



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (Whan)

Hearing: Wednesday 4 September 2024

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Wednesday 2 October 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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| Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC |
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Disability

- (1) When will TAFE NSW's new disability inclusion action plan be released?
 - (a) Which external stakeholders were consulted with in relation to the development of the updated DIAP?
- (2) Does the Department's inclusive education unit carry out any work in relation to inclusive education at TAFE?
 - (a) Does the Department's inclusive education unit carry out any work in relation to work transition support services for students with disability?
- (3) How many campuses do not currently have an in-person Disability Teacher Consultant?
 - (a) Of the 84 Disability Teacher Consultants across the state, how many are available to students online?
 - (b) What is TAFE NSW's process for employing consultants that specialise in different areas of disability at different campuses, for example those specialising in intellectual and specific learning, Deaf support or physical and medical conditions?

Contractors

- (4) How many contractors currently work within the Department?
- (5) How many of these contractors have been on contracts longer than
 - (a) 3 months
 - (b) 6 months
 - (c) 12 months
 - (d) 18 months
 - (e) 24 months
 - (f) 36 months
- (6) What is the longest period of continuous employment for a contractor employed by the Department or its agencies?

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| Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of the Opposition |
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SKILLS, TAFE & TERTIARY EDUCATION

Return to Office

- (7) Regarding your department's return to office policy:
- (a) Please provide the occupancy rates for all government offices relevant to your Portfolio over the past 6, 12 and 18 months, covering all government employees.
 - (b) Please provide the occupancy rates for all government offices relevant to your Portfolio over the past 6, 12 and 18 months, covering all non-client facing/non-case worker government employees.
 - (c) At what intervals is office occupancy measured?
 - i. What is the methodology used?
 - (d) Can you provide records of the working locations for government employees over the past 6, 12 and 18 months.
 - (e) Can you provide records of the working locations for non-client facing/non-case worker government employees over the past 6, 12 and 18 months?
 - (f) How many non-client facing/non-case worker government employees have returned to working in the office five days a week in the last 6 months, 12 months and 18 months?
- (8) What is your Department's return-to-office plan?
- (a) What goals, targets, and timeframes are in place regarding your department's return-to-office plan?
- (9) What consultations have taken place with government employees (your department) regarding a return to office plan?
- (a) Who attended the consultations?
 - (b) When were the consultations held?
 - (c) Where were the consultation held?
 - (d) How was feedback obtained from staff?

- (e) Was there any resistance or opposition registered by staff concerning the return to the office plan?
 - i. How is this being managed and addressed?
- (f) How are these goals, targets, and timeframes being recorded and measured?
- (g) Will the results be made public?
 - i. If so, when will these results be made public?
- (10) Is there a requirement for your department to report to NSW Premier and Cabinet Department with updates on progress and results concerning the return to the office?
- (11) How will non-compliance with the NSW Premier's call to return to the office be addressed?
 - (a) Are the consequences known?
- (12) Are there any efficiencies and savings anticipated by your department relating to a return to the office working environment?
- (13) Are there any barriers and costs anticipated by your department relating to a return to the office working environment?

Qantas Chairman's Club

- (14) Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairman's Club?
 - (a) If no, have you ever previously been a member?
 - (b) If yes, when did you cease to be a member?
 - (c) If yes, when did you initially become a member?
 - (d) If yes, when did you make a declaration to The Cabinet Office?
 - (e) If yes, how many times since 28 March 2023 have you used the Qantas Chairman's Club?

Union membership

- (15) Are you a member of a union?
 - (a) If yes, what union?

Union membership fees

- (16) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:

(a) 2022-23?

(b) 2023-24?

(c) 2024-25?

CFMEU membership

(17) Have you ever been a member of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)?

(a) If yes, when?

CFMEU meetings

(18) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

ETU membership

(19) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?

(a) If yes, when?

ETU meetings

(20) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

Paper shredder

(21) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(22) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

(23) What department(s)/agency(s) are included in your portfolio?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(24) How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) 28 March 2023?

- (b) 1 July 2023?
 - (c) 1 January 2024?
 - (d) 1 July 2024?
- (25) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?
- (26) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary?
 - ii. Forced?
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Former Ministerial Employees

- (27) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
- (a) If yes, how many?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

- (28) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?
- (29) Will the 2023-24 annual reports for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?
- (a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25?

State Records Act

- (30) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?
- (a) If yes, when?

Consultants

- (31) Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
 - (b) What is the purpose of each contract?
 - (c) Who was the contract with?
 - (d) Did the contract go through a competitive tender?

Legal Costs

- (32) How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

Advertising

- (33) How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
- (a) Facebook
 - (b) Instagram
 - (c) LinkedIn
 - (d) TikTok
 - (e) YouTube
 - (f) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Catering

- (34) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?
- (35) Was catering used for external stakeholders?
- (a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?
- (36) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Gin

- (37) Since 28 March 2023, have you or your ministerial office purchased 'gin' using your ministerial budget?

Stationery

- (38) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?
- (39) Did your stationery expenditure include gifts for external stakeholders?
- (a) If yes, what was the gift(s)?
 - (b) If yes, who received the gift(s)?

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

- (40) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?
- (41) As a driver since 28 March 2023:
- (a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?
 - (b) Have you been fined for speeding?
 - (c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?
 - (d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?
 - (e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?
 - i. If yes to (a) to (e) , did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

Speeches

- (42) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?
- (43) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

- (44) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?
- (45) What local government(s) did they serve?

Ministerial Advisers

- (46) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?
- (47) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Police Commissioner Gin

(48) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Cabinet Sub Committees

(49) What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

E-Toll

(50) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?

(a) If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

(51) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?

(a) If yes, is it available online?

i. If yes, what is the URL?

Workplace complaints

(52) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

(53) Has any member of your ministerial staff been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

(54) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

(55) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

(56) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

Credit Cards

- (57) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, under what circumstance?
 - (b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?
- (58) For each department, agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? (Please provide a break-down of this information by grade)
 - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
 - (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
 - (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period?
 - (e) And what was the card holder's employment grade?
 - (f) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - (g) What was the cost to replace them?
 - (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - ii. Were all those amounts repaid?
 - (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
 - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office

- (59) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

Senior Executive Drivers

- (60) How many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

Mobile phones

- (61) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?
- (62) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Efficiency dividends

- (63) Was an efficiency dividend applied to your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities in:
- (a) 2023-24?
 - (b) 2024-25?
 - i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
 - ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

- (64) Does your ministerial office have staff member(s) to undertake Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s) and/or Standing Order 52 requests?
- (a) If yes, has that ministerial staffer(s) received formal training about their legal obligations?
- (65) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

- (66) Has your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) undertaken a land audit of surplus government property in any of the following postcodes:
- (a) 2077?
 - (b) 2079?
 - (c) 2080?
 - (d) 2081?
 - (e) 2082?
 - (f) 2083?
 - (g) 2117?

- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u), how many properties have been identified?

GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(67) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel

(68) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?

(a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?

(69) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(70) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

- (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
- (71) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
 - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?
- (72) What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- (a) Taxi hire?
 - (b) Ridesharing services?
 - (c) Limousine/private car hire?
 - (d) Hire car rental?

TikTok

- (73) Are you on TikTok?
- (a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Signal

- (74) Are you on Signal?
- (a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?

Training

- (75) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?
- (a) If yes, what is the description of training?
 - (b) If yes, how much?

Cabinet documents

- (76) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Parliamentary Secretary

(77) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

(78) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Website usage

(79) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and receive unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

(80) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial visits

(81) Since 28 March 2023, have you visited any of these postcodes:

(a) 2077?

(b) 2079?

(c) 2080?

(d) 2081?

(e) 2082?

(f) 2083?

(g) 2117?

(h) 2118?

(i) 2119?

(j) 2120?

(k) 2121?

(l) 2125?

(m) 2126?

(n) 2151?

(o) 2154?

(p) 2156?

(q) 2157?

(r) 2158?

(s) 2159?

(t) 2756?

(u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u):

1. What was the purpose of the visit(s)?

2. Did you make a funding announcement(s)?

Hard hats and/or vests

(82) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?

(a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(83) Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:

(a) Handheld camera?

(b) Handheld video recorder?

(c) Microphone?

i. If yes to (a) to (c), how much is each worth when purchased?

Media releases and statements

(84) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases?>

(a) If no, why?