



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast (Park)

Hearing: Tuesday 10 September 2024

Answers due by: 5pm, Tuesday 8 October 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)
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HEALTH

Illicit Tobacco and e-cigarettes

- (1) Does NSW Health have enough resources to effectively undertake enforcement measures against retailers and individuals selling illicit tobacco?
 - (a) What funding was allocated in 2024-25 for enforcement measures?
 - (b) As of 1 September 2024, many prosecutions for illegal sales of nicotine containing e-cigarettes have occurred this year this year?
 - (c) How many fines have been issued under the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 in 2024?
 - i. Can this information be provided by a breakdown of offence and the Local Health District.?
 - ii. Can you provide the breakdown of illegal nicotine e-cigarettes seized in each quarter of 2023 and 2024 by Local Health District?
- (2) Has NSW Health provided any advice to the Minister of moving enforcement responsibilities out of NSW Health and into NSW Police?
- (3) Has NSW Health provided any advice to the Minister on the current effectiveness of penalties in NSW?
- (4) How many retailers have been forced to close in NSW because of NSW Health enforcement measures?

Health – Time for Care Initiative

- (5) The Secretary of the Department's personal message in the NSW Health annual report cites the Time for Care program as a key achievement in the past year. How much more time does an emergency doctor now have to treat a critical patient?
 - (a) The same personal message says 'Time to Care received feedback from 3,000 people across NSW Health, including doctors. What is the average time it would have taken to complete the survey that was sent out to all NSW Health staff on 28 June 2023?

- (b) Can the feedback that was provided in the survey be provided?
- (c) Do doctors say they now have more time to treat patients?
- (d) Can you provide a full copy of the 'verbatim' received from emergency doctors?
- (6) The Secretary's messages refer to 10 'quick wins' for Time to Care. Can you advise what these are and how they're freeing up resources in emergency rooms?
- (7) How many Time for Care 'pulse' (follow-up) surveys have been sent to frontline staff since the program was launched in June 2023?
- (8) How many staff from the Ministry of Health and NSW Health work on the Time for Care program?
 - (a) What is the remuneration for each of those staff?
- (9) Generally, how many surveys does the Secretary of the Department send to NSW Health staff each year?
- (10) Does the Secretary have an internal communications team?
 - (a) Does that team write your all staff messages?
 - (b) How many people work in that team and how much are they paid?
- (11) On average, how many emails does the Secretary send to frontline staff each year?

Health Infrastructure – Project Delivery

- (12) For each of the following projects listed below, please identify if the project meeting its set milestones and allocated budget, and when is the project forecast to be complete and begin patient services:
 - (a) Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital
 - (b) NSW Ambulance Relocation Fitout (Sydney Olympic Park)
 - (c) Bankstown Hospital (new)
 - (d) Batemans Bay Community Health Facility
 - (e) Bathurst Hospital Redevelopment
 - (f) Mount Druitt Additional Beds
 - (g) Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospital redevelopment stages 1 and 2
 - (h) Bowral and District Hospital Redevelopment Stage 2

- (i) Broken Hill Hospital Emergency Department
- (j) Canterbury Hospital Redevelopment
- (k) Cessnock Hospital Redevelopment
- (l) Cooma Hospital Redevelopment
- (m) Cowra Hospital Redevelopment
- (n) Eurobodalla Hospital Redevelopment
- (o) Fairfield Hospital Redevelopment
- (p) Finely Hospital Upgrade
- (q) Glen Innes Hospital Upgrade
- (r) Goulburn Hospital Redevelopment
- (s) Grafton Base Hospital Redevelopment
- (t) Griffith Hospital Redevelopment
- (u) Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment
- (v) Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct
- (w) Milton Ulladulla Hospital Upgrades
- (x) Moree Hospital Redevelopment
- (y) Muswellbrook Hospital Redevelopment (Stage 3)
- (z) New Shellharbour Hospital
- (aa) Aerotropolis Hospital
- (bb) Port Macquarie Hospital Helipad Relocation and Car Park
- (cc) Rouse Hill Hospital
- (dd) Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Redevelopment
- (ee) Ryde Hospital Redevelopment
- (ff) Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment
- (gg) St George Hospital - Ambulatory Care, Day Surgery, Sub-Acute Inpatient Building
- (hh) Sydney Childrens Hospital, Randwick - Stage 1 Childrens Comprehensive Cancer Centre

- (ii) Temora Hospital Redevelopment
- (jj) The Childrens Hospital at Westmead Stage 2 Redevelopment
- (kk) Tweed Hospital and Integrated Ambulatory Services Redevelopment
- (ll) Wentworth Health Service Redevelopment
- (mm) Westmead Hospital Redevelopment Stage 1
- (nn) Wyong Hospital Redevelopment Stage 1

Blacktown Hospital

- (13) Of the 30 additional beds committed for Blacktown Hospital, when will the first of these additional beds be delivered and patient services commence?
- (14) When was NSW Health first made aware of patients sleeping on the floor of the Emergency Department at Blacktown Hospital?
- (15) What steps are being taken in the short term to increase capacity at Blacktown Hospital emergency department?

Negligence

- (16) Is insurance cover for vicarious liability which may arise as a result of negligence the responsibility of the Department of Health, each Local Health District, or each hospital, clinic and other facility within an LHD?
- (17) With respect to the relevant entity disclosed in the answer to Question 16., please answer the following questions:
 - (a) Does the relevant entity hold policies of insurance which cover any vicarious liability which may arise as a result of negligence?
 - i. If yes, are these policies subject to any exclusions, or are there any procedures, courses of treatment or other matters which will not be covered?
 - ii. If yes, are these policies subject to any limitations, or is cover for liability unlimited?
 - iii. If no, does the relevant entity effectively self-insure via the Treasury Managed Fund?

- (b) Further to question 17 (a) ii., is the insurance coverage offered by the TMF subject to any exclusions, or are there any procedures, courses of treatment or other matters which will not be covered?
 - (c) Further to question 17 (a) ii., is the insurance coverage offered by the TMF subject to any limitations, or is cover for liability unlimited?
 - (d) Further to question 17 (a) ii., has the TMF asked for details of management plans in place to manage the risk of liability for negligence in respect of the matters listed in Question 18. i. through Question 18. viii. below?
 - (e) Would failure to address adequately any of the risks listed in Question 18. i. through Question 18. viii. below invalidate any insurance coverage provided by the TMF?
 - (f) On how many occasions since 1 June 2023 has each relevant entity received notice of any claim for vicarious liability which arose from a claim of negligence?
 - (g) What is the current status of any claims in the answer to question 17. (c) above?
 - (h) What is the amount of each claim disclosed in the answer to question 17. (c) above?
 - (i) Does the relevant entity require clinicians, doctors, nurses and other health workers in its employment to hold valid insurance covering medical negligence risks, as a condition of employment?
 - (j) If yes to Question 17. (e), what risks must be covered?
 - (k) If yes to Question 17. (e), are there risks for which clinicians, doctors, nurses and other health workers employed by the relevant entity are currently unable to insure?
 - (l) Is the answer to Question 17. (e) standard across all relevant entities or does it vary by entity?
 - (m) If it does vary, please provide the information broken down by entity.
 - (n) If the answer to Question 17. (e) is no, or is no for certain categories of health workers, does the relevant entity provide insurance for those health workers as part of the terms of their employment?
 - (o) If the answer to Question 17. (k), is yes, please provide details of the insurance arrangements which are in place.
- (18) What action has each relevant entity taken to minimise risk of claims for the following heads of negligence, specifically in respect of any treatment or other services provided at or

through Maple Leaf House or the Centre for Adolescent and Young Adult Health or any other facility or clinic providing similar services:

- i. Failure to conduct a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment.
- ii. Failure to explore a differential diagnosis and in particular, failure or refusal to consider any psychosocial explanations for why a child or young person might be presenting as gender incongruent.
- iii. Failure to assess properly the impact of neurodivergence on a child's presentation as gender incongruent.
- iv. Failure to evaluate and warn adequately of the likelihood that the child's gender incongruence will not persist into adulthood, based upon the currently available research on desistance and persistence.
- v. Failure to consider or recommend alternatives to endocrinological treatments, including providing psychological support to reduce distress and build resilience in order to avoid administering irreversible treatments to persons at a young age.
- vi. Failure to provide a structured and comprehensive assessment of Gillick competence or failure to apply the test of Gillick competence properly. This includes failure to test if the child is able to comprehend the impact of treatment on their future sexual function and fertility.
- vii. Failure to warn adequately of the impact of treatment on future sexual function, relationship formation, family formation and fertility.
- viii. Failure to provide parents and children with all the information they need to give a fully informed consent, including information about the weak level of evidence internationally showing benefit from the treatment sought.

Sax Report: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria - update

- (19) Did NSW Health commission the most recent report of the Sax Institute: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria - update (the Review)?
- (20) Does NSW Health provide financial support or sponsorship to the Sax Institute?

- (a) If yes, is NSW Health confident that sufficient systems, safeguards and processes are in place at the Sax Institute to ensure that they are receiving independent advice from them?
- (21) Does NSW Health rely exclusively on Sax Institute reviews of gender dysphoria treatment or does it consider other sources of information as well?
- (22) Is NSW Health aware that the Review relies positively on sources which have been ranked as “critically low” by other literature reviews of the same material (eg the Florida systematic literature review)?
 - (a) If yes, does this cast doubt on the strength of the findings of the Review?
- (23) Is NSW Health aware that the Review’s evidence for the reversibility of puberty blockers is based on two sources, one of which (found at footnote 27) makes no mention of reversibility?
- (24) Is NSW Health aware of the rankings used by the NHMRC and that “Level 1” is reserved exclusively for systematic reviews of randomised controlled trials?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If yes, is NSW Health concerned that the Review does not rely on such Level 1 research but rather narrative reviews of small studies conducted without the same robust methodology?
- (25) Does the evidence base of the Review mean that NSW Health will not be able to place much weight on its findings?
 - (a) If no, why will these findings form a reliable base to support provision of clinical services?
 - (b) If yes, what other research will NSW Health access to inform its provision of clinical services?
- (26) The Review appears to misquote the 2020 UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) evidence reviews of the use of puberty blockers and cross sex hormones. Has NSW Health accessed this data directly or is it relying on the quotes in the Review?
- (27) Is NSW Health aware that the 2020 NICE evidence review concluded that there was insufficient evidence of benefit for the provision to children and young people of both puberty blockers and cross sex hormones?

- (28) Is NSW Health in the habit of informing clinical practice for minors from reviews of treatment of adult patients?
- (a) If not, will NSW Health be relying on the Review's conclusions about chest surgery in adolescent natal females which rely on outcomes from a review of transgender adult chest surgery?
- (29) Is NSW Health involved in the circulation of the Evidence Brief which provides a summary of the longer Review?
- (a) If yes, is NSW Health concerned that the Evidence Brief, which of necessity provides a simplified overview of the Review, contains none of the warnings found in the Review about the lack of quality evidence to support gender affirming interventions?
- (30) Is NSW Health satisfied that any parents, patients and clinicians involved in any gender treatment provided at any NSW Health facility would have their decisions informed and their consent would be sought on the basis of the Review, rather than the Evidence Brief?

REGIONAL HEALTH

Agency nurses

- (31) In the 2023/24 financial year, how much did NSW Health spend on agency nursing contracts across NSW?
- (a) What is the breakdown of this spend across each health district?
- (32) In the 2022/23 financial year, how much did NSW Health spend on agency nursing contracts across NSW?
- (a) What is the breakdown of this spend across each health district?
- i. Separately and by region, how many FTE agency nurses are currently employed across regional, rural and remote NSW?

Muswellbrook Hospital Redevelopment

- (33) When will the Muswellbrook Hospital Redevelopment be completed?
- (34) What is the status of Stage 3, when will construction commence and what will that deliver?
- (35) Will Stage 3 deliver its original scope of works
- (a) If not, why not?

- (36) Will a further stage be required to complete the original hospital upgrade as proposed – when will it be funded?
- (37) What efforts has Hunter New England LHD made to recruit a permanent obstetrician for Muswellbrook?
- (38) On Sunday 14 July, eight vehicles were destroyed by an alleged arson attack in the Muswellbrook Hospital carpark – is a carpark security upgrade now being added to stage three?

