



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011-12

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 83**

TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2012

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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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 71 (Including Question Nos 1646 to 1669)	10 April 2012
Q & A No. 72 (Including Question Nos 1670 to 1693)	11 April 2012
Q & A No. 73 (Including Question Nos 1694 to 1731)	12 April 2012
Q & A No. 74 (Including Question Nos 1732 to 1757)	17 April 2012
Q & A No. 75 (Including Question Nos 1758 to 1765)	18 April 2012
Q & A No. 76 (Including Question Nos 1766 to 1812)	19 April 2012
Q & A No. 77 (Including Question Nos 1813 to 1841)	01 May 2012
Q & A No. 78 (Including Question Nos 1842 to 1859)	02 May 2012
Q & A No. 79 (Including Question Nos 1860 to 1894)	03 May 2012
Q & A No. 80 (Including Question Nos 1895 to 1919)	07 May 2012
Q & A No. 81 (Including Question Nos 1920 to 1935)	08 May 2012
Q & A No. 82 (Including Question Nos 1936 to 1974)	09 May 2012
Q & A No. 83 (Questions—Nil)	-

**6 MARCH 2012**

(Paper No. 71)

\*1646 MOUNT DRUITT COMMAND—AUTHORISED STRENGTH—Mr Richard Amery asked 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—

- (1) Does the latest police strength figures show that the Mount Druitt command's actual strength is below the authorised strength for this police station?
- (2) When will Mount Druitt command achieve its authorised police strength?

Answer—

- (1) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website: [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)
- (2) This Government is determined to provide police with the numbers and resources they need to keep the community safe. At the 2011 State Election we committed to delivering a record 16,356 officers by June 2014 and we have already delivered 150 of those officers. Police numbers fluctuate as officers attest from the Academy and leave the NSW Police Force or are transferred between positions. Final Probationary Constable allocations will be announced on the date of the next attestation on 4 May 2012.

\*1648 WALLSEND DEMOUNTABLE SCHOOL BUILDINGS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Which Wallsend electorate schools use demountable buildings to teach students?
- (2) What is the age of the demountables located in each of those schools?
- (3) Now that the government has ended the School Demountable Replacement program are there any provisions/programs for schools in the Wallsend electorate to replace old demountables?

Answer—

- (1) The following schools in the Wallsend electorate use demountable buildings to teach students:
  - Callaghan College Jesmond Campus
  - Callaghan College Wallsend Campus
  - Elernmore Vale Public School
  - Glendale High School
  - Jesmond Public School
  - Lambton Public School
  - Maryland Public School
  - Shortland Public School
  - Wallsend South Public School
- (2) Demountable buildings are removed from and installed at schools according to accommodation need, based on changing enrolment patterns, among other factors. The current demountable classrooms on schools sites in the Wallsend Electorate were placed at various times from 1995 to 2012. Demountable classrooms are refurbished prior to placement and maintained to provide teaching spaces which are consistent with contemporary educational requirements.
 

To provide a detailed list of the range in ages of the demountable classrooms located on each of the school sites listed above would involve considerable time and the diversion of resources away from the core responsibilities of the Department of Education and Communities that cannot be justified.
- (3) Each year local decisions about capital works priorities are made in the regions. Projects to replace demountable buildings in schools can be nominated for funding as part of this prioritisation process.

\*1650 HUNTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT OUTCOMES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

What outcomes for better public transport have been delivered in the Hunter by the \$18 million spent on transport consultants?

Answer—

While I question the Member's claim regarding consultants, I am pleased to advise the Government is investing \$13.1 billion on transport and roads in 2011-2012, with significant investment in important projects for the Hunter region, such as:

- \$15 million towards the construction of the road-bridge and associated roads at Glendale, recognising the importance of Glendale and Cardiff as an emerging major regional centre.
- Almost 20,000 new seats per week for customers traveling from Newcastle to Sydney, by

building up 41 services per week from 4 or 6 carriages to 8 carriages.

- A trial of quiet carriages on Newcastle and Central Coast services.
- Contributing \$214 million to the construction of the North Sydney Freight Corridor, which will benefit commuters from the Hunter.
- The development of a \$350 million Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF), which has a mandate to invest in Hunter infrastructure projects, including transport infrastructure in the region.
- Construction of the Hunter Expressway, a \$1.7 billion project funded by the Australian and NSW Governments. The Hunter Expressway will greatly improve road connections for the growing populations and economies of Maitland and Cessnock.
- Other key projects currently underway in the Hunter Region include:
  - F3 to Newcastle intersection upgrades to improve safety;
  - Newcastle Inner City Bypass, providing an orbital road linking Newcastle's radial network; and
  - New England Highway safety improvements.

\*1652 ASSISTED SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM IN WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many school students in the Wallsend Electorate with a disability were affected by the cancellation and failure to retender the Assisted School Travel Program?
- (2) What provisions were made to assist students affected by the disruption to the Assisted School Travel Program?

Answer—

- (1) No students who attend school in the Wallsend electorate were affected.
- (2) I directed the Department of Education and Communities to establish a Parent Emergency Hotline to assist parents affected by the delays in allocating travel assistance. The Department also coordinated with its regional offices to arrange temporary travel support. Temporary arrangements were put in place based upon the individual needs of each student.

\*1653 SCHOOL CANTEEN SUPERVISORS IN WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many school canteen supervisors in the Wallsend Electorate were underpaid because of a head office mistake?
- (2) Will the underpaid supervisors receive back pay?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) School canteen supervisors employed by the Department of Education and Communities in the Wallsend Electorate have been correctly paid.

\*1657 FULL TIME CUSTODY PRISONERS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many full-time custody prisoners were in the NSW correctional system as at:

- (a) 1 December 2011;
- (b) 1 January 2012;
- (c) 1 February 2012;
- (d) 1 March 2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

Corrective Services collates this data on Sundays. The following numbers of inmates were in full-time custody on the dates indicated:

- (a) 4 December 2011: 9,716
- (b) 1 January 2012: 9,687
- (c) 5 February 2012: 9,785
- (d) 4 March 2012: 9,714.

\*1658 ESCAPES AND INCORRECT RELEASES FROM JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

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From 12 May 2011 to date, how many:

- (a) escapes;
- (b) incorrect releases;

have there been from juvenile justice centres in this State?

Answer—

From 12 May 2011 to date, there were:

- (a) no escapes, and
- (b) 2 incorrect releases;

from juvenile justice centres in this State.

\*1659 DETENTION IN JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many young people were detained in each of the juvenile justice centres in the State as at:

- (a) 1 July 2011;
- (b) 1 January 2012;
- (c) 1 March 2012?

Answer—

Table: Number of Young People in Custody by Juvenile Justice Centre by selected dates

	1 July 2011	1 January 2012	1 March 2012
Acmena	43	40	33
Baxter	103	95	90
Broken Hill Shelter	2	0	0
Cobham	76	48	39
Emu Plains	34	23	27
Juniperina	18	24	39
Orana	37	26	24
Reiby	56	54	60
Riverina	37	20	33

Source: DAGJ/JJ SIS. 24 Mar 12.

\*1660 BAIL ACT REVIEW—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What is the current status of the review of the Bail Act?
- (2) When will the Attorney General release the report of the NSW Law Reform Commission into the review of the Bail Act?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the NSW Law Reform Commission is currently finalising its report and is expected to report to me by mid April 2012.
- (2) In accordance with the Law Reform Commission Act 1967 the report will be tabled in both Houses of Parliament within 14 sitting days of receipt.

\*1662 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GARARD PTY LTD—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Treasurer—

Since 27 March 2011 what financial assistance has been provided to Garard Pty Ltd operating at Warwick Farm and Liverpool?

Answer—

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon Greg Pearce MLC.

\*1664 AUSTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL FENCING—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Does the Minister propose to reply to the recent letter by Frances Musso and the accompanying petition requesting security fencing at Austral Public School?
- (2) (a) Does the Minister propose to provide security fencing for the school?  
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) A response to the letter was sent to Ms Musso on 16 March 2012.
- (2) (a) and (b) Austral Public School's current security risk level is extremely low compared to other schools across the State. As such, there is no current proposal to provide security fencing at the school. However, the School has been encouraged to apply for funding under the Public School Upgrade Program for the installation of a security fence if this is a priority for the Principal and community.

\*1665 POLICE FORCE EQUIPMENT PURCHASES—Mr Paul Lynch asked 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—

Has the NSW Police Force purchased any equipment from any Israeli state agency?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that a search of records held since 2007 indicates no such purchase has occurred.

\*1666 WAGGA WAGGA HOSPITAL BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Of the 507 Hospital Beds opened between 1 July 2010 and 22 November 2011 (Written Question 1316):

- (1) How many of these beds were at Wagga Wagga Hospital?
- (2) What type of beds are they (i.e. acute/subacute/other)?
- (3) In which unit(s) are these beds located?
- (4) At what date were they first made available for patient care?
- (5) Are these beds funded by COAG or by the NSW Government?
- (6) How many beds were available at Wagga Wagga Hospital on:
  - (a) 1 July 2010;
  - (b) 22 November 2011;
  - (c) 31 January 2012?
- (7) How many additional beds are planned to be opened at Wagga Wagga Hospital by 30 June 2012?

Answer—

- (1) to (7) The 2010-11 NSW Health Annual Report contains more comprehensive reporting of beds than in previous years, with specific categories for ED beds; other hospital beds; other beds including Hospital in the Home and Residential/Community Aged Care and Respite Beds; and treatment spaces, which include bassinets, transit lounges, same day therapy/dialysis. This is found on page 216.

Bed numbers also appear on the Federal Government's "My Hospital" website.

A fact sheet on hospital beds is located on the NSW Health website at

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts\\_about\\_hospital\\_beds.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts_about_hospital_beds.pdf)

\*1667 SICK RELIEF AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to sick relief for nursing staff at Westmead Hospital:

- (1) What was the "full establishment" (full time equivalent - FTE) of nursing staff at Westmead Hospital on 1 February 2012?
- (2) How many FTE Nursing staff were actually employed at Westmead Hospital as of 1 February 2012?
- (3) How many vacancies existed as of 1 February 2012?
- (4) For how many shifts in February 2012 was a nurse unable to work due to illness on the:
  - (a) morning shift;
  - (b) evening shift;
  - (c) night shift?
- (5) For how many shifts was this sick leave:
  - (a) fully backfilled (i.e. replacement of the whole shift);
  - (b) partially backfilled (replacement of some of the shift);
  - (c) not backfilled?
- (6) How many hours of overtime were worked by nursing staff at Westmead Hospital in February 2012?

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Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) The level of detail requested by the Member is not held centrally.

Staffing levels are determined and adjusted as required by local management in line with budget, patient need and the specified award and benchmark tools. Where vacancies exist, temporary qualified staff are employed as required.

**7 MARCH 2012**

(Paper No. 72)

\*1670 DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How many residents had their household electricity supply disconnected in the following postcodes for the year ended December 2011:
- (a) 2770;
  - (b) 2761;
  - (c) 2766?
- (2) Of those numbers, what were the reasons for the disconnections?
- (3) What are the corresponding number of disconnections in the above-mentioned postcodes for the months of:
- (a) January 2012;
  - (b) February 2012?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Information on residential disconnections is available in the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal report "Electricity retail businesses' performance against customer service indicators in NSW Electricity Information Paper January 2012".

\*1671 REGIONAL RELOCATION GRANTS—Mr Michael Daley asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many people have applied for the Government's regional relocation grants since the grants were made available?
- (2) How many people have received such a grant in each month from the launch of the program to 31 January 2012?
- (3) Which local government areas (LGAs) did people who received the grants move from and which LGAs did people move to?

Answer—

As at 31 January 2012:

- (1) 389 Regional Relocation Grant applications had been received. Of this number 277 had been paid.
- (2) The number of grants paid per month are as follows

August 2011	10
September 2011	39
October 2011	52
November 2011	68
December 2011	52
January 2012	56

- (3) The local government areas where people who received the grant moved from include:

Ashfield Council, Auburn City Council, Bankstown City Council, Blacktown City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, Canterbury City Council, City of Canada Bay Council, Council of the City of Sydney, Fairfield City Council, Gosford City Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Holroyd City Council, Hornsby Council, Hurstville City Council, Kogarah City Council, Ku-ring-gai Council, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Liverpool City Council, Marrickville Council, Mosman Municipal Council, Newcastle City Council, North Sydney Council, Parramatta City Council, Penrith City Council, Pittwater

Council, Randwick City Council, Rockdale City Council, Ryde City Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Sutherland Shire Council, The Hills Shire Council, Warringah Council, Willoughby City Council, Wollondilly Shire Council, Wollongong City Council, Wyong Shire Council.

The local government areas where people who received the grant moved to include:

Albury City Council, Armidale Dumaresq Council, Ballina Shire Council, Bathurst Regional Council, Bega Valley Shire Council, Bland Shire Council, Blayney Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Cabonne Council, Cessnock City Council, City of Lithgow Council, Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour City Council, Cootamundra Shire Council, Corowa Shire Council, Cowra Shire Council, Dubbo City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council, Glen Innes Severn Council, Gloucester Shire Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Great Lakes Council, Greater Taree City Council, Gunnedah Shire Council, Harden Shire Council, Kempsey Shire Council, Kiama Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Lismore City Council, Maitland City Council, Mid-Western Regional Council, Nambucca Shire Council, Oberon Council, Orange City Council, Parkes Shire Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Port Stephens Council, Shellharbour City Council, Shoalhaven City Council, Singleton Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Temora Shire Council, Tumut Shire Council, Tweed Shire Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council, Wellington Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council, Young Shire Council.

\*1672 WARATAH BONDS—Mr Michael Daley asked the Treasurer—

- (1) How many individuals or other entities have purchased Waratah Bonds since the launch of the bonds?
- (2) How much revenue has been raised from the sale of these bonds to 20 February 2012?
- (3) How many individual bonds have been purchased per month since the launch to 20 February 2012?

Answer—

- (1) New South Wales Treasury Corporation (TCorp) will disclose the value of Waratah Bonds on issue each year in its annual financial statements. As the program commenced in September 2011, these will be first disclosed for the 30 June 2012 financial year.
- (2) Please see the response to question (1).
- (3) Please see the response to question (1).

\*1673 RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL GRANT—Mr Michael Daley asked the Treasurer—

- (1) When will the Treasurer respond to my correspondence dated 1 August 2011 regarding a \$100,000 grant to Randwick City Council?
- (2) Why has it taken so long for a response?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) This matter was dealt with in a letter I sent to the Member dated 28 March 2012.

\*1674 NEW LIFE NSW CAMPAIGN—Mr Michael Daley asked the Treasurer—

- (1) How much is the approved advertising budget for the Government's "New Life NSW" campaign to entice people to take up the Government's regional relocation grants?
- (2) How much has been spent on this campaign as at 22 February 2012?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services.

\*1675 MAROUBRA BEACH DROWNING—Mr Michael Daley asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In relation to the drowning of a man at Maroubra Beach after being swept off rocks while fishing on the afternoon of 28 January 2012 at around 4-5 pm :

- (1) What time was the NSW Ambulance Service notified of the incident?
- (2) How was the NSW Ambulance Service notified (i.e. by 000 call or in another manner)?
- (3) Did any person within the NSW Ambulance service make a call to the 1300SURF telephone number in relation to this incident?
  - (a) If yes, what time was 1300SURF called?

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(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The Ambulance Service of NSW was first notified of the incident at 4:26 pm from a member of the public via a Triple Zero call, and the appropriate ambulance resources were arranged.

It is the role of NSW Police to coordinate any emergency rescue response for incidents involving a person in the water. NSW Police notified the Ambulance Service that they were in attendance at this incident shortly after the Triple Zero call was received.

\*1676 MALABAR POLICE STATION SITE—Mr Michael Daley asked 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—

Will the Minister commit to retaining the Malabar Police Station site for use as a Domestic Violence Support unit by Eastern Beaches LAC and by police for other purposes?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that the Malabar police station site is currently the subject of an appeal against an Aboriginal land claim. The site does not currently have a Domestic Violence Support Unit operating from its premises, nor has it in the past.

\*1678 GOSFORD HOSPITAL BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Of the 507 hospital beds opened between 1 July 2010 and 22 November 2011 (Written Question 1316):

- (1) How many of these beds were at Gosford Hospital?
- (2) What type of beds are they (i.e. acute/subacute/other)?
- (3) In which unit(s) are these beds located?
- (4) At what date were they first made available for patient care?
- (5) Are these beds funded by COAG or by the NSW Government?
- (6) How many beds were/are available at Gosford Hospital on:
  - (a) 1 July 2010;
  - (b) 22 November 2011;
  - (c) 31 January 2012?
- (7) How many additional beds are planned to be opened at Gosford Hospital by 30 June 2012?

Answer—

(1) to (7) The 2010-11 NSW Health Annual Report contains more comprehensive reporting of beds than in previous years, with specific categories for ED beds; other hospital beds; other beds including Hospital in the Home and Residential/Community Aged Care and Respite Beds; and treatment spaces, which include bassinets, transit lounges, same day therapy/dialysis. This is found on page 216.

Bed numbers also appear on the Federal Government's "My Hospital" website.

A fact sheet on hospital beds is located on the NSW Health website at

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts\\_about\\_hospital\\_beds.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts_about_hospital_beds.pdf)

\*1679 SHOALHAVEN DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital:

- (1) How many beds were available as of 30 June 2011?
- (2) How many of these beds were:
  - (a) acute adult inpatient (excluding Obstetrics/Psychiatry/Emergency);
  - (b) non-acute inpatient;
  - (c) in total?
- (3) What was the total expenditure for the year 2010-11?
- (4) What is the allocated budget for 2011-12?
- (5) What capital expenditure was allocated in 2010-11?
- (6) What capital expenditure is planned for 2011-12?
- (7) What new services were commenced in 2010-11?

- (8) Are any services being opened in 2011-12?
- (9) Were any services closed or transferred in 2010-11?
- (10) Are any services planned for closure in 2011-12?
- (11) How many staff were employed as of 30 June 2011 in:
  - (a) nursing;
  - (b) medical;
  - (c) allied health;
  - (d) in total?
- (12) How many separations were there in 2010-11?
- (13) How many of these were same day separations?
- (14) How many Emergency Department attendances were there in 2010-11?
- (15) What percentage of these walked out before being seen?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the responses to Written Questions 940 and 977 in the Legislative Council.

\*1680 MANNING BASE HOSPITAL (TAREE)—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Manning Base Hospital (Taree):

- (1) How many beds were available as of 30 June 2011?
- (2) How many of these beds were:
  - (a) acute adult inpatient (excluding obstetrics/psychiatry/emergency);
  - (b) non-acute inpatient;
  - (c) in total?
- (3) What was the total expenditure for the year 2010-11?
- (4) What is the allocated budget for 2011-12?
- (5) What capital expenditure was allocated in 2010-11?
- (6) What capital expenditure is planned for 2011-12?
- (7) What new services were commenced in 2010-11?
- (8) Are any services being opened in 2011-12?
- (9) Were any services closed or transferred in 2010-11?
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- (11) How many staff were employed as of 30 June 2011 in:
  - (a) nursing;
  - (b) medical;
  - (c) allied health;
  - (d) in total?
- (12) How many separations were there in 2010-11?
- (13) How many of these were same day separations?
- (14) How many Emergency Department attendances were there in 2010-11?
- (15) What percentage walked out without being seen?

Answer—

I refer the Member to responses to Written Questions 940 and 965 in the Legislative Council.

\*1681 NSW PAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With respect to the NSW Pain Management Plan developed by the NSW Pain Taskforce:

- (1) What action has been taken to:
  - (a) recognise chronic pain as a disease;
  - (b) improve equity of access to chronic pain services;
  - (c) develop evidence-based services;
  - (d) provide multidisciplinary pain clinics;
  - (e) improve information and education of consumers and the community;
  - (f) develop new models of care?
- (2) What chronic pain services have been increased or expanded since the plan was developed?
- (3) What additional services have been provided in the inner city?
- (4) What action will be taken to increase access to chronic pain services?
- (5) What action will be taken to increase access for people on low incomes?

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(6) What action will be taken to increase inner city services?

Answer—

Care for those suffering from chronic diseases has been a key focus for this Government.

I am advised:

(1) to (6) The NSW Pain Management Taskforce, established by this Government, has submitted a draft NSW Pain Management Plan for consideration.

The Ministry of Health and the Agency for Clinical Innovation Pain Management Network continue to work closely to further develop the Model of Care proposed by the Plan.

\*1682 SOCIAL HOUSING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With respect to the new requirements for social housing applicants to update their contact details or risk having their application closed, and the policy that those affected will not have their applications backdated:

- (1) How many people are currently on waiting lists for social housing in NSW?
- (2) How many people does Housing NSW estimate will be taken off the waiting list following this change?
- (3) What steps has Housing NSW taken to ensure that homeless people are not removed from the waiting list because they do not have current mailing addresses, including:
  - (a) rough sleepers living on the street;
  - (b) people staying for short periods in hostels and refuges;
  - (c) clients of Way2 Home and other support services;
  - (d) people "couch surfing" with friends or family for short periods of time?
- (4) How will Housing NSW ensure that officers make reasonable attempts to contact vulnerable people by telephone or through community workers before removing them from waiting lists?
- (5) How will Housing NSW ensure that people in institutions such as hospitals, psychiatric units or prison are able to receive mail and to respond?
- (6) How will Housing NSW ensure that those on the waiting list with a communication or intellectual disability, brain injury, severe mental illness, severe substance use problem, low literacy or other limited capacity are not taken off the waiting list in error?
- (7) What other steps does the Government plan to ensure that those most in need remain on the waiting list for social housing?

Answer—

- (1) As at October 2011, there were 56,056 applicants on the waiting list including suspended applicants.
- (2) At the end of June 2011, there were approximately 4,000 people whose applications were suspended because they had not responded to communications from Housing NSW. Existing applicants who have not recently confirmed their details with a social housing provider should make contact by 30 April 2012 to maintain their position on the NSW Housing Register. If no contact is made they will be removed from the NSW Housing Register subject to certain exemptions.
- (3) Homeless people who can demonstrate they were not able to respond to correspondence will not be impacted by the new arrangements.
- (4) A second attempt to contact an applicant is made by Housing NSW before closing the application.
- (5) The following exemptions apply to people who do not answer mail within the 28 day period:
  - The applicant was in hospital, respite care, a disability support facility or rehabilitation facility or other institution.
  - The applicant is homeless and was unable to access their mail during the 28 day period.
  - The applicant was unable to access their mail during the 28 day period due to escaping domestic or family violence and family break up.
  - The applicant was away for 28 days or more due to family bereavement or family care.
  - The applicant was in custody at the time contact was attempted.
- (6) and (7) All applicants for social housing must be able to demonstrate that they can sustain a tenancy before they are placed on the NSW Housing Register. The change in policy places a greater focus on the personal obligations of applicants to keep their contact details up to date. This is no different to a person keeping their contact details up to date with their bank, with Centrelink, or any other organisation that the applicant deals with.

\*1684 LAND CLEARING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

Following findings from the latest Office of Environment and Heritage Annual Report that according to environment groups show that the 2009-2010 financial year was the worst on record for clearing native bushland with the equivalent of 138,000 football fields cleared:

- (1) Is the Government concerned about these findings?
- (2) Will the Government set targets to reduce the rate of land clearing?
- (3) What action will the Government take to reverse the trend it inherited and reduce the rate of land clearing in New South Wales?
- (4) What commitment will the State Government make to reducing land clearing in New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Conservation activities resulted in over one million hectares being conserved, restored or revegetated in 2009-2010.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Government is currently reviewing the regulations that support the Native Vegetation Act 2003.
- (4) The objects of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 support the protection of native vegetation of high conservation value.

\*1685 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE ORDER CANCELLATIONS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What protocols and procedures need to be followed before the Assets team at Housing NSW is able to cancel a maintenance order?
- (2) What checks and balances are in place to ensure these are followed correctly?

Answer—

(1) NSW Land and Housing Corporation has written procedures outlining steps required to cancel work orders.

The reasons an order may be cancelled include:

- Not being able to access the property after repeated attempts
- The work is no longer required
- The work order is a duplicate
- The work order has been raised with incorrect details, such as address
- The identified work is to be included in a work program.

If approved:

- The reason for cancellation is recorded
- The contractor is notified of the cancellation, and
- In those instances where the tenant has been notified of the proposed work, they will be advised of the cancellation.

(2) Only staff with delegated authority have access to cancel work orders.

The NSW Land & Housing Corporation reviews cancelled work orders as part of their maintenance contract quality assurance and audit program.

\*1686 SUN PROTECTION IN NSW SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

Given NSW's poor rating compared to other states and territories by the Cancer Council in a recent review, does the Government have any plans to update its policy on sun protection in NSW schools to ensure basic sun protection measures are appropriately implemented?

Answer—

NSW government schools are encouraged to have a multifaceted approach to sun protection and there is a wide range of measures already in place in most schools. The Department of Education and Communities has a number of support documents to assist schools.

It is a matter for each school community to determine how best to address sun protection using a range of strategies in a way that will be most effective for them.

The Department is currently reviewing its Protection from the Sun Guidelines and advice to inform this review has been received from The Cancer Institute NSW and The Cancer Council NSW.

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\*1688 APPOINTMENTS TO ABORIGINAL HOUSING OFFICE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Why have there been no appointments made to the board of the Aboriginal Housing Office since the previous board appointments ended in September 2011 and expressions of interest in appointment to the board closed in August 2011?
- (2) How many persons submitted expressions of interest in appointment to the Aboriginal Housing Office board by the close of expressions of interest in August 2011?
- (3) What process is in place to select persons for appointment from among those who have expressed interest in appointment to the Aboriginal Housing Office board?
- (4) When will appointments be made to the Aboriginal Housing Office board?

Answer—

- (1) The Minister has made a recommendation for appointment to the chairperson position of the board.
- (2) Over 20 expressions of interest were received.
- (3) Formal interview process has concluded for Chairperson. Suitable applicants will be interviewed for the remaining board positions as soon as possible with the Chairperson.
- (4) As soon as practical.

\*1689 KANWAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

What plans are there to upgrade or replace the demountable classrooms at Kanwal Public School which leak, need repainting and recarpeting?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Communities' Hunter/Central Coast Region Asset Management Unit plans to replace damaged carpet in one demountable by 4 May 2012 and will allocate funding to repair identified leaks.

Two demountable classrooms will be removed from the Kanwal Public School site now that its Building the Education Revolution works have been completed and the demountables are no longer required.

\*1690 LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

In relation to the Government's Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan:

- (1) Have 200 new literacy and numeracy teachers commenced in 2012?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated for this plan in the 2011-12 year?
- (3) Which schools have received a new literacy or numeracy teacher as a result of this plan?

Answer—

- (1) The Ministerial Advisory Group on Literacy and Numeracy has delivered its report on the outcomes of its consultation on the Interim Framework to boost the literacy and numeracy performance of NSW students. As a start, 50 hands-on Instructional Leaders will be appointed to public schools by the end of December 2012. The first 5 will be appointed by the end of May.
- (2) \$24.45 million has been allocated across the 3 educational sectors for the 2011-12 year.
- (3) Targeted schools in the lowest quartile of NAPLAN performance are to be beneficiaries under the action plan.

\*1691 ASSISTED STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much has been spent on providing additional urgent transport for eligible students who were left without arranged transport due to changed contracts for the Assisted Student Transport Scheme?
- (2) What was the increased rate for short distance runs put in place by the Department of Education and Communities as an emergency response to the problems in the Assisted Student Transport Scheme and how did this compare to the previous rate?
- (3) When will the revised rates for contractors in the Assisted Student Transport Scheme, as recommended in the Boston Review, be finalised?

Answer—

- (1) As at 23 March 2012, \$68,690 has been paid for the provision of alternative temporary transport arrangements, including the reimbursement of families for their costs.
- (2) The Department increased the rate payable for runs which had a total daily distance travelled of less

than 30 km to be equivalent to the rate payable for a 30 km run for relevant vehicle categories.

The level of increase the 30 km rate represents when compared to the previous rates varies, depending on the distance of the run.

- (3) The new rates have been finalised, and the Department commenced notifying operators of the new schedule of rates on 3 April.

\*1692 NATIONAL ART SCHOOL—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is there a funding shortfall at the National Art School for 2012?
- (2) How much is the funding shortfall?
- (3) Have student's face to face teaching time in 2012 been reduced?
- (4) Were existing students given advance notice of reduced face to face teaching time and the impact this would have on subject choice?
- (5) What action is the Government taking to ensure that the National Art School is adequately funded to fulfil its role as a premier arts institution?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) In January 2009, the former State Government announced changes to the National Art School, where the School was made an independent institution, a public company limited by guarantee. Funding arrangements were established for the School's transition to independence. No changes have been made to those agreed funding arrangements.

The Department of Education and Communities has commenced an independent review of the operation of the National Art School, which will include an examination of the finances of the School, including the appropriateness of the funding and governance structure.

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\*1694 HEART SURGERY IN WESTERN SYDNEY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many public hospitals perform the various forms of heart surgery in Western Sydney?
- (2) What are the locations of these hospitals?
- (3) For each of the hospitals named in question (2) above, how many procedures were carried out at each hospital for the year ending 29 February 2012?
- (4) Are heart procedures at each of the above mentioned hospitals expected to increase over the next 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised by the Western Sydney Local Health District:

- (1) to (3) The latest available data (year ending 31 January 2012) indicates that there were 924 people discharged for heart surgery/procedures at Blacktown Hospital and 2,817 at Westmead Hospital.

Of note, the data provided is for inpatient activity only. This includes procedures performed within Theatres and in a Cardiac Catheter Laboratory only.

- (4) The burden of cardiac disease has been high over the past few years and there is no reason to expect that this trend will not continue.

\*1695 PRISONER WORK CREWS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What opportunities are available to have low security prisoner work crews or weekend detention work crews utilised in their prison's local government area to assist councils with outstanding maintenance work on infrastructure?

Answer—

I am advised:

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) is committed to the provision of community-based programs and project teams that can work and assist local communities.

Projects undertaken by CSNSW are for the not-for-profit sector only. CSNSW cannot undertake any work for private entities, or perform work for community interests that would otherwise be carried out by paid employees.

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Mobile Outreach Programs operate from correctional centres to approved sites, where they provide a scope of works agreed upon by community members and CSNSW. Mobile Outreach Programs have recently conducted flood damage repair works; mowing and lawn trimming at cemeteries; and clearing of fire trails.

Community and Correctional Partnership Programs involve collaboration between CSNSW and local communities to provide work programs that directly benefit the community. Offenders who are either incarcerated or subject to a community service order undertake work for government and non-government agencies including councils, churches, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service that may otherwise not be carried out because of labour or budget restrictions. Work performed under Community and Correctional Partnership Programs includes ground maintenance, painting and decorating, graffiti removal and rubbish removal.

\*1696 POLICE STATION OPERATING CRITERIA—Mr Clayton Barr asked 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—

- (1) What is the operating criteria for a police station that is advertised on the NSW Police Force website as "Open 24 hours"?
- (2) Does this mean that the premises are to be manned 24/7 or that a police car from that station is on patrol 24/7?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Where a police station is advertised as "open 24 hours", staff attached to that station will be rostered on duty at all times. The type of police response varies from station to station. Larger 24 hour stations have staff performing a variety of duty types including general duties, first response and specialist staff. Smaller 24 hour stations may roster two patrol police officers. Some stations operate as a "shopfront", with station staff working on site and the patrol response operating from a nearby head police station.

\*1698 COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDERS AND ASSETS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard to community housing providers and community housing assets:

- (1) Does the Government retain ownership of assets or is ownership permanently transferred to the provider?
- (2) Does the Government have any monitoring or supervision processes in place?
- (3) How can the Minister and Government be confident that housing under the care of the community housing providers is being allocated and issued in a timely and expedient manner?

Answer—

- (1) The majority of properties are leased by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation to community housing providers. Some properties have had title transferred to providers.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Registrar of Community Housing is an independent statutory officer responsible for the registration and regulation of community housing providers in NSW. Community housing providers are contracted by Housing NSW and their performance is monitored in accordance with the Regulatory Code, which sets out the requirements for registered community housing providers.

\*1699 FUNDING FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Will the Minister provide a comprehensive list of all programs under her portfolio which have had their funding:

- (a) frozen;
- (b) reduced;
- (c) cancelled;
- (d) increased in the financial year 2011-12 and 2012-13?

Answer—

Information on the programs administered and funded by the Department of Family and Community Services is contained in the department's annual reports, which are available on the department's website: <http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au>

\*1700 VISIONCARE NSW—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Why has no supplementary funding been made available to VisionCare NSW to support their program from optical appliances and vision care services to the state's disadvantaged and needy persons for the last 4 months of this current financial year?

Answer—

The program began in 1992, and has exceeded its budget every year for the past 14 years, other than in 2000-01.

Over this period over \$8 million was taken from the Community Services budget to plug the gap. This meant that there was less in the budget to allocate to other programs.

The people of NSW are best served by Government programs which are financially sustainable. That is why the Spectacles program was held to its budget of \$4.4 million in 2011-12.

All applications for spectacles before 10 February were accepted. The Spectacles program's funding will again be available from 1 July 2012.

\*1701 GREEN SLIP PRICES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Why do Green Slip prices increase dramatically for older NSW drivers once they reach the age of 70 years?

Answer—

In New South Wales, the motor accidents scheme is underwritten by private insurers, it is not subsidised and the cost must be met by the premiums charged by insurers. Insurers set their own Green Slip premiums, based on a detailed actuarial assessment of all available industry data and their own claims experience, within a framework of rules set by the Motor Accidents Authority.

In setting Green Slip premiums, insurers take into account a variety of risk factors. The age of the owner or driver is the primary risk factor.

The Motor Accidents Authority and the insurers regularly review the claims experience of the different motorist groups and vehicle classes. The claims experience of older drivers, those aged 70 years or over, shows they tend to make insurance claims more frequently than others. For this reason, some insurers impose a loading on the premiums for this age group. The maximum amount of the loading is determined by Guidelines issued by the Motor Accidents Authority.

To assist motorists find the cheapest Green Slip, the Motor Accidents Authority provides telephone and internet services which give a comparative guide to Green Slip prices. The Green Slip Helpline is 1300 137 600 and the price calculator is at [www.greenslips.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greenslips.nsw.gov.au)

\*1702 HUNTER VALLEY RESEARCH FOUNDATION—Mr Clayton Barr asked 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—

What options are you seeking to assist Hunter Valley Research Foundation to replace \$150,000 in annual grants from the State Government that has been stopped?

Answer—

The regional specific nature of the work of the Hunter Valley Research Foundation is recognised by the NSW Government. That is why the NSW Government will continue to engage HVRF expertise on a fee-for-service basis beyond 30 June 2012.

The decision to change from a sponsorship arrangement to a fee-for-service funding arrangement was taken by the Department of Trade & Investment following an assessment of the future information and research needs of the Department, and is consistent with the new policy approach being implemented across partner organisations in the Trade & Investment portfolio.

\*1703 HYDRO ALUMINIUM—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to Hydro Aluminium's announcement to axe 150 jobs on 11 January 2012:

- (1) When did your office receive and read my email dated 25 January 2012 requesting a meeting with you regarding Hydro Aluminium?
- (2) On what dates did your office receive my follow up emails?

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- (3) Has your staff made you aware of my requests?  
(4) (a) What action has your office taken to respond to my requests?  
(b) If no action has been taken to respond to my requests, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Premier responded by letter to Mr Barr's email.

\*1705 RYDE CITY COUNCIL LEP—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

- (1) Did the Minister agree to the change to the Ryde City Council's LEP that will allow for a 24 storey building on the current Civic Centre site?  
(2) What consideration did the Minister make of the opposition of the local community?

Answer—

- (1) The Director General, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, as the Minister's delegate made the Ryde Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 (Amendment 2 - Ryde Civic Centre) submitted by Ryde City Council. This LEP amendment allows buildings of up to 24 storeys on the eastern side of the site.  
(2) The Minister's delegate was satisfied that Council had acted responsibly throughout the plan making process and had adequately addressed the planning concerns raised in all submissions.

Ryde Council publicly exhibited the Planning Proposal twice. The exhibition process involved letters being sent to 2,600 nearby properties, notification in the local newspapers and providing information on the proposal on Council's website and offices/libraries.

In addition, KJA was appointed by Council to undertake a two stage community consultation program. The first stage involved engagement with regular users of the Council's existing facilities such as community groups, local businesses and neighbouring residents. The second stage was broadly conducted during the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal and involved a community information day/drop in sessions and project briefings. KJA has indicated that communication material was distributed to 38,000 households.

Following the two stage community consultation program, Council engaged independent consultants to undertake a thorough review of all submissions made on the exhibited version of the Planning Proposal. On the recommendation of the consultants, Ryde Council:

- (a) Reduced the overall net useable floor area from 100,000 sq m to 60,000 sq m;  
(b) Limited the increase in height of up to 24 storeys to the eastern side of the site;  
(c) Reduced the height from up to 9-10 storeys to 6 storeys along the western side of the site; and  
(d) Is preparing a Development Control Plan to outline detailed controls on the public design outcomes for the site.

\*1706 BELMONT HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Belmont Hospital:

- (1) How many beds were available as of 30 June 2011?  
(2) How many of these beds were:  
(a) acute adult inpatient (excluding Obstetrics/Psychiatry/Emergency);  
(b) non-acute inpatient;  
(c) in total?  
(3) What was the total expenditure for the year 2010-11?  
(4) What is the allocated budget for 2011-12?  
(5) What capital expenditure was allocated in 2010-11?  
(6) What capital expenditure is planned for 2011-12?  
(7) What new services were commenced in 2010-11?  
(8) Are any services being opened in 2011-12?  
(9) Were any services closed or transferred in 2010-11?  
(10) Are any services planned for closure in 2011-12?  
(11) How many staff were employed as of 30 June 2011 in:  
(a) nursing;  
(b) medical;

- (c) allied health;
- (d) in total?
- (12) How many separations were there in 2010-11?
- (13) How many of these were same day separations?
- (14) How many Emergency Department attendances were there in 2010-11?
- (15) What percentage of these walked out before being seen?

Answer—

I refer the Member to responses to Written Questions 940 and 945 in the Legislative Council.

\*1707 FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Fairfield Hospital:

- (1) How many beds were available as of 30 June 2011?
- (2) How many of these beds were:
  - (a) acute adult inpatient (excluding Obstetrics/Psychiatry/Emergency);
  - (b) non-acute inpatient;
  - (c) in total?
- (3) What was the total expenditure for the year 2010-11?
- (4) What is the allocated budget for 2011-12?
- (5) What capital expenditure was allocated in 2010-11?
- (6) What capital expenditure is planned for 2011-12?
- (7) What new services were commenced in 2010-11?
- (8) Are any services being opened in 2011-12?
- (9) Were any services closed or transferred in 2010-11?
- (10) Are any services planned for closure in 2011-12?
- (11) How many staff were employed as of 30 June 2011 in:
  - (a) nursing;
  - (b) medical;
  - (c) allied health;
  - (d) in total?
- (12) How many separations were there in 2010-11?
- (13) How many of these were same day separations?
- (14) How many Emergency Department attendances were there in 2010-11?
- (15) What percentage of these walked out before being seen?

Answer—

I refer the Member to responses to Written Questions 940 and 954 in the Legislative Council.

\*1708 KEMPSEY HOSPITAL BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Of the 507 hospital beds opened between 1 July 2010 and 22 November 2011 (Written Question 1316):

- (1) How many of these beds were at Kempsey Hospital?
- (2) What type of beds are they (i.e. acute/subacute/other)?
- (3) In which unit(s) are these beds located?
- (4) At what date were they first made available for patient care?
- (5) Are these beds funded by COAG or by the NSW Government?
- (6) How many beds were/are available at Kempsey Hospital on:
  - (a) 1 July 2010;
  - (b) 22 November 2011;
  - (c) 31 January 2012?
- (7) How many additional beds are planned to be opened at Kempsey Hospital by 30 June 2012?

Answer—

- (1) to (7) The 2010-11 NSW Health Annual Report contains more comprehensive reporting of beds than in previous years, with specific categories for ED beds; other hospital beds; other beds including Hospital in the Home and Residential/Community Aged Care and Respite Beds; and treatment spaces, which include bassinets, transit lounges, same day therapy/dialysis. This is found on page 216.

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Bed numbers also appear on the Federal Government's "My Hospital" website.

A fact sheet on hospital beds is located on the NSW Health website at

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts\\_about\\_hospital\\_beds.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts_about_hospital_beds.pdf)

- \*1710 BANKSTOWN AND CAMPSIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked 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—

Given the unique pressures faced by police in the Bankstown area, will the Government rule out merging the Bankstown and Campsie Local Area Commands?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that it is considering its response to the Ministerial Audit of Policing Resources, which canvasses the effectiveness of the current Local Area Command structure and police numbers, amongst other considerations. This response is due to be submitted to the Government in May 2012.

- \*1711 POLICE RESOURCES IN BANKSTOWN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked 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—

Will there be any reduction of police resources available in the Bankstown Local Government area as a result of the restructuring of the Police Force as proposed in the Parson's Report?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that it is considering its response to the Ministerial Audit of Policing Resources, which canvasses the effectiveness of the current Local Area Command structure and police numbers, amongst other considerations. This response is due to be submitted to the Government in May 2012.

- \*1714 PARSON'S REVIEW—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked 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—

Given the reforms recommended in the Parson's Review, will the Minister commit to not closing the Meredith Street Bankstown LAC Office, Bass Hill Station or Revesby Station?

Answer—

There are no plans to close Bankstown, Revesby or Bass Hill stations. Any potential restructure of Local Area Command management structures will not result in police station closures.

- \*1715 BANKSTOWN TRAIN STATION UPGRADE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

In reference to the Inquiry into the Utilization of Rail Corridors:

Given the support of Bankstown City Council and the Bankstown community, will the Government commit to upgrading Bankstown Train Station as outline in my submission to this inquiry?

Answer—

All submissions to the inquiry will be considered.

- \*1717 THE PORTRAIT PROJECT—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to The Portrait Project by the Sydney Women's Fund:

What action will you take to support young women experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in the Bankstown area to complete Year 12?

Answer—

Individual Schools can choose to participate in any local program that they find of merit to their local school community, such as The Portrait Project.

The Bankstown Local Government Area has a diverse range of public secondary schools that support young women to complete Year 12. Some of these schools are co-educational and others are single sex girls schools. There are also schools for students with special needs which include the Bankstown Hospital School.

All public secondary schools have a range of staff and programs available to assist young women with their wellbeing beyond academic achievement. Wellbeing is supported through the access to school counsellors. A number of additional specific programs are offered to support targeted student needs. These include but are not limited to:

- enhanced literacy and numeracy programs through equity programs and provision of additional assistance to schools in making strong links with parents and the wider community
- continued priority on school to work programs assisting young people to plan and map employability skills for future work and education pathways
- expanded curriculum options through the addition of new vocational education and training courses
- provision of specialist staffing in the form of English as a second language teachers who provide individual support to students
- enhanced information communication technologies through the resourcing benefits of the Digital Education Revolution.

One secondary school, Bankstown Senior College, is a unique learning environment that supports young women who may be returning to education or who may have experienced a disrupted educational background.

The NSW Government continues to support all schools in the Bankstown area to build strategic relationships with the TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney Institute and tertiary institutions to promote a broad range of higher study and training options for all girls.

\*1718 PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) In relation to public housing properties in each Housing NSW local office area:
  - (a) What is the value of property repairs and maintenance requested in the local area?
  - (b) What is the timeframe in which these will be achieved?
  - (c) What is the budget for repairs and maintenance for the local area for the 2011-2012 year?
  - (d) What amount has been spent to date for repairs and maintenance for the local area for the 2011-2012 year?
  - (e) What amount will be spent for repairs and maintenance for the local area for the balance of the 2011-2012 year?
- (2) Has any decision been made to stop or slow down the pace of property repairs and maintenance for public housing?
- (3) If the answer to question (2) is yes, who made that decision and why was it made?
- (4) In relation to the new obligations for Housing Pathway applicants and the NSW Housing Register outlined by Mike Allen, Chief Executive, Housing NSW, on 1 March 2012:
  - (a) When will the guidelines referred to in Mr Allen's 1 March 2012 document be developed by?
  - (b) Will the draft guidelines be made public for comment and input?
  - (c) Apart from those guidelines, what mechanism or process will be in place to ensure that homeless persons and persons living with a mental illness are not disadvantaged?
  - (d) Will there be any mechanism for persons who are removed from the NSW Housing Register to be reinstated to where they were if they can demonstrate that they were not reasonably able to remain in touch with Housing NSW or a participating community housing provider?
  - (e) If the answer to question (d) is no, why not?
- (5) Given that clause 32A of the Public Sector Employment Management (Departments) Order 2011 provides for the transfer of Housing NSW staff principally involved in asset management to the Department of Finance and Services as on 1 July 2011, what administrative order or mechanism, if any, has transferred asset management functions from Housing NSW to the Department of Finance and Services?
- (6) If there is no administrative order or mechanism that transferred asset management functions from Housing NSW to the Department of Finance and Services, have those functions remained with Housing NSW?
- (7) Has the Department of Finance and Services undertaken housing asset management functions since 1 July 2011 or from any other date?
- (8) If the Department of Finance and Services has undertaken housing asset management functions since 1 July 2011 or from any other date, on what legal basis has it done so?

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(9) If the Department of Finance and Services has undertaken housing asset management functions since 1 July 2011 or from any other date, are there any legal or audit issues that arise and, if so, what are they?

(10) When, how and by whom were any legal or audit issues identified?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Maintenance falls under the Minister for Finance and Services portfolio.

(4)

(a) May 2012

(b) Housing NSW will consult with external stakeholders on the evidence requirements for applicants who are exempt from the new arrangements.

(c) to (e) Applicants, who do not respond to contact from Housing NSW, or a community housing provider participating in Housing Pathways, will be removed from the NSW Housing Register. However, exemptions will apply in the following situations:

- The applicant was in hospital, respite care, a disability support facility or rehabilitation facility or other institution;
- The applicant is homeless and was unable to access their mail during the 28 day period;
- The applicant was unable to access their mail during the 28 day period due to escaping domestic or family violence and a family break up;
- The applicant was away for 28 days or more due to family bereavement or family care; or
- The applicant was in custody at the time contact was attempted.

Further, where support services are providing assistance to a client, Housing NSW will be happy to receive a response from those services, providing that the client agrees.

(5) to (9) The asset management functions sit within the NSW Land and Housing Corporation, the statutory body which owns the public housing assets. Through instruments of delegation, the NSW Land and Housing Corporation utilise staff within the Departments of Finance and Services and Family and Community Services to undertake its functions.

(10) Legal and audit issues are identified by the Departments of Finance and Services and Family and Community Services through internal processes. The Crown Solicitor's Office and the Audit Office are consulted, as necessary.

\*1719 ILUKA GLADE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Given that Iluka Glade, a property owned by the Anglican Church Corporate Trustees Diocese of Grafton ("the Trustees") at 14 Charles Street, Iluka is comprised of 9 units of social housing for persons aged 55 years and over arising from the Housing Partnership Program and that the Trustees now propose to sell Iluka Glade to an aged care provider resulting in the loss of these dwellings as social housing:

- (1) Why will the Government not enforce the Deed to ensure that these social housing places are not lost?
- (2) What advice has the Government received on this issue and from whom was any advice sourced?
- (3) What steps is the Government taking to ensure that the social housing places lost as a result of any sale will be replaced?
- (4) What budget has been allocated for the replacement of the social housing places lost as a result of any sale?
- (5) Over what timeframe will these social housing places be replaced?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Deed of Agreement between Housing NSW and the Anglican Church Corporate Trustees Diocese of Grafton was terminated by mutual agreement between the two parties in June 2010. The Deed is therefore no longer enforceable and the NSW Government does not have the authority to direct the Trustees on how it should use the properties.

(3) to (5) The funding provided by the then NSW Government was allocated under the former Housing Partnerships Program and the former Hostel and Care Program. These programs funded a broad range of housing projects which included residential aged care facilities such as nursing homes and hostels in addition to independent aged accommodation such as Iluka Glade. These projects are not regarded as social housing.

In recent years, around 50 units of accommodation have been built in the Clarence Electorate.

\*1720 COAL SEAM GAS FRACKING IN THE ILLAWARRA—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

- (1) Why did the recently released Strategic Land Use Report not rule out fracking for coal seam gas in water catching areas in the Illawarra?
- (2) What evidence did the Government use to make a decision that fracking is safe in this sensitive area?

Answer—

- (1) The government recently extended a moratorium on hydraulic fracking for coal seam gas drilling in all areas of the State until April 2012 pending further review of this issue.

Draft Strategic Regional Land Use Plans for the Upper Hunter and New England North West Regions have been prepared and are on exhibition until 3 May 2012. Land use impacts associated with coal seam gas activity in the Illawarra will be addressed in the recently commenced review of the Illawarra Regional Strategy.

- (2) There is currently a State wide moratorium on fracking. The modification to the Apex coal seam gas drilling project in the Illawarra, approved by the Planning Assessment Commission on 21 November 2011, does not involve fracking.

\*1721 GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES AND REVIEWS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Will the Premier provide a list of all the inquiries and reviews the Government has announced since April 2011?
- (2) For each review and inquiry will the Premier list when they commenced and the anticipated completion date?

Answer—

I am advised:

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes inquiries and reviews to inform government decision-making.

A number of inquiries and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

\*1722 FIREARM AMENDMENT (AMMUNITION CONTROL) BILL—Mr Greg Piper asked 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—

Regarding the Firearm Amendment (Ammunition Control) Bill 2012:

- (1) How will someone be legally able to purchase ammunition for a legally borrowed rifle that is not registered in his or her name?
- (2) As the registration documents are paper and will not last long if frequently handled in order to comply with this legislation, will more durable documents (e.g. plastic cards) be issued?
- (3) What information is known on where criminals actually source their ammunition from?
- (4) (a) What is the benefit in retailers keeping decentralised records of ammunition sales?  
(b) If records are to be kept, should they not be sent to the Firearms Registry for collation and analysis in order to be meaningful?

Answer—

- (1) Should the Bill be adopted in its current form, there shall remain a number of methods by which those who have a legitimate reason for purchasing ammunition may still do so, despite not having a firearm registered in their name. The proposed legislation does not affect the purchase of ammunition by a holder of a separate permit that authorises them to purchase ammunition, regardless of whether they have a firearm registered in their name.

In addition, the relevant provisions of the Bill do not apply to the sale of ammunition by a licensed firearms dealer to another licensed firearms dealer, or to the sale of ammunition to a member of a shooting club by the club armourer for use at the club, in a firearm registered to the club.

- (2) The legitimacy of this concern is yet to be tested and will be reviewed following implementation.
- (3) The NSW Police Force has advised that criminals employ a variety of methods to acquire ammunition, including targeted and opportunistic theft; fraud; breaking, entering and stealing from business premises, firearms dealerships, firearms clubs or the private dwellings of those who may be lawfully in possession of ammunition. Additionally, those lawfully entitled to possess ammunition

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may, for financial or other reasons, provide the ammunition to criminals or others not lawfully entitled to it.

- (4) The collection of records will enable the NSW Police Force to examine transaction records in the investigation of crimes. The decentralised collection model provides police with appropriate intelligence while minimising the burden placed on ammunition dealers.

\*1723 GOVERNMENT PRESCHOOL ENROLMENT VACANCIES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) (a) Which government preschools had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of the 2012 school year?  
(b) How many enrolment vacancies were there at each of these preschools at the beginning of the 2012 school year?
- (2) (a) Which government preschools had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of the 2011 school year?  
(b) How many enrolment vacancies were there at each of these preschools at the beginning of the 2011 school year?
- (3) (a) Which government preschools had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of the 2010 school year?  
(b) How many enrolment vacancies were there at each of these preschools at the beginning of the 2010 school year?

Answer—

- (1) Enrolment data is collected by census in August each year. There is no systemic data collection of enrolments and vacancies at the beginning of school years.  
(2) and (3) This data was not collected in 2010 and 2011.

\*1724 NSW PUBLIC SCHOOL UPGRADE FUND—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What advice was provided to schools to inform them of their eligibility to participate in the \$40 million NSW Public School Upgrade Fund to fund maintenance needs identified by principals and school communities?
- (2) What is the process for schools applying for this funding?
- (3) What is the total amount of this funding granted up to 31 January 2012?
- (4) Which schools have applied to receive this funding up to 31 January 2012?
- (5) Which schools have been granted this funding up to 31 January 2012?
- (6) For schools granted this funding, how much funding has each school received and for what project(s) at each school?

Answer—

- (1) In 7 October 2011, the Department of Education and Communities provided principals with the information regarding the Program and the application process.
- (2) Applications are submitted by schools via the Department's "AMS on the Web" intranet site.
- (3) Funding is provided over 4 years, at \$10 million per year.
- (4) In Round 1 (2011-12), 1,271 schools applied for funding.
- (5) In Round 1 (2011-12), 130 schools were granted funding.
- (6) Schools received either part or full funding up to \$200,000 for a range of projects, including canteen upgrades, toilet upgrades and food technology room upgrades.

\*1725 PRIORITY ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS AT FAIRFIELD—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Can the Minister advise how many applications for priority assistance were waiting to be accessed at the Department of Housing, Fairfield office on 1 March 2012?
- (2) Can the Minister also advise how many staff members have been allocated to process applications for priority assistance at the Department of Housing, Fairfield office?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Housing NSW or community housing providers participating Housing Pathways do not receive applications for priority housing. When an application for housing assistance is received, an initial assessment is undertaken to determine whether the person applying is in need of immediate temporary accommodation. Applications are then assessed as quickly as possible for a range of products including priority housing. Applications for housing assistance that are lodged with Housing NSW are assessed by the Access and Demand Team.

\*1727 OPERATION SPARTAN—Mr Guy Zangari asked 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—

- (1) What is the projected time line of Operation Spartan and when is it slated to end?
- (2) How many police officers are assigned to Operation Spartan?
- (3) Where will the police officers assigned to Operation Spartan be redeployed when it ceases (which LAC)?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Operation Spartan is an ongoing police operation.
- (2) and (3) Police officers are not formally assigned to Operation Spartan or removed from their Local Area Commands. Rather, Commands undertake Operation Spartan activities as required.

\*1728 POLICE GRADUATES IN 2011—Mr Guy Zangari asked 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—

- (1) How many police graduates in the 2011 cohort were allocated to the following local area commands:
  - (a) Flemington;
  - (b) Blacktown;
  - (c) Rosehill;
  - (d) Fairfield;
  - (e) Holroyd;
  - (f) Cabramatta?
- (2) What was the total number of police graduates for 2011?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) (a) 7
  - (b) 4
  - (c) 4
  - (d) 2
  - (e) 8
  - (f) 0
- (2) 731.

\*1729 POLICE GRADUATES IN 2012—Mr Guy Zangari asked 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—

In 2012, what is the projected number of Police graduates that will be allocated to the following local area commands:

- (a) Flemington;
- (b) Blacktown;
- (c) Rosehill;
- (d) Fairfield;
- (e) Holroyd;
- (f) Cabramatta?

Answer—

Probationary Constable allocations will be announced on the date of each attestation.

\*1730 CANLEY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOM—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

Was one of the eight kindergarten classes at Canley Vale Public School dispersed into the other seven kindergarten classes because the demountable classroom they received during the Christmas break was deemed unsafe for children to be in?

Answer—

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No.

\*1731 NSW HEALTH MINISTRY DIRECTIVE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Has the NSW Health Ministry Directive that "the first member of nursing staff to take sick leave on a morning or afternoon shift will not be replaced . . ." been or will be implemented in all hospitals of South-West Sydney including Fairfield Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

There is no Ministry of Health directive requiring that the first member of nursing staff to take sick leave on a morning or afternoon shift is not to be replaced.

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\*1732 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL DENTAL CT SCANNER—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Has a dental CT scanner been installed at the dental clinic within the grounds of the Mount Druitt Hospital?
- (2) If so, what date will this machine commence operating?
- (3) What has been the activity rate on this machine for each month since the commencement of its operations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) There is no dental CT scanner at Mount Druitt Dental Clinic.

\*1733 GLENDALE POLICE STATION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked 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—

With respect to the Government's pre-election commitment to lower crime and keep people in the Hunter safe, will the Government fulfill its commitment to build Glendale Police Station?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my detailed response to a Question Without Notice on Lake Macquarie Local Area Command asked by the Hon Marie Ficarra on 4 April 2012.

\*1734 CARERS IN THE ELECTORATE OF WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

How many full-time and part-time carers operate in the electorate of Wallsend?

Answer—

I understand the Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Ageing was asked a similar question therefore its more appropriate the Minister respond.

\*1735 DAVID GONSKI REVIEW OF SCHOOL FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

With respect to the David Gonski review of school funding and noting that the poorest fifth of schools are almost all Government schools and four-fifths of the poorest children attend Government schools:

- (1) How does the Government ensure that Hunter students from disadvantaged backgrounds get the help they need to reach their potential and learn best?
- (2) What programs does the Government provide in the Hunter for students:
  - (a) who are unable to live at home or are homeless;
  - (b) whose first language is not English and who have recently arrived in the country;
  - (c) who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds;
  - (d) who have learning difficulties or a disability?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Education and Communities is committed to maximising learning outcomes for all students, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Fifty-five Hunter schools participate in the Priority Schools Programs (comprising Priority Schools Funding Program and the Priority Action Schools Program) and 43 Hunter schools participate in the Low SES School Communities National Partnership.
- (2) (a) Students who are unable to live at home or are homeless are supported in the Hunter regions with supplementary, short term or emergency in school support through the Out of Home Care Program. School counselling services are provided to students, teachers and carers to support students who are in care or out of home. Importantly, schools develop an education plan for every student in out of home care.
- (b) Students whose first language is not English and who have recently arrived in the country are supported through Refugee Transition Support programs; Specialist Refugee Support Officers; Regional Community Information Officer to provide linkages between schools and Non English Speaking Backgrounds communities; Anti Racism training for staff; ESL teachers and ESL mentor teachers; cultural diversity programs; and teacher professional development programs about the educational and support needs of refugee students.
- (c) Students who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds each have a Personalised Learning Plan from preschool to Year 12. Students participate in a readiness for school program including hearing screenings. Mentoring and cultural fortification programs are also implemented in the Hunter to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Identified students not achieving benchmarks in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 following NAPLAN also receive targeted funding to support to improve learning outcomes. Individual tuition funding and scholarships are also made available to support the achievement of learning outcomes. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are also supported with funding to Local Management Groups (secondary and partner primary school learning communities) to develop local programs in collaboration with Aboriginal community members and Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups.
- (d) Students with learning difficulties and/or a disability are supported through a variety of programs in the Hunter. The Learning Assistance Program supports students experiencing difficulties in learning in regular classes. This program employs 163.2 FTE Support Teachers Learning Assistance in the Hunter in addition to \$770,132 per annum in specific funding directly to schools.
- Integration Funding Support is a targeted program for students with disabilities in regular classrooms, which assists the school in maximising the participation of students with disabilities in regular classes across the full range of programs offered by their schools. Approximately \$15 million was provided to Hunter schools in 2011 to assist schools supporting these students.
- In addition, the Hunter area of the Hunter Central Coast Region operated 204 support classes located within regular schools, Schools for Specific Purposes and Learning Centres for the complete range of the department's recognised disabilities.

\*1736 PATIENT LIAISON OFFICERS AT CALVARY MATER HOSPITAL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many Patient Liaison Officers are there currently at The Calvary Mater Hospital Newcastle?
- (2) Are there any plans to increase this number?
- (3) If so, when?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Calvary Mater Hospital does not have positions titled as such.

The basic functions of such a role are shared by Admissions Office and Revenue staff. Patient concerns are dealt with by Hospital management staff.

\*1740 REGULATION NO. 596—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Why did the Minister recommend the making of Regulation No. 596 of 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

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Regulation No. 28 of 2009 (the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Regulation 2009) was made to gazette the trial site and prescribe the Local Government Areas for the two-year trial of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act 2007. The trial ceased on 30 June 2011 making the 2009 Regulation redundant.

\*1741 NSW DENTAL TASKFORCE REPORT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Will the Minister release publically the report of the NSW Dental Taskforce?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ministry of Health is currently considering the advice of the NSW Dental Taskforce. A Dental Health Action Plan will be publicly released in accordance with the Government's election commitment.

\*1742 FELONY MURDER—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to the offence of felony murder pursuant to the NSW Crimes Act (s.18):

- (1) How many people in NSW have been charged with this offence?
- (2) How many trials have been conducted in NSW with this as a count in an indictment?
- (3) How many people have pleaded guilty to an indictment with this as a count?
- (4) How many people have been convicted of this offence in the following periods:
  - (a) 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;
  - (b) 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;
  - (c) 1 July 2011 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) is unable to distinguish between charges of "felony murder" and other charges of murder as they are brought under the same section of the Crimes Act 1900. However, details about the number of people charged with murder and found guilty are published on the BOCSAR website in the criminal court reports.

\*1743 ABOLITION OF STRIKWERDA PRINCIPLE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Has the Attorney General or his department requested or commissioned an actuarial assessment on the likely affect that abolishing the Strikwerda principle would have on damages claims and the overall liabilities of dust diseases defendants and their insurers?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

The diseases caused by asbestos are truly horrific. They are dreadful, torturous and painful, and they devastate both victims and their families. Those who, through no fault of their own, contract these diseases through exposure at their work places or homes merit our full sympathy.

They and their families are entitled to expect justice. In circumstances where their exposure to asbestos has been the result of the neglect and wrongdoing of others they deserve to be properly compensated.

Recognition of the need to ensure justice for asbestos victims is a matter that transcends political differences. The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that asbestos victims continue to receive the compensation they deserve.

The Final Funding Agreement between NSW and James Hardie is the primary mechanism under which Australian asbestos victims now receive compensation through the Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund (AICF).

Under the Agreement, James Hardie has pledged to provide around \$1.4 billion to Australian asbestos victims through AICF over the course of at least 40 years. Its contribution to AICF to date has been around \$558 million.

The Government continues to actively monitor James Hardie's compliance with the Final Funding Agreement.

In addition, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments have recently advanced \$29.7 million in loan funds to AICF under a \$320 million facility agreement agreed to in 2010. This loan provides peace of mind to asbestos victims by ensuring that the AICF is not required to ration compensation payments or make payments by instalment because of the recent downturn in James Hardie's cash flows.

It is against this background that the Government is now considering the recommendations of the NSW Law Reform Commission (LRC) to amend the law relating to assessment of damages in dust diseases cases, including to abolish the so-called Strikwerda Principle.

The NSW Court of Appeal handed down its decision in *BI (Contracting) Pty Ltd v Strikwerda* in September 2005, more than six years ago and one year prior to the signing of the current Funding Agreement with James Hardie.

Although now known as the 'Strikwerda Principle', the principle referred to in that case appears to have been settled in respect of dust diseases cases at least since the High Court's decision in *Public Trustee v Zoanetti* in 1945. The Strikwerda Principle was subsequently abolished in South Australia in 2005 and in Victoria and Western Australia in 2008.

In New South Wales, in November 2010 and prior to the March 2011 election, the former Attorney General, John Hatzistergos commissioned the LRC to conduct an inquiry.

The LRC's report was completed in October 2011 and was tabled on 9 November 2011. One of its recommendations is that the Strikwerda Principle be abolished.

The Government is actively considering all of the report's recommendations and we are acting as quickly as practicable to finalise a response. An immediate response is not possible because, unlike other jurisdictions, NSW is the jurisdiction which, working together with representatives of asbestos victims, initiated, negotiated, and finally signed the agreement with James Hardie.

The LRC stated that, before moving to abolish the Strikwerda Principle, the Government should first obtain legal advice as to any possible impacts on the Final Funding Agreement as well as actuarial advice on the likely financial impact on damages claims.

The Final Funding Agreement contains a number of clauses that may need to be considered, including clause 13.2(g) which provides:

"The NSW Government acknowledges and agrees that:

- (i) Damages for dust diseases compensation are determined by common law in New South Wales;
- (ii) The NSW Government will not change the common law basis of assessment of damages for dust disease compensation; and
- (iii) Accordingly, the NSW Government will not legislate to reduce or increase damages for dust diseases."

Since November last year the Government has been seeking legal and actuarial advice in relation to the LRC's recommendations.

The Government expects to have final legal and actuarial advice by the end of April.

\*1744 LICENSING OF SEX WORKERS AND BROTHELS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Does the Attorney General or the Government have any proposals to regulate, license or alter the regulation on licensing of sex workers and/or brothels?
- (2) If so, when will such plans be released?

Answer—

I am advised:

The regulation of brothels falls within the jurisdiction of the Special Minister of State.

\*1745 LEGAL AID—CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What is the current staffing level of the Civil Litigation section of Legal Aid NSW?
- (2) How many matters were dealt with by the Civil Litigation section of Legal Aid NSW in the year 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

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- (1) A small group of lawyers working in the Central Sydney office of Legal Aid NSW were formerly known as the Civil Law Section. Legal Aid NSW now has a Civil Law Division. The Division includes civil law staff working in the Central Sydney office and in 14 of its 21 regional offices. As at 21 March 2012, 117.1 full time equivalent staff work in the Division although there are additional administrative staff in regional offices who provide some administrative support to civil lawyers.
- (2) During this period the Civil Law Division provided 211,978 civil law services to clients. This included 1685 grants of legal aid, 12,299 duty services, 24,541 advice services and 5666 minor assistance services.

\*1746 SPENDING ON LEGAL SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How much did the Government spend on legal services in the following periods:
  - (a) 1 July 2011 to 21 December 2011;
  - (b) 1 January 2012 to date?
- (2) (a) What savings are projected from the legal services blueprint released by the Government in August 2011?  
(b) How are they calculated?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Expenditure on legal services is currently being collected by Government agencies. In accordance with recommendation 8 of the Legal Services Blueprint, agencies have been asked to report annual legal services expenditure to the Department of Attorney General and Justice from the end of the 2011-12 financial year.  
  
In accordance with recommendation 9 of the Legal Services Blueprint, agencies are required to report on certain external legal services expenditure and publish this information in their 2012-13 annual reports.
- (2) The Legal Services Blueprint reported that the expenditure growth rate for legal services has been modest. The focus is on greater value for money, transparency, efficiency and alignment with Government priorities rather than specific savings targets.

\*1747 JAMES HARDIE FUNDING AGREEMENT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Has the Attorney General or his department requested or commissioned legal advice regarding any consequences for the amended and restated final funding agreement with James Hardie arising from the recommendations in NSW Law Reform Commission Report No. 131 "Compensation to Relatives"?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I refer the member to my response to Written Question No 1743.

\*1748 EMAIL FROM SAM EKERMAWI—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Does the Attorney General propose to reply to the email from Sam Ekermawi dated 8 March 2012 concerning Legal Aid and Mr Ekermawi's application involving the Administrative Decisions Tribunal?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If so, what will the answer be?
- (4) If the application is unsuccessful, why?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) A reply was sent to Mr Ekermawi on my behalf by the Community Relations Unit of the Department of Attorney General and Justice on 23 March 2012.
- (3) and (4) The reply advised Mr Ekermawi that it does not appear his proceedings in the Court of Appeal raise issues of public importance that would warrant my intervention. The question that the Court of Appeal is required to consider concerns a limited point of law, namely whether Mr Ekermawi exercised

his appeal rights against the decision of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal in the appropriate forum and in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions. This is a straightforward issue of statutory interpretation and does not require my involvement.

As this matter is still before the Court of Appeal, it is not appropriate for me to comment further.

\*1749 NEW BEDS OPENED—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Minister's claims to have opened 550 new beds across NSW in her first year of Government:

- (1) In which hospitals were these beds opened?
- (2) How many beds were opened in each of these hospitals?
- (3) What was the initial date of commissioning for patient care of these beds?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The 2010-11 NSW Health Annual Report contains more comprehensive reporting of beds than in previous years, with specific categories for ED beds; other hospital beds; other beds including Hospital in the Home and Residential/Community Aged Care and Respite Beds; and treatment spaces, which include bassinets, transit lounges, same day therapy/dialysis. This is found on page 216.

Bed numbers also appear on the Federal Government's "My Hospital" website.

A fact sheet on hospital beds is located on the NSW Health website at

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts\\_about\\_hospital\\_beds.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts_about_hospital_beds.pdf)

\*1750 SECURITY OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY NSW HEALTH—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to security officers employed by NSW Health:

- (1) How many full time equivalent (FTE) staff are employed?
- (2) What licence requirements are necessary for employment?
- (3) What is the total budget for NSW Health for these employees?
- (4) Are any private firms also subcontracted to provide security guards?
- (5) Are the NSW Health-employed security guards permitted to carry/use handcuffs or batons in every local health district?
- (6) Are they permitted to search bags or clients if requested to do so by nursing staff if there are concerns for the safety of staff?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Local Health Districts engage security staff as contracted/agency personnel who are not included on NSW Health payroll, and as Health and Security Assistants and Security Officers. The Health and Security Assistant role under the Public Hospital (State Award) incorporates ward functions.
- (2) All security staff employed in NSW Health facilities are required to hold a Class 1 (A) security industry licence granted by the Commissioner of Police.
- (3) The budget for security officers is part of the total Health budget and not allocated separately.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) No. The decision of a Local Health District to provide batons and handcuffs to its security staff is based on the outcomes of a risk assessment. A risk assessment may not automatically support the provision of batons and handcuffs in each Local Health District.
- (6) The power to search an individual is restricted to narrow circumstances allowed under criminal law and the Mental Health Act which are strictly regulated, or when the individual consents. Without clear lawful authority, any search initiated without consent would be a trespass upon the person and therefore unlawful.

\*1751 EMERGENCY WAITING TIMES WEBSITE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the emergency waiting times website:

- (1) How many times has the website been "down" since July 2011?
- (2) On which dates was it "down"?
- (3) On each occasion, for how many hours was it "down"?

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Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The website suffered technical problems on six occasions:

- 23-24 November 2011
- 2 December 2011
- 6 December 2011
- 14-15 December 2011
- 22 December 2011
- 3 March 2012

On two occasions, there were interruptions to service of 33 hours and 21 hours caused by a technical design flaw that required rectification by the system developer. The flaw caused a break in the connection with reporting hospitals. Throughout the reporting interruptions, the website remained publicly accessible and continued to provide hospital contact information and details regarding an after-hours GP referral service.

Of the other four occasions of interruptions to service, three were of 1 hour duration and one of 2 hours duration.

\*1752 ASSURANCES TO SUBCONTRACTORS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the Government given any assurances to the subcontractors, who lost money as a result of their involvement with the NSW public housing stimulus projects, that they will be offered first preference by St Hilliers to finish those jobs and recover some of the monies owing to them?
- (2) Was this a part of the tender that was entered into between the Government and St Hilliers?

Answer—

- (1) St Hilliers Construction has been given a list of registered subcontractors previously engaged on the original projects. Commercial decisions relating to the management of the projects are a matter for the company.
- (2) The tender process was conducted in accordance with relevant construction procurement guidelines to ensure the process met appropriate standards of probity and transparency.

\*1753 JOBS CREATED—Mr Ryan Park asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Of the 100,000 new jobs the Coalition promised it would create before the last election, how many jobs have been created in the Wollongong Local Government Area since the Government was elected in March 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since 1 July 2011, businesses have been able to apply for Payroll Tax rebates under the NSW Government's Jobs Action Plan for new jobs created. To ensure the sustainability of those new jobs, rebates will only be paid to eligible businesses on the first and second anniversary of the employment of a new person.

The NSW Government has also provided \$5 million to the Illawarra Region Innovation and Investment Fund to strengthen the local economy and create jobs. Successful applications for funding in the first round will generate more than 470 new jobs and inject \$46.5 million into the Illawarra region. Applications for funding under the Illawarra Fund are now open.

\*1754 CLIENT SERVICE OFFICER AND TEAM LEADER TRAINING—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What training did client service officers and team leaders of Housing NSW receive when the new maintenance line was introduced?

Answer—

Housing NSW Housing Contact Centre staff attend an induction program followed by training.

\*1755 CONFUCIUS CLASSROOMS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) (a) Does the Government have a copy of the curriculum of the Confucius Classrooms?
- (b) If yes, is it publicly available?

- (2) (a) Does the Government have a contract relating to the operation of so-called "Confucius Classrooms" in NSW public schools?  
(b) If yes, who is this contract with?
- (3) How does the NSW Department of Education and Communities ensure that students in Confucius Classrooms are taught by approved department teachers and the curriculum programs are based on prescribed Board of Studies New South Wales syllabuses?
- (4) How does the NSW Department of Education and Communities ensure the schools and classes adhere to department policies and procedures?
- (5) How are the Confucius Classrooms funded?
- (6) Does the following clause apply to the operation of Confucius Classrooms in NSW public schools:  
"The School needs to match Hanban funding 1:1 with a cash or in kind contribution except for the one first payment in the form of start-up fund of \$US10,000 plus a request for up to \$US20,000 in equipment"?
- (7) Who teaches in the Confucius Classrooms in NSW public schools?
- (8) What qualifications are required for the volunteer teachers of Confucius Classrooms?
- (9) Are the volunteer teachers subject to any Australian/NSW accreditation?
- (10) What is the jurisdiction of the NSW Department of Education and Communities on "volunteer teachers"?
- (11) How are teaching methods in Confucius Classes measured and supervised?
- (12) Is there any political content included in the classes?
- (13) What measures are in place to ensure that the Chinese government does not exert influence over what is taught in NSW schools?
- (14) What measures are in place to monitor the quality and the independence of the classes?
- (15) What measures are in place to ensure that history and culture are taught without censorship, bias or omission?
- (16) In which year did the Department of Education and Training and the Chinese Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China enter into a memorandum of understanding to boost the teaching and learning of Chinese in our public schools?  
(a) Is this agreement publicly available?  
(b) If yes, where can it be accessed?
- (17) How does the memorandum of understanding between the NSW and Chinese governments specifically outline that the language and culture content taught in NSW schools will conform to the Chinese language syllabuses as independently prescribed by the Board of Studies?
- (18) (a) Does the memorandum of understanding between the NSW and Chinese governments specifically assign responsibility for the management of the Confucius Classrooms to the Confucius Institute?  
(b) If yes, does this responsibility include developing annual activity plans, budgets and final accountings for the Confucius Classroom, and submitting to the Headquarters for approval?
- (19) Does the memorandum of understanding between the NSW and Chinese governments state that the Confucius Institute should also report to the Confucius Institute Headquarters concerning the operation of Confucius Classrooms on a regular basis?
- (20) (a) Is the memorandum of understanding between the NSW and Chinese governments publicly available?  
(b) If yes, where can it be accessed?
- (21) Does the NSW Department of Education and Communities have existing agreements with other foreign governments to support language and culture education in NSW public schools?  
(a) If yes, which governments?  
(b) If yes, are these agreements publicly available?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.  
(b) Syllabuses are available at the NSW Board of Studies website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>
- (2) (a) No. The operation of Confucius Classrooms is part of the work of the department's Confucius Institute.  
(b) Not applicable.

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(3) All Confucius Classrooms will have a department approved and employed teacher. School principals are responsible for ensuring that all teaching and learning programs adhere to the independently prescribed NSW Board of Studies syllabuses and are taught by qualified teachers employed by the Department. School Education Directors monitor teaching and learning programs in schools.

(4) School principals are responsible for the implementation of departmental policies and procedures. School Education Directors monitor schools' implementation of departmental policies and procedures.

(5) Initial funding of US\$150,000 for the department's Confucius Institute and US\$10,000 for each Confucius Classroom will be provided by Hanban, China.

(6) No.

(7) NSW Department of Education and Communities qualified teachers. Chinese volunteer teachers will assist departmental teachers to deliver teaching and learning programs in Confucius Classrooms.

(8) Volunteer teachers are qualified teachers from China.

(9) All volunteer teachers must have a satisfactory Working with Children check. This approach applies to all volunteer teachers, including those for other language classes, ethics volunteers and Special Religious Education volunteers.

(10) The school principal is responsible for all staff members at the school including volunteer teachers from other countries.

(11) Teaching and learning programs are monitored through normal line management within a school. Principals are responsible for all teaching and learning programs.

(12) No.

(13) to (15) Teaching and learning programs in NSW Confucius Classrooms are designed by department teachers based on the independently prescribed NSW Board of Studies syllabuses. All teaching and learning programs are monitored through normal line management within a school. Principals are responsible for all teaching and learning programs.

(16) 1995.

(a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

(17) The Memorandum of Understanding provides that teaching the Chinese language will be in accordance with local requirements. The local requirements in NSW are that all teaching and learning programs in public schools must be in line with the NSW Board of Studies syllabuses.

(18) (a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

(19) Yes.

(20) (a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

(21) Yes.

(a) The NSW Department of Education and Communities has existing agreements with Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Turkey, Korea and Indonesia.

(b) No.

\*1756 GLOVER STREET PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENT FUNDING—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

(1) Has the Minister received an application from Leichhardt Council for special project development funding for the Glover Street playing field, Callan Park, Rozelle?

(2) What is the timeline for when this grant funding application will be determined?

Answer—

(1) A letter requesting funding has been received from Leichhardt Council, and furthermore a response has been provided to Council which outlines the process for requests outside of existing grants programs and the annual budget cycle.

(2) As stated in the response to Leichhardt Council, Sport and Recreation is considering the request and I expect to be notified of their recommendation in the coming weeks.

\*1757 MOBILITY PARKING SCHEME PERMITS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) How many people currently hold an RTA Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) permit?
- (2) How many people currently holding an MPS permit have a clinically recognised permanent disability?
- (3) What provisions does the RTA have in place for MPS permit holders who have a clinically recognised permanent disability?
- (4) Must persons with a clinically recognised permanent disability present to their general practitioner (GP) to complete sections 2 and 3 of the application form?
- (5) What is the reasoning behind requiring a person with a clinically recognised permanent disability to repeatedly visit his or her GP in order to have the same form filled out, testifying to the same permanent disability?
- (6) Has the RTA considered modifying the MPS application form so that it caters for a range of applicants?
- (7) Has the RTA considered modifying its covering letter for the MPS application form to recognise the range of applicants?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) This information is available on the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) website.
- (2) 55,727 people holding an MPS permit as at 31 December 2011 have been endorsed by their treating general practitioner (GP) as having a clinically recognised disability (CRD).
- (3) This information is available on the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) website.
- (4) Yes, if the applicant has not previously been endorsed by the GP as having a CRD or they hold a driver licence and have not previously notified Roads and Maritime Services of any medical conditions that may affect safe driving, they will be required to complete sections 2 and 3 of the MPS application form.
- (5) Under the current MPS, an applicant who has been endorsed by a GP as having a CRD does not need to have their GP recertify their disability each time they renew their five year permit.
- (6) The MPS application form already caters for a range of applicants. The form allows GPs to complete the medical certificate and detail whether the applicant has a temporary or permanent disability. The form also allows GPs to endorse applicants as having a CRD if this is appropriate.  
Other amendments to the application form have been made to combine the fitness to drive medical with the MPS application form to ensure applicants who need to complete the medical report form do not need to make two separate appointments with the GP.
- (7) If the covering letter refers to notices sent to existing MPS holders prior to their five year renewal, these letters are tailored to meet the individual circumstances of the customer. If the customer holds both an MPS permit and a driver licence they will be instructed on which sections of the application form need to be completed. If the applicant only holds an MPS permit and does not have a CRD, they will be informed that they need to obtain a new medical certificate confirming they are still mobility impaired.

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(Paper No. 75)

\*1758 IMAGING SERVICES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN WESTERN SYDNEY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Has there been an increase in the number of patients referred to services in public hospitals?
- (2) (a) Do public hospitals in Western Sydney provide a full range of imaging services such as MRI, CT, X-ray and ultra sound services?  
(b) If so, what action is being taken by NSW Health to market the availability of these services to general practitioners?  
(c) If any, what has been the outcome of these actions?

Answer—

I am advised by the Western Sydney Local Health District:

(1) and (2) Yes.

There has been targeted information on availability of Western Sydney imaging services since 2006 for:

- general practitioners and specialists across Sydney through a number of events;
- local communities through Local Government Area fair events and Community Health Services on campus.

Overall marketing activities increased private referrals from 11,000 patients in 2006 to 17,000 patients in 2011.

\*1759 COOKS RIVER RAW SEWAGE—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Noting recent research shows that there is raw sewage in the Cooks River, what limit has the Government placed on flows into the Cooks River?
- (2) What programs does the Government have in place to reduce the quantity of raw sewage in the Cooks River?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Environment Protection Authority does not license any sewage treatment plants to directly discharge flows into the Cooks River.

Sydney Water is required to undertake monitoring and leakage programs under its environment protection licence.

Questions regarding Sydney Water would be more appropriately directed to the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services.

\*1760 PREMIER'S EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP ON WOMEN—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Why has the Minister disbanded the Premier's Expert Advisory Group on Women?
- (2) Why were the awards not conducted in International Women's Week?
- (3) Do they lose their significance if they are not conducted during, internationally, the most significant week for women?
- (4) Has the Government done any analysis of the availability of jobs and apprenticeships in the construction industry and other non-traditional trades for women?

Answer—

- (1) The Premier's Expert Advisory Council on Women has not been disbanded. The council has been re-established as the NSW Council for Women's Economic Opportunity.
- (2) The 2012 NSW Woman of the Year Awards process was announced on 8 March, International Women's Day.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.

\*1761 GOVERNMENT PRESCHOOL ENROLMENT VACANCIES IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Which government preschools in the Hunter had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of the 2012 school year?
- (2) How many enrolment vacancies were there at each of these preschools at the beginning of the 2012 school year?
- (3) Which government preschools in the Hunter had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of the 2011 school year?
- (4) How many enrolment vacancies were there at each of these preschools at the beginning of the 2011 school year?
- (5) Which government preschools in the Hunter had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of the 2010 school year?
- (6) How many enrolment vacancies were there at each of these preschools at the beginning of the 2010 school year?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) Enrolment data is collected by census in August each year. There is no systematic data collection of enrolments and vacancies at the beginning of school years.

\*1762 JOB CREATION IN NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked 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—

Of the 100,000 new jobs the Coalition promised before the March 2011 election, how many jobs were created in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Local Government area since the election?

Answer—

As at 1 April 2012, there have been 366 new positions registered in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Local Government Areas under the Job Action Plan, which is the Government's scheme to incentivise the creation of new full time equivalent positions amongst payroll tax paying businesses.

With new registrations into the program being accepted until the end of the 2012-13 financial year, and with a number of large local employers expected to undertake significant new recruitment drives during this period to service their expanding operations, the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas are well placed to make a significant contribution to this statewide target.

\*1763 BEDS AND TREATMENT SPACES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the NSW Health annual reports and given that the 2009-10 report states that there were 22,421 beds in NSW and the 2010-11 report states that there were 24,430 "beds and treatment spaces" in NSW as of June 2010:

- (1) How did the 2,009 bed/treatment space discrepancy occur?
- (2) In which hospital(s) were these extra 2,009 beds/spaces?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The 2010-11 NSW Health Annual Report contains more comprehensive reporting of beds than in previous years, with specific categories for ED beds; other hospital beds; other beds including Hospital in the Home and Residential/Community Aged Care and Respite Beds; and treatment spaces, which include bassinets, transit lounges, same day therapy/dialysis. This is found on page 216.

Bed numbers also appear on the Federal Government's "My Hospital" website.

A fact sheet on hospital beds is located on the NSW Health website at

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts\\_about\\_hospital\\_beds.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/minister/pdf/facts_about_hospital_beds.pdf)

\*1764 AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION RANK—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Education—

Given your statement (Question Time on 13 March 2012) that Castle Hill High School achieved a 50% rate of ATAR scores of greater than 90 in 2011, a 100% increase on the previous year:

- (1) (a) How many students sat the 2011 HSC at Castle Hill High?  
(b) How many of these were male?  
(c) What number (and per cent) scored an ATAR of over 90?  
(d) How many of these were female?  
(e) What number (and per cent) scored an ATAR of over 90?
- (2) (a) How many students sat the 2010 HSC at Castle Hill High?  
(b) How many of these were male?  
(c) What number (and per cent) scored an ATAR of over 90?  
(d) How many of these were female?  
(e) What number (and per cent) scored an ATAR of over 90?
- (3) What was the total number of students at Castle Hill High in:  
(a) 2010;  
(b) 2011?
- (4) What was the total school funding in:  
(a) 2010;  
(b) 2011?

Answer—

- (1) (a) 214.  
(b) and (d) There were 103 male students, and 111 female students who sat the 2011 HSC at Castle Hill High School.  
(c) and (e) ATAR scores are confidential. Following the Review of the HSC by the previous government, they amended the then FOI Act to make the UAI (now ATAR) confidential to the individual and separate from the HSC.
- (2) (a) 213.  
(b) and (d) There were 104 males, and 109 females who sat the 2010 HSC at Castle Hill High School.  
(c) and (e) See (1) (c) and (e) above
- (3) (a) 1,268.  
(b) 1,290.
- (4) Net recurrent income for all schools for 2010 is available on the ACARA website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au). Data for 2011 is expected to be published by ACARA in early 2013.

\*1765 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Mount Druitt Hospital:

- (1) How many beds were available as at 30 June 2011?  
(2) How many of these beds were:  
(a) acute adult inpatient (excluding obstetrics/psychiatry/emergency);  
(b) non-acute inpatient;  
(c) in total?  
(3) What was the total expenditure for the year 2010-11?  
(4) What is the allocated budget for 2011-12?  
(5) How many staff were employed as at 30 June 2011 in:  
(a) nursing;  
(b) medical;  
(c) allied health;  
(d) in total?  
(6) How many separations were there in 2010-11?  
(7) How many of these were same day separations?  
(8) How many emergency department attendances were there in 2010-11?  
(9) How many of these left ("walkouts") without seeing a doctor?

Answer—

I refer the Member to responses to Written Questions 940 and 967 in the Legislative Council.

### 15 MARCH 2012

(Paper No. 76)

\*1766 MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING MACHINE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Does Blacktown Hospital have a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine in operation as part of its imaging department services?  
(2) Does Westmead Hospital have a MRI machine in operation as part of its imaging department services?  
(3) (a) Is there consideration for the provision of a new MRI licence for the western suburbs of Sydney?  
(b) If so, will the machine be installed at a location that does not have a MRI machine?  
(4) Why has NSW Health failed to recommend to the Federal Government that a MRI licence be issued to Mount Druitt Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes

- (2) There are two MRI machines in operation at Westmead Hospital.  
 (3) and (4) MRI eligibility, and the Medical Benefits Schedule, is determined by the Commonwealth Government. The Ministry of Health has consistently identified the need to improve access to MBS eligible MRI services to the DoHA.

\*1767 FIREARMS REGISTRY—Mr Clayton Barr asked 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—

With regards to the Firearms Registry:

- (1) What budget is annually allocated to this department?  
 (2) How many FTE staff are employed?  
 (3) What is the average number of mail envelopes received each day?  
 (4) What impact will proposed changes in the Firearms Amendment (Ammunition Control) Bill 2012 have on daily mail, FTE staff and Budget?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The Firearms Registry was allocated \$7,574,000 in 2011-12.  
 (2) Currently 76.88 FTE.  
 (3) 462.  
 (4) The impact of the proposed legislation is unable to be accurately estimated at this time.

\*1768 PRISONER AND WEEKEND DETENTION WORK CREWS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Will low security prisoner work crews or weekend detention work crews be utilised in their prisons local government area to assist councils with outstanding maintenance work on infrastructure?

Answer—

The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to Question No 1695.

\*1769 BELLBIRD PUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY FENCING—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

When will Bellbird Public School have security fencing installed to deter vandals who are damaging school buildings and who regularly set on fire the shade cloth roof of the school's COLA?

Answer—

The installation of security fencing is one of many strategies used to reduce the likelihood of security incidents.

A security fence for Bellbird Public School will be considered as part of a future regional capital works prioritisation.

\*1770 ATTENDANCES AT TAFE COLLEGES—TIGHES HILL AND GLENDALE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

What is the number of students undertaking studies (Stages 1, 2 and 3) in Electrotechnology Electrician, that reside in the postcodes of 2325, 2326 and 2327, attending the TAFE colleges at Tighes Hill and Glendale?

Answer—

For the postcode of 2325 attending Tighes Hill TAFE College, there are 4 Stage 1 students; 2 Stage 2 students; and 6 Stage 3 students.

For the postcode of 2326 attending the Tighes Hill TAFE College, there are no Stage 1 students; no Stage 2 students; and 1 Stage 3 student.

For the postcode of 2327 attending the Tighes Hill TAFE College, there are no Stage 1 students; no Stage 2 students; and no Stage 3 students.

For the postcode of 2325 attending Glendale TAFE College, there are 4 Stage 1 students; 6 Stage 2 students; and 5 Stage 3 students.

For the postcode of 2326 attending Glendale TAFE College, there is 1 Stage 1 student; 1 Stage 2 student; 2 Stage 3 students; and 1 pre-apprentice Kickstart student.

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For the postcode of 2327 attending Glendale TAFE College, there are 3 Stage 1 students; 2 Stage 2 students; and 2 Stage 3 students.

\*1771 PATIENTS AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

With regard to patients and services offered through various NSW mental health units:

- (1) Does the Government collect data that identifies the presentation of patients as a result of their use of a legal synthetic drug such as Kronik?
- (2) If yes, what is the current statistical information?
- (3) In no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The NSW Government collects data about presentations to Hospitals and Emergency Departments due to mental health and drug and alcohol problems, and includes information on clinical problems or diagnoses using standard classifications of disorders and substances. "Kronic" is a recent trade or street names for one of a number of synthetic drugs which are designed and manufactured to have the same effect as prohibited drugs.

Presentations to NSW Emergency Departments are monitored through the Public Health Real-time Emergency Departments Data Surveillance system. This does not monitor for specific individual drugs, but can detect unusual increases in overall presentations for illicit drug use.

\*1772 PLANNING DECISIONS BY LOCAL COUNCILS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

What avenues are in place for complainants to dispute planning decisions by local councils when council is the authorising authority?

Answer—

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 provides various avenues for a council's determination of a development application to be disputed.

Applicants can ask a council to perform an internal review of its decision. Applicants can also appeal to the court if they are dissatisfied with the merits of a council's determination.

In some cases, people who lodge formal objections to development can also appeal against the merits of a council's determination. This is restricted to certain types of development which have a greater potential to cause harm to the environment compared to other types of development.

The Act allows any person to challenge the legality of planning approval decisions. This extends to a council's determination of a development application.

\*1774 2011-12 BUDGET—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Treasurer—

Given that the 2011-12 Budget was handed down in September 2011, are figures quoted in that budget for a 9-month period (e.g. October 2011 to June 2012) or a full 12-month financial year period?

Answer—

The figures quoted in the budget are for the full financial year. This is stated in the Budget Papers and the Appropriation Act 2011 No 42.

\*1775 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARDS—Ms Kristina Keneally asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Given the Minister's decision to scrap the traditional International Women's Day Awards, which each year recognises the efforts and contributions of members of the local community in the electorate of Heffron on International Women's Day:

- (1) When was the decision made to scrap these awards?
- (2) Why were members of Parliament not informed of these changes in advance of International Women's Day on 8 March?
- (3) What consultation did the Minister, her office or the Office of Women have with the community before scrapping these awards?
- (4) Why is the replacement honour roll being compiled after International Women's Day?
- (5) Why is the correspondence sent to Members of Parliament from the Minister's office to nominate

women to this new honour roll not dated?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The 2012 NSW Women of the Year Awards were not cancelled. They were announced on 8 March 2012, International Women's Day.

(4) An honour roll cannot be compiled before nominations for the awards close.

(5) The letters were hand delivered on 8 March, International Women's Day, following formal announcement of the 2012 NSW Women of the Year Awards.

\*1776 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING OFFICES—STAFFING LEVELS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What are the current staffing levels of Department of Housing offices at:

Fairfield;

Liverpool?

Answer—

Housing NSW staff numbers vary from office to office.

\*1777 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—FAIRFIELD—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

How many applications are received per day at the Fairfield Department of Housing office for:

- (a) public housing;
- (b) emergency housing;
- (c) transfers of housing?

Answer—

- (a) to (c) Applications for housing assistance are considered for a range of products including temporary accommodation, private rental assistance products and social housing. The number of applications received by Housing NSW vary on a daily basis.

\*1778 ALLOCATION OF STAFF—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

How many staff members are allocated per day to deal with new Department of Housing applications?

Answer—

Applications for housing assistance that are lodged with Housing NSW are assessed by the Access and Demand Teams.

\*1779 FAIRFIELD DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—BUDGET ALLOCATION—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What is the budget allocation for the Fairfield Department of Housing office for the:

- (a) financial year 2009-10;
- (b) financial year 2010-11;
- (c) financial year 2011-12?

Answer—

- (a) to (c) For the years in question, around \$5 million has been budgeted annually to Housing NSW's Fairfield office.

\*1780 ROLE OF PHARMACISTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

What action will the Minister take to recognise the role of pharmacists in disease prevention, health promotion, health screening and treatment of minor ailments?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the Minister for Health's response to Question No. 1781 in the Legislative Assembly.

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\*1781 ROLE OF PHARMACISTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What action will the Minister take to recognise the role of pharmacists in disease prevention, health promotion, health screening and treatment of minor ailments?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government recognises the unique and valuable role pharmacists play within our communities.

The Government has committed \$10 million to better utilise community pharmacies in NSW for community health checks.

I look forward to announcing details of the strategy in the near future.

\*1782 LICENSING OF SUBCONTRACTORS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

What are the circumstances under which subcontractors assisting skilled tradesman have to be licensed by NSW Fair Trading in order to work on NSW building sites?

Answer—

This information is available on the NSW Fair Trading website.

\*1783 RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 2010—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

In reference to the report by the Tenants Union NSW on the Residential Tenancies Act 2010:

(1) Will the Government amend provisions within the act regarding landlord's termination notices to protect tenants from being evicted without grounds?

(2) Will the Government amend provisions regarding termination proceedings regarding rent arrears and "break fees"?

Answer—

The Residential Tenancies Act 2010 was the result of an extensive review and consultation process. I understand the views of all stakeholders were taken into account, including those of the Tenants' Union of NSW.

The residential tenancy laws have been in effect for just over 12 months and are still settling in. The Tenants' Union report indicates that the Act is operating well in general, and there is no evidence in the report of any significant problems. Nevertheless, the Government will continue to monitor the ongoing impact of the laws and I will consider making changes, if necessary, should evidence of a serious problem arise in practice.

I appreciate the efforts of the Tenants' Union in preparing its report. The report's contents will be taken into consideration when the residential tenancy laws are next reviewed.

\*1784 M5 EAST WIDENING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In preparing your submission to Infrastructure Australia will the Government make widening the M5 East their number one priority so that traffic is not brought to a standstill at King Georges Road where three lanes of traffic will be forced back into two lanes?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is committed to starting work on one of the key missing links in the Sydney motorway network in this term of government.

Infrastructure NSW will determine if the first missing link for construction will be the M5 East expansion, or whether it will be the M4 extension, the F3-M2 link or the F6 extension.

The Government made submissions to Infrastructure Australia in November 2011, seeking funding to develop a Port Botany and Sydney Airport transport improvement program. The development of the program will involve consideration of various major motorway enhancement projects, including the M5 East expansion, along with other transport initiatives to improve access to and from the precinct.

Infrastructure NSW is working on the State Infrastructure Strategy and will be considering the prioritisation of the Sydney motorway proposals, together with funding solutions.

\*1785 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE ISSUES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many outstanding Housing NSW maintenance issues are there in the electorate of Bankstown?
- (2) What is the average waiting period for Housing NSW to address maintenance issues?

Answer—

Maintenance falls under the Minister for Finance and Services portfolio.

\*1786 CAP ON PUBLIC SECTOR PAY—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given recent media reports that nurses are defecting from public hospitals to take positions in the private health sector, will the Minister oppose the Government's 2.5% public sector pay increase cap?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since the O'Farrell Government was elected to office, an extra 2,000 nurses and midwives have begun work in NSW public hospitals. There are now more than 45,000 nurses and midwives working in the public health system.

Employment in the public health system offers diverse career options from child and family nursing, mental health, community health, chronic care, emergency department nursing, surgical nursing, rehabilitation and palliative care.

Nurses and midwives receive extensive opportunities for support in obtaining additional qualifications through NSW Health's comprehensive scholarship program and provision of generous study leave.

\*1787 MANAGING EXCESS EMPLOYEES POLICY—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Will the Government apply its Managing Excess Employees policy to frontline workers such as nurses?

Answer—

I am advised that the Government's Managing Excess Employees Policy does not apply to frontline workers such as schoolteachers, police, nurses, ambulance officers and rail workers who are covered by different employment Acts to other public servants.

\*1788 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT—DUAL ROLES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In reference to the Premier's comments in the House on 13 March 2012 that "Having dual roles blurs responsibilities and accountabilities and there is the potential for perceived or real community concerns about inappropriately using one position to benefit the other position":

Given this statement, will he extend the ban to prevent Members of Parliament serving as directors of companies and undertaking paid consulting work?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has amended the Local Government Act 1993 to prevent NSW Members of Parliament from also being councillors. This reform will bring NSW in line with Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

\*1789 FOODBANK—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard to Government support for Foodbank, which supplies healthy food to charities for distribution to people in need:

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of the value of Foodbank services?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made of the Waste Not Want Not program in the Riverina that prevents surplus farm produce from being wasted?
- (3) (a) Has the Government reduced funds to this organisation by 30 per cent over two years?  
(b) If so, what is the rationale for funding changes?
- (4) What help does the Government provide to support Foodbank?
- (5) What help does the Government provide to Foodbank services in the inner city, where many

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disadvantaged people rely on help from charity organisations?

- (6) What further action will the Government take to support Foodbank and other food services targeting people in need?

Answer—

- (1) A Service Agreement has been introduced.
- (2) Community Services has not made an assessment of the Waste Not Want Not program in the Riverina.
- (3) (a) and (b) The previous Government cut funds under the program in August 2010. In 2009-10 Foodbank NSW received \$678,857. In the amended program, Foodbank's 2011-12 allocation was \$422,244. The former Government's decision cut Foodbank NSW's funding by \$256,613.

In 2010, when the decision was taken to cut funding, Foodbank and other program recipients were consulted, with a two year transition to adjust to the changes imposed by the previous Government.

- (4) Community Services will provide Foodbank NSW with \$422,244 in funding in 2011/12.
- (5) Foodbank NSW reports that in 2010-11 it supplied charities in NSW and the ACT with more than 3,000,000 kilograms of donated food, with 40 per cent of that being delivered to the city. Foodbank reports that a projected total of more than \$75,000 worth of funding will be spent on deliveries to the city in 2012.
- (6) The NSW Government appreciates Foodbank's work, impressive operations and aspirations to support more vulnerable people and families in our state.

- \*1790 174 DOWLING STREET WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Ms Clover Moore asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that the Housing NSW property at 174 Dowling Street Woolloomooloo has been vacant for many years and the Minister for Family and Community Services response to Question 0515 advised that Housing NSW was finalising plans and would lodge a development application:

- (1) What progress has been made on the plans for this site?
- (2) When will Housing NSW submit a development application?
- (3) How many new and what type of social housing dwellings will be built?
- (4) When does the Government expect that this housing will be available?

Answer—

- (1) A plan and design documentation for the development of 174 Dowling Street Woolloomooloo has been prepared and is being reviewed.
- (2) A development application will be submitted when the revised documentation has been approved.
- (3) This will be submitted with the development application.
- (4) A range of factors will impact on the completion date of the development including approval of the development application by City of Sydney Council.

- \*1791 GRAZING IN NATIONAL PARKS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With the most significant research published, after fires swept across national parks in Victoria in 2003, finding that grazing in national parks is not scientifically justified as a tool for fire abatement:

- (1) Will the Government rule out any grazing in national parks, given grazing would destroy native plants, spread weeds, pollute waterways and clear natural habitat?
- (2) Is the Government committed to managing national parks solely to protect declining biodiversity?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) The Government has not changed the policy of the previous government that allowed grazing activities in national parks where there are clear nature conservation reasons for doing so or to help neighbours in declared emergencies, within the scope of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.
- (2) The Government is committed to managing parks in accordance with the objects and management principles contained within the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

- \*1792 INNER CITY HIGH SCHOOLS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education—

Noting census data and increased numbers of families with children living in the inner city:

- (1) What data has the Government identified about the current need for public high schools in the inner city?

- (2) How do the estimates for future demand correlate to currently available supply of school places?
- (3) What action has the Government taken to ensure that public high school places are available for students when needed?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to provide new high schools for inner city students?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to provide additional facilities and rooms in high schools for inner city students?
- (6) What plans does the Government have to provide improved transport for inner city students to reach high schools?
- (7) What further action will the Government take to ensure high school student places are available when needed?

Answer—

- (1) Current capacity for public high schools in the inner city exceeds enrolments.
- (2) Estimates for future demand are based on demographic projections to 2016. There is sufficient capacity in high schools in the Sydney LGA to meet projected demand to that date.
- (3) Each year the department prepares projections for all high schools in NSW. The department's asset planners work with local councils, NSW Planning and Infrastructure, developers and the community to monitor population trends and to develop strategies to meet enrolment projections.
- (4) Based on current projections a new high school will not be required for high school students in the Sydney LGA to at least 2016.
- (5) Current enrolment demand is being met by existing inner city school facilities.
- (6) Transport for inner city students to reach high schools was part of the planning process for the current provision of government schools in the Sydney LGA.
- (7) Asset planners will review demographic trends from Census 2011 publications when available and continue to consult with Sydney City Council, developers, and NSW Planning and Infrastructure, and monitor demographic changes to 2016 and beyond.

\*1793 UNPAID STRATA LEVIES FROM OVERSEAS INVESTORS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Given strata levies are essential to the management of apartments:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the difficulties many strata apartments have collecting strata levy payments from overseas investors?
- (2) What information does the Government give to owners corporations about dealing with overseas investors who refuse to pay strata levies?
- (3) What work is the Government doing to help owners corporations collect levies from overseas investors?

Answer—

- (1) Strata owners are obligated to pay their strata levies. Collection of levies and pursuing unpaid levies are key roles for owners corporations.

The Strata Schemes Management Act 1996 allows owners corporations to take action to recover overdue levies from strata owners, as well as interest on the levies and any expenses incurred in recovering those amounts, such as the costs of legal action or hiring a debt collector. Debt recovery action can be initiated in the Local Court or District Court, depending on the amounts involved. The debt recovery process falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney General.

- (2) Information about debt recovery processes is available on the NSW Government's Lawlink website.
- (3) The Government is conducting a review of strata and community title laws, and this matter will be taken into consideration as part of the review process.

\*1794 HOUSING PROVIDERS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that the Environmental Sustainability in Housing NSW 2008/09 - 2013/14 policy document identifies actions to assist Aboriginal and community housing providers to improve environmental sustainability:

- (1) What help has been given to Aboriginal housing and community housing providers to retrofit dwellings with environmental sustainability products and devices (action 1.10)?
- (2) What environmental sustainability requirements are included in registration and accreditation of community housing providers (action 1.11)?
- (3) What has the information exchange network achieved for the Aboriginal Housing Office and community housing providers (action 1.9)?

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- (4) How does the Government monitor the environmental performance of social housing providers and contractors?
- (5) What do these reporting indicators show about progress in sustainability?
- (6) What improvements in environmental sustainability have been achieved in the inner city since the this policy was implemented in 2008?
- (7) What further action does the Government plan to improve environmental sustainability in Aboriginal and community housing?

Answer—

(1) to (3) and (7) The NSW Land and Housing Corporation has assisted the Aboriginal Housing Office and five community housing providers retrofit ceiling insulation over 1,300 dwellings located in cold climate areas in NSW.

Community housing providers are independent to government and most are registered under the Housing Act 2001. The Registrar of Community Housing is responsible for the registration and regulation of community housing providers in NSW.

While environmental sustainability is not a specific focus of the regulatory system, community housing providers must engage in strategic asset management in order to meet residents' housing needs.

Community housing providers may also seek voluntarily accreditation under the National Community Housing Standards. The Environmental Sustainability Standard outlines the steps an organisation can take to improve environmental sustainability across its operations, in the design and management of its homes and assets.

(4) and (5) The NSW Land and Housing Corporation monitors the performance of contractors through annual contract reports for energy, waste generation/resource recovery, greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption.

(6) Environmental sustainability achievements in the inner city include achieving a 5 star Green Star design rating for the Redfern redevelopment project and retrofitting approximately 7,500 NSW Land and Housing Corporation properties with water saving shower heads and flow restrictors.

\*1795 ULTIMO AND PYRMONT BUSES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

With respect to bus services for Ultimo and Pyrmont, and noting the answer to Question 0151 referred to a 2011-12 Region 6 Bus Review:

- (1) What needs assessment has the Government carried out about bus services for Ultimo and Pyrmont?
- (2) What does the data show regarding:
  - (a) forecast demand;
  - (b) passenger boarding;
  - (c) service reliability data;
  - (d) passenger feedback;
  - (e) community consultation;
  - (f) emerging trends including land use;
  - (g) community travel patterns?
- (3) What changes to bus services have been made since June 2011?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to extend and expand bus services to Ultimo and Pyrmont?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Transport for NSW monitors patronage and customer feedback regarding bus services in Ultimo and Pyrmont.
- (2) Due to the Government's integration of light rail into the MyZone ticketing system, and the levelling off of development activity in Pyrmont and Ultimo, demand is not projected to increase significantly in coming years.

Passenger boardings on Routes 443, 448 and 501 services have declined slightly over recent years.

Of the nearly 60,000 services operated by Sydney Buses on Routes 443 and 448 in the year to February 2012, less than 0.6% were reported as late or cancelled by Sydney Buses. Of the nearly 43,000 services operated on Route 501 during the same time, less than 0.6% were reported as late or cancelled by Sydney Buses.

In the year to March 2012, 169 calls related to reliability issues such as early or late running on the 443 and 448 services were received by Transport Info 131500. During the same time 66 calls were received in relation to service reliability of the 501 in the Ultimo & Pyrmont areas.

Emerging trends in resident population and employment at Pyrmont and Ultimo show a levelling off of past growth rates reflecting development activity.

Bus patronage data suggests community travel patterns may be changing, particularly since the Government's decision to expand the MyZone ticketing system to include light rail. Transport for NSW is monitoring these changes closely and will adjust services according to demand.

- (3) On 27 November 2011, the level of service on Route 448 was adjusted to improve reliability.
- (4) There are currently no plans to extend or expand bus services in Ultimo and Pyrmont, but State Transit will continue to monitor services to and from the area and adjust service levels accordingly.

\*1796 PROBLEM GAMBLING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

Noting that the Problem Gambling Research and Treatment Centre has produced a Guideline for Screening, Assessment and Treatment in Problem Gambling that recommends evidence-based screening, assessment and treatment:

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of this guideline and its recommendations?
- (2) What changes has the Government made to gambling services based on this guideline?
- (3) What action will be taken to:
  - (a) screen people who present with mental health concerns and people from groups with higher rates of problem gambling;
  - (b) provide Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy;
  - (c) provide Motivational Interviewing and Enhancement Therapy;
  - (d) provide Practitioner Psychological Interventions;
  - (e) provide Group Psychological Interventions;
  - (f) not use anti-depression medications alone for gambling problems;
  - (g) test Naltrexone for people with severe gambling problems?
- (4) What further action does the Government plan to improve screening, assessment and treatment for problem gambling?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that NSW Trade & Investment has made the guidelines available to relevant counselling services.
- (2) A current needs analysis of problem gambling counselling and support services is being conducted, changes will be considered once the review has been completed.
- (3) Refer to answer (2).
- (4) Further action may be taken following the completion of the review. The department continues to review new research and programs for their effectiveness and for further improvement.

\*1797 OVER ESTABLISHMENT TEACHERS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) As at the end of February 2012, how many over establishment teachers were there in NSW schools?
- (2) As at the end of February 2012, which schools had over establishment teachers?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) As at 29 February 2012, 135 teaching staff (120.1 full time equivalent positions) in 116 NSW Public schools were over establishment, based on nominated transfer status, and were working in their schools while awaiting placement into a permanent position.

\*1798 SCHOOLS PLACED ON RECESS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

As at the end of February 2012, which schools in NSW have been placed on recess due to viability issues?

Answer—

Five small schools are currently in recess as at the end of February 2012:

- Woodford Dale Public School
- Byabarra Public School
- Pearce's Creek Public School
- Ando Public School

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- Mangoplah Public School.
- \*1799 LOCAL SCHOOLS, LOCAL DECISIONS POLICY—FUNDING—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- Will any school have its funding reduced as a result of the Government's Local Schools, Local Decisions policy?
- Answer—
- Under Local Schools, Local Decisions, the total education budget will not be cut. More funding will be shifted to schools to support teaching and learning. Local Schools, Local Decisions is moving resources out of state office into schools to provide the ability for schools to manage more than 70% of the total public school education budget.
- \*1800 LOCAL SCHOOLS, LOCAL DECISIONS POLICY—CLASS SIZES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- Will school class sizes increase as a result of the Government's Local Schools, Local Decisions policy?
- Answer—
- The statewide class size policy will be retained under Local Schools, Local Decisions.
- \*1801 CLOSURE OR AMALGAMATION OF SCHOOLS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- (1) Are there any schools that are planned to be closed or amalgamated in 2012?
  - (2) Are there any schools that are planned to be closed or amalgamated in 2013?
  - (3) When will any plans to close or amalgamate schools be next revised?
- Answer—
- (1) Five schools are in recess in 2012. In each case the school is temporarily non-operational. If the alternate arrangements made for students are successful and there is no unexpected increased demand for enrolments, Regional Directors will advise at an appropriate time in the future that closure or amalgamation is the best option.
  - (2) No.
  - (3) There is no plan, nor any future revision planned, to close or amalgamate schools.
- \*1802 SCHOOL CLOSURES OR PENDING CLOSURES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- In relation to the closure or pending closure of Ando, Bilbul, Bobin, Byabarra, Dooralong and Woodford Dale Public Schools, for each school:
- (1) What are the reasons for closing the school?
  - (2) What consultation did the Government undertake with local communities before closing the school, and when did this consultation occur?
  - (3) What was the total Government expenditure for the running costs of the school for the school year 2011?
- Answer—
- (1) Section 28 of the Education Act 1990 outlines the way in which government schools are closed. The Act does not apply to:
- One teacher schools (known as P6 primary schools).
  - Where the majority of the parents approve the closure.
  - Where the Minister is satisfied that emergency circumstances require closure.
- Any decision to amalgamate, close or place a school in recess is negotiated locally on a case-by-case basis.
- (2) Discussions with principals and school communities are led by School Education Directors. Options such as placing a school in recess, amalgamating or closing a school are considered as part of the ongoing improvement of educational provision.
- Stakeholder consultation and feedback is critical. Any decision regarding educational provision will ensure that new delivery models improve educational outcomes for students.
- There is "no one size fits all" approach.

- (3) The cost of educating students in NSW Government schools varies from school to school.
- \*1803 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- How many teachers were placed on a performance improvement program in the 2011 calendar year?
- Answer—
- 103 teachers were placed on a performance improvement program in the 2011 calendar year.
- \*1804 CARRAMAR RAILWAY STATION STAFF—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—
- Is the Government considering removing station staff at Carramar Railway Station?
- Answer—
- No.
- \*1805 VILLAWOOD RAILWAY STATION STAFF—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—
- Is the Government considering removing station staff at Villawood Railway Station?
- Answer—
- No.
- \*1806 YENNORA RAILWAY STATION STAFF—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—
- Is the Government considering removing station staff at Yennora Railway Station?
- Answer—
- No.
- \*1807 RAILCORP TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—
- When will the retrenchment of Railcorp Transit Officers take effect?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The NSW Government is creating a Police Transport Command with 610 dedicated police officers to patrol trains, buses and ferries.
- There will also be 150 transit officers who will focus on detecting fare evasion and minor compliance offences and their role will be expanded to cover buses and ferries as well as trains.
- Existing transit officers and STA revenue protection officers will either apply to become a police officer, apply to be retained as a transit officer, apply for voluntary redundancy or apply for redeployment within RailCorp as new police are trained and enter the new Police Transport Command.
- Recruitment for the Police Transport Command will be completed by the end of 2014.
- \*1808 COMMUTER CRIME UNIT—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—
- In relation to the Government's plan to abolish Railcorp Transit Officers, when will all 300 police officers earmarked for the Commuter Crime Unit be activated?
- Answer—
- This question should be re-directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to answer.
- \*1810 POLICE COMMUTER TRANSIT UNIT—Mr Guy Zangari asked 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—
- In relation to the Government's plan to create a Police Commuter Transit Unit, where will this police unit be based?
- Answer—
- The NSW Police Force has advised me that as the new Police Transport Command is established officers will be located at Central and other key transport centres.
- \*1811 PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH DECLINING ENROLMENTS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

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- (1) Is the Government considering the closure of NSW public schools that have declining enrolment intakes?  
(2) (a) Are any of these schools in the electorate of Fairfield?  
(b) If so, which schools have been earmarked for closure?

Answer—

- (1) School Education Directors, as part of their responsibilities, are to ensure the best and most appropriate education provision for their communities. Discussions about enrolment numbers and their impacts are considered on a case by case basis with school communities.  
(2) (a) and (b) There are no schools in the Fairfield electorate in recess or on review for closure.

\*1812 VISIONCARE PROGRAM—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

How many people living in the electorate of Fairfield were provided with glasses under the VisionCare program in the 2010-2011 period?

Answer—

Community Services in the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) is responsible for the VisionCare program.

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- 1813 INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION—BUDGET ALLOCATION—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1814 HURSTVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING WORKS—Ms Cherie Burton to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1815 KOGARAH INTERCHANGE PROJECT—Ms Cherie Burton to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1816 ST GEORGE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REDEVELOPMENT—Ms Cherie Burton to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1817 WARRELL CREEK TO URUNGA PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1818 FAIR GO FOR SAFE DRIVERS STRATEGY—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1819 IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY FOR YOUNG DRIVERS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1820 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVISIONAL YOUNG DRIVERS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1821 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEARNER DRIVERS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1822 LITERACY AND NUMERACY TEACHERS IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1823 NSW TAFE SYSTEM—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1824 PUBLIC FUNDING OF NAVITAS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1825 FOSTER CARERS IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1826 SPORT AND RECREATION FUNDING IN WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

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- 1827 SILVERWATER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY VISITATION BOOKINGS SYSTEM—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1828 RESTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1829 AMENDMENT TO MOTOR ACCIDENTS (LIFELINE CARE AND SUPPORT) ACT 2006—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1830 JOHN MORONEY CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1831 YOUTH ON TRACK PLANNING PROJECT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1832 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TASKFORCE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1833 RETAIL LEASES ACT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- \*1834 DRAFT ENERGY WHITE PAPER—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) Did the Government make a submission on the Federal Government's draft Energy White Paper?
  - (2) (a) If so, is it publically available?
  - (b) If not, why not?
- Answer—
- (1) and (2) The NSW Government submission is available on the Commonwealth Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism's website.
- 1835 LIVERPOOL COUNCIL PLANNING COURT APPEALS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 1836 APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE CLINICAL DIRECTOR—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1837 NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1838 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1839 RENTAL BOND BOARD—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 1840 LEAF BLOWERS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—
- \*1841 STRATEGIC REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) Why does farmland surrounding Armidale not qualify as Strategic Agricultural Land in the draft Strategic Regional Land Use Plan (SRLUP) for New England North West despite the fact that it is renowned for producing some of the best fine wool in Australia?
  - (2) Why have vineyards been recognised as a critical industry cluster in the Hunter SRLUP but not in the New England North West SRLUP, thus excluding the merging cool climate wine growing area around Armidale from recognition as Strategic Agricultural Land?
  - (3) Is the Minister aware of the application for a Petroleum Special Prospecting Authority under the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 (PSPAPP56) which has recently been lodged over the electorate of Northern Tablelands?
  - (4) Who has submitted the application and what other partners are associated with it?
  - (5) What are the details of the application, including its size, scope, nature and location?
  - (6) If this application has been granted, what type of prospecting activities would be allowed by such an

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- authorisation?
- (7) (a) What analysis has been conducted of this application prior to it being accepted?  
(b) Will the Minister provide a copy of any report submitted to him by the department in regard to this application?
- (8) What provisions are currently available for the public to comment on this application and what is the closing date for any such comment?
- (9) Will the new Community Consultation Guidelines for the Exploration of Coal and Petroleum be applied prior to any decision in respect of this application?
- (10) (a) What assessments would the Minister and/or his department conduct prior to approving any such application?  
(b) What guidelines do the Minister and/or his department apply in making such a decision?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. No other partners are associated with the application.
- (5) The application covers an area of 672 blocks in the North West of New South Wales.
- (6) and (7) The application is still under assessment by the Division of Resources and Energy and will be made public when an outcome is finalised.
- (8) Public comment will be available on this application for 28 days when it is advertised. The application has not been advertised at this stage.
- (9) The new Community Consultation Condition will be included as a condition of title if a petroleum special prospecting application is granted in satisfaction of this application.
- (10) (a) The applicant's proposed work program and technical and financial capability will be considered in determining whether to grant a petroleum special prospecting authority in satisfaction of this application.  
(b) The requirements under the Petroleum Act, the public comment process and the draft CSG explorers guideline and policy.

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(Paper No. 78)

- 1842 DESTRUCTION OF ROOTY HILL POST BOX—Mr Richard Amery 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—
- 1843 CAMPSIE AND BANKSTOWN POLICE COMMANDS—Ms Linda Burney 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—
- 1844 CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 1845 METRO M41 BUS SERVICE—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1846 REJUVENATION OF CARDIFF CBD—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1847 VISIONCARE PROGRAM—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1848 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROJECTS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 1849 INTERIM AUDIT COMMISSION REPORT—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 1850 DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND TRAINING POSITIONS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1851 COCHLEAR IMPLANTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1852 GROMMET SURGERY—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1853 OPERATING THEATRES AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1854 MEMORIAL DRIVE NOISE LEVELS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1855 ILLAWARRA ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1856 MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP ON LITERACY AND NUMERACY REPORT—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1857 FAIRY MEADOW DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL PRE-SCHOOL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1858 PARK AND TRAVEL SAFETY FUND—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1859 WHIPPING OF RACE HORSES—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

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(Paper No. 79)

- 1860 MOUNT DRUITT DENTAL CLINIC—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1861 COAL SEAM GAS MINING—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 1862 COOK CHILL FOOD PREPARATION SERVICES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1863 HOSPITAL SECURITY BREACHES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1864 PUBLIC HOLIDAY RETAIL OPENING HOURS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1865 DENTAL WAITING LISTS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1866 GRETA BRANXTON AREA HIGH SCHOOLS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1867 CESSNOCK TRACK GREYHOUND RACING AND MEETINGS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 1868 GREYHOUND RACING NSW—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 1869 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF FORMER JAMES HARDIE FACTORY SITE—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

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- 1870 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE CALLS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1871 INTER HOSPITAL PATIENT TRANSPORT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1872 EMERGENCY PATIENT SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- \*1873 BANKSTOWN LINE OPERATIONAL SECTORS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—
- Given the deployment of Waratah trains is not defined by a specific line, but operational sectors (Question 1563):
- (1) To which operational sector do Bankstown, Punchbowl and Yagoona Train Stations belong?
  - (2) Which operational sector or sectors cover the Bankstown Rail Line?
  - (3) When will these operational sectors receive their first Waratah Train rolling stock?
- Answer—
- (1) Sector 2.
  - (2) Sector 2.
  - (3) Waratah trains are already operating on some sections of Sector 2 - Airport & East Hills, Inner West, South and the Olympic Park Shuttle lines.
- Due to this Government's efforts to fix the mess that the previous Government left in the Waratah project, the first Waratah train could be running on the Bankstown line in 2013.
- 1874 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS IN BANKSTOWN SCHOOLS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1875 SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITY GRANTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1876 RETAIL TRADING AMENDMENT BILL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1877 PROTECTING CASUAL WORKERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1878 SOCIAL IMPACT OF RETAIL TRADING AMENDMENT BILL—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1879 SECTOR CONNECT—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1880 SECTOR CONNECT FUNDING APPLICATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 1881 NEW RECRUITS FOR BANKSTOWN LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Ms Tania Mihailuk 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—
- 1882 WILBERFORCE ABATTOIR—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1883 WILDERNESS VALUES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 1884 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOUSING NSW TENANTS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1885 INNER CITY CHILDCARE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1886 EASY ACCESS RAILWAY STATIONS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—

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- 1887 KINGS CROSS RAILWAY STATION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1888 DEATHS IN LICENSED BOARDING HOUSES—Mrs Barbara Perry to ask the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—
- 1889 ROUNDABOUT UPGRADE PROJECT—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1890 FAIRFIELD TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE FEASIBILITY STUDY—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1891 FAIRFIELD GW10 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING TRANSFERS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1892 HOUSING PRIORITY ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS AT GW10—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 1893 FAIRFIELD LOCAL AREA COMMAND POLICE NUMBERS—Mr Guy Zangari 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—
- 1894 ASSISTED SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM IN FAIRFIELD—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—

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(Paper No. 80)

- 1895 PUBLIC TRUSTEE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1896 PATRONAGE AND RANKING OF TRAIN STATIONS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1897 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION GRANTS PROGRAM—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 1898 MULTICULTURAL ADVANTAGE GRANTS PROGRAM—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 1899 CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL 3—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1900 PLAN-IT YOUTH—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1901 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1902 POLICE TASER DEATH—Ms Sonia Hornery 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—
- 1903 GLENDALE POLICE STATION—Ms Sonia Hornery 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—
- 1904 NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SECURITY—Ms Sonia Hornery 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—
- 1905 PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE BACKLOG—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1906 JOHN HUNTER AND CALVARY MATER HOSPITALS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 1907 JUDICIARY ACT NOTICE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1908 EXPERT PANEL ON MERGER OF TRIBUNALS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1909 SUBMISSION TO DISCUSSION PAPER ON CONTRACT LAW REFORM—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1910 SUBMISSION TO DISCUSSION PAPER ON CONTRACT LAW REFORM—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1911 JUDICIAL COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1912 BAIL ACT REVIEW—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1913 INVESTIGATION INTO CONSTRUCTION SITE DEATH—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1914 COMMUNICATIONS WITH LEIGHTONS AND PERFORMS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1915 WRONGFUL DETENTION—Mr Paul Lynch 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—
- 1916 COST FORECAST FOR WYNYARD STATION AND PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer—
- 1917 BARANGAROO DELIVERY AUTHORITY—VALUE SHARING PAYMENTS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer—
- 1918 CAPACITIES OF WYNYARD STATION AND PROPOSED WYNYARD TUNNEL—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1919 SCHOOL HAND WASHING FACILITIES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—

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(Paper No. 81)

- 1920 LIMITED TENURE OF GRAVE SITES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1921 PENALTIES AND DETERRENTS FOR CRIMES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1922 NEPEAN HOSPITAL TELEHEALTH TECHNOLOGY CENTRE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1923 NSW PAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1924 COMMUNITY-BASED ADDICTION PROGRAMS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1925 COMMUNITY PHARMACIES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1926 PREVENTATIVE HEALTH FIGHTING FUND—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1927 BLUE MOUNTAINS HOSPITAL MATERNITY UNIT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- 1928 CHRONIC HEPATITIS B—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1929 INCLUSION OF DENTAL HEALTH IN THE SEVERE CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLAN—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1930 WESTMEAD HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1931 SYDNEY RECORDS CENTRE—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1932 ELECTRICITY DISCONNECTIONS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 1933 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 1934 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1935 HOUSING NSW WAITING TIMES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

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(Paper No. 82)

- 1936 BREAKDOWN LANES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1937 MONITORING OF CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—
- 1938 CESSNOCK GAOL EXTENSION—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1939 KURRI KURRI PRESCHOOL—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1940 KURRI KURRI HOSPITAL REHABILITATION FACILITIES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1941 KURRI KURRI TAFE—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1942 FLYING FOX COMMUNITIES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- 1943 GREYHOUND RACING—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 1944 NSW WINES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 1945 RETAIL TRADE AMENDMENT BILL 2012—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- \*1946 PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC CENTRE SITE—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

What additional infrastructure including roads, public transport and pedestrian access, is being planned for Top Ryde to support the proposed redevelopment of the Civic Centre site?

Answer—

The Ryde Civic Centre site has recently benefited from \$40 million in additional road infrastructure and a traffic management plan, paid for by the developers of the Top Ryde City shopping centre.

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Ryde Council adopted a new Development Control Plan for Ryde Town Centre on 27 March 2012 and this will provide further guidance for future development on this site in relation to site access, public domain/road widths and pedestrian linkages.

Detailed works identified in the Development Control Plan will be addressed at the development application stage through section 94 contributions and Voluntary Planning Agreements.

\*1947 RYDE CIVIC CENTRE SITE—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

Why did the Minister overlook the concerns of the local Ryde community when agreeing to a change to Ryde Council's LEP that will enable a 24-storey building of more than 500 units to be developed on the Ryde Civic Centre site?

Answer—

Community concerns were at the forefront of assessment and consideration in the rezoning of the Ryde Civic Centre site.

Ryde Council publicly exhibited the planning proposal twice.

In addition, KJA was appointed by council to undertake a two stage community consultation program. The first stage involved engagement with regular users of the council's existing facilities such as community groups, local businesses and neighbouring residents. The second stage was broadly conducted during the public exhibition of the planning proposal and involved a community information day/drop in sessions and project briefings. KJA has indicated that communication material was distributed to 38,000 households.

Following the two stage community consultation, council engaged independent consultants to undertake a thorough review of all submissions made on the exhibited version of the planning proposal. As a result, council:

- (a) reduced the overall net useable floor area from 100,000 sq m to 60,000 sq m;
- (b) limited the increase in height of up to 24 storeys to the eastern side of the site;
- (c) reduced the height from up to 9-10 storeys to 6 storeys along the western side of the site; and
- (d) has prepared a Development Control Plan which outlines detailed controls on the public design outcomes for the site.

Before the LEP was made, the Minister's delegate was satisfied that council had adequately addressed the planning concerns raised in all submissions.

1948 UPGRADE OF SYDENHAM STATION—Ms Kristina Keneally to ask the Minister for Transport—

1949 STEEL SUPPLIES FOR NORTH WEST RAIL LINE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport—

1950 TRANSPORT MASTER PLAN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

1951 INDIGENOUS YOUTH PARTICIPATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

1952 SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

\*1953 NSW FAIR TRADING WEBSITE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) What was the cost of the recent changes made to the format of the NSW Fair Trading website?
- (2) What feedback has been received about these changes?

Answer—

- (1) There have been no recent changes made to the format of the NSW Fair Trading website.
- (2) Not applicable.

1954 REVIEW OF STRATA AND COMMUNITY SCHEME LAWS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—

1955 BASS HILL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—

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- 1956 BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL PARKING—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 1957 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1958 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1959 LOCAL SCHOOLS LOCAL DECISIONS—FUNDING—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1960 LOCAL SCHOOLS LOCAL DECISIONS—PERFORMANCE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1961 LOCAL SCHOOLS LOCAL DECISIONS—PERMANENT STAFF—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1962 LOCAL SCHOOLS LOCAL DECISIONS—INCENTIVE TRANSFERS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1963 LOCAL SCHOOLS LOCAL DECISIONS—SALARY INCREASES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 1964 REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI ON RAILCORP TRAINS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 1965 POLICE RECRUITS TO FAIRFIELD LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Guy Zangari 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—
- 1966 CONFISCATED LICENCE PLATES—Mr Guy Zangari 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—
- 1967 REGISTERING INFRINGING VEHICLES—Mr Guy Zangari 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—
- 1968 GRASS AROUND ROADS IN FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1969 FAULTY LICENCE PLATES—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1970 REPROVISIONING OF CRUISE SHIPS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 1971 WHITE BAY CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer—
- 1972 CONTAMINATION AT BARANGAROO—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1973 PAYMENTS BY LEND LEASE—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer—
- 1974 LEND LEASE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR BARANGAROO CENTRAL—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—