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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 59

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2011

The Questions and Answers Paper is published at the end of each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on that sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered. During any adjournment of two weeks or more a Questions and Answers Paper will be published from time to time containing answers received.

| Publication of Questions | Answer to be lodged by |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Q & A No. 47 (Including Question Nos 1059 to 1090) | 15 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 48 (Including Question Nos 1091 to 1117) | 16 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 49 (Including Question Nos 1118 to 1133) | 17 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 50 (Including Question Nos 1134 to 1203) | 18 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 51 (Including Question Nos 1204 to 1225) | 21 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 52 (Including Question Nos 1226 to 1239) | 22 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 53 (Including Question Nos 1240 to 1247) | 23 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 54 (Including Question Nos 1248 to 1282) | 24 November 2011 |
| Q & A No. 55 (Including Question Nos 1283 to 1306) | 13 December 2011 |
| Q & A No. 56 (Including Question Nos 1307 to 1325) | 14 December 2011 |
| Q & A No. 57 (Including Question Nos 1326 to 1335) | 15 December 2011 |
| Q & A No. 58 (Including Question Nos 1336 to 1369) | 16 December 2011 |
| Q & A No. 59 (Including Question Nos 1370 to 1388) | 27 December 2011 |

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*1059 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many procedures have been carried out at the Mount Druitt Hospital dental clinic for the nine month period ending 30 September 2011?
- (2) How do these figures compare to the same period in:
 - (a) 2010;
 - (b) 2009?

Answer—

I am responding to this question as it falls within my portfolio as Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, rather than that of the Minister for Health.

I am advised:

17,266 procedures have been carried out at Mt Druitt Hospital Dental Clinic during the nine month period from 1 January to 30 September 2011. For the same period in 2010 it was 19,215; and 18,754 in 2009.

*1060 MILLFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL—FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to the election commitment made by the Member for Oxley and the Nationals candidate Alison Davey for funding to install 40 kph flashing lights at Millfield Public School:

- (1) Was the commitment contingent on the election of Alison Davey?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm that the Government will fulfil this commitment?
- (3) Will the money be available in the 2011-2012 budget?
- (4) If the funding is not forthcoming in the 2011-2012 budget, when will the funding be committed and available?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (4) The Government will fulfil this commitment. Millfield Public School will receive flashing lights by the end of November 2011.

*1061 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to 40 kph flashing lights for public schools:

- (1) How many schools will have the flashing lights installed in 2012?
- (2) Will any of them be in the Cessnock electorate?
- (3) What is the timeframe for completion of flashing lights at all NSW public schools?
- (4) What is the cost to complete all remaining flashing lights installations at NSW public schools?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Approximately 144 school zones will have flashing lights installed in 2012. The number of schools that will receive flashing lights will vary, as some school zones apply to more than one school, and some schools may have more than one school zone.

The school zones to receive flashing lights in 2012 and beyond have not yet been identified.

The sites for additional flashing lights to be rolled out between 2012 and 2015 will be selected by assessing school zones against set criteria including crash risk, traffic and pedestrian volumes, approach speed limits, number of travel lanes, existing crossing facilities, sight distance requirements, road environment and geometry.

All schools, including those in the Cessnock electorate, will be assessed against these criteria.

The Government has committed \$13 million over four years for the installation of flashing lights in school zones. This will lead to flashing lights being installed at 540 additional school zones by the end of June 2015.

*1062 PUBLIC SERVICE JOB CUTS IN RESEARCH FACILITIES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Will there be any cuts to public service jobs in research facilities in the Hunter, including the following:

- (a) Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI);
- (b) John Hunter Hospital;
- (c) Calvary Mater Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are no plans to cut public service jobs in research facilities at either John Hunter Hospital or Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital.

The Hunter Medical Research Institute is an independent institute and not part of the public service.

*1063 CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW—PENALTIES IMPOSED—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What penalties have been imposed by Corrective Services NSW on the private operators of Junee and Parklea Correctional Centres in the following periods:

- (a) 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010;
- (b) 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011;
- (c) 1 July 2011 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

GEO Australia Ltd has been penalised \$10,000 in respect of the escape of a Parklea Correctional Centre inmate from a hospital escort on 27 November 2010. The inmate was recaptured within the hospital grounds.

*1064 AIRFLIGHT EXPENDITURES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What have been the airflight expenditures by your Department since 27 March 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 17 October 2011, expenditure on airflights by staff during this period was \$ 1,093,782 (excluding GST). This amount also includes airflights undertaken by judicial officers, tribunal members and court administration officers.

In addition Juvenile Justice expended \$292,839 on the air transport of clients (as at 11 October 2011).

*1065 NSW TRUSTEE AND GUARDIAN—ASSAULTS ON STAFF—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many assaults on staff have occurred at which offices of the NSW Trustee and Guardian in the periods:

- (a) 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010;
- (b) 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011;
- (c) 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) One physical assault was reported at the Clarence Street office. In addition, staff reported a total of eight incidents of verbal threats, two at Clarence Street, one at Liverpool, one at Burwood and four at the Parramatta Justice Precinct office. Seven incidents of telephone threats were also reported, one at Lismore and six to the specialist intensive team at the Parramatta Justice Precinct.
- (b) One physical assault was reported at the Clarence Street office. In addition, staff reported 17 incidents of verbal threats, four at Clarence Street, four at Gosford, two at Hurstville, five at the Parramatta Justice Precinct office, one at Lismore and one at Liverpool. Five incidents of telephone threats were reported, two at the Liverpool office and three at the Parramatta Justice

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Precinct office (including one to the specialist intensive team and one to the long term residential team).

- (c) Three physical assaults were reported, one at the Clarence Street office and two at the Sydney Central office. In addition, staff reported 12 incidents of verbal threats, two at the Clarence Street office, three at Gosford, three at the Parramatta Justice Precinct office and four at Sydney Central office. Sixteen incidents of telephone threats were reported, two at Lismore, two at Liverpool, two at Newcastle and ten at the Sydney Central office.

*1066 CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—EXTRA BEDS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) (a) How many and which correctional centres have had extra beds placed in them since 1 July 2008?
(b) Do they remain there?
(2) How many such beds contravene the minimum space allowed under the Public Health Regulation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) Since 1 July 2008, four correctional centres, being Wellington Correctional Centre, Mid North Coast Correctional Centre, South Coast Correctional Centre and Parklea Correctional Centre have each had extra beds placed in them.
(b) Yes.
(2) Nil.

*1067 CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—WALL MOUNTED RINGS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many and which correctional centres have wall mounted rings used to attach inmates by their handcuffs?
(2) How often and which ones have been utilised in the periods:
(a) 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010;
(b) 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011;
(c) 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised that there are no wall-mounted rings in correctional centres in New South Wales. Consequently, no wall-mounted rings have been utilised in these periods.

*1068 NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Does the Attorney General propose a needle exchange program in any correctional centre?
(2) If so, in which ones and in what circumstances?

Answer—

As I advised the General Purpose Standing Committee No 4 during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 26 October 2011, I have considered a trial needle exchange program and I am not impressed. I will not change the current system.

*1069 FORUM SENTENCING—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many offenders have been dealt with by way of forum sentencing in the periods (a) 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, (b) 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011, (c) 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 in the following local courts:

- (1) Burwood;
(2) Newtown;
(3) Balmain;
(4) Campbelltown;
(5) Camden;
(6) Liverpool;
(7) Picton;
(8) Moss Vale;
(9) Tweed Head;
(10) Any other court not included above?

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Answer—

I am advised:

Prior to 2011, the Department maintained statistics on the number of forums held and not on the number of individual offenders dealt with by way of Forum Sentencing.

Sentencing forums were conducted as follows:

| Local Court | 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011 (forums held) | 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011 (participating offenders) | 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 (participating offenders) |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Burwood | 19 | 17 | 12 |
| Newtown | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Balmain | 5 | 0 | 2 |
| Campbelltown | 13 | 13 | 9 |
| Camden | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Picton | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Moss Vale | 13 | 3 | 1 |
| Liverpool | 39 | 31 | 20 |
| Fairfield | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tweed Heads | 18 | 21 | 19 |
| Byron Bay | 12 | 8 | 3 |
| Mullumbimby | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Murwillumbah | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Newcastle | N/A | 14 | 7 |
| Toronto | N/A | 9 | 3 |
| Belmont | N/A | 1 | 2 |
| Raymond Terrace | N/A | 5 | 3 |
| Gosford | N/A | 3 | 6 |
| Wyong | N/A | 7 | 5 |
| Woy Woy | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| Parramatta | N/A | 4 | 13 |
| Ryde | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| Bankstown | N/A | 2 | 0 |
| Sutherland | N/A | 1 | 2 |
| Kogarah | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| Coffs Harbour | N/A | N/A | 1 |
| Grafton | N/A | N/A | 3 |
| Bellingen | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Macksville | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Maclean | N/A | N/A | 1 |
| Downing Centre | N/A | 7 | 11 |
| Waverley | N/A | 7 | 9 |
| Central | N/A | 0 | 0 |

The term "N/A" applies to periods of time prior to Forum Sentencing becoming operational at a particular court.

*1070 INTENSIVE CORRECTION ORDERS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many people are subject to Intensive Correction Orders as at:

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- (a) 1 December 2010;
- (b) 1 February 2011;
- (c) 1 April 2011;
- (d) 1 July 2011;
- (e) 1 September 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

Corrective Services NSW collates this data on the last day of the month. The following numbers of offenders were subject to intensive correction orders on the dates indicated:

- (a) On 30 November 2010: 28
- (b) On 31 January 2011: 105
- (c) On 31 March 2011: 198
- (d) On 30 June 2011: 339
- (e) On 31 August 2011: 432.

*1071 OUTSTANDING BENCH WARRANTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many outstanding bench warrants are there in NSW as at 1 October 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Attorney General and Justice does not maintain data on outstanding warrants. Bench warrants (now known as arrest warrants) are issued by courts and referred to the NSW Police Force. The question should therefore be directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. I note that you have already asked a similar question of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

*1072 OUTSTANDING WARRANTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

As at 1 July 2011, how many outstanding warrants are there to apprehend and detain/imprison people in NSW?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

As at 1 July 2011, there were 28,556 outstanding arrest warrants in NSW, a decrease of approximately 7,000 since 1 July 2009.

*1073 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE NSW CRIME COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Given that there were two matters that were not proceeded with as a result of representations from the NSW Crime Commission (Question 0769):

- (1) Which are the two matters that were not proceeded with as a result of representations from the Crime Commission?
- (2) Who is/are the person(s) not proceeded against?

Answer—

I note that questions of this nature were asked of me during Budget Estimates. I refer you to my answers given there. Apart from those answers, I am advised that it would not be appropriate for me to disclose the names of the relevant individuals or any information that would allow these individuals to be identified.

*1074 COMMUNITY OFFENDER SUPPORT PROGRAM CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many offenders are located within which Community Offender Support Program (COSP) Centres as at:

- (a) 1 December 2010;
- (b) 1 February 2011;

- (c) 1 April 2011;
- (d) 1 July 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

Corrective Services NSW collates this data each Sunday. The following numbers of offenders resided at Community Offender Support Program Centres on the dates indicated:

- (a) On 5 December 2010: 91
- (b) On 30 January 2011: 84
- (c) On 3 April 2011: 99
- (d) On 3 July 2011: 87
- (e) On 4 September 2011: 91.

*1075 RIFLE SHOOTING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Regarding the proposal to introduce rifle shooting into NSW public schools:

- (1) What action will the Minister take to prevent this proposal from negatively impacting communities such as Bankstown?
- (2) What factors will the Government consider when determining whether such classes are appropriate for suburban schools?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I note that the lead Minister for this issue is my colleague, the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education.

There is no proposal to "introduce rifle shooting in schools". However, I am advised that the Devolution of Decision Making to Schools memorandum (1991-020) enables school principals to manage and coordinate their school sport operations to suit the circumstances of the local school community and its students.

*1076 OFFERS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) How many people located in the Wollongong Local Government Area and employed by your agency will be offered voluntary redundancy?
- (2) What is the timeline for this process?
- (3) What information will be used to determine the positions identified as eligible for redundancy?

Answer—

I am advised:

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has no immediate plans to offer any staff in the Wollongong Local Government area voluntary redundancy.

Voluntary redundancies are offered in accordance with the NSW Government's 'Managing Excess Employees' policy which was implemented on 1 August 2011. The policy outlines the circumstances under which a voluntary redundancy offer can be made, i.e. an employee is declared excess by their agency when they no longer have a substantive position.

*1080 OFFERS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) How many people located in the Wollongong Local Government Area and employed by your agency will be offered voluntary redundancy?
- (2) What is the timeline for this process?
- (3) What information will be used to determine the positions identified as eligible for redundancy?

Answer—

Ageing, Disability and Homecare currently has no plans for a program of voluntary redundancies in the Wollongong Local Government Area.

*1081 OFFERS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

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- (1) How many people located in the Wollongong Local Government Area and employed by your agency will be offered voluntary redundancy?
- (2) What is the timeline for this process?
- (3) What information will be used to determine the positions identified as eligible for redundancy?

Answer—

- (1) At this stage, there are no plans to make offers of voluntary redundancy in 2011-12 to permanent employees employed within the Wollongong Local Government Area.
- (2) Not applicable. Refer answer to question (1).
- (3) Not applicable. Refer answer to question (1).

*1083 OFFERS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) How many people located in the Wollongong Local Government Area and employed by your agency will be offered voluntary redundancy?
- (2) What is the timeline for this process?
- (3) What information will be used to determine the positions identified as eligible for redundancy?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

At 11 October 2011 there were no planned voluntary redundancies for staff employed by the Office of Environment and Heritage based in the Wollongong Local Government Area.

*1085 INQUIRY INTO LYSAGHT OVAL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What are the terms of reference for the inquiry into Lysaght Oval?
- (2) Who will be undertaking the inquiry?
- (3) Will the Government transfer the \$2.5 million that they announced earlier this year into Wollongong City Council Trust Fund?

Answer—

- (1) The inquiry was commissioned by the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. This question should be directed to the Premier.
- (2) The Internal Audit Bureau.
- (3) \$2.5 million was granted by the previous government specifically for the upgrade of Lysaght Oval. It was conditional on funding both the purchase of the land from the private owner, and the required work to complete the project. The allocation was not carried forward in the budget as \$2.5 million is not sufficient to fund both the land purchase and the required upgrade.

*1086 BULLI HOSPITAL URGENT CARE CENTRE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What funding will be provided to Bulli Hospital to implement the Government's proposal for an Urgent Care Centre at the hospital?
- (2) Will the Government now commit to an Integrated Primary Health Facility adjacent to the hospital?
 - (a) If so when will this commence?
 - (b) If not why?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Board is commencing a comprehensive clinical service planning process for the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, which will include extensive community consultation. Priorities for future capital developments and other service expansions will be identified in this process.

The Local Health District is in the early stages of the planning and consultation phase for proposed changes at Bulli Hospital, including the reconfiguration of the Emergency Department to an Urgent Care Centre. I also refer the Member to my response to his question without notice on Tuesday 18 October 2011 concerning the Bulli Hospital.

*1087 BULLI PCYC—Mr Ryan Park asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What additional funding will be allocated to the Bulli PCYC to replace its asbestos roof?

- (2) When will this work commence?
(3) How long is the work expected to take?

Answer—

I am advised that remediation costs for Bulli PCYC have been estimated at \$295,437 and this work is expected to be undertaken, along with similar work at Lake Illawarra and Wollongong PCYCs, between January - June 2012.

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(Paper No. 48)

*1091 STAMP DUTY CONCESSION—Mr Richard Amery asked the Treasurer—

- (1) During the financial year ending 30 June 2011, how many persons received a stamp duty concession for buying their first home in the following postcode areas:
(a) 2770;
(b) 2761;
(c) 2766?

- (2) What was the total value of these concessions

Answer—

This question would be more appropriately directed to The Hon Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services.

*1093 CARDIFF RAILWAY STATION—EASY ACCESS UPGRADE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

Given a July 2011 CityRail publication which stated that the upgrade to Cardiff Railway Station is expected to be completed towards the middle of 2012, and the Minister's answer to my question No. 0579 that the upgrade is expected to be completed in late 2013:

What transpired between July 2011 and 7 September 2011 to delay the expected completion date of the upgrade of Cardiff Railway Station from the middle of 2012 to late 2013,

Answer—

I am advised:

The previous government announced the upgrade would be complete by December 2012. However, the detailed design phase which began in late 2010 revealed that more work would be needed than previously thought, in order to make both platforms level and safe for accessible use.

*1094 BUS SERVICES PATRONAGE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Do State Transit Authority figures indicate that bus services patronage is down more than a quarter of a million passenger boardings over the past two years?
(2) What is the Minister doing to ensure a cessation of this trend, in terms of offering better, more efficient services?
(3) What is the Minister doing to address the surge in malicious damage, vandalism and offensive behaviour incidents which are hampering efforts to attract passengers?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) State Transit reports on Newcastle bus services in its Annual Report.

(3) All buses in the Newcastle Buses fleet have modern security CCTV cameras to provide security for passengers and drivers. Newcastle Buses continues to work with the local community and other agencies in a multi-pronged approach to making Newcastle bus services a safe and pleasant experience for passengers.

*1096 HUNTER CRIME STATISTICS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Do Hunter crime statistics for 2010 and 2011 indicate a surge in sex offences, in thefts from vehicles

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and in fraud offences?

- (2) Will the Minister be addressing this increase in crime with a corresponding increase in police numbers to ensure the safety and well-being of Hunter residents?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that Local Area Commands in the Hunter are working with partner agencies to reduce sexual assault through close monitoring of repeat offenders and persons on the Child Protection Register; educating the community on sexual assault prevention, including staging the Love Bites Program to reduce the number of sexual assaults involving youth; and ensuring that reports of indecent/sexual assault are appropriately investigated.

There is active targeting of steal from motor vehicle offending via increased patrols at peak times and hotspot locations with a focus on high risk and recidivist offenders. Major contributors in the fraud related category are computer related fraud and fail to pay for petrol, which are difficult to target with proactive policing. Nonetheless, Hunter police are monitoring and investigating these types of crime wherever they occur.

- *1097 DNA BACKLOG—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What is the Minister doing to address the current crisis in DNA processing and matching backlog?
(2) Has a young woman in Newcastle been waiting for her assailant, who is out in the community, to be identified so she can resume her life without fear.

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) There has been a significant reduction in the DNA backlog in recent months as a result of collaboration between the Forensic Services Group and the Division of Analytical Laboratories as well as the implementation of a range of initiatives in this area.
(2) The specific case referred to cannot be identified on the information given. However, should the young woman to whom the Member refers have concerns for her safety, she should make contact with local police.

- *1098 CALVARY MATER HOSPITAL—CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH CENTRE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What has the Minister done to secure the vital cancer treatment and research centre at the Calvary Mater Hospital, given its election promise to purchase land next to the Calvary for the centre?
(2) Has the community identified this centre as a priority given the region's long waits for cancer treatment and the need for more medical oncologists?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Government is meeting its commitment through an allocation of \$1 million included in the 2011/12 budget to commence the process of examining the land development opportunities, acquisition processes and identification of priorities as well as consultation and service planning. Land has been secured by NSW Health with a five year call Option.

A study of the site and the Mater Campus is being undertaken to determine the optimum development opportunities for the precinct inclusive of the development needs for cancer treatment, a research centre, public and private health services generally and the necessary support facilities.

An initial report is scheduled to be available in December 2011 and the overall study will include community consultation to identify community concerns and priorities as well as the strategic directions for future development of the health precinct.

- *1099 METHADONE PHARMACOTHERAPY TREATMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Which unit or units of Hunter New England Area Health Service denies methadone pharmacotherapy treatment to released ex-prisoners who are referred to Hunter New England Area Health by the Justice Department?
(2) What is the reason for this injustice to released prisoners?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Hunter New England Local Health District Drug and Alcohol Clinical Services provides opiate substitution services (methadone and buprenorphine) across the Hunter New England Local Health District. Dosing services are provided in Newcastle, Cessnock, Taree and Tamworth.

These dosing services are subject to high demand and referred clients are accepted on the basis of clinical urgency, such as pregnant women and seriously ill patients. All other referrals are placed on a waiting list and provided with a list of alternative treatment options.

People who are transferred to Justice Health from Hunter New England Local Health District public programs and incarcerated for less than three months are able to rejoin the program on release. People who are incarcerated for longer than three months are assessed to ascertain whether they meet the criteria for the most clinically urgent referrals.

- *1101 2017 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What is the Government doing to secure a bid for Newcastle to host the 2017 International Exposition, given its election promise of \$1 million for Newcastle to fund a bid to host the 2017 event?
(2) Is the Government aware that it has until 10 December to lodge its interest, to showcase Newcastle and continue its revitalisation?

Answer—

- (1) The Government has this under active consideration.
(2) Yes.

- *1102 NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE JOB CUTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to the previous "axing of 400 jobs" in the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) In which hospitals were these job cuts made?
(2) In which positions?
(3) Were the deleted positions permanently funded positions?
(4) Were any services closed as a result of these cuts?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Between July 2009 and December 2010 the former NSW Labor Government reduced full time equivalent staff numbers at Grafton Base, Lismore Base, Murwillumbah District, Port Macquarie Base, Coffs Harbour Base, The Tweed, Maclean District, Kempsey District, Bellingen District, Wauchope District, Byron Bay District, Mullumbimby District and Casino District Hospitals and Dorrigo and Kyogle Multipurpose Services - including permanently funded positions.

Reductions occurred in positions such as Health Manager, Administration Assistant, Wardsperson, Hospital Assistant, Cleaner, Physiotherapy Aide, Registered Nurse, Nurse Unit Manager, Senior Nurse Manager, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Anaesthetic Assistant, Business Manager, Trades Assistant, Trades, Ward Clerk, Radiographer, Media Manager, Enrolled Nurse, Linen Officer, Sterilisation Technician, Medical Registrar, Patient Transport Driver, Clinical Risk Analyst and Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Hardworking staff ensured that no services were closed as a result of these reductions.

- *1103 PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL—FOURTH POD—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to the proposed "fourth pod" at Port Macquarie Hospital:

- (1) What is the latest estimate of the final cost?
(2) Which sources (i.e. Federal and NSW Government contributions) of funding will be used?
(3) When will construction commence?
(4) What facilities will be constructed?
(5) When will construction end?

Answer—

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I am advised:

(1) and (2) The estimated total cost of the project is \$110 million (\$96 million Federal; \$14 million State funding).

(3) Early works will commence mid 2012. The main building construction will commence early 2013.

(4) The "Expansion Project" at Port Macquarie Base Hospital will include a new and expanded Emergency Department, a new 8 bed Emergency Medical Unit, a new 30 bed Medical Inpatient Unit, an additional 12 Surgical beds, a new 15 Bed Paediatric Inpatient Unit (relocation only - not additional beds), a new Operating Theatre complex consisting of 7 new build operating rooms, one shell theatre (for future expansion) - currently there are 4 operating theatre rooms, 2 new procedure rooms and a 32 bed perioperative (recovery) unit. The building will also include a new Sterilizing Department, new Stores and Linen Handling services. A Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory will also be included in a new 24 bed Critical Care complex for Intensive Care and Coronary Care inpatients.

(5) Construction is expected to be completed in mid-2015.

*1104 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

(1) What enhancements to the Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department are planned in the 2011-12 financial year?

(2) What staffing enhancements have been approved for the 2011-12 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Refurbishment and expansion plans for the Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department will be progressed in line with the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District's strategic and capital plan. There are no plans for capital enhancement during this financial year.

Nurse staffing levels are determined and adjusted as required by local management in line with patient need and the specified award and benchmark tool, in negotiation with the NSW Nurses Association representatives.

As part of the Nursing Hours per patient day award provision the Emergency Department received a staffing increase of 2.2 FTE. Recruitment is currently underway.

*1105 NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In regard to National Bowel Cancer screening and follow up:

(1) How many colonoscopies were performed in NSW public hospitals for the year 2010-11?

(2) How many patients are on the waiting list for colonoscopy in NSW in category 1, 2 and 3?

(3) For the months April to June 2011, what were the median wait times for colonoscopy in categories 1, 2 and 3?

(4) What enhancements for colonoscopy services in response to bowel screening will be approved in the 2011-12 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) 20,425 colonoscopy procedures were performed on admitted patients in NSW public hospitals during the 2010/2011 financial year.

(2) As at June 2011 there were 10,387 "ready for care" patients on the medical waiting list for colonoscopy: 1,132 Category 1; 4,502 Category 2; and 4,753 Category 3.

(3) For the periods in question: 21 days for Category 1; 60 days for Category 2; and 114 days for Category 3.

(4) The NSW Endoscopy Information System (EIS) is currently being implemented across NSW. The EIS is a data collection and reporting tool, which will:

- Provide accurate state-wide information on endoscopy procedures carried out in NSW public hospitals.
- Facilitate the comparison of services against critical safety and quality benchmarks.
- Inform on issues of productivity, activity, costs and access to services.
- Facilitate electronic reporting to the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program's Register.
- Integrate with other IT systems, such as the Electronic Medical Record (eMR).

In total, the EIS will be implemented at 84 hospitals across NSW, with all sites due to "go live" by June 2013.

*1106 RENAL DIALYSIS—FORBES AREA—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many patients in the Forbes area are on home dialysis?
- (2) How many are on hospital-based dialysis?
- (3) How many chairs for hospital-based dialysis are currently available in Forbes?
- (4) What is the total annual budget?
- (5) (a) Are there any patients who are required to travel from Forbes to (a) Orange or (b) other hospitals for dialysis?
(b) If so, for what reasons(s)?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 4 in the Condobolin, Parkes and Forbes area. All are on peritoneal dialysis.
- (2) 12.
- (3) 6 chairs.
- (4) \$324,615 for 2011-2012.
- (5) No.

*1107 TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to Tomaree Community Hospital:

Given your answer to Question 0145 and your commitment to an upgrade that would "include the provision of a day surgery centre, residential aged care, hostel type units and a comprehensive community health care centre":

What enhancements for Tomaree Community Hospital are planned for:

- (a) the 2011-2012 budget year;
- (b) the following two financial years?

Answer—

I am advised:

Hunter New England Local Health District is currently undertaking a planning process of service needs for the Greater Newcastle region which includes the Port Stephens area. This planning process is considering the health services required and the optimal location of services to best meet the needs of communities across the Greater Newcastle region, and ensure safe and sustainable health services into the future. The possibility of further enhancements to Tomaree Community Hospital will be considered in the context of the outcomes of this planning process when complete.

*1108 MORISSET AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What are the dates and hours of any occasions on which Morisset Ambulance Station has been unmanned since its administration was transferred to the Central Coast Zone?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since the transfer on 1 January 2011 to the Central Coast Zone there has been no occasion that Morisset Ambulance Station has been left without staff. The zone change is administrative and does not involve a reduction in service provision to the local community, staffing levels or working conditions. There has been no change to the number or location of ambulances rostered at Doyalson and Morisset, or any change to the method of dispatching ambulances to Doyalson, Morisset and surrounding areas.

*1109 JENOLAN CAVES TRUST—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

Will the Government initiate an independent investigation of the validity of the administrator's appointment to the Jenolan Caves Trust?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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No.

*1113 WINMALEE PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL—COVERED WALKWAY—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year to construct a covered walkway to Winmalee Public School hall?
- (2) When will the project begin and when will construction be completed?

Answer—

- (1) Funding in the order of \$119,050 (inc. GST) has been allocated for the provision of covered walkways to Winmalee Public School.
- (2) The project commenced in September 2011 and was completed on 26 October 2011.

*1114 SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year for the installation of school zone flashing lights?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated across the forward estimates period for the installation of school zone flashing lights?
- (3) When will the following schools have school zone flashing lights installed:
 - (a) East Hills Boys' Technology High School;
 - (b) Arthur Phillip High School;
 - (c) Parramatta Public School;
 - (d) William Stimson Public School;
 - (e) Kiama High School;
 - (f) Roland Hassall Public School?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Government has committed \$13 million over four years for the installation of flashing lights in school zones.

\$3.25 million has been allocated for the installation of flashing lights in the 2011-12 financial year.

(3) The NSW Government will fulfil its election commitment to install school zone flashing lights at these sites. The installation at all these sites will be complete by November 2011.

*1115 BLAXCELL STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL AIR-CONDITIONING—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year for the installation of air-conditioning in classrooms at Blaxcell Street Public School?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated across the forward estimates period for the installation of air conditioning in classrooms at Blaxcell Street Public School?
- (3) How many classrooms does Blaxcell Street Public School have and how many of these will be air-conditioned?
- (4) When will this project commence and when will it be completed?

Answer—

(1) to (4) Under the current Department of Education and Communities policy Blaxcell Street Public School is not eligible for air-conditioning.

*1116 HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING IN SCHOOLS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year for programs to combat homophobic bullying in schools?
- (2) How much funding was allocated in the 2010-11 financial year to combat homophobic bullying in schools?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated across the forward estimates period for programs to combat homophobic bullying in schools?
- (4) How much funding is allocated to each Government program to combat homophobic bullying in schools?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The Department of Education and Communities employs specialist staff at school, region and state levels to support the welfare and wellbeing of students. These officers support statewide and local initiatives which includes developing resources, providing professional learning and support for teachers, and providing policies and related advice. As these officers provide such a broad range of support to schools it is not possible to estimate the percentage of time that these officers specifically spend on preventing homophobic bullying.

Furthermore, each school plans its strategies based on local circumstances and community needs. The time that each school allocates to key issues related to preventing homophobic bullying therefore varies and it is not possible to estimate how much funding is being spent by individual schools.

(4) The Department is delivering the Proud Schools pilot program to assist high schools to address homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism. It is estimated that \$250,000 will be expended on the pilot during the implementation phase (2011–2013). Twelve schools are involved in the pilot.

*1117 DEVELOPMENT AT KAMIRA COURT, VILLAWOOD—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Can the Minister provide the status of the Department of Housing development at Kamira Court, Villawood?

Answer—

WATPAC was selected as a project partner following a competitive EOI process. WATPAC is currently undertaking high-level market analysis to test various options with the community and private housing sectors.

13 OCTOBER 2011

(Paper No. 49)

*1118 PROPOSED TRIAL TO ADDRESS GRAFFITI DAMAGE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Was a trial to be facilitated by the Department of Attorney General and Justice with the local government areas of Mosman and Blacktown announced to address the problem of graffiti damage in those communities?
- (2) Was this proposal designed to make the councils a "One Stop Shop" for the reporting and removal of graffiti in certain areas?
- (3) Why has this proposal been cancelled?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A Graffiti Shared Services Trial was implemented as a component of the previous NSW Government's response to graffiti management in the Mosman Local Government Area (LGA) and in Dawson Mall, Mt Druitt, which is part of the Blacktown LGA.
- (2) The trial was designed to test if the cost of graffiti removal on State and Local Government assets could be reduced by having it carried out by a limited number of contractors and coordinated by a single agency. The trial program was intended to operate within existing NSW Government agency graffiti removal standards and financial resources.
- (3) The trial was discontinued due to a number of reasons including cost inefficiency and the low incidence of graffiti vandalism on public property that were within the scope of the trial.

While this particular graffiti initiative was cancelled, this Government maintains a strong commitment to reducing graffiti vandalism in NSW. My Department has recently met with Blacktown Council to discuss graffiti management and other crime issues in the area.

The shared services agreement is an issue that will be on the agenda of the next NSW Graffiti Management Strategy Group meeting.

*1119 CAR WEIGHT TAX—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given the Premier described the car weight tax a "monstrous motor tax" while he was in Opposition:

- (1) Will the Minister withdraw the car weight tax?
- (2) If not, will the Government commit to spend in the Hunter, the taxes paid by Hunter motorists?

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Answer—

I am advised:

Legislation to increase the car weight tax was introduced by the former NSW Labor Government.

The NSW Government inherited a \$5.2 billion budget blackhole from the former State Labor Government, meaning difficult fiscal decisions had to be made. Despite the \$5.2 billion budget black hole left by Labor, the NSW Liberals and Nationals are delivering on our commitment to improve frontline service delivery and infrastructure in the Hunter region.

On 6 September of this year the Premier announced that \$888 million will be invested in roads projects across the Hunter in the 2011-2012 State Budget. This represents an increase of \$276 million or 45% from the 2010-11 allocation of \$612 million for roads projects in the Hunter region.

The NSW Government has also made a clear commitment with the allocation of \$350 million over four years to establish the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment fund. This money will be used to invest in essential Hunter infrastructure projects.

- *1121 GLENDALE POLICE STATION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Further to my previous question to the Minister on land purchase for the Glendale Police Station:

- (1) Can the Minister update the information on where the purchase of land is up to?
- (2) Are there any hold-ups in the process?
- (3) If so, what are these and what is the timeline for the project?

Answer—

I am advised that the plan to build a new police station at Glendale was first announced in the State Budget in 2008. However, since that time the NSW Police Force has experienced great difficulty in identifying a suitable site in Glendale to build the station, with the police preferred site being rejected by Lake Macquarie Council due to zoning issues. The Council's preferred site has in turn been rejected by the NSW Police Force, due to site restrictions such as flooding, contamination and bushfire zoning.

I have asked the NSW Police Force to come back to me with a detailed plan to progress capital works in Lake Macquarie as a matter of urgency.

- *1122 MAINTENANCE WORKS—DOBELL BUILDING—Ms Kristina Keneally asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Noting your answer to Written Question 0757 regarding the Housing NSW building known as Dobell at 33 John Street, Waterloo:

- (1) What is the actual amount that the 2011-12 budget has allocated to undertake building repairs?
- (2) What repairs are being carried out?
- (3) What is the timeline of work in calendar month/s and year/s?
- (4) What other upgrade works are planned for the Dobell Building?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

- *1123 AUSTRALIAN OPEN—TRAFFIC AND PARKING ARRANGEMENTS—Ms Kristina Keneally asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

Given that the Australian Open will be held from 10-13 November 2011 in the Heffron electorate:

- (1) What, if any, arrangements has the Government put in place to manage traffic and parking to ease the effect it will have on residents in the suburbs of Rosebery, Eastlakes, Mascot, Daceyville and Pagewood?
- (2) What, if any, additional public transport services have been put in place to assist people to access the event and to leave their cars at home?

