



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023-24

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 292

THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024

(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. 277 (Including Question Nos 2476 to 2479)	11 July 2024
Q & A No. 278 (Including Question Nos 2480 to 2484)	12 July 2024
Q & A No. 279 (Including Question Nos 2485 to 2491)	15 July 2024
Q & A No. 280 (Including Question Nos 2492 to 2495)	16 July 2024
Q & A No. 281 (Including Question Nos 2496 to 2503)	17 July 2024
Q & A No. 282 (Including Question Nos 2504 to 2514)	18 July 2024
Q & A No. 283 (Including Question Nos 2515 to 2520)	19 July 2024
Q & A No. 284 (Including Question Nos 2521 to 2525)	22 July 2024
Q & A No. 285 (Including Question Nos 2526 to 2526)	23 July 2024
Q & A No. 286 (Including Question Nos 2527 to 2534)	24 July 2024
Q & A No. 287 (Including Question Nos 2535 to 2542)	25 July 2024
Q & A No. 288 (Including Question Nos 2543 to 2553)	26 July 2024
Q & A No. 289 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 290 (Including Question Nos 2554 to 2557)	30 July 2024
Q & A No. 291 (Including Question Nos 2558 to 2563)	31 July 2024
Q & A No. 292 (Including Question Nos 2564 to 2566)	1 August 2024

20 JUNE 2024

(Paper No. 277)

- * 2476 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES—LEAVING CARE PLANS—The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones 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) How many children that are required to have a leaving care plan have a leaving care plan for the period of January to March 2024?
 - (a) What is the number as a percentage?
 - (b) How many are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - (2) How many children that are required to have a leaving care plan have a leaving care plan for the period of April to June 2024?
 - (a) What is the number as a percentage?
 - (b) How many are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Answer—

I am advised:

Leaving care plan data is published online, and can be found here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/dcj.statistics/viz/Aboriginal-ledDataSharingChildProtectionandOut-of-homeCareStatistics/Participation>

- * 2478 HOUSING—RENT CHOICE YOUTH—The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones 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) How many young people were supported through Rent Choice Youth for the following periods:
 - (a) April 2023 to June 2023?
 - (i) How many were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - (ii) How many were non-Aboriginal?
 - (iii) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
 - (iv) What is the breakdown by district?
 - (b) July 2023 to September 2023?
 - (i) How many were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - (ii) How many were non-Aboriginal?
 - (iii) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
 - (iv) What is the breakdown by district?
 - (c) October 2023 to December 2023?
 - (i) How many were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - (ii) How many were non-Aboriginal?
 - (iii) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
 - (iv) What is the breakdown by district?
 - (d) January 2024 to March 2024?
 - (i) How many were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - (ii) How many were non-Aboriginal?

- (iii) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
- (iv) What is the breakdown by district?
- (e) April 2024 to June 2024?
 - (i) How many were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - (ii) How many were non-Aboriginal?
 - (iii) What is the breakdown by age and gender?
 - (iv) What is the breakdown by district?
- (2) What is the average approval time once applications are received for the following periods:
 - (a) April 2023 to June 2023?
 - (b) July 2023 to September 2023?
 - (c) October 2023 to December 2023?
 - (d) January 2024 to March 2024?
 - (e) April 2024 to June 2024?

Answer—

I am advised that details regarding housing rent and sales are available at:

[Families and communities statistics | Communities and Justice \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/families-and-communities-statistics).

* 2479 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES—YOUR CHOICE, YOUR FUTURE—The Hon. Natasha Maclare-Jones 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) How many young people leaving care have accessed the Independent Living Allowance and Staying On Allowance through Your Choice Your Future for the period of January 2024 to March 2024?
 - (a) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district?
- (2) How many young people leaving care have accessed the Independent Living Allowance and Staying On Allowance through Your Choice Your Future for the period of April 2024 to June 2024?
 - (a) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district?
- (3) How many young people have accessed the Aftercare Allowance for the period of January 2024 to March 2024?
 - (a) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district?
- (4) How many young people have accessed the Aftercare Allowance for the period of April 2024 to June 2024?
 - (a) What is the breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 1,696 young people accessed the Independent Living Allowance and Staying On Allowance for the period January 2024 to March 2024.
 - (a) Breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district.

Category	Reporting District	January 2024- March 2024		
		Ind. Living Allowance	Staying On Allowance	Total

District	Central Coast District	79	41	120
	Far West District	10	7	17
	Hunter District	189	58	247
	Illawarra Shoalhaven District	67	41	108
	Mid North Coast District	76	29	105
	Murrumbidgee District	84	38	122
	Nepean Blue Mountains District	127	74	201
	New England District	71	32	103
	Northern NSW District	70	35	105
	Northern Sydney District	7	7	14
	South Eastern Sydney District	46	40	86
	South Western Sydney District	81	94	175
	Southern NSW District	22	16	38
	Statewide Services District	24	1	25
	Sydney District	23	10	33
	Western NSW District	78	41	119
	Western Sydney District	48	30	78
	Grand Total	1102	594	1696
	Gender	Female	615	263
Male		469	329	798
Other		18	2	20
Grand Total		1102	594	1696
Age	18	238	295	533
	19	379	191	570
	20	404	98	502
	21	81	10	91
	22			0
	23			0
	24			0
	25			0
	Grand Total	1102	594	1696
Aboriginality	Aboriginal	499	219	718
	Non-Aboriginal	603	375	978
	Grand Total	1102	594	1696

(2) 1,763 young people accessed the Independent Living Allowance and Staying On Allowance for the period of April 2024 to June 2024.

(a) Breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district.

Category	Reporting District	April 2024-June 2024		
		Ind. Living Allowance	Staying On Allowance	Total
District	Central Coast District	77	43	120
	Far West District	11	6	17
	Hunter District	194	61	255
	Illawarra Shoalhaven District	76	40	116
	Mid North Coast District	81	27	108
	Murrumbidgee District	80	36	116

	Nepean Blue Mountains District	141	77	218
	New England District	74	32	106
	Northern NSW District	74	34	108
	Northern Sydney District	6	6	12
	South Eastern Sydney District	49	43	92
	South Western Sydney District	98	95	193
	Southern NSW District	25	17	42
	Statewide Services District	25	1	26
	Sydney District	22	12	34
	Western NSW District	80	42	122
	Western Sydney District	47	31	78
	Grand Total	1160	603	1763
Gender	Female	635	266	901
	Male	507	335	842
	Other	18	2	20
	Grand Total	1160	603	1763
Age	18	243	261	504
	19	406	229	635
	20	434	100	534
	21	77	13	90
	22			0
	23			0
	24			0
	25			0
	Grand Total	1160	603	1763
Aboriginality	Aboriginal	530	224	754
	Non-Aboriginal	630	379	1009
	Grand Total	1160	603	1763

(3) 53 young people accessed the Aftercare Allowance for the period of January 2024 to March 2024.

(a) Breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district.

Category	Reporting District	January 2024 – March 2024
		Aftercare Allowance
District	Central Coast District	1
	Far West District	
	Hunter District	4
	Illawarra Shoalhaven District	1
	Mid North Coast District	14
	Murrumbidgee District	2
	Nepean Blue Mountains District	6
	New England District	1
	Northern NSW District	5
	Northern Sydney District	
	South Eastern Sydney District	1

	South Western Sydney District	2
	Southern NSW District	2
	Statewide Services District	
	Sydney District	2
	Western NSW District	5
	Western Sydney District	7
	Grand Total	53
Gender	Female	34
	Male	19
	Grand Total	53
Age	18	3
	19	3
	20	
	21	24
	22	9
	23	8
	24	5
	25	1
	Grand Total	53
Aboriginality	Aboriginal	25
	Non-Aboriginal	28
	Grand Total	53

(4) 56 young people accessed the Aftercare Allowance for the period of April 2024 to June 2024.

(a) Breakdown by age, gender, Aboriginality and district.

Category	Reporting District	April 2024 – June 2024
		Aftercare Allowance
District	Central Coast District	2
	Far West District	
	Hunter District	5
	Illawarra Shoalhaven District	
	Mid North Coast District	20
	Murrumbidgee District	2
	Nepean Blue Mountains District	7
	New England District	
	Northern NSW District	5
	Northern Sydney District	
	South Eastern Sydney District	2
	South Western Sydney District	2
	Southern NSW District	1
	Statewide Services District	
	Sydney District	2
	Western NSW District	3
	Western Sydney District	5
	Grand Total	56

Gender	Female	34
	Male	22
	Grand Total	56
Age	18	2
	19	3
	20	1
	21	20
	22	14
	23	12
	24	3
	25	1
	Grand Total	56
Aboriginality	Aboriginal	21
	Non-Aboriginal	35
	Grand Total	56

11 JULY 2024

(Paper No. 292)

2564 EMERGENCY SERVICES—FIRE AND RESCUE STAFF STOOD DOWN DURING COVID—The Hon. John Ruddick 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) During the COVID-19 pandemic when frontline firefighting staff were desperately needed to fill an already short-staffed workforce, Fire and Rescue NSW took the dramatic step to stand down any employee who sensibly and courageously refused to undergo mandatory vaccination with experimental COVID-19 vaccines that have since been withdrawn due to dangerous side effects. What portion of Fire and Rescue NSW's over \$90 million dollar budget blowout, born by New South Wales taxpayers during the 2021-2022 Financial Year, was a direct result of standing down these staff?
 - (a) Will these staff received an apology by way of letter or backpay for the 22 months they were suspended?

2565 ENVIRONMENT—MALONEY'S BEACH—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) What appropriation was used by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in closing off the existing track located south of the carpark on council land as part of the Murramarang South Coast Walk project at Maloney's Beach?
- (2) Noting the cost of additional works in closing the track was "covered" by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, is it normal practice for the National Parks and Wildlife Service or its contractors to undertake 'in-kind' works on land owned by other entities, such as Council, without the need for remuneration?
 - (a) When works of this nature are proposed, what consultation is undertaken, with the public or otherwise?
 - (i) Who is responsible for this consultation?
- (3) What due diligence is undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure all reasonable public planning considerations are discharged by the entity requesting the subject works, before commencement?

- (4) The now removed vehicle access was an essential emergency escape route in the event of a catastrophic fire, as was utilised for this purpose during the 2019 fire event. Did the National Parks and Wildlife Service formulate any feasibility studies, risk assessments or other viability reports before having their contractors restrict vehicle access?

2566 WATER—MALPAS DAM—The Hon. Aileen MacDonald 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) Are you aware of the Malpas Dam to the southeast of Guyra and to the north of Armidale in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales?
- (2) Are you aware that one of the worst droughts on record threatened water supplies in the region and Guyra Dam was on track to run out of water in mid-2019?
- (3) Have you given any consideration to raising the walls of the Malpas Dams to help prevent water shortages in the future?
- (4) Given there was no allocation of money in the recent State Budget for such a project, would you consider allocating funds to raise the dam to prevent potentially catastrophic shortages in the future?
- (5) Would it assist you to know the previous Coalition Government considered the raising of the dam such a vital priority that it pledged \$27 million in the 2022-2023 Budget to withstand future droughts?
- (6) Do you have any intention to deliver long-term water security to the region?

Steven Reynolds
Deputy Clerk