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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 482

THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2021

(The Questions and Answers Paper published every Tuesday of each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently, the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 470 (Including Question Nos 5331 to 5344)	27 April 2021
Q & A No. 471 (Including Question Nos 5345 to 5345)	28 April 2021
Q & A No. 472 (Including Question Nos 5346 to 5349)	29 April 2021
Q & A No. 473 (Including Question Nos 5350 to 5390)	30 April 2021
Q & A No. 474 (Including Question Nos 5391 to 5395)	3 May 2021
Q & A No. 475 (Including Question Nos 5396 to 5401)	4 May 2021
Q & A No. 476 (Including Question Nos 5402 to 5416)	5 May 2021
Q & A No. 477 (Including Question Nos 5417 to 5418)	6 May 2021
Q & A No. 478 (Including Question Nos 5419 to 5428)	7 May 2021
Q & A No. 479 (Including Question Nos 5429 to 5437)	10 May 2021
Q & A No. 480 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 481 (Including Question Nos 5438 to 5440)	12 May 2021
Q & A No. 482 (Including Question Nos 5441 to 5444)	13 May 2021

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(Paper No. 469)

* 5324 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—RAILWAY LINE CROSSINGS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many railway line crossings are there on public roads in New South Wales?
 - (a) How many of these railway line crossings have automatic boom gates installed?
- (2) How many fatal accidents occurred at railway line crossings in New South Wales last year?
- (3) What is the Government doing to reduce fatal accidents at railway line crossings?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) There are 1,360 level crossings on public roads in New South Wales.
 - (a) Of those, 273 level crossings have flashing lights, bells and boom gates installed.
- (2) There were no fatal crashes between trains and road vehicles or pedestrians recorded at level crossings in New South Wales during 2020.
- (3) Level crossing safety is a real area of focus for Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and included in the Towards Zero Campaign.

TfNSW manages the Level Crossing Improvement Program (LCIP) which funds a range of level crossing safety initiatives in NSW to: accelerate engineering upgrades and safety enhancement improvements to priority level crossings; deliver education campaigns and police enforcement initiatives in regional NSW; promote new technologies to improve safety at level crossings; and collect data to ensure accurate information is available on the status of NSW public level crossings.

The NSW Government has allocated \$7.3 million a year for the LCIP to 2025-26.

From 2011-12 to 2019-20, the LCIP funded 58 major upgrades at level crossings in NSW. The upgrades included the installation of high intensity LED lights, bells and retro-reflective boom gates with new signage and line marking for both the rail and roadway.

Under the Rail Safety National Law, rail and road infrastructure managers have an obligation to ensure safety at level crossings. Funding under the LCIP is supplementary to the existing capital and maintenance programs of rail and road infrastructure agencies to improve and maintain safety at the level crossings on their networks.

In 2012-13, TfNSW launched the ‘Don’t rush to the other side’ (Pearly Gates) level crossing education campaign in regional NSW. The campaign aims to change driver behaviour by acting as a reminder that level crossings should be approached with caution. The campaign is ongoing and delivers tailored messaging across television, outdoor, cinema, radio, digital and social media.

TfNSW and the NSW Police Force work closely in collaboration with rail infrastructure managers and local councils to promote motorists’ awareness of the dangers of not obeying the road rules at level crossings. The LCIP awareness and enforcement campaigns involve a highly visible police presence at identified level crossings with police enforcing the road rules and warning drivers exhibiting unsafe driving practices.

* 5325 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) How many penalty notices were issued by the Department of Fisheries in New South Wales Marine Parks in:
 - (a) 2021?

- (b) 2020?
 - (i) Quarter 1 (January to March)?
 - (ii) Quarter 2 (April to June)?
 - (iii) Quarter 3 (July to September)?
 - (iv) Quarter 4 (October to December)?
- (c) 2019?
 - (i) Quarter 1 (January to March)?
 - (ii) Quarter 2 (April to June)?
 - (iii) Quarter 3 (July to September)?
 - (iv) Quarter 4 (October to December)?
- (d) 2018?
 - (i) Quarter 1 (January to March)?
 - (ii) Quarter 2 (April to June)?
 - (iii) Quarter 3 (July to September)?
 - (iv) Quarter 4 (October to December)?
- (e) 2017?
 - (i) Quarter 1 (January to March)?
 - (ii) Quarter 2 (April to June)?
 - (iii) Quarter 3 (July to September)?
 - (iv) Quarter 4 (October to December)?
- (2) How many written cautions were issued by the Department of Fisheries in New South Wales Marine Parks in:
 - (a) 2021?
 - (b) 2020?
 - (c) 2019?
 - (d) 2018?
 - (e) 2017?
- (3) What was the dollar value of penalty notices issued by the Department of Fisheries in New South Wales Marine Parks in:
 - (a) 2021?
 - (b) 2020?
 - (c) 2019?
 - (d) 2018?
 - (e) 2017?
- (4) How many commercial fishing vessels were found to be illegally fishing by the Department of Fisheries in New South Wales Marine Parks in:
 - (a) 2021?
 - (b) 2020?
 - (c) 2019?
 - (d) 2018?

- (e) 2017?
- (5) How many commercial fishing vessels were suspected to be illegally fishing by the Department of Fisheries in New South Wales Marine Parks in:
- (a) 2021?
(b) 2020?
(c) 2019?
(d) 2018?
(e) 2017?
- (6) How many penalty notices were issued by the Department of Fisheries in all waters within the critical habitat of Grey Nurse Shark at Fish Rock in:
- (a) 2021?
(b) 2020?
(c) 2019?
(d) 2018?
(e) 2017?
- (7) How many written cautions were issued by the Department of Fisheries in all waters within the critical habitat of Grey Nurse Shark at Fish Rock in:
- (a) 2020?
(b) 2019?
(c) 2018?
(d) 2017?
- (8) What was the dollar value of penalty notices issued by the Department of Fisheries in all waters within the critical habitat of Grey Nurse Shark at Fish Rock in:
- (a) 2021?
(b) 2020?
(c) 2019?
(d) 2018?
(e) 2017?
- (9) How many commercial fishing vessels were found to be illegally fishing by the Department of Fisheries in all waters within the critical habitat of Grey Nurse Shark at Fish Rock in:
- (a) 2020?
(b) 2019?
(c) 2018?
(d) 2017?
- (10) How many commercial fishing vessels were suspected to be illegally fishing by the Department of Fisheries in all waters within the critical habitat of Grey Nurse Shark at Fish Rock in:
- (a) 2020?
(b) 2019?
(c) 2018?
(d) 2017?
- (11) What was the estimated population of grey nurse sharks along the New South Wales coastline in:

- (a) 2020?
- (b) 2019?
- (c) 2018?
- (d) 2017?
- (e) 2016?
- (f) 2015?
- (g) 2014?
- (h) 2013?
- (i) 2012?
- (j) 2011?
- (k) 2010?

Answer—

(1)

- (a) 160
- (b)
 - (i) 94
 - (ii) 120
 - (iii) 76
 - (iv) 80
- (c)
 - (i) 137
 - (ii) 109
 - (iii) 19
 - (iv) 73
- (d)
 - (i) 123
 - (ii) 63
 - (iii) 51
 - (iv) 39
- (e)
 - (i) 105
 - (ii) 71
 - (iii) 55
 - (iv) 71

(2)

- (a) 250
- (b) 701
- (c) 617
- (d) 616

- (e) 566
- (3)
- (a) \$65,175
- (b) \$149,150
- (c) \$130,750
- (d) \$103,275
- (e) \$124,300
- (4)
- (a) 1
- (b) 18
- (c) 23
- (d) 20
- (e) 21
- (5)
- (a) 4
- (b) 11
- (c) 12
- (d) 11
- (e) 11
- (6)
- (a) 16
- (b) 8
- (c) 1
- (d) 0
- (e) 0
- (7)
- (a) 4
- (b) 0
- (c) 0
- (d) 2
- (8)
- (a) \$11,000
- (b) \$4000
- (c) \$500
- (d) \$0
- (e) \$0
- (9)
- (a) 0
- (b) 0

- (c) 0
- (d) 0
- (10)
- (a) 1
- (b) 0
- (c) 0
- (d) 2
- (11)
- (a) Not assessed.
- (b) Not assessed.
- (c) Not assessed.
- (d) 1,686 adults (95% confidence limits, 956 – 2417 adults) – total population assessed by CSIRO using close-kin genetic techniques.
- (e) Not assessed.
- (f) Not assessed.
- (g) Not assessed.
- (h) Not assessed.
- (i) Not assessed.
- (j) Not assessed.
- (k) Not assessed.

* 5326 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—MICE PLAGUE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What is the extent of the mice plague that is affecting New South Wales?
- (2) What is the estimated economic impact of the mice plague to New South Wales?
- (3) What is the Government doing to combat the mice plague?

Answer—

- (1) Mouse activity remains highly variable within regions. CSIRO recently released its March 2021 mouse activity report which indicated that mouse populations were very high in parts of the Central West and Northern NSW (Moree, Liverpool Plains) but moderate to high elsewhere.
- (2) It is too early to assess the economic impact of mouse outbreaks in many parts of NSW.
- (3) The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recently obtained a permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to allow zinc phosphide baiting in all fallow paddock situations to help reduce mouse impacts at autumn sowing.

Local Land Services has produced a factsheet listing the full range of zinc phosphide products and suppliers to help ensure that farmers and rural resellers have access to bait as required.

A series of mouse control workshops have been held throughout March and April in central and north-western NSW (Collie, Armatree, Coonamble, Burren Junction, Walgett, Baradine and Tooraweenah). The workshops covered mouse monitoring and management and potential health issues associated with contact with mice and mouse management techniques. Further workshops are being considered.

* 5327 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT FUNDRAISING PARTNERS—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What was the amount of funding provided by fundraising partners in the 2019-2020 financial year to:
 - (a) Sydney Children's Health Network?
 - (b) NSW Ambulance?
 - (c) The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network?
 - (d) Each Local Health District?
- (2) What was the amount of funding provided by NSW Health in the 2019-2020 financial year to:
 - (a) Sydney Children's Health Network?
 - (b) NSW Ambulance?
 - (c) The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network?
 - (d) Each Local Health District?
- (3) Please provide for each Local Health District a measure of socio-economic advantage such as the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) score?

Answer—

- (1) This information is not held centrally and is a matter for each District or Network.
- (2) Budget allocations are contained in the Local Health District and Specialist Health Network's Service Agreements. Governance Standards published in the Corporate Governance and Accountability Compendium, a NSW Health Policy, require Districts and Networks to make their Service Agreements publicly available on their websites.
- (3) Measures of socio-economic advantage/disadvantage are based on Census data, which is held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and are not available at the local health district level.

* 5328 MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN—OPERATIONAL BUDGETS FOR MENTAL HEALTH—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women—

- (1) For the 2019-2020 financial year, for each local health district (LHD) and specialty health network (SHN), what was:
 - (a) The initial budget allocation from the Ministry of Health for admitted and for non-admitted mental health services?
 - (b) The activity target for admitted and for non-admitted mental health?
 - (c) The operational budget allocated to each Director of Mental Health or equivalent, separated by admitted and non-admitted mental health?
 - (d) The actual funds spent during the year to deliver mental health services, separated by admitted and non-admitted settings?
 - (e) The total mental health activity delivered during the year in admitted and non-admitted settings?
- (2)
 - (a) Have there been any changes to the way funding is allocated to LHD/SHNs for mental health since the 2019-2020 financial year?
 - (b) Will the 2021-2022 budget be allocated in the same way as 2019-2020?
 - (i) If not, how will the 2021-2022 budget be allocated?

Answer—

(1) (a) – (c)

Budget allocations are contained in Local Health District and Specialty Health Network Service Agreements. Governance standards published in the Corporate Governance and Accountability Compendium, a NSW Health policy, require that districts / networks make their Service Agreements publicly available on their websites.

Activity targets are determined annually at district / network level through a standardised funding methodology that takes account of local population, ageing and healthcare utilisation. The process includes discussion and negotiation with each district and network, and targets are calculated in National Weighted Activity Units (NWAU) for each service stream in the Service Agreement between the health service and the Ministry of Health.

The operational budgets are not held centrally and are a matter for each District or Network.

(d) – (e)

Funding and expenditure as well as activity in NSW hospital and community Mental Health Services for the 2019-20 financial year were affected by bushfires and COVID-19. Normal hospital services were severely impacted and modified to respond to these events.

(2) (a) – (b)

No. The budget allocation process for 2021-22 has not yet been determined.

* 5329 MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN—OFFICIAL VISITORS PROGRAM—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women—

(1) What was the funding amount for the Official Visitors Program for:

- (a) 2010-2011?
- (b) 2011-2012?
- (c) 2012-2013?
- (d) 2013-2014?
- (e) 2014-2015?
- (f) 2016-2017?
- (g) 2017-2018?
- (h) 2018-2019?
- (i) 2019-2020?
- (j) 2020-2021?

(2) What was the number of occupied mental health bed days in health facilities for:

- (a) 2010-2011?
- (b) 2011-2012?
- (c) 2012-2013?
- (d) 2013-2014?
- (e) 2014-2015?
- (f) 2016-2017?
- (g) 2017-2018?
- (h) 2018-2019?
- (i) 2019-2020?
- (j) 2020-2021?

- (3) What is the current proportion of official visitors that identify as:
 - (a) Aboriginal?
 - (b) LGBTQI+?
 - (c) Being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
 - (d) Having lived experience as a mental health consumer?
- (4) What proportion of mental health units have had a visit within the last three years from an official visitor that identifies as:
 - (a) Aboriginal?
 - (b) LGBTQI+?
 - (c) Being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
 - (d) Having lived experience as a mental health consumer?
- (5) How frequently is each mental health unit visited?
- (6) How many visits are scheduled or announced?
- (7) How many visits are unscheduled or unannounced?
- (8) What is the maximum amount of time that can elapse between visits in suburban areas?
- (9) What is the maximum amount of time that can elapse between visits in regional or urban areas?

Answer—

- (1) Annual funding of the Official Visitors Program has increased from \$0.6 million in 2011-12, to \$2.038 million in 2020-21. Information for 2010-11 is not available.
- (2) Occupied mental health bed days data are reported by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mental-health-services/mental-health-services-inaustralia/report-contents/overnight-admitted-mental-health-related-care> Figures for 2020-21 are not yet available.

(3) – (4)

The Official Visitors Program does not have specific data on official visitors that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQI+, or with a lived experience as a mental health consumer.

25 per cent of Official Visitors identified as being from a CALD background on application. One Official Visitor identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, notwithstanding that the data is not at present officially recorded.

(5) – (8)

Official Visitors visit declared public and private mental health inpatient facilities, large emergency departments, smaller declared rural emergency departments, declared community mental health facilities and units on a regular basis. Almost all visits are scheduled in advance and announced. Unannounced visits occur when necessary.

There is no variation in the maximum time period between visits to either metropolitan or regional and rural mental health units.

* 5330 MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN—ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CARE—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women—

- (1) What proportion of involuntary mental health consumers identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- (2) What is the proportion of forensic and of non-forensic involuntary mental health consumers that identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

- (3) For comparison, what is the overall proportion of mental health consumers that identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- (4) How many involuntary mental health consumers (forensic or not) have died from any cause while in care, in:
- (a) 2011-2012?
 - (b) 2012-2013?
 - (c) 2013-2014?
 - (d) 2014-2015?
 - (e) 2016-2017?
 - (f) 2017-2018?
 - (g) 2018-2019?
 - (h) 2019-2020?
 - (i) 2020-2021?
- (5) How many involuntary mental health consumers (forensic or not) that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander have died from any cause while in care, in:
- (a) 2011-2012?
 - (b) 2012-2013?
 - (c) 2013-2014?
 - (d) 2014-2015?
 - (e) 2016-2017?
 - (f) 2017-2018?
 - (g) 2018-2019?
 - (h) 2019-2020?
 - (i) 2020-2021?
- (6) How many suicides in care were there in:
- (a) 2011-2012?
 - (b) 2012-2013?
 - (c) 2013-2014?
 - (d) 2014-2015?
 - (e) 2016-2017?
 - (f) 2017-2018?
 - (g) 2018-2019?
 - (h) 2019-2020?
- (7) How many suicides in care by people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander were there in:
- (a) 2011-2012?
 - (b) 2012-2013?
 - (c) 2013-2014?
 - (d) 2014-2015?
 - (e) 2016-2017?

- (f) 2017-2018?
- (g) 2018-2019?
- (h) 2019-2020?

Answer—

(1) – (3)

In 2019-2020, 12 per cent of involuntary mental health inpatient episodes in NSW mental health units, and the same percentage of involuntary mental health inpatient episodes in NSW non-forensic mental health units, involved those identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

In the same year, 20 per cent of forensic involuntary mental health inpatient episodes, and 11 per cent of total mental health inpatient episodes in NSW mental health units involved those identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

(4) – (7)

All deaths of current mental health inpatients are notified to the Clinical Excellence Commission using state-wide incident notification systems, and individual incidents are reviewed by local health districts and by the NSW Serious Adverse Event Review Committee.

In NSW from January 2011 to December 2020 there has been a similar rate of reported suspected suicides in care each year; however, there has been a reduction in reported suspected suicides in care from January 2019 to December 2020. Of the suspected suicides reported in care from January 2011 to December 2020, five percent were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

22 APRIL 2021

(Paper No. 482)

5441 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—POLITICAL CONTENT IN NSW CLASSROOMS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What progress can the Minister report to the Parliament on her 2019 commitment to ensure political content is removed from NSW classrooms?
- (2) How many NSW Government school teachers have been sacked for breaching the Minister's 2019 policy statement?

5442 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—DARK EMU—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

Further to the Minister's answer to Question 5137:

- (1) Can the Minister identify the evidence that the early colonial Governors destroyed the Aboriginal townships, crops and fields in and around Sydney post-1788, as per the Bruce Pascoe thesis?
- (2) Does the Minister have a duty of care to NSW school students to ensure the material taught in K-12 History is accurate?
 - (a) If so, how is this duty of care exercised?
- (3) In the "inquiry process" for K-12 History, are books containing the following used in NSW schools:
 - (a) Holocaust denial?
 - (b) Creationism?
 - (c) other fictional history?
 - (i) If not, why not?
- (4) Whose role is it in a regular NSW school setting for K-12 History, to ensure "all sources are analysed for reliability"?

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- (5) Why has Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* been classified by the Minister and her Department as "a non-fiction source material" when the book contradicts the work and conclusions of every established, credible academic Australian historian, from Manning Clark to Geoffrey Blainey?
- (6) In the use of Pascoe's book in K-12 History, is the antidote critique volume, *Bitter Harvest* by Peter O'Brien, also presented to students as part of the inquiry process?
- (7) Will the Minister apologise to Indigenous residents of NSW for the offence and embarrassment caused to them by the use of *Dark Emu* in NSW schools, given that the book rewrites Aboriginal history and infers there is shame in Indigenous people and culture having being nomadic, pre-1788?
- 5443 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—LINDFIELD LEARNING VILLIAGE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) Has the Lindfield Learning Village been allowed to ignore the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) findings on *What Works Best* for classroom teaching?
- (a) If so, why?
- (2) Why does NSW need an expensive experimental school when the evidence base for classroom practice is well established and clear?
- 5444 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—WOOD FIRED HEATERS POLLUTION—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—
- (1) How many wood heater smoke abatement notices were issued by NSW councils in:
- (a) 2015?
- (b) 2016?
- (c) 2017?
- (d) 2018?
- (e) 2019?
- (f) 2020? to date
- (2) What protections are available for individuals whose health is impacted by the installation of neighbouring wood fire heaters, where the council declines to restrict their use, or says it has no resources to address complaints?
- (3) Given the fact that there is no safe level of PM2.5 pollution, and any exposure to wood smoke PM2.5 above a daily average of 4 ug/m3 significantly increases the risk of hospital admissions for heart failure, what is the NSW government acceptable level of PM2.5 pollution increase on average per new wood fire heater for:
- (a) Immediate neighbours with windows within 30 metres of the chimney?
- (b) Neighbours whose property is within 100 metres of the chimney?
- (4) Is it appropriate to permit new wood heaters, if even one additional wood heater per hectare (satisfying stricter standards than currently required in NSW) increases the risk by 7%, that a child under 3 will need hospital emergency treatment (excluding accidents)?
- (5) The draft NSW Clean Air strategy states: "In some areas of Sydney ... installation of wood heaters is restricted by planning controls."
- (a) What powers do NSW Councils have to restrict the installation of wood fire heaters?
- (b) What councils are restricting the installation of wood heaters under their planning instruments?
- (c) What restrictions have been applied?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales