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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 497

THURSDAY 13 MAY 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. 482 (Including Question Nos 5441 to 5444)	13 May 2021
Q & A No. 483 (Including Question Nos 5445 to 5452)	14 May 2021
Q & A No. 484 (Including Question Nos 5453 to 5460)	17 May 2021
Q & A No. 485 (Including Question Nos 5461 to 5485)	18 May 2021
Q & A No. 486 (Including Question Nos 5486 to 5499)	19 May 2021
Q & A No. 487 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 488 (Including Question Nos 5500 to 5587)	21 May 2021
Q & A No. 489 (Including Question Nos 5588 to 5589)	24 May 2021
Q & A No. 490 (Including Question Nos 5590 to 5590)	25 May 2021
Q & A No. 491 (Including Question Nos 5591 to 5592)	26 May 2021
Q & A No. 492 (Including Question Nos 5593 to 5594)	27 May 2021
Q & A No. 493 (Including Question Nos 5595 to 5620)	28 May 2021
Q & A No. 494 (Including Question Nos 5621 to 5623)	31 May 2021
Q & A No. 495 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 496 (Including Question Nos 5624 to 5627)	2 June 2021
Q & A No. 497 (Including Question Nos 5628 to 5629)	3 June 2021

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(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?

Answer—

- (1) A full and comprehensive review of the syllabus is currently being undertaken by the NSW Education Standards Authority. The Department is working closely with the NSW Education Standards Authority on curriculum content in line with the syllabus review.
- (2) No teachers have been dismissed by the Department of Education for breach of the Department's Controversial Issues in Schools policy.

* 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"?
- (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?

Answer—

History is a disciplined process of inquiry into the past that helps to explain how people, events and forces from the past have shaped our world.

As a discipline it has its own methods and procedures. Students develop skills to undertake the process of historical inquiry which includes developing an understanding of how to use key historical concepts of contestability and reliability. An investigation of an historical issue through a range of sources stimulates

curiosity and develops problem-solving and research skills. Students learn to critically analyse and interpret sources of evidence in order to construct rational and informed arguments.

Schools plan curriculum and develop teaching programs which are consistent with the *Education Act 1990* and the NSW Education Standards Authority syllabuses and credentialing requirements. This includes resources that support the teaching of the History K-10 syllabus.

Dark Emu advances an argument by Professor Bruce Pascoe for reconsidering the hunter-gatherer description for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. Professor Pascoe's bibliography cites a range of primary and secondary source material to support his claims, including a number of colonial diaries.

Dark Emu is not a mandated text. If used, it is treated as a secondary historical source and is taught through a critical lens. History teachers provide opportunities for students to interrogate claims as part of the discipline of history.

* 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?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) Lindfield Learning Village is not an experimental school. The school, like every other NSW public school, is implementing evidence-based practice.

* 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?

Answer—

- (1) Wood smoke abatement notices are issued by individual councils. The NSW Government does not collect this information.
- (2) In NSW, individuals may complain to the NSW Ombudsman if they are not satisfied with actions undertaken by local councils.
- (3) The NSW Government does not set levels of ambient particle emissions for individual wood heaters. However, all new wood heaters must comply with Australian emission and efficiency standards AS/NZS 2012 and AS/NZS 2013. All wood heaters must be installed in accordance with the Australian Standard for installation of wood heaters AS/NZS 2918, which requires the installation of the wood heater flue in such a manner as to prevent smoke penetration through windows or other openings of neighbouring residences.
- (4) The Government has no intention to implement a state-wide ban on wood heaters. The Government recognises that there are potential health impacts from wood smoke. However, wood heaters are a viable and cost-efficient form of heating for many people, particularly in rural areas.
- (5)
 - (a) Councils can use planning instruments, such as Local Approvals Policies and Development Control Plans to restrict installation of wood heaters. Council approval is also required for the installation of a wood heater under Section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 - (b) Development Control Plans adopted by some councils, such as The Hills and Wollondilly Shire Councils, Blacktown and Camden City Councils, restrict installation of wood heaters in new growth areas.
 - (c) Restrictions include prohibiting open fireplaces and slow combustion stoves in new homes to prevent air pollution or disturbance to amenity of nearby residents.

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(Paper No. 497)

5628 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—POLICY LEGACY AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How much funding has been removed from the Back up for Life program?
 - (a) When will the program end?
 - (b) Where was this funding allocated?
- (2) How is a balance struck by New South Wales Police Legacy between programs supporting career transition and those primarily focused on the personal welfare of former police?
- (3) Have concerns been raised with you about the sponsorship by Employers Mutual Limited (EML) at New South Wales Police Legacy Functions given the problematic relationship between some former police and the company?
- (4) Who made the decision to have a Blue Ribbon leadership dinner in 2020?
 - (a) How were people notified of the change?
 - (b) What steps were taken to ensure former police and widows were able to attend the event?

5629 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—FIREARMS—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many occasions have police engaged in self-harm using their police issued firearm or other weapon in each of the following years:
- (a) 2016?
 - (b) 2017?
 - (c) 2018?
 - (d) 2019?
 - (e) 2020?
 - (f) 2021 to date?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament