



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 589

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

(The Questions and Answers Paper published on Monday to Friday of each week will contain, by number and title, all questions to which answers have been received the previous day and any new questions asked that 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. 574 (Including Question Nos 7343 to 7345)	21 September 2021
Q & A No. 575 (Including Question Nos 7346 to 7349)	22 September 2021
Q & A No. 576 (Including Question Nos 7350 to 7359)	23 September 2021
Q & A No. 577 (Including Question Nos 7360 to 7375)	24 September 2021
Q & A No. 578 (Including Question Nos 7376 to 7390)	27 September 2021
Q & A No. 579 (Including Question Nos 7391 to 7402)	28 September 2021
Q & A No. 580 (Including Question Nos 7403 to 7417)	29 September 2021
Q & A No. 581 (Including Question Nos 7418 to 7425)	30 September 2021
Q & A No. 582 (Including Question Nos 7426 to 7435)	1 October 2021
Q & A No. 583 (Including Question Nos 7436 to 7443)	4 October 2021
Q & A No. 584 (Including Question Nos 7444 to 7455)	5 October 2021
Q & A No. 585 (Including Question Nos 7456 to 7459)	6 October 2021
Q & A No. 586 (Including Question Nos 7460 to 7489)	7 October 2021
Q & A No. 587 (Including Question Nos 7491 to 7519)	8 October 2021
Q & A No. 588 (Including Question Nos 7490 to 7538)	11 October 2021
Q & A No. 589 (Including Question Nos 7539 to 7560)	12 October 2021

**31 AUGUST 2021**

(Paper No. 574)

\* 7343 FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES—BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN NSW 2016-2017—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) Noting the recommendations outlined in the Biennial report of the deaths of children in NSW: 2016-2017:
- (a) What is the progress of implementing:
- (i) Recommendation 1 – safe sleeping vulnerable families?
  - (ii) Recommendation 2 – identification of illness in infants?
  - (iii) Recommendation 3 – Safer vehicle choices?
  - (iv) Recommendation 4 – Child restraints and seatbelts?
  - (v) Recommendation 9 – quad bikes?
  - (vi) Recommendation 10 – focused prevention plan, managing and containing risk?
  - (vii) Recommendation 11?
  - (viii) Recommendation 12 – ongoing monitoring and evaluation?
  - (ix) Recommendation 15 – review following suicide?
  - (x) Recommendation 16 – young people in care?
  - (xii) Recommendation 17 – carer mental illness?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1)
- (a)
- (i) This question is best directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research.
  - (ii) This question is best directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research.
  - (iii) This question is best directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads.
  - (iv) This question is best directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads.
  - (v) This question is best directed to the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation.
  - (vi) This question is best directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.
  - (vii) This question is best directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research.
  - (viii) This question is best directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.
  - (ix) This question is best directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.
  - (x) The Department of Communities and Justice response to recommendations arising from the NSW Ombudsman's Biennial reports of the deaths of children in NSW are available on the NSW Ombudsman's website [www.ombo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au).
  - (xi) This question is best directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research.

\* 7344 FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES—BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN NSW 2018-2019—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) Noting the recommendations outlined in the Biennial report of the deaths of children in NSW: 2018-2019:
- (a) What is the progress of implementing:
- (a) Recommendation 2 – transport?
- (b) Recommendation 3 – drowning?
- (c) Recommendation 4a - 4e – suicide?
- (d) Recommendation 6 – abuse and neglect?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1)
- (a) This question is best directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads.
- (b) This question is best directed to the Minister Better Regulation and Innovation.
- (c-d) The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has accepted the recommendations directed to the department in the *NSW Ombudsman's Biennial report of the deaths of children in NSW: 2018 and 2019*.
- DCJ is currently working to address the recommendations and, in line with the NSW Ombudsman's request, the DCJ will report on the progress of those recommendations by 17 December 2021.

\* 7345 MENTAL HEALTH, REGIONAL YOUTH AND WOMEN—NSW WOMENS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women—

- (1) When is the NSW Women's Strategy Year Four Action Plan due to be released?
- (a) Why has the release been delayed?
- (2) As of 30 June 2021:
- (a) How many actions are:
- (i) Complete?
- (ii) Progressing?
- (iii) On track?
- (iv) Not started?
- (v) Delayed?
- (b) Which actions have been delayed or not started?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Women's Strategy Year 3 Action Plan was released on 5 March 2021. Action plans are released annually, and each action plan provides a status update on the actions from the previous year.

The final report on the progress of the Year Two Action Plan was released as part of the Year Three Action Plan on 5 March 2021.

The Year 4 Action Plan release is not delayed, it is currently being developed to the above schedule. The Year 4 Action Plan will include reporting on the actions in the Year 3 Action Plan.

**21 SEPTEMBER 2021**

(Paper No. 589)

7539 TREASURER—TIM JAP—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) While employed by NSW Treasury, how many of the below has Tim Jap acquired:
  - (a) LinkedIn Learning certificates?
  - (b) Other qualifications?
- (2) How many have been funded by Treasury?

7540 CUSTOMER SERVICE—COVID PERMIT SYSTEM—The Hon. Walt Secord to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) Since the COVID-19 permit system that allows people to leave local government areas (LGAs) of concern was introduced:
  - (a) How many permits have been issued to people allowing them to enter the following LGAs:
    - (i) Tweed Shire?
    - (ii) Byron Shire?
    - (iii) City of Lismore?
    - (iv) Kyogle Council?
    - (v) Clarence Valley Council?
    - (vi) Tenterfield Shire?
  - (b) What is the postcode area breakdown of the permits issued allowing people to enter the following LGAs:
    - (i) Tweed Shire?
    - (ii) Byron Shire?
    - (iii) City of Lismore?
    - (iv) Kyogle Council?
    - (v) Clarence Valley Council?
    - (vi) Tenterfield Shire?
  - (c) What postcode areas were the permit holders permitted to travel to?
  - (d) What is the postcode breakdown of the areas that the permit holders were able to travel to?
  - (e) What is the breakdown by reasonable excuse for issuing permits?
  - (f) What is the check and compliance regime for permit holders?

7541 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) On 17 September, the Daily Telegraph published an article titled “Harsh lesson on gift game” Within this article it references that “in 2019, another education director accepted ticket to see U2 as gift from Allianz Insurance”:
  - (a) How did the Executive Director for Health and Safety Directorates respond under the gift test to the following:
    - (i) Who is providing the gift, benefit or hospitality and what is their relationship to me?
    - (ii) Does my role require me to select contractors, award grants or determine/implement policies?

- (iii) Could the person or organisation benefit from a decision I make?
- (iv) Are they seeking to influence my decisions or actions?
- (v) Has the gift, benefit or hospitality been offered to me publicly or privately?
- (vi) Is it a courtesy, a token of appreciation or highly valuable?
- (vii) Does its timing coincide with a decision I am about to make?
- (viii) Are they seeking a favour in return for the gift, benefit or hospitality?
- (ix) Has the gift, benefit or hospitality been offered honestly?
- (x) Has the person or organisation made several offers over the last 12 months?
- (xi) Would accepting it create an obligation to return a favour?
- (xii) Would accepting the gift, benefit or hospitality diminish public trust?
- (xiii) How would I feel if the gift, benefit or hospitality became public knowledge?
- (xiv) What would my colleagues, family, friends or associates think?
- (b) Were these responses recorded or documented in anyway?
  - (i) If not, why not?
- (c) Did Deputy Secretary Deidre Mulkerin cite these recorded or documented responses before approving this gift?
- (d) Is the approver of such gifts obliged to check the accuracy of responses to the gift test questionnaire?
- (e) Was the Deputy Secretary aware that in and around the date of gift, the Executive Director was directly implicated in a case before the Workers Compensation Commission for Bullying and Harassment in which Allianz Insurance was supporting the department in its case?
  - (i) If so, why did the Deputy Secretary not deem this a potential conflict of interest?
  - (ii) If not, why did the Executive Director not notify the Deputy Secretary of this potential conflict of interest?
- (f) Given that the advertised prices of a single ticket were as follows Category 1 Reserved - \$367.05\*, Category 2 Reserved - \$264.60\*, Category 3 Reserved - \$193.80\*, Category 4 GA Standing - \$126.35\* Category 5 Reserved - \$61.20\*:
  - (i) What was the true and accurate value of the tickets gifted to the Executive Director?

7542 FINANCE AND SMALL BUSINESS—SELF-MANAGED SUPERANNUATION FUND—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

- (1) Does New South Wales impose full transfer duty when property is transferred to beneficiaries from a self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF)?
  - (a) If so, is it possible for SMSFs to ask for an exemption?
    - (i) If so, on what basis are applications decided?
- (2) What percentage of applications have been granted an exemption in the following financial years:
  - (a) 2020-21?
  - (b) 2019-20?
  - (c) 2018-19?
- (3) Is the Government considering introducing legislation on this issue, to bring us into line with other Australian jurisdictions?

7543 TREASURER—AUSTRALIAN MENS SHED ASSOCIATION FUNDING—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the total amount of Government funding, including through one-off and grant funding, received by the Australian Men’s Shed Association and its member organisations or branches since 1 July 2011?

7544 TREASURER—COUNTRY WOMENS ASSOCIATION FUNDING—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the total amount of Government funding, including through one-off and grant funding, received by the Country Women’s Association and its branches since 1 July 2011?

7545 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—PATRONAGE EXPECTED ON THE WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT METRO—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 Transport and Roads—

- (1) Given the low level of patronage expected on the Western Sydney Airport Metro (WSAM) at its opening in 2026, with the business case estimating that “the rail line would have peak line loadings of approximately 880 passengers per hour, or about 11 per cent of the capacity of the Metro in one direction” (page 4 of the February 2021 Infrastructure Australia report):
  - (a) What Sydney Metro projections are available comparing the 2026 WSAM patronage numbers with equivalent stations constructed on a South-West Rail Link (SWRL) from Leppington to Badgerys Creek Airport, servicing (five years from now) the Austral to Bringelly urban corridor and residential areas along the Northern Road, including Oran Park, Harrington Park, Cobbitty, Narellan and Camden (currently without commuter rail access)?
    - (i) What are the details?
  - (b) What Transport for NSW projections are available comparing the 2026 WSAM patronage numbers with equivalent stations constructed on a South-West Rail Link (SWRL) from Leppington to Badgerys Creek Airport, servicing (five years from now) the Austral to Bringelly urban corridor and residential areas along the Northern Road, including Oran Park, Harrington Park, Cobbitty, Narellan and Camden (currently without commuter rail access)?
    - (i) What are the details?

7546 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—UNSTAFFED ARRANGEMENTS—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 Transport and Roads—

- (1) Which Sydney rail stations were moved to unstaffed arrangements in July-September this year?
  - (a) Why?
  - (b) What has happened to the staff no longer working at the stations?
  - (c) How many staff have been reallocated to other duties?
  - (d) How many staff have been stood down?

7547 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—SOUTH WEST GROWTH CENTRE—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What planning has the Government undertaken of the expected demand for school places over the next two decades in the South West Growth Centre?
- (2) What are the number and size of schools that will be needed as well as the estimated numbers of teaching staff to meet this demand?
- (3) The NSW Education Act provides that it is the duty of the State to ensure that every child receives an education of the highest quality; and that the principal responsibility of the State in the education of children is the provision of public education:

- (a) Do all aspects of the Government’s planning for the provision of schools in the South West Growth Centre comply with the Act?
  - (i) Please provide the analysis which had been done to ensure compliance with the Act?
- (4) Are the Government’s plans for the provision of schools in the South West Growth Centre publicly available?
  - (a) If not, why not?
- (5) What assumptions do the Government’s plans make about the number of non-government schools and places in the South West Growth Centre?
  - (a) Do these plans include sites earmarked by the Government for non-government schools
    - (i) If so, how many?
- (6) Has the Government had discussions with any non-government school authorities, including the Catholic Education Office or the Association of Independent Schools, about the development of new private schools in the South West Growth Centre?
- (7) Has the Government given any assurances to non-government school authorities or interest groups regarding the establishment of new government and non-government schools in this area?

7548 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—PONDICHERRY LAKES PRECINCT—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Is the Government aware of an advertisement by the Greenfields Development Company in the Sydney Morning Herald (23 August 2021) calling for expressions of interest from private educational institutions for the purchase of a school site located in what is described as “an emerging prestigious precinct” – the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct?
- (2) When was permission granted for this site to be sold for the establishment of a private school campus?
  - (a) How did this occur?
  - (b) By whom?
- (3) Is the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct, which is part of the Oran Park Development, a partnership between the Greenfields Development Company and the Government agency Landcom?
- (4) According to the brief provided for Expressions of Interest, “the project developers GDC are solely responsible for bringing Pondicherry to life...”:
  - (a) Is the Greenfields Development Company solely responsible or are Landcom and the project developers jointly responsible for identifying this site for a non-government school campus?
- (5) Was the site identified initially as part of Government planning for a school, or, more specifically for a non-government school?
- (6) Will the responsibility for assessing the merits of the expressions of interest put forward by competing private educational institutions in response to this advertisement rest with the Greenfields Development Company?
- (7) Does the Greenfields Development Company have the necessary educational expertise to exercise this responsibility?
- (8) Does the Government consider that it is the role of property developers to solicit proposals for the establishment of private schools under the Education Act as part of their marketing strategy for selling properties in “prestigious developments”?
- (9) Is the Government itself involved, through Landcom, in soliciting such proposals?
- (10) What steps have been taken by the Government, to assess the impact of the establishment of a private school campus on this site in the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct on existing schools in the area?
- (11) What contact has been made by the Greenfields Development Company or Landcom with NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), as the registering authority for non-government schools?



- (12) What contact has been made by potential buyers of the land with NESAs or the Department of Education regarding plans for the establishment of a school on this site in the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct?
- (13) What assurances have been sought or given, in the process of the land sale, regarding registration for the proposed school?
- (14) At what stage will NESAs, as the registering authority for private schools, be involved in the sale of this site for this new private school?

7549 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—COVID-19 RESPONSE - HUNTER—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many ICU beds are available at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (2) What is the ICU surge capacity at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (3) How many ICU staff are employed at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (4) What is the surge workforce capacity at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (5) How many ventilators are available at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (6) To date have any COVID-19 positive patients been transferred from Sydney to hospitals in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
  - (a) If so:
    - (i) When?
    - (ii) What hospital?
- (7) How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines did NSW Health receive in the following weeks commencing:
  - (a) 5 July 2021?
  - (b) 12 July 2021?
  - (c) 19 July 2021?
  - (d) 26 July 2021?
  - (e) 2 August 2021?
  - (f) 9 August 2021?
  - (g) 16 August 2021?
  - (h) 23 August 2021?
  - (i) 30 August 2021?
  - (j) 6 September 2021?
  - (k) 13 September 2021?
- (8) How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines did the Hunter New England Local Health District receive in the following weeks commencing:
  - (a) 5 July 2021?
  - (b) 12 July 2021?
  - (c) 19 July 2021?
  - (d) 26 July 2021?

- (e) 2 August 2021?
  - (f) 9 August 2021?
  - (g) 16 August 2021?
  - (h) 23 August 2021?
  - (i) 30 August 2021?
  - (j) 6 September 2021?
  - (k) 13 September 2021?
- (9) How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines were administered at the Belmont Mass Vaccination Centre for each the following weeks commencing:
- (a) 5 July 2021?
  - (b) 12 July 2021?
  - (c) 19 July 2021?
  - (d) 26 July 2021?
  - (e) 2 August 2021?
  - (f) 9 August 2021?
  - (g) 16 August 2021?
  - (h) 23 August 2021?
  - (i) 30 August 2021?
  - (j) 6 September 2021?
  - (k) 13 September 2021?
- (10) What is the total number of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses have been disposed of or wasted at the Belmont Mass Vaccination Centre?

7550 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—AGEING POPULATION AND ACCESSIBLE LIVING SPACES—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting the rising need for accessible living spaces for New South Wales's ageing population:
- (a) What steps is the Government taking to ensure that there is sufficient supply to meet demand?
    - (i) If the Government is not taking steps, why is this the case?

7551 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—APARTMENTS AND LIVEABLE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDELINES SILVER LEVEL STANDARDS - LANDCOM - SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that the Government has policies in place to ensure that all new social and affordable housing built by government is constructed to Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards, and that policies have been put in place policies requiring at least 20 per cent of all medium to high density dwellings developed by Landcom to meet or exceed the silver accessibility standard:
- (a) How many social and affordable housing properties have so far been constructed which meet Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
    - (i) How many were built in financial year 2019-2020?
    - (ii) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
    - (iii) How many were built in financial year 2020-2021?

- (iv) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
  - (v) What are the projections of social and affordable housing properties to be built before the conclusion of financial year 2021-2022?
  - (vi) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties will these constructions constitute?
- (b) How many social and affordable housing properties have so far been constructed to exceed the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
- (i) How many were built in financial year 2019-2020?
  - (ii) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
  - (iii) How many were built in financial year 2020-2021?
  - (iv) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
  - (v) What are the projections of social and affordable housing properties to be built before the conclusion of financial year 2021-2022?
  - (vi) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties will these constructions constitute?

7552 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—APARTMENTS AND LIVEABLE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDELINES SILVER LEVEL STANDARDS - PRIVATE—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that NSW Apartment Design Guide encourages 20 per cent of apartments within new residential apartment buildings to achieve, at a minimum, Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards:
- (a) What are the detailed steps the Government taking to ensure that developers are meeting this goal?
  - (b) How is the Government keeping track of how many apartments are meeting Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
    - (i) How many were built in financial year 2019-2020?
    - (ii) What percentage of new apartments built in financial year 2019-2020 met the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
    - (iii) How many were built in financial year 2020-2021?
    - (iv) What percentage of new apartments built in financial year 2020-2021 met the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
    - (v) How many are projected to be built in financial year 2021-2022?
    - (vi) What percentage of new apartments projected to be built in the financial year 2021-2022 are expected to meet the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
  - (c) If the Government is not currently monitoring the number of apartments that meet the standards:
    - (i) When does it intend to start?
  - (d) If the Government is not taking monitoring steps to ensure developers are meeting this goal:
    - (i) Why not?

7553 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—MINIMUM ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS IN NCC—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that announcement on 30 April 2021 that a majority of Commonwealth, state and territory Building Ministers agreed to include minimum accessibility provisions for residential housing and apartments in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 based on the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines (LHDG) silver standards:
  - (a) What is the rationale for the New South Wales Government declining to adopt these standards?

7554 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—NCC AND INCREASING ACCESSIBLE HOUSING—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that the Housing 2041: 2021-2022 Action Plan includes action item 2.7.1. calling for the Government to “Consider the proposed changes to the National Construction Code (NCC) to increase the accessibility of housing for all people”:
  - (a) What steps has the Minister taken to progress the implementation this recommendation?
  - (b) What has the Minister done to:
    - (i) Consider proposed changes to the NCC?
    - (ii) Consult with stakeholders in respect to this action item?

7555 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—UNIVERSAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that the Housing 2041: 2021-2022 Action Plan includes action item 2.7.2. calling for the Government to “Undertake further research to assess the cost-benefit of introducing, potentially, mandatory universal design requirements in NSW”:
  - (a) Is the Minister able to provide an update on the progress of implementing this action item?
  - (b) Can the Minister please outline:
    - (i) What research has been undertaken as per the action item?
    - (ii) Will this research be made public?
    - (iii) What decisions have been driven by this research?
    - (iv) What findings from this research have driven any decisions taken?

7556 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—BOURKE SHIRE POUND—The Hon. Emma Hurst 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 Local Government—

- (1) On 22 August 2021, it was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald that 15 dogs and puppies held by Bourke Shire Council were shot, despite reports that they could have been rehomed via local rescue groups. The Office of Local Government has reportedly commenced an investigation:
  - (a) What method of euthanasia was used to kill the dogs?
  - (b) What method of euthanasia was used to kill the puppies?
  - (c) Has it been determined whether the Council’s conduct breached the Companion Animals Act (1998)?
    - (i) If so, please provide details of the breaches?
    - (ii) If not, why not?
- (2) Does Bourke Shire Council have a written policy in place regarding the euthanasia of infant companion animals?

- (a) If so, did Bourke Shire Council comply with this policy in respect to the killing of these puppies?
- (3) Are there any other animals currently being held by Bourke Shire Council?
- (a) If so:
- (i) What is the number of dogs and puppies?
- (ii) What is the number of cats and kittens?
- (4) Has Bourke Shire Council rehomed any animals, or transferred any animals to a rescue group, since 22 August 2021?
- (a) If so, please provide details?
- (5) According to Pound Data Reports published by the Office of Local Government, Bourke Shire Council has euthanised 99 per cent of the cats entering their pound between the 2017-2020 reporting periods:
- (a) Does Bourke Shire Council have any policies or procedures in place to reduce the euthanasia rate of cats entering their pound?
- (i) If so, please provide details?
- (ii) If not, why not?
- (6) What is the minimum holding period in New South Wales pounds for ‘infant’ companion animals?
- 7557 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) The Federal Government Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies describes the rich tapestry of the world’s oldest surviving culture as being spread wide across the Australian continent. Many of these ancestral lands cross western imposed state and local government borders:
- (a) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure our First Nations people can travel freely across their ancestral lands without the risk of breaching COVID-19 health orders?
- (b) Does the Minister acknowledge the increased trauma caused to First Nations people who are isolated if denied access to their ancestral lands and contact with their elders?
- 7558 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE—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—
- (1) The Federal Government Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies describes the rich tapestry of the world’s oldest surviving culture as being spread wide across the Australian continent. Many of these ancestral lands cross western imposed state and local government borders:
- (a) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure our First Nations people can travel freely across their ancestral lands without the risk of breaching COVID-19 health orders?
- (b) Does the Minister acknowledge the increased trauma caused to First Nations people who are isolated if denied access to their ancestral lands and contact with their elders?
- 7559 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—FRIENDS BUBBLE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) As of 21 September 2021 a ‘friends bubble’ has been permitted under the health orders. This relaxing of the health order still has restrictions, the adults in the home are required to be fully vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus:

- (a) Is the Minister concerned that requiring adults to be fully vaccinated for the child to be eligible to be part of a friends bubble may divide the community again between the vaccinated and unvaccinated?
- (b) Is the Minister concerned that requiring adults to be fully vaccinated for the child to be eligible to be part of a friends bubble has the potential to cause disharmony within families?
- (c) Is the Minister concerned that requiring adults to be fully vaccinated for the child to be eligible to be part of a friends bubble will effectively identify the medical decisions of some adult residents of New South Wales. I.e.: the parents of children not eligible to join a friends bubble?
- (d) Given that infection rates appear to be significantly lower in outdoor environments has the Minister considered allowing children to play and interact with one another in outdoor environments regardless of their parent's vaccination status?
- (e) Will the Minister release the health advice supporting this relaxation of the health order?

7560 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NSW PARAMEDICINE COUNCIL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Why did the NSW Paramedicine Council suspend the paramedic John Larter on 20 September 2021?
- (2) Why wasn't Mr Larter told of the reasons for this in his suspension notice?
- (3) Why has the Minister allowed the Paramedicine Council to act in this way, without natural justice?
  - (a) What will the Minister do to rectify this problem?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliament