



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 63

TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 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.

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
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
Q & A No. 60 (Including Question Nos 1389 to 1430)	28 December 2011
Q & A No. 61 (Including Question Nos 1431 to 1452)	29 December 2011
Q & A No. 62 (Including Question Nos 1453 to 1477)	30 December 2011
Q & A No. 63 (Questions—Nil)	-

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(Paper No. 55)

*1283 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES DESTROYED BY FIRE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many Department of Housing properties have been destroyed by fire in the Shalvey area during 2011?
- (2) How does this number compare with other suburbs managed by the Mount Druitt office of the department?
- (3) Of the number mentioned in question (1) above, how many of these properties were vacant at the time of the fire?
- (4) Have any persons been charged by police for causing these fires?

Answer—

(1) to (3) 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.

(4) This question should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC, Minister for Police and Emergency Services who has responsibility for law enforcement.

*1284 NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) Why has the Minister disbanded the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC)?
- (2) What will replace the NRAC as a peak consultative body on environmental issues?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The NSW Government has established the Land and Water Advisory Panel to refresh the way it engages with the community and stakeholder groups on natural resource management. NRAC cost over \$1 million per annum and had very broad ranging terms of reference.

*1285 PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE—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—

In view of the current advertising campaign urging residents to "Prepare, Act, Survive" prior to the bushfire season, what is the Government doing to prepare Crown land for the upcoming bushfire season, especially in the vicinity of John Hunter Hospital where the undergrowth build-up is a bushfire hazard?

Answer—

The NSW Rural Fire Service has advised me:

Responsibility for the prevention of bush fires in the vicinity of John Hunter Hospital is shared between Newcastle City Council, Hunter New England Area Health Service and Fire and Rescue NSW. The Newcastle Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (NBFRMP) identifies this hospital as a Priority 1A Special Fire Protection Asset with an extreme risk rating.

The NBFRMP contains a range of treatments to mitigate against the risk of bush fire impacting on John Hunter Hospital. This includes hazard reduction, ignition management and preparedness activities. For example, a series of prescribed burns are being implemented in the Strategic Fire Advantage Zones in the reserves surrounding the hospital. Asset Protection Zones around the hospital have been established and are regularly maintained, as are fire trails. A Bush Fire Response Plan was prepared in 2011 and incorporated into the hospital's Disaster Plan. The most recent inspection of the hospital by the Rural Fire Service took place on 15 November 2011.

*1286 SPEED CAMERAS IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) In what areas of the Hunter have speed cameras been located?
- (2) What is the reason for installing the camera in those locations?
- (3) How much revenue does each camera raise annually?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Existing speed camera locations and the criteria for their installation are listed on Roads and

Maritime Services website.

(3) Information on speed camera infringement notices is available on the Office of State Revenue website

*1287 INCENTIVES FOR TEACHERS—"HARD TO STAFF SCHOOLS"—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

What incentives, if any, will the Minister provide to encourage teachers to work in "hard to staff" schools where incidents of violence have been reported against teachers?

Answer—

NSW public school teachers receive salaries that place them among the highest paid public school teachers in Australia. They also receive attractive leave provisions and may access a range of comprehensive professional development programs to support their development through every stage of their career.

A wide range of incentives is provided to attract and retain teachers in rural and isolated locations. These include incentive transfers, subsidised housing, locality and climate allowances, additional vacation and leave periods and additional training and development days. Teachers who stay longer than the minimum service period requirement in 40 of the most isolated rural schools are also provided with a monetary retention benefit for up to 5 years.

There is a significant number of qualified teachers seeking employment in public schools. As at 5 October 2011, there were over 34,900 teachers on the employment list, including over 19,300 applicants approved to teach in primary schools and over 14,700 approved to teach secondary subjects.

*1288 INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS—COMPLAINTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

(1) Have any complaints been received by NSW Fair Trading concerning the installation of solar panels in relation to faulty installations, unfinished work, unlicensed workmen or any other cause in these locations:

- (a) Bega;
- (b) Moruya;
- (c) Cobar;
- (d) Coonabarabran;
- (e) Dubbo;
- (f) Baradine;
- (g) Narrabri;
- (h) Moree;
- (i) Walgett?

(2) If so, how many such complaints, in which of the locations mentioned above and against which parties?

(3) If the parties against whom such complaints were received were subcontractors, what are the identities of the head contractor in those cases?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that a search of NSW Fair Trading's complaint database has identified 16 complaints from consumers in the locations listed above.

(2) and (3) The number of complaints received from consumers in each of the nominated areas is as follows:

- (a) Bega - 0
- (b) Moruya - 1
- (c) Cobar - 1
- (d) Coonabarabran - 2
- (e) Dubbo - 11
- (f) Baradine - 0
- (g) Narrabri - 1
- (h) Moree - 0
- (i) Walgett - 0

*1289 COMPLAINTS AGAINST NU ENERGY OR PYRAMID POWER—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

(1) Has NSW Fair Trading received any complaints against Nu Energy or Pyramid Power or any

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subcontractor retained by them concerning the installation of solar panels?

- (2) If so:
- (a) what is the number of such complaints;
 - (b) in which location was each of the complaints made?

Answer—

I am advised that NSW Fair Trading does not comment on individual complaints against a trader unless the complaint has been substantiated and formal action has been taken. This may include a public warning, cancellation of a licence or prosecution action. The mere existence of a complaint or allegation against a trader does not, in itself, mean that the trader has contravened the law.

*1290 CORRECTIVE SERVICES—OFFICIAL VISITOR—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Why is the continued appointment of M K Perkins as an official visitor in Corrective Services being refused?
- (2) Were any complaints made against M K Perkins prior to your decision?
- (3) If so, what was their content and by whom were they made?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) All Official Visitor appointments recently expired on 30 September 2011. Official Visitors are appointed for a statutory period not exceeding two years which is in accordance with the requirements of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999. A person who has been appointed as an Official Visitor has no entitlement to appointment for any further period.
- (2) and (3) No.

*1291 LISTING OF COURT MATTERS FOR 2012—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Will the Director General of the Department of Justice and Attorney General reply to the letter dated 13 October 2011 from the Liverpool and Fairfield Law Society concerning the listing of court matters for 2012?
- (2) (a) Will an extra Local Court be allocated during the period of renovation to Liverpool Court House in 2012 to deal with the usual workload?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A reply was sent on 14 November 2011.
- (2) It is the responsibility of the Chief Judge of the District Court and the Chief Magistrate of the Local Court to determine the location of court sittings and court listings. The Chief Magistrate has arranged for two additional local courts to sit at Bankstown and one additional local court to sit at Campbelltown. The situation will be monitored and if required, defended hearings will be heard at the Downing Centre.

*1292 EVALUATION OF CRIMINAL CASE CONFERENCING TRIAL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What was the date of the BOCSAR evaluation of the Criminal Case Conferencing Trial?
- (2) Was any other evaluation carried out?
- (3) How many cases were included for consideration in any evaluation referred to in (1) or (2) above?
- (4) What were the recommendations in the evaluations referred to in (1) or (2) above?
- (5) Where are the evaluations available for public access?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The report was publicly released on 8 July 2010.
- (2) The BOCSAR report is the only published evaluation of the trial.

(3) The BOCSAR evaluation included multiple measures, each of which involved a different number of cases. It also involved a comparison group to test whether any observed differences in the Criminal Case Conferencing (CCC) trial courts might have been due to factors other than the legislative CCC trial. The evaluation measured whether the CCC trial courts showed:

- a change in the number of trial case registrations
- a change in the proportion of sentence case registrations
- a change in the proportion of defendants committed for trial whose cases actually proceeded to trial
- a change in the time between committal and outcome for trial matters eventually finalised by sentence.

Results of the evaluation and the number of cases included in each group are available in the published report.

(4) The BOCSAR provides research and information to inform decisions but does not provide recommendations for changes to Government policy.

(5) The report is available on BOCSAR's website.

*1293 BASE FUNDING FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What was the date of the review by independent consultants KPMG of the base funding for Corrective Services NSW?
- (2) When did Corrective Services NSW receive a copy of it?
- (3) If they did not receive a copy of it, when and by whom was a briefing provided to Corrective Services NSW or to the Department of Attorney General and Justice, or both?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 20 June 2011.
- (2) 22 June 2011.
- (3) Not applicable.

*1294 CESSNOCK CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What progress has been made on the 250-bed expansion of the Cessnock Correctional Centre?

Answer—

All construction and external works for Cessnock Correctional Centre are currently on schedule for completion by March 2012.

*1295 COURT UPGRADE PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What progress has been made in the Court Upgrade Program in the year ending 30 June 2011, especially concerning the upgrade of the John Maddison Tower Centre and Armidale and Taree courthouses?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the year ending 30 June 2011, more than \$20 million was spent on the Court Upgrade Program. Major redevelopments were completed at Central, Lismore, Sutherland and Toronto Courthouses.

The first phase (phase 1a) of the five year redevelopment of the Downing Centre and John Maddison Tower commenced. Work was undertaken on levels 10,11 and 12 of the John Maddison Tower to provide new facilities for the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and the Dust Diseases Tribunal.

Construction of a new Armidale Courthouse remains on track for completion in 2013. The site was purchased from the NSW Police Force and the design of the new courthouse has been finalised.

Major refurbishment works at Taree Courthouse commenced on 24 January 2011. The redevelopment remains on track for completion in the last quarter of the 2011/2012 financial year, with the new registry and Local Court to be available for use by the end of 2011.

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*1296 COMMUNITY OFFENDER SUPPORT PROGRAMS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many offenders who leave Community Offender Support Programs went to permanent accommodation 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 31 October 2011?

Answer—

I am advised that Corrective Services NSW is currently undertaking an evaluation of Community Offender Support Program (COSP) Centres. Based on preliminary indications, more than 70 per cent of inmates who have left COSPs have found permanent accommodation.

*1297 SOUTH COAST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What were the circumstances allowing Peter McClelland to leave the South Coast Correctional Centre on 20 October?
- (2) Did he drive himself out of the centre?
- (3) What action has been taken to prevent a similar incident occurring again?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) On 20 October 2011, minimum security inmate Peter McClelland escaped from the South Coast Correctional Centre. He was recaptured on the same day.
- (2) It is alleged that inmate McClelland used a car to escape.
- (3) Inmate McClelland has been charged with various offences in relation to this incident including 'Escape Lawful Custody' and 'Take and Drive Conveyance Without Consent'. As these matters are the subject of criminal proceedings, I am unable to provide further comment.

*1298 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Transport—

When will the State Rail Authority remove graffiti at the Bus Interchange at Liverpool that Liverpool Council complained about in August 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

Upon being notified by Liverpool City Council of the graffiti, RailCorp's Customer Service Manager for that region arranged for its removal.

*1299 GREEN VALLEY AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) (a) Has a night shift ambulance and crew been removed from the roster at Green Valley Ambulance Station?
- (b) If so, why was this decision taken?
- (2) For how long had the service level been as it was prior to this decision?
- (3) What alternate arrangements will be implemented to deal with the consequences of this reduction in service levels?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) There has been no reduction in the number of paramedics or service levels at Green Valley Station.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambulance Service and the Health Services Union allows for the review of rostering and deployment of resources to better facilitate the matching of resources to meet peaks in demand.

On 1 October 2011, and following consultation with staff, the Ambulance Service introduced a trial roster to Green Valley Station where a crew previously rostered to the night shift have been redeployed to an afternoon shift.

This decision was taken in order to deploy ambulance resources to more effectively meet peaks in workload demands. Prior to the introduction of this roster, the Ambulance Service deployed six crews over a 24-hour period, and the deployment levels remain the same.

*1300 HANDYMAN SERVICE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Given your answer to Question 0564, what options is the Minister considering to make permanent the "Handyman Service" available to seniors in New South Wales housing properties in the Illawarra?
- (2) When will this be finalised?

Answer—

(1) and (2) 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.

*1301 REGIONAL RELOCATION GRANT—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer—

- (1) How many people from the Wollongong Local Government area have taken up the Regional Relocation Grant?
- (2) When will the Government make changes to this scheme to make it more effective?

Answer—

- (1) This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance and Services.
- (2) As stated previously, the NSW Government will continue to monitor the take-up of this program through the Office of State Revenue, to ensure its effectiveness.

*1302 ILLAWARRA DATA CENTRE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) When will the evaluation of tenders for the Data Centre to be built in the Illawarra be finalised?
- (2) What is the timeline for the completion of this project?

Answer—

As the matter is currently under tender evaluation it would be inappropriate to comment.

*1303 BELLAMBI POINT LAND TRANSFER—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) When will the transfer of land at Bellambi Point take place between Sydney Water and Wollongong City Council?
- (2) Will Sydney Water be contributing to the funding of a Master Plan for this important location?

Answer—

- (1) When Wollongong Council approves the subdivision application and the terms of the proposed Aboriginal Place Gazettal are finalised.
- (2) No.

*1304 FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL—SURPLUS LAND—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Does Figtree High School have any land surplus to its educational requirements?
- (2) Should the broader school community agree, could the school sell any of this surplus land?
- (3) Could those funds be used to construct the new library?
- (4) Is this approach to resourcing consistent with the Local Schools, Local Decisions discussion paper?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Currently, no land at Figtree High School has been declared surplus to educational requirements by the Department of Education and Communities.

(3) Under the Department's Incentive Sales Policy, a school can sell surplus land, which is no longer required for educational purposes, and retain up to 90% of the net proceeds from the sale to upgrade its existing facilities or provide new facilities consistent with the School Facilities Standards. The remaining proceeds are made available for maintenance and capital works in schools across NSW.

(4) The Department's current Incentive Sales Policy does not conflict with the Local Schools, Local Decisions Discussion Paper released in August 2011. Public consultation about the Local Schools, Local Decisions Discussion Paper concluded on 18 November 2011 and will inform the Department in developing next steps for submission to me by February 2012.

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*1305 POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY MACHINES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many people from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District require a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan as part of their treatment?
- (2) (a) Has the number of patients from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District using this service increased or decreased over the last 5 years?
(b) If so, by what percentage has it increased or decreased?
- (3) What are the nearest locations for patients from this health district to access this treatment?
- (4) What are the criteria that determines where those machines are located?
- (5) How are those machines funded?
- (6) Are there any plans to examine locating a PET within the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District?
(a) If so, what are the plans and timelines?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1), (2) and (6) Data on the number of people from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District requiring a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan as part of their treatment is not collected by the Local Health District. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District is currently examining business models for the acquisition of a PET scanner for the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

(3) There are currently seven public hospitals with PET units: with eight PET-CT scanners in total. These include the following Hospitals: Royal Prince Alfred (2); Liverpool; Westmead; St Vincent's; Calvary Mater Newcastle; Royal North Shore and Nepean.

(4) and (5) All sites must be accredited under the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing's Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme. As part of the Commonwealth's 2011-2012 Budget a revision was announced to broaden access to PET scans. Additional services are now claimable through the Medical Benefits Schedule and all Units now have access to the same funding arrangements through that Schedule.

*1306 KEIRAVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) What progress has been made to heritage list the school library at Keiraville Primary School?
- (2) When will this decision be made?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

No nomination has been received by the Heritage Council of NSW to list the school library at Keiraville Primary School on the State Heritage Register.

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*1307 NEW PRIVATE BUS TIMETABLES AND ROUTES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Have new private bus timetables and routes been announced for locations in Western Sydney?
- (2) Do any of these changes affect the Mount Druitt area?
- (3) (a) Has there been an increase in after 5.00 pm services to suburbs in Mount Druitt for weekend commuters?
(b) If so, what are the details of these services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) and (b) Not applicable.

- *1308 POLICE NUMBERS—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—

Are there any plans to increase police numbers during the current financial year in the:

- (a) Newcastle Local Area Command:
- (b) Lake Macquarie Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Allocations of officers from the next graduating class will be announced on the day of attestation, 16 December 2011.

- *1309 HUNTER REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

- (1) When will the Government commence building projects assigned to the Hunter Regional Infrastructure Fund (HRIF)?
- (2) Which new projects in the Wallsend electorate will be budgeted for and commenced in 2011-2012?
- (3) Are there any projects in the Hunter, funded from the HRIF, that would normally be funded out of normal State funding arrangements?

Answer—

- (1) The Board of the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund will meet for the first time on 12 December 2011. The timing of the commencement of projects will be a matter for Board consideration in consultation with the relevant government department or agency and recommendation to government.

- (2) The Government announced a number of projects that will be funded from the resources of the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund.

One project is located in Wallsend Electorate, the Calvary Mater Hospital Cancer Research and Treatment Facility. The timing of the commencement of projects will be a matter for Board consideration in consultation with the relevant government department or agency and recommendation to government.

- (3) No projects have been identified for funding through the HIIF other than those identified during the election campaign. The Government will be careful to ensure that the projects meet the Fund criteria and would not otherwise be funded from general sources.

- *1310 HUNTER WATER—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Does the Government intend to privatise Hunter Water and if so, when?

Answer—

The Government has no plans to sell Hunter Water.

- *1311 REJUVENATION OF CARDIFF CBD—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

When will the Government commence the \$2.5 million rejuvenation of Cardiff CBD, a March 2011 election commitment?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

- *1312 CITYRAIL TRAINS AND NETWORKS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

What is the Government doing to improve customer experience on CityRail trains and networks?

Answer—

On 1 November 2011, Transport for NSW, the State's integrated transport authority was formally established, putting the customer at the centre of transport policy, planning and service delivery. Transport for NSW has a Customer Experience Division dedicated to delivering customer service improvements across all public transport, including CityRail services.

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The establishment of Transport for NSW builds on recently delivered customer service improvements on the CityRail network. These include the installation of additional passenger information screens and 'next train to city' indicators, the installation of additional EFTPOS-only ticket vending machines and the roll-out of improved customer service training for front-line customer service staff.

Changes to the CityRail timetable in October this year provided additional services for customers where and when they were most needed.

*1313 CUMBERLAND HIGHWAY AND M4 INTERSECTION—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What is the Government doing to relieve traffic congestion and lengthy queues for:
 - (a) northbound drivers who wish to turn right from the Cumberland Highway onto the M4;
 - (b) southbound drivers who wish to turn right from the Cumberland Highway onto the M4?
- (2) Is there scope for extra lanes or extra ramps to relieve the congestion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) increased the capacity for northbound traffic on Cumberland Highway turning right into the M4 Motorway.
- RMS is currently widening both the east and westbound off-ramps onto Cumberland Highway. This will increase the discharge capacity of the off ramps.
- RMS is also developing detailed design for the widening of Cumberland Highway between the northern approach to the Great Western Highway and the M4 eastbound off ramp. This will facilitate the lengthening of both the southbound right turn bay into the M4 Motorway as well as the northbound right turn bay into the Great Western Highway.

*1314 EYE CARE FOR CHILDREN—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What is the Government doing in relation to children's eye care?
- (2) How much is being spent on children's eye care in the next four years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The NSW Ministry of Health, Local Health Districts, the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) provide a range of eye health care services for children. Eye care for children consists of detection (surveillance and screening), eye health promotion and injury prevention, as well as service provision (treatment and ongoing management). For example:

- NSW Health's focus in early childhood is on prevention, early detection and early intervention. Children's eye health is one issue addressed through the early childhood health surveillance and screening schedule. The aim of the schedule is to encourage parents to have their children's health and development regularly checked, to ensure that children have the best chance of starting school with their health issues addressed. The recommended minimum schedule for early childhood health surveillance and screening checks is provided to every parent in the NSW Personal Health Record, which is given to parents of babies born in NSW before they leave hospital after their child's birth. Currently, the schedule in the Personal Health Record recommends checks at birth, 1-4 weeks, 6-8 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 2 years, 3 years and 4 years
- The Government funds the Statewide Eyesight Preschool Screening (StEPS) program, a free vision screening program for all four year old children in NSW, to be conducted at the 4 year check. Through the StEPS program, the Government funds dedicated tertiary Paediatric Ophthalmic Outpatient Clinics for children referred via the StEPS program. The StEPS program receives recurrent funding. In 2011/12 the program was allocated \$3.98 million.
- The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network provides a tertiary referral paediatric ophthalmology service focussing on children with treatable and preventable sight-threatening disorders, including ocular tumours, cataracts, glaucoma, squint repair, Ptosis repair, tear duct reconstructive surgery, cranio-facial reconstructive surgery and trauma surgery.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead runs satellite paediatric ophthalmology clinics at Campbelltown and Mt Druitt Hospitals.

The Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick provides a consultative service to the Royal Hospital for Women by screening all neonates in their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for eye disorders before discharge. Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick also works closely with the Sydney Eye Hospital to ensure children presenting to that Hospital receive a comprehensive and appropriate level of child friendly level of child friendly services.

The Network will spend in excess of \$2 million annually for the next four years on eye care services.

*1315 DIABETES PREVENTION AND TREATMENT—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What is the Government doing in relation to:
 - (a) diabetes prevention:
 - (b) diabetes treatment?
- (2) How much is being spent on diabetes-related programs in the next four years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) NSW Health is implementing a range of obesity prevention programs which will contribute to reducing the risk of development of type 2 diabetes. This includes two major programs under the National Partnership Agreement for Preventive Health - the Healthy Children Initiative and the Healthy Workers Initiative, as well as the Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service and the extension of the Sydney Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Healthy Children's initiative is a suite of evidence based early childhood and school nutrition and physical activity programs implemented across NSW which aims to achieve increases in fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity and reductions in overweight and obesity among children aged between 5-16 years.

The Healthy Workers Initiative aims to prevent lifestyle-related chronic diseases, including diabetes, in people in paid employment. Working adults will be supported to achieve lifestyle change in relation to healthy eating, participation in physical activity and harmful consumption of alcohol as well as smoking cessation.

The NSW Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service provides chronic disease risk factor reduction coaching in a free 6 month personalised coaching program across NSW.

The Sydney Diabetes Prevention Program (SDPP) is a lifestyle modification initiative targeting people aged 50-65 years at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes, now conducted by the Sydney Local Health District and South Western Sydney Local Health District and the Boden Institute of Obesity Nutrition and Eating Disorders (BIONE) at the University of Sydney and in partnership with three divisions of general practice (Southern Highlands, Macarthur and Central Sydney) and the Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service. The Program is also being implemented and evaluated in Arabic, Chinese and Aboriginal communities.

(b) NSW Health in partnership with GP NSW and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, is implementing the Connecting Care (Severe Chronic Disease Management) Program to better connect the care and support of people with chronic diseases who have been hospitalised or are at risk of hospitalisation due to their chronic diseases (including diabetes). Hospital admissions related to chronic disease are often avoidable.

The program targets people with the chronic diseases that result in the most frequent presentations to hospitals, drive the highest health care costs, and respond best to improved care coordination and self management support - namely diabetes, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and hypertension.

The program aims to increase people's capacity to understand and manage their conditions; reduce the progression and complications of their disease; improve their quality of life; support their carers and families; and enable better advance care planning and end of life decision making. It also aims to reduce unplanned and potentially preventable admissions to hospitals and improve the health systems capacity to respond to the needs of people with chronic diseases through significant micro-system reform. The program is also promoting shared decision making.

NSW Health is planning to develop, within the Connecting Care program, a multidisciplinary service to facilitate the transition of young people from child to adult health services, including self

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management and psycho-social supports. This program will specifically target young people with diabetes and chronic respiratory disease moving from child services into adult services. The service will aim to enhance age appropriate case coordination of youth with high risk clinical conditions in the context of adolescent development through continuous and supportive care and optimising links between general practitioners, community teams, specialist services and hospitals.

- (2) The Healthy Children Initiative and the Healthy Workers Initiative are part of the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health which brings more than \$100 million to NSW over 2009-10 to 2014-15 for expenditure on a range of obesity prevention programs. Of this, \$46 million has been allocated to the Healthy Workers Initiative.

Diabetes is one of the target diseases for the Connecting Care Program. The original funding of over \$120 million (over four years 2009-10 to 2012-13) has been enhanced by an additional \$57 million over the next four years taking the 2011-12 to 2014-15 budget to \$177 million.

The chronic care transition service for young people with diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases transitioning from child to adult services, will receive \$7.12 million in funding over the next four years through the Connecting Care Program. Over \$36 million is committed to Connecting Care in 2011-12.

- *1316 NEW HOSPITAL BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the Minister's statement on 25 October 2011 related to new hospital beds that "In fact, 506 of the 1,390 have already been opened and are all newly-funded by the NSW Government in 2011/12":

- (1) In which hospitals are these 506 beds?
- (2) What is the date of commissioning?
- (3) Is there any Federal funding for these beds?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Wagga Wagga, Albury, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Calvary Mater, John Hunter, Maitland, Tamworth, Ballina, Maclean, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Manly, Hornsby, Royal North Shore, Gosford, Wyong, Prince of Wales, Royal Hospital for Women, St George, Sutherland, Wollongong, Coledale, St Vincent's, St Joseph's, Royal Prince Alfred, Canterbury, Concord, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Blacktown, Westmead, Mt Druitt, Nepean, Sydney Children's Hospital and The Children's Hospital Westmead.
- (2) As of the 22 November 2011, 507 new beds have been opened between 1 July 2010 and 22 November 2011.
- (3) The Federal provided some co-contribution funds for COAG beds. However NSW Government has committed \$175 million over the next three years to address the funding gap left by the previous NSW government to keep these beds open.

- *1317 COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

With regards to the northern expansion of coal seam gas exploration in Macarthur (Petroleum Exploration Licence No. 2, held by AGL Upstream Investments Pty Limited):

- (1) What geographical area is covered by this licence?
- (2) Has approval to renew this licence:
 - (a) been sought and if so, when;
 - (b) been granted and if so, when?
- (3) Who is responsible for making the decision to renew this licence?
- (4) Is there ministerial input/responsibility for this decision?
- (5) What community input into such a decision has been sought or will be permitted?
- (6) Were there any breaches to the previous licence?
- (7) How would previous breaches affect renewal of this licence?

Answer—

- (1) This licence covered a geographic area of 7,275 square kilometers.
- (2) (a) and (b) An application to renew this licence over a reduced area of 5,400 square kilometers was lodged on 24 February 2011 and remains under consideration.

(3) and (4) Under the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 the Minister for Resources and Energy has the power to renew or refuse to renew a petroleum title.

(5) The Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 does not currently provide for community input to the renewal process for petroleum exploration licences.

(6) and (7) Compliance issues are taken into consideration as part of the renewal process.

*1318 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What was the total cost to the NSW Government for community transport in 2010-11?

(2) What is the budget for 2011-12?

(3) Is there any Federal Government contribution?

(4) Is it permissible for a person to use community transport to take a pet from their home to a veterinary surgeon?

(5) What co-payment would be required?

(6) (a) For non-urgent medical care, is it permissible to use community transport to take a patient from a nursing home to a:

(i) hospital;

(ii) local health practitioner (e.g. GP/specialist)?

(b) If no, what options are available for transport to such appointments?

(7) Has consideration been given by the Minister to allow transport of patients from nursing homes to other health facilities using community transport?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The 2011-12 NSW Budget papers are available at:

www.budget.nsw.gov.au/2011-12_budget_papers

The Government has committed to increase Community Transport Program funding by \$12 million over four years, to provide transport-disadvantaged people with improved access to vital transport services. This represents a 100 per cent funding increase over the period.

(3) 60 per cent of Home and Community Care Program funds are provided by the Australian Government.

(4) and (5) Each Community Transport provider is responsible for the development and maintenance of its own policies. The suggested amount of client contribution varies, depending on service location and desired destination.

(6) and (7) This is a matter for the Federal Government.

*1319 PEARL CONSTRUCTIONS COLLAPSE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

(1) Will the Minister meet with local contractors who have lost money as a result of the Pearl Constructions collapse?

(2) (a) When will the Minister have this meeting?

(b) If not, why not?

(3) When will a decision be made to complete the public housing projects in the Keira electorate?

Answer—

I am not aware of a company known as Pearl Constructions.

The Minister has met with a number of subcontractors of Perle Pty Ltd.

*1320 ASBESTOS IN DERELICT BUILDINGS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to asbestos in the derelict buildings in Fairy Meadow:

Will the Minister order WorkCover inspectors to inspect these derelict buildings on the Princes Highway at Fairy Meadow as a matter of urgency?

(a) If so, when?

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(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

WorkCover has had no complaints, incidents or issues brought to its attention concerning asbestos in derelict buildings in Fairy Meadow.

WorkCover's enquiries with Wollongong City Council identified an old commercial site at 91-97 Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow, which has not been used for over ten years. The building is not a work site, so does not fall under WorkCover's jurisdiction.

The Council has advised WorkCover that currently, Council has no complaints lodged concerning the site nor any ongoing investigations relating to it. No issues regarding the site have been raised with Council in 2011.

*1321 ASBESTOS IN DERELICT BUILDINGS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In relation to asbestos in the derelict buildings in Fairy Meadow:

Will the Minister order inspectors from her department to inspect these derelict buildings on the Princes Highway at Fairy Meadow as a matter of urgency?

(a) If so, when?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Derelict buildings and such matters relating to asbestos are the responsibility of the Local Council, in this instance Wollongong City Council. The storage, disposal and transport of asbestos waste is regulated by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and local councils where they are the appropriate regulatory authority (ARA) under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005.

I am advised that Council officers from Wollongong City Council have attended the site and have taken appropriate action to secure its safety.

*1322 ASBESTOS IN DERELICT BUILDINGS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

In relation to asbestos in the derelict buildings in Fairy Meadow:

Will the Minister order inspectors from her department to inspect these derelict buildings on the Princes Highway at Fairy Meadow as a matter of urgency?

(a) If so, when?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services.

*1323 RENTAL COSTS—ILLAWARRA MINISTERIAL OFFICE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

(1) How much rent did the Department of Premier and Cabinet pay for the Illawarra ministerial office in the State Government building over the last financial year?

(2) Who is renting that office space now?

Answer—

(1) The rent paid for the Ministerial office in the Illawarra is included in the aggregate rent paid for the whole DPC regional office in Wollongong. A proportion of the rent attributable to the space used by the Regional Minister was charged to the then Minister.

(2) The space is presently not occupied.

*1324 POLLUTION OF WYONG CREEK—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) What reports were made to the Office of Environment and Heritage in relation to pollution of Wyong Creek by contaminants containing lead, arsenic and chromium as a result of the significant rain event of 11 to 13 June 2011?
- (2) By whom were such reports made and on what dates?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Between 29 June 2011 and 22 July 2011, the Office of Environment and Heritage Environment Line received four reports regarding Wyong Creek. The reports raised concerns that 1) heavy rain caused sediment from the pipeline works to spill into the waterway; and 2) the subsequent receding water level left sediment and sludge smelling like fish oil.
- (2) Disclosing the identity of persons reporting incidents to the Environment Line may discourage the public from reporting incidents in the future.

*1325 RAISED ENTRY THRESHOLD—NORTH CREEK—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) To what standard was the raised entry threshold beside North Creek on MR527 constructed?
- (2) Were all relevant requirements of AS1742.13-2009 and the publication RTA/PUB.11.022 met in the design and installation during 2011 of the raised entry threshold near North Creek and road cushions on The Esplanade at Warners Bay?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) provided drawings directly consistent with the Australian Standard AS1742.13-2009 dimensions to Lake Macquarie City Council for construction of the threshold.
- (2) RMS issued instructions to Lake Macquarie City Council for construction of twelve two metre long road cushions, 1.9 metres wide with a height of 75 millimetres.

RMS measured the cushions in November 2011. Three of the twelve cushions are 85, 90 and 100 millimetres high, measured at their highest point. RMS will arrange with Lake Macquarie City Council to reduce the height of the three cushions.

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(Paper No. 57)

*1326 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES EMPLOYEES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) How many employees of the Department of Primary Industries are situated in the Sydney Basin?
- (2) With the Government's plans for decentralisation, how many of these employees are set to be relocated west of the Great Dividing Range?
- (3) Where are these employees currently employed?
- (4) At which locations are the subject employees to be sent?

Answer—

- (1) This information is available in annual reports and on websites.
- (2) The Department of Primary Industries is currently reviewing future functions and operations.
- (3) Refer to answer (2) above.
- (4) Refer to answer (2) above.

*1327 CLOSURE OF METROPOLITAN FIRE STATIONS—Ms Linda Burney 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—

Given that Fire and Rescue NSW closed or took off-line 20 Sydney metropolitan fire stations between 20-23 October 2011, including Campsie Fire Station that was off-line for a total of 48 hours:

What is the Government doing to ensure that lives will not be lost from fire because of these decisions by Fire and Rescue NSW?

Answer—

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Fire and Rescue NSW has advised me:

Contrary to the implications in the Member's question, community safety was at no time put at risk during the recent industrial dispute. Up to 20 fire crews in Sydney can be safely taken off line at any one time for training and other non-operational duties.

A number of fire stations went off line between 20-23 October 2011 due to industrial action being taken by the firefighters staffing those stations. Fire and Rescue NSW immediately activated contingency arrangements to minimise any impact on fire service coverage.

The Commissioner carefully monitored the situation throughout the bans to ensure that effective response arrangements remain in place.

*1329 TRANSPORT CONCESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

When will the Government provide transport concession for international students who inject millions of dollars into the local economies of university communities?

Answer—

The previous Government changed the law in 2006 to prevent full fee paying overseas students from being entitled to a concessional travel pass.

Please note my answer to you on this issue given on 4 August 2011.

*1330 CABRAMATTA COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

In anticipation of the construction of the Cabramatta commuter car park, starting from when the project was announced in February 2010 until the 2011-12 NSW State Budget, how much money has been spent on:

- (a) meetings;
- (b) stakeholder consultations;
- (c) preparations for the planning process?

Answer—

I refer the Member for Cabramatta to Written Question LA 0970.

*1331 TRAINING SCHEMES FOR NEW DOCTORS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Following the Federal Government's commitment to funding for a training centre for new doctors in Blacktown, what programs and funding initiatives is the NSW Government contributing to for schemes to train new doctors at Fairfield and Liverpool hospitals?

Answer—

I am advised:

The number of interns accepted by the prevocational training network that includes Liverpool and Fairfield Hospitals will increase from 46 in 2011 to 57 in 2012, with the increase entirely within South West Sydney.

The 2011-12 State Budget includes an allocation of \$2.8 million per annum on a recurrent basis for additional intern training positions. An additional \$1.8 million recurrent has been allocated to support additional specialist training positions across NSW Health. New funding of \$800,000 recurrent has also been allocated to support medical training networks.

*1332 CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) What is the estimated cost to agriculture for lost production arising from the presence of noxious weeds in the Cabramatta electorate?
- (2) How much funding has the Government contributed for the control of noxious weeds in the Cabramatta electorate over the past 16 years?
- (3) Will the Government guarantee a minimum matching of previous funding for the control of noxious weeds in the Cabramatta electorate?

Answer—

(1) There are no specific figures held by the Department of Primary Industries for the Cabramatta

electorate.

- (2) In 2010-11 the NSW Government contributed \$8.769 million funding to support local control authorities to meet their stated obligations in the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. The NSW Liberal and National Government has increased this amount for the coming financial year. Payments of noxious weed grants specifically into the Cabramatta electorate for the past 16 years are not available.
- (3) In 2010-11 the NSW Government introduced the NSW Weeds Action Program. This new program replaced six previous categories of funding with one program. One of those categories required matching local government dollar for state dollar funding.

Under the new weeds action program a single grant application was received from the Sydney Weeds Committee. This committee represented Fairfield Council and 38 other local councils, Sydney Catchment Management Authority and other NSW government agencies in a combined bid for funding. This new group received \$818,130 in 2010-11.

I would encourage you to contact Alan Young, City Manager, Fairfield Council to view their current noxious weed control priorities for the coming year.

*1333 ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Is there a standard limiting electromagnetic fields around mobile phones and domestic appliances or installations?
- (2) Is there certainty that high frequency electromagnetic radiation associated with "smart" meters is without risk to human health?
- (3) Are the higher frequencies associated with smart meters actually or potentially more injurious than other typical electromagnetic radiation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Smart meters use radiofrequency to communicate, similar to how cordless and mobile telephones communicate. Smart meters typically operate in the 900 megahertz or 2.4 gigahertz radio frequency range.

The Commonwealth's Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) "Radiation Protection Standard - Maximum Exposure Levels to Radiofrequency Fields - 3 kHz to 300 GHz" sets limits for human exposure to radiofrequency fields in the frequency range 3 kHz to 300 GHz. This Standard is relevant to radiofrequency emissions from all devices that produce and radiate radiofrequency electromagnetic energy fields either deliberately or incidentally during their operation. This includes mobile phone handsets and base stations as well as radio and television transmitters and industrial sources.

The weight of national and international scientific opinion is that there is no substantiated evidence that exposure to low level radiofrequency electromagnetic energy causes adverse health effects.

*1334 RADIATION EMITTED BY "SMART" METERS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How much EMF radiation can be emitted by "smart" meters used in NSW?
- (2) (a) Is there a capacity or plans for network remote control to curtail supply to particular appliances such as air-conditioners?
(b) If so, does this involve the transmission of high-frequency signals through domestic wiring?
- (3) Who owns domestic electricity meters, the network owner or house owners?

Answer—

- (1) All devices which emit electromagnetic frequency (EMF) radiation are required to conform to standards determined by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
- (2) (a) NSW electricity suppliers are undertaking trials involving the remote control of some domestic appliances such as air conditioners. The trials are voluntary and customers may choose to not be included.
(b) The technical specification for smart meters in Australia allows for a range of technologies to enable the remote control of domestic appliances such as air conditioners. ACMA requires that PLC equipment used in Australia complies with established international standards, which limit the levels of EMF radiation which may arise.

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(3) In NSW, domestic electricity meters are the property of the electricity distribution network operator.

*1335 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—

I refer the Member to the answer I provided to Written Question 1202, asked 14 October 2011.

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(Paper No. 58)

*1336 CASES OF WHOOPING COUGH—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many cases of whooping cough have been detected in NSW for the past year ending 31 October 2011?
- (2) How does this figure compare to the last three years?
- (3) How many cases were identified from persons attending the Mount Druitt Hospital for the period mentioned in question (1) above?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 12,873
- (2) 4,965 for the corresponding period in 2008
13,387 for the corresponding period in 2009
7,846 for the corresponding period in 2010
- (3) Mount Druitt Hospital was noted as the hospital of admission in seven of the notified cases with symptom onset between 01/01/2011 and 31/10/2011.

NB: The data provided was sourced from the NSW Health Notifiable Conditions Information Management System on 16 November 2011 and is subject to change as new data is entered about recently notified cases.

*1337 MAIN ROAD, CLIFTFLEIGH—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to Main Road, Clifftleigh:

- (1) Is this a State road?
- (2) Does the RTA have plans for the alteration of this road?
- (3) Will any such plans be available to local residents?
- (4) How would local residents access such plans?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, however, Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has identified a road reservation along the corridor that allows for widening of the road to four lanes in the longer term.

In the short term, there is a land release development occurring in the Clifftleigh area where a new signalised intersection on Main Road is proposed. The developer, Winten Property Group, is currently preparing plans for the intersection.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) Residents can contact the Hunter Region Office of RMS for information about the intersection design.

*1338 ACQUISITION OF ROADS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given that the State Budget identifies a cost impact of the State and RTA taking control over roads that

have previously been considered local roads:

- (1) What is the process for determining which roads are to be acquired?
- (2) Can a local council make application to the RTA to have a road acquired?
- (3) Will any roads in the Cessnock electorate be acquired?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A review of the classification of State and Regional Roads provides an opportunity to adjust the make up of the network to ensure that State resources are targeted to the most important and up-to-date set of roads that best meets the social and economic needs across New South Wales.

A State wide review is undertaken by an independent panel approximately every 10 years. The panel conducts the assessment of roads in line with the terms of reference for the review and road classification criteria agreed between the NSW Government and the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA).

- (2) Yes.
- (3) There is currently no State wide review being undertaken.

*1339 GREEN SLIPS FOR OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to Green Slips for registration of vehicles:

- (1) Why do Green Slip prices increase dramatically for older New South Wales drivers once they reach the age of 70 years?
- (2) Is there statistical proof that drivers 70 years and over cause more injuries to themselves and others than younger drivers?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Green slip prices are determined by the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW. This is a matter for the Minister for Finance and Services.
- (2) In depth crash analysis shows that road traffic crashes are multi-factor in nature. That is, a number of human, road environment and vehicle factors may be present that lead to a crash occurring and determine the severity of the crash. For this reason the NSW Centre for Road Safety crash database does not ascribe "fault" for a particular crash.

*1340 UPGRADE AND IMPROVEMENT TO EMERGENCY SERVICE UNITS—Mr Clayton Barr 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) Will any money be spent on the upgrade and improvement of equipment and resources for the various Emergency Service units in the Cessnock electorate in 2011-12?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) Which Emergency Service units?
 - (b) How much will be spent?
 - (c) What improvements will be made or equipment purchased?

Answer—

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and NSW State Emergency Service (SES) have advised me:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All three Emergency Service agencies will continue to maintain and repair their existing fleets and equipment in the Cessnock electorate. Funding has also been provided this financial year to the RFS for three new tankers for the Quorrobolong, Wollombi and Mulbring Brigades, four Group Captain vehicles, personal protective equipment and general fire fighting equipment, among other items. Funding in the Cessnock electorate for the RFS alone totals over \$884,000 in this year's budget. Approximately \$580,000 has also been provided to FRNSW for a new Class 3 pumping appliance, to be available in mid 2012.

Additional to this is the pending delivery of a new RFS tanker for the Laguna Brigade, extensions to the Seahampton Station, construction of a shared Fire Control Centre covering the Cessnock LGA, and the recently completed amenities upgrade at FRNSW's Weston Fire Station.

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- *1341 BACKBURNING—CESSNOCK ELECTORATE—Mr Clayton Barr 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—

What plans does the Minister have for backburning to be undertaken in the Cessnock electorate?

Answer—

The NSW Rural Fire Service has advised me:

36 hazard reduction burns are scheduled within the Cessnock electorate, covering Abermain, Black Hill, Buchannan, Cessnock, East Cessnock, Elrington, Kitchener, Kurri Kurri, Laguna, Millfield, Mulbring, Neath, Pokolbin, Sawyers Gully and Wollombi. Work has already begun on this program.

21 of these burns will be conducted by the NSW Rural Fire Service, 13 by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and two by Fire and Rescue NSW.

The total area to be burnt is 6,068.2 hectares. The timing of the burns is dependent on favourable weather conditions.

- *1342 REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to registered training organisations in the Cessnock electorate:

- (1) What companies/institutions receive State Government funding?
- (2) What training courses do they offer?
- (3) Do any of these course compete directly with TAFE-run courses and if so, which ones?
- (4) How much State Government funding is provided for these institutions?

Answer—

- (1) Access Group Training Ltd
- Active Industry Training Ltd
- Austraining (NSW) Pty Ltd
- Australian College of Commerce & Management Pty Ltd
- Australian Training Co Ltd
- Challenge Disability Services
- Coates Hospitality Services Pty Ltd
- Endeavour Industries Ltd
- Five Star Training Pty Ltd
- Gow Learning International Pty Ltd
- Group 314 Pty Ltd
- HGT Australia Ltd
- Hyundai Motor Company Australia Pty Ltd
- Institute of Financial Services Inc
- Integrated Care & Management Training Pty Ltd
- Intercept Group Pty Ltd
- International Child Care College Pty Ltd
- Joblink Plus Ltd
- Mai-Wel Ltd
- Mask Make-Up Studios Pty Ltd
- McDonald's Australia Ltd
- Mint Training Pty Ltd
- Motor Traders Association of NSW
- Northnet Incorporated
- TAFE NSW-Hunter Institute
- TAFE NSW-North Coast Institute

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- TAFE NSW-Open Training & Education Network
TAFE NSW-Western Sydney Institute
Transqual Pty Ltd
Trissig Pty Ltd
TSA the Training Co Pty Ltd
Wodonga Institute of TAFE.
- (2) Certificate II in Automotive Mechanical
Certificate II in Automotive Vehicle Servicing
Certificate II in Community Pharmacy
Certificate II in Engineering
Certificate II in Hospitality
Certificate II in Retail
Certificate III in Asset Maintenance (Cleaning Operations)
Certificate III in Automotive Administration
Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology
Certificate III in Business
Certificate III in Business Administration
Certificate III in Business Administration (Medical)
Certificate III in Children's Services
Certificate III in Community Pharmacy
Certificate III in Companion Animal Services
Certificate III in Customer Contact
Certificate III in Dental Assisting
Certificate III in Disability
Certificate III in Employment Services
Certificate III in Financial Services
Certificate III in Fitness
Certificate III in Hairdressing
Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
Certificate III in Home and Community Care
Certificate III in Hospitality
Certificate III in Manufactured Mineral Products
Certificate III in Meat Processing (Boning Room)
Certificate III in Process Plant Operations
Certificate III in Retail
Certificate III in Road Construction and Maintenance
Certificate III in Rural Operations
Certificate III in Tourism
Certificate III in Transport and Logistics (Warehousing and Storage)
Certificate IV in Aged Care
Certificate IV in Agriculture
Certificate IV in Business
Certificate IV in Business Administration
Certificate IV in Community Services Work
Certificate IV in Customer Contact

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- Certificate IV in Disability
 Certificate IV in Hospitality
 Certificate IV in Leisure and Health
 Certificate IV in Retail Management
 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
 Course in Language, Literacy And Numeracy
 Course in Skills for Work And Training
 Diploma of Children's Services (Early childhood education and care)
 Advanced Diploma of Events.
- (3) The following courses offered by other registered training organisations are also offered by TAFE NSW Hunter Institute at the Cessnock and/or Kurri Kurri Campuses:
- Certificate II in Engineering
 Certificate II in Hospitality
 Certificate II in Retail
 Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology
 Certificate III in Business
 Certificate III in Business Administration
 Certificate III in Children's Services
 Certificate III in Financial Services
 Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
 Certificate III in Hospitality
 Certificate III in Retail
 Certificate III in Tourism
 Certificate IV in Business Administration
 Certificate IV in Hospitality
 Certificate IV in Retail Management
 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
 Course in Language, Literacy and Numeracy
 Course in Skills for Work and Training.
- (4) To date for 2011, these organisations have received \$440,000.

*1343 KURRI KURRI TAFE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to Kurri Kurri TAFE:

- (1) What courses have been offered in 2011?
- (2) What courses were run in 2011?
- (3) How many students are enrolled in courses at Kurri Kurri TAFE in 2011?
- (4) What is the staffing FTE at Kurri Kurri TAFE?
- (5) For questions (1) to (4) above, what were the equivalent figures in 2010?
- (6) For questions (1) to (4) above, what were the equivalent figures in 2009?

Answer—

- (1) Kurri Kurri Campus offered 80 courses in 2011. A list of these courses is in the table below.
- (2) Kurri Kurri Campus ran 74 courses in 2011. A list of these courses is in the table below.
- (3) There are currently 2,899 students enrolled at Kurri Kurri in 2011. The 2011 figure is the year to date enrolments and will change as enrolments are not yet finalised.
- (4) There are 91.24 full time equivalent staff in 2011. The number of staff has increased due to the staffing requirements of the new Hunter Valley Hotel Academy.
- (5) Kurri Kurri Campus offered 74 courses and ran 69 courses in 2010. There were 3,166 students

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enrolled and 77.60 full time equivalent staff in 2010.

- (6) Kurri Kurri Campus offered 81 courses and ran 66 courses in 2009. There were 2,516 students enrolled and 86.17 full time equivalent staff in 2009.

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Courses Offered and Run in 2011

Course Number	Course Name	Offered	Run
1040	Animal Care and Management Studies	Yes	
1045	Animal Studies	Yes	No
1068	Captive Animals	Yes	
1094	Veterinary Nursing	Yes	
1247	Floristry - Advanced Design	Yes	
1514	Horticulture	Yes	
1518	Horticulture (Landscape) Continuing	Continuing	
1586	Horticulture (continuing)	Continuing	
1587	Horticulture (continuing)	Continuing	
1600	Horticulture (Arboriculture)	Yes	
1601	Horticulture (Arboriculture)	Yes	
1605	Horticulture (Arboriculture)	Yes	
1699	Horticulture (Landscape)	Yes	
1705	Horticulture (Landscape)	Yes	
1708	Horticulture (Parks and Gardens) Continuing	Continuing	
1714	Horticulture (Parks and Gardens)	Yes	
1718	Horticulture (Retail Nursery) Continuing	Continuing	
1905	Horticulture (Retail Nursery) Continuing	Continuing	
1912	Horticulture (Turf)	Yes	
1913	Horticulture (Turf)	Yes	
1927	Horticulture (Wholesale Nursery)	Yes	
2244	Language, Literacy and Numeracy	Yes	
3727	Horticulture (Turf)	Yes	
4289	Companion Animal Services	Yes	No
5659	Automotive Mechanical	Yes	
5770	Automotive Vehicle Servicing	Yes	
5771	Automotive Mechanical Technology (Heavy Vehicle Road Transport)	Yes	
5772	Automotive Mechanical Technology (Heavy Vehicle Mobile Equipment)	Yes	
5791	Automotive Specialist (Forklift Mechanical)	Yes	No
5798	Automotive Specialist (Diesel Fuel)	Yes	No
6466	Pathways to Employment, Education and Training	Yes	

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7735	Floristry	Yes	
7736	Floristry	Yes	
7745	Viticulture for Wine Production	Yes	
9004	Automotive Technology	Yes	
9016	SMARTtrain - Chemical Application	Yes	
9031	RTA Inspection Station Proprietor/Examiner	Yes	
9070	Access to Work and Training	Yes	
9309	Food Processing (Wine)	Yes	
10102	Chemical Application	Yes	
17230	Chainsaw Operations (Level 1)	Yes	
17623	First Aid	Yes	
17660	Automotive Studies	Yes	
17661	Automotive Studies	Yes	
17774	Electrical - Rail Signalling	Yes	
17968	Automotive Technology	Yes	
17982	Automotive Electrical Technology	Yes	
18054	Tourism (Guiding)	Yes	No
18056	Tourism	Yes	
18058	Tourism	Yes	
18073	Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)	Yes	
18074	Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)	Yes	No
18075	Events	Yes	
18076	Events	Yes	
18110	Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)	Yes	
18114	Hospitality (Continuing)	Continuing	
18115	Hospitality	Yes	
18116	Hospitality	Yes	
18258	Outdoor Recreation	Yes	
18909	Animal Studies	Yes	
18910	Animal Studies	Yes	
18911	Animal Studies	Yes	
18913	Captive Animals	Yes	
18914	Companion Animal Services (Continuing)	Continuing	
18919	Veterinary Nursing	Yes	
19425	Participate in Environmental Sustainable Practices	Yes	
19426	Monitor Environmentally Sustainable Work Practices	Yes	
19427	Develop Workplace Policy for Sustainability	Yes	
19589	Food Safety Supervisor	Yes	
19867	Surface Coal Mining (Open Cut Examiner)	Yes	
19869	Underground Coal Operations	Yes	

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19877	Underground Coal Mining Management	Yes	
19956	Horticulture	Yes	
21927	Shotfirer Refresher	Yes	
23125	Diesel Emissions Awareness Training	Yes	
24760	Introduction to Barista	Yes	
27405	Skills Application Training Program	Yes	
27458	Maintain and Repair Caterpillar 3126 Engines	Yes	
28789	Vigneron and Grape Growing	Yes	
32000	Selected Study	Yes	
Summary	Total Courses Offered	80	
	Total Courses Run	74	
	Number of Continuing courses	8	
	Number of Courses that did not run	6	

The courses offered for 2012 are now available on Hunter Institute's new website at www.hunter.tafensw.edu.au

*1344 CESSNOCK TAFE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to Cessnock TAFE:

- (1) What courses have been offered in 2011?
- (2) What courses were run in 2011?
- (3) How many students are enrolled in courses at Cessnock TAFE in 2011?
- (4) What is the staffing FTE at Cessnock TAFE?
- (5) For points (1) to (4) above, what were the equivalent figures in 2010?
- (6) For points (1) to (4) above, what were the equivalent figures in 2009?

Answer—

- (1) Cessnock Campus offered 64 courses in 2011. A list of these courses is in the table below.
- (2) Cessnock Campus ran 57 courses in 2011. A list of these courses is in the table below.
- (3) There are currently 1,541 students enrolled at Cessnock in 2011. The 2011 figure is the year to date enrolments and will change as enrolments are not yet finalised. There has been a decline in enrolments, due to the move of Tourism and Hospitality Commercial Cookery trade courses to the new Hunter Valley Hotel Academy at Kurri Kurri Campus, and a fall in both Business and Computing enrolments.
- (4) There are 44.13 full time equivalent staff in 2011.
- (5) Cessnock Campus offered 74 courses and ran 59 courses in 2010. There were 1,580 students enrolled and 41.79 full time equivalent staff in 2010.
- (6) Cessnock Campus offered 84 courses and ran 64 courses in 2009. There were 1,623 students enrolled and 48.73 full time equivalent staff in 2009.

TAFE NSW - Hunter Institute's Cessnock Campus
Courses Offered and Run in 2011

Course Number	Course Name	Offered	Run
946	Rural Production Studies	Yes	
2244	Language, Literacy and Numeracy	Yes	
3448	Engineering - Mechanical Trade (continuing)	Continuing	
3449	Engineering - Fabrication Trade	Yes	
4515	Responsible Conduct of Gambling	Yes	No

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5771	Automotive Mechanical Technology	Yes	
5772	Automotive Mechanical Technology	Yes	
6512	General and Vocational Education (CGVE)	Yes	
6515	Preparation for Work and Study - Stage 2	Yes	No
6516	Preparation for Work and Study	Yes	
6524	ESOL (Access)	Yes	
6545	ESOL	Yes	
6650	Responsible Service of Alcohol	Yes	
9046	Preparation for Vocational and Further Study (Continuing)	Yes	
9048	Tertiary Preparation	Yes	
9050	Engineering (continuing)	Continuing	
9070	Access to Work and Training	Yes	
9071	Access to Work and Training	Yes	
9072	Skills for Work and Training	Yes	
9073	Employment, Education and Training	Yes	
9277	Engineering - Mechanical Trade (continuing)	Continuing	
9280	Engineering Fabrication Trade (Heavy Fabrication)	Yes	
9292	Engineering - Fabrication Trade (Continuing)	Continuing	
9706	Business Administration (Continuing)	Continuing	
9999	Learner Support	Yes	
11328	Accounts Administration (Continuing)	Continuing	
17433	Flux Core Arc Welding (Continuing)	Continuing	
17434	Manual Metal Arc Welding (MMAW)	Yes	
17435	Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW)	Yes	
17436	Gas Tungsten Arc Welding	Yes	
17484	Retail	Yes	
17485	Retail	Yes	
17486	Retail Management (Continuing)	Continuing	
17623	First Aid (HLTFA301B Apply First Aid)	Yes	
17742	Electrotechnology (Career Start)	Yes	
17776	Financial Services	Yes	No
17778	Financial Services (Bookkeeping)	Yes	
17802	Business	Yes	
17807	Business Administration	Yes	

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17808	Business Administration	Yes	
17995	Spoken and Written English	Yes	
17996	Spoken and Written English	Yes	
18052	Events	Yes	
18073	Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)	Yes	
18083	Hospitality (Catering Operations)	Yes	
18109	Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)	Yes	
18110	Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)	Yes	
18112	Hospitality	Yes	
18113	Hospitality	Yes	No
18114	Hospitality	Yes	
18148	Community Services	Yes	
18167	Aged Care	Yes	
18206	Children's Services	Yes	
19001	Information Technology (Continuing)	Continuing	
19002	Information Technology (Applications)	Yes	
19007	Information Technology (Websites) (Design)	Yes	
19019	Information Technology (Website Development)	Yes	
19361	HSC Studies	Yes	
19589	Food Safety Supervisor	Yes	
26409	Build Your Own Computer	Yes	No
26416	Computer Crash Course - Women Starters Only	Yes	No
26815	How to Buy and Sell on E-Bay	Yes	No
27440	Cook It, Eat It, Love It	Yes	
32000	Selected Study	Yes	
Summary	Total Courses Offered	64	
	Total Courses Run	57	
	Number of Continuing courses	9	
	Number of Courses that did not run	7	

*1345 WOMEN'S REFUGE/SHELTERS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regards to women's refuge/shelters:

- (1) What facilities are available in the Cessnock electorate and what is their occupancy rate?
- (2) If no such facilities are available in the Cessnock electorate, what would be the nearest facilities available and what is their occupancy rate?

Answer—

- (1) There are no women's refuges or shelters funded by Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) located in the Cessnock Electorate.
- (2) Through the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program, FACS funds eight specialist women's refuges in the Hunter Region, one of which is specifically for Aboriginal women. In addition there

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are four youth refuges that women under 25 years can access, and two general services that provide crisis accommodation for both men and women.

Women in the Cessnock Electorate can access any of the funded services provided in the Hunter Region, including those in the neighbouring Maitland, Singleton, and Newcastle LGAs.

Current data on occupancy rates is not kept by FACS.

*1346 VISITING MEDICAL OFFICERS AND RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to Visiting Medical Officers and Resident Medical Officers:

- (1) What is the current cost to the Health budget in NSW for VMOs (Visiting Medical Officers) per annum?
- (2) If each hospital is billed separately what is the total cost, as advised to the Minister, for Cessnock Hospital and Kurri Kurri Hospital per annum?
- (3) How many RMOs (Resident Medical Officers) could be employed at Cessnock Hospital and Kurri Kurri Hospital for the same cost per annum?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The NSW Ministry of Health does not routinely report on the costs of Visiting Medical Officers by individual facility. Statewide Visiting Medical Officer costs are published in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report.

*1347 EMERGENCY DENTAL TREATMENT—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What is the Government doing to reduce the waiting period for patients to receive emergency dental treatment from public oral health services?

Answer—

I am advised:

The majority of emergency dental patients are seen within the 24 hour benchmark waiting time set under the Priority Oral Health Program which is governed by the Policy Directive 2008_056. This Policy is available at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd2008/pdf/PD2008_056.pdf

*1348 ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What is the Government doing to reduce the waiting period for patients to receive payments for claims they have made under the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has determined that from 1 January 2012, the time taken by Local Health Districts to process IPTAAS claims should not exceed a period of 30 days from receipt of a claim. A 45 day limit currently applies.

*1349 TYNAN ROAD AND HUME HIGHWAY INTERSECTION—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the Tynan Road and Hume Highway intersection at Table Top:

- (1) What works are proposed for the intersection?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated to the project in 2011-2012?
- (3) How much funding was provided in 2010-2011?
- (4) How much funding has been allocated to the project in 2012-2013?
- (5) What is the expected completion date for each stage of the project?
- (6) What is the expected date of completion for the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has investigated potential safety improvements at the Tynan Road and Hume Highway intersection. These include widening turning lanes, reviewing signposting, clearing trees to improve sight distances and modifications to linemarking.
- (2) \$300,000 has been allocated to the project in 2011-12.
- (3) \$30,000 was allocated in 2010-11.
- (4) Nil
- (5) and (6) The safety improvements at Tynan Road and the Hume Highway, Table Top will start in April 2012 and take four weeks to complete.

*1350 FUNDING ALLOCATED TO ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What was the total funding that has been allocated to road safety projects and programs in the 2010-2011 financial year?
- (2) In relation to the total funding provided to road safety in the 2010-2011 financial year, what were the specific programs and projects funded?
- (3) What is the total funding allocated to road safety projects and programs for 2011-2012 and what specific projects and programs will this allocation fund?
- (4) What is the funding allocated to road safety projects and programs for 2012-2013?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Total funding allocated to road safety projects and programs in the 2010-11 financial year was \$244.9 million.
- (2) The road safety budget is comprised of 3 main areas
Centre for Road Safety
State Environmental Safety
Federal Blackspot Program
- (3) The total funding allocated to road safety projects and programs for 2011-12 is \$270.7 million. For details of specific programs and projects funded in 2011-12 refer above.
- (4) Funding for 2012-13 has not been finalised.

*1351 PORT BOTANY LANDSIDE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What funding has been allocated to the Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy (PBLIS) in 2011-2012?
- (2) By how much has PBLIS reduced wait time and congestion?
- (3) What is the value of the economic benefit as a result of any efficiency gains brought by the PBLIS reform?
- (4) What is the value of penalties paid by road freight carriers under the PBLIS reform?
- (5) What is the value of the penalties paid by stevedores under the PBLIS reform?
- (6) (a) Are any further changes proposed as part of the PBLIS?
(b) What further changes are proposed for the next phase of PBLIS and when will the further reforms be introduced?
- (7) What will be the total cost of implementing PBLIS?
- (8) When will PBLIS reforms be completed?

Answer—

- (1) Refer to Budget Paper No 4.
- (2) Average truck turnaround times have reduced from 52 to 32 minutes across both stevedore terminals.
- (3) The Net Present Value economic benefit of the PBLIS reforms has been estimated by Deloitte Access Economics as \$27.9 million over ten years.
- (4) The Operational Performance Measures standards that are applied for truck carriers include:
 - Early arrivals - \$100 (not applicable until truck marshalling area is operational)
 - Late Arrivals - \$50 (within an hour), \$100 per hour or over
 - No Shows - \$100
 - Cancellation of booking - \$50.
- (5) The Operational Performance Measures standards that are applied to stevedores include:
 - Truck turnaround time - \$100 per hour per truck
 - Truck non service - \$100 per slot

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- Time zone cancellation (more than 2 hours) - \$50 per slot
 - Time zone cancellation (less than 2 hours) - \$100 per slot.
- (6) (a) and (b) A new truck marshalling area is expected to be operational in 2012. As with all PBLIS developments to date, all future developments on PBLIS will continue to be developed in consultation with stakeholders.
- (7) Total PBLIS expenditure to date is \$16.698 million.
- (8) The PBLIS reforms were established on a ten year project life which commenced in early 2011.

*1352 HUME HIGHWAY AND STACEY STREET INTERSECTION—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the Hume Highway and Stacey Street intersection at Bankstown:

- (1) What works are proposed for the intersection?
- (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 across the forward estimates period?
- (4) When is work scheduled to begin?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Hume Highway and Stacey Street intersection has been investigated. No infrastructure works are currently proposed at this location, however, the traffic signal operation of the intersection is regularly monitored to ensure the intersection is operating as efficiently as possible in dealing with the large traffic demands at this location.
- (2) to (4) 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 program and our election commitments. As a result no funding is currently allocated to upgrade the Hume Highway and Stacey Street intersection.

*1353 SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to school zone flashing lights in the Blue Mountains electorate:

- (1) Has work started on the installation of school zone flashing lights at Blaxland East, Faulconbridge and Springwood public schools and if so, at which of these schools has work started?
- (2) If work has not started, when will work start at each of the schools listed in (1) above?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated to install school zone flashing lights at Blaxland East, Faulconbridge and Springwood public schools in the 2011-2012 financial year?
 - (a) What are the expected completion dates for each stage of the projects?
 - (b) What is the expected completion date for the installation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Blaxland East Public School had flashing lights installed on 20 October/2011.
Faulconbridge Public School had flashing lights installed on 15 November 2011 and
Springwood Public School had flashing lights installed on 21 October 2011.
The Government has committed \$13 million over 4 years to fast track the roll out of school zone flashing lights.

*1354 TIME-OF-DAY TOLLING—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to time-of-day tolling on the Sydney Harbour Bridge:

- (1) Before January 2009, what was the traffic volume for the Sydney Harbour Bridge on weekdays between:
 - (a) 6.30 am to 9.30 am;
 - (b) 9.30 am to 4.00 pm;
 - (c) 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm;
 - (d) 7.00 pm to 6.30 am?
- (2) Before January 2009, what was the traffic volume for the Sydney Harbour Bridge on weekends between:

- (a) 8.00 am to 8.00 pm;
(b) 8.00 pm to 8.00 am?
- (3) What is the current traffic volume for the Sydney Harbour Bridge on weekdays between:
(a) 6.30 am to 9.30 am;
(b) 9.30 am to 4.00 pm;
(c) 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm;
(d) 7.00 pm to 6.30 am?
- (4) What is the current traffic volume for the Sydney Harbour Bridge on weekends between:
(a) 8.00 am to 8.00 pm;
(b) 8.00 pm to 8.00 am?
- (5) Since January 2009, what has been the percentage change in revenue collected from the Sydney Harbour Bridge?
- (6) Will the Government be introducing time-of-day tolling on any other tollway?
- (7) Does the Minister have any plans to remove time-of-day tolling from the Sydney Harbour Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

For the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Harbour Tunnel

AM Peak 6.30am-9.30am

- From 2005 to 2008 there was a downward trend for AM peak hour travel. It fell from 33,389 vehicles in 2005, to 31,576 in 2008, which is a 5.4% reduction from 2005 to 2008.
- From 2008 to 2010 AM peak hour travel was largely static: 31,576 in 2008 (before time of day tolling), 31,238 in 2009 and 31,513 in 2010, which is a 0.19% decrease from 2008 to 2010.
- This shows that AM peak traffic decreased at a much faster rate before the introduction of time of day tolling, despite the introduction of a higher toll to try to drive traffic into shoulder and non-peak periods

Shoulder 9.30am-4pm

- From 2005 to 2008 there was an upward trend for travel in the shoulder period. It grew from 44,935 vehicles in 2005, to 46,511 in 2008, which is a 3.5% increase from 2005 to 2008.
- From 2008 to 2010 traffic in the shoulder period was largely static. Traffic volume was 46,511 in 2008 (before time of day tolling), 45,758 in 2009 and 46,449 in 2010, which is a 0.13% decrease from 2008 to 2010.
- This shows that traffic in the shoulder period was largely static since the introduction of time of day tolling, despite a higher toll in peak periods trying to drive traffic into shoulder and off-peak periods.

Off Peak 7pm-6.30am

- From 2005 to 2008 there was an upward trend for travel in the off-peak period. It grew from 23,130 vehicles in 2005, to 24,855 in 2008, which is a 7.5% increase from 2005 to 2008.
- From 2008 to 2010 traffic in the off peak period was largely static. Traffic volume was 24,855 in 2008 (before time of day tolling), 24,486 in 2009 and 25,141 in 2010, which is a 1.1% increase from 2008 to 2010.
- This shows that traffic in the off peak period was largely static since the introduction of time of day tolling, despite a higher toll in peak periods trying to drive traffic into shoulder and off-peak periods.

Revenue

The introduction of time-of-day tolling increased toll revenues relative to the single price toll.

The average toll revenue collected on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel after the introduction of time-of-day tolling is \$3.20 per trip.

As part of the former State Labor Government's November 2008 Mini-Budget announcement, the RTA had its recurrent cash funding allocation reduced by \$12 million in anticipation of greater toll revenue with the introduction of time-of-day tolling.

The estimated increase in revenue due to time of day tolling in calendar year 2009 was \$9.2 million (GST inclusive) relative to the single price toll regime which was previously in place (based on the same traffic volume).

As I stated at the time of announcing a review into the impact time-of-day tolling on traffic and revenue, I would not be able to remove time-of-day tolling if it had an adverse impact on revenue, because of the \$5.2 billion budget black hole the NSW Government inherited from the former State Labor Government.

The RTA performed some simplified modelling to project the cost of removing time-of-day tolling and replacing it with a \$3 flat toll.

The Net Present Value of lost revenue to the Government from removing time-of-day tolling and reverting to a \$3 toll is estimated to be \$28.4 million over the next 5 years.

Furthermore, if time-of-day tolling were to be removed other costs would be incurred relating to tolling system changes, signage and customer communications.

Due to the costs involved I have no plans to remove time-of-day tolling from the Sydney Harbour Bridge or Tunnel.

*1355 REDIRECTION OF SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC FINES REVENUE—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given that the NRMA and Police Association petition calls on the Government to direct all revenue from speeding and traffic fines back into road safety:

- (1) Has Roads and Maritime Services and formerly the Roads and Traffic Authority, ever conducted any studies, reviews, research, assessments or analysis into this or any other similar proposals to redirect speeding and traffic fines back into road safety?
 - (a) If so, what have been the findings?
 - (b) If not, will the Minister undertake to review and assess the NRMA's proposal?
- (2) If the Minister commissions a review and/or assessment of the NRMA's proposal, will the Minister publicly release the findings?
 - (a) If so, when will the review/assessment be completed?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I have congratulated the NRMA on its petition calling for all revenue from speeding and traffic fines to be directed back into road safety.

I note Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria are already hypothecating revenue from speeding and traffic fines into road safety initiatives.

The NSW Government is firmly committed to improving safety on our roads.

The Auditor General has recently completed an audit of speed cameras in NSW. While the audit found that overall speed cameras improve safety, the effects varied at some locations. The audit made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the use of speed cameras in NSW, including the development of a NSW Speed Camera Strategy which is due next year. It would be timely to consider the proposal to direct fine revenue to road safety as part of this overarching strategy.

*1356 REVENUE COLLECTED FOR SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC FINES—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) (a) How much revenue was collected from speeding and traffic fines in the 2010-2011 financial year?
 - (b) What is the break-down of revenue collected for each of the different categories of speeding and traffic fines?
- (2) For the 2011-2012 financial year, how much revenue has been collected from speeding and traffic fines to date?
- (3) Given that the NRMA and Police Association proposes to redirect speeding and traffic fines back into road safety:
 - (a) Has the Minister received any advice in relation to the hypothecation of speeding and traffic fines?
 - (b) If so, what is that advice?
 - (c) If not, will the Minister request advice on the NRMA's proposal to hypothecate speeding and traffic fines?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) This information is available on the Office of State Revenue website.

(3) (a) and (b) No.

(c) Questions in relation to proposals for the hypothecation of speeding-related or traffic-related fines into road safety should be directed to the Minister for Roads.

*1357 ONE MINTO PROJECTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regards to Housing NSW tenants who have been rehoused/relocated from Minto as a result of the One Minto projects:

- (1) In total, how many tenants/tenancies have been relocated?
- (2) Of those, how many have been:
 - (a) relocated to existing Housing NSW properties;
 - (b) relocated to community housing properties;
 - (c) offered rental assistance to rent in the private market?
- (3) How many have been relocated within the Campbelltown LGA?

Answer—

- (1) A total of 880 tenants have been relocated as a result of the One Minto project.
- (2) Over 770 tenants have relocated to properties under management by Housing NSW or a community housing provider whilst around 40 tenants were offered private rental assistance. A number of tenants also purchased their own home.
- (3) Approximately 540 tenants have been relocated within the Campbelltown LGA.

*1358 DEATH AND DISABILITY SCHEME—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—

Will the Minister maintain the existing level of entitlements for those police currently receiving support from the Death and Disability scheme?

Answer—

Details of the proposed new death and disability scheme for police officers have been extensively canvassed in Parliament. Further information may also be found on the NSW Police Force's website: www.police.nsw.gov.au

*1359 ASSISTANCE TO SOLE TRADERS TO RECOUP MONIES OWED—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

What action will the Government take to assist sole traders recoup monies owed to them?

Answer—

In relation to the Fair Trading portfolio, the Home Building Act 1989 provides that a sole trader can lodge an application in the Home Building Division of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal to recoup monies owed to them. This would include where a builder is seeking to recover money from a home owner or a subcontractor seeks to be paid by the head contractor.

In other instances, a sole trader is able to pursue action for debt recovery through the Local Court or District Court.

*1360 PLUMBING LICENSING REGULATORY COUNCIL—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Will the Government establish the Plumbing Licensing Regulatory Council in order to increase cooperation between existing plumbing regulatory bodies?

Answer—

My commitments are publically available on Hansard and the NSW Fair Trading website.

*1361 ESTABLISHMENT OF "SPECIALIST TRADESMEN"—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

What advice, if any, has the Minister received from Fair Trading regarding the possibility of establishing "specialist tradesmen" in the plumbing industry?

Answer—

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The Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011 was passed by Parliament on 9 November 2011. This Act establishes NSW Fair Trading as the single regulator for on-site plumbing and drainage and prescribes the Plumbing Code of Australia as the required standard for plumbing and drainage work as defined by the Act.

National licensing for plumbers and gasfitters is scheduled to commence in 2012. This national process includes its own advisory committees and consultation processes with representation from key industry stakeholders.

NSW Fair Trading has not provided any advice on the possibility of establishing specialist trades, outside of those which already exist under the current legislation.

*1362 UNQUALIFIED TRADESMEN—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

What action will the Minister take to prevent tradesmen from engaging in work for which they are not qualified?

Answer—

I am advised that:

NSW Fair Trading's rigorous licensing regime ensures that only those who have appropriate qualifications are licensed to contract with consumers.

Fair Trading administers and enforces compliance with the Home Building Act 1989 which protects consumers by requiring builders and tradespeople to be licensed to undertake residential building work. The licensing regime establishes standards for competence, probity, contracts, statutory warranties and home warranty insurance to protect people against faulty or incomplete work.

In the 2010-2011 financial year, NSW Fair Trading's Home Building Service:

- undertook 716 investigations;
- undertook dispute resolution in 1,756 building complaints;
- finalised 75 notices to show cause with fines to the value of \$71,500;
- issued penalty notices for 295 offences to the value of \$413,700;
- undertook successful prosecutions for 183 offences, totalling \$66,983 in penalties;
- disqualified and/or suspended 24 licensees; and
- conducted 1,320 field audit inspections and 658 solar installation inspections, a total of 1978 inspections, as part of compliance activities and campaigns within the residential building industry around the State.

*1363 UNSAFE GAS INSTALLATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) Has the Minister received any advice about a gas fitter at Mount Colah who was responsible for a gas installation which was proven to be unsafe by two independent gas experts?
- (2) What action has Fair Trading taken to ensure other work undertaken by this gas fitter is of an acceptable standard?

Answer—

- (1) I have not received any advice or notification about this particular gas installation. In addition, I am advised that extensive searches of the NSW Fair Trading databases have not revealed the existence of any such matter.
- (2) Without details of the individual concerned, Fair Trading is not in a position to investigate the matter. You are most welcome to forward the details to my office.

*1364 WARATAH TRAINS—BANKSTOWN LINE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

How many of the new Waratah trains are currently in use on the Bankstown Line?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is available on the CityRail website at <http://www.cityrail.info/news/projects/waratah/operating>

*1365 WARATAH TRAINS—EAST HILLS LINE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

How many of the new Waratah trains are currently in use on the East Hills Line?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is available on the CityRail website at

<http://www.cityrail.info/news/projects/waratah/operating>

*1366 FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

What funding programs are available for non-profit organisations providing services or support for young people in NSW from:

- (a) Department of Attorney General and Justice;
- (b) Department of Education and Communities;
- (c) Department of Family and Community Services;
- (d) Department of Finances and Services;
- (e) NSW Ministry of Health;
- (f) Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- (g) Treasury;
- (h) Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services;
- (i) Transport for NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding funding programs and support for young people is available in the Annual Reports of NSW Government agencies and statutory authorities.

*1368 PROTECTION FOR VOLUNTEERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What action will the Premier take to ensure that organisations do not take advantage of their volunteers?
- (2) What protection or opportunities for recourse are available to volunteers who are unfairly dismissed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government recognises volunteering as detailed in NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One. Under Goal 24, "Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities" the NSW Government has the target to "increase the proportion of the NSW population involved in volunteering, to exceed the national average by 2016".

The "NSW Guide to Volunteering" details the rights of volunteers, and offers best practice advice for organisations and volunteers. This guide is available on the NSW Government volunteering website www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Government recognises the invaluable contribution volunteers make to the community and seeks to foster an increase in volunteering. As part of this process, the Government aims to promote and showcase best practice in volunteer management. This includes promoting the uptake of clearly articulated and sound grievance and complaint handling processes and Volunteering Australia's National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not For Profit Organisations. The NSW Volunteering Strategy, which is currently being finalised, will reflect the Government's commitment to this role and will incorporate initiatives designed to support the volunteering community.

*1369 INCREASING PREVALENCE OF DIABETES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

What action is the Government taking to counter the increasing prevalence of diabetes in NSW?

Answer—

I refer the member to the response provided to LA 1315 by the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research.

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(Paper No. 59)

*1370 ESCALATOR AT MT DRUITT RAILWAY STATION—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport—

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- (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?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Vandalism is a significant cost to the community and the prevention, detection and remediation of vandalism is a continual challenge.

RailCorp has committed significant resources to combat all forms of vandalism, and continues to work cooperatively with the NSW Police in the detection, apprehension and prosecution of vandals.

*1371 PENALTIES FOR MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (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?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

I am advised that under the Local Government Act 1993, the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal currently has the power to suspend a councillor's right to be paid a fee for up to 6 months for misbehaviour.

The Division of Local Government is currently undertaking a review of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW and the misbehaviour provisions of the Act. I am advised that one of the proposals made in a position paper the Division has issued in relation to its review is to also confer on the Chief Executive the power to suspend a councillors' right to be paid a fee for up to 3 months for misbehaviour.

I am advised that, following public consultation on the position paper, the Division expects its review to be completed and a report prepared for my consideration by early 2012.

1372 PENNANT STREET BRIDGE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

1373 GLENDALE INTERCHANGE—STAGE ONE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

1374 PAYMENTS FOR VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

1375 CHAMBER MAGISTRATES AT LOCAL COURT REGISTRIES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

1376 COMPLAINTS TO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BOARD—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

1377 DISTRICT COURT JUDGES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

1378 FULL-TIME CUSTODY PRISONERS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

1379 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES AT NSW BUSINESSLINK—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

1380 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES—TRAINING FOR MAGISTRATES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

1381 SPECIFIC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIST—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- 1382 VICTIMS COMPENSATION CLAIM - ASSESSMENT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1383 VICTIMS COMPENSATION CLAIM - COMPLETION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- *1384 ENERGY REBATE ELIGIBILITY—Mr Paul Lynch asked 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?
- Answer—
- (1) to (3) Data on the number of pensioners and health care card holders in NSW is available at www.fahcsia.gov.au
- *1385 ENERGY ACCOUNT PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE SCHEME REVIEW—Mr Paul Lynch asked 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?
- Answer—
- (1) and (2) On 28 October 2011 I announced the establishment of the Energy Account Payment Assistance (EAPA) Advisory Group to examine options for extending EAPA to residents of retirement villages and residential parks.
- The Group is also examining other options for improving and streamlining the administration of the scheme including: clearer scheme guidelines and more comprehensive education, training and support for community welfare organisations participating in the scheme; better data management of the scheme; and the development of models for the delivery of EAPA or equivalent assistance to customers currently unable to access the scheme.
- A progress report and comprehensive work plan is to be provided by February 2012.
- I have made publicly available the consultation paper and submissions of the former Government's review which I note the Honourable Member, as Minister for Energy, failed to release.
- 1386 WOLLONGONG CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 1387 INQUIRY INTO LYSAGHT OVAL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1388 PURCHASE OF LAND AT MADDENS PLAINS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

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- 1389 STAMP DUTY CONCESSION—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1390 ESCAPE RATE FROM NEW SOUTH WALES PRISONS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1391 PUBLIC HOUSING—HUNTER VALLEY—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1392 PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE BUDGET—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

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*1393 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SHORTFALL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

How is the Government addressing the need for more staff specialists to fill in the Emergency Department shortfall at the John Hunter Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 13 December 2011 there were no vacancies for funded staff specialist positions in the Emergency Department at the John Hunter Hospital.

*1394 PRINCIPAL CONTROL IN UNDERSTAFFED SCHOOLS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

How will the Government's scheme giving principals more control over staff and finances overcome the shortage of qualified and experienced teachers in the hardest to staff schools in New South Wales, especially in Mungindi, Goodooga and Walgett?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education and Communities is committed to ensuring that all schools are staffed with qualified, skilled teachers and that teaching continues to be acknowledged as an attractive and rewarding profession.

The NSW Government is committed to giving greater control over school decision making to principals, teachers and school communities, enabling local schools to make local decisions, because they are best placed to know about the particular needs of their particular school and community. Increased authority to manage resources at a local level will better enable schools to effectively target strategic school priorities.

With increased local flexibility, combined with proven effective recruitment and retention strategies, schools will be even better placed to respond to the needs of students, including those in remote regional areas.

The Department has recently undertaken a public consultation process, under the banner of Local Schools, Local Decisions, to elicit feedback about ways to improve resource management and staffing as well as how to benefit from working locally and reducing red tape.

*1395 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

(1) What is the Government doing to address the endemic problem of domestic violence identified by the Auditor-General?

(2) What is the Government's response to the Auditor General's claims that organisations are not providing a response that works or lasts for many victims and perpetrators?

Answer—

Reducing all forms of violence against women, particularly domestic and family violence, is a priority for this Government. The Auditor-General has noted that a shared, cross-agency and cross-sectoral framework for dealing with domestic and family violence is one of the central requirements for improving responses to domestic violence in NSW.

This Government is wholly committed to developing an interagency framework that holds key agencies accountable for working together to reduce domestic and family violence in NSW. I have requested an independent review of the current strategy addressing violence against women in NSW. The review will focus on the effectiveness of the Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan and will specifically address the Auditor-General's recommendations.

I have also referred the issue of domestic and family violence to the Legislative Council's Standing Council on Social Issues. It is anticipated that this will provide useful information to improve the NSW Government response to reduce violence against women.

*1396 PROPOSED REFORMS TO POLICE COMPENSATION—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 concerns of police officers with proposed reforms of the police compensation?

- (2) Will changes to the death and disability scheme slash compensation leading to premature return to work and/or financial hardship?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Government has recently announced almost \$100 million in enhancements to the package of proposed reforms to the Police Force's death and disability scheme. The proposed reforms are intended to encourage officers to participate in rehabilitation and return to work wherever possible.

*1397 TRAINING ORGANISATIONS IN THE WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to training organisations in the Wallsend electorate:

- (1) What companies/institutions receive State Government funding?
- (2) What training courses do they offer?
- (3) Do any of these courses compete with TAFE run courses, and if so, which ones?
- (4) How much State Government funding is provided to these institutions?

Answer—

- (1) The following registered training organisations receive NSW Government funding:

Back to Basic Business Training Pty Ltd
Hunter Councils Inc
The LDC Group Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
On Time Resources Pty Ltd
Ramsden Telecommunications Training Pty Ltd
Response Employment and Training Pty Ltd
Strategic Corporate Training Pty Ltd
Strategic Training Solutions Pty Ltd
Trissig Pty Ltd
Hunter Community College.

- (2)

Courses offered by registered training organisations in the Wallsend electorate:

Certificate I in Spoken and Written English
Certificate II in Laundry Operations
Certificate II in Process Manufacturing
Certificate II in Spoken and Written English
Certificate II in Telecommunications
Certificate II in Telecommunications Digital Reception Technology
Certificate II in Underground Coal Mining
Certificate III in Aged Care
Certificate III in Automotive Sales
Certificate III in Business
Certificate III in Business Administration
Certificate III in Disability
Certificate III in Health Support Services
Certificate III in Home and Community Care
Certificate III in Laundry Operations
Certificate III in Local Government
Certificate III in Local Government (Operational Works)
Certificate III in Process Manufacturing
Certificate III in Spoken and Written English
Certificate III in Telecommunications
Certificate III in Telecommunications Cabling
Certificate III in Transport and Logistics (Logistics Operations)
Certificate III in Transport and Logistics (Road Transport)
Certificate III in Transport and Logistics (Warehousing and Storage)
Certificate III in Underground Coal Operations
Certificate III in Warehousing Operations
Certificate IV in Aged Care
Certificate IV in Building and Construction (Building)
Certificate IV in Business Administration

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Certificate IV in Disability
 Certificate IV in Frontline Management
 Certificate IV in Information Technology (General)
 Certificate IV in Local Government
 Certificate IV in Local Government (Health and Environment)
 Certificate IV in Local Government (Operational Works)
 Certificate IV in Local Government (Planning)
 Certificate IV in Local Government (Regulatory Services)
 Certificate IV in Telecommunications Network Engineering
 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
 Certificate IV in Transport and Logistics (Road Transport)
 Diploma of Building and Construction (Building)
 Diploma of Disability
 Diploma of Logistics
 Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety
 Diploma of Quality Auditing
 Diploma of Telecommunications Network Engineering.

(3) The following courses offered by other registered training organisations in the Wallsend electorate are also offered by TAFE NSW Hunter Institute:

Certificate I in Spoken and Written English
 Certificate II in Spoken and Written English
 Certificate III in Aged Care
 Certificate III in Business
 Certificate III in Business Administration
 Certificate III in Telecommunications Cabling
 Certificate III in Home and Community Care
 Certificate IV in Business Administration
 Certificate IV in Disability
 Diploma of Disability.

(4) To date for 2011, these organisations have received \$661,600.

1398 WOMEN'S REFUGES IN THE WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

1399 MAINTENANCE WORKS—DOBELL BUILDING—Ms Kristina Keneally to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

*1400 SMOKING RATES—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What is the Government doing to reduce rates of smoking within the communities of Cabramatta?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Ministry of Health and the South Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD) have a long history of tobacco control initiatives in the Fairfield and Cabramatta areas through both state-wide and targeted initiatives.

Tobacco control is a key priority for the South Western Sydney LHD's formal and ongoing partnership with Fairfield City Council.

There are a comprehensive suite of initiatives to reduce smoking harm in the community, including social marketing; cessation services such as the NSW Quitline and Multicultural Quitline; programs with Aboriginal communities such as SmokeCheck; restrictions on display and sales to minors in the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 and the enforcement of smoke-free environments through the Smoke Free Environment Act 2000.

*1401 HEPATITIS C—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What is the Government doing to reduce the risks of Hepatitis C within the communities of Cabramatta?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Cabramatta community, like other NSW communities, benefits from approximately \$31.3 million allocated for the provision of hepatitis C related activities and initiatives across NSW in 2011/2012.

The NSW response to hepatitis C is articulated in the NSW Hepatitis C Strategy. NSW Health is currently developing the third NSW Hepatitis C Strategy (2012-2015) to improve the health status of people with hepatitis C and minimize the negative personal, social and economic impact of hepatitis C.

NSW Health funds a number of specific activities within the communities of Cabramatta:

- The Needle and Syringe Program, delivered by the NSW Users and AIDS Association in a targeted outreach program, and by the Drug Health Service in the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) administering the public program. Access to sterile injecting equipment is provided from primary Needle and Syringe Program sites at Liverpool Hospital and Bankstown Community Health Centre and secondary Needle and Syringe Program is provided from Fairfield/Liverpool Youth Health Team at Carramar;
- The Pharmacy Fitpack Scheme, coordinated by the NSW Pharmacy Guild to provides sterile injecting equipment for a small initial fee, then free on return of used fitpacks. Eight pharmacies in Cabramatta are currently active in the scheme.
- Hepatitis C awareness and education activities including a Hepatitis C Health Promotion Officer based in the SWSLHD; initiatives through the state-wide Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis C Service that target culturally and linguistically diverse communities in south west Sydney; a DVD for consumers, "Hepatitis C - Is Treatment Right for You?" that has been translated into Vietnamese and Arabic and widely distributed to relevant agencies, including in Cabramatta.
- The Drug Health Service in the SWSLHD provides clinical services for people in the Fairfield Local Government Area which includes Cabramatta. Services include the Fairfield Enhanced Care Team which provides case management for up to 150 clients with drug and alcohol related issues and clinical support to General Practitioners and pharmacists in Fairfield Local Government Area.

1403 TRAFFIC AND ROAD CONDITIONS—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

*1404 WARATAH TRAINS—CUMBERLAND LINE—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

How many Waratah Trains are in service on the Cumberland Line which runs through Cabramatta?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is available on the CityRail website at

<http://www.cityrail.info/news/projects/waratah/operating>

*1405 WARATAH TRAINS—BANKSTOWN LINE—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

How many Waratah Trains are in service on the Bankstown Line which runs through Cabramatta?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is available on the CityRail website at

<http://www.cityrail.info/news/projects/waratah/operating>

*1406 WARATAH TRAINS—SOUTH LINE—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

How many Waratah Trains are in service on the South Line which runs through Cabramatta?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is available on the CityRail website at

<http://www.cityrail.info/news/projects/waratah/operating>

*1407 WARATAH TRAINS—INNER WEST LINE—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

How many Waratah Trains are in service on the Inner West Line which runs through Cabramatta?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is available on the CityRail website at

<http://www.cityrail.info/news/projects/waratah/operating>

*1408 NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING OF DNA SAMPLES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- (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—

Although asked of the Minister for Health, the text of the question seeks information from the Attorney-General in respect to the establishment of such national guidelines. The question also asks what the Attorney General has done in regard to their establishment.

As this is clearly a matter for the Attorney General the question should accordingly be referred to that portfolio.

- 1409 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCE—CAMDEN GAS PROJECT (PEL 2)—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 1410 PETROLEUM PRODUCTION LEASES—CAMDEN GAS PROJECT STAGE 2—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- *1411 AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to ambulance response times in the Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens area:

- (1) What ambulance service is provided to this area?
- (2) (a) For the months of July, August, September and October 2011, how many ambulance calls were made to this area?
(b) What was the median response time?
- (3) (a) Were there any patients who waited more than 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive?
(b) If yes, on what dates and what were the waiting times?
- (4) What enhancements to ambulance services in the Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens area were provided in the 2011-12 budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Tea Gardens Ambulance Station has a Station Officer plus four paramedics. Support is provided from Bulahdelah Station in the north and Raymond Terrace Station in the south. The five Tea Gardens paramedics provide on-duty coverage from 8:00am to 5:00pm seven days a week. On call coverage is provided outside these hours.

(2) and (3) Information in relation to Ambulance Emergency Response Times is available on the Ambulance Service's website: <http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au/Our-performance/Response-Times.html>. Under current Ambulance protocols not all incidents require a response within 30 minutes.

(4) In 2011-12, the budget for the Ambulance Service of NSW is \$639.1 million and includes funding to continue fleet replacement and implementation of the medical equipment replacement program. The Ambulance Service currently has no specific plans to enhance staff deployments at Tea Gardens Ambulance Station.

- *1412 FUNDING ALLOCATION TO SIDS AND KIDS NSW—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) What funding is allocated by NSW Health to Sids and Kids NSW?
 - (2) What funding is allocated to other agencies that deal with neo-natal death by NSW Health?
 - (3) Is there any separate funding being allocated directly to Sids and Kids Hunter and Sids and Kids ACT?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) NSW Health provides \$132,600 in funding per year to SIDS and Kids NSW.
- (3) No.

- 1413 HOUSING NSW GUTTERS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1414 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE IN THE INNER CITY—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1415 HANDYMAN SERVICE PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1416 WORK ORDERS FOR GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1417 FUNDING TO REDUCE GRAFFITI—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- *1418 PATIENT LIAISON OFFICERS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) How many Patient Liaison Officers are there at Bulli Hospital?
 - (2) Are there any plans to increase this number?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) and (2) There is one full time staff member at Bulli Hospital whose role incorporates Ward Clerk and Patient Liaison Officer duties. There are no current plans to increase this number.
- 1419 FUNDS TO WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1420 INTERSECTION OF PRINCES HIGHWAY AND MT OUSLEY ROAD—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1421 INQUIRY INTO LYSAGHT OVAL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- *1422 IPADS IN SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—
- (1) Will the Minister and the Department of Education look at increasing the use of iPads in schools by ensuring the costs to procure them are reduced?
 - (2) What plans are there to increase the amount of these devices in schools to enhance teaching and learning across the curriculum?
- Answer—
- (1) The Department of Education and Communities continues to trial new technology, including iPads, thus ensuring that government schools are at the forefront of the educational use of information and communication technologies. This is done while guaranteeing that it secures the best possible value for money from its allocated information technology budget, while providing secure and ethical procurement services to the State.
 - (2) Decisions on the ongoing and appropriate recommended use of iPads in government schools will be made following the completion of the analysis and trial of this technology.
- *1423 APPROVAL OF BOREHOLE DRILLING BY APEX DRILLING PROJECT—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- Why did the Planning Assessment Commission approve the additional drilling of a borehole by Apex Drilling Project (APEX) in the Sydney Water Catchment Area when a parliamentary inquiry is still underway?
- Answer—
- The basis for the Planning Assessment Commission's decision is contained in its determination report which is available on the Planning Assessment Commission's website. The Planning and Assessment Commission is independent of government.
- *1424 DEDICATED SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS IN SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

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- (1) How many schools in the Kiera electorate have dedicated speech pathologists?
- (2) How many children do they currently support?
- (3) Does the Government have any plans to increase this number particularly in areas of low socio-economic status?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There are no schools in the Keira electorate that employ speech pathologists.
- (3) Schools on the Low SES School Communities National Partnership may choose to employ a speech pathologist if the school's situational analysis or evaluation report identify this as the most effective strategy to support students in improving educational outcomes.

1425 FREE TRAIN TRAVEL TO WESTERN PLAINS ZOO—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

*1426 GOVERNMENT PRESCHOOL FEES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

In relation to fees at Government preschools:

- (1) What guidelines are available to principals to support them in exercising their discretionary role to assess the eligibility of families for fee relief or exemption?
- (2) If families owe outstanding preschool fees, what action will the school or the Department take to recover these fees and will families be subject to repayment orders or any legal order to pay their preschool fees?
- (3) What is the definition of "financial hardship" in relation to assessing an application for fee relief or exemption?
- (4) Will any of the revenue raised from preschool fees be directed into Government preschools, and if so, how much?
- (5) How much additional funding does each of the 100 Government schools receive as a result of having a preschool attached to the public school?
- (6) What advice did the Government receive that the imposition of preschool fees would increase the proportion of children attending preschool, and who provided this advice?
- (7) Given that on 9 November 2011 the Minister noted that at 90% of preschools, enrolment is "on track":
 - (a) What data was this figure based on?
 - (b) What preschools make up the 10% who are not "on track"?
 - (c) Has the Government requested enrolment statistics from Government preschools in previous years?
 - (d) To be designated as "on track", what proportion or number of places need to be filled in a Government preschool?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The policy is available on the Department of Education and Communities' website at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/administrative/financial/preschool_fees/PD20110423.shtml?query=preschool
- (4) The preschools in government schools will continue to be heavily subsidised by the NSW Government. Revenue from the preschool fees will be allocated within the overall budget for education.
- (5) Preschool enrolments are included along with a school's other enrolments to determine funds provided to each school through its global funding. In addition, where schools receive equity funding the preschool enrolments are included to determine a school's total allocation.
- (6) Department preschools were originally established to provide an early childhood education for our most disadvantaged children. The Government has designed a policy which provides priority of access to a quality preschool education for our most disadvantaged children.
- (7) (a) Enrolment data that the Department of Education and Communities has collected and advice from regions and/or schools.
 - (b) Those preschools that were yet to make offers of enrolment, those that were in the very early stages of the enrolment process or those with very low confirmed enrolments for 2012.
 - (c) Yes.
 - (d) "On track" is not based on the proportion of places filled but rather on where schools are showing increases in their numbers of confirmed enrolments.

*1427 ADULT MIGRANT ENGLISH SERVICE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent teaching positions are delivering:
 - (a) the Adult Migrant English Program in the three regions (Hunter/Newcastle, Illawarra/Wollongong, and Northern Metropolitan/Rural NSW) retained by the Adult Migrant English Service (AMES);
 - (b) the Skillmax program;
 - (c) taxi driver assessments?
- (2) What is the employment status of the teachers delivering the Adult Migrant English Program in the Hunter, Illawarra and Northern Sydney?
- (3) Why are AMES teachers no longer delivering the Adult Migrant English Program in the Hunter, Illawarra and Northern Sydney?
- (4) How many AMES teachers are employed in permanent teaching positions:
 - (a) as at 31 October 2011;
 - (b) at 30 June 2011;
 - (c) at 30 June 2010?
- (5) How many AMES teachers are employed in temporary/casual teaching positions:
 - (a) as at 31 October 2011;
 - (b) at 30 June 2011;
 - (c) at 30 June 2010?
- (6) In 2011, how much notice did affected AMES teachers receive of the determination that their position status would change from permanent to excess?
- (7) In 2011, how much notice did affected AMES teachers receive of the determination that their position status would change from permanent to temporary/casual?
- (8) What consultation occurred with AMES teaching staff prior to any change in their employment status?

Answer—

- (1) (a) There are currently 7.6 full-time equivalent teaching positions delivering the Adult Migrant English Program in the Hunter Region, 6.5 in the Illawarra region and 49.14 in the Northern Sydney and Rural Region. The number of staff employed to deliver the AMEP is dependent on the number of students requiring English language tuition.
 - (b) 2.5 equivalent full-time temporary positions.
 - (c) 1.5 equivalent part time teaching positions.
- (2) Teachers delivering the Adult Migrant English programs in the 3 regions are a mix of full-time permanent, temporary and part-time casual teachers.
- (3) AMES teachers did not deliver the AMEP in the Illawarra and Hunter regions prior to 30 June 2011. The new AMEP contract, which commenced on 1 July 2011, meant that delivery by NSW AMES in Northern Sydney was unsustainable and financially unviable.
- (4) (a) Nil.
 - (b) 67.2 full-time equivalent.
 - (c) 69 full-time equivalent.
- (5) (a) 3.75 full-time equivalent.
 - (b) 2.5 full-time equivalent.
 - (c) 43.19 full-time equivalent.
- (6) NSW AMES permanent teachers were advised in December 2010 that their employment status could change on 30 June 2011.

NSW AMES wrote to permanent teachers on 19 May 2011 to formally advise staff that, as a result of the organisational change within NSW AMES, their employment status would change from "permanent" to "excess" on 30 June 2011. Affected staff were also advised that from 19 May 2011 they would have "priority status" for the purposes of matching to other vacant positions in the Department of Education and Communities. All permanent teaching staff were advised on 19 May 2011 that they would be offered voluntary redundancy in accordance with the Department's Managing Excess Employee Policy current at that time.
- (7) NSW AMES teachers employed in permanent teaching positions did not have their employment status changed to a different employment status.

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- (8) AMES teachers were directly consulted about changes to their employment status during AMES senior manager visits to teaching centres and meetings with staff between December 2010 and April 2011 and through consultation with the NSW Teachers Federation in April and May 2011.

*1428 DEVOLUTION PILOT—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

In relation to the recent devolution pilot in NSW public schools:

- (1) How much additional funding was provided to each of the 47 schools participating in the program specifically to participate in the pilot?
- (2) Will the same level of additional funding be provided to any additional schools who undertake the program if it is expanded?

Answer—

- (1) In both 2010 and 2011, the pilot funding model used to build an appropriate budget for each school revolved around bringing staff salaries (based on role) up to average (if required). Not all pilot schools received additional funding. For example, in 2010, 24 of the schools received no additional funding.

Additional funding was not offered as an inducement to participation. A request for expressions of interest to join the pilot was sent out, by the then Director-General of Education and Training in August 2009, to all NSW public schools and from the group of schools that applied, 47 were chosen representing a broad spectrum of school types, sizes and locations.

- (2) The 47 schools pilot program is not being expanded. It concludes on 31 December 2011. Transition arrangements have been made with each school to ensure the maintenance of successful programs and initiatives.

The NSW Local Schools, Local Decisions initiative and the Commonwealth's Empowering Local Schools program may commence in due course but would have their own funding models.

*1429 ESTABLISHMENT OF "TRANSPORT FOR NSW"—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the Minister provide details of all costs associated with the establishment of the new transport agency "Transport for NSW"?
- (2) What impact will the creation of this agency have on employment opportunities and services in country areas, particularly in the Northern Tablelands electorate?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The O'Farrell Government established Transport for NSW as an integrated transport agency. The establishment is being undertaken through existing budgets. Transport for NSW is responsible for the co-ordinated delivery of transport services across all modes and a renewed focus on the customer, including those in regional areas.

For the first time, Transport for NSW includes a new Freight and Regional Development division whose focus will include the development of transport services in regional areas.

1430 ASSESSMENT LEASE APPLICATION 19—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

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*1431 YOUNG FARMERS FINANCE SCHEME—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) Has the NSW Farmers Association expressed concern about the decline in the number of young farmers in the country?
- (2) Have they suggested the establishment of a Young Farmers Finance Scheme to assist young people to enter the farm sector?
- (3) What is the Government's response to this position of the NSW Farmers Association?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

(3) The Government is currently reviewing proposed measures which could be included as part of any Young Farmers Assistance Program. This includes specific proposals suggested by the NSW Farmers' Association.

1432 SCHOOLRISK—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

1433 IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY: SCHOOL ZONES REPORT—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

1434 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

1435 DEPUTY STATE CORONER RECOMMENDATIONS – FUEL TANKER CRASH—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

1436 SCHOOL ALERT (FLASHING LIGHTS) SYSTEM—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

1437 OFFENSIVE ODOUR—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

*1438 IDLING FREIGHT TRAINS AT SULPHIDE JUNCTION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

What is the Government doing to address freight trains idling for often lengthy periods of time at Sulphide Junction in Argenton, which is causing excessive noise and diesel pollution for local residents?

Answer—

I am advised that RailCorp is closely monitoring the duration that privately operated freight trains occupy the refuge at Sulphide Junction and is working with the freight operator on strategies to minimise idling times.

1439 YOUTH CONFERENCING—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

*1440 OCCUPANCY RATE OF ACUTE OVERNIGHT BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

(1) Does the Ministry of Health prepare statistics on the occupancy rate of acute overnight beds?

(2) Is this data collected and prepared by the hospital?

(3) Were such figures collected and prepared for the following months of 2011:

(a) May;

(b) June;

(c) July;

(d) August;

(e) September?

(4) Were these figures used for discussion in any meetings of staff or stakeholders during the last six months?

(5) Will they be used to prepare any reports?

(6) If reports are to be prepared, will they be released publicly?

(7) If not, does the Minister plan to collect data on occupancy of acute overnight beds?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) to (7) NSW Health is making necessary changes to its data collection, reporting systems and procedures in order to enable bed occupancy reporting in accordance with the recommendations of the Audit Taskforce on Bed Numbers and Occupancy Rates.

When these changes are completed, bed number and bed occupancy rates will be publicly reported on a regular basis.

*1441 UNAUTHORISED USE OF HEALTH STAFF—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Minister did not authorise use of Health staff to promote the coal seam gas industry:

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- (1) Has the Minister instructed Australian Mining to remove their unauthorised television advertisements, which use the staff of the Newcastle Newborn ICU to endorse their activities?
- (2) If not, will she do so?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government is committed to ensuring genuine local responsibility, local decision-making and accountability by Local Health Districts, their boards and clinicians.

As such, decisions of this nature are the responsibility of the Hunter New England Local Health District.

I am advised that all partnerships entered into by the John Hunter Children's Hospital with commercial organisations are of a legal and ethical nature and comply with NSW Health Policy PD2005_415 Sponsorships Policy NSW Health.

I am further advised that The John Hunter Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has had a relationship with various mining companies for six years. Through these partnerships the NICU has been able to purchase vital equipment and refurbish various areas of the NICU that provide comfort to families.

*1442 SMOKING DISCUSSION PAPER—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Noting that different local government authorities are setting different rules for smoking in the public domain across NSW and that NSW Health's "Strategic Directions for Tobacco Control in NSW 2011-2016 Discussion Paper" asked for community comment by the end of January 2011:

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of community comment on the Discussion Paper?
- (2) What action will the Government take on the proposals identified in the Discussion Paper:
 - (a) Continuing social marketing campaigns and evidence-based services to help smokers quit;
 - (b) Working with Aboriginal communities and peak bodies to reduce smoking and exposure to smoke;
 - (c) Greater efforts to reduce smoking among people with high smoking rates such as low socio-economic groups and some culturally and linguistically diverse groups;
 - (d) Eliminating advertising and promotion of tobacco products and restrict the availability and supply of tobacco, especially to children;
 - (e) Reducing exposure to tobacco smoke in workplaces, public places and other settings;
 - (f) Increasing action to prevent young people starting to smoke;
 - (g) Improving research, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on tobacco control?
- (3) What is the Government's response to the motion passed at the last NSW Local Government Association Annual Conference calling for state wide legislation that uniformly prohibits smoking within 10 metres of children's playgrounds and sporting fields when sports are being played, in all outdoor dining areas on public land, and in covered bus shelters and taxi ranks?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) More than 800 submissions received during the consultation on the Strategic Directions for Tobacco Control in NSW 2011-2016 Discussion Paper were reviewed and analysed by NSW Health in 2011. Feedback from the consultation on the Discussion Paper informed the development of a draft NSW Tobacco Strategy. The NSW Tobacco Strategy, which will set out a comprehensive portfolio of evidence-based regulatory, policy and programmatic tobacco control and cessation activity, is currently being finalised for release.

A suite of tobacco control interventions are in place, including social marketing; cessation services such as the NSW Quitline and Multicultural Quitline; programs with Aboriginal communities such as SmokeCheck; restrictions in the display and sales to minors in the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008; and the enforcement of smoke-free environments through the Smoke Free Environment Act 2000.

The New South Wales Government commends the councils that have introduced smoke-free policies and notes the motion passed at the recent NSW Local Government Association Annual Conference calling for statewide legislation to ban smoking in a number of areas.

*1443 CALD COMMUNITIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

Noting that a significant number of small business operators in the inner city come from non-English speaking, migrant or refugee backgrounds, including people speaking Chinese, Thai, Indonesian, Korean, Malay, Vietnamese, Greek, Italian and Spanish:

- (1) What business support programs does the Government provide specifically for operators from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds?
- (2) What information about Government business requirements and services is translated into other languages?
- (3) What support services does the Government provide or fund for these business operators?
- (4) What further plans does the Government have to support and inform business operators from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Business Advisory Service (BAS) provides information and advice to business starters and established operators from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The providers of the Service also run sessions on business management topics in their local community language. The Sydney BAS assists clients from non English speaking backgrounds and is in regular liaison with the NSW Adult Migrant English Service and with multicultural communities in the Sydney metropolitan area. NSW Trade & Investment also runs business events for business operators.
- (2) Fact sheets are accessible on the department's small business website www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au and are sent to members of the community on request. NSW Trade & Investment also translated a generic brochure on programs and services in to various languages. Brochures were distributed to relevant business chambers and councils with large culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- (3) NSW Trade & Investment promotes the business and skilled migration program, which provides support to recently arrived migrants wishing to establish a business in NSW. The Department has worked with a number of international chambers of commerce and other organisations to ensure that business owners from culturally diverse backgrounds are given the opportunity to receive assistance and establish business links.
- (4) All Small Business Programs are currently under review by the Small Business Commissioner. A new Multicultural Business Advisory Panel is currently being established and is expected to start functioning in early 2012.

*1444 324/325 BUS SERVICES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What patronage patterns on these routes does State Transit report since the Eastern Suburbs Bus Review?
- (2) What are the monthly patronage numbers for this bus service for 2011?
- (3) What complaints has the Government received about 324/325 bus services over the past two years?
- (4) What changes have been made to these bus services to address these complaints?
- (5) What further action will the Government take to improve these bus services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Patronage has been stable on the 324 and 325 routes.
- (2) Monthly patronage numbers for the 324 route are: January 92,165; February 91,484; March 99,922; April 83,120; May 90,163; June 84,135; July 83,195; August 88,866; September 86,213; and October 87,195. Monthly patronage numbers for the 325 route are: January 77,952; February 74,273; March 81,825; April 67,125; May 71,891; June 66,110; July 64,161; August 70,166; September 67,106; and October 68,722.
- (3) Complaints included buses running early or late, excess waiting times and faulty ticket machines.
- (4) I am advised an additional early morning 324 route from Edgecliff (6:42am to Vacluse Heights) was added to meet an increase in commuter demand. The Public Transport and Information Priority System (PTIPS) which provides real-time service data is being used to improve the reliability of bus services and passenger information.
- (5) In the first half of 2012, State Transit plans to review running times of some Eastern Suburbs bus services, including Routes 324 and 325.

1445 NOISY VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

1446 RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

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- *1447 FIREARM THEFT—Ms Clover Moore 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—

With respect to the Australian Institute of Criminology review of National Firearm Theft Monitoring that shows increasing theft reports, especially from business or residential premises and vehicles:

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of these crime matters?
- (2) What action has been taken to ensure safe storage of firearms in homes and business premises?
- (3) What action has been taken to ensure safe transport of firearms?
- (4) What action has been taken to implement situational crime prevention, such as increased formal surveillance, property identification and compliance strategies, as suggested by the institute?
- (5) What changes to enforcement programs and resources have been made to address rising firearm theft?
- (6) What further changes does the Government plan to reduce firearm theft?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) to (6) Firearms and Organised Crime Squad data shows that from 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2011, approximately 88% of firearms reported stolen in NSW were from residential premises. The Firearms Act 1996 provides for the safe keeping of firearms and places the onus on firearms owners to take all reasonable precautions to ensure firearms are not stolen. In July 2009, the NSW Police Force commenced a statewide audit of licensee's firearms and storage facilities. It is anticipated all known facilities (around 130,000 locations) will be inspected by 2013.

The Firearms Regulation 2006 prescribes the safety requirements for the transportation of firearms. The onus for secure transportation of firearms rests with licensed firearms owners. As with safe storage requirements, police take action where breaches are detected.

The NSW Police Force monitors the theft of all types of firearms on a daily basis and the Firearms and Organised Crime Squad works with Local Area Commands on this issue as required. On a number of occasions, police have responded to firearms theft and firearm related crime by forming Strike Forces which have resulted in the recovery of stolen and prohibited weapons. These efforts are ongoing.

- *1448 WORLD AIDS DAY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Noting that while the United Nations has declared HIV/AIDS a "global emergency" that has caused immense suffering, Australia's successful partnership response has resulted in fewer than 7 000 people dying from AIDS-related illnesses and about 21 000 people living with HIV since the epidemic began:

- (1) How does the Government:
 - (a) support ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;
 - (b) promote and maintain public awareness and support for people with HIV?
- (2) How has the Government supported international efforts to:
 - (a) prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;
 - (b) maintain public awareness and support for people with HIV/AIDS?
- (3) How has the Government supported an annual permanent Sydney event to commemorate World AIDS Day?
- (4) What further plans does the Government have to promote World AIDS Day, activities to help prevent the spread of HIV and support for people with HIV/AIDS?

Answer—

I am advised:

World AIDS Day is held on 1 December each year to remember those who have died with AIDS and to pay tribute to those living with HIV. World AIDS Day is commemorated internationally, as well as within NSW.

- (1) The NSW Government provides HIV and related diseases prevention and education to the community as a whole and also via targeted programs to communities at highest risk of HIV. Local Health Districts, as well as non-government organisations such as ACON are also funded to develop HIV prevention programs. Programs include the Needle and Syringe Program, control strategies for sexually transmissible infections and safe sex campaigns. In 2010/11 more than \$111 million was invested in

direct efforts to prevent HIV, sexually transmissible infections and hepatitis C, and to provide treatment, care and support for people living with these conditions.

This year on World AIDS Day, I launched the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme that will give people with HIV improved access to their HIV antiretroviral medications. The scheme allows for patients to access HIV treatment outside hospital pharmacies, by having it delivered to people's homes, work or to a participating local retail pharmacy. This is a significant improvement in access and recognises that HIV treatments have allowed many people with HIV to stay healthy and to remain in the workforce.

(2) and (3) World AIDS Day is a time to remember and support those living with HIV, both internationally and in NSW. In 2011, NSW marked World AIDS Day in partnership with the Pacific Friends of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This organisation supports the crucial work of the Global Fund in providing financial assistance for HIV prevention and treatment in developing countries.

Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund has become a major financier of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs, with funding of US\$22.4 billion supporting more than 600 programs in 150 countries.

UNAIDS has proclaimed the international World AIDS Day theme for 2011 through to 2015 as: Getting to Zero, Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths. This year, the NSW Government and Pacific Friends of the Global Fund marked World AIDS Day by lighting the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge red as part of the global (RED) campaign in which iconic international landmarks are lit on World AIDS Day. This year's events profiled the international goal to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV by 2015.

(4) The Government supports World AIDS Day through the NSW World AIDS Day Project in raising awareness of HIV and AIDS in NSW as well as combating HIV stigma and discrimination. This year, the Project awarded thirty-one grants of a total value of \$15,900 to youth and community organisations for World AIDS Day activities that raise awareness of HIV and address HIV stigma and discrimination.

The forthcoming NSW HIV Strategy will outline NSW goals and directions for HIV prevention, care and support. The Strategy will be implemented through the successful NSW HIV/AIDS partnership of community, researchers, clinicians and Government.

*1449 WILD GOAT RACES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) Are goat races allowed in NSW?
- (2) What codes of conduct and rules apply?
- (3) What information and advice does the Government provide to people planning goat races in order to prevent cruelty as documented at four goat races in NSW (Woolbrook, Bundarra, Lightning Ridge and Coolabah)?
- (4) What permit or authorisation is required for wild goat races?
- (5) What training or education is required of wild goat race organisers and volunteers who handle goats on the day?
- (6) How does the Government monitor goat races and the reported Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) breaches at these events?
- (7) As many of these goat racing events are held in rural areas where the RSPCA are unable to monitor cruelty due to low staff numbers, how does the Government plan to properly monitor future events considering the cruelty that has already been exposed from four investigations?
- (8) What prosecutions have been initiated in response to cruelty allegations?
- (9) What funds are directed to monitoring goat races?
- (10) What further plans does the Government have to prevent cruelty to wild goats forced to take part in races?
- (11) If these events continue to breach POCTA, what consideration will the Government give to banning such events?

Answer—

Goat races are allowed in NSW. No permit or authorisation is required.

The provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 apply to the conduct of goat races. These provisions include requirements to ensure that unfit animals are not ridden or driven; that animals are not over-driven or over-used; or otherwise treated in a way which would be considered to be cruel. These offences incur penalties of up to 1,000 penalty units (corporations) or two years imprisonment.

The RSPCA liaise with the organisers of goat races in NSW. To date, no proceedings have been instituted by enforcement agencies under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.

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The NSW Government works closely with enforcement agencies, RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League, across the state to monitor animal welfare and provides annual grants to assist them in conducting their enforcement activities. The NSW Government will continue to work closely with enforcement agencies across the State to monitor animal welfare.

Responsibility for care of animals rests with the person in charge of those animals. Any person with concerns about breaches of the Act should contact one of the enforcement agencies with the details of any alleged breach.

- 1450 SYDNEY CRICKET AND SPORTS GROUND TRUST LAND—REMOVAL OF TREES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1451 DATE RECORDED ON AMENDED JOB NUMBERS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- *1452 LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much of the \$261 million funding for the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan will be allocated in:

- (a) 2011-12;
- (b) 2012-13;
- (c) 2013-14;
- (d) 2014-15;
- (e) 2015-16?

Answer—

The NSW Government is investing \$261 million over the next 5 years under the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to improve the literacy and numeracy standards of students in New South Wales.

The Ministerial Advisory Group on Literacy and Numeracy, chaired by Dr Ken Boston, is charged with providing advice for the delivery of the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.

The Advisory Group has not yet provided advice on the recommended use of available resources for 2012 and beyond.

The resources will be progressively allocated to best meet the needs of students in the early years of schooling who are most at risk of not achieving minimum standards in literacy and numeracy.

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- *1453 ARSON IN MOUNT DRUITT—Mr Richard Amery 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) How many persons have been charged at the Mount Druitt police station for the offence of arson during the 2011 calendar year?
 - (2) How many of these offences related to the damage by fire to dwellings?
 - (3) How many of these dwellings were owned by the New South Wales Department of Housing?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

- (1) Three persons were charged with malicious damage/arson in relation to two events.
- (2) None.
- (3) None.

- *1454 NSW EMERGENCY CARE INSTITUTE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the NSW Emergency Care Institute (Ministerial press release dated 4 November 2011):

- (1) What is the total budget for 2011-12?
- (2) Is this institute permanently established?
- (3) How was the position of Medical Director advertised?

- (4) How many applications were received?
- (5) What interview process for the position of Medical Director was conducted?
- (6) What is the expected recurrent annual budget?
- (7) How many FTE staff will be employed?
- (8) Where will their offices be located?
- (9) What data will be collected?
- (10) (a) Will this data be made publicly available?
(b) If yes, how soon after the data it received?
- (11) How much research funding has been provided for the year 2011-12?
- (12) What quality and safety monitoring/reviewing will be conducted?
- (13) What parameters will be measured?
- (14) How will the results of this monitoring of quality and safety be publicly reported?

Answer—

- (1) The total budget for 2011-12 for ECI is \$700,000.
- (2) Funding has been allocated for 3 years and provided under the Taking the Pressure off Public Hospitals Federal Government program.
- (3) The position of Medical Director was advertised in Health Jobs and through the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM).
- (4) Eight applications were received.
- (5) The interview process was consistent with public sector requirements.
- (6) The expected recurrent annual budget for ECI is \$700,000.
- (7) There are currently 2.5 FTE employed to date at the ECI, a Sepsis Project Officer employed at the Clinical Excellence Commission, and recruitment is currently in progress for 3 additional staff. It is expected that approximately 5-6 FTE will be employed, including those on a temporary project basis.
- (8) The ECI is located within the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) at Chatswood.
- (9) The ECI has collected information from ED clinicians and other emergency care stakeholders by means of an electronic survey distributed to the 184 emergency departments and services in NSW, and other stakeholders. The ECI stakeholder survey was undertaken by the ECI to help inform the role and priorities of the ECI, ensure that stakeholders' views on emergency care in New South Wales (NSW) are known and engage those working within emergency care. It is expected that in future, data will be collected from NSW EDs participating in clinical improvement and research initiatives. The current EMR, EDIS, HRIS and IIMS tools will also continue to be used.
- (10) The outcome of any project or research collaboration involving the collection of data will be published on the ECI website, or in professional fora including journals, in line with relevant ethical practice and ethics committee approvals. Data will be made publically available on completion of the project or improvement collaboration and after appropriate verification and review.
- (11) There has been no separate provision of research funding.
- (12) The ECI has established an Incident Advisory Committee that will review the IIMS (Incident Information Management System) reported data for emergency departments so as to determine areas of focus for communication to Emergency Department clinical staff and other stakeholders, and necessary educational or process improvements to improve consistency of care for Emergency Department patients.
- (13) Clinical and operational data relevant to specific improvement projects.
- (14) Results of all ECI activities are published on the ECI website, and communicated through the ACI Board to the MoH, Local Health District Boards and Clinical Councils, and other stakeholder groups.

*1455 BANKSTOWN SOUTH INFANTS SCHOOL FEES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What was the basis for the recent fee increases announced by the Government?
- (2) Given that South Bankstown is an area of social disadvantage, why are fees at Bankstown South Infants School increasing to \$30?

Answer—

- (1) The introduction of fees for preschools in government schools brings them in line with the wider early childhood sector in NSW.
- (2) Fees at Government preschools are set with reference to the relative Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage value of the school. Families with a Commonwealth Health Care Card are eligible for immediate fee relief at 50% of the full fee.

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In addition, principals are able to use their professional judgment and waive the fees where a child would otherwise be unable to attend the preschool because of the financial circumstances of their family.

*1456 REVIEW OF COUNSELLING SERVICES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to the ongoing "comprehensive review of counselling services" that the Minister mentioned in his letter to me of 21 November 2011:

- (1) Will school principals and existing counsellors have the opportunity to provide feedback to this review?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

School counsellors, principals and other key groups and interested parties have had the opportunity to provide feedback to the review of the school counselling services.

*1457 ASBESTOS REMOVAL FROM SCHOOL—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to the Minister's letter to me of 21 November 2011 Reference RML 11/5360, when will necessary works involving asbestos removal be undertaken at the school in question?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Communities has approved work orders for the removal of the asbestos-containing material from Bankstown Public School. The removal works are scheduled to be completed by day 1, Term 1, 2012.

*1458 MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMS—SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

Given your advice that "Minor Capital Works funding is distributed across each of the 10 school regions based on a formula which takes into account student enrolments and the gross floor area of permanent buildings" (Question 1267):

- (1) Were socio-economic circumstances taken into consideration in the allocation of funding as part of the Minor Capital Works Programs?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Upgrade and addition projects are usually required as a result of the age and the condition of the school (and essential infrastructure). There is no correlation between socio-economic circumstances and the upgrade requirements of schools.

*1459 CORRESPONDENCE FROM KAREN TAN—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

When will the Minister address or acknowledge the specific claims made by Ms Karen Tan in correspondence to his office?

Answer—

I have already responded to Ms Tan twice since April 2011.

*1460 CORRESPONDENCE FROM AGGI THEOCHAROUS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

In reference to correspondence sent to the Minister and his Department by Aggi Theocharous of Hunters Hill on 9 April 2011, 30 August 2011, 7 September 2011 and 21 October 2011:

- (1) Given that Mr Theocharous has hired solicitors to undertake work which was provided to Fair Trading, what avenues are available for Mr Theocharous to recoup costs?
- (2) What action will Fair Trading undertake to protect NSW consumers within the real estate market?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Fair Trading's investigations are aimed at addressing alleged breaches of the consumer protection legislation.

Costs associated in lodging a complaint are not subject to reimbursement by Fair Trading. Mr Aggi Theocharous applied for an ex-gratia payment to recoup his costs. The application was declined as

the payment requested did not arise from any fault, error or action of Fair Trading, and therefore it did not meet the Treasurer's guidelines.

- (2) Legislation administered by Fair Trading regulates the property services industry including real estate agents, stock and station agents, conveyancers, and valuers. Licensing and registration requirements set clear standards for industry and protect the public.

Fair Trading has conducted a substantial amount of compliance activity over the last financial year with major proactive campaigns conducted across regional and metropolitan areas. These programs, along with individual investigations, resulted in the issuing of \$83,600 in penalty infringement notices to real estate agents. Disciplinary action was taken against 61 real estate agents for 71 offences resulting in 44 agents being disqualified, either permanently or for varying periods.

In the upcoming months, a particular focus will be placed on real estate agents who have failed to meet their reporting obligations, or who have failed to demonstrate adequate supervision of financial accounts. Focus will also be placed on conveyancers to ensure compliance with the Conveyancers Licensing Act 2003 and regulation.

Further proactive campaigns in the property services industry will be scheduled for 2012.

- *1461 MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

What funding or grants programs are available for cultural groups based in the Bankstown area to subsidise the celebration of major cultural events such as the Lunar New Year?

Answer—

There is no funding or grants program specifically earmarked to cultural groups in the Bankstown area for major multicultural events. However, under my portfolio, the Community Relations Commission administers the Community Development Grants Program which provides Sponsorship grants to not-for-profit incorporated community organisations for multicultural events held in New South Wales.

- *1462 SIKH GAMES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Given that previous states hosting the Sikh Games have provided funding, will the Government provide funding for the 2012 Sikh Games to be held in and around Bankstown?

Answer—

Under my portfolio, the Community Relations Commission administers the Community Development Grants Program which provides grants to not-for-profit incorporated community organisations for projects that promote cultural expressions, enhance community development or cultural events and festivals in New South Wales.

I understand that organisers of the Sikh Games are in the process of making grant applications to the Community Relations Commission for its independent assessment.

Funding programs for sporting activities are available from other funding sources.

- *1463 RAILCORP EMPLOYEES ENTITLEMENTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

In reference to a speech given by then Shadow Minister for the Central Coast Chris Hartcher on 22 June 2010 regarding "RailCorp Employees Entitlements":

- (1) Will the Minister reconsider the request made by Kevin Cornford of Greenacre, a former RailCorp employee, in spite of prior advice provided by RailCorp?
(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

It is not appropriate to publically canvass the employment circumstances of an individual employee.

- 1464 INCREASE IN M5 TOLL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- *1465 PARSONS REPORT—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—

Given advice that you are obliged to present the report to the Cabinet (Answer 1277):

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- (1) Will the Minister make the entire Parsons Report, including its findings, available to the public by tabling the report in Parliament?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to her previous Written Question No. 1277 on this subject.

1466 STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

1467 BACKLOG OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

*1468 LILYFIELD TO DULWICH HILL LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has the Government been provided with costings and advice by Metro Light Rail regarding the Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill light rail extension?

(2) If yes:

- (a) Will the Government be releasing this information to the public?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) An Agreement in Principle (AIP) with the current light rail network owner, Metro Transport Sydney was signed in December 2010 for the Inner West Extension Project. Part of the AIP required Metro Transport Sydney to produce a concept design and commission cost estimates for the extension. Any work under the AIP is commercial-in-confidence.

Further, Metro Transport Sydney has recently released tenders for delivery of the Inner West Extension. Therefore any release of the cost estimates could compromise the tender process.

*1469 GREENWAY PROJECT—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Did over 500 people attend a rally in Dulwich Hill on 29 October 2011 to support the GreenWay?
- (2) Did over 7,000 people sign the petition calling on the Government to reverse its decision to defer the GreenWay?
- (3) (a) What consultation with the community was done before the decision was made to defer the GreenWay?
(b) If none, why was consultation not done prior to making this decision?
- (4) (a) What consultation with local councils was done before the decision was made to defer the GreenWay?
(b) If none, why was consultation not done prior to making this decision?
- (5) (a) What community consultation does the Minister plan to undertake in order to seek practical solutions for delivering the GreenWay at the same time as the Light Rail?
(b) If none, why is the Minister not planning to undertake community consultation on this issue?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) In the 2011-12 Budget, the NSW Government has allocated \$103 million towards expanding the light rail network in Sydney. Regrettably, in order to deliver the Inner West extension, the associated walking and cycle path has been deferred following revelations Labor's cost estimates for the path had blown out by 23 per cent to \$37 million.

A future GreenWay will be properly planned - like all active transport options - as part of the wider transport network. The New South Wales Government has committed to the development of a NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan that will identify objectives and measures to respond to growth and demand in NSW, and will focus on meeting the transport needs of Sydney and regional communities now and into the future. It will involve talking with the community, with industry and with transport experts. This is a new approach, where all members of the community will have a chance to have their say on the future of transport in NSW.

*1470 FUNDING FOR 900 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT TEACHING POSITIONS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How will the Minister fund the commitment to have 900 full time equivalent teaching positions fully utilised by the beginning of the 2015 school year, as part of the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan, given the 2011-12 Budget Papers indicate that the final \$97 million funding for the plan will not be provided until 2015-16?

Answer—

The NSW Government is investing \$261 million over the next 5 years under the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.

The 900 full-time equivalent teaching positions will be rolled out progressively from 2012 to 2016. Funding for the positions will be coordinated with this schedule.

Budget forecasts are in line with the anticipated costs to ensure that 900 additional full-time equivalent positions are available by the beginning of the 2015 school year.

*1471 HIGH DENSITY SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN CHESTER HILL—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the Government submitted any application for a high-density social housing development in Waldron Road, Chester Hill?
- (2) If not, does the Government plan to build a high-density social housing development in Waldron Road, Chester Hill?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) The Government is currently working with Bankstown Council in the preparation of a master plan for the potential future redevelopment of its land holdings in Waldron Road, Chester Hill, including the potential for social housing. The level of density is yet to be determined.

*1472 VET TEACHERS IN THE FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) (a) How many VET teachers will be employed in the Fairfield Electorate in 2012?
(b) Has there been an increase or decrease in the number of VET teachers in Fairfield schools from previous years?
- (2) How many first year VET teachers will be employed in each Fairfield school for 2012?
- (3) What are the specific VET subjects taught in each school?
- (4) What is the ratio of VET teachers to students in each school in the Fairfield Electorate?
- (5) What is the budget for the delivery of VET programmes in each Fairfield school for 2012?
- (6) Does this funding represent an increase or decrease in funding from previous years?

Answer—

- (1) (a) The number will depend on student subject selection and demand for each vocational education and training course. The final enrolment numbers for each school will not be confirmed until Term 1, 2012.

The number of teachers employed to teach vocational education and training in 2011 for each school in the Fairfield Electorate were:

Chester Hill High School - 10

Fairfield High School - 11

Fairvale High School -12

Westfields Sports High - 14

- (b) The number of vocational education and training teachers across Fairfield secondary schools has increased from 32 in 2010 to 47 in 2011.
- (2) Westfields Sports High School will have 3 new vocational education and training teachers.
- (3) Chester Hill High School teaches Business Services, Construction, Information Technology and Retail Services.

Fairfield High School teaches Business Services, Construction, Information Technology, Metal and Engineering and Retail Services.

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Fairvale High School teaches Business Services, Construction, Hospitality, Information Technology and Retail Services.

Westfields Sports High School teaches Construction, Hospitality, Retail Services and Sport Coaching.

- (4) The ratio of Vocational Education and Training teachers to students for each school may vary depending on the occupational health and safety requirements of the course and the student demand for each course at each school. In 2011:

Chester Hill High School class enrolments in a Vocational Education and Training course ranged from 9 to 19 with an average of 15 students per class.

Fairfield High School class enrolments Vocational Education and Training course ranged from 13 to 25 with an average of 19 students per class.

Fairvale High School class enrolments in a Vocational Education and Training course ranged from 9 to 24 with an average of 17 students per class.

Westfields Sports High School class enrolments in a Vocational Education and Training course ranged from 14 to 25 with an average of 18 students per class.

- (5) In 2012, the allocation of funds to each school will be calculated from 2011 Vocational Education and Training student data.
(6) The funding is expected to be consistent with previous year allocations.

*1473 FAIRFIELD TRAIN STATION INTERCHANGE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

What is the current progress of construction for the Fairfield Train Station Interchange?

Answer—

I am advised:

A review is currently being undertaken by Transport for NSW to assess the feasibility of the proposed Fairfield Transport Interchange Project.

*1474 TRANSFER OF PROCEDURES FROM FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL TO LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

(1) In the last four years, what procedures have been moved from Fairfield Hospital to Liverpool Hospital?

(2) (a) Were any of these procedures transferred to Liverpool Hospital after April 2011?

(b) If so which procedures were affected?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) No clinical specialties have been transferred from Fairfield Hospital to Liverpool Hospital in the last four years.

*1475 TIME FRAMES FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING APPLICATIONS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

(1) Are there set time frames for Department of Housing to assess applications for Housing, in particular applications for priority placements?

(2) If so what are the guidelines in place?

Answer—

(1) and (2) When an application is received, an initial assessment is undertaken to determine whether the person applying is in need of immediate temporary accommodation. Applications are then processed as quickly as possible and priority given to those people seeking urgent housing. The time taken to assess an application is determined by the complexity of the case and whether supporting documentation has been submitted or further information is required

*1476 STAFFING POLICIES AT NSW NURSING HOMES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

(1) What policies are in place to regulate staffing quality and staffing numbers at nursing homes in NSW?

(2) Do the number of registered nurses and other nursing support staff fluctuate depending on the time of day?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Australian Government holds full funding, policy and regulatory responsibility for residential aged care, as agreed between the Commonwealth, States and Territories with the enactment of the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997.

Under the Aged Care Act 1997, Approved Providers of residential aged care facilities are required to 'provide such care and services as are specified in the Quality of Care Principles in respect of aged care of the type in question', and to 'maintain an adequate number of appropriately skilled staff to ensure that the care needs of care recipients are met' (s54-1(a) and (b)).

The Commonwealth's current Residential Care and Accreditation Standards do not specify or prescribe staffing numbers, staff/resident ratios, staffing qualifications or skills mix. These matters are left to the discretion of the provider, so long as the provider ultimately meets the relevant care standards, as assessed by the accreditation auditors.

- (2) The State Government does not have access to this information for nursing homes operated by non-government providers.

*1477 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING MAINTENANCE LINE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the Department of Housing's Maintenance Line:

- (1) How many operators are available to answer calls to the Maintenance Line?
- (2) Are all operators specifically dedicated to answer calls to the Maintenance Line?
- (3) (a) Does the number of operators who answer Maintenance Line calls vary depending on the day of the week and the time of the day?
(b) If so how?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) These questions should be referred to my colleague the Hon. Pru Goward MP, Minister for Family and Community Services who has responsibility for Housing NSW's Housing Contact Centre.