Answer—

NSW Government agencies have worked with the event organiser to minimise the risk of congestion in the area. Strategies include implementing a road closure, special event clearways, and key messages on the RTA, 131500, events.nsw.gov.au and Australian Open websites. The RTA's Variable Message signs are also being used to communicate to drivers about the event.

Spectators are being encouraged to catch the train to Mascot station and take a free shuttle bus to The Lakes Golf Course. The shuttle bus is operating all day on a continuous loop.

The event organiser has arranged for a public event car park to be available at Moore Park from Tuesday to Sunday at a cost of \$20 per day. From Moore Park, there is a complimentary shuttle bus service on a continuous loop between the car park and the Lakes Golf Course.

*1124 AUSTRALIAN OPEN—TRAFFIC AND PARKING ARRANGEMENTS—Ms Kristina Keneally asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given that the Australian Open will be held from 10-13 November 2011 in the Heffron electorate:

- (1) What, if any, arrangements has the Government put in place to manage traffic and parking to ease the effect it will have on residents in the suburbs of Rosebery, Eastlakes, Mascot, Daceyville and Pagewood?
- (2) What, if any, additional public transport services have been put in place to assist people to access the event and to leave their cars at home?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Australian Golf Open 2011 was held at The Lakes Golf Club from Tuesday 8 November to Sunday 13 November. The event ran from 5.00 am to 8.30 pm each day.

The traffic and transport arrangements put in place were successful. There were no major impacts to local residents and businesses, who were able to access the roads at all times during the event.

The volume of traffic in the local area was not significantly increased and there were no additional delays to local road users.

- (2) There were some road closures in place in Eastlakes during the event. However, local residents, buses and taxis were still permitted to access the closed roads. There were no road closures or special event clearways in Rosebery, Daceyville or Pagewood.

Special event clearways were put in place in Eastlakes and Mascot during the event to assist with public transport shuttle drop off and pick up areas. Local residents and other road users were not permitted to park in these areas from 5.00 am to 8:30 pm for the six days of the event.

To reduce the number of vehicles using local roads and impacting on residents, spectators were encouraged to travel to and from the event by public transport.

Variable Message Signs (VMS) and media alerts encouraged people to take regular train services to Mascot Train Station then a courtesy shuttle bus from there to the golf course.

Those spectators who did drive to the event were advised to use public car parking facilities located at Moore Park then catch a courtesy bus shuttle from there to the golf course.

These shuttle bus services were well utilised.

This year there was also a second entrance gate to the golf course on Slattery Place near Gardeners Road. Shuttle buses from Mascot Train Station arrived and departed from the Gardeners Road gate while shuttles from Moore Park picked up and dropped off at the Vernon Avenue gate.

The additional gate channelled people arriving and departing the venue from two points, reducing crowding and moving people more efficiently. It also meant fewer shuttle buses on local roads.

*1125 HEALTH DIRECT TELEPHONE SERVICE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to the Health Direct telephone service.

In view of your previous opinion that "this hotline has potential to be dangerous and akin to an internet diagnosis" and that "a phone number cannot replace face-to-face diagnosis and that anything which discourages seriously ill people from attending hospital or seeing the doctor could cost lives" and "unfortunately that could be the consequence of this phone number" (press release 24 August 2008):

- (1) Will the Minister commit to continuing the Health Direct service?
- (2) Does the Minister still hold the same views regarding the Health Direct service?

Answer—

I am advised:

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- (1) Yes. NSW has committed to continuing to work with the Australian Government, and the governments of ACT, NT, SA, Tasmania and WA, to ensure the ongoing provision of the "healthdirect Australia" service.
- (2) "healthdirect Australia" does not provide diagnostic advice. Registered Nurses provide callers with health triage and advice and encourage them to seek health care most appropriate to their needs.
Health care options recommended by "healthdirect Australia" nurses could include transfer to triple zero to activate an ambulance response, attendance at a hospital emergency department, or a visit to a general practitioner within a certain timeframe.

*1126 BRAIN INJURY RECOVERY CENTRE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to your previous call for funding and establishment of a dedicated brain injury recovery centre, such as in the Victorian program (press release 4 December 2007):

- (1) (a) Does the Minister have plans to construct and fund such a centre?
(b) If so, where?
- (2) What funding enhancements would be provided by the Government?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) While there are no current plans to fund a dedicated brain injury recovery centre in NSW, services for people with Acquired Brain Injury are currently being examined through a collaborative partnership between the Ministry of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

The model of brain injury rehabilitation in NSW is different from Victoria. In NSW, the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program is funded for severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and is integrated with health services and available to both public and compensable clients. In Victoria, specialised TBI rehabilitation is generally only available to people in receipt of compensation and occurs separately to the public health system or is project funded as a one-off program.

*1127 ABORIGINAL HEALTH—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What plans does the Government have to expand access to health care services for the Aboriginal community, particularly in rural areas, to reduce avoidable hospital admissions?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 budget?
- (3) In which areas will these projects be located?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (3) Specific funding is allocated towards the provision of supplementary health services to Aboriginal people with a focus on health promotion, health education and disease prevention. This encompasses building regional partnerships to provide health services, raising the health status of Aboriginal people and promoting a healthy lifestyle within Aboriginal communities.

Funding in the 2011-12 State Budget is included in Budget Paper 3, page 6-16, and includes over \$97 million specifically allocated for Aboriginal Health Services. This reflects an increase of more than \$8 million over expenditure incurred in 2010-11 on Aboriginal Health Services.

This includes funding for the following specific initiatives:

- "Living Well: the NSW Aboriginal Health Chronic Care Initiative"
- The "NSW Health Chronic Care for Aboriginal People Program"
- "One Deadly Step"
- The "NSW Connecting Care Program"

*1128 REEFWAY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to ongoing complaints about air pollution from Reefway Environmental Services, which collects and recycles construction waste in Alexandria:

- (1) What assessment has the Government carried out on air pollution from this activity?
- (2) What review has been carried out of the licence conditions for this activity to operate in the inner

city?

- (3) What measures have been imposed or agreed to prevent future pollution, and how effective have these measures been?
- (4) What further plans does the Government have to ensure that adjacent residents and businesses do not experience air pollution from this activity?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

(1) An assessment of potential issues relating to air emissions at the site was undertaken during the initial development consent approval process by South Sydney City Council. Further assessment was undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) upon receipt of an application for an environment protection licence lodged by Reefway Environmental Services in 1997.

Since the environment protection licence was issued in 1997, ongoing monitoring of the site has been undertaken through announced and unannounced site inspections by authorised officers of the EPA, used to assess compliance with licence conditions and environment protection legislation.

(2) Statutory licence reviews are undertaken by the EPA every five years. The last licence review was completed in 2008. A pollution reduction program requiring a reduction of stockpile heights and an upgrade of the dust suppression system was placed on Reefway's licence in September 2011 as a result of EPA's review of the ongoing environmental performance of this activity. A recent inspection of the facility has confirmed that Reefway has complied with the pollution reduction program.

(3) The following measures have been imposed by the EPA to prevent pollution from the site:

- (i) issuing of a penalty notice on 22 September 2011 for \$1,500 to Cardinal Group for inadequate controls in place to manage dust and contaminated wash water at the premises;
- (ii) a requirement to upgrade the dust suppression spray system at the facility; and
- (iii) a requirement to limit the height of materials stockpiled at the facility to 3 metres.

These requirements were due for completion by 7 November 2011. Recent inspections have confirmed that Reefway has complied with the pollution reduction program.

Reefway has also undertaken to employ a street sweeper to operate on O'Riordan Street each workday and to repair the windbreak fencing around the facility boundary line.

The EPA's environment line has not received any reports of air pollution from the facility since 12 October 2011.

(4) The EPA will continue to undertake both announced and unannounced inspections of the site to assess compliance with licence conditions and environment protection legislation.

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(Paper No. 50)

*1134 ROOTY HILL ROAD NORTH, LAMB STREET AND JERSEY ROAD INTERSECTION—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Has the Blacktown City Council made representations to the Government about the safety issues at the intersection of Rooty Hill Road North, Lamb Street and Jersey Road in the Mount Druitt electorate?
- (2) Is the RTA currently investigating the safety issues at this intersection?
- (3) When is this investigation due to be completed?
- (4) Is any money being allocated in this year's budget for any work at this intersection?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The investigation is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.
- (4) There is no funding allocated for any work at this intersection at this time, other than for the current investigations.

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*1135 SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY TIMETABLES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What solutions have been put in place for all bus transport routes across NSW that operate on a Sunday timetable on Public Holidays when there is no service on a Sunday?
- (2) When can affected communities expect to be advised of such solutions to the Christmas 2011 public holidays which fall on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday what options are being offered to these communities?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Bus services are developed to reflect demand. Services are not provided where there is insufficient demand for Sunday and public holiday travel.
- (2) The latest information on public transport services is available on the Transport Info website www.131500.com.au or by calling 131500. Passengers can freely access train, bus and ferry timetable information, as well as news about major events and service updates.

*1136 CESSNOCK GAOL—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Will Cessnock Gaol be privatised in this term of Government?

Answer—

No decision has been made to privatise Cessnock Correctional Centre.

*1137 CESSNOCK HOSPITAL—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What future improvements are planned for Cessnock hospital?
- (2) Will the Government deliver any new resources to the hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) In 2011-12 the Government has committed:

- A total of \$500,000 for the purchase of 60 new electric beds for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri hospitals.
- \$500,000 to commence planning for the announced \$2 million redevelopment of the Cessnock Emergency Department.
- \$500,000 to complete the construction of an ambulance station at Cessnock, at an estimated total cost of \$1.7 million.

Recent equipment purchases include:

- Five Cardiac Monitors with recording capacity
- Three Vital Sign Monitors
- Three Bariatric Commodes
- One Bariatric Wheelchair
- Two Bariatric Lifters
- Bariatric Trolley for Emergency Department
- New Scope and Camera equipment for Theatre (approx \$50,000)
- Oxylog Ventilator for Emergency Department
- ECG machine for Emergency Department
- New air-conditioning in Surgical Unit
- RAD8 Oxymeter in paediatrics

A modern five chair dental facility for the residents of the Cessnock region was re-established in July 2011 with the first clinical operational day being 18 July 2011.

*1139 HOUSING NSW AND COMPASS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

For public housing in the Electorate of Cessnock, managed by both Housing NSW and Compass:

- (1) How many houses are currently unoccupied?
- (2) Why are they unoccupied?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The number of properties managed by Housing NSW that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as properties are vacated by tenants, cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant, as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act and are then re-occupied. Generally, the vacancy rate of public housing is lower than that of the private rental sector at any given time.

The number of vacant properties managed by Compass is unavailable as this community housing provider is a non government organisation, independent of government.

- *1140 PUBLIC HOUSING—HUNTER VALLEY—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

For public housing in the Hunter Valley:

- (1) How many new houses will be built or purchased in 2011-12?
- (2) How many of these will be in the Cessnock of electorate?
- (3) What size, rooming, disability conditions, multi-story or other qualities will they have?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets and maintenance.

- *1141 PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE BUDGET—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

For public housing across NSW:

- (1) Has the budget for maintenance been reduced?
- (2) If so, by how much?
- (3) If so, has it been reduced equally across all areas of the state?
- (4) If so, in real dollar terms, what is the new budget for housing maintenance in the Hunter now, and what was it previously?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

- *1142 HOUSING PATHWAYS—FACSIMILE SYSTEM—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) When will Housing Pathways have access to an improved facsimile system which can receive the information sent to them by clients?
- (2) If not received immediately, can it store the information instead of clients having to resend when contacted?

Answer—

(1) Housing NSW receives a variety of documents from applicants applying for housing assistance through Housing Pathways. Many of these relate to confidential records that must be sighted for compliance. Where it is appropriate and more convenient for a client, records can be faxed to Housing NSW offices.

(2) All applications and supporting documents sent via fax are delivered electronically to a mailbox before being registered to a client's file. Documents are then accessed by Housing NSW to review/update a client's file.

- *1143 PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING TIMES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What is the current waiting time for public housing in the Cessnock electorate for able body persons seeking:

- (a) one-bedroom premises;
- (b) two-bedroom premises;
- (c) three-bedroom premises;
- (d) four + bedroom premises?

Answer—

The number of people on the NSW Housing Register awaiting accommodation varies and changes constantly. Many factors influence how long each applicant waits including the type of accommodation

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sought (e.g. number of bedrooms, style of dwelling); the type of household (e.g. aged couple, single person); and special needs (e.g. ground floor requirements, modifications).

*1144 KURRI KURRI HOSPITAL—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What future improvements are planned for Kurri Kurri hospital?
- (2) Will the Government deliver any new resources to the hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) In 2011-12 the Government has committed a total of \$500,000 for the purchase of 60 new electric beds for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri hospitals.

Planning is currently in progress for a 14 bed new build ortho-geriatric rehabilitation unit at Kurri Kurri Hospital scheduled for completion in February 2013. The 14-bed unit will focus on rehabilitation for patients who have undergone orthopaedic surgery, particularly elderly patients and is part of the COAG subacute program. The Kurri Kurri unit is part of the 30 new subacute beds for the Hunter to assist patients recovering from surgery or who need extra care before returning home. Eight interim beds are scheduled to open in November 2011 following minor capital works within the main hospital building.

Recent equipment purchases include:

- New Resuscitation trolley for Emergency Department
- Theatre equipment - ENT and Ophthalmology Microscopes
- 4 Eye Surgery Beds
- 4 Mobile Observation Trolleys

*1145 NORTHLAKES DRIVE AND MINMI ROAD ROUND-A-BOUNT—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to the election commitment made by the Member for Oxley and the Nationals candidate Alison Davey for funding to fast-track the construction of a round-a-bout at the intersection of Northlakes Drive and Minmi Road:

- (1) Was the commitment contingent on the election of Alison Davey?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm that the Government will fulfil this commitment?
- (3) Is the money available in the 2011-2012 budget?
- (4) If the funding is not forthcoming in the 2011-2012 budget, when will the funding be committed and available?

Answer—

I refer to my answer to LA 0744.

*1146 JOB CUTS—RECRUITMENT TO TEACHING—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How will the Government's cuts to public sector jobs and cap on public sector wages affect the ability of the New South Wales Department of Education to recruit people to become teachers?
- (2) Were these effects considered when the decision was made to make these budget cuts?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Government's 2.5% public sector wages policy is not a cap, but a minimum. A 2.5% increase in wages is not a reduction. The Government's 2.5% public sector wages policy is the same as the 2.5% public sector wages policy of the former Government.

There have been no cuts to teaching positions or wages and the recruitment of quality teachers to NSW public schools continues to be a high priority of the NSW Government.

*1147 TASKFORCE ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) What priority issue does the Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs intend to examine first?
- (2) Is there a budget attached to the Taskforce?

Answer—

(1) The Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs (the Taskforce) has been established to produce a new Aboriginal affairs strategy. It will include concrete reforms around the following Terms of Reference:

1. to improve service delivery and accountability in Aboriginal affairs, with particular consideration of the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on Two Ways Together, and other arising reports;
2. to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW; and
3. to improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

Critical issues such as juvenile detention rates, health and housing will be considered through the framework of education and employment, as these are the two areas that have been identified as vital to achieving generational change. Effective reform in education and employment will help to reduce many of these problems.

The new strategy will be finalised by the end of 2012.

(2) The operating expenses of the Taskforce are being met from within existing resources.

*1148 CUTS TO THE OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Which important programs and support services will be cut or reduced because of the \$8 million cut in the budget of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs?

Answer—

There will be no cuts or reductions to the programs and services of Aboriginal Affairs as a result of this year's budget.

The 2010-2011 NSW Treasury allocation to the Aboriginal Affairs was \$27 million. This was subsequently supplemented by an additional amount of \$1.5 million carried over from 2009-2010 for pre-committed activities relating to the Safe Families program.

The NSW Treasury allocation for 2011-12 is \$21.23 million which is approximately \$5.8 million less than the initial allocation for 2010-2011.

The reduction is predominantly the result of the completion in 2010-2011 of the ten-year \$240 million Aboriginal Community Development Program. The completion of this program results in a reduction to the annual budget allocation to the Office of Aboriginal Affairs of \$5.281 million.

All of the budget of the ACDP was expended at the end of June (with some carry-over funds still to be spent in 2011-12 to allow previous ACDP commitments to be met).

Other programs, including Commonwealth programs, are in place to continue to address significant housing, infrastructure and other needs in Aboriginal communities.

In NSW, these new initiatives are currently worth more than \$40 million per year. Replacement programs include the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program and Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership (RIHNP). As these programs are not delivered through Aboriginal Affairs the budgets are allocated to the responsible departments.

In addition, the completion of funding for components of the Commonwealth funded COAG Data Gaps programs, and the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workforce funded Economic Development Officer network resulted in a further reduction to the 2011-2012 allocation of \$0.788 million. Escalation and other minor adjustments account for all other differences.

*1153 HIGHWAY SAFETY AUDIT—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What was the outcome of the highway safety audit?
- (2) What action will be undertaken to improve road safety as a result of the audit?

Answer—

I am advised:

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is happy to provide publicly available information about highway safety audits and reviews, including the speed zone audit. However, because the question does not specify which audit, they cannot provide information in this case.

Information about road environment safety and reviews is available on the RMS website.

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*1154 BARTON HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the upgrade of the Barton Highway:

- (1) How much funding has been allocated to the Barton Highway in the 2011-2012 financial year?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated to the Barton Highway in 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015?
- (3) What works will be done as part of the upgrade of the Barton Highway and do these works include building a separated dual carriageway?
- (4) What is the timeline for works including dates for the expected completion of each stage of each project?
- (5) What is the expected date of completion for the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) \$9.1 million in the 2011-2012 NSW Budget (full federal funding).
- (2) The federal government has committed \$40 million to June 2014 for the Barton Highway in New South Wales. This comprises \$3.5 million to plan for future upgrading to dual carriageway and \$36.5 million for safety works. It is expected that federal allocations in forward years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 will be appropriate to ensure completion of the commitment.
- (3) See (2).
- (4) The concept design plan for future upgrading to dual carriageway is expected to be displayed by Roads and Maritime Services in late 2011. Capricorn Corner safety work of \$3.4 million was completed in January 2010, Gounyan Curves safety work of \$22 million is expected to be completed in early 2012, and further safety work is being planned for 2012 and 2013.
- (5) The federal funding is for planning and safety works only. The timing for the start of constructing a dual carriageway has not been determined.

*1155 BEGA BYPASS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to Bega Bypass:

- (1) When will construction start?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated to the project in the 2011-2012 financial year?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated to the project in 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015?
- (4) What is the timeline for any works including dates for the expected completion of each stage of the project?
- (5) What is the expected date of completion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Early in 2012.
- (2) \$10 million in the 2011-2012 NSW Budget (joint federal and NSW Government funded project).
- (3) Allocations in forward years 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 will be appropriate to ensure completion of the bypass.
- (4) The bypass is expected to be opened to traffic in early 2014.
- (5) See (4).

*1156 FIXED SPEED CAMERAS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What is the Government's assessment of the impact of existing fixed speed cameras, as announced on 27 June 2011?
- (2) What were the findings of the assessment?
- (3) What actions will be taken as a result of the assessment?
- (4) Has the assessment recommended the removal of any fixed cameras?
- (5) What sites has the assessment identified for the removal of fixed cameras?
- (6) (a) Have alternative camera sites been recommended?
(b) If so when will the current cameras be removed and when will cameras be installed in the alternative sites?
- (7) Where are the sites where the assessment has found other safety measures are more appropriate?
- (8) What safety measures have been recommended at each site in question (7) and when will work begin on installing the new safety measures at these sites?

Answer—

There was no announcement relating to fixed speed cameras on 27 June 2011.

*1157 RESEALING OF MACQUARIE ROAD—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to Macquarie Road between the Great Western Highway and Hawkesbury Road:

- (1) Has resealing of Macquarie Road between the Great Western Highway and the Hawkesbury Road started?
- (2) If resealing work has not started when will work start?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated to the resealing of Macquarie Road in the 2011-2012 financial year?
- (4) How much funding has been allocated to the project in the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 financial years?
- (5) What is the time line for any works including dates for the expected completion of each stage of the project?
- (6) What is the expected date of completion for the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government made an election commitment of \$770,000 towards resealing Macquarie Road as part of a four-year \$200 million commitment to ease road congestion and improve road safety. The commitment will be delivered as part of that four-year package. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has been monitoring the road and carrying out routine maintenance as needed to keep the road in a safe and serviceable condition for all road users.

*1158 MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) How many mobile speed cameras are currently operating?
- (2) At how many sites do mobile speed cameras currently operate?
- (3) At how many sites did mobile speed cameras operate in February 2011?
- (4) How many infringements have been issued as a result of the use of mobile speed cameras in the period March 2010 to March 2011?
- (5) How many infringements have been issued as a result of the use of mobile speed cameras since March 2011 to now?
- (6) What is the value of revenue collected as a result of infringements issued from the use of mobile speed cameras in the period March 2010 to March 2011?
- (7) What is the value of revenue collected as a result of infringements issued from the use of mobile speed cameras since March 2011 to now?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 6
- (2) The locations are published on the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) website.
- (3) 142
- (4) to (7) The information is available publicly on the Office of State Revenue website.

*1159 WIDENING OF NELSON BAY ROAD—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to Nelson Bay Road between Bobs Farm and Anna Bay:

- (1) When will work on the widening of Nelson Bay Road to a dual carriageway begin?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated in 2011-2012 to widening the Nelson Bay Road between Bobs Farm and Anna Bay?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated in the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 financial years?
- (4) What is the timeline for works including dates for the expected completion of each stage of the project?
- (5) When will the widening of Nelson Bay Road be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

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- (1) Planning work to upgrade the next section of Nelson Bay Road from Cromarty Lane to Port Stephens Drive, Anna Bay is underway, with the review of environmental factors being finalised, property acquisitions proceeding and planning being done for utility adjustments.
- (2) \$3 million has been allocated in 2011-12 for planning and preconstruction activities, including property acquisition.
- (3) The NSW Government has committed \$40 million over the next four years from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund to upgrade this section of Nelson Bay Road.
- (4) Roads and Maritime Services expects to complete preconstruction activities and call tenders in the second half of 2012, with road construction to commence in early 2013.
- (5) It is expected to be opened to traffic in 2014.

*1160 NEWELL HIGHWAY OVERTAKING LANES—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the Newell Highway:

- (1) Are overtaking lanes planned for the Newell Highway?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated to building overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway in the 2011-2012 financial year?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated in the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 financial years?
- (4) What is the timeline for any works including dates for the expected completion of each stage of the project?
- (5) When is work expected to start on overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway?
- (6) What is the expected date of completion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) \$5 million funding has been allocated for the 2011-12 financial year as part of an overall \$10 million commitment.
- (4) and (5) Currently funded works involve the construction of three overtaking lanes between Narrabri and Moree. Work is expected to start in April 2012 and be completed by 30 June 2012.
- (6) Works under the overall \$10 million commitment will continue until 30 June 2013.

*1161 PEDESTRIAN FENCING—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) How much funding has been provided in the 2011-2012 financial year for pedestrian fencing at pedestrian crash hotspots?
- (2) How much funding had been provided in the 2010-2011 financial year for pedestrian fencing?
- (3) How many pedestrian fences have been installed in the period March 2010 to March 2011?
- (4) How many pedestrian fences have been installed since April 2011 to now?
- (5) What is the total number of pedestrian fences that have been installed up to date.
- (6) At which sites have the pedestrian fences been installed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The following responses apply to pedestrian fencing projects specifically installed to target pedestrian road safety issues. There have been other sites where lengths of pedestrian fencing have been included in association with other projects, which are not recorded.

- (1) \$2.5 million
- (2) \$700,000
- (3) Six
- (4) Four
- (5) 59
- (6)
 - Military Road, Cremorne (two projects).
 - Devlin Road, Ryde.
 - Kingsway, Miranda.
 - Victoria Road, Drummoyne.
 - Victoria Road, Gladesville (two projects).

- Victoria Road, Rozelle.
- Jersey Road, Emerton.
- Lambton Road, Broadmeadow.
- The Entrance Road, Terrigal.
- Robey Street, Mascot.
- Lake Entrance Road, Warilla (two projects).
- Princes Highway, Figtree.
- Boronia Street, Windang.
- Woy Woy railway station.
- Princes Highway, Dapto.
- Forest Way, Frenchs Forest.
- Raymond Terrace High School.
- Jasper Road Public School, Baulkham Hills.
- Macpherson Street, Mosman.
- Evans Street, Belmont.
- Cowper Street, Warrawong.
- King Georges Road, Beverly Hills.
- Pacific Highway, Mt Colah railway station.
- Princes Highway, Rockdale.
- North Wollongong Hotel.
- Northfields Avenue, Gwynneville.
- Princes Highway, Heathcote.
- Newell Highway, Narrabri.
- Epping Road, Macquarie Park.
- Enmore Road, Newtown.
- Parramatta Road, Camperdown.
- Pacific Highway, North Sydney.
- Church Street, Parramatta.
- Anzac Parade, Kensington.
- Batemans Bay Public School.
- Crown Street, Wollongong.
- Princes Highway, Nowra.
- Northcliffe Drive, Warrawong.
- Princes Highway, Rockdale.
- Transitway pedestrian fencing.
- Koola Avenue, Killara.
- Victoria Road, Ryde.
- Parramatta Road, Petersham.
- Sydney Road, Seaforth.
- Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.
- Barrenjoey Road, Mona Vale.
- Cumberland Highway, Smithfield.
- Botany Road, Mascot.
- Burwood Road, Belmore.
- Princes Highway, Nowra.
- Third Avenue, Blacktown.
- Rawson St, Auburn (two projects).
- Anzac Parade, Kingsford.
- Military Road, Mosman.
- Wallarah Road, Kanwal.

*1162 SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the School Zone Flashing Lights program:

- (1) What is the total number of school zone flashing light devices installed and operating in NSW as at 26 March 2011?
- (2) What is the total number of school zone flashing light devices installed in 2010-2011 financial year?
- (3) What was the total cost of purchasing and installing school zone flashing light devices in 2010-2011?

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- (4) What is the total budget for purchasing and installing school zone flashing light devices in 2011-2012?
(5) What is the total number of school zone flashing light devices to be installed in 2011-2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) As at 26 March 2011 there were 570 school zones with flashing lights installed and operating in New South Wales. This includes 411 school zones with flashing lights installed from 24 March 2007 to 26 March 2011 in the last four years of the previous Government.

The NSW Government made a four-year \$13 million commitment to fast track the installation of school zone flashing lights. This will result in the installation of approximately 540 flashing lights in school zones, or 135 sets per year, at an approximate cost of \$3.25 million per year.

In addition, the NSW Government oversaw the installation of an additional 119 sets of school zone flashing lights since the March 2011 state election to 30 June 2011.

This means in the four years of the current Government it is expected an additional 659 school zones will have flashing lights installed, more than doubling the number of school zones with flashing lights in one term of Government.

These numbers are Government funded installations only. Some schools have had flashing lights installed independently.

- *1163 TILLEGRA DAM—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What does the Government intend to do with the land it is refusing to sell back to a former landowner on the Tillegra Dam site?
(2) Is the Government intending to resurrect the Tillegra Dam project.

Answer—

- (1) The management and future use of Hunter Water owned land in the Williams River Valley requires a long term strategy.

Hunter Water has contacted former land owners with first right of refusal clauses in their sales contracts to discuss their intentions to purchase land at a time when the property is offered for sale.

Hunter Water will continue to develop a strategy for the land, in conjunction with Dungog Shire Council, relevant government planning authorities and stakeholders, with further announcements to be made in due course.

- (2) The previously proposed Tillegra Dam was refused planning approval because of unacceptable environmental impacts and insufficient justification. It will not be considered among the range of options being investigated to secure Lower Hunter's water supply.

- *1164 REGISTERED DENTAL PROFESSIONALS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to registered dental professionals in NSW:

- (1) How many FTE dentists are employed in the NSW public health system?
(2) How many positions are vacant?
(3) How many FTE dental therapists are employed in the NSW public health system?
(4) How many positions are vacant?
(5) What enhancements for dental services are provided by the minister in the 2011 budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Dental workforce data will be available in the NSW Health Annual Report which is scheduled for release in late November 2011.

Three enhancements of services are planned for the expansion of Aboriginal oral health services delivered via Katungal Aboriginal Medical Service, Orange Aboriginal Medical Service, and via the Bila Muuji group of Aboriginal Medical Services.

- *1165 DENTAL WAITING LISTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to dental waiting lists:

How many patients were waiting for (a) dental assessment and (b) dental treatment on (i) 30 June 2010, (ii) 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 in:

- (1) The Children's Hospitals network;
- (2) CC LHN;
- (3) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHN;
- (4) Nepean Blue Mountains LHN;
- (5) NS LHN;
- (6) SES LHN;
- (7) SWS LH;
- (8) Sydney LHN;
- (9) WS LHN;
- (10) Far West LHN;
- (11) HNE LHN;
- (12) MNC LHN;
- (13) Murrumbidgee LHN;
- (14) Northern NSW LHN;
- (15) Southern NSW LHN;
- (16) Western LHN;
- (17) St Vincent's HN;
- (18) all of NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (18) Waiting list data for public dental services is routinely reported on the NSW Ministry of Health Web site - http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/cohs/list_flow.asp

Data requested for 30 June 2010 is not available as the Local Health Districts were not in existence at this time.

- *1166 HYDROTHERAPY POOL—ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL SITE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What plans does the Minister have for a hydrotherapy pool on the Royal North Shore Hospital site?

Answer—

I am advised:

An expert panel chaired by Dr Peter Kennedy, Deputy Chief Executive of the Clinical Excellence Commission recommended that a hydrotherapy service should be provided within each health service (now known as Local Health Districts), and that such a service should be provided on the lower north shore.

The redevelopment of Ryde Hospital, including Graythwaite, is part of the North Shore Ryde Health Service and includes a substantial hydrotherapy pool.

Clinical hydrotherapy outpatients currently receive treatment at nearby Greenwich Hospital and inpatients requiring hydrotherapy receive treatment at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Sydney.

I have asked the Chair of the Northern Sydney Local Health District to provide me with advice with respect to the establishment of another Hydrotherapy Pool at Royal North Shore Hospital.

- *1167 GRAFFITI—ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Given that the Graffiti Amendment Bill has not been passed by Parliament, will the Government consider alternate solutions to the graffiti problem such as providing funds to local councils?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Graffiti Amendment Bill was introduced by the Government to enact measures which were designed to effectively combat the scourge of graffiti in our community and to deliver on an election promise. The Government remains committed to enacting the Graffiti Amendment Bill.

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The Department of Attorney General and Justice has in place measures to combat graffiti described below. These measures are not considered by the Government as alternate solutions but as part of an overall strategy which includes the measures proposed in the Graffiti Amendment Bill.

The measures in place to combat graffiti include:

The grant process under Part 4 of the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997. This allows any council with an endorsed Crime Prevention Plan to request funding for crime prevention programs that aim to target identified problems within their Local Government Area (LGA) including graffiti vandalism.

The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Graffiti Hotspot Program. This program provides funds to local councils that have a high incidence of graffiti vandalism to develop initiatives to aid in the removal of graffiti and to prevent its reoccurrence. In 2011, funding is being targeted towards local councils that have not been previously funded under the scheme but have a demonstrated graffiti problem.

For the past two years, the Department has provided funding for the annual Graffiti Action Day. This event provides an opportunity to local councils and local community members to become actively involved in removing graffiti from their local environment.

*1168 RIFLE SHOOTING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to your previous answer to Written Question 0601 - Rifle Shooting in Public Schools:

Will the Minister commit to ensuring that rifle practice is not introduced into any school in the Bankstown electorate?

Answer—

I refer to the answer provided in Written Question 0601, which clearly states that the Devolution of Decision Making to Schools memorandum (1991-020) enables school principals to manage and coordinate their school sport operations to suit the circumstances of the local school community and its students.

*1169 HENRY LAWSON DRIVE UPGRADE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In reference to your previous answers concerning Henry Lawson Drive and given that the then Liberal candidate for East Hills committed to upgrading Henry Lawson Drive in the election pamphlet "Glenn Brookes Real Change for East Hills":

- (1) Why did you state in your answer to Written Question 0409 regarding Henry Lawson Drive "Delivering any projects outside the current capital program and our election commitments is extremely difficult"?
- (2) When will the Government commit to upgrading this vital arterial road?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Government inherited a \$5.2 billion blackhole from the former State Labor Government making it very difficult to deliver any projects outside the current capital program and our election commitments. The Member for East Hills is fighting for an upgrade to Henry Lawson Drive as he promised to do and has met with me to discuss funding options.
- (2) The performance of Henry Lawson Drive will continue to be monitored and if any upgrades are considered these projects will be considered in future budgets.

*1170 ADDITIONAL RAIL SERVICES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

In reference to the Government's recent announcement of 63 additional rail services on the Western, South Coast, North Shore, Illawarra and Blue Mountains lines:

- (1) What was the basis for increasing services to these particular lines?
- (2) What advice or recommendations did you receive from the Department of Transport concerning the need for increased services throughout the CityRail network?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the basis for providing additional services on these lines was increasing passenger demand.
- (2) Transport for NSW worked with RailCorp in analysing demand and operational data in developing

the new timetable.

*1171 BANKSTOWN LINE SERVICES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

In reference to the Government's recent announcement of 63 additional rail services on the Western, South Coast, North Shore, Illawarra and Blue Mountains Lines, why was there no increase of services on the Bankstown Line?

Answer—

I am advised:

Patronage and reliability data and customer feedback relating to the Bankstown Line is being further considered as part of the fundamental review of the CityRail timetable.

*1172 RESTRICTIONS ON TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Has the Minister or any member of her staff issued instructions to regional Housing NSW Offices to enforce restrictions on temporary accommodation to an absolute maximum of 28 days?
- (2) What action will the Minister take to prevent vulnerable residents in Bankstown currently residing in temporary accommodation from being forced to live on the streets?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There has been no change to Housing NSW's Private Rental Assistance Policy in regard to Temporary Accommodation.

The length of Temporary Accommodation assistance offered is based on an assessment of a client's immediate housing needs. There is no automatic entitlement to a specific period of assistance.

The total assistance provided will not exceed 28 days in a 12-month period other than in exceptional circumstances, and in this instance, a maximum of 14 days may be approved at any one time. Each extension is subject to assessment.

It is a condition of receiving Temporary Accommodation that clients assist themselves by seeking accommodation, whether longer term housing or alternative short term accommodation.

Under the Rentstart scheme, Housing NSW provides a range of financial assistance for eligible clients including those facing homelessness to help them set up or maintain a tenancy in the private rental market.

*1173 STRONGER TOGETHER TWO—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

When do applications for "Stronger Together Two" funding open?

Answer—

The 2011-12 Budget has allocated a total of \$2.8 billion to Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), an increase of \$341.6 million over the previous year.

This will fund the continued increase in existing services, such as therapy, respite, supported accommodation, case management, post school programs and development of new programs to help support people with a disability, their carers and families. This also includes a range of community support services to frail older people, younger people with a disability and their carers.

Funding will be available as ST2 programs and services are delivered. Applications for funding will be managed by program areas or by ADHC regions. Information about applications for program funding, including timeframes will be made available in line with ADHC's procurement framework.

*1174 BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL—RADIOTHERAPY FACILITIES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many patients within the Bankstown and East Hills electorates presently travel to Liverpool Hospital or other facilities to receive radiotherapy treatment?
- (2) Will the Government install radiotherapy facilities at Bankstown Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

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- (1) and (2) NSW Health does not allocate resources or provide services on the basis of electorates. A new private centre with two linear accelerators at Hurstville is understood to be scheduled to become operational early in 2012.
- *1175 FUNDING FROM GRANTS PROGRAMS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—
- In reference to your answer to Written Question 0605 - Recreation Sports and Aquatics Club:
- Given that applications for the Sport and Recreation Participation Program have now closed and applications for Stronger Together Two are yet to open, what other grants programs exist from which the RSAC might be eligible to receive funding?
- Answer—
- Funding under Stronger Together Two will provide an additional 4,500 flexible respite places over the next five years. Stronger Together Two has a focus on increasing flexible respite options that maximise social inclusion, including delivering new recreation and leisure focused respite options.
- Implementation of the additional flexible respite places is commencing in early 2012. Stronger Together Two provides increased opportunities for people to exercise more choice and control over their supports and funding arrangements. The Recreation Sports and Aquatic Centre is one provider that families and carers may choose to access services from.
- *1176 ELECTION FUNDING EXPENDITURES AND DISCLOSURES BILL 2011—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- With respect to the Election Funding Expenditures and Disclosures Bill 2011, what advice have you received regarding the Bill's impact on restricting the constitutionally implied freedom of political communication in NSW?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- As these matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Premier, this question should be directed to the Premier.
- *1178 ELECTION FUNDING EXPENDITURES AND DISCLOSURES BILL 2011—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- Has the Premier or his office received any advice suggesting that the Election Funding Expenditures and Disclosures Bill 2011 might be unconstitutional or have an adverse impact on democracy in our State?
- Answer—
- As stated in the Premier's Agreement in Principle speech on 12 September 2011:
- "[The Premier] believe[s] that a ban on donations other than those by individuals does not place unreasonable restrictions on the implied freedom of political communication mandated by the Commonwealth Constitution. The measures in this bill are designed to rid this State of the risk, reality and perception of corruption and undue influence. To this end, they are consistent with the principles endorsed by the High Court in the Lange case".
- *1179 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2011—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- Given that you invited all Councils to your Destination 2036 Forum and asked for submissions from these councils concerning the outcome of the forum to be provided to your office by 4 November, why did you introduce the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011 on 12 October?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The proposals in the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011 are designed to assist councils to improve both their efficiency and standards of service.
- *1180 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- Noting that an increasing proportion of Housing NSW tenants have high levels of complex needs that may sometimes be linked with neighbour disputes, and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers have been

appointed to work with these tenants to provide support and prevent impacts on neighbours and the community:

- (1) How many Anti-Social Behaviour Officers were available in the inner city in 2005, and how many are available in 2011?
- (2) What is the average caseload for each Anti-Social Behaviour Officer?
- (3) What training do these officers provide to Client Service Officers and other Housing NSW officers?
- (4) How many training programs have been run in the inner city over the past five years, and how many Housing NSW staff have been trained?
- (5) How many complaints did Housing NSW receive each year for the past three years from inner city tenants about safety and amenity impacts from neighbours' anti-social behaviour?
- (6) What strategies does Housing NSW use in the inner city to prevent and minimise neighbour disputes?
- (7) What allocation policies does Housing NSW have to prevent these concerns?
- (8) How does Housing NSW use these allocation policies to prevent anti-social behaviour between neighbours?
- (9) What plans does the Government have to increase the number of Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and increase support to tenants with high levels of complex needs?

Answer—

(1) to (4) In 2005, there were no dedicated anti-social behaviour officers in the Inner City Area. Currently, in 2011 there are staff who are dedicated to Anti-Social Behaviour management. Caseload is on average around 10 cases at any one time. The Anti-Social Behaviour staff run training sessions with front line staff and a large number of staff have attended these sessions over the past five years.

(5) Housing NSW does not keep data in this form.

(6) to (8) Housing NSW has a "During a Tenancy" policy which is available on its website and includes details about "Being a Good Neighbour". Housing NSW also regularly liaises with NSW Police and other community stakeholders to prevent and minimise neighbour disputes.

(9) Housing NSW has no plans to increase the number of anti-social behaviour officers in the inner city area.

*1181 HOUSING AND MENTAL HEALTH AGREEMENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Noting the NSW Ombudsman's 2009 recommendations that the "Joint Guarantee of Service for People with Mental Health Problems and Disorders: Living in Aboriginal, Community and Public Housing" (JGOS) being redeveloped into a "Housing and Mental Health Agreement":

- (1) What action has been taken in response to the 2009 report and its recommendations?
- (2) What changes have been made to:
 - (a) Governance and links with the Human Services Accord;
 - (b) Data collection and analysis;
 - (c) Information, training and support to agency officers;
 - (d) Operating procedures and systems;
 - (e) Information sharing amongst agencies;
 - (f) Links and relationships at local level;
 - (g) Discharge planning;
 - (h) Developing a "supportive tenancy management" approach?
- (3) What has the data collection from this agreement shown about community need and service gaps for people with a mental illness living in social housing?
- (4) What further plans does the Government have to improve the operations of this agreement and achieve better outcomes?

Answer—

(1) and (2) A new Housing and Mental Health Agreement has been finalised between the Department of Family and Community Services and NSW Health and will be available on the Department's website shortly.

(3) The Agreement is based on research that people with mental health problems and disorders often have difficulty accessing and maintaining affordable housing without appropriate mental health and accommodation support.

(4) Plans for the implementation of the Agreement are currently underway.

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*1182 ASSISTANCE ANIMALS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

Noting that assistance animals include companion animals that help with sight impairment, hearing impairment, limited mobility and mental illness including anxiety and depression:

- (1) What registration system does the NSW Government operate to provide authorisation that companion animals are assistance animals?
- (2) What rules apply about access to public space, public transport, taxis, shops and service providers etc?
- (3) How does the Government promote the value of assistance animals and relevant regulations?
- (4) What assessment has the Government made of an expanded scheme for registration of assistance animals?
- (5) What action has the Government taken to coordinate a national scheme for assistance animals?
- (6) What plans does the Government have to increase community knowledge, use and acceptance of assistance animals?

Answer—

The legal basis for allowing people to be accompanied by assistance animals comes primarily from the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) (the Act). The Act defines assistance animals as animals accredited under a law of a State or Territory that provides for the accreditation of animals trained to assist a person with a disability or accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed by the regulations (none prescribed to date). The Act also allows occupiers of premises or facilities to require identification of an assistance animal.

(1) Assistance animals are recognised in NSW under the Companion Animals Act 1998 for the purposes of registration, and to entitle people with an assistance animal to enter certain public premises. Although it covers the issue of lifetime registration for such animals, the principal object of the Companion Animals Act 1998 is to provide for the effective and responsible care and management of companion animals.

Assistance animals are registered by Local Councils. The Division of Local Government has issued a Guideline on the exercise of functions under the Companion Animals Act 1998 to provide advice to Local Councils.

(2) As a mobility aid, an assistance animal (Guide Dog/Seeing Eye Dog) is permitted by law to accompany their owners in all public places including shops, hotels, motels, pubs and clubs, restaurants, places of worship, and in taxis, buses and trains. These rights are covered by the following legislation:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)
- Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)
- Passenger Transport Act 1990 (NSW)
- Rail Safety Act 1993 (NSW)

NSW Transport does issue Assistance Animal Permits for free travel on public transport (buses, trains, taxis and ferries) but requires applicants to produce a certification for their assistance animals. People travelling with a Guide Dog, a Hearing Dog (accredited by Lions Australia Hearing Dogs) or a Police Dog, are not required to obtain an Assistance Animal Permit as these animals are assumed to be easily recognisable as being highly trained and not posing any risks to other passengers or staff. However, if the owner is requested by a transport officer to provide proof of the dog's status as an assistance animal, they will need to provide a copy of the animal's certification.

(3) and (6) The NSW Government endorses the excellent work of voluntary organisations such as the NSW Guide Dogs Association, Vision Australia and the Lions Club Hearing Dogs in training and providing assistance dogs for people with a disability and in promoting the awareness and acceptance of assistance animals in the community. The Government does not at this stage plan to undertake any public awareness campaigns focusing on the use of assistance animals. The NSW Government however is about to conduct an extensive public awareness campaign - the Don't DIS My ABILITY campaign - starting in November to grow awareness about the achievements, diversity and aspirations of people with a disability.

(4) and (5) The NSW Government is aware of the changes to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) that have strengthened the definition of assistance animals and appropriate changes have been made to NSW legislation such as the Companion Animals Act 1998 and the Rail Safety (Offences) Regulation 2008 and Passenger Transport Regulation 2007, amongst others. Information about the recognition of

assistance animals under the Companion Animals Act 1998 is provided through the website of the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet at

http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_InformationIndex.asp?areaindex=CA&index=301&mi=9

Information about Assistance Animal Permits is available at

<http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/concessions/assistance-animals.html>.

NSW has been working with other States and Territories and the Australian Government to develop a consistent approach to the identification of appropriately trained guide, hearing and assistance dogs. The development of an agreed consultation paper is progressing and it is anticipated that further work on this Project will be undertaken in 2012.

*1184 ELECTRIC BUSES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What assessment has the Government carried out on the feasibility and benefit of using electric or hybrid electric buses?
- (2) What other jurisdictions use these buses, how long have they been operating, and what evaluation have they carried out about the value of this type of vehicle?
- (3) What support or help has the Government provided to bus operators to buy or operate electric buses?
- (4) How does the Government ensure that bus operators include criteria about green house gas emissions, and noise and air pollution when choosing buses to buy?
- (5) What further plans does the Government have for introducing and supporting the use of electric or hybrid electric buses?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Information on the hybrid bus trial is available on the Transport for New South Wales website at <http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/content/hybrid-bus-trial>

An assessment program for the hybrid bus trial has been initiated with an independent expert company, RARE Pty Ltd. This assessment will review both the operational and economic viability of the hybrid bus.

*1186 PLATFORM 70 PROJECT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With respect to the Platform 70 Project, which will provide supported accommodation for homeless people sleeping rough in the Woolloomooloo precinct:

- (1) What action has been taken to establish and operate this project?
- (2) How many people have been listed for housing with built-in support?
- (3) How many places remain for homeless people needing accommodation with support?
- (4) How many people have been placed into housing to date?
- (5) When does the Government expect that all places will be filled and people housed?
- (6) What plans does the Government have to evaluate this project?

Answer—

(1) Bridge Housing Limited, a community housing provider, has been contracted by Housing NSW whilst Way2Home, a non-government organisation, will be the primary support partner for the project.

(2) to (4) 70 private rental tenancies will be made available. To date, approximately 60 clients have been identified for assessment and one client has been housed.

(5) This is subject to suitable private rental properties being available to Bridge Housing that meet the needs of clients.

(6) Options for evaluation of this project are being considered.

*1187 PRISONERS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Noting the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report "The health of Australia prisoners 2010" does not include any data from NSW prisons:

- (1) What proportion of NSW prisoners:
 - (a) report having a mental illness;
 - (b) seek psychological and clinic health for mental health concerns;
 - (c) currently take medication for a mental illness;

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- (d) who are new to the prison system are referred for mental health assessment or treatment?
- (2) How does the Government ensure that prisoners have access to necessary mental health care and what waiting times apply for treatment?
 - (3) How does the Government ensure that all prisoners with a mental illness receive treatment from mainstream mental health services after release?
 - (4) Will the Government take part in future National Prisoner Health Census counts and research?
 - (5) What plans does the Government have to improve and expand mental health services for prisoners and ex-prisoners?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) The health (including mental health) of inmates in correctional centres is the responsibility of Justice Health. The question should be directed to my colleague the Minister for Health.

*1188 WILDLIFE INFORMATION, RESCUE AND EDUCATION SERVICE (WIRES)—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With regard to the volunteer organisation WIRES, which rescues and rehabilitates native animals:

- (1) What practical support does the Government provide for WIRES, including funding, promotion, training, equipment and facilities?
- (2) How does the Government promote and educate the community about WIRES?
- (3) What further action does the Government plan to support the work of WIRES?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) The Government provides financial and in-kind support to WIRES and other licensed fauna rehabilitation groups.

For example, in 2010, approximately \$20,000 was provided to local WIRES branches. WIRES branches are also provided with access to other services, such as the use of office photocopiers, phone services, equipment and training room access in local Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) offices.

In addition, a grant of \$25,000 is provided to the NSW Wildlife Council, the peak body for wildlife carer groups, of which WIRES is a member.

Collectively, WIRES receives funding from OEH, the Environment Trust and the Department of Primary Industries.

- (2) The NSW Government provides information and contact details for WIRES and other wildlife carers through the OEH website. Local OEH officers also promote the work of WIRES and other licensed rehabilitation groups through regular interaction with community groups and members of the public.
- (3) The NSW Government will continue to provide financial and in-kind assistance to WIRES and other licensed wildlife carer groups.

The new Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna, sets benchmark standards for wildlife carer groups and supports the existing training programs run by WIRES and other licensed wildlife carer groups.

*1189 352 BUS SERVICE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What are the monthly patronage numbers for this bus service for 2011?
- (2) What patterns in patronage has State Transit identified over the past five years?
- (3) What proportion of 352 bus services are currently accessible?
- (4) What assessment has the Government made of demand for 352 services outside existing operating hours?
- (5) What plans does the Government have for improving the 352 bus, including providing a full time bus service?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Route 352 carried 413,004 passengers during the year ended June 2011. Monthly patronage ranged from a low of 25,968 in January 2011 to a high of 45,882 in March 2011. The average monthly patronage figure was 34,417.
- (2) Annual patronage has grown 12,978 (3.2%) from 400,026 (year ending June 2007) to 413,004 (year

ending June 2011) - or an average of 0.5 per cent per annum.

- (3) The street geometry of the route precludes the operation of wheelchair accessible buses.
- (4) and (5) Patronage and operational data and customer feedback is reviewed on a regular basis.

*1190 HOUSING NSW GUTTERS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With respect to the need for regular cleaning of gutters on Housing NSW buildings in order to prevent blockages and water ingress:

- (1) How many blocked gutters or problems caused by blocked gutters in the inner city were reported to Housing NSW over the past year?
- (2) What system of programmed works does Housing NSW use to ensure that gutters are regularly cleaned and repaired in order to prevent problems?
- (3) What is the expected timeframe for gutters on buildings to be cleaned?
- (4) What preventive measures such as leaf guards are used for Housing NSW properties to prevent leaves collecting in and blocking gutters?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to prevent ongoing problems with blocked gutters?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

*1192 PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR MURRUMBATEMAN—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many primary school-age children are there in Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo and Spring Range?
- (2) How many primary school-age children from Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo, Spring Range and surrounding areas attend NSW public schools?
- (3) How many primary school-age children from Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo, Spring Range and surrounding areas attend ACT public schools?
- (4) Do population changes in Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo, Spring Range and surrounding areas warrant a public school situated in Murrumbateman?
- (5) When will the Government reopen Murrumbateman Public School or open a new public school at Murrumbateman?

Answer—

- (1) It is estimated that there may be over 300 primary school aged children residing in the Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo and Spring Range area.
- (2) There are 46 primary school aged children from Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo, Spring Range and surrounding areas attending NSW public schools in 2011.
- (3) This data is not held by the NSW Department of Education and Communities.
- (4) Despite population growth in the areas of Murrumbateman, Jeir, Wallaroo and Spring Range, there are not sufficient numbers of primary school aged students to justify a new primary school, without jeopardising the viability of existing public schools in Yass.
- (5) Yass Public School and Berinda Public School have sufficient spare capacity to meet current and foreseeable demand for school places in Murrumbateman and surrounding areas. The Government therefore has no plans for reopening Murrumbateman Public School, or for opening a new school at Murrumbateman.

*1193 GLENMORE PARK HIGH SCHOOL AIR-CONDITIONING—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year for the installation of air-conditioning in classrooms at Glenmore Park High School?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated across the forward estimates period for the installation of air-conditioning in classrooms at Glenmore Park High School?
- (3) How many classrooms does Glenmore Park High School have and how many of these will be air-conditioned?
- (4) When will this project commence and when will it be completed?

Answer—

- (1) None.
- (2) I cannot pre-empt the Budget deliberation process.

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- (3) The school has 52 classrooms. The nomination for funding for the installation of air-conditioning will be assessed for inclusion in a future Capital Works Program.
(4) Unknown at this time.

*1194 FREE TRAIN TRAVEL TO WESTERN PLAINS ZOO—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year to provide free train travel to the Western Plains Zoo Dubbo, and zoo entry, and an allowance worth \$50 for Penrith students?
(2) Which schools will be eligible for the program?
(3) How many students in total are potentially eligible for the program?
(4) Has the Government advised eligible schools that they can apply for the program?
(5) What are the expected start dates and completion dates for the program?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Minister for the Environment.

*1195 NEW HIGH SCHOOL AT MEDOWIE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Has a feasibility study commenced into a new high school at Medowie?
(2) Has any funding been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year, and if so, how much?
(3) Has any funding been allocated across the forward estimates period, and if so, how much?
(4) How many high school-age children are there in Medowie and surrounding suburbs who would be eligible for intake into a high school at Medowie?
(5) When will the Government build a new high school at Medowie?

Answer—

- (1) A Working Party Report into the provision of education in Raymond Terrace, Medowie, Salt Ash and the Tilligerry Peninsula was delivered to the former NSW Government in December 2009. An update to the demographic data was provided in April 2011.
(2) No.
(3) No.
(4) It is estimated that in 2011 there are 1,480 children aged 12 to 17 years old residing in postcodes 2318 and 2319, which cover the Medowie, Salt Ash, Tanilba Bay and surrounding areas, who would be eligible for intake into a high school at Medowie.
(5) There are currently no plans to build a new high school at Medowie

*1196 FULL-TIME ASSYRIAN YOUTH WORKER—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated for a full-time Assyrian youth worker at Fairfield High School in the 2011-12 financial year?
(2) Has any funding been allocated for a full-time Assyrian youth worker at Fairfield High School across the forward estimates period, and if so, how much?
(3) What priority does the Government give to the employment of a full-time Assyrian youth worker at Fairfield High School?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Funding has not been allocated in the Fairfield High School budget for an Assyrian youth worker in the 2011-12 financial year.

However, under the NSW Government's Student Support Officer initiative, a student support officer has been employed at Fairfield High School to support the school in addressing the needs of all students

*1197 PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK IN THE FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In reference to the 2011-12 Budget Report for the Fairfield Electorate paper:

Of the \$22,607,000 said to be invested in public housing stock in the Fairfield electorate; how much of the funding has come from the Commonwealth Government?

Answer—

In any given year, the social housing budget is sourced from a combination of Commonwealth Government funds such as the National Affordable Housing Agreements; funds from the NSW Government; internally sourced income from rents, and the sale of properties.

*1198 REPLACEMENT BUSES—FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

In reference to the 2011-12 Budget Report for the Fairfield Electorate paper:

Of the "139 New Replacement Buses" for the Sydney metropolitan area, how many will go to replace existing buses servicing the routes or bus companies that travel through the Fairfield electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

The actual allocation of Growth Buses is currently being finalised.

*1199 BUSES FOR GROWTH—FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) In reference to the 2011-12 Budget Report for the Fairfield Electorate paper:

(2) Of the "64 New Buses for Growth" for the Sydney metropolitan area, how many buses will be allocated to bus companies that specifically service the Fairfield Electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

The actual allocation of Growth Buses is currently being finalised.

*1200 TEACHER RATIOS—FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

What is the ratio between the number of migrant students and the number of English as a Second Language teachers in the public schools in the Fairfield electorate?

Answer—

In the Fairfield electorate, 8,671 students from language backgrounds other than English are enrolled currently in government primary and high schools. Of these, 5,779 students require English as a Second Language (ESL) support. This support is provided by a total of 82.3 (equivalent full-time positions) specialist ESL teachers. This is a ratio of 1 teacher to 70 ESL students.

The 82.3 specialist ESL teachers provide English language support to students in government primary schools and high schools as well as 2 intensive English Centres, Holroyd and Fairfield Intensive English Centres, located in the Fairfield electorate.

*1202 ESTIMATE OF QUARTERLY ELECTRICITY CHARGES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

(1) Are electricity providers allowed to estimate quarterly electricity charges?

(2) If so, what guidelines are in place to regulate the practise?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The circumstances under which an electricity retailer can estimate a small customer's bill are governed by regulations which require, amongst other things, that:

- If an estimate is used to calculate an electricity bill, this must be clearly written on the bill.
- The meter has to be read at least once every six months. This means that generally the next bill following an estimated quarterly bill should be based on an actual meter reading.

The next time the meter is read, the ensuing bill will be adjusted to balance any differences between estimated usage and actual usage. This means there will be no discrepancies overall between the amount of electricity the customer uses and the amount of electricity they are billed for.

When estimating a bill, metering providers (who read the meters or estimate meter reads on behalf of retailers and network businesses) must follow procedures made in accordance with national energy legislation and administered by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). Non-compliance with these procedures can result in the metering provider losing its accreditation granted by AEMO.

Under new requirements to be in place by 1 July 2012, in some instances, retailers will be required to obtain customer permission prior to estimating electricity bills.

*1203 SAFETY OF WOMEN TENANTS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What procedures are in place to ensure the safety of women housed in the Department's bed sitter

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facilities which have a predominantly male population?

Answer—

Housing NSW works to provide a safe and secure environment for all tenants housed in its properties. A Memorandum of Understanding between NSW Police and Housing NSW ensures close cooperation for the safety of tenants.

Housing NSW tenants are also able to contact NSW Police in the case of an immediate threat of danger to themselves or their property.

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*1205 KARIONG JUVENILE JUSTICE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many staff and in what positions, have been employed at Kariong Juvenile Justice Correctional Centre as at the following dates:

- (a) 1 July 2010;
- (b) 1 January 2011;
- (c) 1 July 2011;
- (d) 14 October 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) 40.66 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions
- (b) 42.66 FTE positions
- (c) 44.66 FTE positions
- (d) 44.66 FTE positions

These numbers cover custodial, industries, psychologist, drug and alcohol, welfare, clerical / administrative and kitchen positions. In addition, educational staff are employed by the Department of Education and Communities, and health staff are employed by Justice Health. Questions in respect of those staff should be directed to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Health respectively.

*1206 ASBESTOS DISEASES FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Does the Premier propose to meet with the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc as requested in their letter to him dated 29 April 2011 or to otherwise substantively respond to them?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Attorney General, in his capacity as the Minister responsible for administering the Dust Diseases Tribunal Act 1989, has arranged to meet with the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australian Inc in early December 2011.

*1207 REVIEW OF DNA LAWS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) (a) Is the forensic working party headed by Justice Graham Barr continuing to review the present laws relating to DNA?
- (b) If so, when will the review be completed?
- (2) Will the review report be publically released?
- (3) Will the Government commit to implementing the report's recommendation?

Answer—

I am advised:

The final report of the review is currently being drafted. Once the report has been completed and submitted, the Government will make a decision regarding the implementation of its recommendations and the release of the report.

*1208 BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRY—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is the current processing time for a routine certificate application by the Births Deaths and Marriages Registry?

Answer—

I am advised:

The actual processing time changes every day depending on workload, availability of staff, and unplanned events such as computer outages.

The Registry's median processing time for a routine certificate application between 1 January 2011 and 4 November 2011 was 2 days and the average was 2.26 days.

*1209 NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING OF DNA SAMPLES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) Does the Attorney General support calls by Dr Anne Smith, Medical Director of the Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Centre for national guidelines for all laboratories and hospitals in their handling of DNA samples?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) If so, what has the Attorney General done in this regard?

Answer—

I am advised:

These matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Health. The question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

*1210 SHARED CELLS IN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many correctional centre inmates share a cell as at 1 July 2011?

Answer—

I am advised that, as at 1 July 2011, an estimated 5,457 inmates were sharing a cell in New South Wales correctional centres.

*1211 RURAL OUTREACH CLINIC PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In which places have legal clinics been conducted under the Rural Outreach Clinic Program in the periods:

(a) 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010;

(b) 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011;

(c) 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Bowraville, Brewarrina, Dareton, Lithgow, Macksville, Moree and Wentworth.

(2) Locations as per question 1, plus Bega and Nambucca Heads.

(3) Bega, Boggabilla, Bowraville, Brewarrina, Dareton, Lightning Ridge, Lithgow, Macksville, Moree, Nambucca Heads, Orange, Tenterfield and Wentworth.

*1212 LEGAL AID—MORTGAGE HARDSHIP PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) Does Legal Aid NSW continue to run a Mortgage Hardship Program?

(2) If so, how many people are employed and in what capacities?

(3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Legal Aid NSW currently runs this program in partnership with the Consumer Credit Legal Centre (CCLC).

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- (2) The program employs two lawyers at the Legal Aid NSW regional offices located in the Central Coast and Western Sydney (NSW regions experiencing the highest levels of mortgage stress). The program also includes two solicitors and a financial counsellor based at the CCLC.
- (3) Not applicable.

*1213 SHERIFFS' OFFICERS—NEWCASTLE COURT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many sheriffs' officers are employed at Newcastle Court?

Answer—

I am advised:

Of 16 full time equivalent positions, 13 are currently filled and an internal recruitment process is underway.

*1214 PEOPLE SMUGGLING OFFENCES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many people are currently before NSW courts charged with people smuggling offences?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 4 November 2011, 72 people are currently on remand in NSW while their matter is before a court. A further 22 people are serving a sentence after being convicted of a people smuggling offence.

*1215 COMMUNITY OFFENDER SUPPORT PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

At which locations are Community Offender Support Program centres (COSP) functioning as at:

- (a) 1 January 2011;
- (b) 1 July 2011;
- (c) 1 September 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) to (c) On all dates in question, the following Community Offender Support Program Centres (COSPs) accommodated residents:

Boronia COSP, Emu Plains,
Bundaleer COSP, Berkshire Park,
Campbelltown COSP, Campbelltown,
Cooma COSP, Cooma,
Nunyara COSP, Malabar, and
Swanson Lodge COSP, Kempsey.

*1216 MATTERS NOT PROCEEDED WITH BY DPP—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many matters were not proceeded with by the DPP at the request of the Crime Commission in the following periods:

- (a) 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;
- (b) 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;
- (c) 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;
- (d) 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;
- (e) 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the honourable member to my answer to question on notice no 0769.

*1217 MOUNT OUSLEY ROAD REST STOP—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) When will the concept design and planning phase be completed on the Mount Ousley Road Rest

Stop upgrade?

- (2) What plans does the Government have to complete this facility?
(3) What is the timeline on this work?

Answer—

I am advised:

Roads and Maritime Services is carrying out extensive concept design work and environmental studies for this project. These preparatory works are about 85 per cent complete.

The NSW Government inherited a \$5.2 billion budget blackhole from the former State Labor Government making it very difficult to fund any projects outside the current capital envelope and our election commitments. As a result no funding has currently been allocated to progress this project in future years.

Roads and Maritime Services will continue to consider this project against Statewide priorities in future years.

*1218 FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

When will funding be allocated to the urgent upgrade of Figtree High School library?

Answer—

A project to extend the current library at Figtree High School is nominated for inclusion in a future capital works funding. I am unable to provide a specific timeframe for the inclusion of this project in a future capital works program.

*1219 WOONONA HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE LABORATORIES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

When will construction commence on the upgrade to science laboratories for Woonona High School?

Answer—

Planning for the project to upgrade science laboratories at Woonona High School is currently underway. Timeframes for the delivery of this project will be developed as part of the planning process and when funding becomes available.

*1220 HANDYMAN SERVICE PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many specific jobs have been allocated to the "Handyman Service" program for public housing properties in the Keira electorate?
(2) What is the department doing to promote this service to local seniors living in public housing?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

*1221 WORK ORDERS FOR GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) In the last six months, for what specific locations in the Keira electorate has Housing NSW issued work orders to have graffiti removed?
(2) For each of these orders when was the complaint made and when was the graffiti removed?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

*1222 COAL SEAM GAS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

Will the Minister come to the Illawarra and meet with residents and community groups to discuss coal seam gas?

- (a) If so, when?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

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- (a) and (b) On 15 August 2011, the NSW Government Cabinet visited the Illawarra. As Minister for Resources and Energy, I met with a number of groups to discuss a range of topics, including coal seam gas.

*1223 FUNDING TO REDUCE GRAFFITI—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) What funds were allocated to Wollongong City Council in the last financial year to help reduce graffiti?
- (2) What funds have been allocated this financial year?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The Department of Attorney General and Justice is the lead agency for the implementation of the Government's response to graffiti vandalism. The Member may therefore wish to direct his questions to the Attorney General, the Hon Greg Smith MP.

*1224 PRIORITY CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Given that Figtree High School library is not considered a priority for funding in the Illawarra South East Region by the Government, can the Minister provide a list of the priority capital works projects for this region?
- (2) What are the specific reasons why this project is not considered a priority?

Answer—

- (1) This year's State Budget included additional funding for major projects in the Illawarra and South East Region including the consolidation of Bega and Bega West public schools, the new gymnasium at Bomaderry High School, the upgrade of facilities at Jerrabomberra Public School and Ulladulla High School, and the development of the Industry Training Colleges in the Illawarra and at Queanbeyan.

Approximately \$1.8 million has been provided as part of the 2011-12 Upgrades and Additions Program for science laboratory upgrades at Boorowa Central School, Crookwell High School, Eden Marine High School, Figtree High School, Mulwaree High School and Queanbeyan High School.

The 2011-12 Integration Program includes approximately \$2.2 million for 18 projects that will be undertaken at schools in the Illawarra and South East Region to support students with a disability to gain better access to school facilities.

- (2) The nomination to extend the library at Figtree High School was not identified as a priority project by the Illawarra and South East Regional Asset Reference Group as the school has an existing functional library.

*1225 CHANGES TO THE ENGINEERING CERTIFICATE SCHEME—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What changes are taking place in relation to the Engineering Certificate Scheme?
- (2) Will the new scheme result in an increase in paperwork for customers?
- (3) What will happen to those engineers who are terminated as a result of changes to this scheme?
- (4) Can you guarantee that engineering professionals will not find the costs to enter the scheme prohibitive?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Engineering Certificate Scheme is planned to be replaced by the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme.
- (2) No.
- (3) Current signatories in the Engineering Certification Scheme are most welcome to apply for a licence as a certifier in the new scheme. Most signatories have already taken that step.

Certifiers are agents conducting certifications on behalf of the Government – the Independent Commission against Corruption Act 1988 deems them to be public officials. As such, RMS has a responsibility to ensure that its agents are both competent and fit and proper to hold a licence. The entry criteria for the new scheme have been set to a level commensurate with that responsibility.

- (4) The fees for becoming a licensed agent of RMS have been determined in accordance with the normal cost recovery principles of government. As part of the design of the scheme, these costs have been minimised wherever possible.

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(Paper No. 52)

*1226 REVIEW OF BUS ROUTES AND TIMETABLES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has the Minister announced there is to be a review of bus routes and timetables?
- (2) Will this process involve private bus operators?
- (3) Are changes planned for bus routes in the Bidwill, Shalvey and Mount Druitt areas?
- (4) Will there be increased services on weekends?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Bus services in metropolitan Sydney are reviewed on an annual basis.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) and (4) This will be subject to the review.

*1227 PROGRAM TABELLA—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Will the Government be continuing and expanding Program Tabella and the use of one-way screws to protect number plates?

Answer—

I am advised:

A new initiative that will include the use of one-way screws to protect number plates is currently under development.

*1228 PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

What is the Government doing to help carers and parents of children with autism in the Cabramatta electorate?

Answer—

In 2011-12 the NSW Government, through Ageing, Disability and Home Care, will invest over \$51 million for families and carers of children and young people with a disability. This investment includes \$4.7 million specifically for autism services.

Examples of supports available to families in the Cabramatta electorate include:

- Learning Links, which, in consortium with Koorana, provides the Early Start – Diagnosis Support Program. This program operates in south-west Sydney, including Cabramatta. The diagnosis support worker provides support to families at the time of the child's diagnosis.
- The Early Childhood Intervention Program run by CatholicCare, operates from Cabramatta West. This service aims to assist children reach their potential, and to support families to aid their child's development.
- Learning Links at Mount Pritchard provides services for children from birth up to six years of age, including those who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
- CatholicCare provides an intensive family support program in the south west Sydney local planning area (LPA). This service is a short, intensive in-home program to assist families who have a child with a disability where there is a risk of family break-down or of the child being placed out of the home.

Other services funded by the Government include:

- Autism Behavioural Intervention NSW (ABI) Footprints program, is available across Sydney specifically for children with autism. It is a home-based, behaviour intervention program which aims to improve skills and promote positive behaviour across home, child care and community settings.

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- Parent Line - a counselling, referral and information service for all parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years. This service is staffed by a team of highly qualified counsellors, and is available state-wide 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The Family Assistance Fund - provides one-off funding for items such as household appliances needed for children with a disability or for access to parenting skills training.

Additionally, the NSW Department of Education and Communities provides services and support for families and carers of children with a disability.

The Australian Government, through Helping Children with Autism, also provides individual funding packages for families who have a child with autism.

Finally, the NSW Government is committed to the expansion of respite opportunities for children with a disability and their families and carers. Additional Stronger Together 2 funding will increase the number of flexible respite options by 4,500 places across the state, at a cost of \$32.2 million. As part of this growth funding, approximately \$3.5 million will be invested in the south west Sydney LPA over the next five years.

*1229 COSTS FOR LOCUM MEDICAL OFFICERS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What was the total costs for locum medical officers for the months of June, July, August and September 2011 in:

- The Children's Hospitals network;
- CC LHN;
- Illawarra Shoalhaven LHN;
- Nepean Blue Mountains LHN;
- NS LHN;
- SES LHN;
- SWS LH;
- Sydney LHN;
- WS LHN;
- Far West LHN;
- HNE LHN;
- MNC LHN;
- Murrumbidgee LHN;
- Northern NSW LHN;
- Southern NSW LHN;
- Western LHN;
- St Vincent's HN;
- all of NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on the total costs for locum medical services is not held centrally and to compile this advice would require an inappropriate diversion of the Ministry's resources from the delivery of core services.

*1230 COSTS FOR AGENCY NURSES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What was the total costs for temporary staff ("agency nurses") to fill unstaffed nursing shifts for the months of June, July, August and September 2011 in:

- The Children's Hospitals network;
- CC LHN;
- Illawarra Shoalhaven LHN;
- Nepean Blue Mountains LHN;
- NS LHN;
- SES LHN;
- SWS LH;
- Sydney LHN;
- WS LHN;
- Far West LHN;
- HNE LHN;

- (l) MNC LHN;
- (m) Murrumbidgee LHN;
- (n) Northern NSW LHN;
- (o) Southern NSW LHN;
- (p) Western LHN;
- (q) St Vincent's HN;
- (r) all of NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on the total costs for temporary staff is not held centrally and to compile this advice would require an inappropriate diversion of the Ministry's resources from the delivery of core services.

*1231 DENTAL WAITING LISTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many patients were seen by the NSW Health dental service for the 2010-11 financial year?
- (2) What percentage of patients fail to attend scheduled appointments?
- (3) In view of the Minister's previous position that dental waiting lists should be publically available, where are the figures collected since April 2011 publicly available?
- (4) (a) Does the Minister plan to publish the numbers of patients on the waiting list for assessment, treatment and surgery?
- (b) If so, where?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 256,264
- (2) 7 %
- (3) and (4) Dental waiting list data is published on the public NSW Health website quarterly, and can be accessed at: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/cohs/list_flow.asp

*1232 FORENSIC HEALTH SERVICES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What forensic health services are currently available to victims of sexual assault in Walgett?
- (2) Are any enhancements planned to this service?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Walgett Sexual Assault Assessment Service provides victims with information regarding the forensic process and supports them to make the decisions concerning their care that may include a forensic medical examination. Specialist forensic medical service is available in Dubbo.

The Assessment Service is also able to advocate for the client with other agencies such as Police and Family and Community Services. Trained health workers are available in Walgett to work with victims to provide crisis counselling and support, and to coordinate the care of victims and their travel to Dubbo if required.

Dubbo Base Hospital operates 24 hour counseling and medical service and a telephone counselling service to victims in outlying centres. The staff based at Walgett Hospital are provided with telephone support by the 24 hour counselling service at Dubbo Base Hospital.

*1233 BLAYNEY HOSPITAL BUDGET—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What was the budget for Blayney Hospital for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11?
- (2) What is the budget for 2011-12?
- (3) How many FTE nursing staff are employed?
- (4) (a) Are any positions vacant?
- (b) If so, how many?
- (5) What is the current medical cover?
- (6) How many patients presented to ED in the financial year 2010-11?
- (7) What plans does the Minister have for future services at Blayney Hospital?

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Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Blayney District Hospital is administered by the Western NSW Local Health District (LHD). Budgets are allocated by the Ministry of Health to LHDs on a whole of LHD basis for all facilities under their control. Decisions regarding facility budgets are made at the local level allowing resources to be allocated where they are most needed.

(3) Audited staff numbers will be published in the NSW Health Annual Report

(4) (a) and (b) Information on job vacancies is published on the NSW Health website under 'Jobs'

(5) Medical Cover is provided by two General Practitioners for in-patients and aged care residents. Medical support for emergency presentations is via the 'Remote Medical Consultation Service' for less urgent presentations. For urgent cases, the Western NSW Local Health District provides a Critical Care Advisory Service from 8 am to 8 pm. Otherwise staff utilise the Aero Medical Retrieval Service.

(6) There were 836 Emergency Department presentations in 2010/2011.

(7) The Western NSW Local Health District continues to try and recruit additional medical cover for the community to support the Multipurpose Service.

The Local Health District has also been developing Emergency Department protocols to support nurses in Emergency Departments without on-site or available medical cover.

Most recently Blayney successfully secured Transitional Aged Care Places to improve outcomes for eligible older patients following an acute health episode to return home.

*1234 WESTMEAD HOSPITAL ONCOLOGY UNIT LETTERS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the backlog of 1,700 letters requiring typing from the Westmead Hospital Oncology unit:

(1) How many letters were there in total?

(2) How many were from consultations:

- (a) after 1 July 2011;
- (b) 1 April to 30 June 2011;
- (c) 1 January to 31 March 2011;
- (d) 2010;
- (e) 2009;
- (f) 2008;
- (g) prior to 2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) 1,793 letters in total were processed during the clearance of the back log.

(2) (a) 1,005;

(b) 474;

(c) 137;

(d) 29;

(e) 147;

(f) 6;

(g) Nil.

*1235 FUNDING FOR BEAR COTTAGE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What recurrent funding has the Minister allocated for Bear Cottage in the 2011-12 budget and for future years?

Answer—

I am advised:

Bear Cottage is a children's hospice with services provided through the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network.

In 2013-14, the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network will receive \$3.3 million in funding from the Commonwealth under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services for 10 new sub-acute beds at Bear Cottage.

*1236 BRAIDWOOD MPS DEMENTIA UNIT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the reported \$280,000 commitment made by the Government in March 2011 to upgrade the dementia unit at Braidwood MPS:

- (1) Has the money been committed?
- (2) If yes, what work has been performed to date?
- (3) If no, when will the money be allocated and what works are planned?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The Government committed \$260,000 funding in the 2011/12 budget to enhance the existing Braidwood MPS. A concept plan will assist the preparation of a Development Application with the local Council, which is scheduled to be progressed by late 2011. Early works and detailed design are anticipated to be coordinated in parallel to this approval process and work is due to commence early in 2012 with completion of all works scheduled by June 2012.

The project is a partnership between the Southern NSW Local Health District and the local community. On site an electric sliding door has been installed to separate the acute area from the high care area and to assist in keeping the residents safe. An update to the existing Nurse Call system has also been completed.

*1237 UNOCCUPIED PROPERTIES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

In relation to public housing in the Keira electorate:

- (1) How many properties are currently unoccupied?
- (2) Why are they unoccupied?
- (3) For each property listed, how long have they been unoccupied?
- (4) What is being done to reduce the number of properties that are unoccupied?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The number of properties managed by Housing NSW that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as properties are vacated by tenants, cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant, as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act and are then re-occupied. Generally, the vacancy rate of public housing is lower than that of the private rental sector at any given time.

*1238 ALLOWANCE FOR FOSTER PARENTS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) What information was used to determine the decision to reduce the allowance for foster parents?
- (2) How many foster parents are there in the Wollongong Local Government Area?
- (3) What alternative financial support does the Minister intend to provide to those parents?
- (4) Will the Minister meet with myself and local carers to discuss this issue?

Answer—

- (1) The decision was informed by detailed analysis of the allowance rates across jurisdictions compared with NSW and other sources of income support available to carer households, including the Commonwealth's Youth Allowance. The approach was also informed by the practise of the former Labor government prior to 2006 when Community Services reduced allowances to take account of the Youth Allowance.
- (2) Information about foster carer households is not available by Local Government Area (LGA).
- (3) Carers are encouraged to ensure they are receiving full entitlements available through Commonwealth income supports and services.

This change to care allowances will encourage young people's financial independence as they transition from out-of-home care.

As part of this broader focus on leaving care planning, carers are encouraged to negotiate a contribution from the Youth Allowance towards household expenses.

- (4) My office will be happy to respond to requests for meetings.

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*1239 CONSULTATIONS WITH STAFF—WOLLONGONG CAMPUS OF TAFE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What consultations have taken place with staff at the Wollongong Campus of TAFE regarding changes proposed under the Technical and Further Education Commission Amendment (Staff Employment) Bill 2011?
- (2) What concerns did they raise?
- (3) What is being done to address these concerns?

Answer—

- (1) The Technical and Further Education Commission Amendment (Staff Employment) Bill 2011 did not include consultation with specific TAFE campuses.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) TAFE NSW is providing information to staff about this change on a regular basis.

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(Paper No. 53)

*1240 ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How many employees are situated at workshops relating to the electricity industry in the Mount Druitt electorate?
- (2) At what locations are these workshops situated?
- (3) Which electricity operators manage these facilities?
- (4) Will these workshops remain in public ownership?

Answer—

- (1) 247.
- (2) These employees are spread across three locations:
 - Glendenning Central Logistics Facility, 49 Glendenning Road, Glendenning;
 - Glendenning Civil Works Centre, 15 Belfast Place, Glendenning; and
 - Glendenning Field Service Centre, 43 Glendenning Road, Glendenning.
- (3) These facilities are owned and managed by Endeavour Energy.
- (4) Endeavour Energy is a statutory State Owned Corporation established under the Energy Services Corporations Act 1995 (NSW) and the State Owned Corporations Act 1989 (NSW).

*1241 BASS HILL SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to the Capital Program Report for the Bankstown electorate which stated, in regards to the Bass Hill Special Needs School, "The estimated total cost and 2011-12 expenditures for new works and works in progress (which are yet to be tendered) have not been included due to their commercially sensitive nature":

When can the people of Bass Hill expect funding arrangements and a construction time-line to be announced for the Bass Hill Special Needs School?

Answer—

Funding for the construction of a new special needs school at Bass Hill, the George Bass Special Needs School, was approved in the NSW Government 2011-12 Budget. The estimated cost of the project is commercial in confidence. The actual cost of the project will not be known until the tender process is completed.

Construction of the new George Bass Special Needs School is expected to start in late 2012.

*1242 MAJOR EVENTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With respect to the expanding range of major events using public roads, parklands and other public space in the inner city; and the increasing residential population in the same precincts:

- (1) How does the Government consult with inner city residents and businesses adjacent to major event sites who experience traffic, noise and other amenity impacts, in order to prevent and reduce impacts?
- (2) How does the Government ensure that local residents are informed about major events that may

cause traffic and noise impacts?

- (3) What controls for bump-in and bump-out apply to major events to protect adjacent residential amenity?
- (4) What strategies does the Government use to ensure that the benefits and impacts of major events are shared amongst different communities?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to improve communication and prevent impacts on inner city residents adjacent to major events sites?

Answer—

I am advised:

All events in New South Wales are subject to legislation and regulation and event organisers are responsible for meeting the conditions attached to the event under these controls by the various consent authorities, such as local government and various NSW Government agencies.

Consent conditions can include communications strategies to minimise traffic and other disruption to local residents and businesses likely to be impacted by an event, limitations on noise, timeframes to conduct bump-in and bump-out, and requirements to provide additional temporary infrastructure such as temporary toilets.

With regard to strategies for sharing the benefits of major events, this industry sector is a significant contributor to the NSW economy, generating more than half a billion dollars in economic activity annually. Major events bring more visitors to the State and showcase the very best of Sydney and NSW to national and international audiences, providing significant benefits to the state's tourism industry, which supports 165,000 jobs and contributes more than \$28 billion to the economy each year.

The Government works with event organisers, local government and major event stakeholders, including other government agencies and landholders, to ensure whole-of-government coordination for major public events, and as much as possible, to maintain the normal functioning of the city. This includes appropriate communications strategies to minimise the impacts on the non-event public of events likely to have a significant impact on the Sydney CBD and its road network.

*1243 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE IN THE INNER CITY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Noting that:

- Housing NSW properties in inner Sydney are some of the oldest and highest density housing in NSW;
 - there was a significant backlog of maintenance and repairs in NSW public housing; and
 - additional Commonwealth funding was provided in 2009:
- (1) What impact did the accelerated maintenance program have on the backlog of inner city maintenance and repairs?
 - (2) What is the estimated backlog of maintenance and repairs in the inner city now, including programmed repairs?
 - (3) Will the Government provide additional funding to address the remaining maintenance backlog in inner Sydney public housing?
 - (4) What major maintenance and repair projects will be carried out in 2011-12 in:
 - (i) Woolloomooloo;
 - (ii) Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks;
 - (iii) Darlinghurst;
 - (iv) Surry Hills;
 - (v) Kings Cross;
 - (vi) Chippendale;
 - (vii) Ultimo;
 - (viii) Pyrmont; and
 - (ix) Paddington and Woollahra;
 - (5) When will these projects begin and when does the Government expect them to be complete?
 - (6) How are tenants informed about programmed works in their building or precinct?
 - (7) What plans does the Government have to ensure prompt repairs and scheduled maintenance for inner city public housing?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets including maintenance.

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*1244 PARTY BOATS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to the updated regulations for party boats in order to prevent alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, and noting recent incidents where intoxicated patrons have disembarked at inner city wharves:

- (1) What changes have been implemented to ensure responsible management of party boats?
- (2) What resources have been allocated to enforcement to ensure responsible management of these operators?
- (3) How are Responsible Service of Alcohol standards enforced on vessels while on water?
- (4) What evaluation has been carried out on the effectiveness of Hassle Free Nights regulations for party boats?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to improve regulation of party boats?

Answer—

I am advised:

In November 2010 NSW Maritime, in collaboration with the Commercial Vessels' Association, released the "Code of Conduct for Charter Vessels Managing Passengers and Alcohol" which sets out the guidelines to assist owners and masters of charter vessels used for functions on Sydney Harbour. The code provides specific guidance to vessel operators on managing passengers and alcohol consumption and on reducing antisocial behaviour, including the behaviour of passengers as they embark and disembark.

Roads and Maritime Services conduct night patrols, including joint operations with Water Police and other agencies to identify and remind vessel operators of their obligations. There is increased enforcement during the Christmas and New Year period each year. These patrols have led to fines for non compliance with various regulatory requirements.

In addition Roads and Maritime Services works closely with the commercial vessel industry and individual operators to manage the impact of party boats around residential areas. Industry representatives have been reminded of their obligations with behaviour of party boat customers after disembarking. Operators have also been advised that access to wharves could be denied if such disturbances continue.

Enforcement of Responsible Service of Alcohol standards is a matter for NSW Police and the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing.

There has been no formal evaluation of the Hassle Free Nights strategy by Roads and Maritime Services. Compliance activity conducted by Roads and Maritime Services as well as joint operations conducted with other agencies demonstrates the majority of charter boat operators do comply with legislated requirements.

*1245 RTA PROPERTY WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to the Roads and Traffic Authority property at 110-130 William Street Woolloomooloo, and in reference to Question 12142 (30 November 2010):

- (1) What assessment has been made of the use of this site since 2006?
- (2) What work has been done for the stratum survey referred to in the previous Question?
- (3) What plans does the Government have for short term use of this site?
- (4) What plans does the Government have for longer term use of this site?
- (5) What action is planned for improvements to the visual amenity of the site, including landscaping?
- (6) What community consultation about appropriate uses is planned?
- (7) When will the Government make a decision on the future of this site?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Due to the incomplete stratum survey and future Cross City Tunnel operational and maintenance requirements no assessment has been carried out.
- (2) The stratum survey is a complex task involving the interface between the Eastern Distributor and Cross City Tunnel motorways. Detailed investigation is continuing to facilitate the survey.
- (3) The short-term use of the site involves ongoing operational and maintenance requirements.
- (4) Long-term use of the site is dependent on finalising the stratum survey and future Cross City Tunnel operational and maintenance requirements.

- (5) There are no current plans to carry out any visual amenity improvements, including landscaping.
- (6) There are no current proposals for the land and, accordingly, no consultation has been programmed.
- (7) A decision will be made following completion of the stratum survey and further consultation with the Cross City Tunnel operator.

1246 PROTECTION FOR CLUB WORKERS—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

*1247 RECOGNITION OF PRIOR EXPERIENCE—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Education—

To attract accomplished professionals into the teaching vocation, will the Minister give a commitment to reinstate recognition for prior experience when it comes to teachers' salaries?

Answer—

The current provisions relating to the policy for determining the commencing salary of teachers were introduced in 2005 under the previous Labor Government.

These provisions streamlined and simplified conditions of employment relating to determining the commencing salary for teachers and were implemented as part of a package of changes discussed with the NSW Teachers Federation.

The NSW Government is committed to attracting and recruiting quality teachers, including teachers with industry and professional experience.

The Department of Education and Communities undertakes assessments of prior service so that each teacher is paid at the salary level appropriate to the range of qualifications and experience that they bring to the role.

In assessing prior service, consideration is given to academic qualifications, previous teaching service, periods of child rearing and service with the Australian Defence Forces during hostilities or peace-keeping.

In addition, recognition of prior non-teaching service is provided for teachers who are employed through specified targeted recruitment strategies, such as the Teacher Education Scholarship program and teachers who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

20 OCTOBER 2011

(Paper No. 54)

1248 MOUNT DRUITT POLICE STATION—ACTUAL STRENGTH—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

*1249 COAL SEAM GAS LICENCES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

How many coal seam gas licences currently exist for the Cessnock electorate as:

- (a) testing or exploration only licences;
- (b) farming, producing or manufacturing licences?

Answer—

- (a) and (b) There is one petroleum exploration licence (PEL) in the Cessnock electorate. PEL 267 was granted on 20 January 1984 and is currently held by AGL Upstream Investments Pty Limited.

There are no petroleum production leases in the Cessnock electorate.

*1250 COAL SEAM GAS PRODUCTION—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

With regard to the total production of Coal Seam Gas:

- (1) What were NSW production levels as at 30 June 2011?
- (2) What are the anticipated levels as at 30 June 2015?

Answer—

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(1) and (2) I draw the Member's attention to Part 13 of the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991.

1251 CANCER TREATMENT AND SURVIVAL RATES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

1252 CESSNOCK HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

1253 KURRI KURRI HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

1254 HOSPITAL ATTENDANCES—POSTCODE 2322—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

*1255 CESSNOCK ELECTORATE POPULATION GROWTH—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Given that NSW Plan 2021 (page 10) anticipates a population growth in regional NSW of 470,000 by 2036, how many of these new settlers are expected in the Cessnock electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure forecasts population levels for local government areas. This information is publicly available on www.planning.nsw.gov.au

1256 CESSNOCK COUNCIL SWIMMING POOL—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

*1257 POSITION FORMALLY BASED AT NEWCASTLE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Has the position/employee responsible for bus routes and timetables, formerly based at Newcastle, been moved to Sydney?

(2) Does this position still exist in Newcastle?

(3) Has this same position become redundant for Newcastle/Hunter?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The new integrated transport agency - Transport for NSW - is now responsible for bus network and route planning. State Transit, including Newcastle Buses, is therefore undergoing an organisational restructure. For Newcastle Buses this will mean some positional changes. However there will be no loss of capacity or loss of planning expertise available for the Newcastle bus network.

The new Service Planning and Improvement Branch within Transport for NSW's Transport Services division will be responsible for the planning and coordination of bus networks as part of the overall transport network. This will also include better coordination of transport timetables.

*1258 BUS ROUTES 267 AND 268—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What progress has been made to improve the bus service for the people of West Wallsend, Barnsley and Edgeworth on routes 267 and 268?

(2) Will it be more frequent?

(3) Will it travel a route that brings it closer to 400 m from people's homes more regularly?

(4) Will it operate on Sundays and public holidays?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) Bus services in the Edgeworth area will be reviewed to ensure that services meet the needs of the local community when routes and timetables in the Newcastle and Lower Hunter region are next reviewed in 2012.

*1259 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR A WORKSHOP—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the Hunter Expressway and the Village of Lovedale:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a development application for a "workshop" adjacent to the road construction?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that it currently fails to comply with the consent conditions for the Hunter Expressway?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the workshop could be approved contrary to the consent conditions?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The workshop proposal from Abigroup is currently being considered by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. Any questions about conditions should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

*1260 TRANSPORT OPTIONS TO NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

What transport options to Newcastle University are available to people living in:

- (a) Kurri Kurri;
- (b) Cessnock;
- (c) Edgeworth;
- (d) West Wallsend;
- (e) Minmi;
- (f) Beresfield?

Answer—

Information regarding transport options to Newcastle University is available on the Transport Info website at www.131500.com.au or by telephoning 131 500.

*1261 AIRPORT/EAST HILLS LINE TIMETABLE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard to the new timetables introduced by the Government:

- (1) How many new trains are scheduled on the Airport/East Hills line for:
 - (a) 6.00 - 9.00 am Monday to Friday;
 - (b) 3.00 - 7.00 pm Monday to Friday?
- (2) During the above hours, will more trains stop at:
 - (a) Glenfield;
 - (b) Macquarie Fields?
- (3) Will the trains currently running have greater capacity?
- (4) Are there any changes to the running time(s), i.e. time to/from the city, of any trains?
- (5) When is the next timetable review or change planned?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Airport/East Hills line timetables are available from the CityRail website.

RailCorp and Transport for NSW are currently in the concept phase of developing specifications for a future timetable.

*1262 SPEECH THERAPISTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Are any speech therapists employed by the NSW Department of Education and Training to work with:
 - (a) school aged children;
 - (b) pre-school aged children?
- (2) If yes, how many?
- (3) In which geographic areas do they work?

Answer—

- (1) Speech pathologists (formerly known as speech therapists) work in a number of government schools, some of which have preschool classes.
- (2) Amongst the schools participating in the Low SES School Communities National Partnership, 101 schools indicated an intention to employ a speech pathologist during 2011. Numbers employed are not available at this time as reporting against progress for 2011 is not due until December 2011. In

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- addition, 2 speech pathologists are working in government schools in programs not related to the Low SES School Communities National Partnership.
- (3) If employed, the speech pathologists would be working broadly across the State, particularly in schools participating in the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- 1263 IPTAAS FORMS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1264 COSTS OF LOCUM DOCTORS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1265 PRESCHOOLS IN ELECTORATE OF BANKSTOWN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1266 MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1267 MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1268 PUNCHBOWL BOYS HIGH SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1269 BANKSTOWN SOUTH INFANTS SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1270 BANKSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1271 GEORGES HALL PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1272 BANKSTOWN WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1273 BANKSTOWN NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1274 YAGOONA PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1275 GEORGES HALL PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1276 BANKSTOWN NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1277 PARSONS REPORT ON THE ALLOCATION OF POLICE RESOURCES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1278 COMPULSORY FEES FOR PRESCHOOL PLACES—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1279 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY OF TAFE TEACHERS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—
- *1280 UTILITY PROVIDERS—REMOVE/PRUNE BACK TREES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) What regulations are in place that regulate the ability of utility providers to remove/prune back trees below overhead power lines and cables where the trees are situated on private property?
 - (2) Are utility providers required to gain the approval of private property owners before they remove/prune back a tree?
 - (3) In relation to (2) why, or why not?
- Answer—
- (1) Electricity utilities are guided by specific powers contained in the following legislation, standards and guidelines in relation to vegetation management:
- Energy Services Corporations Act 1995
 - Electricity Supply Act 1995
 - Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001
 - Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2008
 - State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007
 - National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
 - Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
 - Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Industry Safety Steering Committee Guideline No 3 (ISSC 3)
Australian Standard AS 4373 - Pruning of Amenity Trees

In addition to these obligations, electricity utilities prepare Tree Management Plans outlining the social, environmental and economic considerations undertaken in the management of vegetation near its network.

(2) and (3) Because of the inherent safety risks of dealing with live electricity, electricity utilities have responsibilities to its employees, customers and the wider community to maintain the safety of its network, and the customers and community who use it. Recognising this risk, electricity utilities have appropriate powers to ensure safety and the reliability of supply is maintained.

*1282 SAFETY OF GAS-FUELLED BUSES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) In relation to the safety of gas-fuelled buses that was the subject of industrial action, has the Government identified the cause of the explosion of a gas-fuelled bus in the suburb of Hillsdale on 29 July 2011?
- (2) If the cause of that bus explosion has not been identified, how can the Government provide assurances that similar buses in NSW are safe for the public to use?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Office of Transport Safety Investigations has published its findings into the cause of the fire in its Preliminary Report.

8 NOVEMBER 2011

(Paper No. 55)

- 1283 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES DESTROYED BY FIRE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1284 NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1285 PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1286 SPEED CAMERAS IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1287 INCENTIVES FOR TEACHERS—"HARD TO STAFF SCHOOLS"—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1288 INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS—COMPLAINTS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1289 COMPLAINTS AGAINST NU ENERGY OR PYRAMID POWER—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1290 CORRECTIVE SERVICES—OFFICIAL VISITOR—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1291 LISTING OF COURT MATTERS FOR 2012—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1292 EVALUATION OF CRIMINAL CASE CONFERENCING TRIAL—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1293 BASE FUNDING FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1294 CESSNOCK CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

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- 1295 COURT UPGRADE PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1296 COMMUNITY OFFENDER SUPPORT PROGRAMS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1297 SOUTH COAST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1298 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1299 GREEN VALLEY AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1300 HANDYMAN SERVICE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1301 REGIONAL RELOCATION GRANT—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer—
- 1302 ILLAWARRA DATA CENTRE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1303 BELLAMBI POINT LAND TRANSFER—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1304 FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL—SURPLUS LAND—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1305 POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY MACHINES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1306 KEIRAVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

9 NOVEMBER 2011

(Paper No. 56)

- 1307 NEW PRIVATE BUS TIMETABLES AND ROUTES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1308 POLICE NUMBERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1309 HUNTER REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 1310 HUNTER WATER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1311 REJUVENATION OF CARDIFF CBD—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1312 CITYRAIL TRAINS AND NETWORKS—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1313 CUMBERLAND HIGHWAY AND M4 INTERSECTION—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1314 EYE CARE FOR CHILDREN—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1315 DIABETES PREVENTION AND TREATMENT—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 1316 NEW HOSPITAL BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1317 COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 1318 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1319 PEARL CONSTRUCTIONS COLLAPSE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1320 ASBESTOS IN DERELICT BUILDINGS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1321 ASBESTOS IN DERELICT BUILDINGS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1322 ASBESTOS IN DERELICT BUILDINGS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 1323 RENTAL COSTS—ILLAWARRA MINISTERIAL OFFICE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1324 POLLUTION OF WYONG CREEK—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 1325 RAISED ENTRY THRESHOLD—NORTH CREEK—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

10 NOVEMBER 2011

(Paper No. 57)

- 1326 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES EMPLOYEES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1327 CLOSURE OF METROPOLITAN FIRE STATIONS—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1328 IMPROVING SAFETY FOR CYCLISTS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—
- 1329 TRANSPORT CONCESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1330 CABRAMATTA COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1331 TRAINING SCHEMES FOR NEW DOCTORS—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1332 CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1333 ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1334 RADIATION EMITTED BY "SMART" METERS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 1335 ESTIMATE OF QUARTERLY ELECTRICITY CHARGES—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

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(Paper No. 58)

- 1336 CASES OF WHOOPING COUGH—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1337 MAIN ROAD, CLITTLEIGH—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1338 ACQUISITION OF ROADS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1339 GREEN SLIPS FOR OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1340 UPGRADE AND IMPROVEMENT TO EMERGENCY SERVICE UNITS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1341 BACKBURNING—CESSNOCK ELECTORATE—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1342 REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1343 KURRI KURRI TAFE—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1344 CESSNOCK TAFE—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1345 WOMEN'S REFUGE/SHELTERS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1346 VISITING MEDICAL OFFICERS AND RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1347 EMERGENCY DENTAL TREATMENT—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1348 ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1349 TYNAN ROAD AND HUME HIGHWAY INTERSECTION—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1350 FUNDING ALLOCATED TO ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1351 PORT BOTANY LANDSIDE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1352 HUME HIGHWAY AND STACEY STREET INTERSECTION—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1353 SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1354 TIME-OF-DAY TOLLING—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1355 REDIRECTION OF SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC FINES REVENUE—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1356 REVENUE COLLECTED FOR SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC FINES—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- 1357 ONE MINTO PROJECTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1358 DEATH AND DISABILITY SCHEME—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1359 ASSISTANCE TO SOLE TRADERS TO RECOUP MONIES OWED—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1360 PLUMBING LICENSING REGULATORY COUNCIL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1361 ESTABLISHMENT OF “SPECIALIST TRADESMEN”—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1362 UNQUALIFIED TRADESMEN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1363 UNSAFE GAS INSTALLATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1364 WARATAH TRAINS—BANKSTOWN LINE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1365 WARATAH TRAINS—EAST HILLS LINE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1366 FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- *1367 MINISTER FOR VOLUNTEERING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- Will the Premier appoint a specific Minister for Volunteering to ensure that the growing volunteering sector has a voice inside Government?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The growing volunteering sector has a voice inside Government, with the Minister for Citizenship and Communities responsible for volunteering. The Office of Communities comprises the Office for Volunteering.
- The Premier has committed the Government to delivering a NSW Volunteering Strategy. The former Government failed to deliver such a strategy despite Australian Bureau of Statistics evidence that NSW is poorly ranked on volunteering participation compared to other jurisdictions.
- 1368 PROTECTION FOR VOLUNTEERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1369 INCREASING PREVALENCE OF DIABETES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

22 NOVEMBER 2011

(Paper No. 59)

- 1370 ESCALATOR AT MT DRUITT RAILWAY STATION—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) On how many occasions has the escalator at the Mount Druitt Railway Station been out of order for the six month period ending the 31st October 2011?
 - (2) How many of these occasions has the stoppage been caused by vandalism to the escalator?
 - (3) Have any persons been detected vandalising this facility during the period mentioned in question (1) above?
- 1371 PENALTIES FOR MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

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- (1) Will the Minister be implementing proposed moves by the Division of Local Government to suspend the pay of misbehaving mayors and councillors for up to six months?
(2) If so, when will this measure be implemented?
- 1372 PENNANT STREET BRIDGE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- (1) Has the Government handed over to Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) the \$1 million contribution to the planning of the Pennant Street Bridge for the Glendale Interchange, as committed by them during the election campaign prior to March 2011?
(2) If so, on what date was the money provided to LMCC?
- 1373 GLENDALE INTERCHANGE—STAGE ONE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- (1) Has the Government handed over to Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) the \$15 million contribution to the Stage One building of the Pennant Street Bridge for the Glendale Interchange, as committed by them during the election campaign prior to March 2011?
(2) If so, on what date was the money provided to LMCC?
- 1374 PAYMENTS FOR VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) How many applications for urgent payments have been made for victims compensation in the periods:
(a) 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;
(b) 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;
(c) 1 July 2011 to date?
(2) How many such applications have been granted in the above periods?
- 1375 CHAMBER MAGISTRATES AT LOCAL COURT REGISTRIES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) What is the current job description for chamber magistrates at Local Court registries?
(2) (a) Has this changed at any time in the last three years?
(b) If so, what were the changes?
(c) If so, when?
(3) Do such officers now routinely refuse to assist unrepresented litigants fill in court related documents?
- 1376 COMPLAINTS TO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BOARD—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- How long does it currently take for a complaint to the Anti-Discrimination Board to be assigned to a conciliator?
- 1377 DISTRICT COURT JUDGES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- How many current District Court judges were at one time Crown prosecutors or employed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions?
- 1378 FULL-TIME CUSTODY PRISONERS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- How many full-time custody prisoners were in the NSW correctional system as at:
- (a) 1 July 2011;
(b) 1 August 2011;
(c) 1 September 2011;
(d) 1 October 2011;
(e) 1 November 2011?
- 1379 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES AT NSW BUSINESSLINK—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- (1) How many voluntary redundancies are being offered or have been offered at NSW Businesslink:
(a) since 27 May 2011;

- (b) since 27 March 2011?
- (2) How many contractors with NSW Businesslink have had contracts terminated or not renewed since 27 March 2011?
- (3) How many voluntary redundancies are proposed to be offered at NSW Businesslink?
- 1380 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES—TRAINING FOR MAGISTRATES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) How much training in issues concerning domestic violence is provided to magistrates?
- (2) Does a similar amount of training apply to each magistrate?
- (3) When was such training most recently provided?
- 1381 SPECIFIC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIST—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- Has consideration been given to having a specific domestic violence list in Local Courts?
- 1382 VICTIMS COMPENSATION CLAIM—ASSESSMENT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- What is the current time taken to assess a victims compensation claim pursuant to the Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act?
- 1383 VICTIMS COMPENSATION CLAIM—COMPLETION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- What is or was the average time for completion of a victims compensation claim as at;
- (a) 1 July 2009;
- (b) 1 July 2010;
- (c) 1 July 2011?
- 1384 ENERGY REBATE ELIGIBILITY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) How many people in NSW are estimated to be eligible for the energy rebate?
- (2) How many of these estimated to be eligible are pensioners?
- (3) How many pensioners in NSW actually receive the energy rebate?
- 1385 ENERGY ACCOUNT PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE SCHEME REVIEW—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) When was the last review of the Energy Account Payments Assistance Scheme completed?
- (2) Will you implement the recommendations of the review referred to above?
- (a) If so, when?
- (b) If not, why not?
- 1386 WOLLONGONG CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- (1) What funds were allocated to each of the regional conservatoriums across NSW in the recent budget?
- (2) Has the Minister been briefed on the University of Wollongong's proposal in relation to the Conservatorium of Music in Wollongong?
- (3) Does the Minister agree with the proposal?
- 1387 INQUIRY INTO LYSAGHT OVAL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- (1) What will the Minister for Sport and Recreation now do in relation to establishing a permanent home for football in the Illawarra now that the Lysaght Oval site has been purchased by another sporting organisation?
- (2) (a) In relation to the current inquiry underway on Lysaght Oval, can the Minister outline how much it will cost?
- (b) Will the findings be made public?
- 1388 PURCHASE OF LAND AT MADDENS PLAINS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- (1) Will the Minister meet with Wollongong City Council representatives regarding the purchase of land

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- at Maddens Plains currently up for sale?
- (2) Is this land an important environmental asset for the Illawarra and Southern Sydney?
 - (3) Has the Minister sought advice from the Department about the purchase of this land?

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