IPTAAS

- (39) Separately and by LHD, what is the total funding amount spent through the IPTAAS program?

Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme

- (40) How many FTE health workers have taken up roles with NSW Health under the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme since 11 August 2023?
 - (a) What is the total amount paid to health workers under this scheme so far?
- (41) How many FTE health workers have departed roles with NSW Health in regional and rural NSW since 11 August 2023?
 - (a) What are the reasons most cited for departure?

Vacancies:

- (42) How many nursing vacancies are at each of the hospitals listed below, separately:
 - (a) Armidale Rural Referral Hospital
 - (b) Auburn Hospital & Community Health Services
 - (c) Ballina District Hospital
 - (d) Balmain Hospital
 - (e) Balranald District Hospital
 - (f) Bankstown Lidcombe Hospital
 - (g) Baradine Multi-Purpose Service
 - (h) Barham Koondrook Soldiers Memorial Hospital

- (i) Barraba Multi Purpose Service
- (j) Bateman's Bay District Hospital
- (k) Bathurst Base Hospital
- (l) Batlow/Adelong Multi Purpose Service
- (m) Bega District Hospital
- (n) Bellingen River District Hospital
- (o) Belmont Hospital
- (p) Berrigan War Memorial Hospital
- (q) Bingara Multi Purpose Service
- (r) Blacktown Hospital
- (s) Blayney Multi-Purpose Health Service
- (t) Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital
- (u) Boggabri Multi-Purpose Service
- (v) Bombala Multi Purpose Service
- (w) Bonalbo Hospital
- (x) Boorowa District Hospital
- (y) Bourke District Hospital
- (z) Bowral Hospital
- (aa) Braeside Hospital
- (bb) Braidwood Multi Purpose Service
- (cc) Brewarrina Multi-Purpose Service
- (dd) Broken Hill Base Hospital
- (ee) Bulahdelah Community Hospital
- (ff) Bulli Hospital
- (gg) Byron District Hospital
- (hh) Calvary Health Care Sydney
- (ii) Calvary Mater Newcastle

- (jj) Camden Hospital
- (kk) Campbell Hospital, Coraki
- (ll) Campbelltown Hospital
- (mm) Canowindra Soldiers Memorial Hospital
- (nn) Canterbury Hospital
- (oo) Carrington Centennial Hospital
- (pp) Casino & District Memorial Hospital
- (qq) Cessnock District Hospital
- (rr) Cobar District Hospital
- (ss) Coffs Harbour Base Hospital
- (tt) Coledale District Hospital
- (uu) Collarenebri Health Service
- (vv) Concord Repatriation General Hospital
- (ww) Condobolin District Hospital
- (xx) Coolah Multi-Purpose Health Service
- (yy) Coolamon-Ganmain Health Service
- (zz) Cooma Hospital & Health Service
- (aaa) Coonabarabran District Hospital
- (bbb) Coonamble Health Service
- (ccc) Corowa Health Service
- (ddd) Cowra District Hospital
- (eee) Crookwell District Hospital
- (fff) Culcairn Health Service
- (ggg) David Berry Hospital
- (hhh) Delegate Multi-Purpose Service
- (iii) Deniliquin Hospital
- (jjj) Denman Multi Purpose Service

(kkk) Dorrigo Multi-Purpose Service
(lll) Dubbo Base Hospital
(mmm) Dunedoo Health Service
(nnn) Dungog Community Hospital
(ooo) Eugowra Memorial Multi Purpose Service
(ppp) Fairfield Hospital
(qqq) Finley Hospital & Community Health Centre
(rrr) Forbes District Hospital
(sss) Gilgandra Multi-Purpose Health Service
(ttt) Glen Innes District Hospital
(uuu) Gloucester Soldiers Memorial Hospital
(vvv) Gosford Hospital
(www) Goulburn Base Hospital
(xxx) Gower Wilson - Multi-Purpose Service
(yyy) Grafton Base Hospital
(zzz) Greenwich Hospital
(aaaa) Grenfell Multi-Purpose Service
(bbbb) Griffith Base Hospital
(cccc) Gulargambone Multi-Purpose Service
(dddd) Gundagai District Hospital
(eeee) Gunnedah District Hospital
(ffff) Guyra Multi Purpose Service
(gggg) Hay District Hospital
(hhhh) Henty Hospital
(iiii) Hillston District Hospital
(jjjj) Holbrook District Hospital
(kkkk) Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital

- (llll) Inverell District Hospital
- (mmmm) Jerilderie Health Service
- (nnnn) John Hunter Hospital (including Royal Newcastle Centre and John Hunter Children's Hospital)
- (oooo) Junee District Hospital
- (pppp) Kempsey District Hospital
- (qqqq) Kiama Hospital and Community Health Service
- (rrrr) Kimbarra Lodge Hostel - Gloucester Soldiers Memorial Hospital
- (ssss) Kurri Kurri Hospital
- (tttt) Kyogle Memorial Hospital
- (uuuu) Lake Cargelligo District Hospital
- (vvvv) Leeton District Hospital
- (wwww) Lightning Ridge Multi Purpose Health Service
- (xxxx) Lismore Base Hospital
- (yyyy) Lithgow Integrated Health Service
- (zzzz) Liverpool Hospital
- (aaaa) Lockhart & District Hospital
- (bbbb) Long Jetty Health Care Facility
- (cccc) Macksville District Hospital
- (dddd) Maclean District Hospital
- (eeee) Manilla Health Service
- (ffff) Manly Hospital
- (gggg) Manning Rural Referral Hospital (Taree)
- (hhhh) Mercy Care Hospital - Young
- (iiii) Mercy Health Service
- (jjjj) Merriwa Multi Purpose Service
- (kkkk) Milton Ulladulla Hospital

(lllll) Molong Health Service
(mmmmm) Mona Vale Hospital
(nnnnn) Moree District Hospital
(ooooo) Moruya District Hospital
(ppppp) Mount Druitt Hospital
(qqqqq) Mudgee Health Service
(rrrrr) Mullumbimby & District War Memorial Hospital
(sssss) Murrumburrah-Harden District Hospital
(ttttt) Murwillumbah District Hospital
(uuuuu) Muswellbrook Hospital
(vvvvv) Narrabri District Hospital
(wwwww) Narrandera District Hospital
(xxxxx) Narromine Hospital & Community Health
(yyyyy) Nepean Hospital
(zzzzz) Neringah Hospital
(aaaaa) Nimbin Multi-Purpose Service
(bbbbb) Northern Beaches Hospital
(ccccc) Nyngan Multi-Purpose Service
(ddddd) Oberon Health Service
(eeeee) Orange Health Service
(ffffff) Pambula District Hospital
(ggggg) Parkes District Hospital
(hhhhh) Peak Hill Health Service
(iiiiii) Port Kembla Hospital
(jjjjj) Port Macquarie Base Hospital
(kkkkk) Portland Tabulam Health Centre
(lllll) Prince of Wales Hospital

(mmmmmm) Queanbeyan District Hospital
(nnnnnn) Queen Victoria Memorial Home
(oooooo) Quirindi Community Hospital
(pppppp) Royal Hospital for Women
(qqqqqq) Royal North Shore Hospital
(rrrrrr) Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
(sssss) Royal Rehabilitation Hospital - Coorabel/Moorong
(ttttt) Ryde Hospital
(uuuuuu) Rylstone Multi-Purpose Health Service
(vvvvvv) Sacred Heart Hospice
(wwwww) Scott Memorial Hospital, Scone
(xxxxxx) Shellharbour Hospital
(yyyyyy) Shoalhaven Hospital
(zzzzzz) Singleton District Hospital
(aaaaaa) Springwood Hospital
(bbbbbb) St George Hospital
(cccccc) St John of God Hospital
(dddddd) St Joseph's Hospital
(eeeeee) St Vincent's Hospital
(ffffff) Sutherland Hospital & Community Health Service
(gggggg) Sydney Children's Hospital
(hhhhhh) Sydney Hospital & Sydney Eye Hospital
(iiiiii) Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital
(jjjjjj) Temora Hospital
(kkkkkk) Tenterfield Community Hospital
(llllll) The Children's Hospital at Westmead
(mmmmmm) The Cootamundra Hospital

(nnnnnnn) The New Maitland Hospital
(ooooooo) Tingha Multi Purpose Service
(pppppppp) Tocumwal Hospital
(qqqqqqq) Tomaree Community Hospital
(rrrrrrr) Tottenham Hospital
(sssssss) Trangie Multi-Purpose Health Service
(ttttttt) Trundle Multi-Purpose Service
(uuuuuuu) Tullamore Health Service
(vvvvvvv) Tumbarumba Multi Purpose Service
(wwwwwww) Tumut District Hospital
(xxxxxxx) Tweed Valley Hospital
(yyyyyyy) Urana Health Service
(zzzzzzz) Urbenville Health Service
(aaaaaaaa) Vegetable Creek Hospital
(bbbbbbb) Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
(ccccccc) Walcha Multi Purpose Service
(ddddddd) Walgett Health Service
(eeeeeee) War Memorial Hospital
(fffffff) Warialda Multi Purpose Service
(ggggggg) Warren Multi-Purpose Health Service
(hhhhhhh) Wauchope District Memorial Hospital
(iiiiiii) Wee Waa Community Hospital
(jjjjjjj) Wellington Health Service
(kkkkkkk) Wentworth District Hospital
(lllllll) Werris Creek Community Hospital
(mmmmmmm) Westmead Hospital
(nnnnnnn) Wilcannia Multi-Purpose Service

(oooooooo) Wilson Memorial Community Hospital, Murrurundi

(pppppppp) Wingham Community Hospital

(qqqqqqqq) Wollongong Hospital

(rrrrrrrr) Woy Woy Public Hospital

(sssssss) Wyalong Hospital

(ttttttt) Wyong Public Hospital

(uuuuuuuu) Yass District Hospital

(vvvvvvvv) Young District Hospital

Aged care and NDIS

(43) Separately and for each LHD please provide:

- (a) The number of patients occupying public hospital beds while waiting for an aged care placement?
- (b) Median number of days taking up a public hospital bed while waiting for an aged care placement?
- (c) Number of patients taking up a public hospital bed while waiting for an NDIS placement?
- (d) Median number of days a hospital bed was occupied while waiting for an NDIS placement?
- (e) Identify how long the longest patient who is currently taking up a public hospital bed has been waiting for either an aged care or NDIS placement?
 - i. Which LHD and hospital is this occurring in?

Workforce and vacancies

(44) What is the FTE vacancy rate across each LHD for 2019?

(45) What is the FTE vacancy rate across each LHD for 2024?

Port Macquarie Hospital

(46) In respect to Port Macquarie Base Hospital;

- (a) Since 1 August 2024, how many beds have been closed?

- i. Please outline every instance where a bed closure has occurred to date.
- (b) Since March 2024, have there been any instances where wards have had to be closed?
 - i. If so, how many and for what reason(s)?
- (c) How many additional nurses have been employed at Port Macquarie Hospital since July 1, 2024 to date?
- (d) How many patients were transferred from ambulance to the emergency department within 30 minutes since 1 July 2024 to date?
- (e) How many patients were transferred from ambulance to the emergency department in more than 30 minutes since 1 July to date?
 - i. Separately and for each instance, how long has the transfer taken, and what was the reason for delay (please cite)?

Nurses

- (47) In respect to Coffs Harbour Hospital,
 - (a) How many additional nurses have been employed at since 1 July 2024?
 - (b) How many nurses have left since 1 July 2024?
- (48) In respect to Gosford Hospital,
 - (a) How many additional nurses have been employed since 1 July 2024?
 - (b) How many nurses have left since 1 July 2024?
- (49) In respect to Tamworth Hospital,
 - (a) How many additional nurses have been employed at since 1 July 2024?
 - (b) How many nurses have left since 1 July 2024?
- (50) In respect to Wagga Wagga Base Hospital,
 - (a) How many additional nurses have been employed at since 1 July 2024?
 - (b) How many nurses have left since 1 July 2024?
- (51) In respect to John Hunter Hospital,
 - (a) How many additional nurses have been employed at since 1 July 2024?
 - (b) How many nurses have left since 1 July 2024?

- (52) In respect to Wollongong Hospital,
- (a) How many additional nurses have been employed at since 1 July 2024?
 - (b) How many nurses have left since 1 July 2024?

Eurobodalla Hospital

- (53) What were the reasons SSD-38526248 was withdrawn?
- (54) What were the reasons SSD-45765709 was withdrawn?
- (55) Did delays with getting the SSD approved delay the overall project?
- (a) If no, please list the reasons why the project has been delayed.

Renal Dialysis:

- (56) Minister, could you please advise how many patients in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District and Western NSW Local Health District travel for renal dialysis and how many are assisted at home?
- (57) Of those patients that travel in both Health Districts, how many are assisted with IPTAAS?

Cootamundra Paramedics:

- (58) How many Ambulance stations are understaffed across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (59) When will these stations see additional staff to ensure our paramedics are working in safe conditions and not fatigued?

Temporary Nurses

- (60) How many of the 1112 temporary nurses have been made permanent?
- (a) Where are these nurses placed?
 - (b) How many addition healthcare workers will Cowra Hospital see?

Maitland Hospital Emergency Department

- (61) Is the Maitland Hospital Emergency Department short stay unit only operating on a part-time basis?
- (a) If so, why?
 - (b) What are the current staffing arrangement?

- (c) What is the current status of staff recruitment for the short stay unit?
- (d) What impact is this partial opening having on ED treatment times?

Media releases and statements

- (62) 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?

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

- (63) 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)?

Signal

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

CFMEU membership

- (65) 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

- (66) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?
- (67) 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

- (68) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?
- (a) If yes, when?

Paper shredder

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

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

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

Former Ministerial Employees

(71) 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

(72) 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

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

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

Union membership fees

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

(a) 2022-23?

(b) 2023-24?

(c) 2024-25?

ETU meetings

- (76) 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

- (77) 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

- (78) 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?

- (79) Are you a member of a union?

- (a) If yes, what union?

Advertising

- (80) 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

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

- (82) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

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

Parliamentary Secretary

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

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

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

Senior Executive Drivers

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

Speeches

(87) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?

(88) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Hard hats and/or vests

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

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

Gin

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

Ministerial Advisers

(91) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

(92) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

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

Stationery

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

(95) 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)?

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

(96) 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?

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

Police Commissioner Gin

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

E-Toll

(99) 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

(100) 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

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

(102) 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 Code of Conduct

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

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

TikTok

(104) Are you on TikTok?

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

CFMEU meetings

- (105) 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

- (106) 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?

- (107) 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?

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

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

(109) 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?

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

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

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(111) 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

Mobile phones

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

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

Efficiency dividends

(114) 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?

Consultants

(115) 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?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

- (116) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?
- (117) 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?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel

- (118) 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?
- (119) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (120) 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?
- (121) 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?
- (122) 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?

Training

(123) 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

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

Website usage

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

(126) 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

(127) 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?

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

(129) 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

(130) 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)?

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(131) 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?

Cabinet Sub Committees

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

Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
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HEALTH

Topics

Paramedics

Dorrigo Hospital

Birth Trauma

Hospital Accessibility

Medication Shortages

David Berry Hospital

Public Dental

RACGP and GP Scope

LGBTQIA+ Health Strategy

Albury Hospital

Shellharbour and Tweed ICU

Royal North Shore Hospital

Kirkbride Precinct, Callan Park

Topic: Paramedics

(133) What was the total cost of paramedics' overtime to the NSW Government in each of the past five financial years?

(134) Regarding the process of determining locations for new ambulance stations as part of the SWIFT program announced in 2022 in which Health Infrastructure chose locations to optimise ambulance response times, which of those proposed new sites were acquired in advance?

Topic: Dorrigo Hospital

(135) What is the timeline for beds to reopen at Dorrigo Hospital? Where is information on this project publicly available for patients presently required to travel to either Coffs Harbour or Macksville to be admitted?

Topic: Birth Trauma

(136) Will the goals of the "Connecting, Listening and Responding: A Blueprint for Action – Maternity Care in NSW" be updated to reflect the Birth Trauma Inquiry recommendations? Specifically, will the blueprint be updated in relation to referral and follow-up protocols for physiotherapy during pregnancy and/or postnatal period, as acknowledged in the government's response to recommendation No.6 of the Birth Trauma Inquiry?

(137) What steps have been taken to ensure that the Consent to Medical and Healthcare Manual is applied in practice?

Topic: Hospital accessibility

(138) Was the 2017 Policy Directive on "Responding to Needs of People with Disability during Hospitalisation" reviewed as planned in January 2022? If so, where can the review be found?

Topic: Medication shortages

(139) Which specific medicines in shortage is the NSW Government presently monitoring or working to ensure supply of?

Topic: David Berry Hospital

(140) What specific improvements in palliative care does the Government expect from relocating services to Shoalhaven?

Topic: Public dental

(141) Has a cost-benefit analysis on preventable hospitalisations for oral health been undertaken or initiated?

(142) What targeted initiatives are in place to address dental care access for people with disability?

Topic: RACGP and GP Scope

(143) What specific measures have been taken to protect patient safety following the recent expansion of pharmacist prescribing before trial results are available?

(144) Will pharmacist prescribing of antibiotics for UTIs be rolled back if trial results demonstrate risks to patient safety, and how is this risk being monitored or evaluated?

Topic: LGBTQIA+ Health Strategy

(145) When will the Second Phase of the NSW LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy 2022-2027 be publicly released or reported?

Topic: Albury Hospital

(146) Where are the High Dependency Unit and Coronary Care Unit beds planned for in the new building? What is the rationale for separating HDU from ICU?

(147) Has the impact of the proposed closure of COU in Wodonga been factored into the bed numbers at the redeveloped site?

(a) For comprehension, can the public proceed with the assumption that when numbers are cited in relation to those at the redeveloped site, these figures have or have not factored in closure or relocation of beds and services at Wodonga?

(148) What is the rationale for building to provide the same number of ambulatory care spaces as exist presently considering the expansion of publicly available clinics?

(149) What is the rationale for moving maternity and neonates but leave Ronald McDonald House and Tresillian on the old Wodonga campus?

(150) For point of care projections, The NSW Ministry of Health stated it "will support capital developments to a 10-year planning horizon, providing capacity to 2032. Data analysis also included consideration of the updated 2022 population projections released by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. This approach has been supported by the Victorian Department of Health." What are the updated 2022 population projections released by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, as referenced?

Topic: Shellharbour and Tweed ICU

(151) What is the number of ICU beds at each Shellharbour and Tweed hospitals?

Topic: Royal North Shore Hospital

(152) Why is the land on the Southern Campus (Lot 4A and 4B) now in the possession of Property NSW and no longer Health?

(153) If the land was deemed surplus to need, who made this decision and on what grounds?

Kirkbride precinct, Callan Park

(154) What are the current repairs and maintenance requirements, or current status, for the historic Kirkbride precinct in Callan Park?

(155) What, if any, complications have arisen during the repairs and maintenance project within the precinct? Will this affect the project completion timeframe?

(156) What are the current costs for repairing and maintaining the precinct?

(157) Is the government or any government agency receiving revenue from the precinct?

(a) If so, how much?

(b) If so, what activities or services does the revenue relate to?

(158) What are the government's plans for the future use of the precinct?

(159) Will the government consult with local residents and the community before determining any future use for the precinct?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Illawarra Women's Health Centre

(160) Did the Minister advocate to the Treasurer on behalf of the Illawarra Women's Health Centre (IWHC) in relation to their pre-budget submission, ahead of the 2024-25 Budget?

(161) Given the significant increase in demand for services in the area each year, will the NSW Government commit to funding the IWHC in accordance with their proposed model for a second site including workforce funding and recurrent funding?

Health of sex workers

(162) Given the new and continuing challenges faced by sex workers in NSW in relation to health including mental and sexual health, has the Minister engaged with Sex Worker Outreach

Project NSW (SWOP) to discuss health outcomes for sex workers and to continue the existing collaborative connection between SWOP and NSW Health?

NSW Health policy directive Responding to Needs of People with Disability during Hospitalisation

(163) In 2017, NSW Health issued its Policy Directive on “Responding to Needs of People with Disability during Hospitalisation”. Given the review date was set for January 2022, was this review completed?

(a) If so, where can that information be found?

Disability Royal Commission recommendations

(164) Which recommendations does the Minister have partial or full responsibility for, in relation to each of the Minister’s portfolios?

(165) In relation to the NSW Government’s response to recommendation 6.32, which was accepted in principle, will the government be identifying and publishing a list of frequently needed adaptations and supports for people with disability?

(a) Will the government be reviewing hospital and primary health care funding models to ensure these adaptations and supports can be implemented in all relevant settings?

(b) Will the government be disseminating information about the provision of adaptations and supports in a range of accessible formats?

(c) Which aspects of this recommendation “require further consideration”, as noted in the response?

(166) In the NSW Government’s response to recommendation 6.33, which was accepted in principle, it references the ongoing evaluation of the IDHS which is expected to be finalised by June 2025. Will this review evaluate the IDHS in relation to the following aspects identified in recommendation 6.33 as required for the delivery of a state-run specialist cognitive disability health services model?

(a) specialist roles and multi-disciplinary teams embedded in local health service delivery?

(b) statewide specialised services that can be accessed by people with cognitive disability and health professionals regardless of their location?

(c) participation in a national network of specialised disability health and mental health services?

- (d) evaluation of the impact of specialised services and publication of evaluation findings?
- (167) In relation to the NSW Government's response to recommendation 6.35, which was rejected as subject to further consideration, what is the NSW Government doing in "carefully considering the best method and legislative framework for achieving this"?
- (a) Is the NSW Government undertaking a review of the current framework around restrictive practices across each setting, including health?
- (168) In relation to the NSW Government's response to recommendation 6.39, which was accepted in principle, the NSW Government commented that "NSW supports further analysis and consultation on targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices". Has the NSW Government undertaken any external consultation or analysis in relation to this to date, specifically in health?
- (a) Will the NSW Government be establishing sector-specific targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction of restrictive practices over time, including in health?
- (169) In relation to the NSW Government's response to recommendation 6.41, which was rejected as "subject to further consideration", what is being considered by the government in determining action on non-therapeutic sterilisation?

PWDA health asks in their pre-budget submission

- (170) Has the Minister considered the recommendations specifically related to health in the pre-budget submission of People with Disability Australia (PWDA)?
- (171) Did the Minister advocate to the Treasurer on behalf of People with Disability Australia (PWDA) in relation to these health specific asks, ahead of the 2024-25 Budget?
- (172) Will the Minister commit to ensuring all NSW Health practitioners are required to upskill in cognitive disability health in 2024-25 using a curriculum co-designed by people with disability and their representative organisations?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (173) Will the Minister commit to ensuring that professional Colleges, especially the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) be tasked with developing their capacity to train specialists and upskill all their members to minimum baseline in treating people with disability inclusively and for nursing colleges to develop specialised certificates for training and professional development?

- (a) If not, why not?
- (174) Will the Minister commit to fund protective measures to prevent people with disability contracting COVID-19 while accessing health care, residential support and public transport?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (175) Will the Minister commit to fund protective measures to prevent COVID-19 infection for people with disability and additional support, similar to the COVID Positive Pathways program?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (176) Will the Minister commit to improve health data collection to understand how best to reduce fatalities and poor health outcomes for people with disability?
- (a) If not, why not?

Access to health services for people with physical disability

- (177) People with physical disabilities often experience physical barriers to accessing healthcare across the state. What budget is being allocated to address this particular issue?
- (a) What is the government doing to assess and improve the accessibility of health systems for people with physical disabilities across NSW, including in relation to accurate information sharing, dignity and respect, participation in healthcare decisions and care provision?

