



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 528

MONDAY 28 JUNE 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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 514 (Including Question Nos 6571 to 6575)	28 June 2021
Q & A No. 515 (Including Question Nos 6576 to 6580)	29 June 2021
Q & A No. 516 (Including Question Nos 6581 to 6590)	30 June 2021
Q & A No. 517 (Including Question Nos 6591 to 6596)	1 July 2021
Q & A No. 518 (Including Question Nos 6597 to 6601)	2 July 2021
Q & A No. 519 (Including Question Nos 6602 to 6616)	6 July 2021
Q & A No. 520 (Including Question Nos 6617 to 6629)	7 July 2021
Q & A No. 521 (Including Question Nos 6630 to 6637)	8 July 2021
Q & A No. 522 (Including Question Nos 6638 to 6648)	9 July 2021
Q & A No. 523 (Including Question Nos 6649 to 6654)	12 July 2021
Q & A No. 524 (Including Question Nos 6655 to 6660)	13 July 2021
Q & A No. 525 (Including Question Nos 6661 to 6668)	14 July 2021
Q & A No. 526 (Including Question Nos 6669 to 6673)	15 July 2021
Q & A No. 527 (Including Question Nos 6674 to 6692)	16 July 2021
Q & A No. 528 (Including Question Nos 6693 to 6697)	19 July 2021

**7 JUNE 2021**

(Paper No. 514)

\* 6572 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—BERKELEY VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL—  
The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) How many formal complaints have been made regarding the current principal at Berkeley Vale Primary School?
- (2) How many of those complaints were resolved by the principal themselves and were not escalated further?
  - (a) How many of those complaints were upheld?
  - (b) How many of those complaints were dismissed?
- (3) How many complaints regarding the principal have been referred directly or indirectly to the relevant Director Educational Leadership?
  - (a) How many of those complaints were upheld?
  - (b) How many were dismissed?

Answer—

Any complaints which have been received are managed using the Department of Education's Complaints Handling policy and procedures. In accordance with the policy and procedures, the person subject to the complaint does not manage the complaint. Rather, it is managed by the person's line manager, as appropriate. Complaints regarding principals are managed by their Director, Educational Leadership or an appropriate alternative manager.

The Department is unable to provide further detail regarding any complaints as privacy legislation imposes obligations on the Department and its employees.

\* 6573 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—MEREWETHER HIGH SCHOOL—The  
Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Did the Deputy Principal Jane Crooks of Merewether High School on 2 June 2021 send a message to students inviting them to participate in the school's "Gender and Sexuality Alliance" and an associated event titled "It's Gay at the GSA"?
- (2) How many students received the invitation?
  - (a) What year groups were they in?
- (3) Was the event conducted in class time?
  - (a) If so, what are the details?
- (4) Were parents notified of the event in advance?
- (5) Was parental consent required for students to participate in "It's Gay at the GSA"?
- (6) What educational value is there in "queer trivia" on the topic of "LGBTQIAP"?
  - (a) Where does this feature in the New South Wales school curriculum?
- (7) Is the Minister aware of other similar groups and events being organised in New South Wales schools?
- (8) Can the Minister explain why sexuality-based identity politics is being practiced at Merewether High?
- (9) Does the Minister stand by the policy that gender fluidity and "Safe Schools" does not form any part of the curriculum of New South Wales schools?
- (10) Can the Minister outline strategies employed by her Department to prevent political and ideological activism among teaching staff?

(11) What action will the Minister take regarding Ms. Crooks?

Answer—

On 3 June 2021, the Deputy Principal, Merewether High School used an internal means of school communication to raise awareness of a student initiated and student led support group, “Gender and Sexuality Alliance”. There is no associated event titled ‘It’s Gay at the GSA’.

The support group was not conducted in class time. Parental consent was not required for students to participate in the support group.

The “queer trivia” mentioned in the student notice was a proposed awareness raising activity for students attending the support group. This was not intended as an activity of educational value related to the NSW school curriculum.

The Department does not centrally monitor student interest and discussion groups. Should any issues arise within a school regarding such groups, these are managed in line with the Controversial Issues in Schools Policy and procedures.

Principals of public schools identify and manage controversial issues in the school by ensuring all members of staff, volunteers and external providers understand the Controversial Issues in Schools Policy and procedures.

Activities formally organised by students, including lunch time groups addressing political, philosophical, religious or other controversial issues, are acceptable within schools but must adhere to the principles set out in the Controversial Issues in Schools Policy and these procedures.

Safe schools – and gender fluidity more broadly – is not part of the curriculum in NSW.

Formally organised student activities need to be supervised by a teacher.

\* 6574 COUNTER TERRORISM AND CORRECTIONS—EMPLOYMENT—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections—

(1) What is the average length of employment term for:

- (a) An administrative officer employed by Corrections NSW?
- (b) A Community Corrections Officer employed by Corrections NSW?
- (c) A Correctional Officer employed by Corrections NSW?
- (d) An Industries (Trade Overseer) Officer employed by Corrections NSW?
- (e) Psychologist employed by Corrections NSW?
- (f) Services and Programs Officers (SAPO) employed by Corrections NSW?

(2) How many incidences of professional misconduct were reported in the following years:

- (a) 2018?
- (b) 2019?
- (c) 2020?

(3) How many reports of bullying were reported in Corrections NSW in the following years:

- (a) 2018?
- (b) 2019?
- (c) 2020?

(4) How many reports of sexual assault in Corrections NSW were recorded in the following years:

- (a) 2018?
- (b) 2019?
- (c) 2020?

- (5) How many reports of harassment in Corrections NSW were recorded in the following years:
- (a) 2018?
  - (b) 2019?
  - (c) 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1)

<b>Role</b>	<b>Average length of employment (years)</b>
Administrative officer	10
Community Corrections Officer	9
Correctional Officer	13
Industries (Trade Overseer) Officer	11
Psychologist	9
Services and Programs Officers	9

(2)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of reported professional misconduct claims</b>
2018	472
2019	507
2020	499

(3 and 5)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of reported bullying and harassment claims (CSNSW employees)*</b>
2018	134
2019	150
2020	196

\* The figures relate to claims/allegations not substantiated incidents. Reports of bullying and harassment can be made to the CSNSW Professional Standards Branch and the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) People Directorate (DCJ Human Resources). DCJ Human Resources does not disaggregate data in terms of “bullying” or “harassment”. All claims are recorded under a single category (“bullying and harassment”).

(4)

Year	Total number of reported sexual assault claims (CSNSW employees)
2018	2
2019	4
2020	3

\* 6575 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—WALK WITH THE BIRDS—The Hon. Penny Sharpe 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) On what date was the "Walk With the Birds" in the Dorrigo National Park closed to the public?
- (2) When is the "Walk With the Birds" in the Dorrigo National Park scheduled to re-open to the public?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of the maintenance work required to re-open the "Walk With the Birds" in Dorrigo National Park?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 10 February 2021.
- (2) The boardwalk is scheduled to reopen toward the end of this year, following repairs and renovations.
- (3) Repairing the "Walk with the Birds" structure is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

### 8 JUNE 2021

(Paper No. 515)

\* 6580 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—PROSECUTIONS - WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) I refer the Minister to the answer given to my question on notice numbered 5318. Minister, of the 40,000 workplace interactions mentioned:
  - (a) How many of these resulted in prosecutions under:
    - (i) *Section 31 of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011?*
    - (ii) *Section 32 of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011?*
  - (b) How many of these prosecutions resulted in convictions?
  - (c) What were the penalties imposed as a consequence of these convictions?

Answer—

The response to question on notice 5318 referred to workplace interactions since January 2020.

Under the Act, with limited exceptions, SafeWork has two years from the date on which an offence first comes to its notice to commence a prosecution. No prosecutions have been commenced under sections 31 or 32 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the Act) in relation to incidents occurring on or after 1 January 2020.

A substantial number of incidents from this period remain under investigation by SafeWork NSW and may result in a prosecution.

**28 JUNE 2021**

(Paper No. 528)

- 6693 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—OFFSHORE WIND FARMS—The Hon. Mark Latham 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) What representations has the Minister received from Newcastle City Council for the development of offshore wind farms in and around the Port of Newcastle?
    - (a) How has the Minister responded to this proposal?
  - (2) Will offshore wind farms be included in the legislated Hunter Renewable Energy Zone?
  - (3) What financial support has the Government provided to Newcastle offshore wind farm proponents:
    - (a) Newcastle Offshore Wind (NOW)?
    - (b) Clean Energy Association of Newcastle and Surrounds (CLEANaS)?
- 6694 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—STATE EDUCATION RESEARCH APPLICATION PROCESS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) Why does the Department of Education have a State Education Research Application Process for researchers going into schools but not a similar process for external consultants?
- 6695 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—ROUSE HILL HOSPITAL STAGE 1—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) In regards to the proposed Rouse Hill Hospital Stage 1:
    - (a) What is the estimated value of the project?
    - (b) What is the start date for procurement?
      - (i) If not known, in what financial year?
    - (c) What is the estimated start date for construction?
      - (i) If not known, in what financial year?
    - (d) What health service will be provided once Stage 1 is completed?
    - (e) How many jobs will be created during the construction phase?
      - (i) How was this figure calculated?
    - (f) How many ongoing jobs will be created once Stage 1 is completed?
      - (i) How was this figure calculated?
    - (g) What other stages are proposed for Rouse Hill Hospital?
      - (i) If not known, in what financial year/s?
    - (h) What is the estimated start date for construction of the Rouse Hill Hospital?
      - (i) If not known, in what financial year/s?
- 6696 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—SYDNEY WATER ASSETS—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—
- (1) What is the value of Sydney Water's assets?
    - (a) How was this figure arrived at?

6697 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—CAREERS PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) How much of the \$20m (part of \$60m recurrent expenditure over three years) provided for 300 new housing sector pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships and cadetships to provide careers pathways for young people and social housing tenants was spent in the 2020-2021 Financial Year?
  - (a) How many people did this expenditure assist?
  - (b) How many pre-apprenticeships were delivered?
  - (c) How many apprenticeships were delivered?
  - (d) How many cadetships were delivered?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliament