



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research (Harris)

Hearing: Friday 6 September 2024

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Friday 4 October 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone (02) 9230 2214

BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Robert Borsak MLC

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY

- (1) When were you (Shane Hamilton) appointed to the Board of the Westerman Jilya Institute for Mental Health? What is the timing of your board appointment relative to making of the sponsorship funding?
- (2) If you (Shane Hamilton) were not on the Board at the time the sponsorship was made, had you commenced discussion with them about being appointed to the Board?
- (3) Did you have a prior association with the organisation?
- (4) How was the donation initiated?
- (5) What was your understanding of what the sponsorship funding would be used for?
- (6) Given your association with the organisation, what probity measures did you take?

Questions from Hon Mark Latham MLC

To Mr Tarek Barakat, Ms Elizabeth Mildwater and Mr Terry O'Brian

- (7) For you and your staff, what protocols are in place for accepting hospitality and/or gifts from
 - (a) Racing NSW and?
 - (b) NSW racing clubs?
- (8) In the past three years what:
 - (a) Hospitality, and
 - (b) gifts,
have you or your staff accepted from:
 - i. Racing NSW and
 - ii. NSW race clubs?

To Mr Terry O'Brian

- (9) On which occasions in the past 10 years has John Dumesny been placed on the selection panel list forwarded to the Racing Minister for determining vacancy and chair appointments to the Racing NSW Board?
- (10) Who else was on the list (approximately 20 names) for the selection panel forwarded to Minister Harris to determine the replacement for the outgoing Russell Balding, as a chair and member?
- (11) Other than Kevin Greene who did the selection panel put forward as a possible new board member, replacing Mr. Balding?
- (12) Minister Harris says he wasn't told of the close, longstanding relationship between Mr. Dumesny and Peter V'Landys: why didn't you tell him in submitting Mr. Dumesny's name for the selection panel, given the obvious conflict of interest in Mr. Dumesny selecting his good friend's boss?
- (13) Did you tell the probity advisor of the information in (4) above? If not, why not?
- (14) Given that Mr. Dumesny failed to declare his interest regarding the Racing NSW CEO, will he be considered for future selection panel lists?
- (15) Could you please:
 - (a) Explain how APAC Probity were selected to oversee the probity checks on the process for selecting directors for Racing NSW?
 - (b) List what other selection processes APAC Probity have been involved in with the Office of Racing?

To Mr. David Harris

- (16) Other than the paucity of RICG consultation and the absence of Strategic Planning, what other issues did you raise with the Chair of Racing NSW in your letter of 9 August 2024?
- (17) Are you satisfied with the new draft 2024 Strategic Plan, which looks similar to every other Racing NSW Strategic Plan, such as the perpetual, unfulfilled promise of lower costs to owners and the construction of a Newmarket-style training facility?
- (18) Are you satisfied with the accountability of Racing NSW, given that its Strategic Plans and Annual Reports fail to record the goals of its previous Strategic Plans that have been implemented and those that remain unfulfilled?

- (19) Other than the need to improve regional racecourse infrastructure, what other issues have you raised in discussions with Racing NSW where it needs to improve its performance?
- (20) Given that it supports the sale of Rosehill racecourse (the most valuable industry-owned asset in the State) for housing, Racing NSW does not have a policy of "keeping racecourses for racing". Accordingly, will the Minister now support the independence and autonomy of country race clubs by ensuring Racing NSW infrastructure funding is unconditional, that is, without the extortion system by which the clubs need to transfer freehold land title and Racing NSW gets to appoint club directors?
- (21) Has the Minister received legal advice as to whether or not ICAC can investigate Racing NSW and if so, what does the advice say?
- (22) Since becoming Minister, how many complaints about Racing NSW have you and your office referred to:
 - (a) ICAC
 - (b) the police, and
 - (c) the Ombudsman?
- (23) Given the extraordinary censorship and intimidation of NSW racing participants who disagree publicly with Racing NSW will you now support the introduction of Free Speech and Customer Service Protocols at Racing NSW?
- (24) Are you aware of the circumstance of the highly respected breeders Vin Cox and Anthony Thompson late last year when, after being accused of disagreeing with Racing NSW, they were pursued and harassed by A Current Affair and the Ben Fordham Program (2GB) respectively for "campaigning against the best interests of racing in NSW". Will you investigate how this occurred, especially the role played by free hospitality and gifts provided by Racing NSW to the media outlets concerned?
- (25) After Vin Cox wrote to you asking that the term of Russell Balding at Racing NSW not be extended, did you or your office pass this letter onto anyone else, if so, whom? What are the details?
- (26) Given the extraordinary media and political influence Racing NSW believes it is garnering through free hospitality in the Directors' Room at Royal Randwick (as per the CEO's letter of 6 October 2023) and gifts like Ben English's trip to the Kentucky Derby, will you insist on Racing NSW declaring in its annual reports the recipients of its free hospitality and gifts?

