



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 27

WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST 2011

The Questions and Answers Paper is published at the end of each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on that sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered. During any adjournment of two weeks or more a Questions and Answers Paper will be published from time to time containing answers received.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 3 August 2011

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 26 (Including Question Nos 0423 to 0473)	06 September 2011
Q & A No. 27 (Including Question Nos 0474 to 0497)	07 September 2011

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 3 August 2011

2 AUGUST 2011

(Paper No. 26)

- 0423 CONVEYANCE OF INMATES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0424 CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER POSITIONS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 0425 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STAFF—Mr Michael Daley to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0426 COMMUNITY-BASED ADDICTION PROGRAMS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0427 BUS SERVICE 235—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0428 FIXED SPEED CAMERA—NEWCASTLE ROAD, JESMOND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0429 HOMELESSNESS IN THE HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0430 ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COMMUNITY SERVICES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0431 CABRAMATTA COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0432 CANLEY VALE COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0433 FAIRFIELD INTERCHANGE—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0434 CLOSE THE GAP STRATEGY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 0435 REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING PLUMBING ISSUES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0436 CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHIEF JUSTICE BATHURST—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0437 EMPLOYEES ON "UNATTACHED LIST"—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0438 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ORDERS AND PERIODIC DETENTION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0439 NSW CRIME COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0440 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0441 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0442 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NSW ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0443 COST CUTTING MEASURES WITHIN TAFE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0444 APPLICATIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0445 CHARGE BARGAINING—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

-
- 0446 WORK PERFORMED BY HUGO HALLIDAY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0447 COTTAGE FAMILY CARE CENTRE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0448 WILLIAM CAREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL—DEDICATED BUS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0449 BRIDGE OVER CAMBRIDGE AVENUE CAUSEWAY—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0450 READING RECOVERY PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0451 FUNDING OF LOCAL SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0452 REDUCTION OF RED TAPE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 0453 CYCLEWAY NETWORK—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0454 REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0455 REDUCTION OF PRISON POPULATION—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0456 REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI FROM PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0457 JOBS CREATION—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer—
- 0458 REGIONAL RELOCATION INITIATIVE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer—
- 0459 MEMORIAL DRIVE (NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR)—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0460 CRIMINAL INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 0461 PRIMARY HEALTH FACILITY—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0462 LEICHHARDT BUS DEPOT—CANCELLATION OF SERVICES—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0463 COST OF DISCONTINUED METRO PROJECT—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0464 COMPENSATION CLAIMS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0465 CARBON TAX—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Treasurer—
- 0466 IMPACT OF DEBT ON BUDGET PREPARATIONS—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Treasurer—
- 0467 HOUSING NSW—PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—Mr Andrew Rohan to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0468 REAL ESTATE AGENTS—COMPLAINTS—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 0469 PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 3 August 2011

- 0470 PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0471 VACANCIES AND TURNAROUND TIME—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0472 OUT OF HOME CARE PROGRAM—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0473 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

3 AUGUST 2011

(Paper No. 27)

- 0474 PUBLIC DENTAL PROGRAM—MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Has the Minister advised the community that the new health agreement with the Federal Government has resulted in a better deal for health funding in New South Wales?
 - (2) If so, will this new arrangement allow the Minister to fund the expansion of the public dental program at the Mount Druitt Hospital?
- 0475 STUDENT VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE LEARNING—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Minister for Education—
- (1) What are the Minister's intentions in relation to Student Volunteering and Service Learning and the NSW Premier's Student Volunteering program?
 - (2) Does the Government intend to retain this vital program in our schools?
 - (3) Further, will the Government consider the expansion of this very successful program to Year 11 and 12?
- 0476 ILLAWARRA ADVANTAGE FUND—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) What are the Minister's intentions in relation to the Illawarra Advantage Fund?
 - (2) Has a decision been made by the Government to withdraw this vital funding to the Illawarra community?
 - (3) If the Government has decided to cease the fund, with what alternative assistance has the Government decided to replace it?
- 0477 AMBULANCE BLOCK—WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) What are the Minister's intentions in relation to the problem of ambulance block at Wollongong Hospital?
 - (2) Why has the Government not fixed this problem as promised in the lead up to the recent State election?
 - (3) What is the Government's response to the Health Services Union's criticism of the Minister's failure to keep this promise?
- 0478 FOOTBALL (SOCCER) PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- (1) How many children, under 18, play football (soccer) in NSW?
 - (2) How many children play football (soccer) in the Hunter?
 - (3) How many children who play football (soccer) in the Hunter are female?
- 0479 FUNDING FOR FOOTBALL (SOCCER) PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- (1) What funding from the State Government is provided to support football (soccer), for children under 18, in NSW?
 - (2) What funding is provided for children playing football (soccer) in the Hunter?
- 0480 NETBALL PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) How many children, under 18, play netball in NSW?
(2) How many children play Netball in the Hunter?
- 0481 FUNDING FOR NETBALL PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- (1) What funding from the State Government is provided to support netball, for children under 18, in NSW?
(2) What funding is provided for children playing netball in the Hunter?
- 0482 COST OF BOTTLED WATER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- Given the Minister's statement that \$1 million per year is spent by NSW hospitals on bottled water:
- (1) What was the actual statewide cost of bottled water for the financial year 2009-10?
(2) How was this figure calculated?
(3) If no actual figure is known, how was this figure calculated?
(4) Which area health service (AHS) had the highest cost?
(5) Which AHS spent the least?
(6) What measures has the Minister taken to reduce this cost?
(7) How effective have these measures been?
- 0483 FIRSTNET COMPUTER SYSTEM—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regard to FirstNet computer system is use in emergency departments and your previous comment "If the system cannot deliver what is required by our hospitals then work would need to begin on looking for an alternative" (press release 7 March 2011):
- (1) Does the minister have any plans to halt the roll-out of the FirstNet system?
(2) Is there any alternative system being considered?
(3) Does the "Emergency wait times" website depend on FirstNet being used?
- 0484 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regard to the \$125 million commitment to commence construction of the Northern Beaches Hospital during the 2011-15 parliamentary term:
- (1) What is the allocation for the year 2011-12?
(2) What facilities will be constructed during the 2011-12 financial year?
(3) How many beds and how many operating theatres will be provided?
(4) What facilities will there be for cancer treatment?
(5) What facilities will there be for cardiac patients, including a catheter laboratory?
(6) What size will the hospital be?
(7) When will the project be completed?
(8) What are the Minister's plans for Manly and Mona Vale hospitals once the Northern Beaches Hospital project is finished?
- 0485 PAYMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regard to the Government's policy to require State Government accounts "to be paid within 30 days and to allow penalty interest to be automatically charged if this deadline is not met":
- (1) Will this policy be introduced for NSW Health as part of the 2011-12 NSW Budget?
(2) If not, when will the Minister introduce this policy for NSW Health?
(3) Has Treasury estimated a possible annual cost to NSW Health if this measure were to be introduced?
- 0486 SURGICAL WAITING LISTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- In regards to hospital surgical waiting lists and your previous statements that "A NSW Liberals and Nationals Government is committed to a health system that is accountable and puts patients first":
- (1) Is the minister prepared to introduce an independent open state-wide inquiry into hospital surgical waiting lists, as she has previously requested?
(2) Where are the actual numbers for patients on surgical waiting lists publicly available?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 3 August 2011

- (3) Will the minister ensure that all hospital surgical waiting list numbers, grouped by individual hospital and classification, as she has previously requested, are released publicly within 30 days of the end of the month?
- (4) When will the figures for April/May/June/July and August 2011 be released?
- 0487 BACKGROUND CHECKS ON DOCTORS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- In regard to background checks on doctors:
- When does the Minister plan to introduce her promised legislation to make it legally mandatory for area health services to conduct background checks on new doctors in public hospitals, meaning that an employer who fails to check a doctor's background will be guilty of a criminal offence, with offenders punished appropriately?
- 0488 HOSPITAL PERFORMANCES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- In regards to your previous commitment to publish "full, honest and regular reports to show how our hospitals are performing" (press release 19 August 2010). This would include publishing "information about health service management including budget allocations, spending, medical errors, infections and other patient outcomes" (press release 15 June 2009) and that "patients have every right to have access to this kind of information so they can make their own informed decisions about where they go for surgery and treatment" (press release 29 June 2008):
- (1) What websites does the minister plan to release these reports on?
 - (2) Will these reports be available in both hard copy and on the Internet?
 - (3) What data are currently being shown?
 - (4) Will the infection rates be published by individual hospital ward level, as previously indicated by the Minister?
 - (5) Apart from the emergency waiting times site, what other "new" data (i.e. introduced by your office for public viewing since the election) is going to be shown?
 - (6) How will this information differ from the data currently being released by the Bureau of Health Information (BOHI)?
 - (7) How soon after the end of each month will these reports be released?
- 0489 ESTABLISHMENT OF TASKFORCE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- Given advice that a taskforce to establish a "consistent definition of 'beds' within the NSW health system and determine the number of beds in the NSW health system" (Question 0117):
- (1) Has a taskforce been appointed?
 - (2) Who is on this taskforce?
 - (3) How often has the taskforce met?
 - (4) When will a report be available?
 - (5) Is the Minister now able to give a reply as to how many beds there were in the NSW health system as of 1 April 2011?
- 0490 WALKOUT RATES FROM EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regard to patients "walking out" of emergency departments (EDs) without being seen:
- (1) What was the statewide walkout rate for the month of July 2011?
 - (2) How many, and what percentage, of total numbers of those presenting to ED, walked out without being seen in:
 - (a) Bankstown;
 - (b) Concord;
 - (c) Gosford;
 - (d) John Hunter;
 - (e) Liverpool;
 - (f) Nepean;
 - (g) Prince of Wales;
 - (h) Royal North Shore;
 - (i) Royal Prince Alfred;

- (j) St George;
- (k) St Vincents;
- (l) Westmead;
- (m) Wollongong;
- (n) The Children's Hospital at Westmead;
- (o) Sydney Children's;
- (p) Blacktown;
- (q) Campbelltown;
- (r) Mount Druitt;
- (s) Sutherland;
- (t) Wyong;
- (u) Maitland;
- (v) Port Macquarie;
- (w) Tamworth;
- (x) Wagga Wagga?

0491 HOSPITAL BEDS OPENED—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) From 27 March 2011 until Monday 1 August 2011, how many hospital beds were opened by the NSW Government (excluding those opened temporarily as part of a winter strategy)?
- (2) In which hospitals were these beds located?
- (3) Were these "new" beds, or relocation of existing beds?
- (4) How were these beds funded (i.e. Federal Government or NSW Government)?

0492 COASTAL WETLAND PROTECTION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

Given most coastal wetlands in NSW have been lost to land clearing and drainage, and coastal wetlands are severely threatened by coastal development:

- (1) What proportion of NSW coastal wetlands have been mapped under the State environmental planning policy (SEPP) 14 - Coastal Wetlands?
- (2) What plans does the Government have to expand the proportion of coastal wetlands mapped under SEPP 14?
- (3) What further coastal mapping will the Government undertake to ensure wetland systems with high conservation value are protected?

0493 GARDENS OF STONE AND MINING OPERATIONS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

With regard to written assurance given by Coalpac Pty Ltd in 2006 in response to submissions that extensions to open-cut mining operations at the Invincible Colliery "would not be visible from the Castlereagh Highway due to the intervening topography and existing vegetation coverage":

- (1) Is the Government aware that steep open-cut highwalls and of the Invincible Colliery in the Ben Bullen State Forest are clearly visible along several sections of the Castlereagh Highway commencing from the top of the Great Dividing Range?
- (2) What steps will the Government take to remedy this prominent visual blight?
- (3) Will the Government prosecute Coalpac for breaking its written undertaking regarding visual blight and the Castlereagh Highway?
- (4) Is the Government aware that the proposed open-cut mining in Ben Bullen State Forest will, if approved, create much more visual blight of steep open-cut highwalls cut into the visually scenic Ben Bullen State Forest, compromising the western tourist gateway to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area?
- (5) How will the Government guarantee protection of the ancient, unique and spectacular geological, biological and cultural heritage of the Ben Bullen State Forest given it continues to consider new open-cut coal mining proposals in this forest?

0494 WALSH BAY BUSES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—

With respect to transport services for Walsh Bay (Question No 11671 54th Parliament):

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of the Hassle Free Nights late night buses in The Rocks area, and what does this show about transport needs?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made of the trial extension of the 443 bus service into Walsh

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 3 August 2011

Bay, and what does this show about the need for bus services:

- (a) during day time when residents and workers arrive and leave this precinct;
 - (b) during night time when visitors and patrons of cultural facilities arrive and leave this precinct?
- (3) Noting the strong community support for bus services to Walsh Bay, what action will the Government take to continue and extend 433 bus services?
- (4) Noting complaints about noise and air pollution impacting some residents, what assessment has the Government made about:
- (a) possible route changes away from quieter residential streets;
 - (b) location of bus layover to prevent noise and air pollution impacts from idling buses?
- (5) What action has been taken on the promised extension of light rail to this precinct, as in the Metropolitan Transport Plan?
- (6) What action has the Government taken to provide ferry services to this precinct?
- (7) What further action will the Government take to address transport needs in Walsh Bay?

0495 END STAGE KIDNEY DISEASE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Noting latest data suggesting that there are about 7,000 people in NSW with end stage kidney disease, with higher rates for older people and Indigenous people:

- (1) What is the Government's estimate of the health costs of end stage kidney disease?
- (2) How many of those people with end stage kidney disease receive dialysis treatment in NSW?
- (3) How many of those people with end stage kidney disease are listed for or have received kidney transplants in NSW?
- (4) What does the Government spend on dialysis support for end stage kidney disease?
- (5) What does the Government spend on kidney transplants in response to end stage kidney disease?
- (6) What programs has the Government provided to prevent and intervene early with end stage kidney disease?
- (7) What further action will the Government take to prevent end stage kidney disease?

0496 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

To what recognised standard were traffic calming measures on MR527 at Warners Bay designed and constructed?

0497 BULLYING AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL—Mr Nathan Rees to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In view of the Minister's previous statement (press release 21 July 2010) that bullying is "endemic" at Westmead Hospital:

- (1) What investigation(s) into bullying at Westmead Hospital has the Minister commenced since the 2011 election?
- (2) What actions have been taken?
- (3) Does the Minister still believe that "bullying is endemic at Westmead Hospital"?