



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Health and Regional Health

Supplementary Hearing: Monday 2 December 2024

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Monday 6 January 2025

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
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Policy compliance

- (1) What is the process for Ministry of Health to ensure that senior management and managerial staff within Local Health Districts comply with:
 - (a) Ministry of Health policies
 - (b) Legal obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)
 - (c) SafeWork NSW Code of Practice: Managing Psychosocial Hazards at Work?
- (2) What accountability and enforcement frameworks are in place to address instances of noncompliance by senior management with these policies and laws, specifically in:
 - (a) Investigating and addressing workplace psychosocial hazards
 - (b) Protecting the health and wellbeing of staff?

AWH operational funding

- (3) How much operational funding was provided to Albury Wodonga Health in:
 - (a) 2023-2024
 - (b) 2022-2023
 - (c) 2021-2022
 - (d) 2020-2021
 - (e) 2019-2020

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of the Opposition
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Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment

- (4) Can you provide an update on the \$200 million redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service?
- (5) Please list all current members of the Bathurst Hospital Redevelopment Community Reference Group.

- (6) Please list all current members of the Bathurst Health Council, their tenure and when each individual's term will expire.
- (7) Is there a final design for this project yet?
- (8) Are tenders out for this project?
- (9) If tenders are out, what are construction companies tendering on if there is no final design?
- (10) The community has been promised another round of community consultation, when will this occur?
- (11) What is the purpose of another round of community consultation if tenders have already gone out?
- (12) Are you aware of the community's concern for a lack of carparking at the health service?
- (13) Will more carparking be included in the final design? If so, how many spaces will be added and where?
- (14) Please list options for more carparking that are or have been considered. If the option is not suitable, please list reasons why.
- (15) If cost is an issue, is extra funding being sought so carparking can be included?
- (16) Will the Minister ensure provisions in the \$200 million upgrade for more carparking, not less?
- (17) Will the Minister ensure that the community's concerns are heard on this matter?

Panorama Clinic

- (18) As part of the \$200 million redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service, Western NSW Local Health District last week announced the local mental health service Panorama Clinic is to be moved to Orange for three years, does the Minister agree with this decision?
- (19) Why is the Panorama Clinic being relocated?
- (20) Who made the recommendation to relocate the Panorama Clinic? Please identify the role or committee that holds decision making responsibilities in this matter.
- (21) When did the CEO of WNSWLHD know of this decision?
- (22) When did the General Manager of WNSWLHD know of this decision?
- (23) When did the Board of WNSWLHD know of this decision?

- (24) When did the staff of WNSWLHD know of this decision?
- (25) When did the Bathurst Hospital Redevelopment Community Reference group know of this decision?
- (26) When did the Minister for Health know of this decision?
- (27) When did the general public know of this decision?
- (28) What was the reasoning for this decision?
- (29) What do you say to community members who are now without a vital mental health service?
- (30) How do you expect mentally ill individuals to make the journey to Orange to seek assistance?
- (31) What compensation or assistance will be given to staff who now have to travel as well?
- (32) How many staff are employed at the Panorama Clinic currently? Please list all positions.
- (33) Are there currently any vacancies? If so, how many?
- (34) Have all staff accepted the decision to relocate to Bloomfield precinct in Orange?
- (35) Are you concerned the Clinic will lose skilled staff over this decision?
- (36) Do you think it is appropriate that staff found out about the decision to relocate the Panorama Clinic at the same time as the general public and media?
- (37) Do you think this matter was handled very well generally? Was communication through the WNSWLHD, the Board and the community of an appropriate standard?
- (38) Please list all current WNSWLHD Board Members, their tenure and when each individual's term will expire.
- (39) Please list the postcodes of patients that have attended the Panorama Clinic in the last 12 months and how many from each postcode.
- (40) Were all avenues looked at before this decision was made?
- (41) What options were considered as an alternative location in Bathurst? Please list all options and why they were considered not suitable.
- (42) Please list the requirements of a mental health clinic like Panorama that would have needed to be considered if it was located to another site.
- (43) What about a temporary location?
- (44) What about reverting to pandemic operations?

(45) If cost or viability is the issue, why wasn't extra funding provided to allow for this service to remain in a community that needs it?

(46) Can you assure the Bathurst community that this service will be returned?

Milton Ulladulla Hospital

(47) Has the Minister visited Milton Ulladulla Hospital?

(48) What commitments were made by the now Government regarding Milton Ulladulla Hospital prior to the last election?

(49) Has a new CT scanner been delivered at Milton Ulladulla Hospital?

(50) Has the upgrade of the Community Cancer Services Centre been complete?

(51) Can the Minister or the Government instruct NSW Health to include particular health services within a master plan?

(52) When will the master planning process at Milton Ulladulla Hospital be concluded?

(53) Are you aware that the Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD is now encouraging mothers to have babies in their own homes?

(54) Will the Government honour its commitment to return birthing services to Milton Ulladulla Hospital?

IVF Rebate

(55) Why was the decision made to significantly restrict which couples can receive the \$2,000 IVF rebates?

(56) Was the introduction of an income test for the rebate a proposal instigated by Treasury or NSW Health?

(57) Why was no full evaluation of the rebate program undertaken before means testing was introduced?

(58) Will a full evaluation of the program be undertaken before February 2025?

(59) Did NSW Health recommend the rebate be means tested?

(60) How many couples do you expect will be able to access the rebate under the revised eligibility criteria?

(61) Has NSW Health done any modelling to support this?

- (62) The Minister has said more couples will have access under the new criteria. How many more?
- (63) Will any evaluation of the program be undertaken in its revised form to demonstrate it has led to greater uptake?
- (64) How many couple have accessed the rebate since it was introduced?
- (65) Has the Minister written to his federal counterpart to advocate for the Commonwealth to lower the cost of IVF treatment?

Budget controls

- (66) For the purpose of complying with NSW Treasury's Budget Control Framework (TPG-35) what is NSW Health's:
 - (a) Net Cost of Service Cap for 2024-25?
 - (b) Labor Expense Cap for 2024-25
- (67) In calculating the Labor Expense Cap for 2024-25 what provision has been made for a wage rise for nurses and midwives?

Nurses and Midwives Wages

- (68) What would be the additional cost of the one-year 15% wage rise claim by the Nurses and Midwives Association above the provision made for a 10.5% wage rise over the three years 2024-25 to 2026-27 for:
 - (a) 2024-25;
 - (b) 2025-26; and
 - (c) 2026-27?
- (69) How much has been budgeted for safer staffing ratios for each of these years:
 - (a) 2024-25;
 - (b) 2025-26; and
 - (c) 2026-27?

Premix Drinks

- (70) In relation to media reporting regarding guidelines which will be developed by Liquor & Gaming NSW regarding premix drinks:

- (a) Did anyone within the Department of Health have any involvement in drafting these guidelines?
- (b) Did the inclusion of taste and price as risk factors come as a result of engagement with the Department of Health?
- (c) Did the Department of Health proactively engage L&G NSW on this matter?
 - i. If so, who directed the department to engage in this involvement?