- (27) After 20 years as the Racing NSW CEO Mr. Peter V'Landys has done some positive things for the industry but has now become a lightning rod for division, disputes and widespread discontent, such that the negative now outweighs the positive. Given that anyone who attends the races or speaks to owners, trainers and breeders knows of this problem, will you as Minister now ask Peter V'Landys to move on for the good of the industry, as you did recently with the Greyhounds CEO?
- (28) What type of funding model would you like to see for NSW's race clubs in support of their autonomy and facilities? Will you write to Racing NSW to end the constant centralising of power through financial control and financial starving of the clubs?
- (29) Do you support the policy of the Minns Government to curb 'fat cat' salaries in the NSW public sector? How then can you justify the annual payment (base salary and bonuses) of more than \$1.5 million to the CEO of Racing NSW, especially given he's performing a part-time job with his extensive commitments in running rugby league?
- (30) Are you aware of the CEO of Racing NSW writing letters to trainers threatening to no longer accept nominations from their horses (that is, to put them out of business) without a stewards' inquiry, charges being laid or even an allegation of the Rules of Racing having been broken? When will this racing dictatorship end and due process resume?
- (31) Are you concerned that the General Manager of Investigations in the Racing NSW Integrity Unit was previously run out of the NSW Police for cocaine abuse? Doesn't this make him an obvious target for organised crime? How can such a person be in charge of NSW racing integrity?
- (32) Are you aware of the extent of cronyism and nepotism in the employment practices of Racing NSW, whereby few people are recruited on merit and the bigger criteria for employment and promotion are a) to be related to a prominent media figure, b) to be related or connected to Racing NSW senior staff and c) to be young, female and attractive? Will you write to Racing NSW asking for the reinstatement of strictly merit-based employment?
- (33) Are you aware of current and former Racing NSW staff describing the work environment as 'toxic', plagued by cronyism, the electronic surveillance of staff, no HR department or procedures, no complaints procedure, no induction procedures, no trade union membership, doctoring of financial accounts, doctoring of department reports to the board, forcing staff to reveal their private WhatsApp messages and the CEO's micro-management approach with no effective staff delegations in place? Will you now ask the Racing NSW

Board to investigate these problems and fix the work culture and practices for which they are responsible?

- (34) At the Estimates hearing Mr. Barakat said there was no departmental policy across the three racing codes for the best way of managing integrity structures and procedures. Given the critical importance of integrity to racing, why doesn't such a policy exist to guide the three controlling bodies in NSW Racing?
- (35) NSW greyhound racing has a different integrity structure to harness and thoroughbred, having had its commercial/infrastructure arm (GRNSW) separated from its integrity operations (GWIC). Why isn't this a good model for the other two codes?
- (36) Are you aware of the work of the Victorian Racing Integrity Board which has insisted on the three Victorian codes ensuring that their commercial/infrastructure arms in no way interfere with the work of their integrity units and stewards? Isn't this a best practice model for NSW to adopt?
- (37) The CEO of a racing controlling body inevitably forms hundreds of work and social relationships with licensed persons - it's part of their job; whereas the protocol for stewards is to never fraternise with licensed persons, to ensure they are always independent in determining integrity matters. As the Victorians have found, doesn't a separation of commercial/infrastructure and integrity functions offer the best structure for a controlling body, given that a CEO involved in stewards' matters will inevitably be compromised with conflicts of interest in the relationships he/she has formed with licensed persons?
- (38) Are you aware of the Racing NSW Stewards Inquiry at Mudgee Racecourse on 27 May 2021 into the conduct of Colleen Walker, the Chairperson of the Mudgee Race Club? Ms. Walker had got into a disagreement with Julia Camilleri (a marketing staffer employed by Racing NSW, also the daughter of John Camilleri, the owner of Steggles and a well-known horse breeder friend of Peter V'Landys) about the conduct of a race-day VIP function at Mudgee on 28 February 2021. Julia Camilleri did not make a complaint about her interaction with Ms. Walker (nor did she claim Ms. Walker had sworn at her or called her names) but the dispute about the running of the function came to the attention of Mr. V'Landys. As per the official transcript of the hearing, in the words of the Chief Steward, Marc Van Gestel, "Mr. V'Landys has appointed a Committee of Stewards to hear the matter and the appointment has been myself and Mr. Railton (the Deputy Chairman of Stewards) ... In relation to the process, Mr. Railton and I have been requested by Mr. V'Landys to conduct this inquiry and then, subsequent to considering all the evidence, make any recommendations to Mr.

V'Landys". In establishing the inquiry and receiving recommendations, didn't Mr. V'Landys have a conflict of interest in that he was Julia Camilleri's employer and a personal friend of her father?

- (39) Do you agree it was an unusual practice for the Racing NSW CEO to select the Chief Steward and his Deputy and send them to Mudgee to inquire into a race-day disagreement (along with two minor historic matters concerning Ms. Walker), instead of relying on the regional stewards who would normally handle such an inquiry?
- (40) Further into the inquiry transcript, Marc Van Gestel explained the process to Ms. Walker and her lawyer as follows: it "may include things such as whether Mr. V'Landys believes it's appropriate for charges to be issued; whether he accepts our recommendations; he may not accept our recommendations ... We'll consider the evidence, make any recommendations that we think are appropriate and then Mr. V'Landys considers as to whether or not he agrees with those recommendations and whether the matter progresses any further". Wasn't it a denial of natural justice and procedural fairness for Mr. V'Landys to be the final decision maker in this matter when he hadn't been present for any of the evidence?
- (41) Are you aware of Mr. V'Landys' evidence to the Rosehill Inquiry on 9 August when he said, "Let me say again under oath, Mr. Latham, I have never, ever, ever interfered in a stewards' inquiry, ever"? Are you also aware of his statement to the racing media after I raised the Mudgee/Walker inquiry transcript at Premier's Estimates on 28 August that, in fact, Mr. V'Landys runs the entire NSW stewards' system, holding, "the delegation of the Board in respect of all integrity, licensing and disciplinary matters"? This was a more honest and frank explanation of the CEO's involvement in stewards' inquiries. He's involved in them all, with the power to set them up, appoint certain stewards and to accept or reject steward's recommendations. Do you believe this is an acceptable integrity standard for the independent conduct of stewards' inquiries in NSW, free of conflicts of interest and the possibility of the CEO favouring licensed persons he is associated with, while punishing others known to disagree with him and to be critical of his role?
- (42) Do you believe the structure and conduct of stewards' inquiries at Racing NSW places unreasonable pressure on stewards to comply with the wishes of their employer, the CEO? For instance, industry participants commonly say that the former Chief Steward, Marc Van Gestel (2016-22), saw no point in making recommendations that Mr. V'Landys would disagree with, so he would ask him early in the process what he wanted the outcome to be.

Isn't this a major integrity risk and flaw in the stewards system at Racing NSW, especially with a dominant, controlling CEO in place?

- (43) Will you now write to Racing NSW urging them to adopt the Victorian system for handling integrity matters?
- (44) Minister, can you tell parliament what the function of the Integrity Assurance Committee of Racing NSW is?
- (a) Can the minister say how many times has the IAC has met in each of the past three years?
 - (b) Can the minister say who is on the board of the IAC and how they were selected?
 - (c) Can the minister say how many meetings of the IAC have involved the CEO of Racing NSW or other senior executives in the past three years?
- (45) Minister, can you tell the parliament what the function of the Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC) of Racing NSW is?
- (a) Can you who has served on the board of ACEC in each of the past three years?
 - (b) Can you provide attendance notes of those directors at each meeting in each of the past three years?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

- (46) What is the NSW Government doing to prioritise Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in procurement?
- (47) What is the NSW Government doing to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children who are experiencing domestic and family violence can access specialist and culturally safe services and support?
- (48) Considering the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities, does the NSW Government intend to fund primary violence prevention initiatives in NSW which align with Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children (Our Watch, 2018)?
- (a) If not, why not?

- (49) Given the Aboriginal Women’s Advisory Network is an integral initiative to support Closing the Gap Target 13, why has the NSW Government not provided ongoing recurrent funding for the Network?

GAMING AND RACING

Greyhounds exported overseas

- (50) Given New Zealand is a member of Greyhounds Australasia and is not considered an overseas jurisdiction, and no ‘greyhound passport’ is required, how does GWIC monitor these dogs?
- (a) Does the Minister have any oversight of these greyhounds?
 - (b) How many greyhounds have been exported to New Zealand, for each financial year since its commencement?
- (51) In 2023-24, how many NSW-registered greyhounds were issued with a greyhound passport by Greyhounds Australasia?
- (a) Of these, how many were sent to:
 - i. The US?
 - ii. Canada?
 - iii. Elsewhere?

On-track vets (OTVs)

- (52) How many OTVs are at each racing track per race?
- (53) What are the experience and qualification requirements for OTVs?
- (54) What is GWIC's procurement process for employing OTVs?
- (55) Has GWIC conducted an audit of GRNSW's OTV rooms, in relation to ensuring they meet the required standards?

Surgical artificial insemination

- (56) Given the Australian Veterinary Association has recommended all jurisdictions ban the cruel and inhumane breeding method known as surgical artificial insemination which is used for over 80% of greyhound breeding, will the NSW Racing Minister take action to ban it?
- (a) If not, why not?

- (b) Why has GWIC not advised all NSW industry participants to cease using this inhumane procedure?

Allegations from the Alex Brittan report in relation to the greyhound racing industry

- (57) The Brittan report referenced financial hardship as being used as an excuse for euthanasia. How many people are receiving subsidies to ensure no euthanasia?
 - (a) At what point does this become a welfare issue, considered a 'failure to provide care' offence under POCTAA?
 - (b) How many welfare cases have been seized by GWIC?
 - i. What happened to those greyhounds?
 - ii. How many were returned to the owner?
- (58) What happened to Cruise, the unregistered puppy at Broken Hill mentioned in the Brittan report?
- (59) The Brittan report noted that the industry is hostile to many animal welfare groups. Given that GWIC is intended to be independent of the commercial arm of the industry and seeks to work with stakeholders in relation to improving regulatory activities, why does GWIC not meet with more animal welfare organisations on a regular basis?
- (60) The Minister in an ABC TV interview recently stated that the \$60 per dog per race allowance for GRNSW participants would be stopped. Can you confirm it has been stopped?
 - (a) If yes, what date was it stopped?
 - (b) If no, does the Minister intend to stop it?
- (61) Following allegations in the Brittan report, has GWIC taken immediate action to ensure Broken Hill greyhounds are not desexed without appropriate pain relief?
 - (a) If not, will GWIC be taking action to do so in the future?
- (62) Has GWIC taken action against the two vets who are well known for euthanising dogs (a practice which contravenes GWIC's greyhound welfare code), alleged in the Brittan report?
- (63) Following allegations in the Brittan report, has GWIC provided clear communication to NSW vets articulating that requests for euthanasia of a greyhound for behavioural or financial hardship reasons are in breach of GWIC's greyhound welfare code?

- (64) How many greyhound industry participants have had disciplinary action against them by GWIC for failure to socialise, for each of the financial years since GWIC's commencement?
- (65) What action has GWIC taken to investigate the 50 dogs alleged in the Brittan report as killed for behavioural reasons?

GWIC updated rehoming policy May 2023

- (66) GWIC launched an updated rehoming policy in May 2023 which no longer allows greyhounds to be sent to facilities (within NSW or interstate) where they would be used for experiments or for terminal blood donation, nor can greyhounds be rehomed to council pounds without prior approval of the Commission. Since May 2023:
- (a) How many greyhounds has GWIC detected as having been sent to facilities (within NSW or interstate) where they'd be used for experiments or for terminal blood donation?
 - (b) How many participants have been penalised for sending greyhounds to such facilities?
 - (c) How many greyhounds have been sent to council pounds with the prior approval of the Commission?
 - (d) How many greyhounds have been sent to council pounds without prior approval?
 - (e) How many participants have been penalised for sending greyhounds to such facilities?
 - i. Please list the types of penalties allocated by GWIC for this infraction.
 - ii. Is this data publicly available? If not, why not?
 - (f) Given the NSW Government has not empowered GWIC to track greyhounds interstate, how will GWIC's updated rehoming policy be enforced regarding interstate facilities?
 - i. How will the outcomes of enforcement be reported upon (i.e. quarterly, annually, or otherwise)?
 - ii. Will this data be made publicly available? If not, why not?
 - iii. Does GWIC have memorandums of understanding in place to facilitate information exchange with all known facilities (within NSW and outside NSW) currently in receipt of NSW greyhounds for experimentation and terminal blood donation?
- (67) If not, how does GWIC intend to monitor what is happening at these facilities?

Greyhound racing

- (68) The NSW Government's Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice specifies participants must have a documented plan with exercise, socialisation and enrichment standards for greyhounds. For FY2023–24:
- (a) how many of these plans were checked by GWIC?
 - (b) what percentage of these plans met GWIC requirements?
 - (c) what percentage of these plans failed GWIC requirements?
 - (d) regarding plans that failed GWIC requirements, what percentage received a penalty from GWIC (and where is this data publicly available)?
 - (e) if this data is not publicly available, please explain why.
- (69) In relation to fines for any disqualified participants, please advise for FY2023–24:
- (a) whether any fines have been levied
 - (b) to whom fines have been levied and why
 - (c) what percentage of fines levied have been paid?
- (70) In relation to the recently announced closure of Coonamble and Tamworth tracks, will the Minister require GRNSW to pay back these public funds?
- (a) If the Minister won't be requiring GRNSW to pay back these funds, will the Minister consider using the Greyhound Industry Future Fund to recoup these funds? If not, why not?
- (71) Does the Minister or GWIC have any knowledge or oversight of the greyhound industry injury rebate schemes operating in NSW?
- (a) Does the Minister or GWIC have any knowledge or oversight of what happens to greyhounds under these schemes, including how many greyhounds with injuries are treated, how many are returned to racing and how many die or are euthanised?
- (72) Has any Minister for Racing ever inquired into whether GRNSW has collected venue assessments and yearly audits in relation to track compliance, in accordance with the Operating Licence's framework for compliance with the minimum standards?
- (73) Has the Minister conducted an audit, or requested GRNSW conduct an audit, to measure how many tracks are compliant with the minimum standards, or to estimate when all tracks will be fully compliant by?

- (74) GWIC's current rehoming policy does not detail what happens to greyhounds that are not accepted by Greyhounds as Pets due to capacity issues. What is GWIC's policy in relation to this?
- (75) Please list the cause of death for each greyhound that has died in NSW's jurisdiction in 2023-24.

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

GAMING

Poker machine operating hours

- (76) Under reforms through the 24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2023, hotels that schedule live music or arts and cultural events can apply to extend trading hours. Please clarify whether poker machine operating hours are also allowed to be extended for the same amount of time when an application is approved for extended trading hours for live music or arts and culture events.

Liquor and Gaming

- (77) Under the current legislation, venues with live music and trading with the additional hours must keep a log of their programming to ensure compliance with the intent of the incentives including discounts on their licence fees. For venues without the extended trading:
- (a) How do we know that they are genuinely programming music in line with the guidelines?
 - (b) What measures are in place to ensure that their programming can be evaluated?
- (78) How many of the current venues identified on the Liquor and Gaming website are live music venues, or if other types of venues such as theatres, are genuinely programming live music in accordance with the guidelines?
- (79) The now repealed section 163 of the Liquor Act 2007 required the Minister for Gaming and Racing to provide a report to Parliament on the progress of the Parliamentary priorities to streamline liquor licensing and planning approvals and the development of live entertainment incentives. With this reporting process being removed by the NSW Government as part of the Vibrancy reforms for NSW, what actions can the Minister demonstrate on Government decision-making processes under the licensing and planning

regulatory framework that have made the licensing and planning process more supportive, transparent and consistent?

Facial Recognition Technology

- (80) In Budget Estimates in February this year, I asked the Minister where he was up to implementing facial recognition technology (FRT) in pubs and clubs, considering the commitment from Labor was that FRT installation would be mandated by 30 June.
- (a) How many clubs and pubs have installed FRT? Please provide a list.
- (81) What guidelines or governance arrangements are in place for the use of FRT in venues? Please provide links to these documents.
- (82) What protocols exist around the use and storage of data collected by the use of FRT? Please provide the protocol.
- (83) What reporting requirements are there for the use of FRT and for interventions with patrons, such as exclusions, by venues as a result of the use of FRT?
- (84) What requirements are there for signage indicating FRT is being used for the purposes of identifying individuals on a self-exclusion register, or who are otherwise experiencing gambling addiction?
- (85) Regarding a statewide self-exclusion register:
- (a) Has it been rolled out?
- i. If not, when will it be launched?
- (b) Who will be administering it?
- (c) How will it be used in conjunction with FRT?
- (d) Has consideration been given to connecting the self-exclusion register with the ID scanning requirements that already exist in clubs and many pubs? Why isn't this being considered as an alternative to FRT?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)
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GAMING & RACING

Cashless Gaming trial

- (86) How many poker machines are currently operational with cashless gaming technology in NSW?

- (a) In those machines currently operating with cashless technology, what percentage of transactions remain as cash transactions?
- (b) How many users have opted to exclusively use the cashless technology?
- (c) Have any participating clubs reported a decline in gambling revenue since the trial was implemented?
- (d) Is there any evidence of changing behaviour due to the implementation of cashless technology?
- (e) What reasons are participants giving for declining participation in the trial?

The Star

- (87) Evidence in Bell inquiry indicated that Mr Crawford had lost confidence in Star chief executive Robbie Cooke and had expressed this position to the Star board not later than December 7. How was this position reached?
 - (a) Was this position reached as a result of any internal NICC process, benchmarking or a board meeting at the NICC?
- (88) Evidence presented during the Bell inquiry said the Star board wrote a comprehensive response to an assessment into Star by manager Nick Weeks. The response signed by Star chair David Foster and Robbie Cooke dated 23 January 2024, claimed Mr Weeks' report contained a number of factual errors and significant omissions and conclusions were made without full information. Were there any attempt to verify these claims or other issues raised by the Star board in their response to the Weeks' report?
- (89) Have you or your department reviewed the concerns raised by the Star board in the 23 January report?
- (90) Was there any relationship between NICC chief commissioner Philip Crawford and Adam Bell SC that needed to be disclosed?
- (91) Are you aware if Mr Crawford has accepted any hospitality from any companies or entities associated with Mr Bell?
- (92) Were you aware of Mr Crawford's role as chair and head of credit committee at high-interest lender Jewel Solutions?
- (93) Does this external appointment present any reputational issues or the potential for conflicts for the NICC?

- (94) Are you aware Mr Crawford wrote a letter to Mr Foster dated 1 February 2023 saying “further meetings with you were not required?” The letter also misstates the nature of the 23 January report, saying “it was in response to the concerns of the NICC”. Do you agree with the contents of the letter?
- (95) When were you informed that Bell inquiry was being reconstituted?
- (a) Did you provide advice to Mr Crawford on the decision to do this?
- (96) Are you aware if Mr Crawford has discussed the status of Star’s license with executives or directors from Crown, Crown Sydney or Blackstone?
- (97) Does Mr Crawford or any other NICC commissioners have any prior relationship with Wexsted Advisors?
- (98) Why did the NICC choose the morning of Friday August 30 to release the Bell Inquiry?
- (a) Was it deliberately scheduled to coincide with the release of Star’s full year accounts?
- (99) Was there a process to determine the extension of Star manager Nick Weeks until March 2026?
- (a) Were other candidates or organisations, other than Wexsted Advisors, considered for the role?

VETERANS

Veteran Suicides

- (100) The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicides highlights multiple factors affecting veteran’s return to civilian life. How will your government address the factors specific to veterans of NSW?
- (a) The Royal Commission Final Report includes the suggestion of new agency to focus on veterans’ wellbeing. Is this something your government intends to implement for the state to collaborate with the anticipated Commonwealth agency?
- (b) In a previous response you mentioned that the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs has 13 staff members, mainly involved in coordinating roles. Is there intention to move restructure this workplace to better address the pressing issues faced by veterans?

NSW Veterans Action Plan

- (101) Will stakeholders in the upcoming NSW Veterans Action Plan be offered opportunity to reflect on findings from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and implement strategies to address factors pertinent to those veterans residing in NSW?
- (102) Currently, the role of Minister for Veterans for NSW covers memorials and commemorations and includes the Veterans Employment Program. Does your government intend to expand the NSW role further to accommodate the Commonwealth, particularly as it aims to address the multitude of recommendations from the Royal Commission?

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Cardiovascular Research Funding

The NSW Government has committed \$150million towards cardiovascular disease research from 2018-2028.

- (103) Will the government commit to an extension of this funding initiative upon completion of the 10 year program in 2028?
- (a) What support will the government provide in sharing the progress and findings of this research with stakeholders outside of the research program?
- (b) Are there active plans to implement similar program initiatives for other critical health issues such as diabetes, cancer and respiratory diseases?

Not-for Profit Research Organisations

- (104) What incentives is your government offering to retain research entities and personnel throughout NSW?
- (105) What efforts are being made to facilitate collaboration between research organisations not involved in government-funded operations to ensure a transparent and holistic approach to medical research?
- (106) Premier Chris Minns stated in a NSW Government video late in 2023 that “for every dollar we invest in (medical) research, we see a return of nearly \$3.90 to the economy.”
- Will you ensure a funding commitment to medical research in the next budget?

Union membership

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

TikTok

(108) Are you on TikTok?

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

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(109) 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?

Signal

(110) Are you on Signal?

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

CFMEU membership

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

- (a) If yes, when?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(112) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

(113) 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?

ETU membership

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

- (a) If yes, when?

Paper shredder

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

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

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

Former Ministerial Employees

(117) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

- (a) If yes, how many?

Qantas Chairman's Club

(118) 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?

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

(119) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?

(120) What local government(s) did they serve?

ETU meetings

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

State Records Act

(122) 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?

Legal Costs

(123) 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?

Media releases and statements

(124) 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?

Advertising

(125) 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

(126) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?

(127) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?

Parliamentary Secretary

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

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

(130) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Gin

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

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

(132) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?

(133) 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

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

Hard hats and/or vests

- (136) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?
 - (a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

Ministerial Advisers

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

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

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

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

- (140) 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?
- (141) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Police Commissioner Gin

- (142) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Cabinet Sub Committees

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

E-Toll

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

If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

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

(145) 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

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

(147) 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

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

(149) 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

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

- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

CFMEU meetings

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

Credit Cards

(152) 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?

(153) 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

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

Senior Executive Drivers

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

Mobile phones

(156) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?

(157) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Efficiency dividends

(158) 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?

Stationery

(159) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?

(160) 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)?

Consultants

(161) 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?

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

(162) 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

(163) 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?

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

(165) 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?

(166) 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?

(167) 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?

Union membership fees

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

(a) 2022-23?

(b) 2023-24?

(c) 2024-25

Training

(169) 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

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

Website usage

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

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

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(173) 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?

(174) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?

(175) 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?

Ministerial visits

(176) 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):

What was the purpose of the visit(s)?

Did you make a funding announcement(s)?

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(177) 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?

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY

Closing the Gap

(178) Please list the programs funded under the National Closing the Gap Agreement in NSW by:

- (a) Financial year 2024-25?
 - i. A further breakdown of their funding in dollar figures and as a percentage of the budget package?
- (b) Financial year 2023-24?
 - i. A further breakdown of their funding in dollar figures and as a percentage of the budget package?
- (c) Financial year 2022-23?
 - i. A further breakdown of their funding in dollar figures and as a percentage of the budget package?
- (d) Financial year 2021-22?
 - i. A further breakdown of their funding in dollar figures and as a percentage of the budget package?

Treaty

(179) Please provide a time frame for the post treaty-consultation reporting period?

(180) How many First Nations communities will be consulted throughout the treaty-consultation process?

- (a) Will these communities be compensated for their time?
 - i. How much will they be compensated?

- ii. Who will this money be allocated to individuals, land councils, native title groups, or other?
 - (b) How long will the consultation period take for each community?
 - (c) Please outline what the consultation will involve broken down by:
 - i. Methodology?
 - ii. Languages used?
 - iii. Qualitative data collection?
 - iv. Quantitative data collection?
- (181) Has the Department procured any other services or made any other payments related to the treaty process over the period of the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) compliance process?
- (a) How much was spent?
 - (b) What were they for?
- (182) How many Members of Parliament has the Minister briefed on the Treaty consultation process since January 2024?
- (a) Please list each Member of Parliament and the date of the briefing?

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- (183) How many Members of Parliament has the Minister briefed on upcoming changes to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Laws since January 2024?
- (a) Please list each Member of Parliament and the date of the briefing?
- (184) Please outline a full list of the stakeholders consulted in the stakeholder and community consultation process for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage reforms?
- (185) Has the statutory First Nations-controlled authority been set up?
- (a) If yes, what is their role currently?
 - (b) If yes, what will their role be once stand-alone legislation is introduced?
- (186) In the 2024-25 budget, this Government allocated \$16.3 million to deliver Aboriginal Cultural Heritage reforms to recognise and conserve sites of cultural significance. Of this:
- (a) What amount is allocated for conserving sites of cultural significance?

- (b) How much is to acquire sites?
- (c) How much is for heritage works to protect sites?
- (d) How many sites will the government conserve with this funding?
- (e) What amount is allocated for ACH reform?

Stolen Generations

(187) In this year's budget \$17.9 million was allocated for the Stolen Generations Keeping Places program at the sites of former children's homes. Please provide a breakdown of the allocated budget for the Stolen Generations Keeping Places program for the financial years:

- (a) 2021-2022?
- (b) 2022-2023?
- (c) 2023-2024?

(188) Please provide a breakdown of the overall expenditure for the Stolen Generations Keeping Places program for the financial years:

- (a) 2021-2022?
- (b) 2022-2023?
- (c) 2023-2024? and,
- (d) projected expenditure for 2024-2025 financial year?

Aboriginal Affairs Budget

(189) Please provide a breakdown of the \$139.2 Million allocated to Aboriginal Affairs NSW in the 2024-25 Financial Year including:

- (a) Each program funded?
 - i. its purpose?
 - ii. its budget allocation in dollar figures and as a percentage of the 2024-25 budget?
- (b) Staffing allocation?
 - i. Compared to the 2023-24 financial year?
 - ii. Compared to the 2022-2023 financial year?

- (c) Grant programs?
 - i. in dollar figures and as a percentage of the 2024-25 grant allocation?
 - ii. Compared to the 2023-24 financial year?
 - iii. Compared to the 2022-2023 financial year?
- (d) Total allocated to delivering on the Government's reform commitments?
- (e) Total allocated to Closing the Gap?

Self-identification

- (190) Please provide the number of First Nations students in each NSW University?
- (191) Please provide the number of First Nations participants in each employment program that you can?
- (192) Please provide the number of First Nations people currently residing in public housing, broken down by Local Government Area?