One Stop Shop clinic trial at Westmead Hospital established by Dr Peter Smith and Dr Rummana Afreen in 2020

- (178) Western Sydney Local Health District was previously providing \$50,000 annual funding for the One Stop Shop clinic. Is this funding still ongoing on an annual basis?
- (a) If yes, how much funding is being provided?
- (b) Will the District continue to fund the clinic indefinitely?
- (179) In answers to Budget Estimates supplementary questions in October 2023, the Minister confirmed that the District was continuing to monitor the clinic outcomes. What was the outcome of this monitoring?
- (180) In answers to Budget Estimates supplementary questions in October 2023, the District acknowledged the significance of this initiative and indicated it was exploring sustainable

models to expand the service. Since then, has the District determined a way forward for further expansion of the clinic?

(181) Will NSW Health be setting up additional similar services across the state following the success of the One Stop Shop clinic?

Questions from Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC
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HEALTH

Scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

(182) Has the Minister received a detailed briefing on the serious allegations going to the scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and relied upon by NSW Ministry of Health to deliver medical treatments for gender-distressed children and young people?

- (a) If so, when was the detailed briefing provided?
- (b) If so, who provided the detailed briefing?
- (c) If so, who attended the detailed briefing?
- (d) If so, what was contained in the detailed briefing?
- (e) If so, what was recommended as the appropriate response and action to take regarding the serious allegations?

(183) If the Minister is not aware of the serious allegations going to the scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), will he take steps to inform himself of them and give consideration to the implications?

Sax Institute Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update dated February 2024

(184) Regarding the report prepared by Bragge P, Ngo C, Delafosse V, Goldberg E, Temple-Smith M, and Sancu L, as an Evidence Check brokered by the Sax Institute for the NSW Ministry of Health titled *Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update* dated February 2024 that was released on Friday, 6th September 2024, did the Minister or any of his staff receive a detailed briefing about it by

the NSW Ministry of Health, the Sax Institute or the co-authors, before it was made available to the public?

- (a) If so, when was the detailed briefing provided?
- (b) If so, who provided the detailed briefing?
- (c) If so, who attended the detailed briefing?
- (d) If so, what was presented to you as the conclusions of the Evidence Check?

(185) Regarding the report prepared by Bragge P, Ngo C, Delafosse V, Goldberg E, Temple-Smith M, and Sancı L, as an Evidence Check brokered by the Sax Institute for the NSW Ministry of Health titled *Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update* dated February 2024, was there a charge/fee/reimbursement etc. to be paid by the NSW Ministry of Health to the Sax Institute and/or the co-authors for the preparation of it?

- (a) If so, what was the dollar amount of that charge/fee/reimbursement etc.?
- (b) Has the charge/fee/reimbursement etc. payable by the NSW Ministry of Health to the Sax Institute and/or the co-authors been paid in full?
 - i. If not, when will the charge/fee/reimbursement etc. be paid in full?

(186) Regarding the report prepared by Bragge P, Ngo C, Delafosse V, Goldberg E, Temple-Smith M, and Sancı L, as an Evidence Check brokered by the Sax Institute for the NSW Ministry of Health titled *Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update* dated February 2024, did anyone employed or engaged on any basis with the NSW Ministry of Health have any role to play including research, reference checks, typing/word processing, proof reading, formatting or printing of it?

- (a) If so, detail who that person(s) was and what was the role(s)?

(187) Regarding the report prepared by Bragge P, Ngo C, Delafosse V, Goldberg E, Temple-Smith M, and Sancı L, as an Evidence Check brokered by the Sax Institute for the NSW Ministry of Health titled *Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update* dated February 2024, did anyone employed or engaged on any basis with the NSW Ministry of Health provide any comments, feedback, critique or proposal(s) for amendments to any draft of it or part thereof?

- (a) If so, detail who that person(s) was and what did they do with respect to any draft or part thereof?

- (b) If so, what did the Sax Institute and/or the co-authors do with the comments, feedback, critiques or proposal(s) for amendments to any draft of it or part thereof?
- (188) Regarding the report prepared by Bragge P, Ngo C, Delafosse V, Goldberg E, Temple-Smith M, and Sancı L, as an Evidence Check brokered by the Sax Institute for the NSW Ministry of Health titled *Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update* dated February 2024, did the Minister or anyone employed or engaged by him on any basis, have any role to play including research, reference checks, typing/word processing, proof reading, formatting or printing of it?
- (a) If so, detail who that person(s) was and what was that role(s)?
- (189) Regarding the report prepared by Bragge P, Ngo C, Delafosse V, Goldberg E, Temple-Smith M, and Sancı L, as an Evidence Check brokered by the Sax Institute for the NSW Ministry of Health titled *Evidence Check: Evidence for effective interventions for children and young people with gender dysphoria-update* dated February 2024, did the Minister or anyone employed or engaged by him on any basis, provide any comments, feedback, critique or proposal(s) for amendments to any draft of it or part thereof?
- (a) If so, detail who that person(s) was and what did they do with respect to any draft or part thereof?
- (b) If so, what did the Sax Institute and/or the co-authors do with the comments, feedback, critiques or proposal(s) for amendments to any draft of it or part thereof?
- (190) Regarding the report titled *The Voices of LGBTQIA+ Young People in NSW 2022* released on 6th December 2022 by the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People, it was established:
- In two focus groups, a few young people raised the practice of ordering hormone medications online, as their parents or GP had not consented to prescribe them hormone replacement therapy (HRT).
- (a) One young person noted they were able to leverage this approach to convince their GP to prescribe HRT, as this would involve less risk than ordering medication online.
- (b) One young person recommended reform to enable them to order their own blood-tests, as they had researched how to manage the impacts and side effects of HRT online and wanted to continue to manage this safely without the intervention of a doctor.

(c) ACYP is unable to comment on the prevalence of this practice.

In several focus groups, young people spoke about binding practices they were aware were unsafe, but that were widely discussed on online platforms. These included binding using electrical tape, duct tape or similar materials, wearing binders that were too small or wearing constricting clothing.

(a) While young people in the consultations claimed they were aware of the risks associated with those behaviours, ACYP has exercised caution in not including these details in the report.

(b) One young person described a health condition they had developed associated with binding, but had not sought help due to the stigma they felt was associated with being transgender – this anecdote has been included in the report. It points to the likelihood that young people may underestimate the risks associated with these practices.

i. Having established the matters detailed above, has the Advocate for Children and Young People engaged with the Minister for Health to discuss them?

(1) If so, what was discussed at the meeting(s) and what action, if any, was determined regarding the following-up of the matters?

Questions to be directed to Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health

(191) Regarding the report titled *The Voices of LGBTQIA+ Young People in NSW 2022* released on 6th December 2022 by the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People, it was established:

In two focus groups, a few young people raised the practice of ordering hormone medications online, as their parents or GP had not consented to prescribe them hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

(a) One young person noted they were able to leverage this approach to convince their GP to prescribe HRT, as this would involve less risk than ordering medication online.

(b) One young person recommended reform to enable them to order their own blood-tests, as they had researched how to manage the impacts and side effects of HRT online and wanted to continue to manage this safely without the intervention of a doctor.

(c) ACYP is unable to comment on the prevalence of this practice.

In several focus groups, young people spoke about binding practices they were aware were unsafe, but that were widely discussed on online platforms. These included binding using electrical tape, duct tape or similar materials, wearing binders that were too small or wearing constricting clothing.

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(b) One young person described a health condition they had developed associated with binding, but had not sought help due to the stigma they felt was associated with being transgender – this anecdote has been included in the report. It points to the likelihood that young people may underestimate the risks associated with these practices.

i. Having established the matters detailed above, has the Advocate for Children and Young People engaged with the Secretary, NSW Health to discuss them?

(1) If so, what was discussed at the meeting(s) and what action, if any, was determined regarding the following-up of the matters?

(192) Has the Secretary, NSW Health become aware or been informed, and sought detailed advice on the serious allegations going to the scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and relied upon by NSW Ministry of Health to deliver medical treatments for gender-distressed children and young people?

(a) If so, when was the detailed advice provided?

(b) If so, who provided the detailed advice?

(c) If so, what was contained in the detailed advice?

(d) If so, what was recommended as the appropriate response and action to take regarding the serious allegations?

(193) If the Secretary, NSW Health is not aware of the serious allegations going to the scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), will she take steps to inform herself of them and give consideration to the implications?

Questions to be directed to Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health

(194) Regarding the report titled *The Voices of LGBTQIA+ Young People in NSW 2022* released on 6th December 2022 by the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People, it was established:

In two focus groups, a few young people raised the practice of ordering hormone medications online, as their parents or GP had not consented to prescribe them hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

- (a) One young person noted they were able to leverage this approach to convince their GP to prescribe HRT, as this would involve less risk than ordering medication online.
- (b) One young person recommended reform to enable them to order their own blood-tests, as they had researched how to manage the impacts and side effects of HRT online and wanted to continue to manage this safely without the intervention of a doctor.
- (c) ACYP is unable to comment on the prevalence of this practice.

In several focus groups, young people spoke about binding practices they were aware were unsafe, but that were widely discussed on online platforms. These included binding using electrical tape, duct tape or similar materials, wearing binders that were too small or wearing constricting clothing.

- (a) While young people in the consultations claimed they were aware of the risks associated with those behaviours, ACYP has exercised caution in not including these details in the report.
- (b) One young person described a health condition they had developed associated with binding, but had not sought help due to the stigma they felt was associated with being transgender – this anecdote has been included in the report. It points to the likelihood that young people may underestimate the risks associated with these practices.

- i. Having established the matters detailed above, has the Advocate for Children and Young People engaged with the Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health to discuss them?

- (1) If so, what was discussed at the meeting(s) and what action, if any, was determined regarding the following-up of the matters?

(195) Has the Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health become aware or been informed, and sought detailed advice on the serious

allegations going to the scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and relied upon by NSW Ministry of Health to deliver medical treatments for gender-distressed children and young people?

- (a) If so, when was the detailed advice provided?
- (b) If so, who provided the detailed advice?
- (c) If so, what was contained in the detailed advice?
- (d) If so, what was recommended as the appropriate response and action to take regarding the serious allegations?

(196) If the Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health is not aware of the serious allegations going to the scientific integrity of the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), will she take steps to inform herself of them and give consideration to the implications?

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

HEALTH

Medicinal Cannabis

- (197) NSW is the only state that is required to manage schedule 8 medicines with paper receipts. When will NSW Health be completing the confirmation receipt project for schedule 8 medicines for pharmacies and wholesalers?
- (198) Based on higher power costs in NSW and recent increases in wages, what is NSW Health doing to support medical cannabis businesses in NSW including pharmacies and cultivators?
- (199) According to the Office of Drug Control, NSW prescribes the lowest amount of medicinal cannabis compared to QLD and Victoria. Recently, NSW Health Pharmaceutical unit had a crackdown on medical cannabis prescribing in NSW which affected many doctors and thousands of NSW patients:
- (a) Who ordered this and why?
 - (b) What is NSW health doing to support NSW doctors, pharmacies and patients with education and training so that NSW patients stay in NSW with their medical cannabis needs?

Broken Hill Rehabilitation Centre

(200) Is the government preparing a business case for a residential rehabilitation and detox centre for Broken Hill?

- (a) If not, where can residents from Broken Hill and the surrounding regions go who need live-in detox and rehabilitation treatment? What culturally appropriate residential treatment services are available?

Mining

(201) Recommendation #6 of the 2021 Upper House inquiry into ‘Costs for remediation of sites containing coal ash repositories’ was for NSW Health to conduct an epidemiological assessment of the health near coal ash dams to establish the health impacts. The NSW Government response committed that NSW Health would propose alternative studies such as exposure assessment or health risk assessment studies.

- (a) Were these studies or assessments completed or initiated?
 - i. If so, what is the status of this work?
 - ii. What other measures is the Government proposing or undertaking to understand and mitigate the health risks on local residents?

Electrification of health buildings

(202) The Victorian Health Building Authority Guidelines for sustainability in health care capital works support the transition to all-electric public healthcare buildings when building new hospitals, avoiding the use of gas appliances for heating and hot water.

- (a) Does NSW Health have similar policies to ensure new public healthcare buildings are all-electric?

(203) What is the volume of gas that NSW Health purchased for its own consumption in:

- (a) FY 2021-22?
- (b) FY 2022-23?
- (c) FY 2023-24?

(204) What is the cost of gas that NSW Health purchased for its own consumption in:

- (a) FY 2021-22?
- (b) FY 2022-23?

(c) FY 2023-24?