



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 101

WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

(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. 85 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 86 (Including Question Nos 1187 to 1190)	27 September 2023
Q & A No. 87 (Including Question Nos 1191 to 1191)	28 September 2023
Q & A No. 88 (Including Question Nos 1192 to 1192)	29 September 2023
Q & A No. 89 (Including Question Nos 1193 to 1197)	3 October 2023
Q & A No. 90 (Including Question Nos 1198 to 1200)	4 October 2023
Q & A No. 91 (Including Question Nos 1201 to 1205)	5 October 2023
Q & A No. 92 (Including Question Nos 1206 to 1214)	6 October 2023
Q & A No. 93 (Including Question Nos 1215 to 1215)	9 October 2023
Q & A No. 94 (Including Question Nos 1216 to 1224)	10 October 2023
Q & A No. 95 (Including Question Nos 1225 to 1247)	11 October 2023
Q & A No. 96 (Including Question Nos 1248 to 1250)	12 October 2023
Q & A No. 97 (Including Question Nos 1251 to 1252)	13 October 2023
Q & A No. 98 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 99 (Including Question Nos 1253 to 1258)	17 October 2023
Q & A No. 100 (Including Question Nos 1259 to 1271)	18 October 2023
Q & A No. 101 (Including Question Nos 1272 to 1276)	19 October 2023

6 SEPTEMBER 2023

(Paper No. 86)

* 1187 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES—FAMILY IS CULTURE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, which individuals were commissioned to prepare the report, "Family Is Culture, Independent Review of Aboriginal Children and Young people in OOHC (out-of-home care) in NSW"?
 - (a) Which consultants were commissioned?
 - (i) How much were they paid?
 - (b) Which companies were commissioned?
 - (i) How much were they paid?
- (2) Why did the report, commissioned in 2016 and delivered in 2019, take so long to complete?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2016, the Hon Brad Hazzard, then Minister for Family and Community Services appointed Megan Davis, University of New South Wales Law Professor, to oversee the review and chair a reference group. The reference group included child protection experts and community members.

The Independent Chairperson was remunerated at \$77,000 per annum. Additional University of New South Wales (UNSW) research staff were commissioned to support the review. Approximately \$130,000 was paid to UNSW staff.

Professor Megan Davis and the review team conducted individual case reviews of the 1,144 Aboriginal children and young people who entered out-of-home care in 2015/16 and examined the Department of Communities and Justice policies, practices and systems.

The review was commissioned in 2016 but work began in April 2017. The review required extensive consultation with families, community, organisations and peak bodies. It involved analysis of thousands of records and extensive data sets. The review team requested an extension on the delivery of the report which was granted by the former government.

On 7 November 2019, the Family is Culture: Independent Review of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care (Review Report) was publicly released. The Review Report made 126 recommendations to the way the NSW Government delivers services and 3,026 recommendations relating to specific children and young people.

DCJ continues to implement legislative, policy and practice changes as a result of the review.

* 1188 CORRECTIONS—JAILING RATES FOR CANNABIS RELATED OFFENCES—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections—

- (1) Can the Minister please advise, how many people are currently in prison for the single offence of cannabis possession?
 - (a) At which prisons are they held?
 - (b) How many of the prisoners are Aboriginal?
 - (c) What is the longest sentence being served?
 - (i) For what quantity of cannabis?
- (2) How many people are currently in prison for the single offence of cannabis dealing?

- (a) At which prisons are they held?
- (b) How many of the prisoners are Aboriginal?
- (c) What is the longest sentence being served?
 - (i) For what quantity of cannabis?
- (3) How many people are currently in prison for multiple offences including cannabis possession?
 - (a) At which prisons are they held?
 - (b) How many of the prisoners are Aboriginal?
 - (c) What is the longest sentence being served?
 - (i) For what offences were they convicted?

Answer—

I am advised by the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building and Minister for Corrections that:

Records provided by the courts to Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) do not always specify the drug for which an offender is convicted.

For this reason, it is not possible for CSNSW to provide accurate statistics on the number of offenders in custody convicted for offences relating only to cannabis or any other specific drug.

Questions regarding court outcomes should be directed to the Attorney General.

- * 1189 WATER—WATER AND SEWERAGE PLANT ON THE CELESTINO SYDNEY SCIENCE PARK SITE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) Can the Minister advise the reason behind Sydney Water's decision to build a \$200 million water and sewerage plant on the Celestino Sydney Science Park site at Luddenham even though there is no take up of residential, industrial, or commercial investment at the Science Park that is, a water plant has been built for no people and no use on a site occupied by grazing cows and horses, rather than the Celestino promise of widespread development, people and jobs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The wastewater recycling plant being built at the Sydney Science Park is not valued at \$200 million. It is being built under a commercial arrangement between Sydney Water and Celestino. The plant will be built to provide recycled water to future residents and businesses in the Sydney Science Park district.

I am advised that details of this commercial arrangement were provided to you in 2021 under Standing Order 52.

- * 1190 TRANSPORT—METRO STATION ON THE CELESTINO SYDNEY SCIENCE PARK SITE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Can the Minister advise why the Government has agreed to the construction of a Metro Station on the Celestino Sydney Science Park site at Luddenham, even though the Sydney Science Park has not fulfilled its promise of new development and jobs and is now occupied exclusively by grazing cows and horses?
- (2) How much will the Metro Station cost?
- (3) How many commuters are expected to use the Science Park Metro Station?
- (4) How recently has the Government revised the projected commuter numbers with reference to (3), in light of the lack of take up of commercial, industrial and residential development at the Science Park site?

- (a) What does the revision show?

Answer—

I am advised

The new metro station is planned in accordance with the objectives of the Northern Gateway Precinct, which is publicly available.

The cost of individual stations is commercial-in-confidence.

The projected patronage information about the Western Sydney Airport Metro is publicly available.

27 SEPTEMBER 2023

(Paper No. 101)

1272 YOUTH JUSTICE—YOUTH JUSTICE – 2023-24 BUDGET—The Hon. Aileen MacDonald to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

- (1) Page 2-4 of the Budget Paper No.03 – Infrastructure Statement, states that \$72.5 million over four years to 2026-27 for the Sustaining Capital Infrastructure Program Phase 2 will support critical infrastructure upgrades across the Department of Communities and Justice, providing investment in Audio Visual Link facilities and enhancements of courthouses, correctional facilities and youth justice facilities:
- (a) Can the Minister please advise how much is funding is allocated year by year for each youth justice facility which will receive critical infrastructure upgrades?
- (i) For each facility, what specifically will be upgraded?
- (2) Please advise if, apart from funding for the Sustaining Capital Infrastructure Program Phase 2, is there any other funding for maintaining and enhancing youth justice facilities?
- (a) If so, how much funding is allocated for each facility, for each year?
- (i) What is the specific nature of the maintenance or enhancement?
- (3) Please advise if there are any changes to funding for youth justice programs in the 2023-24 Budget?
- (a) If so, please provide a breakdown by program by year?
- (i) What are the specific increases or decreases in funding each year?

1273 GAMING AND RACING—\$100M GAMBLING SPEND IN 2023-24 BUDGET—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) In the 2023-24 NSW Budget, the Government has made a commitment to gambling reform with \$100 million to support an expanded cashless gaming trial, the delivery of harm-minimisation programs, and gaming reform, can the Minister advise is this the \$100 million paid by Star Casino as a result of the Bell Review into Star Entertainment?
- (a) What is the breakdown of how the \$100 million is being spent year on year, including how much is being spent on the cashless gaming trial?
- (2) In reference to the \$100 million in (1), can the Minister confirm if this is being used to cover the costs and expenses of the Independent Panel on Gaming Reform and its work?
- (a) Please provide a detailed breakdown of all expenses?
- (3) What harm minimisation programs and services and other work is being paid for by the \$100 million?

- (a) Please provide a detailed breakdown for each program, service and other work?
- (4) What programs and services and other works in the area of ‘gaming reform’ are being paid for out of the \$100 million in reference to (1)?
- (a) What is the detailed breakdown of the specific programs and services being funded, year by year?
- 1274 TREASURER—TREASURER – 2023-24 BUDGET—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Noting that the 2023-24 Budget projections for surpluses in 2025-26 and 2026-27 are premised on contributions to the NSW Generations Fund (NGF) resuming in 2024-25, can the Minister advise:
- (a) What are the estimated contributions to the NGF for each financial year from 2024-25 to 2026-27?
- (i) Please breakdown by source, including royalties, dividends and windfall taxes?
- (b) What does Treasury estimate the budget outcome for financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27 to be if contributions to the NSW Generations Fund do not resume at all during the forward years?
- (2) Noting that the 2023-24 Budget states that “TAHE [the Transport Asset Holding Entity] will transition from its current operating model as a statutory State-Owned Corporation to operating as a non-commercial public non-financial corporation” and that this is claimed to result in lowering “net debt by \$4.3 billion in 2026-27”:
- (a) Please provide the calculations resulting in the conclusion that transitioning TAHE to the new model will lower net debt by \$4.3 billion in 2026-27?
- (b) What is the most recent valuation of TAHE’s assets measured using an income approach in accordance with TPP21-09 Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value and AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement?
- (i) What is the allowance for depreciation for 2023-24 based on that valuation?
- (c) What is the estimated valuation of TAHE’s assets measured using current replacement cost?
- (d) What would be the allowance for depreciation based on a valuation of TAHE’s assets using current replacement cost?
- (3) The 2023-24 Budget includes provision of \$572.3 million for “converting 1,112 full-time equivalent nurses and midwives, positions which were funded temporarily to June 2024, to permanent” positions, can the Minister advise:
- (a) What is the estimated average annual salary for these 1,112 full time equivalent positions?
- (b) What are the additional employee related costs per full time equivalent position?
- (c) How many years does the \$572.3 million cover the employment of these 1,112 full time equivalent positions?
- (d) What other costs, if any, are covered by the \$572.3 million?
- 1275 FINANCE—STATE INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- (1) According to Budget Paper No.2, revenue for the State Insurance Regulatory Authority from “Retained taxes, fees and fines” is estimated to increase in the financial year 2023-24 to \$627,213,000 from an actual of \$450,901,000 in the financial year 2022-23, can the Minister please provide for each of these two years a breakdown of retained taxes, fees and fines by category?
- (a) What changes in policy, practice or other parameters account for this 39.1% increase in revenue from this source?
- (2) Noting that according to Budget Paper No.2, revenue for the State Insurance Regulatory Authority from “Other revenue” is estimated to decline for the financial year 2023-24 to \$291,000 from an actual of \$177,812,000 in the financial year 2022-23, can the Minister please provide a breakdown of other revenue by category for:

- (a) Financial year 2023-24?
- (b) Financial year 2022-23?
- (3) In regard to (2), what changes in policy, practice or other parameters account for this 99.84% decrease in revenue from this source?

1276 ENERGY—GAS SUBSTITUTION ROADMAP—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, did the Government make an election commitment to deliver a Gas Roadmap?
 - (a) If yes, what did that commitment include?
- (2) Is the Government planning to deliver “a Gas Roadmap that gives clarity to industry and households on gas decarbonisation”?
 - (a) If yes, will the Government release a draft for public consultation?
 - (i) If yes, when?
 - (b) When will the Gas Roadmap take effect?
 - (c) Will the Gas Roadmap contain targets to reduce the use of gas in New South Wales?
- (3) Will the former government's "Future of Gas Statement" be redundant once the Gas Roadmap is delivered?

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments