering Stage Two was scheduled for completion in 2026?

Foster Urgent Care Centre

(58) Considering current circumstances, will there be special consideration for an Urgent Care Centre (UCC) in Foster?

(59) Have you met with relevant stakeholders to hear their regional concerns and the need for a UCC?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

HEALTH

Procurement

(60) How much money has the Department and its agencies spent on products purchased from Hewlett Packard (inclusive of HP Enterprise businesses, HP end-user businesses, and any other businesses representing the Hewlett Packard brand) (HP):

(a) Please provide this information for each financial year since 2018/19 including 2023/24 to 31 December 2023, divided by agency, and include a short description of

the kinds of products purchased for each agency each year, including whether any money has been spent since 7 October 2023.

- (61) What policies and procedures does the Department and its agencies use to ensure that procurement is ethical and meets community standards?
- (62) If the Department or any of its agencies procure products from Hewlett Packard (meaning any business representing the Hewlett Packard brand), what probity checks have been done to investigate whether HP is involved in the 'plausible genocide' taking place in Gaza?
- (63) How many contractors currently work within the Ministry of Health?
- (64) How many contractors have been on contracts longer than
 - (a) 3 months
 - (b) 6 months
 - (c) 12 month
 - (d) 18 months
 - (e) 24 months
 - (f) 36 months
- (65) What is the longest period of continuous employment for a contractor employed by the Department or its agencies?