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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 825

MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 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.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 810 (Including Question Nos 9389 to 9394)	12 September 2022
Q & A No. 811 (Including Question Nos 9395 to 9398)	13 September 2022
Q & A No. 812 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 813 (Including Question Nos 9399 to 9399)	15 September 2022
Q & A No. 814 (Including Question Nos 9400 to 9400)	16 September 2022
Q & A No. 815 (Including Question Nos 9401 to 9403)	19 September 2022
Q & A No. 816 (Including Question Nos 9404 to 9405)	20 September 2022
Q & A No. 817 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 818 (Including Question Nos 9406 to 9413)	22 September 2022
Q & A No. 819 (Including Question Nos 9414 to 9508)	23 September 2022
Q & A No. 820 (Including Question Nos 9509 to 9511)	26 September 2022
Q & A No. 821 (Including Question Nos 9512 to 9514)	27 September 2022
Q & A No. 822 (Including Question Nos 9515 to 9520)	28 September 2022
Q & A No. 824 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 825 (Questions—Nil)	-

22 AUGUST 2022

(Paper No. 810)

* 9389 TREASURER—FOREIGN WORKERS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) On 22 August 2022, the Treasurer is quoted on news.com.au as calling on the Prime Minister to “start stamping passports today” in relation to bringing in tens of thousands of foreign workers into the country:
- (a) Given there is a housing crisis in New South Wales, especially in regional areas, where does the Treasurer intend for these people to live when they arrive?

Answer—

- (1) While the Commonwealth government controls the population growth levers affecting housing demand, State and local governments hold the supply levers.

The Government continues to plan for housing in a way that can respond to changes in demand, whether due to policy or preference. The population projections underlying the State’s planning allow for migration, and the Government has not stopped planning for growth, even during the extended border closures. The Government also recognises the need to be adaptive, considering:

- For some regional communities in particular, housing demand is much stronger than expected before the pandemic.
- Rental markets are tight, with vacancy rates at historically low levels across the state and strong rental price inflation.

The 2022-23 Budget Housing Package set aside \$702.3 million to support the delivery of new housing, including through cutting planning assessment timeframes, co-funding critical enabling infrastructure and building housing for police officers and teachers.

A substantial portion of the \$702.3 million has been reserved exclusively for regional areas, including:

- \$120 million for Accelerated Infrastructure Fund grants to co-fund critical enabling infrastructure.
- \$33.8 million for the Regional Housing Development Program, which will overcome planning and coordination barriers to establish a pipeline of supply in regional New South Wales.

The Government has recently released its response to the Regional Housing Taskforce recommendations, which includes the above measures.

The Greater Cities Commission is tasked with promoting the supply of housing for the Six Cities region and will release a new strategic plan in 2023.

* 9390 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—CASTLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL OVERSEAS STUDENTS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) For each of the past ten years, can the Minister please advise how many fee-paying overseas students attended Castle Hill High School?
- (2) For each of the past ten years, could the Minister please advise how much revenue the school earned from these fee-paying overseas students?
- (a) What did the school do with this revenue?

Answer—

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

* 9391 HOMES—VACANT PUBLIC HOUSING ACCOMODATION—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes—

- (1) How many public housing properties were sold or removed from the New South Wales stock in:
- (a) 2017?
 - (b) 2018?
 - (c) 2019?
 - (d) 2020?
 - (e) 2021?

Answer—

- (1)
- (a) 2016-17: 348 dwellings.
 - (b) 2017-18: 946 dwellings.
 - (c) 2018-19: 658 dwellings.
 - (d) 2019-20: 700 dwellings.
 - (e) 2020-21: 617 dwellings.

* 9392 HOMES—HOTEL WORKERS HELPING FAMILY—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes—

- (1) On Sunday 21 August 2022, the Daily Telegraph reported that a group of motel workers had pooled their \$50 government “stay vouchers” to help the Cessnock family of Charmaine Brooks and her four children to stay in a motel as they struggled to find affordable rentals in the Hunter Region:
- (a) Has the Minister or the Department reached out to Charmaine Brooks in regards to her situation?
 - (i) If so, what has been discussed?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
- (2) How many other residents of New South Wales are in a similar position?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services.

* 9393 HOMES—COMMUNITIES PLUS PROGRAM—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes—

- (1) Under the Communities Plus program, how many of the 2,393 new and replacement social housing dwellings built between July 2016 and December 2021 are replacement dwellings?
- (2) How many of the 101 affordable housing dwellings are new?
- (3) How many new and replacement dwellings are projected to be built in New South Wales between January 2022 and December 2026?
- (a) How many of these will be replacements for existing dwellings?
- (4) How many new affordable housing dwellings are projected to be built in New South Wales between January 2022 and December 2026?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 400 replacement dwellings.
- (2) All 101 affordable housing dwellings are new.
- (3) 4,827 new and replacement dwellings are projected to be completed by NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) between January 2022 and June 2026.
 - (a) 1,131 of these will be replacements for existing dwellings.
- (4) 273 new affordable housing dwellings are projected to be built in New South Wales between January 2022 and June 2026.

* 9394 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—ONLINE LEARNING—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Can the Minister provide data on how many primary and secondary public school students have their education presently delivered:
 - (a) Entirely via online technologies?
 - (b) Partly via online technologies (i.e., at least one subject being taught online or at least one teacher providing instruction via a streaming service)?
- (2) In reference to the “School Infrastructure NSW/Online Learning Platform Content” tender (Ref:DoE03018/22) which was published on the Government’s E-Tendering website on 4 July 2022:
 - (a) Does the Government foresee an increase in the number of primary and secondary public school students learning from home?
 - (i) If so, how many students are expected to have their education delivered entirely online, in the reasonably foreseeable future?
 - (ii) How many students are expected to have at least one subject delivered via some form of internet technology, in the reasonably foreseeable future?
 - (b) Is the Government planning to encourage or promote the teaching of school students at home?
 - (c) Does the Department of Education have confidence in the teaching abilities of their teachers?
 - (i) If not, why not?
 - (ii) If not, what is being done to address this?
 - (d) Why is the Government tendering for online learning content for schools in New South Wales?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of current teachers feeling undervalued?
 - (a) What message does the tender referred to in (2) send to those teachers?
 - (b) How does the tendering of this material fit with the current efforts to retain and recruit teachers into the public school system?
- (4) Can the Minister provide any information or data which answers parental concerns that the use of online teaching materials:
 - (a) Is inferior to face-to-face teaching with respect to students’ rate of skills and knowledge acquisition, and the retention of those skills and knowledge?
 - (b) Fail to take into account personalised teaching requirements for students in need?
 - (c) Fail to foster a student-teacher rapport due to the temporary, distant and often anonymous nature of the relationship between the student and teacher?

- (d) Create a teaching environment where students are routinely distracted and unsettled as a result of having to switch between online and real-time teaching?
- (5) Can the Minister advise how much the tender referred to in (2) will cost the taxpayer?

Answer—

(1)

- (a) 403 students have their education delivered online by one Distance Education School.
- (b) 4,791 students have their education delivered partially through a range of programs including:
- Aurora College (590 students).
 - Rural Learning Exchange (280 year students).
 - Access Program (235 students).
 - Stage 5 and Stage 6 Languages program (3,096 students).

(2-3)

The Online Learning Platform will make available high-quality, centralised, universal learning materials that teachers can draw on to assist in programming and lesson planning. The use of these materials will be voluntary.

The initiative responds to feedback from more than 4,000 submissions to a review of teacher workload identifying the need for universal curriculum resources. These findings are also supported by a recent national study by the Grattan Institute, which found that centralised resources will help teachers save up to three hours per week.

There is no policy that encourages or promotes learning from home.

- (4) Individual school communities work with parents to address any individual concerns in relation to student learning progress, student-teacher relationships, personalised learning and classroom engagement.
- (5) Once finalised, contract information can be viewed on the Government tendering website.

12 SEPTEMBER 2022

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Nil Questions submitted.

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament