



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21-22

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 717

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2022

(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. 702 (Including Question Nos 8476 to 8479)	6 April 2022
Q & A No. 703 (Including Question Nos 8480 to 8487)	7 April 2022
Q & A No. 704 (Including Question Nos 8488 to 8490)	8 April 2022
Q & A No. 705 (Including Question Nos 8491 to 8500)	11 April 2022
Q & A No. 706 (Including Question Nos 8501 to 8540)	12 April 2022
Q & A No. 707 (Including Question Nos 8541 to 8575)	13 April 2022
Q & A No. 708 (Including Question Nos 8576 to 8583)	14 April 2022
Q & A No. 709 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 710 (Including Question Nos 8584 to 8587)	18 April 2022
Q & A No. 711 (Including Question Nos 8588 to 8590)	19 April 2022
Q & A No. 712 (Including Question Nos 8591 to 8597)	20 April 2022
Q & A No. 713 (Including Question Nos 8598 to 8600)	21 April 2022
Q & A No. 714 (Including Question Nos 8601 to 8603)	22 April 2022
Q & A No. 715 (Including Question Nos 8604 to 8610)	25 April 2022
Q & A No. 716 (Including Question Nos 8611 to 8618)	26 April 2022
Q & A No. 717 (Including Question Nos 8619 to 8619)	27 April 2022

**16 MARCH 2022**

(Paper No. 702)

\* 8476 HEALTH—ACCOMMODATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much did NSW Health spend on the housing and accommodation of health care providers (HCPs) in the following financial years:
  - (a) 2018/19?
  - (b) 2019/20?
  - (c) 2020/21?
  - (d) 2021 to date?
- (2) How many HCPs were placed in accommodation for less than 1 month?
  - (a) What is the cost of this in the following financial years:
    - (i) 2020/21?
    - (ii) 2021 to date?
- (3) How many HCPs were placed in accommodation for more than 1 month?
  - (a) What is the cost of this in the following financial years:
    - (i) 2020/21?
    - (ii) 2021 to date?
- (4) What is the breakdown of HCPs who utilise accommodation provided by NSW Health?

Answer—

(1-4) Since March 2020, the NSW Government has committed more than \$4 billion to support the health system in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of this response has included free temporary accommodation being made available to support frontline staff, as well as for vulnerable community members who are either at risk of contracting or who have tested positive to COVID-19 and are unable to self-isolate at home.

Further to this, the NSW Government recently announced \$45.3 million to deliver modern, sustainable accommodation for health workers in three local health districts (LHDs), being Southern NSW, Murrumbidgee and Far West LHDs.

This builds on the \$30 million already pledged by the NSW Government for health worker housing and accommodation in the Hunter and Western NSW, and extends the overall funding package to more than \$75 million in total.

\* 8477 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—HEALTH ADVICE IN SCHOOLS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) I refer the Minister to the statement by Premier Perrottet at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) on 25 February when the Premier said in relation to RAT surveillance testing in schools, “Health completely disagreed with this approach by the way, they didn’t want it”:
  - (a) Did the Department of Education reject the health advice?
    - (i) If so, for what reason?
  - (b) What other health advice has the Department of Education rejected in relation to COVID-19 in schools?

- (c) Why has the Department of Education accepted health advice for Vaccination Mandates when these have aggravated critical teacher shortages in Government schools, with at least 7000 teachers fired or stood down?

Answer—

The Department of Education works closely with NSW Health and follows expert health advice, including from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and the Doherty Institute.

Modelling by the Doherty Institute presented to National Cabinet on 5 November 2021 noted that in areas with high levels of ongoing transmission, “incursions into school settings will be inevitable” and “surveillance testing substantially reduces the risk that incursions will lead to outbreaks”.

This advice informed the NSW Government approach to surveillance testing programs in schools and early childhood education services during Term 1 2022. The Victorian Government, as well as other states and territories, adopted a similar approach.

Since 8 November 2021, it has been a requirement under the Public Health (COVID-19 Vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order that employees who work in schools or early childhood education are only able to do so if they are fully vaccinated or hold a valid medical contraindication certificate.

The Department’s position on vaccination is based on NSW Health advice, informed by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). The latest advice is that keeping COVID-19 vaccination up-to-date provides the best protection against the virus, including reducing the risk of severe disease and hospitalisation.

The assertion that 7000 teachers have been “fired or stood down” as a result of the vaccination mandate is completely false.

- \* 8478 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—PENNANT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Why have year 8 students at Pennant Hills High School been asked to complete a health class assignment on Black Lives Matter (BLM) and HeForShe?
- (2) Does the Minister regard BLM as an American leftist political body suitable for PDHPE studies in New South Wales, especially given its stated commitment to defunding police, abolishing the nuclear family and encouraging street protests, rioting and looting?
- (3) Will the Government update its Controversial Issues in Schools policy to declare BLM as controversial, requiring parental permission for school studies?
- (4) What have the parents at Pennant Hills High said about the study of BLM?
- (5) Why wasn’t Australian content on health issues chosen for the health class?
- (6) Why is Pennant Hills High running political classes for Year 8 under the cover of PDHPE?

Answer—

The Year 8 unit of study is titled “Welcoming Difference”. The two groups referred to are significant contemporary examples of challenges in inclusivity, equality and respectful relationships. The NESA Syllabus Outcomes addressed during this task include:

- PD4-3 Investigates effective strategies to promote inclusivity, equality and respectful relationships.
- PD4-10 Applies and refines interpersonal skills to assist themselves and others to interact respectfully and promote inclusion in a variety of groups or contexts.
- PD4-3 Investigates effective Strategies to promote inclusivity, equality and respectful relationships.

Australian content is the primary focus that is delivered as part of the unit of work. Lesson 2 is a detailed Case Study of the ‘Close the Gap Campaign’ providing an Aboriginal perspective that is also a mandatory requirement of all syllabuses.

This unit was presented to classes in 2021, refined as part of the usual teacher reflection process, and offered again in 2022. There have not been any comments or complaints to the school regarding the content of the unit of work or the assessment task.

The study of controversial issues is acceptable for educational purposes, consistent with the syllabus, and the approach taken by teachers is sensitive, objective and balanced.

The Controversial Issues in School policy, and associated procedures, has recently been reviewed and will be released later in the year.

\* 8479 METROPOLITAN ROADS—SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence—

- (1) Could the Minister please provide a list of schools which currently have school crossing supervisors?
  - (a) Broken down by:
    - (i) School?
    - (ii) Electorate?
    - (iii) Date of commencement for the school crossing supervisor?
- (2) Could the Minister please provide a list of all schools which have submitted applications for school crossing supervisors that are yet to have their application approved?
  - (a) Broken down by:
    - (i) School?
    - (ii) Date of application submission?
    - (iii) The number of crossing guards requested at each school?

Answer—

Please see the answer as an attachment on the [Parliament's website](#).

**17 MARCH 2022**

(Paper No. 703)

\* 8484 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—SCHOOL DRIVE SUBSIDIES—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) What was the total amount of School Drive Subsidies paid to Nords Wharf (post code 2281) parents and guardians to transport their children to school because of the absence of a school bus service in the following years:
  - (a) 2018?
  - (b) 2019?
  - (c) 2020?
  - (d) 2021?
  - (e) 2022?
- (2) What was the total amount of School Drive Subsidies paid to Cams Wharf (post code 2281) parents and guardians to transport their children to school because of the absence of a school bus service in the following years:
  - (a) 2018?
  - (b) 2019?
  - (c) 2020?
  - (d) 2021?
  - (e) 2022?

- (3) What was the total amount of School Drive Subsidies paid to Murrays Beach (post code 2281) parents and guardians to transport their children to school because of the absence of a school bus service in the following years:
- (a) 2018?
  - (b) 2019?
  - (c) 2020?
  - (d) 2021?
  - (e) 2022?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) School Drive Subsidies paid to Nords Wharf (post code 2281) parents and guardians are as follows:
- (a) 2018 - \$0.00
  - (b) 2019- \$556.08
  - (c) 2020 - \$480.93
  - (d) 2021 - \$0.00
  - (e) 2022 - No 2022 payments have been made. First 2022 payments will be made in July 2022.
- (2) School Drive Subsidies paid to Cams Wharf (post code 2281) parents and guardians are as follows:
- (a) 2018 - \$780.46
  - (b) 2019 - \$557.28
  - (c) 2020 - \$638.14
  - (d) 2021 - \$404.58
  - (e) 2022 - No 2022 payments have been made. First 2022 payments will be made in July 2022.
- (3) School Drive Subsidies paid to Murrays Beach (post code 2281) parents and guardians are as follows:
- (a) 2018 -\$14,594.63
  - (b) 2019-\$21,926.37
  - (c) 2020 - \$23,726.53
  - (d) 2021-\$15,178.35
  - (e) 2022 - No 2022 payments have been made. First 2022 payments will be made in July 2022.

**6 APRIL 2022**

(Paper No. 717)

8619 ATTORNEY GENERAL—RESTITUTION IN VICTIMS SERVICES—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence representing the Attorney General—

- (1) What amount was recovered through restitution in the following financial years:
- (a) 2018-19?
  - (b) 2020-21?
  - (c) 1 July 2021 – 15 March 2022?
- (2) How many written objections to a notice of restitution order were made to the Commissioner pursuant to s62 of the Victims Rights and Support Act in the following financial years:

- (a) 2018-19?
  - (b) 2020-21?
  - (c) 1 July 2021 – 15 March 2022?
- (3) In relation to question (2):
- (a) What were the grounds for objection?
  - (b) With a breakdown by number and percentage for each financial year, how many objections were:
    - (i) Allowed in whole?
    - (ii) Allowed in part?
    - (iii) Disallowed?
    - (iv) Confirmed the decision?
    - (v) Confirmed the decision with variation to reduce the payable?
    - (vi) Reversed the decision?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliament