



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**

No. 102

THURSDAY 28 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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
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
Q & A No. 102 (Including Question Nos 1277 to 1283)	20 October 2023

**7 SEPTEMBER 2023**

(Paper No. 87)

- \* 1191 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—TEACHER ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education—
- (1) Following the Minister's recent policy change can the Minister advise, what teacher accreditation requirements now apply in New South Wales?
  - (2) How will the policy change impact on requirements for classroom practice observation?
    - (a) How will the policy change impact on requirements for classroom practice feedback?
  - (3) What teacher classroom practice observation requirements now apply in New South Wales?
    - (a) What teacher classroom practice feedback requirements now apply in New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney that:

Under the revised teacher accreditation requirements, teachers maintaining Proficient Teacher accreditation will continue to be required to complete 100 hours of professional development (PD) within each maintenance period.

Teachers no longer need a principal to attest that their practice continues to meet the Proficient Teacher Standards within each maintenance period, which was an administrative burden placed on teachers who have been fully accredited at the Proficient Teacher level.

No changes have been made to the Performance and Development Framework. In line with the current Framework, department teachers have their practice observed at a minimum twice a year and feedback is provided through the performance and development process.

Observation of classroom practice is a key feature of gaining and maintaining accreditation against the teaching standards.

The accreditation requirements to meet proficient standards require teachers to provide evidence of practice against the 7 standards and an observation of practice is completed by their supervisor. Once teachers meet the standards, they need to be maintained and they are observed at least two times a year as part of the annual performance and development cycle.

**28 SEPTEMBER 2023**

(Paper No. 102)

- 1277 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS—Dr Amanda Cohn to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Local Government—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many Code of Conduct complaints has the Office of Local Government received since 2018?
    - (a) How many of these complaints were regarding the conduct of a Councillor?
    - (b) How many of these allege misconduct in planning matters?
    - (c) How many complaints were dismissed?
    - (d) How many complaints resulted in a finding of misconduct?
      - (i) Of these, how many recommended action be taken?
      - (ii) How many recommended action not be taken?

- (e) How many complaints were referred to the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)?
- (2) How much money have New South Wales Councils spent on Code of Conduct complaints since 2018?
- (3) The ICAC report “Investigation into the conduct of three former councillors of former Hurstville City Council, now part of Georges River Council, and others (Operation Galley)” makes 11 recommendations, including changes to the Model Code of Meeting Practice, guidelines, audits, and changes to both the *Local Government Act* and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, can the Minister advise, what work has the Government undertaken or will the Government undertake to implement these recommendations?
- 1278 HEALTH—CESSNOCK HOSPITAL—Dr Amanda Cohn to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what are the number of presentations to Cessnock Hospital Emergency Department per week, for each triage category, for the period from Jan 1 Jan 2023 to 30 June 2023?
- (2) In the period referenced in (1), how many patients who reside in the catchment area for Cessnock Hospital were taken directly to Maitland Hospital by NSW Ambulance?
- 1279 TREASURER—MENOPAUSE—Dr Amanda Cohn to ask the Treasurer—
- (1) In the 2022-23 budget, the Government allocated \$40 million to menopause services including \$300,000 for a state-wide education and awareness campaign on perimenopause and menopause symptoms, education for GPs and employers, can the Minister please detail how the \$300,000 was spent?
- 1280 ATTORNEY GENERAL—MEDICINAL CANNABIS COMPASSIONATE USE SCHEME—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Treasurer representing the Attorney General—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, in relation to the Medicinal Cannabis Compassionate Use Scheme:
- (a) As of 1 October 2023, how many terminally ill people are registered with this scheme?
- (b) As of 1 October 2023, how many carers are registered with this scheme?
- 1281 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—MEDICINAL CANNABIS COMPASSIONATE USE SCHEME—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—
- (1) Can the Minister please advise, in relation to the Medicinal Cannabis Compassionate Use Scheme:
- (a) As of 1 October 2023, how many times have police exercised their discretion under this scheme?
- (b) In the 2022-2023 financial year how many times did police exercise their discretion under this scheme?
- (c) In the 2021-2022 financial year how many times did police exercise their discretion under this scheme?
- (d) In the 2020-2021 financial year how many times did police exercise their discretion under this scheme?
- 1282 AGRICULTURE—NSW FOREST INDUSTRIES INNOVATION FUND—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) I refer to the announcement of \$3 million under the NSW Forest Industries Innovation Fund in December 2019 to Pentarch Logistics Pty Ltd for the design, installation and commissioning of a briquette plant at the Eden woodchip mill, can the Minister advise with as much detail as possible, was this funding provided and used as intended?

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- (a) With as much detail as possible was it repaid or used for another purpose?
    - (i) If used as intended, when was the briquette plant completed?
    - (ii) If not used as intended, has the funding been repaid; if so when?
    - (iii) If not used as intended, what was the funding used for?
  - (2) What quantity of construction grade native hardwood timber has been produced in each year from 2018 to 2023, in the following regions:
    - (a) Southern Region Forest Agreement?
      - (i) Please provide a breakdown for each year?
    - (b) Eden Region Forest Agreement?
      - (i) Please provide a breakdown for each year?
  - (3) What proportion of the total yield was construction grade native hardwood timber from the years 2018 to 2023 in the following regions:
    - (a) Southern Region Forest Agreement?
    - (b) Eden Region Forest Agreement?
  - (4) What proportion of the yield has been exported in each year from 2018 to 2023 in the following regions:
    - (a) Southern Region Forest Agreement?
      - (i) Please provide a breakdown by year?
    - (b) Eden Region Forest Agreement?
      - (i) Please provide a breakdown by year?
  - (5) What quantity, and what proportion of the yield has been for woodchips for the following regions:
    - (a) Southern Region Forest Agreement?
    - (b) Eden Region Forest Agreement?

1283 HEALTH—VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING AND PALLIATIVE CARE—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Can the Minister please advise, what are the details of the proposed capital expenditure on Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) for each financial year from 2023-24 and 2026-27 inclusive, totalling of \$2.789 million, including \$2.619 million as set out in Budget Paper No.3.
- (2) Please advise details of expenditure on VAD in financial year 2022-23?
- (3) Please provide details of proposed expenditure on VAD, by year for the financial years from 2023-24 to 2026-27?
  - (a) Please include:
    - (i) VAD Pharmacy Service?
    - (ii) VAD Care Navigators?
    - (iii) VAD Review Board?
    - (iv) VAD Training?
    - (v) Provision of VAD in public hospitals?
    - (vi) Any other VAD matters?
- (4) Can the Minister advise, when it is anticipated that the members of the VAD Review Board will be appointed?

- (a) When will they commence work?
- (5) Noting that in Budget Paper No. 2 for the 2022-23 Budget, the following provision for end of life and palliative care was made:
- "\$30.7 million recurrent expenses and \$2.0 million capital expenditure (\$650.4 million recurrent and \$93.0 million capital over five years) to enhance end of life and palliative care services for people across New South Wales through: – enhancing pain and other symptom management options – increasing capacity and ensuring equitable access to supportive and palliative care in NSW hospitals – enhancing outpatient and community health services providing end of life and palliative care – supporting consumer choice and excellence in end of life and palliative care, including an increase in First Nations palliative care staff, and the provision of education and training through scholarships and clinical placements"*
- (a) Can the Minister advise:
- (i) How much was expended on enhancing end of life and palliative care services in 2022-23?
- (ii) Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure by project?
- (b) Does the 2023-24 Budget include any provision for whatever remains to be spent of the \$650.4 million recurrent and the \$93.0 million capital committed in the 2022-23 Budget on enhancing end of life and palliative care services?
- (i) If so, please provide details?
- (ii) If not, where have these funds been reallocated?
- (6) Have or will any of these funds been expended on planning for or providing Voluntary Assisted Dying services?

David Blunt AM  
Clerk of the Parliaments